

BIG TROUBLE IN LITTLE CHINA II

Movie of the Week

Story

by

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Screenplay

by

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Based on Characters Created by  
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EXT. SAUSALITO - CHINESE HERITAGE MUSEUM - NIGHT

INT. MUSEUM

In the middle of a marble floor, a single display case topped by a crystal dome. DISTANT BUZZING. A SHAFT of light appears. Then a BURNING INCENSE STICK. The smoke wafts down.

TWISTING PULL OUT

The incense stick is upside down, being lowered into the room. As the smoke spreads, it reveals laser beams that form a security barrier.

The incense stick is held by a muscular hand, followed by a powerful forearm sporting the tattoo of a Chinese Dragon.

Black hair, a black headband with red Chinese characters, dark eyes in a handsome, upside-down face; followed by the rest of BOBBY WANG -- in red muscle shirt and black jeans.

He is tied upside-down with a red nylon rope. His powerful body moves like a contortionist to avoid the interlocking laser matrix as he's lowered toward the display case.

A thin tube slides down his arm. A liquid drops onto the glass and HISSES as it flows in rivulets down the side. Bobby takes a hammer, covers the crystal with a cloth and taps it gently. CRACK. Bobby carefully pries a piece away. He reaches in and plucks a JADE ARTIFACT from its pedestal.

CU - THE ARTIFACT

THE CHAI TAO... a piece of jade carved into part of a Chinese ideogram... a puzzle in Chinese characters.

MATCH DISSOLVE

CU - COMPUTER

A 3D rendering of the JADE PIECE rotates. Text windows appear connecting it to historical references... "T'ang Dynasty."

INT. ASSISTANT CURATOR'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

STEVE TAYLOR studies his computer. He's 29, smart and confident. He studies a hologram of the SAME JADE ARTIFACT. Using a voice-recognition computer, he tries to fit it and TWO OTHER SHAPES into a complete CHINESE PUZZLE; the CHAI TAO. He's also on the phone.

STEVE

...ROTATE LEFT 10.

Yeah Dad, I know what time it is but I thought you'd like to know. The piece we just put on display, I think I found out what it really is. Something even more interesting! Yeah! A piece of the Chai Tao! The CHAI TAO! Well, according to legend it was created by YAMA, the God of Hell. It's the key to unearthly power.

CU COMPUTER SCREEN

The 3D model, breaks into three pieces, two phantom pieces rendered in wire-frame, the museum's piece in full color.

STEVE

It disappeared...around 580 AD. Rumored to be separated into THREE PIECES, each piece held by certain moral humans for safety.

ANGLE - SURVEILLANCE MONITOR - OVER SHOULDER

One security camera is picking up Bobby Wang, but Steve doesn't notice.

STEVE

No, it's not the complete Chai Tao, but it sure looks like one of the pieces!  
TILT Z AXIS BACK TEN.  
What? I don't know. Priceless!  
ZOOM IN 20.

STEVE (CONT'D.)

I found it in the Fung collection.  
 Maybe old man Fung was a sorcerer.  
 What? Of course it'll be here in  
 the morning, but it's so exciting  
 I just thought you'd like to know.  
 No? Really?

INT. GALLERY - BOBBY

He slowly slips the JADE from the case, puts it in his pocket. As he does, he dislodges the hammer. It drops from his pocket, hits the glass with a PING. The glass shatters and falls, cutting the laser beams. ALARM! Bobby screams a command into a throat mike.

BOBBY

Heur-La! Fi-dee! Heur-La! HEUR-LA!  
 (Go! Now! Go go go!)  
 Giou La! (Let's get out of here!)

INT. ASSISTANT CURATOR'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Steve's still on the phone, engrossed in the puzzle when ALARMS BLAST.

STEVE

What's that? It's nothing...  
 Just the alarm.  
 (suddenly realizes)  
 Look, I gotta go! Bye Dad!  
 (slams down the phone.)  
 Damn!

He leaps up, runs out.

EXT. HERITAGE MUSEUM - ANOTHER FLAME LORD

YEE, an Asian-American kid in black jacket and headset pops the clutch of a Ninja Cycle, ROARS off.

ZOOM IN AND HOLD ON THE CYCLE

Tied to the back pommel is the red rope. As he rockets away, the taut rope whips by.

ON THE ROOF

A pulley in a tripod spins madly...as

INT. MUSEUM

BOBBY is rocketed straight up and out.

EXT. THE ROOF

Bobby FLIES into the arms of Flame Lords. They grab his gear, stuff it into packs. They tie the rope to the tripod, hook onto it and drop off the roof.

FLAME LORDS - TRAVELING

They powerslide down the rope and drop to the lawn, hitting with a rolling tumble that brings them up to their bikes. Yee leaps off the ninja cycle as Bobby vaults right into the seat.

WIDE ANGLE

The Lords take off. Still roped to the tripod, Bobby guns it.

EXT. ROOF

The tripod SNAPS FREE, LEAPS off the roof.

EXT. GROUND

The tripod hits and tumbles, dragged by the Cycle.

ANGLE BOBBY - TRAVELING

He roars by as GUARDS run out screaming into radios. The tripod tumbles across the lawn.

STEVE runs out, sees the Flame Lords ZOOM by. A ROAR.  
He turns.

STEVE'S POV

A CYCLE bears down on him. Bobby grins maniacally.

Steve DARTS left.	The CYCLE darts LEFT.
STEVE darts RIGHT.	The CYCLE leans RIGHT
STEVE feints LEFT, dives RIGHT, just as ...	

The CYCLE RIPS BY...

Steve goes tumbling. He rolls and flips onto his feet, about to give chase when he notices the rope whipping at his feet. He turns. The tripod tumbles straight at him. He dives to the side, lands in a fountain. He comes up spewing water.

EXT. MUSEUM FRONT GATE

COP CARS pull up, SIRENS WAILING, LIGHTS FLASHING, blocking the exit.

THE CYCLE - TRAVELING

Bobby whips out a sword. With one swipe he parts the rope.

He rockets up the front hood of a cop car and launches over it. Cops tumble out. They hop back in, just as...

THE TRIPOD

tumbles up and smashes into the cars, wedging between them.

CU - FLAME LORDS - TRAVELING

Five young men and women of mixed ethnic types, mostly Asian-Americans in leather jackets with Red Dragons. They wear head bands with Chinese characters. The cycles sport dragon pennants. They're neon streaks as they ROAR by.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - CHINATOWN

More cops join the chase and close in. The FLAME LORDS slam into LITTLE CHINA, swerve around blind corners, boots kicking sparks. They roar up a culvert. Cop cars appear at the top. Lords swerve, pull up, surrounded.

The Lords gun their choppers up a ramp into an alley which turns into a luge tube. They rocket down out of sight.

In a flash they are gone. In Little China they are invincible, protected by an architecture of secret ramps, tunnels and bridges. Two cops run up, find them vanished, scratch their heads in disbelief.

THEME MUSIC AND TITLE MONTAGE

A mix of stills, animation and live action featuring magic and martial arts. Scenes from the first "Big Trouble" movie remind us that this is a world where anything can happen.

END PROLOGUE

ACT ONE

EXT. STREETS OF LITTLE CHINA - NEXT MORNING

Steve and CLARENCE JAMES, a bearish, black SFPD Detective, walk through Chinatown. Steve's haggard, sleepless, stressed out and exasperated. Clarence grins and waves to merchants. He is known and liked in Little China. He takes a fresh lichee nut from a fruit stand, nods to the grocer, pops it into his mouth.

STEVE

Listen, I already told this to the guys downtown.

CLARENCE

Indulge me. Tell me again. Try one of these, they're great.

Lu Wong, a Chinese merchant waves to him.

STEVE

I haven't had any sleep!

Clarence takes another fruit.

CLARENCE

Insomnia?! Ah... Lo quats! Good for the blood. Thanks Lu.

STEVE

You believe that?

CLARENCE

Listen, kid. There are really two Chinatowns. The one you know is restaurants and knick knack shops. The one you don't know is a mystery. You know, wizards, magic, that kind of stuff.

STEVE looks at Clarence quizzically.

CLARENCE (CONT'D.)

I know it sounds funny, but they believe it. And it affects how they behave.

STEVE

Like breaking into a museum to steal an artifact, you mean?

CLARENCE

Yeah, exactly. Now, tell me again, what were those motorcycle guys wearing?

STEVE

Black jackets with red dragons.

CLARENCE

Flame Lords.

STEVE

Flame Lords?

CLARENCE

You know about the Lords?

STEVE

Who hasn't?

CLARENCE

They work for Chi Lung. A real charmer. Extortion, smuggling, white slavery... Nothing we can pin on him yet. Any blue and green cycles?

STEVE

No. Why?

CLARENCE

White Hearts. Rival gang. Run by Egg Shen, another local character.

STEVE

Egg Shen? Isn't he some sort of martial arts master?

CLARENCE

Oh, he's kind of an old crack pot but he's got lots of interests in Chinatown. A tour bus company...a curio shop. He's also supposed to be involved in the occult.

Steve turns to him, curiously.



STEVE

The occult?

CLARENCE

It's Chinatown, pal. Some of our guys come outta there babbling about demons, magic potions and stuff.

STEVE

Really? Egg Shen, eh?

CLARENCE

This stuff may sound silly to us, but it's very real to them.

STEVE

It doesn't sound silly to me. I studied Asian mysticism at Berkeley.

Clarence looks at him curiously, then shrugs.

CLARENCE

The older Chinese still believe in magic. Chi Lung and the Flame Lords take advantage of that. Gives them power. There was big trouble here a few years ago. Some truck driver wandered in, got himself shanghaied by devils ... at least that's what some people here think. Personally, I think the boys got hold of too much plum wine. But it raised a hell of a stink downtown.

STEVE

Devils? Well...magic or no magic. I have to get the jade back.

CLARENCE

What's so special about it?

STEVE

If it's what I think it is, it's the piece of a puzzle. A very, very interesting puzzle.

Clarence just looks at him straight-faced...Then turns and grabs a sweetsour bun from a vendor.

STEVE

Hey!

He suddenly stops, points to the street corner.

EXT. GRANT STREET

In the crowd, Yee, the Flame Lord. He spots Steve, turns and takes off, slipping into the crowd.

STEVE (CONT'D.)

That's one of them!  
One of the thieves!

Clarence looks up from helping himself to a Chinese pastry. He sees Steve bolt, turns, slams into a delivery boy. Chow Fun noodles fly all over the street. Clarence and the boy go down, all tangled up.

CLARENCE

Wait! Hey, wait!

But Steve's off and running. Clarence struggles up but Steve's already gone, disappearing into the crowd.

STEVE - TRAVELING

Ziping in and out of the crowd, bumping tourists. He runs up a street lined with shops for herbal medicines, food, tourist goods.

Ahead, a glimpse. The Flame Lord's headband disappears around a corner.

STEVE -

Broken field running through the crowd, over trash cans, around barriers. He turns the corner and finds himself in...

EXT. KUNG ALLEY

...a QUIET, DESERTED SIDE STREET off the tourist track, lined with the dim windows of small shops. But the Flame Lord has disappeared.

STEVE'S POV

A Pacific Power truck is parked in front of a SMALL CURIO SHOP. A boom is extended and a worker is affixing a power line to the building. BRAD, a youth in a hard hat, sets out barricades, yells to his partner in the boom basket.

Steve notices the partner, a pretty Asian-American woman. KIM CHAN, 22, wearing a t-shirt and jeans. She cannot hide her beauty under a hard hat. As she leans out of her basket to wrestle with the power lines, Steve is drawn to stare.

Brad's a body builder with a Gold's Gym T-shirt and a Forrest Gump/Fast Times at Ridgemont High demeanor. He has the hots for Kim but they're co-workers. There's an underlying sexual tension as he controls her basket height.

KIM

Down a little. Up a touch..  
Ahh...that's it. Down. There,  
that's good.

BRAD

Yeah, it was good for me. How  
was it for you?

ANGLE KIM

She's very pretty, lithe and strong. She leans over her pod attaching wires, glances down at Brad grinning up at her.

KIM

Don't start with me, Brad. Try  
to be professional for once.

ANGLE BRAD

He glowers, mumbles to himself.

BRAD

What the hell am I supposed to do,  
work with my eyes closed?

STEVE

See a guy in a red headband come  
through here?

Steve's standing on a power cable. Brad moves him back.

BRAD

Excuse me, pal. Don't stand there,  
please. We've got hot stuff up there.

STEVE

Yeah, I see.

Kim leans over, straining her t-shirt. She's very sexy.

BRAD  
The wires, I mean.

STEVE  
Oh, yeah. Sorry.

Brad looks up at Kim impatiently.

BRAD  
Think you'll get that tied off  
before the Year of the Weasel is  
over and the Year of the Banana Slug  
begins?

STEVE  
Actually, it's the Year of the Pig.

BRAD  
The Pig. Oh. Good.

KIM  
Hey Brad, it's your year.

BRAD  
Yah, funny.  
(to Steve)  
Well, it's gonna be the year of  
the fat lip if you don't get off  
my cable.  
(he coils cable, mumbling to himself)  
I'm in the truck with her all day.  
It's driving me nuts.  
(notices Steve's still there)  
Something I can do for you, buddy?

STEVE  
A guy. About twenty. Red Headband.  
Black and red jacket. Flame Lord.

BRAD  
I didn't see nothing. 'Specially no  
Flame Lord.

STEVE  
How about an antique shop?

BRAD  
This whole neighborhood is one big  
antique shop.

STEVE  
I'm looking for Egg Shen's.

He shows Brad his map. Brad studies it, glances up.

BRAD

You're in luck, pal. You're here.

He points at the sign EGG SHEN ANTIQUITIES hidden by Kim's basket. Steve looks around. He senses eyes watching him. Then, a shout!

KIM

Hey! You gonna get those ties or what?

They look up at the impatient girl hanging over the basket.

BRAD

Keep your shirt on!  
(sees her stiffen, hands the map back)  
Damn! I'm a diabetic in a candy shop!

Grumbling, he turns, slams open the truck doors -- WHANG!

Kim glances down at Steve. Their eyes meet for an instant, then she turns back to her work.

Steve turns to the CURIO SHOP, stares in the window.

INT. EGG SHEN ANTIQUITIES SHOP - STEVE'S POV

It's dark. Nooks and crannies are stuffed with Oriental curiosities. The window sports pieces of jade.

STEVE

(to himself; surprise, wonder)  
Min din yuk! Burma jade...Wow!

The shopkeeper, EGG SHEN, an old but tough Chinese, looks up from his antiquities and stares back. He comes to the front and looks out. Steve excitedly indicates the jade.

STEVE

Is that goo yuk, that sun shan yuk? (antique jade, new jade)

EGG SHEN

Who are you, Bok gwei?

EXT. SHOP - STEVE

It seems that Egg Shen is looking past him toward KIM... up on the boom. He's polishing something.

STEVE

Ngor hai gai dook shu.  
(I'm a student, an acolyte.)  
Ngor man nee see gow.  
(I need your advice.)  
I seek wisdom.

EGG SHEN

You seek pronunciation. You  
just called yourself a cabbage leaf...  
but I'm impressed.

CU - EGG SHEN'S HANDS

He polishes a jade piece. It's similar to the museum piece,  
but not identical.

ANGLE - STEVE

Steve focuses in on it. He can't quite see. He's about to  
make a move toward the shop when he sees a reflection in the  
glass. He turns.

ACROSS THE STREET

Yee stares at him, tapping ninja-sticks in his palm... From  
other corners other Flame Lords appear. SFX - BOOMING CYCLE  
ENGINES. Flame Lord choppers turn a corner and ROAR up.

The Lords pull up, REVVING their choppers. One kicks over a  
barrier. It slams into Brad's truck with a LOUD BOOM! Brad  
rockets out of the truck holding his head and SCREAMING.

BRAD

Hey! What the... !?

Bobby Wang just laughs at him. Brad stops dead in his tracks.  
Two other Flame Lords move up grinning and swinging ninja  
sticks. One says something demeaning in a Dialect. Others  
laugh, snicker, move to surround Brad. He backs away.

ANGLE - CURIO SHOP

Flame Lords zoom past. An ancient Chinese nimbly darts out of  
their way. But Steve doesn't move fast enough. A Lord slams  
into him, knocks him down.

KIM

looks down.

KIM'S POV

Brad is quickly surrounded, threatened.

THE STREET

Bobby and the Lords move at Brad, enjoying his growing fear. While others move on Steve...

BOBBY

Goo Gee! La! Say Liang Jye!  
(Be careful, jerk)

A FIGURE DROPS into the confrontation; KIM. The Lords jump back, see a pretty girl, move forward. Kim glares them down.

KIM

Bo Woo Ah! Jye...!  
(Get ready, stupid)

What she says inflames the Lords. One moves on her. Brad grabs her, pulls her back.

BRAD

Kim, are you nuts? They're  
Flame Lords.

KIM

I don't care! They are scum...  
KER DEY HAI GEU!!!  
(They are pigs!)

She's angry, not intimidated. She snaps a kick that brushes the Lord's nose and snaps his head back. He stumbles back. Kim takes a stand. The Lords surround her, mumbling threats.

STEVE

Why don't you leave her alone?

They stop, turn. Steve gets up.

BOBBY

Why would we do that?

STEVE

You're bothering her.

He turns on Steve...threatening. Moves up into his face, grins menacingly.

BOBBY

It's our job. We're Flame Lords.

STEVE

I know who you are.

BOBBY

And we know who you are.

STEVE

Yeah, Seems we keep running into each other. Listen, I want to talk to you.

BOBBY

About what?

STEVE

The jade you stole from the Heritage Museum.

The Lords stiffen, look to Bobby Wang. Bobby moves forward.

BOBBY

Cop?

STEVE

Assistant Curator.

A beat... Bobby starts giggling.

BOBBY

Oh...worse. Assistant Curator!  
Very scary!

The Lords snicker, then snap into a menacing stance.

Steve takes a defensive martial-arts stance. They stop and look at his moves. Then they laugh.

BOBBY

No, no, no. It's like this.

He snaps into a very serious stance; deadly, practiced, aggressive. The other Flame Lords also click into exaggerated poses. They put on a demonstration of much better moves. Superfast fighting, flying, tumbling. Bobby finishes with a tumbling, whipping combo that catches Steve by surprise, sending him into a pile of garbage.

BOBBY

You should leave Little China,  
BOK GWEI! (white ghost/Anglo)

Steve jumps to his feet. Bobby moves toward him. they mix it up. Steve is surprisingly good. They exchange quick combos.



KIM (O.S.)  
 DA-LA, Saw Jye!  
 (Go ahead, fight, stupid!)

They turn.

KIM

is moving into an attack stance. Yee goes for her. In a quick, surprising combo, Kim flips, tumbles, kicks, punches and sends Yee through the window of CHEE FUN LAUNDRY. He stumbles out, covered in dry cleaning. Bobby laughs.

BOBBY  
 Nei gum lyang! You're beautiful!

KIM  
 Nei gum aie! You're short.

BOBBY  
 (he laughs delightedly)  
 You're angry.  
 (swings onto his chopper)  
 ...I...like that. Get on.

KIM  
 Get lost.

He likes that, too. He's about to mess with her more when he HEARS SIRENS O.S.!

BOBBY  
 Yeah, not a bad idea.

To create a diversion, Bobby breaks the Curio Shop window and sets off the ALARM! A quick, unexpected blow sends Steve into the garbage again. Bobby turns to Kim.

BOBBY  
 I'll see you again.

KIM  
 (sarcastic)  
 I'll lie awake nights.

He laughs, nods to the Flame Lords.

ANGLES -THE FLAME LORDS

They race off.

EGG SHEN

rushes out of his shop.

EGG SHEN

Flame Lords!!!

(they hesitate)

Nei gall guy! You're off limits!

A beat...then Bobby steps up to him.

BOBBY

Hey, old man, what kind of gang  
would we be if we obeyed the  
rules?

Bobby hops on his cycle, gives Egg a mock salute, pops the clutch, SCREECHES away. Lords vanish into the woodwork.

ANGLE - KIM AND BRAD

Brad's awestruck at Kim's fighting skills.

BRAD

Geez, Kim! Where'd you learn  
to do that?

KIM

Women's support group.

She walks up to Steve, lying in the garbage, picking fish heads out of his hair. Kim stands over him, hands on hips.

KIM

Thanks for your help.

STEVE

Don't mention it.

KIM

But you shouldn't interfere.  
Not here.

STEVE

Sorry. Thought you were in trouble.  
Obviously, a mistake.

KIM

(she studies him)  
The Flame Lords are dangerous. You  
better leave Little China.

STEVE

What about you?

KIM

I work here. Anyway...they'll leave me alone.

STEVE

Yeah, so I see.

She looks him up and down, then notices Egg. Steve follows her look, sees Egg picking up jade from his smashed display. They approach. Egg looks up, notices their interest.

EGG SHEN

It's not wise to stand against the Flame Lords.

KIM

I can take care of myself.

EGG SHEN

Yes, I observed.

Egg hands Kim a jade piece.

EGG SHEN

Jade...magical. The only gemstone that changes color when you touch it. It reacts to body temperature, chemistry...some say...to the person himself. Or herself.

CU - THE JADE

It turns lighter in Kim's hand.

ANGLE - EGG

He studies the jade and Kim. He seems to see something. He smiles at Kim, slips back into his store. Kim and Steve look at each other for an awkward moment. Kim admires the small gift of jade. She notices a broom, grabs it and starts sweeping glass fragments into the gutter.

KIM

You're lucky you're in one piece.

STEVE

Yeah, I'm feeling luckier... by the moment.

(he moves in)

You're from Guangdong.

KIM  
I'm from Alameda.

STEVE  
You're parents, then...  
southern Canton.

KIM  
How can you tell?

STEVE  
Your Cantonese...has a provincial  
diphthong. Que Ling?

KIM  
You're close.

STEVE  
Really!?

KIM  
Yeah. They're from Oakland. Dad's a  
systems analyst at Rockedyne. I'm as  
American as Charlie Chan.

STEVE  
But you speak Cantonese.

KIM  
I yell it. That's all I know...  
except for some curses on your ancestors,  
bok gwei.

STEVE  
I'm not a white ghost.

KIM  
No, who are you then?

STEVE  
Assistant curator at the Heritage  
Museum.

KIM  
I thought you were kidding.

STEVE

No... really. I...I was born in Beijing. My father was teaching there. I've been studying Chinese culture all my life. If the jade piece I'm looking for is what I think it is, our troubles are just beginning.

KIM

Our troubles...?

She laughs at this. SIRENS and LIGHTS up ahead. Cop cars SCREECH. Glass BREAKING, cars CRASHING! BRAD runs up, hops in the truck, starts it up.

BRAD

Come on, Kim. My contract specifically states I don't have to work during earthquakes, atomic attacks, or civil disturbances.

Kim hands Steve the broom, gets in the passenger seat. Steve closes the door for her. She glances curiously at him.

KIM

What did you say you were?

STEVE

A... a collector.

KIM

Oh..? Of what?

STEVE

Beautiful things.

A beat. A moment between them. Imperceptibly, she smiles.

KIM

Well...I've gotta go.

STEVE

Joy Geen. (goodbye)

KIM

Yeah. See ya around.

Brad pops the clutch, squeals out.

STEVE

Wait!

BRAD

Later!

Kim stares at Steve as Brad squeals away. A CLATTER! Steve turns as Egg pulls down metal shutters on the shop.

STEVE

Wait! I want to talk to you.

EGG SHEN

Can't talk now. Good bye!

Egg slams the door, heavy bolts CRASH SHUT. Steve's left alone, deserted in Little China.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

CU - THE STOLEN JADE PIECE

CHI LUNG (V.O.)

You've done well, my son.

INT. CHI LUNG'S WAREHOUSE - A FORTRESS HEADQUARTERS

Chi Lung admires the stolen JADE as Bobby looks on proudly. Chi is ancient, powerful and dressed like a mandarin. His room's furnished in exquisite art. He's evil, but with a quirky, Alan Rickman/Jeremy Irons sense of humor.

Bobby's attitude has changed. He is uneasy before this powerful sorcerer.

Bobby notes the frenzy with which Chi makes certain incantations. He notices that Chi's entranced by the stolen jade.

BOBBY

Thank you, boss. By the way...  
this hunk of stone must be  
pretty important to you, huh?

CHI LUNG

(very scary, threatening)  
You are interested in the secrets  
of my power?

BOBBY

Ahhh...no. No. Not really. Just  
curious, that's all.

CHI LUNG

You wouldn't think of questioning my  
authority...

BOBBY

Me? NOoooo....

CHI LUNG

Your loyalty to me is...

BOBBY

...uh..UNquestioned...Totally!

CHI LUNG

You were a lowly street hood and I  
made you...

BOBBY

Leader of the Flame Lords, your  
magnificence, and I am deeply grateful.  
It's just... well, we need... money.

CHI LUNG

(angry)

Money! You want money?!

BOBBY

You know... for expenses last night.  
Gas, rope...tolls for the bridge...

CHI LUNG

(angry)

Money?! From me??

A FORCE BEAM shoots from Chi's palm, impales Bobby and lifts  
him by the throat, levitating him, choking...

BOBBY

Ah...no. N-never mind. Forget it.  
Sorry I mentioned it.  
(Chi turns away. Bobby slams to the floor.)  
Oooof! I mean, how do you do all this  
neat evil stuff, anyway?

CHI LUNG

Oh, you know. The usual. Pact with  
the devil. Knowledge that is power...  
all that. But, with certain...  
limitations. And you know how I hate  
limitations!

BOBBY

Oh boy, do I!

CHI LUNG calls up images. Chinese ideograms appear.

CHI LUNG

That's why I've studied the ancient  
texts.

BOBBY

The ones you had me steal?

CHI LUNG

Borrow. Short term loan. They've  
revealed the CHAI TAO! The SECRET  
MAGICAL ARTIFACT that will give me  
ULTIMATE POWER!



Bobby snatches the jade from Chi's hand.

BOBBY

That?...

Chi snatches it back. Light dims to just a highlight on Chi and the jade.

CHI LUNG

This jade...One of the THREE PIECES separated by YAMA, to prevent their power from falling into...

BOBBY

(helpfully)  
Evil hands?

Chi glares daggers at him.

CHI LUNG

Well, when I have the complete Chai Tao, that won't matter, will it?

He opens a curtain revealing the golden statue of the god Yama. He places the jade in the statue's outstretched hands. An unearthly GONG RINGS. Bobby staggers, holding his ears.

BOBBY

What the hell is that!

CHI LUNG

Yes. As a matter of fact, Hell is exactly what it is.

BOBBY

What?!

CHI LUNG

Yen Lo, Servant of Yama. I summon thee!

A THUNDERCLAP! Bobby grabs his ears and cowers. Chi looks down with disdain. And unearthly HOWL. The statues SHUDDER!

BOBBY

Boss, you been dipping into the Bok Fun again!

CHI LUNG

Pay attention! I have...  
 (He whips out another piece from beneath his robes.)  
 ... combined TWO PIECES of the  
 Chai Tao. The clock now starts.  
 We have 12 hours from the  
 time the TWO PIECES are combined...  
 to find and take possession of the  
 THIRD.

BOBBY

Or what? Wait a minute...Or what?!

CHI LUNG

A...slight penalty clause. If we fail  
 to find the third piece we will  
 be slaves of the demons of Hell for all  
 eternity.

BOBBY

Oh, is that all?  
 Huh? What do you mean... "we"?

BOBBY grows uneasy as...

BOBBY'S POV

Statues around the room are changing, coming alive.

CHI LUNG

Besides I'm sure there's a  
 loophole...somewhere.  
 (glances at Bobby)  
 Something bothering you?

BOBBY

Uhh...Nothing..No... except  
 ...maybe...well, if I didn't know  
 better, I'd swear that  
 (points to a gargoyle)  
that is...coming...to life!  
 (suddenly wants to depart)  
 Listen, don't pay me now. I'll just  
 put it on your tab.

Chi places a second JADE PIECE on the altar. They emanate  
 power. A RUMBLING HOWL FROM HELL! Gargoyles move.  
 Terrified, Bobby snatches ONE OF THE JADE PIECES, holds it up  
 before him like a protective talisman. Chi is outraged.

CHI LUNG

What are you doing, you fool!

BOBBY

You never mentioned the part about Hell.

CHI LUNG

Must've slipped my mind.

BOBBY

If this has power, maybe it'll protect me.

CHI LUNG

Give me that, you twit!  
(Bobby shrinks back)  
Don't worry. You're with me!

BOBBY

Yeah sure! The guy about to go to Hell. Great! Look, I want protection!

Bobby's demand triggers a change. The jade GLOWS. He drops it, burning his hand. Chi snaps it up, hides it in the folds of his robe. The room RUMBLES! Walls EXPLODE! In a burst of radiance, Yen Lo arrives. And he is pissed!

The Servant of Yama confronts Chi. YEN LO is as big and scary as Jack Palance on a bad hair day. He's dressed in blue robes, a conical hat, with a silver serpent embroidered on his chest. He looms over the others, intimidating...

YEN LO

Who commands me?

CHI LUNG

I, Chi Lung, have summoned you, Yen Lo, servant of Yama!

He shows him the JADE PIECE set in the Yama statue. Yen is shocked.

CHI LUNG

By this piece of the Chai Tao  
I lay claim to all power over the universe!

YEN LO

One piece alone is not enough,  
Chi Lung. You must now accompany  
me to HELL... NOW!

Chi Lung snatches THE JADE from the Altar and fits it with the SECOND PIECE he whips out from beneath his robe. A FLASH! Yen Lo is blown back into a dragon throne. The dragons come alive, snake around and hold him fast.

CHI LUNG

You've grown careless, Yen. I have not one...but two! I now make my claim over the CHAI TAO, and when YOU help me get the THIRD AND FINAL PIECE, ultimate power will be mine!!

Yen Lo struggles mightily but the combined power of the two artifacts traps him, holds him on the throne. Bobby's awed.

BOBBY

You can hold him there?

YEN LO

Not for long, Chi Lung. The judges have been summoned.

BOBBY

Judges, what judges?

CHI LUNG

Oh, the ones from Hell. Now, I really NEED the third piece.

YEN LO

You have just twelve hours!

BOBBY

Then what?

YEN LO

All Hell breaks loose.  
(he laughs chillingly, then snaps to serious threat...)  
Twelve hours... to take possession of the third piece.

Chi waves...Thunder! Lightning! Flames and smoke break out. The room ROCKS under the evil spell. Chi stands up to it.

CHI LUNG

Right. And we both know where it is.

EXT. EGG'S ANTIQUE SHOP - SAME TIME

Steve sweeps the last of the glass into the gutter, then walks up to Egg's door. Egg's inside, bustling about.

He pulls down more shutters, draws shades, turns the "CLOSED" sign. Steve holds up Egg's broom. Egg looks. After a beat, he opens the door grabs the broom, tries to slam it again, but Steve holds the door.

STEVE

Now can we talk?

EGG SHEN

Thank you. No.

STEVE

Why not?

EGG SHEN

Busy. Too busy. I have a tour to conduct.

He nods toward a colorful TOUR BUS parked in the alley.

STEVE

A tour, good. I'm a student of Chinese culture myself.

EGG SHEN

I'm busy...very busy.

STEVE

We need to talk about... this.

Steve holds up a picture of the stolen jade. Egg reacts. He slips back inside the shop. Steve follows before he can close the door on him.

INT. SHOP

EGG

Who did you say you were, again?

STEVE

Steve. Steve Taylor.

EGG SHEN

(skeptical)  
Curator of the Heritage Museum?

STEVE

That's my father. I'm the Assistant Curator.

EGG SHEN

And you say you have this jade piece on display at the museum?

STEVE

Eh... well... we did.  
Until it got stolen last night.

EGG

Stolen!

STEVE

Yeah, by those friendly guys with the red head bands.

EGG SHEN

The Flame Lords!

STEVE

Yes.

EGG SHEN

(frightened)  
Chi Lung!

STEVE

Chi Lung?

EGG SHEN

What do you know about this jade piece?

STEVE

Lots. I know it's part of the Chai Tao. A mystic puzzle that, according to legend, holds the key to all the power in the universe.

EGG SHEN

Myth! Superstition!

STEVE

But you believe it don't you?

Egg pushes Steve out the door.

EXT. STREET - TRAVELING

They walk to an alley, turn, walk up to a gaily painted bus.

EGG SHEN

Ahhh...all you young pups. You are  
all the same.  
And if I did believe...  
do you think I'd tell you?

STEVE

Why not?  
Look, I've been studying this subject for  
nineteen years! I'm an expert.

EGG

You're a fool.

STEVE

Not so foolish that I can't tell  
that you're frightened.

EGG

Not frightened... just busy!  
Now let me alone.

STEVE

But I need to talk to you.

Egg moves away toward the bus.

STEVE (CONT'D.)

I know you know about this.  
I've heard you're something of a...  
wizard!

Egg stops dead and turns.

EGG SHEN

You want to talk? Get on bus.  
(Steve jumps on. Egg stops him.)  
But first buy ticket!

Steve obliges.

INT. CHI LUNG'S FORTRESS - SAME TIME

Bobby studies Yen Lo raging within the dragons' grip.

BOBBY

Is he okay there?

CHI LUNG

Well, if he escapes my control,  
he's going to be rather cross  
with you!

BOBBY

Me?!

(Chi nods)

Well, who's got the other piece?  
How do we get it?

Chi grins down at Yen.

CHI LUNG

You wouldn't care to tell?  
(Yen Lo flips him the Chinese Bird.)  
Egg Shen, perhaps?

BOBBY

The good wizard?

CHI LUNG

Good wizard? Good wizard? Oh, he  
likes to call himself that. Truth  
is, it's all about power. I've  
known for years, Egg had the THIRD  
PIECE. But I didn't dare move until  
some fool found the SECOND piece  
and put it on display in a museum!...

BOBBY

Egg's tough. How do we get the piece  
away from him?

CHI LUNG

My plan is simple. In a word...  
Trouble. Big Trouble.

BOBBY

That's two words.

CHI LUNG

(turns and bellows!)  
Flame Lords!

Doors burst open. Flame Lords rush in. They fall into ranks  
at stiff attention. Chi Lung struts before them like Patton.



CHI LUNG

(to Bobby)

You give Egg a message. Unless he  
surrenders the final Chai Tao,  
Little China will be reduced to...  
to... Egg Foo Yung!

(turns to the ranks)

Flame Lords...Out! Out! Begone! Be BAD!  
Cause Trouble!

He claps. The Lords RUSH OUT for a spree of destruction.

STREETS OF LITTLE CHINA - SAME TIME

A GAILY PAINTED TOURIST BUS rumbles down Grant Street.

INT. BUS

EGG SHEN lectures on Little China. The bus is painted in Chinese motifs finished in red lacquer. Egg looks down the streets, into alleys. He's distracted and lecturing half-heartedly. Steve sits nearby and questions, much to Egg's annoyance -- and to the mystification of the tourists.

EGG SHEN

...No. Chinese men were brought  
over to work on the railroads. Women  
followed later but the first  
generations never really assimilated...

STEVE

Yeah, they brought their own beliefs,  
their mystical priests, their magic.

EGG SHEN

Not true. Actually insulting to  
Chinese. There are, of course, no  
such things as demons, sorcery or  
magic ...within the Chinese scheme  
of beliefs. Chinese are very rational,  
law-abiding...

STEVE

What about the Tong wars?

At this, Egg swerves the bus over to the curb in front of a tea shop, opens the door, turns to the few tourist riders.

EGG SHEN

Rest stop. Five minutes. You go shop.  
Very good tea.

They pile off. Egg turns to Steve, serious, now.

EGG SHEN

Tell me where you found the jade piece.

STEVE

I found it. ...by accident... ...in the vault. It was in the Fung collection.

EGG SHEN

Fung was a guardian!? I knew it!

STEVE

A guardian? What's that?

EGG SHEN

Nothing. Never mind.

(to himself)

Chi would not dare to steal this piece unless he had one other. This is very bad.

(catches himself)

Anyway...it's all rumors, all myth.

STEVE

Maybe, but if it isn't, you might be in danger. Why don't you let me help you?

EGG SHEN

No...no. You do not need to get involved. Thank you. Nothing personal...

STEVE

Everything's personal...

EXT. STREET

The tourists get back on the bus clutching packages as... A LION DANCE approaches... Tumbling kids, streaming banners, Music and gongs. A golden paper Dragon-Lion weaves down the street dancing, leaping, blocking traffic, blocking the bus as the tourists climb back aboard and take seats. One lady (ALMA) proudly shows off a souvenir.

ALMA

Look Ida. A piece of the great wall.

Steve looks askance...

STEVE

The great wall...really! You sent them there, Egg. You're a fraud!

EGG SHEN

Look. If you really had a piece of the great wall would you sell it to a woman in an "Elvis Lives" T-shirt?

STEVE

So... you give them what they want to see -- and hide the real Chinatown... the real magic.

Steve notices a picture of a Chinese kid taped to the dash.

STEVE

By the way... who's this?

EGG SHEN

Kok Leong. My Son.  
(shakes his head sadly)  
He's developing condos in Miami Beach. Not so easy to find respect for the old ways in the new generation. Too many distractions.

ANGLE - BACK OF THE BUS

ALMA and her friend IDA look at the passing parade, fascinated, clicking their Kodaks. The kid in the lion head leaps on another's shoulders. He shakes and roars.

IDA

Oh look, Alma, a Lion Dance.  
Isn't that cute...

The Lion leaps at the window. She raises her camera. The lion's mouth opens. She snaps a nice Close-Up of a fearsome FLAME LORD. He SCREAMS at her.

FLAME LORD

Ng ho ying sheung! Bok gwei!  
(Don't take photos, White Ghost!)

He smashes the window and grins madly.

IDA

She's gone rigid, too shocked to scream. Her companion hasn't seen a thing. She turns to her.

ALMA

What was that, Ida?

Then she notices Ida's face and the grinning Flame Lord.  
She...SCREAMS!

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. EGG'S BUS - MOMENTS LATER

Tourists sit terrified as lion dancers smash into the bus.

STEVE

So there's no current gang activity?

EGG SHEN

In Chinatown? Of course not.

Just as Egg says it, more Flame Lords burst from an alley and sweep up the street, creating chaos. They overturn trashcans, knock over cyclists. They leap at the bus, run up the sides, dance on the roof. Tourists SCREAM! Doors burst open. Flame Lords fly in.

EGG SHEN

It's nothing. Don't be alarmed.  
Just a Lion Dance. All part of the  
show.

BOBBY

(smashes a window)  
A message from Chi Lung.

EGG SHEN

Flame Lords! Begone! You cannot  
do this!

BOBBY

Wrong. This is just a start.  
You have something Chi Lung wants.  
And until he gets it, we take what  
we want.

Egg slams it into gear, pops the clutch, sending Flame Lords tumbling. Bobby's up, hopping over tourists. He leaps for Egg. They struggle. Bobby yanks the wheel. The bus crashes into a car. Passengers tumble. Flame Lords come forward. Steve again takes a martial arts stance. They laugh, then stop laughing and advance toward him.

BOBBY

No. You still ain't got it.  
Look. It's like this.

He snaps into a Martial Arts stance. They surround Steve. Egg Shen moves up, takes a stance next to Steve. He's old, but something about him says 'don't mess with me.'

EGG SHEN

Bok Sum! White Hearts!

It's a Call To Arms. It echoes through...

EXT. LITTLE CHINA

All along Grant Street, Street Lights in the form of CHINESE LANTERNS GLOW...They PULSE BRIGHTLY...A MESSAGE.

MONTAGE - ALL OVER CHINATOWN

Kids note the flickering lanterns. They slip into alleys, storefronts, parked cars. They re-emerge wearing white jackets with blue and green trim and matching headbands. They are...THE WHITE HEARTS.

INT. THE BUS

Bobby moves on Egg, stalking, feinting attacks.

BOBBY

Give up the jade!

SUDDENLY - The White Hearts appear and engage the Flame Lords. The leader's a good-looking youth: JACKSON "DOUBLE" CHIN. He moves and fights so fast, he's a blur, (like seeing double). All over the street, in the bus, on top of the bus...White Hearts fight the Flame Lords to a standstill. Then they drive them back. Then SIRENS, POLICE. Suddenly, the Flame Lords' position is untenable. Steve faces off against Bobby, but Bobby gives a sign... a challenge.

BOBBY

We'll meet again.

STEVE

I'm looking forward to it.

The Lords leap out the door, chased by the White Hearts. In a wink, they're all gone.

Egg Shen slumps with an injured shoulder. He tries to turn the wheel but can't. He winces in pain. Steve pulls him out from behind the wheel, drags him to a seat.

EGG SHEN

What are you doing?

STEVE  
Just helping out.

EGG SHEN  
No, thank you.

STEVE  
Don't worry. It'll be fine.

In the back, some tourists are terrified.

TOURIST 1  
What was that?!!

Some are irate.

TOURIST 2  
What about our tour?

TOURIST 1  
Yeah! We paid for a tour.

Steve glances at Egg Shen. He has a pained look on his face.

STEVE  
Sorry folks, tour's over.

TOURIST 1  
At least get us back to our hotel.

They look at Egg Shen. He hesitates.

STEVE  
Look, I can drive. More or less.  
Whadaya got to lose?

He slips into the driver's seat, starts up, grinding gears.

EGG SHEN  
Hey kid!

STEVE  
What?

EGG SHEN  
Ever driven a bus before?

STEVE  
Hey, how hard can it be?

CRASH! Steve looks outside.

STEVE

That car was already damaged.  
It shouldn't count against me.

BOOOMM! He rips off the side of a parked car.

TOURIST 2

Oh, you can let us out here.

STEVE

Don't be silly. It's nothing.  
No trouble at all.

Steve tries to pull out, but the tourists clamber off the bus, leaving him with Egg.

STEVE

Now what was that you were saying  
about the Chai Tao being a myth?

Egg slams the door.

EGG SHEN

How do you know such things?

STEVE

PhD. Asian Studies. Berkeley.

EGG SHEN

Oh...book learning!

STEVE

In the seventh century A.D.,  
in the Hsia (Sha) period of Mythical  
Sages, the Court of Xuang Wa was  
overrun by horsemen from the north.  
The Imperial Wizard, Fu Hsi, inventor  
of the eight trigrams, sacrificed the  
most beautiful maidens in the Three  
Kingdoms to the Hell God, Yama, Keeper  
of the Gate...in return for a secret  
power to keep the Barbarians at bay.  
This power was contained in the Chai  
Tao. As you know.

A beat. Egg's impressed, but dismissive.

EGG SHEN

Alright... so it was a good book.  
But you still know nothing about the  
real China.



STEVE

Why... because I'm not Chinese?

EGG SHEN

No. Because you are a Saw jai!  
(young fool)

STEVE

If I am a Saw jai, you are a Lo  
Saw See Fool! (foolish old man)  
I'm offering you help...  
And by the looks of things, you  
could sure use some.

EGG SHEN

No. I don't need your help.

A BLAST OF THUNDER. LIGHTNING FLASHES, clouds let go.

STEVE

Sure about that?

INT. CHI LUNG'S FORTRESS - SAME TIME

LIGHTNING FLASHES SPARK around Chi Lung as he glares at the  
Flame Lords straggling in...and at Bobby, empty-handed.

CHI LUNG

Where's the Jade?!  
(Bobby shrugs helplessly)  
What about Egg Shen?

BOBBY

He has what you might call, a bad  
attitude.

CHI LUNG

So?!!!

BOBBY

There were White Hearts, and cops...  
and some pain-in-the- butt Anglo guy.

CHI LUNG

Excuses! I ask for the Chai Tao. You  
bring me excuses!

BOBBY

Well, we scared them some...

CHI LUNG

Very good. The only way to control people  
is through fear.

(then)

That gives me an idea...

He walks up to Yen Lo and stares. Yen Lo glares back.

CHI LUNG

Through Yen Lo, other demons can be  
summoned and you, my Flame Lords...  
will have the honor of serving as their  
willing vessels...

There's muttering in the ranks. Chi turns to them, fixes them  
with his glare.

FLAME LORD 1

Willing vessels?! Geez, your worship...  
I don't know...

CHI LUNG

Then shall Little China be brought  
to its knees... and Egg Shen will  
be forced to give up his jade!

FLAME LORD 2

But my Lord, I... I mean... if they...  
if they inhabit our bodies, what  
happens to us?

FLAME LORD 1

Yeah, what if we're not willing?

Chi's grin freezes. He levels a scary killer stare at the  
miscreant. Then he claps his hands. Flame Lord One bursts  
into flame, burns fiercely, turns to ash. A moment of stunned  
silence. The other Lords get the point.

FLAME LORD 2

Demons. That's not so bad.

CHI LUNG

You will have more power than you  
ever dreamed of...

Chi Lung moves to Yen Lo.

YEN LO

You know the price for demons,  
Chi Lung?

CHI LUNG

Yes, of course, virgins. Standard price. One virgin for each demon. I so demand!

BOBBY

What?

CHI LUNG

Find me 13 beautiful virgins!

BOBBY

In San Francisco?

Chi glares daggers at him, snaps his fingers. Bobby's hair glows. Flames dance about his face. He's terrified.

BOBBY

Virgins. Right! Good idea. Much prefer them, myself.

Bobby's becoming disillusioned. He notices a new transformation in Chi. His features have distorted.

BOBBY

Are you okay, Wise One?

CHI LUNG

It's nothing....Hormone imbalance. It makes me very...

Boom! A beam SHOOTs from his hands, levitates Bobby by a terrible grip on his throat.

CHI LUNG (CONT'D.)

...irritable.

YEN LO

Very well. You asked for Demons!  
Day Die Gwei Lei La!  
(Hell God, come to me!)

He claps his hands. Around him Demons coalesce, swirl and stream out, up, into..

INT. THRONE ROOM

One by one the Flame Lords are possessed. Their eyes glow with fire, their tongues turn black, steam comes out of their ears. They do a crazy, hip-hop demon dance.

CHI LUNG  
Now...that's the spirit!

Bobby notices that he himself hasn't changed.

BOBBY  
Hey Boss. What about me?

CHI LUNG  
Mindless slaves are only so useful.  
Your loyalty is unquestioned. Right?!

BOBBY  
Oh, absolutely your worshipfulness.

CHI LUNG  
Good. Now... DEMONS!!

They snap to attention.

CHI LUNG (CONT'D.)  
Get those virgins while I make special  
arrangements for Egg Shen. Demons...  
BEGONE!

He makes a magical wave. The demonic Flame Lords disappear in  
a burst of lightning.

EXT. STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Above Little China, clouds roll in, thunder and spiked  
lightning... a Chinese Walpurgisnacht. The storm cloud seems  
to hang directly over Chinatown like another dimension of  
darkness, rain and mystery. Egg's bus zooms by the China  
Gate. A police car pulls out and follows.

INT. POLICE CAR.

Clarence guns it, grabs the radio mike, calls in.

CLARENCE  
Unit Twelve. I've got Egg at the  
China Gate. I'm going in. Something's  
happening in Little China. I want  
back up!

EXT. CHINA GATE

The bus zips through but Clarence, following closely, seems  
to hit a magical barrier. The GATE BULGES IN AND SNAPS BACK.  
The car stalls. Clarence is out, tries to run through the  
BARRIER, but is thrown back as if bounced off a trampoline.

EXT. CHINATOWN STREETS

The PACIFIC POWER truck weaves through a downpour.

INT. TRUCK.

Kim and BRAD, wrestle their truck through the wet streets.

BRAD

Jeez, look at that! Looks like  
it's hanging right over Chinatown.  
Maybe we should get help.

KIM

Pull yourself together, Brad.

EXT. EGG'S STREET - ANTIQUE SHOP

Egg's bus pulls into the alley. Egg hops out and scurries off, distracted. He disappears into the back door of his shop, Steve is suddenly left alone. Hesitantly, he follows.

INT. BACK OF EGG'S SHOP

What Steve sees amazes him. Everywhere he looks, books, artifacts, objets d'art... It's a curator's wet dream. The back of the store is a maze, a rabbit's warren of boxes and shelves piled to the ceiling with (cheap props).

STEVE

Wow! Look at this stuff. Shen!  
Mr. Egg! The Yut Lick Tung Sing!  
The Chinese almanac; the T'ang  
codex. Mr. Egg, can I have a word  
with you?.

Steve walks through the maze to the front of the shop, fascinated. It too is filled with ancient, weird Chinese things... dusty books, artifacts, curios of all types. But messier... stuff tumbled all over. Then he looks up.

STEVE

Geeez! Egg... what a mess! You  
really keep this stuff on the  
floor?

Egg glares at him. Steve looks again. The shop's been trashed!

EGG SHEN

Someone's been here.

STEVE

Looking for something...looks  
like...

EGG SHEN

Flame Lords.

Egg pushes Steve toward the door.

EGG SHEN

I don't have time for you.  
Thank you. Goodbye.

STEVE

Goodbye?! No. Wait... you can't  
do that!  
(Egg turns back...)  
I have some questions.

But Egg's distracted. He looks out at the gathering storm and moves around the shop muttering to himself and gathering up old dusty jars filled with strange powders and liquids.

EGG SHEN

No. It's dangerous. Too dangerous.  
You must go.

Egg shoos him out and closes the shop.

END OF EGG'S STREET

Kim and Brad pull up in spooky darkness and flickering power lines. One sparking line is attached to Egg's shop. All over Chinatown lights flicker and flash.

BRAD

Jeez. It's dark!

KIM

Very observant. Come on.

She hops out but Brad is reluctant.

EXT. STREET

Electricity crackles from downed powerlines. All business, Kim slips on a hardhat, a climbing belt. She gracefully and powerfully scales the pole. Brad is spooked.

BRAD

Kim...be careful.

KIM

Cut the power, Brad.

Brad opens up a manhole and slips down to cut the circuit.

EXT. EGG'S ANTIQUE SHOP

Steve stands outside in the rain. Egg Shen can't believe it. He goes to the door, arms full of magical elements, jars, powders, potions... He's exasperated.

EGG SHEN

What do you think you're doing?

STEVE

Admit it. You're testing me.

EGG SHEN

Worse. I'm ignoring you.

STEVE

I saw it on Kung Fu. All the other students ran off when it rained. Grasshopper stayed where he was.

EGG SHEN

Grasshopper was an ACTOR!

Egg slams the door. Steve stands dripping in the rain. The door opens.

EGG SHEN

Am I supposed to be impressed by someone too dumb to get out of the rain?

STEVE

Confucius says, "The journey of a thousand miles starts with one step".

EGG SHEN

Confucius also said, 'Get Lost!'

He slams the door.

STEVE

That part must've been lost in translation.

He jumps at a particularly vicious crash of lightning.

## EXT. LITTLE CHINA STREETS - MONTAGE

The lightning strikes the tops of buildings and ripples along the eaves like St. Elmo's Fire.

## INT. FORTUNE COOKIE FACTORY

A DEMON LORD slams a crank. The cookie machine goes into overdrive. Cookies fly out like tiny frisbees. Cooks flee screaming as cookies whiz by their heads.

## MONTAGE - LITTLE CHINA

The Demon Lords fan out through Chinatown, yanking poor helpless girls away from their screaming, frightened families. They hold their demon features under cloaks and hats...in shadow, barely but scarily glimpsed.

## EXT. GRANT STREET

The Flame Lords run up to a family. One grabs a pretty girl. They tear her away from her screaming parents, run off.

## EXT. FONG STREET

Lords spot other pretty young girls. They rush up pushing bystanders aside, grab them swing them on their cycles, ROAR away.

## EXT. THIRD STREET

Bobby, Yee and the demons run up to another girl, cowering.

YEE

Virgin?

She looks at her mom and dad...

MEI LI

Errr. Yes.

A Lord turns back to her, Bobby.

BOBBY

Mei Li?

MEI LI

Bobby Wong!

BOBBY

(to Yee)  
'Fraid not.



She looks sheepishly from him back and forth to her parents. Her mother glares at her. The demon ROARS, runs off, Bobby grins, waves goodbye to Mei Li, leaving her parents trembling.

EXT. KIM'S POWER POLE

Kim's on the power line in insulated boots and gloves, searching for the source of the outage. She looks around.

KIM

I just fixed this thing... Strange.  
Only Little China seems affected.

A bolt of lightning strikes nearby.

INT. MANHOLE

BRAD

Kim, Come down! It's too  
dangerous!

ON THE POLE

KIM

I'm perfectly sa...

Another bolt ripples down the building eaves, hits the pole, knocks Kim off her perch. She dangles by her safety strap, stunned.

EXT. STOREFRONT NOODLE SHOP

Steve comes out stuffing an egg roll into his mouth. He looks up, stops chewing.

HIS POV

St. Elmo's Fire ripples along the roofs and eaves of Chinatown. It sparks and snakes down the powerlines to the light poles, shorting them. Steve is awed. He reaches out, touches the pole. The fire leaps to his hand, up his arm, engulfs his body. His hair stands up with static charge.. He stands hands out, entranced...glorying in the magic.

STEVE

It's real!

EXT. GRANT STREET - BELOW THE POWER POLE

Steve rushes up, sees the power truck, sees Kim on the pole.

STEVE

Hey Kim, you should see this.  
Cold fire. Just like what was  
written in the T'ang codex.

He looks closer, sees Kim dangling. Without hesitation, he  
leaps for the pole.

INT. MANHOLE

Brad calls her on the intercom but gets no answer. Curious.

BRAD

Kim, Kim. Are you alright?

THE POLE

She's stunned, hanging in her straps. Steve's climbing up.  
He reaches her, unhooks her, takes her in his arms just as  
rampaging Demon Flame Lords appear.

KIM

Brad?

STEVE

Steve.

KIM

Steve?

STEVE

Bok Gwei.

KIM

Oh...you.

STEVE

Hang on.

A beat. Then she throws her arms around him and hangs on.

THE STREET

A Flame Lord drops into the manhole.

INT. MANHOLE

The demon knocks Brad aside, starts crossing circuits.  
Terrified, Brad scrambles out of there.

MONTAGE - ALL OVER CHINATOWN

signs explode, bulbs vaporize. Flashes...then darkness, except for the glow from the Flame Lords' eyes.

EXT. EGG'S ANTIQUITES SHOP - ANGLE EGG

Egg sees the Demon Flame Lords rush past.

EGG SHEN

White Hearts!

MONTAGE - ALL OVER CHINATOWN

Chinese lantern street lights come on, PULSE BRIGHTLY. Kids note the call, slip into alleys, emerge as WHITE HEARTS.

ON THE POLE

Steve holds the stunned Kim, about to drop down when he sees the FLAME LORDS standing below. Bobby grins up at him.

STEVE

Get away from us. Leave us alone.

BOBBY

Or what?

He makes a mocking martial arts gesture. Just then, THE WHITE HEARTS appear. They mix it up with the Lords but cannot defeat these Kung-Fu Demons from Hell.

Steve carries Kim to the ground where Brad battles the Flame Lords. The fight swirls around them. He carries her past Egg, into the shop to safety. Brad throws the Flame Lords off, scrambles to his truck, dives in, slams the door, locks it, fumbles around for his keys as Demons beat on the sides.

ANGLE EGG

He directs the White Hearts with gestures.

YEN LO (O.S.)

The jade, old man.

He turns as the LOOMING, POWERFULLY DEMONIC figure appears.

EGG SHEN

Yen Lo!!

The White Hearts are stunned to discover that the DEMON FLAME LORDS HAVE VANISHED. Egg turns away, runs into his shop.

INT. EGG'S ANTIQUITES SHOP

Egg enters. Yen Lo is already there, waiting, glowering.

YEN LO  
Surrender the jade.  
Chi Lung has so decreed.

EGG SHEN  
(furious)  
Chi Lung?! Chi Lung cannot decree anything!

Chi Lung appears in a burst of flame glaring imperiously.

CHI LUNG  
Not yet! Tell him, Yen Lo.

YEN LO  
Chi Lung possesses two parts of the Chai Tao.

Chi glowers. Yen Lo moves around the shop, examining a dusty book here, an artifact there. He passes Steve and the semi-conscious Kim, hiding behind a desk. Steve pulls back to avoid being seen but glances around the desk, fascinated...

EGG SHEN  
Two?! How did he get two??

CHI LUNG  
I got the first from Chiang Kai Shek. The second one I got when some moron put it on display in the museum.

Egg shoots a look at a very embarrassed Steve.

YEN LO  
(to Egg)  
You must come with me.

EGG SHEN  
Come with you? Where?

CHI LUNG  
He wants to torture you. You know how he is.

EGG SHEN

Yah, love to. Actually, I've got  
this dentist appointment..

Egg slides toward his shelf... toward ancient potions. Yen  
moves to keep Egg's hands in sight. Egg stalls...

CHI LUNG

If I were you, Egg, I wouldn't waste  
his time. It makes him very...cross!

A RIPPLE OF THUNDER. A FLASH.

CHI LUNG (CONT'D.)

If I don't get the THIRD PIECE right  
now you... I ...I...will reduce  
Chinatown to rubble!

Egg slips his hands toward his potions, but Chi spots the  
move. A MAGICAL CHARGE from Chi Lung blows them out of his  
reach. Egg turns on Chi... moves into fighting position.

EGG SHEN

It's been a long time, Chi.

CHI LUNG

Yes it has, Egg.

Egg grins, goes on guard. They circle. Yen drops his hand  
like a referee. In a flash, Egg and Chi are mixing it, full  
contact, full speed. Kicks, flips, twisters. Evenly matched,  
fast as a blur. They fight.

EXT. WINDOW

Steve moves out to see. He cannot believe his eyes. A FLASH.  
Chi's got his jade out. A FORCE BEAM BURSTS from it, but Egg  
ducks, meets the beam with his own. He flips, kicks the jade  
out of Chi's hand. The two pieces fly apart. One piece flies  
to Yen who catches it. Chi scurries after the other piece,  
grabs it. But Egg's in full control of his power. His beam  
blasts Chi, blows him right through the window, hanging for  
dear life onto his piece of the jade. Yen, holding his piece,  
is also sucked into the vortex...and follows Chi out. Steve  
is caught in the vortex by the powerful force... He grabs a  
lightpole as he is whipped by, clings to it for a  
beat....then is WHIPPED AWAY...

END ACT THREE

HOURLY BREAK

ACT FOUR

EXT. EGG'S SHOP

Egg and Kim rush out, catch a glimpse of Chi and Yen Lo disappearing. They search the sky for Steve.

KIM  
Steve!?

STEVE (O.S.)  
Huhhh?

ANGLE - STEVE

He lies in a pile of trash, stunned, then he picks himself up. Brad runs up.

BRAD  
What the hell was that?  
Those Flame Lords...Where'd  
they go?

Egg turns and walks back inside. Steve rushes to follow.

STEVE  
Wait!

Steve grabs Kim to support himself. They stumble back inside.

INT. SHOP

STEVE  
Did you see that?

KIM  
What?

BRAD  
Two weird guys flying through  
the air.

STEVE  
Yeah, they burst out of here  
and..just phfft! like that...  
straight up

EGG SHEN  
They will be back.

Kim just stares at him. But Steve is concentrating. He goes to a reference book Egg's left fallen open on the shelf. He flips through rapidly searching... finding...

STEVE

Wait a minute I know that  
guy! That was..  
(finds an ancient picture...  
an imposing figure in conical hat, robe  
and silver chest serpent)  
...Yen Lo! Servant of Yama...  
You know who that is?

KIM

You...are one strange Anglo.

Steve looks up, suddenly realizes...

STEVE

Where's Egg?

They turn around. No Egg Shen. The store seems deserted and half destroyed in the fight. But Steve sees a glimmer of light, a wisp of vapor from behind a shelf.

KIM

What's going on?

STEVE

Yama. The Chai Tao. Have you  
ever heard of Dai dei...  
Chinese Hell?

KIM

Chinese Hell?

STEVE

Yeah...the ten levels?

KIM

Oh, yeah. Myths... Stories  
my grandmother used to tell.

Steve studies the wall, then pulls open a Buddha to reveal a passageway into a maze of boxes and shelf-lined corridors.

STEVE

Myths, huh?

Gestures toward the dark passage. A pause.

KIM

After you.

They step through leaving Brad. Outside, demons howl. He doesn't want to be left there. He steps through.

THE MAZE

It's dark and spooky. Dimly seen shapes. Brad tags along a confused, scared look on his face. Kim and Steve creep scrunched together, arguing.

KIM

(scornful, skeptical)  
Sorcerers, guys flying through  
the air..ten levels of Hell...

BRAD

What ten levels? Ten levels of  
what?

KIM

The Ten Levels of Hell. Let's  
see...you're put before some  
mirror or something.

STEVE

The 'Mirror of Retribution'.  
That's the first level.

KIM

Yeah, right.

STEVE

Your sins determine your form  
upon reincarnation.

KIM

So, Brad. You'd come back as  
a rabbit.

STEVE

Or a lazy soul might come back  
as an ox.

She stops.

KIM

That's what Grandma Hong used  
to say...

She looks at him with interest as he rattles on. But he's searching through the boxes, examining objects and seems to be following some unseen intellectual or spiritual trail...



STEVE

On the second level, the gossiper  
has his tongue pierced.

KIM

The glutton is starved...

STEVE

The thief has to kneel on steel  
granules.

KIM

(getting interested)  
...the irreligious are sawed to  
pieces, the wicked are boiled  
in a cauldron...

BRAD

Whew! And I thought Catholicism  
was tough!

STEVE

It gets worse. On the Third Level  
of Hell, the disrespectful have  
their hearts, eyes and livers torn  
out. On the Fourth, the sinful are  
thrown into a river of fire. Liars  
get split lips.

BRAD

You must be a lotta laughs at  
parties. Where are we, anyway?

KIM

Isn't the Fifth where cheaters have  
their hearts torn out with hooks.

BRAD

Hooks?

STEVE

Hooks. On the Sixth, thieves are  
gnawed by rats.

KIM

On the Seventh, torn apart by dogs.

STEVE

On the Eighth, run over, made to  
swallow burning oil... their  
skulls smashed. You remember, now?

Kim is getting intrigued...despite herself. Suddenly, it's a weird mantra... as if she's seducing him.

KIM

Yeah, and on the Ninth, addicts are attacked by snakes and dismembered.

STEVE

Yeah, I hate when that happens. And in the Tenth court, final judgement is passed.

KIM

Yeah...

Kim and Steve. A moment. A look. Interest. Brad's oblivious.

BRAD

Whew! And you guys believe all this?

Then the mood breaks. Kim is her rational self again.

KIM

It's as real as two little men flying through the...

She gapes at what she sees up ahead.

KIM

What the... Egg... Egg?

KIM'S POV

Egg Shen is in a cul-de-sac, a shrine surrounded by magical implements and weapons.

STEVE

He can't hear you. He's in the Yum Lo trance. It's what a Spirit Warrior does to prepare himself before a battle.

Egg is in a trance and levitated a few inches off the floor. Behind him THE THIRD CHAI TAO JADE glows softly in an altar niche, emanating a glowing pulse...

INSIDE CHI LUNG'S FORTRESS HQ - SAME TIME

Yen Lo CRASHES through a skylight. The jade piece he had grabbed skitters across the floor. Unsteadily he gets to his feet, straightens his robes. He looks around.

Chi Lung snatches the SECOND JADE PIECE off the floor and fits them back together. Now in control, Chi glares furiously, his Flame Lords nearby.

YEN LO

You failed to get the third piece. The old wizard is stronger than you.

CHI LUNG

He won't be for long. I'm not through yet.

At a gesture from Chi, Yen Lo is sucked to the dragon chair. Dragons snake around him.

YEN LO

You have six hours left. Then, I think I will bite the top of your skull off and suck out your lungs through your spinal column.

INT. BACK OF EGG'S SHOP - THE MAZE - SAME TIME

Behind the levitated Egg, the THIRD PIECE OF THE CHAI TAO glows softly. Unable to stop himself, Steve moves up. He touches the jade. A FLASH! Egg drops to the the floor.

EGG SHEN

Ooof!

STEVE

What's happened?

EGG SHEN

Chi Lung's got two pieces of the Chai Tao. He's also got just a few hours to get my piece or go to Hell. He'll do anything to get it. Even if it means destroying Little China.  
(turns to his work)  
Leave me now.

BRAD

Good idea!

STEVE

Why don't you trust me? I just want to help.

EGG SHEN  
(sarcastic)  
You just want to learn the  
magic.

STEVE  
That too.

EGG SHEN  
You can learn nothing unless  
your heart is true.

Egg takes the jade, slips away... It's so fast, for a moment  
they don't realize he's gone. Then Steve runs to catch up.

BRAD  
Okaaaay! That pretty much  
leaves us out of the picture.  
Let's go.

He tries to lead Kim off. She doesn't move.

KIM  
No. Wait.

BRAD  
Wait! For what?

KIM  
Nothing. I'm... I'm curious,  
that's all.

BRAD  
You don't believe in this  
stuff, do you?

KIM  
Magic? Course not.

She hurries after Egg and Steve.

BRAD  
Hey...Wait!

Brad brings up the rear. Kim finds Steve. Egg scurries on  
ahead. Steve has stopped to study an object.

STEVE  
Chu'an do. Amazing.

KIM  
What's that?

STEVE  
An ancient surgical instrument.  
These people... your people...  
were doing open heart surgery  
four centuries before Christ.

KIM  
Since when is a guy like you  
so interested in Chinese  
culture?

STEVE  
Since I was a kid growing up  
with my father in China.  
The first image I can remember  
is the Gum Lung ceremony.

KIM  
The first image I can remember is  
"The Flintstones".

That breaks the spell.

STEVE  
Don't you wonder...? I mean,  
we're so modern... so... arrogant.  
But we have no idea of the beauty  
of the ancient ways... of what  
was lost over time. Of what the  
real powers are...

KIM  
You mean my grandma's stories?

STEVE  
Not stories... but traditions. The  
ancient rituals. The Myths. Even  
today's China isn't China anymore.  
There's even a fast food burger joint  
across from the Forbidden City.

BRAD  
You know, I'm hungry.

STEVE  
...Only in certain areas...  
well hidden... do the ancient  
mysteries live.

They have a moment. Steve turns. Brad's there, frowning.

BRAD

Can we get on with this?  
I'm starved. For me, eating  
is an ancient mystery.

Kim glances at Steve.

STEVE

The magic has left China. But  
I think it's here...in Little China.  
This jade...it's the key...proof  
of the existence of ancient beliefs.

Kim smiles, glances at Brad, then slips away.

INT. STORE

Egg's busy. With mental powers alone, he repairs objects  
broken in the fight. Pieces fly onto shelves, broken pottery  
reassembles itself. Kim's slips in. Her mouth drops open.

KIM

How did you...?

Egg putters around, combining ingredients into spheres.

EGG SHEN

Magic perhaps.

KIM

You don't expect me to believe  
that?

STEVE

You know what I think? That the  
wise ones like Egg allow the ancient  
secrets to fall into myth. The less  
the public knows the better.

EGG SHEN

Yes... it's a constant struggle to  
keep the ancient beliefs alive yet  
secret... and to find young people  
with the moral character to become  
guardians of the CHAI TAO.

He looks intently at Kim. She turns away. Egg looks pensive.

STEVE

How about me? I could be a  
guardian.

Egg considers then reaches around his neck. The CHAI TAO piece dangles from a gold chain. Egg takes off his necklace, steps forward. Steve grins -- thinking it's for him -- and reaches for it. But Egg presents it to KIM.

KIM  
What's this?

Kim looks at it. The colors ripple in her hand.

EGG SHEN  
It... is meant for you.

KIM  
It's beautiful...but...

EGG SHEN  
If you are going to act so recklessly you must carry it at all times.

BRAD  
Don't take it, Kim.  
This is creepy!

KIM  
No, I can't...

EGG SHEN  
You must!...  
(He's overstated something, backs off, to save face.)  
Please...

KIM  
But why me? I'm American, not Asian. I want nothing to do with the old ways.

STEVE  
You study martial arts.

KIM  
For self-defense.

STEVE  
But you saw Egg...

KIM  
Ah...the light was bad.

Steve slips in next to her.

STEVE  
Take the piece. Take it.  
It's the THIRD PIECE OF THE  
CHAI TAO!

Kim knows something's going on, but doesn't know quite what.  
And the piece is very beautiful. Egg grins.

KIM  
Well... okay. Thank you.

EGG SHEN  
No. Thank you.

Egg smiles enigmatically, slips away. Kim and Steve look at each other and the jade for an awkward moment. It GLOWS and PULSES. It SHIMMERS in her hand.

KIM  
It's pretty... but magic powers? I don't know.

STEVE  
Then how do you explain this...?

He tries a trick; touches the jade, rubs his hands, mumbles incantations, spreads his palms. A flash. He staggers back.

BRAD  
What was that?

STEVE  
Holy cow! I almost had it down.

KIM  
(contemptuous)  
That's it? The magic? You're going to go up against "sorcerers" ...with that?

Egg returns, smiling...at Steve. He hold ancient texts.

EGG SHEN  
He thinks he knows everything.

Egg makes a quick move, a glowing lotus blossom appears, then dissolves into a golden mist.



STEVE  
How'd you do that?

EGG SHEN  
You know the thing up here?  
(indicates his head)  
You must know it down here.

He indicates his heart.

STEVE  
But I do.

EGG SHEN  
You think you do. We shall  
see.

Steve makes the same kind of gesture. A blossom starts to appear. Then dissolves in a poof! Egg is slightly impressed.

STEVE  
Now do you believe me?

EGG SHEN  
No. But I do need all the help  
I can get.  
(He smiles. He's kidding. )  
Come, grasshopper. We must prepare.

He zips through the maze, grabbing a vial here, a lacquer box there. Steve hops to follow.

EGG SHEN  
Lung quat; Dragon Bones. Fut show;  
Buddha's Hand. Mow ngon; Cat's  
Eye...And...tiger bile. Tannis  
blossom. Lichee tea.

STEVE  
Tea?

EGG SHEN  
Replaces electrolytes lost  
fighting demons. Some mandrake  
root... corn starch for body.  
Now mix it up.

Steve mixes it. Egg drinks. A TRANSFORMATION! He's no longer a wizened old man, but a powerful wizard.

Egg turns to Kim. He offers the potion. She ignores it.  
Steve sneaks a sip.

EGG SHEN  
You deny your heritage?

KIM  
My heritage? Subservience to men...  
to the old ways?

EGG SHEN  
Ahhhh...yes. You are overly  
rational. Not a common failing  
among women.

KIM  
(irritated)  
Thank you.

Steve just smiles at Kim...he feels the potion taking effect.

KIM (CONT'D.)  
(to Steve)  
What are you staring at?

Steve spreads his hands. A faint charge flickers between his palms. Egg's intrigued. He points to a glowing incense coal on his altar to his ancestors. .

EGG SHEN  
If you really believed...  
one could pick it up in your  
bare hands ...that is, if  
you are truly worthy.

STEVE  
And if not?

EGG SHEN  
Oh, it'll burn the hell out  
of you. You must have faith...  
or a comprehensive health plan.

Egg looks at Steve critically, gauging his reaction.

Steve picks up the fiery ember. Egg's intrigued. Steve glances at Kim, loses concentration, cries out, drops the coal.

EGG SHEN  
Of course, hot coals are a  
problem for those with short  
attention spans.

Egg picks up the coal, pops it into his mouth, swallows it. He burps discreetly. A small flame bursts from his mouth.

EGG SHEN

Excuse me. See, not just faith  
but heart. Otherwise all you'll  
wind up with is heartburn.

Egg winks at Kim. He knows there is a growing attraction between Steve and Kim. Brad senses it too.

BRAD

(testily)  
Come on.

KIM

What?

BRAD

We gotta go.

KIM

Go?

BRAD

This is not our fight...  
or whatever it is...  
I mean, we have a job to do.

She looks at Steve.

STEVE

Oh, that's okay. I'll stay  
and fight alone.

Kim turns, hesitates.

KIM

Alone? You two against all  
the forces of Hell?

STEVE

That's alright. We can handle  
it.

KIM

You couldn't handle a Kung Fu  
move last time I looked.

STEVE

Thanks for your concern. Bye.

KIM

You don't think you need help?  
You don't think he does?

BRAD

Come on. They don't need you.

KIM

They need me. They just won't  
admit it.

BRAD

Yeah, well, what can you do?

A beat as she considers.

KIM

I'll stay. You go.

BRAD

Go? Where am I gonna go? You're  
my partner, right?

KIM

Right.

BRAD

Even when you're wrong, right?

KIM

Like now, you mean?

BRAD

Right. I must be out of my mind,  
but there's one thing I do know...  
there's no such thing as magic.

Just then, a GIANT FLAME BALL bounds up the street and bursts  
through the windows. The flaming ball roars at them. Steve  
steps in front of Brad and Kim and catches it in his hands.

STEVE

No such thing as magic...  
eh, Brad?

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

Steve stands holding the FLAME BALL. His hands FLAME.  
A ghostly image of Chi Lung appears in the room.

CHI LUNG  
Does it burn and sizzle?!

STEVE  
No. I like to do this.

CHI LUNG  
Give me the third piece of  
the Chai Tao or...

The FLAMES ROAR. So does Steve.

EGG  
Mind over matter. Mind over  
matter!

STEVE  
Do you mind? It's my matter.

KIM  
Help him!

EGG SHEN  
You must treat the bad magic  
with contempt.  
(turns to Kim)  
You must also believe...

KIM  
Me?

EGG SHEN  
Yes. It couldn't hurt.

Kim closes her eyes, concentrates. The jade GLOWS.

EGG SHEN  
(to Steve)  
Relate it to something real.

STEVE  
Something real? The last time I was  
holding a ball of fire. Let's see...  
it was my birthday cake. I made a wish.

EGG SHEN  
Make it now. You can do it!

STEVE  
I can't.

KIM  
Make a wish!!

This gets him. A look of determination crosses his face. Steve stares at his hands burning fiercely.

He takes a deep breath and blows with all his might. The flame flickers out. Chi's gone. Egg's pleasantly surprised.

EGG SHEN  
Very good, grasshopper.

KIM  
What did you wish for?

STEVE  
Train set. Same as always.

EGG SHEN  
Well, whatever it was, it worked.  
I'm proud of you.

STEVE  
You mean that?

EGG SHEN  
Yeah, proud as any inscrutable person can be. There may be hope for you two yet.

KIM  
What are you talking about?

EGG SHEN  
Yin and Yang. Man and woman.  
Each incomplete without the other. But when they come together, BAM!  
(He punctuates with a tiny explosion.)  
You are not one of us, but...  
you have something. Here... the ancient texts. Maybe if you two work together...

They glance at each other awkwardly.

STEVE

Nothing personal... It...  
it would just be magic.

KIM

(laughs)  
Yeah...sure.

At Egg's gesture the walls open up to reveal a LABORATORY with potions, flasks, distilling apparatus, magic swords, armor... a distillery and armory of magic. He gathers the Magic Spheres seen earlier.

EGG SHEN

You've heard of Aladdin's lamp.  
Well, same thing. The holder of  
the complete Chai Tao can ask a wish.  
Chi Lung will ask for ultimate power  
for evil.

BRAD

Oh... is that all.

Steve's beside himself with excitement. He runs his hands over the books. Then he notices the White Hearts appear. Double Chin looks alert, on guard.

EGG SHEN

It's okay, they're with us.

Double relaxes a touch...studies Kim, Brad, Steve. A SUDDEN EXPLOSION. The room rattles..Dust sifts down.

DOUBLE CHIN

Egg, you better help us.  
The Flame Lords are tearing  
the city apart!

Suddenly, there's a ruckus outside. They rush to the window.

EXT. GRANT STREET

Flame Lords rush up. Citizens try to fight back, but they are no match for the Flame Lords. SCREAMS!

DOUBLE CHIN

White Hearts. Come On!

They rush out. Kim follows...

EGG SHEN

No. Wait! Wait for the magic!  
He just doesn't listen...  
Come on!

Egg frantically stuffs the Magic Spheres into a pouch.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

The White Hearts give chase, followed by Kim, then Brad and Steve. Egg brings up the rear lugging the pouch.

BLIND ALLEY

The Flame Lords rush in and disappear. The White Hearts follow... then look around... uneasy.

DOUBLE CHIN

They're gone. What do we do?

BOBBY (O.S.)

Prepare to Die!

A MAGICAL IMAGE SHIFT (OR A CHEAP DISSOLVE)

The empty alley is filled with Bobby and the Flame Lords demonstrating demonic powers, nasty weapons and bad attitudes. They surround and move in to attack. The Hearts are rushed from all sides.

EGG SHEN

rushes up with his pouch of magic. He rolls the spheres at the Flame Lords... They burst into shrapnel.

KIM AND BRAD

fight valiantly, twisting, kicking, leaping. Even Double is impressed. But the Demonic Lords are too much. The White Hearts are driven back.

A RUSH. The Demons focus on Kim, grab her and drag her off. Brad lunges for her, but comes up with just the JADE NECKLACE. A Flame Lord tumbles him into a corner.

EGG

battles madly, but there are too many. They rush him. He disappears in a pile of writhing demons. His pouch drops. One final sphere tumbles out.



STEVE

makes a grab for the last of the exploding spheres. It rolls towards a sewer grating...

Steve dives for the sphere. Just as it drops into the sewer, he intercepts it, tosses it blindly in the Flame Lords' direction. It EXPLODES!

ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

The dust clears. The demons are gone. So are Egg and Kim. Steve helps Brad up and notices the necklace.

CU - THE JADE

It glows and throbs powerfully.

ANGLE - STEVE AND BRAD

They walk off quickly into the dark, spooky night.

ANGLE - STEVE AND BRAD - TRAVELING

Steve's entranced by the jade. Brad is freaking out!

BRAD

Jeeshhh! Truck's trashed!  
Kim's gone. Hey, those were  
some scary demons! Demons?!  
My god!

STEVE

They took Egg. We gotta find  
him. And Kim.

BRAD

Yeah, Kim... I hope she's  
alright. Hey, how am I gonna  
explain this to the company?

STEVE

Do you understand? they kidnapped  
Kim!

BRAD

Yeah, Boy, I hope those demons  
know what they're doing. They get  
on the wrong side of her, they'll  
wish they'd never been born...  
or whatever demons are.

They turn into another blind alley and stop. Too late.

STEVE

You wonder why they took them  
and not us?

BRAD

Should we be insulted?

STEVE

It must be the jade.

BRAD

What jade? You mean this?

Brad reaches for the jade just as four Flame Lords drop down from above. One snatches the jade from Brad and holds it up triumphantly. Steve snatches it back and runs.  
A CHASE

Through alleys, tunnels, passages. Steve scampers ahead. The jade holds them off.

CUL-DE-SAC

Steve breaks into an open area lit by a trashcan fire that throws scary shadows on the walls. One shadow's a demon. It grabs for Steve. He ducks but Brad is caught, dragged off.

BRAD

No. Lemme go! You can't do  
this. I'm in the union!

STEVE

turns back to help. He's jumped. They fight. Steve's outnumbered. A Demon stuffs Steve head-first into a trashcan. The demonic Lord steps back, pleased with his work.

STEVE

Chai tao sun! Bong ngor!  
(Puzzle God, help me!)

A BOLT shoots out of the can, enveloping the demon. Steve's BLOWN OUT, spinning.

IN MIDAIR

He rights himself, holds the jade out before him. He lands softly, amazing himself as much as the demons. He's singed but okay. He unclenches his fist, notices...

CU - STEVE HAND

The jade has left a burning imprint.

STEVE

STEVE

Ayee yaa! Jun Bong do ngor!  
(Wow, he really did help me!)

The Lord's now just a pile of smoking ash. Steve's alone. He studies the jade curiously. It changes color.

STEVE

Jeezzz. I got 'em, Brad.  
(he looks around)  
Brad?... Where are you?

Steve stands in the alley... alone.

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

INT. CHI LUNG'S FORTRESS - DUNGEON - SHORT TIME LATER

Egg and Kim are imprisoned along with a number of sobbing, young girls. Brad is carried in and dumped on his head.

BRAD

Ooof! Hey, I believe you've just violated my civil rights. You're in big trouble now!

The demon LUNGES AND ROARS at him. It curls Brad's hair. He rapidly scrambles backward, away.

BRAD

And do something about your breath.

He catches sight of Egg.

BRAD

Whew! These guys are kinda lax in personal hygiene.

He spots Kim.

BRAD

Kim...there you are...

He looks around.

BRAD

Kim. Where the hell are we?

She looks at Egg.

EGG SHEN

Not exactly Hell... but close.

Egg is calm as a Buddha, but Kim is seething.

KIM

How can you sit there so calmly?!

BRAD

What's wrong?

KIM

What's wrong?! We've been captured by demons, imprisoned with a bunch of whining... young...virgins.

BRAD

Yeah...  
(eyeing the virgins)  
virgins.

KIM

And you... Great Wizard!  
Why don't you do something!

Egg looks up from his meditation.

EGG SHEN

Why don't you!

KIM

Me?

EGG SHEN

Trust the Chai Tao.

KIM

I can't...I'm not...

EGG SHEN

You must! Chi Lung has to face the Judges of Hell. He doesn't have the complete puzzle. He'll stall ... maybe offer them virgin sacrifices for more demons. And to keep them amused.

BRAD

Yep. That would do it for me.

KIM

Sacrifices? Human sacrifices!?

EGG SHEN

I'm afraid so.

BRAD

Wow! Good thing I'm not a  
virgin.  
(Kim glances at him)  
What are you so mad about?  
You're off the hook, aren't  
you?

Kim stares at Brad for a beat.

KIM

Well... we can't do anything  
here. Let's find a way out.

EGG SHEN

There is no way out.

KIM

There's gotta be...

She walks toward a doorway... BLLLZZZT! She's blown back.

EGG SHEN

The mystic bands are too  
strong.

KIM

You're a top wizard! Why don't  
you do something?

EGG SHEN

You must do it. You must use  
the Chai Tao.  
(She stares at him.)  
...the jade.

KIM

This...?  
(reaches for her necklace)  
It's gone.

EGG SHEN

Gone?! What do you mean?

KIM

I mean I don't have it anymore.

For the first time, he shows fear.

EGG SHEN

Then, we are in Big Trouble.

BRAD  
I could'a told ya that!

KIM  
(starts to panic)  
I must've lost it during the  
fight.

EGG SHEN  
Well the Flame Lords don't  
have it.

BRAD  
Steve had it. But the last I  
saw of him, they had him over  
a barrel.

EGG SHEN  
(suddenly hopeful)  
But he's not here. He's not captured.  
Maybe he does have it.

SUDDENLY, A RATTLING ROAR. Chi's LAUGHTER is HEARD. The walls  
SHAKE, start to DISSOLVE.

EGG SHEN (CONT'D.)  
...I revealed the ancient ways  
to him. If he evaded the Flame  
Lords Steve must have the magic  
well in hand.

EXT. EGG'S SHOP - SAME TIME

A MASSIVE EXPLOSION blows out what's left of the windows.

INT. EGG'S SHOP

Steve sits at the counter, blackened face, shards of a flask  
in his hand. He looks up at Double Chin.

STEVE  
Too much Ni-Chi!. I'll just  
add some Yun-sum root.

Double Chin's unsure. Steve's too excited to be intimidated.  
He busily mixes potions from Egg's magical ingredients.

DOUBLE CHIN  
Err... what exactly did Egg  
say to you?

STEVE

Uh, you know... the magic...  
it's really a simple thing if  
you follow the formulas. Of  
course, you have to believe,  
have faith and all that.

DOUBLE CHIN

Did he say anything about talent?  
...You know, a feel for the thing?

Steve adds a powder. A small BLAST rattles the windows.

DOUBLE CHIN (CONT'D.)

Did he mention liability  
insurance?

STEVE

I'm gonna take all this stuff  
and go and get him and Kim...  
Maybe Brad.

DOUBLE CHIN

You?! Against Chi Lung?! You're  
just gonna walk in?

STEVE

No, I'll take the bus.

DOUBLE CHIN

You're crazy!  
(to White Hearts)  
Come on, Hearts, let's go.  
We'll take care of this ourselves!

They turn, march out.

EXT. CURIO SHOP

They emerge to find Steve standing there. Stunned, they turn  
back to shop and see Steve also standing inside.

BACK TO EXT.

The outside Steve raises his hands parallel to each other.  
Electricity dances between them.

DOUBLE CHIN

How'd you know how to do that?



STEVE

Oh, the Mau Soot! ...the  
"Two places, One Time"?  
It's nothing. Ancient hat  
trick.

The White Hearts look at each other.

STEVE

They got demons, they got most  
of the Chai Tao. They got Egg  
Shen. I think you guys can use  
all the help you can get.

He creates a hologram of the jade. It shimmers before them.

DOUBLE CHIN

You've learned the magic...

STEVE

Yeah. And I've made more of  
Egg's potion. I think it'll  
enhance strength and speed.  
At least that's what it says  
in the book, here.

They look uneasy. He offers it. It bubbles from flask to  
glass and foams toxically.

STEVE

Go ahead. The first one's  
always free.

DOUBLE CHIN

(excessively polite)  
Oh, no. You first.

Then Steve's not so sure. He screws up his courage and  
swallows it. He drinks, stands blinking and burping.

DOUBLE CHIN

How d'you feel?

STEVE

Strong as an ox.  
(sniff, sniff)  
...Same fragrance. Care for  
a sharpener?

He offers the foaming cup. They back away.

STEVE

You want to grow big and strong like the demons, don't you?

DOUBLE CHIN

How can you know of this?

STEVE

I'm a quick study.

DOUBLE CHIN

No. It's impossible for you to lead us, to learn the magic, the ancient ways... Only Egg Shen can know these things.

STEVE

Oh?

(flips, lands in the same place, TWANGS with energy.)

Well, maybe it's because my heart is pure.

(A flask blows, showering them with shrapnel.)

Then again, maybe not. Maybe I need the jade. Well, you want to have a stranger to save your master? Alone? Against all the forces of Hell? Well? Do ya?

At the dare. Double grabs the potion, takes it in a gulp.

STEVE

Well...

DOUBLE CHIN

I think I...feel...something. Hey, I feel great!

STEVE

That's just the caffeine. Can you move really fast?

DOUBLE CHIN

How's that?

STEVE

How's what?

DOUBLE CHIN

See, really fast.

Steve rolls his eyes, but Double turns and high-fives him, making a mild thunderclap.

DOUBLE CHIN  
 Haiiii Loh! Fat seut do!  
 (Yes, Magical powers! Victory!)

He flips, spins, tumbles, darts around the room at incredible speed. The White Hearts are clearly seeing double. He's a blur. Then he appears in a flash.

DOUBLE CHIN  
 What do you think?

STEVE  
 Looks like happy hour at  
 the espresso bar. Who's next?

The White Hearts line up, grab cups.

STEVE  
 Potion, potionccino,  
 or potion latte?

They take the cups, look at each other.

DOUBLE CHIN  
 Yuan ho! (Salute!)

They ceremonially drink as one. They gulp, smack their lips. A beat. A BLUR as they flip around the room at double speed.

EXT. LITTLE CHINA - LATER THAT NIGHT

EGG SHEN'S BUS creeps through the darkened streets.

INT. BUS

Steve and the Hearts are wired and jabbering like magpies. Double Chin notices the sky above the warehouse.

DOUBLE CHIN  
 Shhhhh... Uh oh!

EXT. LITTLE CHINA

The sky boils with swirled lightning and dark clouds.

INT. DUNGEON - CHI'S FORTRESS - MID DISSOLVE

into Chi Lung's Throne Room. Egg, Kim and Brad and the virgins are transported by Chi's magic and materialize. Chi's more demonic than ever. He grins at the terrified girls, at Egg and Kim.

CHI LUNG

Ahhh... the thirteen beautiful virgins.

BOBBY

Yeah, practically every one in the Bay Area.

CHI LUNG

But WHERE IS THE JADE!

BOBBY

The jade?

A FORCE BEAM shoots from his hand, grabs Bobby by the throat, lifts him off the ground.

CHI LUNG

(furious)

I told you to get the final piece of the Chai Tao from Egg Shen! Time's running out!

BOBBY

He doesn't have it. We looked all over, took his shop apart.

CHI LUNG

You... you coward! You traitor!

His force field slams Bobby up against the ceiling. Chi releases him, he drops to the floor.

BOBBY

Oooof!

Overcome with fury, Chi moves on Egg Shen.

CHI LUNG

Where's the jade, Egg Shen?

EGG SHEN

With a worthy mortal.

CHI LUNG  
I will HAVE THAT JADE!

Force beams fly from his hands slamming them all high up on the walls!

CHI LUNG  
I can't believe it! Henchmen,  
Demons...Black Magical Powers!  
(SCREAMS to the heavens!)  
Is there no one who will BRING ME  
THE JADE?!

EXT. CHI LUNG'S FORTRESS - SAME TIME

The bus idles as the White Hearts survey the perimeter.  
The JADE NECKLACE dangles from Steve's neck.

DOUBLE CHIN  
Well?

Double is apprehensive. Other White Hearts report.

WHITE HEART  
Reinforced gate. Tripwires,  
interrupter beams. Motion  
sensors...possibly gas.

DOUBLE CHIN  
(turns to Steve)  
What do you think?

STEVE  
I think this calls for something  
elegant

DOUBLE CHIN  
Right. Like what?

INT. FORTRESS

Flame Lords stand guard. Suddenly, THE DOOR SHATTERS,  
sending them flying. The bus ROCKETS through, filled with  
screaming White Hearts, SLAMS into a wall and comes to rest  
steaming. Double shakes his head.

DOUBLE CHIN  
That... was elegant?

STEVE

I thought so. You know...  
in terms of simplicity.

INT. FORTRESS / EXT. BUS

The Demon Lords are down but not out. They swarm as the White Hearts tumble off the bus. The battle's joined.

It's demon versus potion, magic against magic. The demons are horrific and terrifying, slashing the air with their razor claws. The White Hearts are so quick the demons can't nail them, can't land a blow. The White Hearts are flipping overhead. They're everywhere.

Double Chin flips to get out of a jam and lands in a cache of firecrackers. He rubs them together at super speed, springs out just as they go off in a Technicolor BLAST!.

White Hearts fall upon the demons. The White Hearts penetrate further into the hidden domain. Then... the Demon Lords back away. Double warns...

DOUBLE CHIN

No! Wait! Hold up!

Too Late! The trap is sprung. The walls DISSOLVE and they are in...

INT. THRONE ROOM

Chi Lung's LAUGHTER RINGS IN TRIUMPH!

END ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN

INT. CHI'S FORTRESS - THRONE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Chi cackles in triumph as the Flame Lords get to their feet, licking their wounds. A FLASH! A BURST OF PLASMA -- shooting from Chi's JADE PIECES -- coalesces as an ENERGY BALL in the middle of the room. Chi Lung's LAUGHTER stops as, with a BOOMING ROAR, the JUDGES OF HELL appear. If you thought Yen Lo was bad, these guys are worse! Snarling, bad-tempered Demon Monsters, each scarier than the other. They glare at Chi with ill-concealed contempt. He puts on a happy face.

CHI LUNG  
 (mumbles to himself)  
 ...not quite ready...  
 (then to the judges)  
 Judges of Hell...Welcome!

The FIRST JUDGE just SNARLS. Chi's smile freezes. He turns to JUDGE TWO, who is busy MORPHING into something even more menacing.

CHI LUNG  
 Yah, well... Okay then, right  
 to business! Presenting...

He spreads his arms like a Master of Ceremonies. The lights go up, revealing the whole of Chi's work: Thirteen altars appear in a circle. On the altars the sobbing virgins are bound. Among them, shackled to the wall, are Kim, Bobby, Egg and Brad. And, in a GOLDEN HOLDING PEN with AN ELABORATE MAGICAL LOCK, Steve, Double and the White Hearts... and dangling from Steve's neck, the JADE.

CU - STEVE - THE JADE

He quickly stuffs it under his shirt before anybody sees.

ANGLE - THE WALL

KIM  
 What's all this?

BOBBY  
 The virgins? Oh, sacrifices.  
 Down payments on the demons.

KIM  
 Yeah, so what are we doing here?

BOBBY

Kind of an honorary thing.  
You know, you could save  
yourself, come to the dark  
side with me.

KIM

I - I don't think so. I don't  
look good in red and black.  
And you better watch out for  
yourself. I think he's crazy.

BOBBY

Yeah, well...I was starting  
to notice that.

He stops as he notices Chi getting more demonically  
grotesque.

KIM

Look! He isn't even human  
anymore. You think he'll let  
you live when this is over?

BOBBY

(shocked at the thought)  
He'd never...

KIM

Oh, yeah? Look at your friends.

More Flame Lords stumble in. One is badly wounded and  
GROANING. Annoyed, Chi Lung turns, lofts a PLASMIC BLAST,  
BLOWS HIM AWAY. Clumps of demon fur float to the floor.

ANGLE - CHI LUNG

He glares at the smoking spot, turns back to his guests.

CHI LUNG

Ahem...Now, the sacrifice  
will please come to order.

GONGS RING. Demons come to attention. The ceremony begins.  
Chi Lung goes to the first young woman, putting his hands on  
her shoulders. She struggles in horror.



CHI LUNG

It's alright. It's not even death as we know it. Just the temporary use of your soul. Hardly miss it. Trust me, I know.

With glowing eyes, the evil sorcerer starts to pull the girl's soul right out of her body. Her eyes bulge... green mist drifts out and curls about her head. She struggles and pulls it back.

CHI LUNG

That's right, don't make it too easy.

He leans in, his eyes glow red, his face morphs into a horrible monster. The Virgin opens her mouth to scream.

With a SUCKING SOUND her soul exits her mouth as a column of pale green smoke. The girl's soul becomes a bright sphere that floats above her empty head.

CHI LUNG

See, if women would just learn to keep their mouths shut.

ANGLE - KIM

KIM

(outraged)  
You... Geu! (pig)

Chi Lung turns his awful attention on her. She and Bobby freeze. Chi glares. He takes an interest and moves to her.

CHI LUNG

And who is this?

BOBBY

Ummm, extra added attraction.  
Kim Fan of the Power Company.

KIM

That's Ms. Kim Fan to you!

Chi is pleasantly surprised.

CHI LUNG

Oh, yes. One of Egg Shen's little proteges. Perhaps, also... a guardian of the jade?

KIM  
I don't have the jade.

Chi turns to Bobby, glaring...

CHI LUNG  
Did you check?

BOBBY  
What are we wasting our time  
for... it's not here, boss.

He moves to Kim, grinning. ROAR! Bobby's lifted in a  
PLASMIC BEAM. He flames for a bit, then drops.

CHI LUNG  
Of course it's here, you idiot!!  
I can feel its presence!  
Bring the girl to me!

BOBBY

Sprawled on the floor, gets wobbily to his feet. He moves to  
Kim.

BOBBY  
(mumbles to himself)  
I'm an idiot. You're the one  
going to hell.

ANGLE - KIM AND BOBBY

Bobby unshackles her.

KIM  
He's a monster!

BOBBY  
This is nothing. You should see  
when he really loses it.

KIM  
(moves to Bobby)  
You're better than this.  
You don't belong with him.

BOBBY  
You really think so?  
(A beat.)  
Well, I certainly didn't count  
on this Hell stuff.

ANGLE - STEVE

STEVE  
 (loudly)  
 You know, you guy's are really  
 starting to get on my nerves.

Chi looks over, BLASTS STEVE. He rolls across the pen toward Brad.

BRAD  
 What did you do that for?

STEVE  
 I'm trying to get us all out  
 of here.

BRAD  
 So far you're doing a great  
 job..

Steve notices Egg, still pinned on the wall.

STEVE  
 Egg!! Can you help us?!

EGG SHEN  
 Not while I'm held here.  
 Not while the jade's lost.

STEVE  
 It's not lost. I got it  
 right here.

He holds up the THIRD PIECE OF JADE

MATCH DISSOLVE

CU - THRONE

Chi sets the other pieces in an altar. He makes incantations. The girls' souls drift above their bodies. Bobby brings a struggling Kim towards Chi.

ANGLE - CEREMONY

All attention is on the girls' souls. They drift toward the Judges. The Judges look interested.

CHI LUNG  
 I promised you virgins,  
 I gave you virgins...

CHI LUNG (CONT'D.)

And now... I offer you  
a bonus.

He moves towards Kim. She is clearly not excited about this.

CHI LUNG (CONT'D.)

(to Judges)  
Do we have a deal?

JUDGE

We make no deals, Chi Lung.

ANGLE - KIM AND BOBBY

She works on him.

KIM

You think he's going to show  
any loyalty to you?

ANGLE - CHI LUNG - BEFORE THE JUDGES

CHI LUNG

Not so easy to find beauty  
like this in Hell. Quite a prize.  
Think about it.

Chi's grown uglier, demon-like...hellish.

YEN LO

Do not toy with us, Chi Lung.  
You have a debt to pay...  
and your time is running out.

ANGLE - THE GOLDEN PEN WITH ELABORATE MAGICAL LOCK

interwoven with scrolls and icons, dragons, and idiograms.  
Using his knowledge of Chinese artifacts, Steve tries to  
figure out the magical unlocking formula.

STEVE

If I can just figure out  
these symbols... I might be  
able to find a way to free us.

EGG SHEN

Don't try it. They'll  
kill you.

STEVE

I didn't think you cared.

A HOWL from the demonic judges of Hell, O.S.

EGG SHEN

Well, whatever you're going to do... Do it fast.

STEVE

There are symbols... and then there are symbols.

EGG SHEN

And you went to college for that?

The demonic judges move in, ROARING, HISSING, CLAWING.

STEVE

What am I missing?

EGG SHEN

You must find the answer for yourself.

BRAD

That's it!? You got us all into this!! And now you're quoting "The Wizard of Oz"?!

STEVE

That's it!! The power is in my hands. I've had it all along. The jade!!

EGG SHEN

Now you're catching on, grasshopper.

Steve holds the jade to the lock.

EGG SHEN

But you cannot do it alone.

STEVE

(shouting)  
Kim!! Help me!

The demonic Chi Lung snarles. He approaches Steve.

CHI LUNG

So you have the jade!! Give it to me or you will all die!!

KIM  
 (to Steve)  
 What can I do?

STEVE  
 Come on. Remember that phrase  
 your grandmother taught you...

KIM  
 I remember. Of course I  
 remember.

EGG SHEN  
 But you must also believe...

KIM  
 Believe... I do believe... I believe...  
 (demons are moving in)  
 I believe I'm in Big Trouble!

STEVE  
 Chai tao sun...do!  
 (Puzzle God...come!)

Kim breaks free of Bobby. She runs to the golden cage and reaches through the carved lock. Her finger barely touches the jade...

KIM  
 Chai tao sun, bong ngor!...  
 (Puzzle God, help me!)

BOTH  
 Yut chai ho hup!  
 (United in harmony!)

The JADE FLASHES! The GATE flies open. A ROAR OF FIRE. The White Hearts tumble out. Flame Lords rush to meet them.

ANGLE - THE THRONE - SAME TIME

Chi Lung has completed his change... He's been transformed into an ogre. He turns on them. FLAME balls spew from his hands, his eyes, his mouth...

BOBBY

He's terrified. In a flash, he grabs Steve's jade and holds it up.

BOBBY  
 Here, Chi Lung. I have  
 the jade!

He holds it up. Chi sends out a BOLT and grabs it, but Bobby hangs on and is carried over to the altar. He drops. Chi glares at him, eyes burning.

BOBBY

Let them go! Chi Lung!  
You've got what you want.

Chi opens his hand for the jade. Bobby's compelled to release it. Chi grabs the THIRD JADE PIECE, knocks Bobby aside,... and puts all the pieces togeth...

STEVE

No!

Steve leaps at Chi Lung and knocks the jade puzzle apart! The three pieces fly off in different directions. Chi sends a FIREBALL BLASTING at Steve. He's knocked down, tumbled under the blast. The Flame Lords attack. Double Chin and the White Hearts take them on.

ANGLE - CHI

He throws a BOLT down at the three pieces of jade. They slide across the floor, inexorably drawn back toward Chi Lung.

THE CHAI TAO

Steve grabs for one piece. He's dragged by it under and through the tumbling combatants.

KIM

leaps for the second piece and gets dragged, kicking...

BOBBY

grabs the THIRD PIECE. He is dragged toward Steve and Kim. In a few seconds, the Chai Tao will be complete.

KIM

Bobby... NO!! Don't let  
it happen!!

Chi Lung turns his power on Kim. He scorches her with a blast of lightning. She screams in pain.

BOBBY

No, Chi Lung!! Let her  
alone!!

CHI LUNG  
 NO??!! You worthless toad!!  
 When I am the Lord of the  
 Universe, I will rid myself  
 of you and your pathetic  
 jabbering.

Bobby has had enough. He digs in his heels trying not to let the pieces come together but, inch by inch, he's drawn in...

BOBBY  
 No!

CHI LUNG  
 (shocked)  
 No?!!

Bobby heaves his jade toward Steve. It hits and slides. Everyone dives for it. Steve gets there first.

CHI

is furious! A magic sword appears. He SLASHES though Bobby. Blood spatters onto the field that imprisons Yen Lo.

STEVE

slams the two jade pieces together.

CU - THE JADE PIECES

...COME TOGETHER. POOF! A MASSIVE EXPLOSION!

Yen Lo appears full-sized and disgruntled. He waves the smoke away. He towers over the terrified Chi Lung.

YEN LO  
 Judges... the time limit has  
 expired. Your duty is clear.

They turn to Chi.

CHI LUNG  
 No! I got you virgins. Look at  
 all the trouble I caused. Hell  
 would be nothing without guys  
 like me!

Chi takes Kim as a hostage... and grabs the THIRD CHAI TAO PIECE from her hand. Steve lunges for him but he threatens Kim with knifelike claws. Kim slams her elbow into his gut.



The CHAI flies from his hands, lands at her feet. She dropkicks it to Steve. The demon in Chi rises up, horrible, threatening...

CHI LUNG  
Give me that jade...

Steve slams the third piece into place and makes the complete CHAI TAO!

STEVE  
Go to Hell!

YEN LO  
As you wish.

FROM THE JADE - A BLAST KNOCKS STEVE AWAY THEN SHOOTS AT CHI LIKE A SPEAR THROUGH HIS SOLAR PLEXIS. He's rocketed up. Below, a hole opens.

THE ENTRANCE TO HELL

Chi Lung is swept in and plunges down... screaming all the way.

END ACT SEVEN

ACT EIGHT

INT. THRONE ROOM - AT THE ENTRANCE TO HELL

They all look down into the chasm. When the dust clears, there is no sign of Chi Lung. There are only bits of cloth floating up from the hole. Brad picks up the CHAI TAO, studies it. Yen Lo looks on complaisantly.

YEN LO  
Never liked that guy.

Kim runs to the fallen Steve. She drops to him.

KIM  
No. It can't be.

YEN LO  
The decision of the judges  
is final.

KIM  
No. Please. You must return  
him to me!

YEN LO  
Impossible.

She grabs the Chai Tao from Brad, points it at Yen Lo.

KIM  
The Chai Tao. I can make  
a wish, right?

YEN LO  
That is correct.

She slams the pieces together. POP! A BEAM shoots. Virgin souls suck back into their bodies. Flame Lords revert from demons to punks. The Judges disappear.

KIM  
I now wish all those who are  
pure in heart remain...  
Everyone else can go to Hell!!

The air BURSTS, the WIND WHIPS fiercely. The White Hearts drop back, shielding their eyes. The dust settles, Kim stands with Steve at her side. Egg is there with the virgins. Yen Lo vanishes.

EGG SHEN  
(to virgins)  
You know I really didn't think  
that would work.

KIM  
I... believed...

She and Steve are looking deeply into each other's eyes... getting lost... Egg Shen prattles on...

EGG SHEN  
You are very impressive for  
an... American.

KIM  
Thanks.

Steve suddenly notices a lifeless body.

STEVE  
Bobby...

EGG SHEN  
He fought Chi.

DOUBLE  
And possibly saved his soul.

STEVE  
Aw, you know... He wasn't so  
bad. He shouldn't go to hell.

The Chai Tao glows in Kim's hand. It radiates a greenish/white light.

EGG  
I think Yen Lo heard you.  
Bobby's soul will be at peace.

BRAD  
I don't get it.

KIM  
(ironic)  
It's because we Chinese are  
inscrutable.

STEVE

I don't know, I find you highly scrutable.

KIM

You're kind of interesting yourself...in a goyish way.

STEVE

I'm just trying to learn...

EGG SHEN

That's admirable, Grasshopper. Now, If you just cut out those one liners. I may take you on.

STEVE

As your partner?

EGG SHEN

Apprentice. We must now search for three new guardians for the Chai Tao.

STEVE

We've got one right here.

KIM

Not me, I've got my own career.

STEVE

You sure I can't change your mind?

KIM

You can try. A little of that old black magic...

They kiss.

STEVE

Thought you didn't believe in that...

KIM

Convince me...

EXT. LITTLE CHINA - IN FRONT OF EGG'S SHOP - NEXT DAY

The KISS continues... Then Kim breaks. Clarence walks out of Egg's shop, hands Steve a cellular phone. Egg, Brad and Double stand in the B.G..

CLARENCE

He's still yelling. You better take it.

STEVE

Yeah, Dad, the jade...  
It's lost...yep, sorry. No way to get it back. Well, Sorry you feel like that. But I'm afraid that jade is gone for good.

He winces at a LOUD BLAST as the phone is slammed down...

STEVE

Oh, and say hello to Mom.

CLARENCE

He's kinda mad at you. Maybe you should stay in Little China... it's a lot quieter than out there...

Clarence, gets in his car, winks at him and pulls away. Steve turns to him.

KIM

I'll see you again.

STEVE

And I'll see you.

Kim climbs into the truck with Brad.

STEVE

Take care of her.

BRAD

I don't think she needs my help.

Brad offers his hand. Rivalry exists, but also friendship. Kim hands Steve the piece of Jade. He fits the pieces together to form the complete CHAI TAO, but Egg takes them.

EGG SHEN

They must stay separate, Grasshopper. It's better that way.

He hands Steve the single museum piece.

EGG SHEN  
See if you can take better  
care of this.

STEVE  
Really?! You mean that?

EGG SHEN  
Yes, my apprentice... I do.

STEVE  
We both will... okay?

Egg gives the second piece to Kim.

EGG SHEN  
Okay.  
(turns to Brad)  
But the secret must stay  
hidden. It's better that we forget  
about this.

Egg makes a quick magical motion. Something comes over Brad.

BRAD  
Forget about what?

Steve puts his arm around Egg's shoulder.

STEVE  
Louie, I think this is the  
start of a beautiful...  
(looks at Egg. A beat.)  
....uh... apprenticeship.

Egg laughs. They walk off arm in arm.

EXT. - LITTLE CHINA

Kim drives away. Brad pulls out a beer.

BRAD  
You know... everyone talks  
about Chinese magic and stuff.  
I don't believe any of it,  
do you Kim.

KIM  
No, Brad... not a word.

Popping off the lid, Brad tilts his head back to drink.  
Green smoke rises out of the bottle as he raises it to his  
mouth. Kim starts to warn him as we.....

ZOOM UP AND AWAY...FROM BIG TROUBLE...

THE END