

Different Love

By

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BLACK SCREEN:

SUPER:

"Actually love can be expressed in many ways, your way is one of them. Sometimes it's not that he doesn't love you anymore, but you didn't understand his way of love."

FADE IN

1 INT. PROFESSOR'S OFFICE - DAY 1

Door opens, LI, a university professor, 51 but looks like 40s, curly black hair. Like most of the teachers in China, Li wears glasses too. From her simple one-piece dress we can know she is short and slim. Li walks out of her office. Behind her is an organized desk with a photo of her and her son. Li locks her door then walks off.

2 INT. UNIVERSITY HALLWAY - DAY 2

Li passes a group of students. They are talking about her son's best friend YANG ZHE.

BOY #1

Hey, do you guys remember Yang Zhe?
We've played basketball together.
One of my friends told me he is
gay.

BOY #2

Oh, really? Wait, he asked me to
see a movie this week.

BOY #3

(giggle)

Only you two? That sounds
strange...

Li pauses for a second and continues walking.

3 INT/EXT. LI'S CAR - DAY 3

Car stops at a red light. Li holds the steering wheel, but we can see her eyes are losing focus. Right now she is thinking about the conversation she just heard. After a while, a honk breaks in, Li raises her head and realizes it's already green. She hits the gas and drives off.

4

INT. LI'S HOME - DAY

4

When Li walks in, her son BOLIN is already home. Bolin, a 20-year-old boy, 6 feet, wearing cosmetic eye contacts (girls usually love it) walks out of his room, a light pink sweater makes his skin look brighter. He is a junior in the university where Li works.

BOLIN

(holding his phone)

Did you get my message? I said I wouldn't have dinner with you tonight. I'm going to Zhe's place.

LI

Yeah, I was driving so I didn't reply.

BOLIN

Okay, just in case you bought me something.

Li taking off her shoes, and places her bag on the shelf.

LI

Did you clean your room? clean it before you go.

BOLIN

Come on, my room is not a mess. Every time you told me to clean it, I did, I got to go.

LI

It will not take you more than 20 minutes. I always told you...

Bolin unconsciously put his phone on the table.

BOLIN

Okay, okay, stop it. I know, I will clean it now.

Bolin turns back to his room starts cleaning reluctantly.

Li makes herself a cup of tea and sits down on the sofa. At this time, Bolin's phone rings, he got a message.

LI

Bo...

Li is stopped by seeing the message.

(CONTINUED)

ZHE (TEXT)
On your way babe?

Li frowns, she knows there might be something wrong about her son and this boy Zhe.

LI
(loudly)
Bolin?

BOLIN
(O.S.)
What?

LI
(loudly)
Can you come out? I think we have to talk.

Bolin walks out of his room with a huge trash bag.

BOLIN
What's the hurry? I'm not done!

Li doesn't say a word, she gives the phone to him.

Bolin stares at the message, speechless. After a while, he raises his head.

BOLIN
(angry)
Mom, it's private!

LI
I saw it because your phone rang, I didn't even unlock it.

Li uses a gesture to tell Bolin to sit down.

LI (CONT'D)
Please explain this to me, Bolin.

BOLIN
(lips shaking)
We are good friends... I mean I don't know why he sent me this, it should be sent to his girlfriend. Wrong message.

LI
His girlfriend? I heard someone said he is gay.

(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LI (cont'd)
Please tell me this is not what I
think it is.

Li is serious, and Bolin is stunned.

BOLIN
(nervous)
Don't trust them! He...he has a
girlfriend.

LI
Who? Let me see.

Bolin is swiping his finger on the screen looking for some girls' photos very quickly, his hand is shaking. After a while, Bolin stops. He knows things meant to happen will happen.

BOLIN
I can't find it, I mean I don't
want to hide anymore. Sorry...I
know it is crazy, but it just can't
stop.

His neck and face turn all red.

BOLIN (CONT'D)
At the beginning I just wanted to
be friends with him. Then I found
we clicked. We go out all the time.
He is very thoughtful, kind and
passionate...

LI
Enough. That's crazy. You are my
son and I will not allow this
happen.

Li didn't expect Bolin to admit it so quickly.

BOLIN
(eager)
You can't do this to me! I mean
this is me. You can't change me...

LI
No, it is not true. You love girls.
Remember the girlfriend you had
your freshman year?

BOLIN

She is a good friend, I told you,
but you think she is my girlfriend.

LI

(almost yelling)

Because you never had a girlfriend
before!

(beat)

Sorry, I'm worried.

BOLIN

(sad)

How could I...

Silence.

Li's eyes get red.

LI

You will be suffering my
son. People will talk behind your
back all the time.

BOLIN

I don't care what they are talking
about. More and more people in
China are openly gay now.

LI

You don't even know...

BOLIN

It is you mom, you're afraid people
talk about you, you are a professor
and they know I'm your son.

LI

(frowns)

...Yes, I'm a professor, people
think I'm smart enough to teach my
son well, but I am not.

LI (CONT'D)

And how could I tell our family
members that you are a gay? I can't
make it.

BOLIN

(sneers)

It makes you feel ashamed?

(CONTINUED)

LI

I... whatever, break up with him
and get a girlfriend.

Bolin slightly shakes his head. His eyes are getting red.

LI (CONT'D)

Think about your grandfather, he
always says that he wants a
grandson. He wishes for you to get
married early.

BOLIN

So this is the reason why I have to
hide my feelings? Marry a girl I
will never love? you are so cruel.

LI

...

Li leans back on the sofa, like she has lost all her energy.

BOLIN

I want to move out, mom.

Bolin's voice breaks the silence.

Li sit up immediately.

LI

What?

BOLIN

I've been thinking this for a
while. I want to move out.

LI

NO,NO,NO! It can't solve any
problems.

BOLIN

Let us both calm down for few
months. This is the best choice.

(beat)

I'll come and get my stuff
tomorrow.

Bolin picks up his phone, doesn't give Li any time to react
and walks away.

Li freezes and tears going down on her face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

7.

LI
You are sick, my son.

FADE TO BLACK