

Do what you think is right

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2THK (2018)

Int. Living Room - Day

[Scene 1]

Lights on to reveal a living room that is quite bare. Cardboard boxes are all over the place. MICHELLE and MOM enter through the backstage door, carrying boxes onto the stage. MICHELLE remains on stage and takes a break. MOM goes back out the backstage door, and returns with a pot. She passes the pot to MICHELLE.

MOTHER

Here, I've bought you a pot. There are some flower seeds inside. Must take care of them then they will grow.

MICHELLE

Omg! I love it! It's so pretty!
Thank you mum!

MOTHER

You're welcome sweetheart. I hope you will get used to this new neighbourhood alright? Treat this flower like your happiness and success.

MICHELLE

Yes Mom!

They continue chatting as the lights go off.

Int. Classroom - Day

[Scene 2]

Lights on to reveal a classroom. There are a few students already seated at their seats, chatting away. Michelle comes in with MISS ALIYAH. The class becomes quiet and looks at her. The class, upon seeing MISS ALIYAH, stands up.

MISS ALIYAH

Good Morning Class!

CLASS

Good Morning Miss Aliyah!

MISS ALIYAH

Okay, please take a seat.

MISS ALIYAH

Attention class, before we start our lesson, there is a new girl

that I would like to introduce to
you.

(to MICHELLE)

Michelle, would you mind
introducing yourself?

MICHELLE

(stuttering)

Um... Hi everyone. My name is
Michelle Tan. I.. I.. just moved
to Woodlands. I wa...was from
Jurong. I'm looking forward to
know you all better.

AARON

(harshly)

Getting to know us better? You
must be joking.

ETHAN

(sarcastically)

I wonder why she was transferred
to this school

JOSH

(sarcastically)

Hmm...maybe cos she has no
friends?

JAMES

(sarcastically)

Don't say bad things le, what if
she complain?

MISS ALIYAH

Enough! James, Ethan, Josh, Aaron!
Was that necessary!? Why are you
all so disrespectful towards your
own classmates! James, is there
anyone seating beside you?

JAMES

What! No no no no...

MISS ALIYAH

Ok Michelle, you go sit beside
James. (boys laugh)

MICHELLE walks with her head down, heads to her seat, then
smiles shyly at JAMES. JAMES gives a weak smile. Small flower
grows a little. Lights off.

Int. Canteen - Day

[Scene 3]

Lights on to reveal canteen table with benches. Michelle enters with her tray of food, and sees the empty table, and is about to go sit when AARON, JOSH, ETHAN and JAMES rush to the table.

AARON

Eh we here first, you find
somewhere else to sit..

JOSH

Yea you go sit somewhere else.

MICHELLE goes and sits at the other end of the table, but ETHAN and JOSH slides across to the other end of the table.

ETHAN

Eh you don't understand English
ah, the table got people sitting,
you go sit somewhere else.

JAMES

Aiyo guys don't disturb her
already lah... let's eat our food,
wait she complain to Alibaba, then
we all kena big time.

ETHAN

okok la, eat eat.

ETHAN slides back over. MICHELLE sits at the table and eats by herself. Lights off.

Int. Classroom - Day

[Scene 4]

Lights on to reveal classroom setting. Everyone is at their seats and MISS ALIYAH is teaching maths on the whiteboard. The boys are clearly bored, and James is dozing off.

MISS ALIYAH

ok so class, look at question 3C.
Can anyone tell me how do you get
to the next step? How about you,
James?

James wakes up upon hearing his name, doesn't know the answer, and slowly, sheepishly stands up. He is scratching his head looking at the question on the board. Michelle secretly slides her worksheet to him. As he looks down, he sees the answer.

JAMES

The answer is umm $a^2 + a + 2ab$?

MISS ALIYAH

Very good. You sleeping also can solve. Do you need to wash your face?

JAMES

Ummm its ok Miss Aliyah.

James sits down and sheepishly writes something on MICHELLE's worksheet before passing back to her. MICHELLE sees it and smiles. The flower grows a little bit more. Lights off.

Int. MICHELLE's Room - Night [Scene 5]

Lights on to reveal the MICHELLE sitting at her desk, writing on her diary. Voice over starts.

"Dear diary, people usually say that changes are always for the better. But, it's been a disaster for me in the new school. Worse still, my neighbours have changed, my friends has changed, my house also changed. It's so different for Melissa. The moment she came back from school it was non-stop talking about all the fun time she had, how the boys were so into her... sometimes it just makes me so jealous. She so pretty and funny, everywhere she goes people just fall in love with her. Me on the other hand, no one cares about. I guess life just isn't fair. Oh well. Here's me signing off."

MICHELLE goes to the flower and waters it a little. Lights off.

Int. FCE Room - Day [Scene 6]

Lights on to reveal the FCE room. The students are seated down. Michelle is seated by herself. JAMES is also seated by himself. MR TAN comes into class.

MR TAN

Good morning class.

CLASS

Good morning Mr Tan.

MR TAN

So today, we will be doing pair work. The one that is sitting beside you will be the partner you will be working with for today.

(class mumbling)

JAMES

Cher Ethan never come school today

MR TAN

Oh. Ok just nice, you can partner the new student.

AARON

Cher, three people la. James can partner me and Josh.

JAMES

Nevermind la I go join.
(picks up table and moves to sit beside MICHELLE)

AARON

Wah help you also don't want.
(playfully kick JAMES,
JAMES playfully retaliates.)

MR TAN

Excuse me, can I carry on the lesson? Thank you James. Okay class now refer to your instruction sheet. Today you will be making cupcakes with your partner.

JOSH

Wah lau, so girly. Girl do baking leh. Boys where got bake.

MR TAN

You got see Gordon Ramsay bake?

JOSH

Errr...

MR TAN

Gordon Ramsay man or woman?

(class laugh)

JOSH
Diam la!

MR TAN
Anyway, one of you will be guiding
along with the instructions
provided. And the other will bake
(the students start to get each
other to bake)

JAMES
(to MICHELLE)
you want bake anot?

MICHELLE
Ok. But I'm not sure so you gotta
help me with the instructions.

JAMES
Okie. It says take 1 cup of flour
and put in the pan.
(MICHELLE takes one cup of floor,
then accidentally sneezes the
flour onto JAMES, causing his face
to be covered in flour.)

JAMES
What the- Oei!

MICHELLE
(Sheepishly)
Oh sorry!
(then laughs)

JAMES
You dare laugh?!

James takes a spoonful of flour and throw it at Michelle's
uniform.

MICHELLE
OEI! YOU IDIOT!

JAMES
You deserved it!

Both start tossing flour at each other, laughing and having
fun. Flower grows somemore. AARON spots them and nudges JOSH.

AARON
(shouts across the room)
Wah, got new couple in class ah?!
(everyone turns to see MICHELLE
and JAMES. Both freeze.)

CLASS
Oooohhhhhhh

AARON
Don't flirt in class leh, class
for studying leh.

CLASS
(louder)
oooohhhhhhh

MR TAN
What is going on! The both of you,
go wash your face in the toilet!

JAMES is embarrassed and goes out angrily from the FCE room to go to the toilet, but before he leaves he kicks AARON. MICHELLE also goes to the toilet. Lights off.

Int. Classroom - Day

[Scene 7]

Lights on to reveal a CCD lesson taking place. MISS ALIYAH is conducting the class. AARON, JOSH, ETHAN, JAMES, MICHELLE and a few others are in class.

MISS ALIYAH
Ok class, our topic of the day is about friendship... Now think about how you can make friendships stronger. In other words, what are the values that are important in maintaining a strong and healthy friendship? Discuss with your tablemates.

JAMES
Ok now talk lah

MICHELLE
Er... I don't have any strong friendship with anyone so far so...

JAMES
Ok lets just talk about the values needed in a friendship... For me, every friendship, no matter whether it's between girls, or

boys, or boys and girls, mutual respect is always needed, and should always be given by all parties...

MICHELLE

Woah...

JAMES

What?

MICHELLE

Oh nothing nothing.

JAMES

Huh. What talking you. Say leh.

MICHELLE

I mean I never thought an ah beng like you could talk about deep stuff like values and friendship

JAMES

Oei! Firstly, I'm not an Ah Beng.

And secondly..

(gestures for her to come closer, then whispers)

...to be honest, I'm actually secretly very clever.

(MICHELLE laughs)

MICHELLE

Yea sureeeee. Do your siblings all think like that also.

JAMES

Aiya. I only have one big brother and he's so much popular than me, also so much more clever.

Sometimes I wish he would fail once in a while, so my parents would at least see that I also exist.

MICHELLE

OMG me also.. my sister's so much smarter, prettier and popular .. not gonna lie, sometimes I'm kinda jealous on how my sister is so happy while my life is such a

disaster...

JAMES

Disaster meh? Aiya sorry la that time we disturb you. It was a joke... Actually when I first saw you I didn't feel like chipping in already, but you know with guys, if you don't do what the rest are doing, they're going to think you trying to be different, and they're gonna turn on you. Sometimes just gotta do what the rest wanna do.

MICHELLE

Yea I understand... no worries.
(smiles, flowers grow abit more)

MISS ALIYAH

Ok, time to share!

Lights off.

Int. Michelle's Bedroom - Night [Scene 8]

Lights on to reveal MICHELLE sitting at her study table. As usual, she is writing in her diary. Voiceover starts.

"Dear Diary, I've realised that change may not be so bad after all. I've met this boy, James. I feel like we've got a real connection! When I first came to school he and his friends were disturbing me, but then I found out today he's also insecure in some ways, like how I feel about Melissa. He also wasn't trying to hurt me that day. He even said sorry... I was speechless! Am I, am I having a crush on him? No la, we're just friends only. Anyway yea, that's how my day went today, can't wait for tomorrow! Goodnight!"

MICHELLE puts her diary away, smiles and lights off.

Ext. Void Deck - Night [Scene 9]

JOSH, ETHAN and AARON meet at the center of the stage from different locations.

JOSH

Oei guys, lai lai.
Emergency meeting.

ETHAN

What? I was DOTAing leh.

AARON

Yea, what you want? And where's James?

JOSH

Hey did you notice that JAMES has been behaving differently recently?

ETHAN

Huh, what you mean?

JOSH

Like he now not so enthu to hang out with us?

AARON

Hmmm... yea I remember a few days ago I ask him go home with me, then he say he got things to settle.

JOSH

Ouh- was it last Tuesday?

AARON

Er... yea I think, yea! Cause that day I remember hearing Chinese Orchestra making a lot of noise.

JOSH

BROO. He was with that new girl!

ETHAN

What?!

AARON

No... He wouldn't betray me like that.

JOSH

I swear bro. I saw him walking with her to the mrt.

AARON

That guy... something must be done.

ETHAN

Eh I got a plan. Come here come here.

They come closer and ETHAN whispers to them as the lights go off.

Int. Classroom - Day

[Scene 10]

Lights on to reveal the classroom. No one is in the class. Suddenly, the four boys sneak into the class from the front door, constantly on the look-out for prefects.

JOSH

Ethan, you go guard the door.
(gestures for the rest to come over) You know ah, I heard that Wilson's parents super. They stay landed property all.

ETHAN

Serious?

AARON

Yea, Plus I heard they always give Wilson a lot of money, I hear sometimes he even get 100 a week!

ETHAN

Wah! No wonder he so fat! So much money to eat!

JAMES

Eh but...

ETHAN

(threateningly)

What? Eh don't think we cannot see what's been happening ah.

JAMES

Oei What you talking?

AARON

Yea, think we never notice? Ever since that woman came to our class, you've been becoming very different.

JAMES

Where got, don't anyhow say ok.

JOSH

You listen. We are going to steal money from the fatty cause he has so much. You want to join us, join us. If not, you get lost. And don't find us again, your brothers since primary school.

JAMES

Who say I'm not part of the brothers. Let's do this.

JOSH

that's better. We are your family.

At this point, MICHELLE comes in, sees them then quickly hides and watches from hidden view. Lights off.

Int. Classroom - Day

[Scene 11]

Lights on to reveal all the students playing a fool. WILSON walks in with MISS ALIYAH and MR TAN. WILSON is crying while MISS ALIYAH and MR TAN have a very serious look on their faces. The class is automatically quiet.

MISS ALIYAH

Ok class, Mr Tan has something to talk about. Sit up straight!

MR TAN

Ok, so I got a report stating that one of the students' wallet in this class got stolen.

MR TAN

We know it has to be someone from this class. And we are going to give you one chance. If you admit now, we will take into account that you owned up. If not, we are going to start investigating, and we will probably involve the police.

MICHELLE catches JAMES looking at AARON, ETHAN and JOSH furiously. The class starts whispering to each other. Suddenly, ETHAN stands up.

ETHAN

Mr Tan, yesterday, we witnessed someone from this class in class

during recess yesterday.

MR TAN

Is that right? Who was it? Who were
the witnesses?

ETHAN

I was with Aaron, Ethan and... James.
But I shouldn't say.

MR TAN

It's ok. Just say.

ETHAN

It was...

(points to MICHELLE)

Michelle! (Whole class goes into an
uproar)

JAMES

Eth- (JAMES shoots ETHAN a
poisonous look)

MR TAN

Quiet... QUIET! The rest of you,
Aaron, Josh, James, is this true?

AARON

Yes Mr Tan.

JOSH

Yes Mr tan.

JAMES

(looks at MICHELLE, very
conflicted)

Y-y-yes, Mr Tan.

(MICHELLE gasps, flower wilts)

MR TAN

Michelle, can you step outside for
a while? We just want to find out
more.

MR TAN, MISS ALIYAH and MICHELLE step out of the classroom
while the rest of the class starts furiously discussing. JAMES
looks very sad, and refuses to talk to the rest.

Int. Canteen - Day

[Scene 12]

Lights reveal the canteen table and bench. The four boys enter
with their food. JAMES is not eating anything, and he's very
angry.

JOSH
(sarcastically)
James, why never eat?

JAMES
Guys, why did you all sabo the new
girl? What did she do-

ETHAN
Then you want what, let them do
investigation and let them slowly
find out? If its not because of
what I've said, we will all be
number 1 target already.

JAMES
But, the teachers won't be that
stupid to believe an innocent girl
stole someone's wallet!

AARON
Can you just relax-

JAMES
(angrily)
How to relax??! You expect me to
sit down do nothing after stealing
the wallet? I don't mind teasing
but stealing is so a serious
offense and she will be punished
for no reason.

AARON
Yea, so what? Also nothing to do
with you! She your lover ah.

JAMES blows up and attacks AARON.
ETHAN and JOSH holds JAMES back.

JAMES
(furious)
What did she ever do to you?! She
never even do anything to us... And
look at us? We're accusing her and
teasing her... Now what? Blaming her
for something that she didn't do?

AARON
(angrily)
You've changed so much. Up to now

you still don't want to tell us about you and her? Josh saw you walking home with Michelle last Tuesday. Remember last Tuesday? Remember what you told me? You told me you not free!

JAMES

So? So what? Can't you get the hint? Every time you guys keep bullying others, just to make you feel what, bigger? What're you trying to hide? Forget it, I'm going to tell MR TAN what we did.

ETHAN

You dare? You know that if you leave now you're never going to be part of our group again right? You sure about this?

AARON

Yea, you sure?

JAMES

You guys... are disgusting.

James runs off the stage.

Int. General Office - Day

[Scene 13]

Lights on to reveal the General Office. JAMES is talking to MR TAN.

MR TAN

Yes James, what's the matter?

JAMES

I need to tell you something...

MR TAN

Go on...

JAMES

I'm the one who stole the money. It was Ethan, Josh, Aaron, and... me. Don't need to ask her anymore questions. It was us.

MR TAN

I'm confused... when I asked Michelle, she admitted to stealing the money.

JAMES

What? No, she's innocent! We're the ones who stole it! Aaron was saying how Wilson's parents very rich, and how taking his money would be ok.

MR TAN

I see. On one hand, I'm happy that you decided to admit. On the other hand, this is a very serious offence. Why didn't you say anything in class earlier when we were doing the investigation?

JAMES

I didn't have the courage to. But now I do.

MR TAN

Very good. You will have to face the consequences though. But first, I think you'll probably need to talk to someone else.

MR TAN goes back into his office. MICHELLE comes out, looks at JAMES disappointedly. JAMES and MICHELLE look at each other. Lights off.

Int. Outside School - Day

[Scene 14]

Lights on to reveal MICHELLE walking home. JAMES enters, looks for her and catches up with her. MICHELLE sees him and walks faster.

MICHELLE

Just leave me alone.

JAMES

Hey I'm sorry.

MICHELLE pauses.

JAMES

I wanna say that I'm truly sorry for what just happened i really did not meant it... I should have stood

up in class and defended you.

MICHELLE

You know, I actually witnessed u
guys stealing the money...

JAMES

omg serious? U saw me and the rest
in the classroom, and you didn't
pao tou us?

MICHELLE

Yea. I didn't know what to do, so I
just kept quiet.

JAMES

I'm so sorry. Why did you say you
did it even though you knew who did
it?

MICHELLE

I don't know. I guess I just didn't
want to cause trouble to other
people. Look I think I'm just gonna
go.

JAMES

I'm really sorry... I felt so guilty
right after what happened in class...
I should have said something! I
just didn't have the courage...

MICHELLE

Its ok... I'm just grateful you
decided to admit it. Thank you for
making the right decision.

JAMES

You know what? I also made the
right decision with the rest of the
boys. I guess Aaron and the rest
will probably never look at me the
same way again, but u know what,
its fine... I've had enough of them.
Besides, I've made a new friend!

MICHELLE

(laughs)

What? Who's your friend? I'm not

your friend.

JAMES gives a sad comical face.

MICHELLE

(smiles, then pouts)

Whatever I'm still mad at you
anyways.

JAMES

That's ok. I deserve it. Can I
still walk with you to the mrt?

MICHELLE nods her head and they both exit the stage. Flowers
grow a little bit. Lights off.

The end