

Another Life

Written by

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"It is a joy to be hidden, but disaster not to be found."

-D.W. WINNICOT

\*\*All dialogue in [brackets] indicates Mandarin language

**OVER BLACK**

GATE AGENT (V.O.)  
 (PA announcement)  
 Now boarding all passengers for  
 Flight 443 at gate A10.

**SUPER:** 1985. JFK Airport.

**INT. DEPARTURE GATE, JFK AIRPORT - DAY**

A bustling departure gate. A business man kisses, hugs his wife. Grandparents embrace grandchildren. A couple lingers, delaying the inevitable. A myriad of heartfelt goodbyes.

JOSIE (27, Taiwanese, frazzled new mom) adjusts a carry-on bag while DANIEL (27, Taiwanese, heart on sleeve) affectionately holds AVA (infant), wrapped in a RED blanket.

JOSIE  
 [Stop worrying. It's only a month.]

Josie extends her arms to receive Ava. Daniel stalls.

DANIEL  
 [She'll be a brand new baby by then.]

JOSIE  
 [You can really focus on work now.]

Josie registers Daniel's hurt expression.

JOSIE (cont'd)  
 [I'm sorry I'm just... tired.]

Daniel passes Ava to Josie.

From his pocket, Daniel reveals a roll of Kodak film and a RED macrame bracelet, centered by a jade ring.

Daniel tucks the Kodak film into Josie's carry on.

DANIEL  
 [Take a picture every day for me.]

Daniel loosens the RED blanket to reveal a tiny baby hand. He adjusts the bracelet to fit Ava's wrist.

DANIEL (cont'd)  
 [So you remember how much you are loved, Ava.]

Daniel kisses Ava. He looks reassuringly at Josie.

DANIEL (cont'd)  
[Kintsugi. I remember.]

Josie gives Daniel a meaningfully look, eyes glistening.  
They embrace.

**INT. DEPARTURE GATE, PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT - DAY**

**SUPER:** 1985. Philadelphia Airport.

GATE AGENT  
(PA announcement)  
*Final* boarding call for Flight 881 at  
gate D28.

A nearly empty departure gate.

Apart from the GATE AGENT, there is ANNE (27, Taiwanese, severe school marm vibes) holding MEI (infant), swaddled in a faded BLUE blanket. ADAM (2, Taiwanese) tugs her leg.

Anne gives Mei to Fei (60s, Taiwanese), eager.

FEI  
[She's so sweet. What's her name?]

Adam's fussing intensifies. Anne's displeasure evident.

ANNE  
[Mei.]

Anne foists a bulky BLUE plastic bag at Fei, unheeded. Adam reaches for Mei. Anne sharply yanks him aside. He hides behind her legs.

Anne catches the gate agent glaring. Now or never.

ANNE (cont'd)  
[Here, enough diapers and formula to  
get to Taipei. And her passport. My  
parents will be waiting for her.]

Anne rustles the BLUE bag. Fei finally accepts it.

FEI  
[Give me your number--]

ANNE  
[Too expensive.]

FEI  
[Do you want one last--]

ANNE  
[You better go.]

Anne watches closely as the gate agent processes Fei's boarding documents. *Will this work?!*

Fei departs with Mei down the jet bridge. Finally, a smile from Anne. Adam gives a small wave.

ADAM  
Bye Mei Mei.

**INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT**

Among sleeping passengers, Josie walks the aisle with Ava. She braces herself, wincing.

A tiny hand with a RED bracelet reaches for her face.

**INT. NARITA AIRPORT - NIGHT**

Josie makes her way slowly, with great effort.

From Josie's POV: The Taipei departure gate in the distance blurs, distorts.

She collapses, protecting Ava from the fall.

NIKO (Japanese, 20s), a passing gate agent, rushes over.

**INT. TAIPEI DEPARTURE GATE, NARITA AIRPORT - NIGHT**

Fei shoulders the BLUE plastic bag.

She approaches two gate agents (Japanese, 20s) at the ticketing podium. They're distracted, looking offscreen.

Fei manages to get their attention. She points to the nearby bathroom, offering Mei. One agent happily takes Mei, bundled peacefully in her BLUE blanket.

After Fei leaves, Niko appears, cradling Ava.

AGENT  
(Japanese)  
Will she be okay?

Niko shrugs sadly. The three share solemn looks.