

**ZHUHAI 202: "TONIGHT, I WANT TO DIE WITH YOU!"**

**By**

MARC CURTIS

©2021 MARC CURTIS, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

(Based on the book scheduled for release in 2022)

████████████████████ Laguna Beach, CA 92651

1-909-335-██████

Zhuhai202@gmail.com

FADE IN:

**EXT.** ZHU ZHOU CHANG INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING MALL — DAY

[CHARACTER-1 JASON]

[ACTION]

JASON IS WALKING OUT OF THE SHOPPING MALL TOWARDS THE BUS STATION TO CATCH THE #202 ZHUHAI BUS. HE IS NARRATING HIS STORY IN FIRST-PERSON.

**JASON** (V.O.)

Everyone has a story...this is mine. I've always tried to follow my dreams. As a freelance television cameraman, I've had the good fortune to travel to 45 countries around the world which has provided a vast array of cultural experiences. I've tasted the best wines, flown in the cockpit of many aircraft including the now grounded Concorde, climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and visited a wristwatch assembly line deep in the mountains of Switzerland.

Every country has its unique draw, and I am always ready with passport in hand to head for the airport. Put me in a 747 and never bring me home...to me, that's called "happiness."

One country had eluded me for many years . . . China.

I had been to Hong Kong just before it was handed back to China, but it is an international city, with a blend of China and the West.

So, I booked a flight to Shanghai where I began to satisfy my curiosity. The desire to visit had grown into a desire to live there to really experience and

understand the culture on a deeper level, as a resident.

It was on one local bus in Zhuhai that this story begins . . . the #202 bus from downtown Zhuhai to my apartment on the outskirts in Doumen, a 45-minute ride that turned into the wildest adventure of my life.

DISSOLVE TO:

[ACTION]

**EXT.** Day

DRIVE-BY SHOT OF APARTMENT COMPLEX

[CHARACTER-2 SUSAN]

[Dialogue]

SUSAN

You can use one of my apartments in Zhuhai. It's new, never lived in. I want to help you start your life in China!

JASON (V.O.)

Sue was a strange bird. We had met online through an Asian dating website. It took four months of emails back and forth before she finally sent a photo and agreed to meet one Saturday morning at a Starbucks in Costa Mesa California. She had always claimed she was an "ogre" but WOW, the photo proved otherwise. As a former flight attendant for one of the top airlines in the world, she was anything but an ogre. Our emails were always full of humor and discussion about Chinese culture. She tried to teach me some Mandarin Chinese language, and I taught her how to take good

photographs. However, strange events happened with increasing frequency.

DISSOLVE TO:

[CHARACTER-3 MEILING]

[ACTION]

BACK AT ZHU ZHOU CHANG WE SEE JASON BOARDING THE #202 BUS. ONE STOP LATER, HE MEETS MEILING.

[ACTION]

THE BUS DOORS OPEN AND MEILING, A YOUNG, CUTE WOMAN APPROXIMATELY 4-FT 9-INCHES BOARDS THE CROWDED BUS AND STANDS NEXT TO JASON. THEIR EYES MEET SEVERAL TIMES.

[Dialogue]

MEILING

Ni hao

JASON

Hello

[ACTION]

THEY BEGIN A CONVERSATION USING A TRANSLATION DEVICE, SINCE NEITHER SPOKE THE OTHER'S LANGUAGE.

THIRTY MINUTES LATER THEY ARRIVE AT HU XIN LU KOU WHERE THEY CHANGE TO SEPARATE BUSES. HE HANDS HER HIS BUSINESS CARD. MEILING KISSES JASON'S BUSINESS CARD, THEN WAVES GOODBYE AS HE BOARDS THE #603 BUS.

DISSOLVE TO:

**INT. Day coffee shop in Zhuhai**

[ACTION]

JASON ORDERS A CUP OF COFFEE, SITS AT A TABLE, AND BEGINS STUDYING MANDARIN CHINESE LANGUAGE. HIS MOBILE PHONE RINGS. SUSAN IS CALLING FROM CALIFORNIA.

[Dialogue]

SUSAN

Where are you? We need to talk!

JASON

I'm at a coffee shop in Gongbei.  
What's up?

SUSAN

I'll call you later. It's  
important!

[ACTION]

SUSAN HANGS UP THE PHONE BUT CALLS BACK 10 MINUTES LATER.

SUSAN

Why are you still there? Why  
didn't you go home?

[ACTION]

THE PHONE CONNECTION IS BAD AND SUSAN'S WORDS ARE  
UNINTELLIGIBLE. SHE BEGINS SCREAMING...

[Dialogue]

SUSAN

Why don't you care about me??  
We're finished! Don't call me, it  
will go to voicemail. Don't email  
me, it will go to my junk folder.  
(click)

[ACTION]

JASON, PUZZLED AND HEARTBROKEN LEAVES THE COFFEE SHOP AND TAKES  
THE 45-MINUTE BUS RIDE TO HOME.

TWO MONTHS PASS AND SUSAN HAS MADE NO CONTACT. JASON ARRIVES  
HOME AND CALLS HIS SON, ELLARY.

[CHARACTER-4 ELLARY]

[Dialogue]

JASON

Hey! Have you seen or heard from  
SUSAN? Something strange happened.  
(he explains the phone call with  
her.)

ELLARY

Yes. She had gone to visit your  
mom and had an accident on the

freeway on the way home. She was in the hospital.

JASON

What? She never said anything to me about that!

DISSOLVE TO:

[ACTION]

JASON AT THE COMPUTER, SENDING SUSAN AN EMAIL. SHE ANSWERS WITH A PHONE CALL.

[Dialogue]

SUSAN

You didn't care about me! I had an accident. My car was destroyed, and I was in the hospital.

JASON

SUSAN, you didn't tell me. I just found out about it when I talked to Ellary.

SUSAN

It doesn't matter. I'm sure we're finished. I'll let you know in March. (click)

[ACTION]

JASON SITS AT HIS DESK, CONTEMPLATING HIS ODDLY FAILED RELATIONSHIP WITH SUSAN. THEN, HE THINKS ABOUT MEILING AND SENDS HER A MESSAGE.

JASON (typing)

MEILING, what are you doing? Let's meet at the bus station.

[ACTION]

MEILING REPLIES AND THE TWO MEET WHERE THEY LAST SAW EACH OTHER. THEY BOARD THE #202 BUS AND GO TO THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE LOCATION. THEY WALK AROUND THE VENUE, ENDING UP BY THE LAKE WHERE THEY SHOOT PHOTOS OF EACH OTHER. THEN, THEY HUG.

(CONT'D)

[ACTION continues...]

THE BUS RIDE IS QUITE BOUNCY AND MEILING BECOMES CARSICK. SHE GRABS ONE OF THE PLASTIC BAGS STRATEGICALLY PLACED AROUND THE BUS JUST FOR THIS PURPOSE. SHE VOMITS, THEN RETURNS TO HER SEAT AND RESTS HER HEAD ON JASON'S SHOULDER. PEOPLE ON THE BUS STARE SINCE THIS IS NOT A COMMON DISPLAY OF AFFECTION IN CHINA.

INSTEAD OF GOING SEPARATE WAYS AT HU XIN LU KOU, THEY GO TO JASON'S APARTMENT (GIFTED TO HIM BY SUSAN) WHERE THEY MAKE DINNER TOGETHER. THEN THEY BEGIN HUGGING. THE HUGS BECOME INTENSE AND MEILING FINALLY PUSHES AWAY AND SAYS:

[Dialogue]

MEILING

OK!

[ACTION]

THEY TAKE A STEP BACK, RATHER THAN CONTINUE TO THE INEVITABLE LOVEMAKING. JASON WALKS MEILING TO THE BUS STATION.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN: EXT. DAY

[ACTION]

THE COUPLE ARE SEEN IN A BUS ON THE WAY TO THE OCEAN HOT SPRINGS SPA. ON ARRIVAL THEY GO TO SEPARATE CHANGING ROOMS AND CHANGE INTO SWIMSUITS. MEILING'S ONE-PIECE SUIT CLINGS TIGHTLY TO HER BODY, AND JASON HAS DIFFICULTY KEEPING HIS HANDS OFF HER.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, THEY RETURN TO JASON'S APARTMENT. THE HOT, STEAMY SPA HAD HEIGHTENED THEIR DESIRE. WHILE LANGUAGE WAS DIFFICULT AND USING THE TRANSLATION DEVICE MADE COMMUNICATION POSSIBLE, BODY LANGUAGE WAS SPEAKING LOUD AND CLEAR. SOMETIMES THE TRANSLATIONS WERE BAD AND CAUSED CONFLICT. THEY DECIDED TO USE A CODE WORD THAT MEANS EVERYTHING IS OK. THAT CODE WORD IS: 202...TWO OH TWO WAS EVEN USED AS A DOOR KNOCK, SO THERE WAS NEVER A QUESTION WHO WAS AT THE DOOR.

ONCE AGAIN, THEY BEGAN HUGGING, AND THIS TIME THEY KISSED DEEPLY. THEN, JASON PICKED HER UP AND CARRIED HER TO THE BED. A LONG, INTENSE SESSION TAKES PLACE. FINISHING, MEILING USES HAND SIGNALS TO ASK IF JASON HAD TAKEN VIAGRA.

[Dialogue]

JASON

No, honey. YOU are my Viagra!

[ACTION]

THEY FALL ASLEEP, HOLDING EACH OTHER TIGHTLY. SUDDENLY, MEILING WAKES UP AND IS FRIGHTENED. THEY TALK, USING THE TRANSLATOR.

[Dialogue]

JASON

What's the matter?

MEILING

I had a nightmare. I dreamed that SUSAN was going to come into the apartment and hurt or kill me!

JASON

It's just a dream. SUSAN is still in Los Angeles. There's no reason to be afraid.

[ACTION]

MEILING PANICS AND DECIDES TO RETURN TO HER HOME. AFTER THAT, MEILING WOULD NOT RETURN TO JASON'S APARTMENT (OWNED BY SUSAN).

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN

[ACTION]

EXT. DAY - TWO MONTHS SINCE HE SAW MEILING. HE WALKS IN TO HIS SECOND APARTMENT IN GUANGZHOU. THE PHONE RINGS...

[CHARACTER-4 JEFF]

JEFF is JASON's good friend. They met at a Chinese language exchange group in Riverside, California. Both wanted to live in China. Two months after JASON arrived in China, JEFF also made his move, but ended up in the Northeastern city of Dalian.



[DIALOGUE]

JASON

Hello?

JEFF

Hey man, what's happening?

JASON

I've been teaching English at a technical school. The students are awesome! What's happening with you?

JEFF

My teaching assignment here is coming to an end. I'm thinking about looking in Guangzhou for a new school. The weather here is too cold! Maybe we can share an apartment together.

JASON

Great! When are you coming?

JEFF

I'll bring some of my things in about two weeks, then return to Dalian to finish the semester in about a month.

JASON

Sounds good. I look forward to your arrival.

[ACTION]

AFTER THE CALL WITH JEFF, JASON RECEIVES A CHAT MESSAGE FROM MEILING

[Dialogue]

MEILING

I went back to my hometown in Yunnan Province. I miss you and want to come visit.

JASON

Welcome! My friend from USA is also coming. You can meet him. His Chinese is very good, so you'll have a good time talking with him.

[ACTION]

10 DAYS LATER JASON MEETS MEILING AT THE TRAIN STATION. THEY RETURN TO HIS GUANGZHOU APARTMENT AND WITHIN MINUTES, THEY MAKE LOVE.

A FEW DAYS LATER JEFF ARRIVES. HE AND MEILING SPEAK IN CHINESE FOR AN HOUR.

[Dialogue]

JEFF

JASON, she's wonderful! She has a great sense of humor. You're a very lucky guy.

[ACTION]

JEFF RETURNS TO DALIAN. JASON AND MEILING ATTEND A CHINESE TEA EXHIBITION AT THE PAZHOU EXHIBITION CENTER. WHILE WANDERING THROUGH THE EXHIBITS, JASON'S PHONE RINGS. IT'S SUSAN.

[Dialogue]

SUSAN

JASON, where are you? I just arrived in Guangzhou and I want to come see you.

[ACTION]

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT BECOMES JASON'S WORST NIGHTMARE.

[CONTINUED...]