

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

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(STORY HAPPENS IN CHINA)

INT. STAND-UP TALKSHOW THEATER - NIGHT

A dimly lit talk show theater packed with an audience. The spotlight shines on Wanyu Zhang (28), dressed in a white sweatshirt and jeans. She nervously walks back and forth with a microphone.

WANYU ZHANG

Yesterday I went to watch "The Disappeared Wife" because I was told it was a feminist film. I was really excited before watching and I thought the Chinese cinema had finally grown up. But after watching the film, I was completely shocked. I have to admit that this film is the one whose name matches the show most I've ever seen! The disappeared wife only appeared less than 10 minutes in a two-hour film! She really disappeared!

Wanyu stops and awaits to laugh. Silence engulfs the room. A beat. She is embarrassed.

A GUY (20s) in a white shirt initiates applause from the front row. The room joins in. Wanyu exhales deeply, gratitude is evident as she looks at the guy.

INT. MAKE-UP ROOM - NIGHT

Wanyu, looking drained, takes a sip from a cup. The BOSS(M, 40s) enters, looking concerned.

BOSS

You've been burning both ends lately.
If you need some time off, take it.

WANYU ZHANG

(voice shaking)
I'm good, sir. Really.

BOSS

(leaning in)
You're talented, Wanyu. But never be too self-righteous. You have to consider what your audiences want, not what you want.

Meanwhile, Yuqi Zhao (20), a beautiful, skinny girl with long curly hair and a tight dress showing her perfect body shape passes by and stops at the door. She smiles like the California sunshine.

YUQI ZHAO

Hi Boss, Hi Wanyu. I'm a little nervous about my first show. Can you come to cheer me up?

The boss melts under her sweet voice.

BOSS

Of course Honey. I'm coming. Are you coming, Wanyu? It's better for you to learn something new.

Wanyu almost feels like vomiting, but she forces a smile.

WANYU ZHANG

Sorry boss, I didn't feel well today. Next time I will come. Good luck Susan!

The boss shakes his head and then leaves with Susan. Leaving Wanyu alone in the make-up room. She rolls her eyes.

INT. WANYU'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Wanyu, wet hair dripping, checks her Weibo (Chinese Twitter) on her computer. Her expression gets worse and worse. The screen floods with hate comments.

NETIZAN A (V.O.)

She was so superficial! How can she call herself a feminist?

NETIZAN B (V.O.)

She is so cold! She doesn't show sympathy toward the poor wife in the film! I can't believe it!

NETIZAN C (V.O.)

Her talk show was getting more and more boring. I'm going to refund the ticket!

NETIZAN D (V.O.)

I'm unfollowing her. Too disappointed.

Her eyes tear up. Her breath accelerates. She abruptly shuts the laptop. She can't control her hands shaking.

She rushes to take a medicine box underneath the table. The whole box is filled with medicines for depression. She puts a bunch of pills in her mouth, swallowing without water. She coughs, lying on the ground, expressionless.

MONTAGE STARTS.

INT. THEATER - DAY

Wanyu performs on the stage. Less than half the audience is in the seat. But the same supportive Guy remains, always applauding.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Wanyu checks her computer. Online hate comments multiply, and followers drop.

Wanyu's dependence on pills intensifies.

INT. THEATER - NIGHT

Empty theater seats except for the same Guy, still cheering her on.

Wanyu stands on the stage and feels like a clown.

EXT. THEATER - NIGHT

Outside of the theater, A WORKER peels off Wanyu's poster. Then he puts on a new one of Susan, who wears a red tight dress.

Wanyu, wearing a hat, stands afar, watching. The guy approaches.

THE GUY

Can't believe talk shows have come to this. Sorry.

Wanyu turns around, surprised. The guy smiles at her.

WANYU ZHANG

I recognized you.

THE GUY

Chuanbai, nice to meet you.

WANYU ZHANG

(bitterly)

Guess this is what people want. While,
men want to see of a woman.

CHUANBAI LIN

I don't. I'm not superficial. I value
authenticity, and you have that.

WANYU ZHANG

Why are you here?

CHUANBAI LIN

I can see through you. You are
different.

WANYU ZHANG

Dinner? To appreciate your support.

CHUANBAI LIN

It'd be my pleasure.

MONTAGE STARTS.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Wanyu and Chuanbai dining and laughing.

INT. AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

Wanyu and Chuanbai are shopping and joking around.

INT. WANYU'S APARTMENT - DAY

Wanyu finally opens her apartment curtains.

INT. CINEMA - NIGHT

Wanyu and Chuanbai watch a movie, laughing.

INT. WANYU'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Wanyu discards her pills, exchanging joyful texts with Marcus.

INT. CHUANBAI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Wanyu and Chuanbai drink up the wine. They kiss. Chuanbai
holds up Wanyu. They move to the bedroom.

MONTAGE ENDS.

INT. CHUANBAI' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Wanyu falls asleep. The SOUND of running water comes from the bedroom. Chuanbai's phone keeps buzzing. Wanyu is woken up. She leans over. As she tries to mute the phone, she notices the messages. Her eyes widely open.

She unlocks the phone. No password. Then she enters the Wechat group titled "Did you fuck her?". Her breath accelerates.

MAN A (V.O.)

How's the day, body? Did u play the field?

MAN B (V.O.)

Beg he's not. I don't wanna lose 1000 bucks.

MAN C (V.O.)

He's planned for a month. He should have succeeded. What a beautiful girl. Too good for him.

MAN A (V.O.)

He can't really fall in love with her, can he?

MAN C (V.O.)

No way... Does our playboy gonna be a good man?

MAN B (V.O.)

Haha, why don't we make another bet? I will bet 5000 this time...

She unbelievably scrolls up the old messages.

CHUANBAI LIN (V.O.)

Dude, I found a new target!

MAN A (V.O.)

The talk show girl? Are you serious?

CHUANBAI LIN (V.O.)

Wanna take a bet?

MAN B (V.O.)

I'm in!

CHUANBAI LIN (V.O.)

Help me find some spammers to give
shit on her Weibo. I will be the
knight to save the poor princess.

MAN C (V.O.)

Haha, you fucking genius.

Wanyu throws the phone. She puts on her clothes, picks up her bag, and goes out.

At that moment, Chuanbai happens to come out. Chuanbai looks at her surprisingly.

Wanyu slaps him in the face before rushing out.

WANYU ZHANG

You fucking asshole!

She rushes out. Chuanbai is confused until he sees his phone on the ground, which still buzzing. He understands.

INT. WANYU'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Wanyu, devastated, rushes into her apartment. Her breath accelerates again. She can't control shivering. She runs to close all the curtains. Finally, her eyes locate the box of her medicines she put in the corner.

With a wry smile, she reverts the box. Take the pill. Lying on the ground, like a dead body.