

FLY GIRL

Written by

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INT. LINH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

LINH HOANG WILLIAMS (42, Vietnamese American woman, size 12, sometimes size 14 depending on that week's carb intake) is lying in bed, wide awake, staring at the ceiling.

Her cell phone is charging on her bedside table, She taps the phone screen. It lights up. The time 3:21 is displayed over a screensaver photo of a cute biracial (Asian/white) girl.

Linh gives in, unplugs her phone, and checks Facebook in bed.

SERIES OF FACEBOOK POSTS:

POST: "Happy birthday, Linh!"

Linh clicks the thumbs-up reaction and "likes" it.

POST: "Happy birthday!"

Like.

POST: "Have a blessed birthday, Linh."

Like.

POST: "happy bday linh! <3"

Like.

POST: "Wishing you a great birthday. :-)"

Like.

Linh sees a post from RUBEN RAMIREZ(42, Latino).

RUBEN (V.O.)

Are you ready to eat store-bought birthday cake, drink pinot grigio and watch predictable rom coms until the break-a dawn? Me too. Just like college. Before Netflix. When Al Gore was still inventing the internet. Dang we old. L-O-L. Well, 42 is the new 21. Actually, 42 is twice 21. Happy bday, Queen.

Linh clicks laughing reaction, then changes her mind and clicks the heart reaction.

Linh's eyes widen. She sees a post from HAROLD WILLIAMS (44, white male) that reads "Happy Birthday." She clicks on Harold's current profile picture.

SERIES OF HAROLD'S PROFILE PICTURES:

Current profile picture: a nice-looking white guy in his 40s.

Linh swipes.

Profile picture dated 1 year ago: a pint of beer.

Swipe.

Profile picture dated 5 years ago: Harold and Linh embracing a biracial (Asian/white) little girl.

Swipe.

Profile picture dated 9 years ago: Harold and Linh cutting an armadillo-shaped grooms cake at their wedding reception.

Swipe.

Profile picture dated 11 years ago: Harold on one knee, proposing to Linh on a mountaintop.

Linh clicks the "About" link on Harold's Facebook page. His relationship status says "Single." She freezes. Then she deeply inhales, closes her eyes, and exhales.

INT. LINH'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

The bedroom is dark. The alarm clock on Linh's cell phone goes off. The phone displays 5:45. Linh goes to tap "Snooze." She unknowingly taps "Stop."

INT. LINH'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The bedroom is sunny. Linh wakes up. She checks her phone. It is 7:38. Linh bolts up and turns to her left. NINI, her biracial eight-year old daughter is sleeping next to Linh. (Asian families commonly co-sleep. Don't judge.)

LINH

Nini, wake up. We're gonna be late.

EXT. LINH'S DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Linh opens the trunk. She throws Nini's backpack in the car.

Like a baby penguin, a barefooted Nini shuffles to the car carrying her shoes and socks.

INT. LINH'S CAR - MORNING

Nini grabs a hairbrush from the backseat and brushes her hair. As Linh drives, she opens the middle console and takes out two granola bars: one for her, one for Nini. They eat and groom on the road. It's apparent they've done this before.

Traffic is very light and super smooth. Linh and Nini listen to pop music. Linh moves her head in sync with the song. She snakes her head to the left, and then to the right, like Janet Jackson circa her 1986 Control album.

Linh activates her turn signal. Her blinker clicks in rhythm with the song. Their commute is copacetic.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - MORNING

Linh parks her car in front of Nini's school. The car clock says 8:17am.

NINI

Mommy, what's my tardy excuse today?

LINH

Tell your teacher traffic was a nightmare.

Linh and Nini exit the car. Linh hands Nini her backpack.

LINH (CONT'D)

Your dad is picking you up today at 3. So no aftercare, okay?

NINI

Okay.

LINH

I packed a new toothbrush in here for you. Don't bring it back. Just leave it at your dad's house so you can use it there on your weekends.

NINI

Okay.

LINH

Call me if you need anything. I love you, baby.

NINI

Love you too. Happy birthday, mama!