

THE SMART PHONE

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INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

We see a woman's back in the elevator, and the elevator stops. The woman walks out from the elevator and we see she's at a hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

We see the woman's back and she is holding a decent handbag. She walks through the crowded nurses, and directly to a ward. She knocks, opens the door and walks in.

INT. WARD - DAY

We see an old man sitting on the bed, and a doctor stands beside him. As the woman walks to the doctor, we get our first look of TANG JIA (38), and her father ZOU YI (67). Jia greets the doctor with respect.

JIA

Doctor Chen, I'm Tang Jia and I'm here to bring my father home. Thank you so much for your help!

CHEN

No worries. I just want to remind you that your father is still recovering from the surgery, so I need to keep on track with his medicine and symptoms through the phone. You might need to supervise him about it.

JIA

Of course, I will teach him to use it. Thank you Doctor!

Doctor Chen leaves the ward, and Jia takes her father Yi to her car.

INT. THE CAR - DAY

Jia is driving the car to send Yi home.

JIA

Dad, open the drawer in front of you. There is a smartphone I bought for you. You heard what Doctor Chen said.

Yi opens the drawer and takes the phone out.

YI

This is bullshit. How can a doctor examine a patient without actually seeing him?

Jia sighs.

JIA

Dad, this is technology era. Time is money. You see how busy Doctor Chen is. He has other patients to take care of in the hospital.

YI

I can go to the hospital by myself. I have legs. Don't think elders as disable people.

JIA

Dad, you are still recovering from the surgery. What if the wound relapses? I don't have time to send you to the hospital everyday. Just follow what the doctor said, that's more convenient.

YI

You're just being lazy! Convenience is just another fancy excuse for your laziness. I won't do that stupid phone thing. Either I go to the hospital by myself, or you send me there.

Jia stops the car in front of Yi's apartment.

JIA

Dad, you know how busy I am. Can't you just stop being a child and listen to me for once?

YI

No. I will not bow myself to evil capitalism things. Don't even try to make me use that phone.

Yi opens the door and leaves the phone on the seat. Jia looks at the phone thoughtfully.

INT. YI'S HOME - MORNING

Jia and her mom TANG XUE (63) are having breakfast.

XUE

We're running out of eggs. You see  
is raining outside and it is pretty  
cold. Can you drive me to the  
market?

Jia is silent for few seconds, and shakes her head.

JIA

No. I'm gonna buy this online, plus  
some fresh vegetables and fruits. I  
can show my dad how convenient the  
smartphone is, and probably he is  
willing to learn this. This is  
something between me and my dad.

Jia picks up her phone, enters an app, and orders various  
ingredients on the screen.

INT. YI'S HOME - NIGHT

After a long day work, Jia comes back to her parents home for  
dinner. She knocks the door, and Xue opens it.

JIA

Quick, take my bag for me. I'm so  
tired...

Jia is interrupted by Xue. She whispers to Jia at the  
entryway.

XUE

I warn you, you'd better watch out.  
I don't know what's wrong with your  
dad. He told me not to cook  
tonight, and he won't let me order  
delivery.

JIA

(Walking to living room)  
What? What farce is he enacting  
this time?

YI

(Angry)  
Look what you've done! How dare you  
to ask me?

Jia sees an open box in front of her. She steps closer, and  
sees these are ingredients that she ordered in the morning.

JIA

What's wrong with it? I order them online this morning. This e-store is famous for fresh and quick delivery.

YI

Fresh? Open your eyes and look at it! If soldiers are as blind as you, there will be no China instead of Japanese devils! 100 Chairman Mao can't save it!

Jia rolls her eyes when Yi isn't looking at her, and squats to have a closer look of these ingredients.

JIA

(Murmur and imitate Yi)  
 "100 Chairman Mao can't save it!"  
 Geez, Dad, you've been using that line since I was a child. Get a new one.

YI

(Snort at Jia)  
 This is what you called convenience? This is just a bunch of irresponsible people cheating their consumers with eroded food! This kind of capitalism trick is corroding young generation. People only want money!

Xue puts her hands on Yi's shoulders to comfort his temper.

XUE

Alright alright, this is an accident, don't blame at Jia. Of course she doesn't want things turn out like this. Don't be nonsense.

XUE (CONT'D)

(Turns to Jia and whisper)  
 You know the old saying, elders are just like kids. Don't bother yourself arguing with him.

Jia goes to the dining room. Xue follows Jia and sits beside her.

XUE (CONT'D)

Darling, just give up. We can't persuade your dad to agree with us.

(MORE)

XUE (CONT'D)

You know how many times we failed since you're a child.

JIA

Because we failed so many times, I can't let him continue to judge me like I'm still a child. No, I won't give up.

Xue keeps silence and sighs.

INT. JIA'S HOME - NIGHT

After dinner, Jia comes back home and lying on the sofa, thinking of what she should do next. The phone interrupts her thoughts. It is a video call from her daughter ZHENG RUI (20). She accepts the call and goes to the bathroom.

We hear Rui's voice through the phone, but we still see Jia is answering the phone along with her actions to remove make up.

RUI

Mom, what happened? You sounds exhausted.

Jia is putting cotton pat on her eyes.

JIA

I just had a fight with your grandpa. He's being nonsense again.

RUI

Hahaha I bet he talks about that 100 theory again. What's the argument this time?

Jia stops her action, puts the cotton pat down, and looks at her phone.

JIA

You know he is still recovering from the surgery. The doctor needs to keep on track through smartphone. He won't follow the instruction, and wants me to drive him to the hospital everyday. You know how busy I am.

RUI

(Giggling)  
That's typical grandpa.  
(MORE)

RUI (CONT'D)

I know your feelings, cuz you're just another bossy grandpa in this family.

JIA

Zheng rui, I must remind you...

RUI

Alright I'm just joking. So what's your plan? It's hard to persuade grandpa.

Jia keeps silence for few seconds, and continues to remove her make up.

JIA

I don't know yet. I failed tonight and your grandpa just scolded me.

RUI

How about that. You know I grew up with him and he is still writing letters to me, which is really inconvenient. You can show him the chatting app so he can actually feel the convenience. Also, add the doctor so that he can have a try of it!

Jia stops her actions.

JIA

You're right! How can I forget this factor? No wonder you're my smart girl!

INT. YI'S HOME - NIGHT

We see Jia is standing in front of her parents' apartment, takes a deep breathe, and knocks the door. When she hears the steps coming towards the door, she holds her phone up and we see Rui's face on it.

Yi opens the door and frowns when he sees Jia's action.

YI

Girl, you're 37. I don't think I need to remind you do not make phone calls while you're walking.

Jia turns the phone around and Yi sees his favorite granddaughter Rui is on the screen.

He changes his facial expression and subconsciously takes the phone from Jia's hand.

YI (CONT'D)  
(To Rui while walking to  
living room)  
Oh, my sweetie, how are you?

Jia goes to the kitchen and helps Xue with dinner. Few seconds later, Yi walks in and gives the phone back. We can see the smile on his face.

JIA  
So, dad. Now you feel the  
convenience?

Yi gives a snort, but still smiling. Jia knows this idea probably works.

JIA (CONT'D)  
With smartphome, you don't have to  
write letters and go to the post  
office. You can just send whatever  
you want at anytime, as long as  
you're connected with the Internet!

YI  
What? Internet?

JIA  
You don't have to know this. You  
just need to know how to use this  
app. I downloaded it and subscribed  
an account for you on the  
smartphone. You want to have a look  
at it?

Yi doesn't answer her question, but walks to the sofa, sits down, and puts his glasses on. Jia grabs her handbag and takes the phone out.

JIA (CONT'D)  
Ok, so let's start with log in. I  
just added Doctor Chen on the app  
so you can also chat with him if  
you have any problem...

Xue puts dishes on the table, sees Jia is eagerly teaching Yi how to use smartphone, and smiles.



INT. JIA'S HOME - DAY

It is weekend. Jia is sitting on the sofa and watching TV. She is nodding, but the knocking sound wakes her up. She opens the door, and sees her father Yi standing outside with an extremely angry face. Without any words, Yi walks into her house and throws the phone on the table.

JIA  
What happened?

YI  
Look what your app done!

Jia picks up the phone and sees the chatting history of her dad and Doctor Chen. She sees Doctor Chen asked Yi to send a photo of his wound on his belly, but Yi accidentally took the photo of his cartoon pattern underwear, and sent it to Doctor Chen.

Yi looks at her and grabs the phone, then smashes it on the floor.

JIA  
Dad! That's way too far!!

YI  
What? This stupid app embarrassed me in front of the doctor, and I can't get rid of it? What? Technology? Convenience? Trees live for their roots, and people live for their own faces. You're making me losing face again, Tang Jia!

JIA  
Dad, you're being nonsense. You accidentally sent the picture and there is nothing wrong with the app. Why you always blaming others instead of reflecting yourself? Yes, I admit it is my fault that I ordered wrong food. But this time, that picture, it is not my fault.

YI  
If you just listen to me, send me to the hospital, let the doctor sees my wound by himself, rather than using this stupid phone, stupid app, I won't lose face in front of the doctor. It is all because of you Jia.

(MORE)

YI (CONT'D)

Because you're forcing me to use  
that phone, you made me like a  
joke.

Jia steps forward, and looks directly to Yi.

JIA

I want to say this for a long time.  
Last time mom stopped me, because I  
should consider your feelings,  
you're elders. But this time, I  
will not take your nonsense anger.

Yi stands up, looks at Jia.

YI

Let's see.

Yi leaves the apartment and slams the door. Jia is standing  
besides the sofa, and kicks the smashed phone.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

We see the elevator doors open, and Jia walks out from it.  
She goes directly to the door of Yi's apartment. We hear some  
laughing and talking. Jia knocks the door, and Xue opens it.  
There are numerous shoes in the entryway.

INT. YI'S HOME - NIGHT

Jia is changing her shoes to slippers. A middle age man walks  
by, and talks to Jia with surprise.

MR.MA

Yo, isn't this Jia? Oh my god, it's  
been a while to see you!

JIA

Uncle Ma, you still looks young and  
handsome!

MR.MA

(With smile)

That's sweet. I'm so envy your  
father has this beautiful daughter!

JIA

Shh! Don't let my dad hear this. I  
don't wanna make him angry on his  
birthday. How's your grandson? I  
heard he's studying in the U.S. ...

Mr.Ma giggles and walks back to living room with Jia. We see there are few people in the house, and they are all in similar age as Yi. Jia sees Yi is talking with his friends. She walks toward them.

JIA (CONT'D)

Dad, Uncle Ma and I was talking about his grandson. You remember him? We went to his 18th birthday last year.

YI

Of course. Old Ma, don't you miss your grandson? I miss my Rui everyday. I still remember her face as a little baby!

Mr.Ma sighs and smiles.

MR.MA

Yes, I miss him. But I can talk with him through video call, and he calls me every Sunday. So actually it is not that bad.

JIA

(Peeking Yi)

Really? I thought your generation will resist this kind of technology!

MR.MA

No! Why should we resist it? It makes my life much easier. What ages are we in now? After 30 years reform, who would think like an old feudalism remnant?

Jia is surprise that Yi is still smiling. She is about to say something, but her words are interrupted with the greeting.

MR.LI

Yo, old Zou, happy birthday!

Jia sees her father's smile faded away. Everyone in this family knows who Mr.Li is - handsome old guy, Yi's old enemy on mahjong table, and most important, he is Xue's best friend.

Yi nods his head. But Mr.Li looks like he didn't see Yi's attitude. He sits beside Yi, and gets his phone out of pocket.

MR.LI (CONT'D)

What a chaotic world! I just read the news that Donald Trump is the new president of the U.S.!

MR.MA

Whoo, I never thought I will live till the day of the end of capitalism!

JIA

Uncle Li, where did you see this? The CCTV News report is not started yet!

MR.LI

Who read news on TV now? Everyone just get it on their phone!

Jia is surprised by what Mr.Li said, and she can't control herself to observe Yi's facial expression. She can clearly see Yi's face is turning darker.

YI

News is about accuracy, not speed. Those Japanese devils once claimed to take down China in three months. But what happened to them eventually?

MR.LI

Old Zou, the world is changing. You should better catch up!

YI

You're just being poisoned by these so-called technologies. They are conquering young generation, and make them become lazy.

MR.LI

Don't act like you're not benefit from these changes. Yes, you've made your point. But I feel some envy in this...

The conversation is getting on the right track that Jia wants.

JIA

No, no, no. Uncle Li, you're wrong. My dad uses smartphone, and he can even order food online. Right dad?

MR.LI

(With smile)

Really? I didn't expect that. I thought you're a stubborn old man, just like what you did on mahjong table!

Yi tries to ignore Mr.Li's smile, but he can't. He still keeps silence, but he can't control his facial expressions. Jia knows her dad is about to break out.

JIA

No! Uncle Li, you misunderstands my dad. He is really open-minded. Every time I go back home and talk with him, he gets more new vocabularies than I do! Even Rui said grandpa is more fashion than her!

Mr.Ma looks pretty surprise.

MR.MA

Really? That's surprise.

Yi forces a smile, and stares at Jia with warning.

YI

She's just bragging. Why don't we move to the dining room? I think the dinner is ready.

Yi wants to stand up, but Jia pushes his arms down, and forces him to sit back.

JIA

No worries dad. I just asked mom and she said she needs at least 10 minutes. You and your friends haven't met each other for a long time, and Uncle Ma travels for a day just to attend your birthday party. Why don't you enjoy the time with them, and leave these unimportant stuffs to me?

MR.LI

(Nods his head)

Yeah, Jia is right. Come on, I just downloaded a mahjong game on my phone, we can play it together. Where's your phone? I can help you with this, as long as yours is iPhone!

Yi is still silence. He looks like he is about to break out in next second.

JIA

That's a perfect idea! Dad, I'm going to grab your phone, and you can play mahjong with them. When the dinner is ready, I can call you guys...

MR.MA

No, it's ok Jia. Don't force your dad if he doesn't want to. We can just have some tea and chat.

MR.LI

How can you say Jia is forcing her dad? She's just...

YI

(Suddenly interrupts)

No, she's not forcing me. Jia, go to my bedroom and get the new phone for me.

Jia raises her eyebrows after she heard this. She exchanges a look with Mr.Li. Mr.Li smiles back but doesn't say anything.

Just as Jia takes the phone out and turns on, Xue comes out from the kitchen.

XUE

Alright, just leave your phone alone. The dinner is ready.

MR.LI

Finally! I came here only for this meal!

Jia laughs.

JIA

Careful Uncle Li, don't let me dad hear that.

Jia supports Yi stands up from the chair. Yi clears his throat, and lower his voice with the volume that only he and Jia can hear this.

YI

Just... teach me how to use it after dinner.

Jia giggles, and nods her head.

JIA  
No problem captain!

We see the back of Jia and Yi as they walking to the dining room. The background becomes blur, and we see the camera moves from their back to the handbag on the sofa, the wool ball left on the rocking chair, few packs of cigarette on the tea table, and stops at the phone that leaves on the chair which Yi sat.

FADE TO BLACK.