

Metronome Draft

By

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INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

In JON's (28, Male) hands is the release form to terminate treatment for his comatosed father. He reads the form closely, he focuses on the title, the part of the texts which states the termination, LIM BOON SENG(his father's name), and finally the signature portion.

He hears nothing else but the stale air conditioning churning away and his father's heartrate monitor beeping regularly.

All around him are elements of the hospital room. The bed, the father's cold clammy hands, some furniture and finally the father's head with a breathing tube sticking out.

Behind Jon is the DOCTOR who watches him read the form and leaves the room. As soon as the door closes, Jon's eyes look up, now more keniving than sad. He looks at his father, lying on the bed.

Jon walks up to his father. He slips the father's wedding ring off his finger, and puts it in his back pocket. He proceeds to move his chair near the bed and places his legs on his father's body. He takes out his earphones from his pocket and plug them in, he presses play on his vintage Ipod.

Piano music plays. It is a beautiful symphony, Jon closes his eyes as he listens to it. The music stops abruptly

FATHER (V.O)
ZAI LAI! (AGAIN IN CHINESE)

The V.O, played while focusing on comatose Father, is followed by the sound of a whip of the cane.

INT. LIVING ROOM (FLASHBACK) - DAY

There is a cutaway of his father's hand gripping onto a cane.

Young Jon's pair of hands takes down the metronome from the top of the piano and winds it off screen, he then places it back on the piano as it starts ticking again.

FATHER (O.S)
ZAI LAI! (AGAIN IN CHINESE)

His father swings his cane at Young Jon's hands.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Jon twitches and clenches his hands as he remembers the experience as the piano music is now interlaced with the sound of the metronome. He yanks out his earphones. The piano music cuts, leaving only the metronome. He pulls out a pen from his pocket and hurriedly signs the form and leaves the room.

EXT. HOSPITAL CARPARK - DAY

Jon walks out of the door and leans against the wall, there is also a NURSE (female, 28) leaning against the wall smoking, some distance away. Jon pulls out his pack of cigarretes from his pocket. He searches around his pockets for his lighter but cannot seem to find it.

The Nurse strikes her lighter and it flickers on. The sound of the lighter sparks grinding catches the attention of Jon. He turns to see her smiling at him with an open flame. He heads over to light his cigarette with her.

Right as his cigarette is about to reach the light. Jon looks up to see a "no smoking" sign on the wall. He looks up at the sign, as the cigarette is inches away from the flame. The Nurses cigarette burns slowly in her hand. Her eyes look at him with a calculating look.

The sound of the metronome flickers on, as the cigarette dangles before the flame.

INT. LIVING ROOM (FLASHBACK) - DAY

The same metronome on top of the piano is ticking wildly as a fast paced piano music plays .

FATHER (O.S)
ZHE SHI SHE MEH! (What is this! In
mandarin)

His hands slams cigarette box onto the hood of the piano.

FATHER (O.S)
NI HUN DAN! (You Bastard! In
Mandarin)

Father's hand raises the cane again and brings it down on Jon (off screen), Young Jon screams as the cane hits.

EXT. HOSPITAL CARPARK - DAY

Jon drops the cigarette in his hand, his eyes are locked on the "no smoking" sign. Jon pulls back his finger from the flame and slots the cigarette back into his pocket.

YOUNG JON (V.O)
 Qu Xi Ba! (Go and die! In Mandarin)

He turns and walks back into the hospital as the Nurse lets out a puff of smoke.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

The cold light of the fluorescent bulbs on the ceiling add further light into the painfully neon vending machine. Jon walks up to the machine, his face illuminated by its glaring light. He eyes a packet drink on one of its shelves, it costs \$1.20.

Jon digs into his pockets to pull out some change. He only has a couple of cents. It is not enough for the drink. He reaches into his back pocket and pulls out its contents.

In his hand is the ring. Jon looks at the ring, illuminated by the vending machine.

INT. LIVING ROOM (FLASHBACK) - DAY

The metronome ticks over the sound of a symphony playing over the piano. The sound of the house doors open. The piano music continues.

There is the sound of the father's footsteps as he walks over. The father's hand reaches over to touch Jon's shoulder, Jon flinches causing the piano to stop playing, he then continues. Father reaches out and stops metronome with his ring hand.

FATHER (O.S)
 Lai, chi fan. (Come and eat)

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Jon is looking at the ring as he stands in front of the vending machine.

FATHER (V.O)
 Bu Yong Tan Le, Fan Yao Leng Le.
 (Take a break, food's getting cold)

Piano stops playing as we heard young Jon getting off the chair, taking the plastic bag of food. Jon stares at the ring in his hand.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The sound of metronome comes on at a steady beam.

Jon opens the hospital room door, he walks to his father's bed. Tubes still out of his mouth, heart rate monitor still beeping away. The sound of the metronome blends into the constant beep of the heart rate monitor. Jon looks down at his unconscious father. His eyes full of remorse.

He takes out his ring from his pocket and slips it back on his father's finger. He then picks up the form he left on the chair and crumples the paper, throwing it in the bin.

Jon is sitting on the chair beside his father. He pulls out his earphones and plugs on earphone into him and the other into his father's ear.

The sound of piano playing drowns out the heartrate monitor as both of them listen to the music together.