

# HUMAN TOUCH

# DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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## SCENE 1

Choreography showing 30<sup>th</sup> century

VO: This is the 30<sup>th</sup> century. Touch is criminal.

## SCENE 2

Court of Metropolis

Judge: Judge HH 19743 presiding for case number I66C21. The Metropolis versus CP 1041. All log in. Prosecution begins. Attorney CS1723 Please present your case.

Attorney: Your honour and fellow members of the jury. The defendant CP 1041 has committed the crime of touch. Her body is now deadly infectious. She is imperfect and therefore must be exiled immediately. I call for her to be logged into any past century.

Judge: Decide then Jury. Guilty or Innocent.

Jury1 2 3: Guilty (in sequence)

Judge: The verdict is reached. CP1041. You are now, Guilty. Random Exile Allocation System in operation. Place: HK time: 1999 Survival kit with documents will be provided. Exile commences in three seconds. 321

## SCENE 3

In the store

(CP 1041 struggling out of plastic bag.)

Ella: (hearing noise) Hello? Anybody there?

Hello? I know somebody's there. Who is it? (steps on plastic bag)

Strange. Why is there a plastic bag here? (takes out survival kit) I wonder what this is?

## SCENE 4

In the store

(Radio is on)

Auntie: Ella! Turn off the radio! It's making my head spin!

Ella: Yes auntie. (switches off radio)

Auntie: Have you cleaned the windows yet?

Ella: Yes Auntie.

Auntie: Well, have you stacked up all the cup noodles in the storeroom then?

Ella: Yes, Auntie, I have.

Auntie: Ella, why do you listen the news all the time? You're blind anyway! All you can do is stay here and help me with the store. Do you understand?

Ella: Yes, I understand.

Auntie: Nobody would employ a blind girl out there. You should be thankful that I'm giving you a job. It's your own fault that you're blind. You remember that!

Ella: Please, let's not go through this again.

Auntie: It's all you're fault! If it weren't for you...

(Mr. Chan enters)

Auntie: (in a sweeter voice) Good morning, Mr. Chan. What a pleasant surprise!

Mr. Chan: Oh, Good morning, Melanie.

Ella: Good morning, Mr. Chan.

Auntie: Um....Ella, why don't you go and stack up the cup noodles?

Ella: But I've done that already.

Auntie: Well go stack them up again!

Ella: Yes Auntie.

Auntie: So what brings you here today, Mr. Chan?

Mr. Chan: Actually I came for your ice... ..

Auntie: My eyes?

Mr. Chan: (chuckles) No, not your eyes Melanie, your ice-cream. Although I must say, you do have a pair of rather interesting eyes!

Auntie: (embarrassed) Oh, of course, of course. Ice-cream. What was I thinking! So what's your favorite flavour? Mine's strawberry. Don't you think it's so romantic?

Mr. Chan: Well....actually, I'm allergic to strawberries.

Auntie: You are? What a coincidence! I am too!

Mr. Chan: But I thought you said....

Auntie: So, which flavour do you want?

Mr. Chan: Vanilla, the plainer, the better.

Auntie: I totally agree! (hands over ice-cream)

Mr. Chan: (Hands over money) Here you are.

Auntie: (Hands back a coin) Here, a discount.

Mr. Chan: Even for one ice-cream?

Auntie: Of course! You are my favourite customer!

Mr. Chan: Why thank you!

Auntie: You're welcome. Mr. Chan!

Mr. Chan: Call me Freddie! See you again soon! (giggles and fans herself)

(CP 1041 enters)

Auntie: (resuming her stern voice) Ella! Come out! There's a customer!

Ella: Coming! Hey, Auntie, I didn't know you were allergic to strawberries!

Auntie: How dare you eavesdrop on me and .....Freddie! (giggles and exits)

CP1041: Hey, you. Where's my survival kit?

Ella: I beg your pardon?

CP1041: Give me back my survival kit. I saw you take it last night.

Ella: Si it was you! Why didn't you answer me?

CP 1041: (goes crazy) I SAID GIVE ME BACK MY SURVIVAL KIT, NOW! NOW! I SAW YOU TAKE IT LAST NIGHT! I SAW YOU! YOU'D BETTER GIVE TO ME NOW!

Ella: OK! OK! Calm down! (gets bag) Here....

CP1041: (grabs it from Ella) You have a defect, don't you?

Ella: What?

CP1041: We both have defects. We have something in common then.

Ella: Look, I don't think I'm interested in what defects we both have. I've given you back your bag. Either you buy something or you leave.

CP1041:What are you displaying on the shelves?

Ella: What do you mean? Food..of course. Oh! So that's what we have in common! Are you blind too?

CP1041: So this is 20<sup>th</sup> century food. It hardly looks edible. (open chips, eats,

leaves)

Ella: Well, I guess it's not if you're a health freak. I mean, most of the food here is probably high in fat and cholesterol and additives, so what do you want to buy?

Hello? Hello? She's disappeared again!

VO: Dear Diary: A really strange person came to the store today. She was the owner of the bag I found last night. I think she may have some kind of emotional problems. At first I felt really scared, but there was something about her that made me feel for her. I wonder if she'll come again? PS Auntie blew her chances with Mr. Chan today, again.

## SCENE 5

Hazel: Oh, Melanie, thank God you called us over! Your hair really needs some shaping up!

Monica: And your nails! How do you expect Mr. Chan to fall in love with these?

Auntie: That's exactly why I called you over! Monica, Hazel, from now on, you two are going to be really busy, because the relationship between me and Mr ... .. . I mean, Freddie, has developed to another level!

Hazel: What do you mean another level?

Auntie: (giggles) He says I have interesting eyes!

Monica: Really!

Auntie: If only I didn't have the build creature to take care of, I'd be Mrs. Chan by now!

Hazel: Yeah, why don't you just send her to some "School For The Blind"?

Monica: Exactly, you two don't even get along. It's not as if

Auntie: I don't do it because of her, I do it because of the girl's mother, she was

Hazel: But if it wasn't for her, your sister would still be here. It's all her fault that...

Monica: Sshhhh ... ..

Ella: Here's your tea, Auntie.

Auntie: Just put it down and leave!

Ella: Whatever you say.

(CP1041 approaches Ella)

CP1041: What did you do wrong?

Ella: Oh, it's you again. Why do you keep disappearing and appearing like that?

CP1041: What happened to your mother?

Ella: That's.....really none of your business...Look, like I said, if you're not here to buy anything..... (tries to push CP away)

CP1041: (goes crazy) NO! DON'T TOUCH ME! TOUCHING IS INFECTIOUS! IT'S AGAINST THE LAW! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! TOUCH IS INFECTIOUS!!! (calms down)  
I must get some more food now.

Ella: Are you OK? Do you need a doctor?

CP1041: No, I'm fine.

Ella: Um, did you take a packet of chips last night? You forgot to pay you

know.

CP1041: Pay? So the automatic payment chip in our wrists is invalid in this century.

Ella: What chip? Come on, I'll get into trouble with my aunt if you don't pay. Mr. Chan's the only one who can get away with that.

CP1041: I'm afraid I'm not equipped with 20th century payment.

Ella: You mean you don't have any money? Well, then you need to get a job.

CP1041: But jobs are allocated to you through the Corporation Crucial Network. The CCN.

Ella: Where do you get all these ideas from? Here, take a look at this. You can find plenty of jobs in here. But you gotta control yourself some more, otherwise you'll never find a job.

CP1041: Where I come from, everybody's emotions fluctuate at a rate we cannot control.

Ella: Well, next time, why don't you try taking a deep breath or counting to ten or pinching yourself or something. It often works with me!

CP1041: Thank you for the advice. After I get a job this afternoon, I'll come back and pay you.

Ella: OK, Good luck. But don't raise your hopes too high.

VO: Dear Diary. Remember the strange person I was telling you about? Her name is CP, and she sure is a science-fiction fan! She's been coming to the store every day for the past month, sometimes just to get a packet of chips, but I don't really care if she doesn't pay, she'll never find a job anyway. I finally figured out what her problem is, she simply has a phobia of touch. She used to constantly throw...sort of tantrums at me, but recently she has learned to control her emotions much better. In fact I'm beginning to think I can call her a friend, the only friend I've ever had. At least she talks to me. I guess she was right. Maybe we do have something in common.

## SENCE 6

(Ella is tidying the store. CP enters)

CP: Hi, Ella.

Ella: Oh, hi CP. It's so late, I thought you weren't going to come today. I'm just about to close the store.

CP: I will help you.

Ella: Thank you. I wonder where I put the toilet rolls?

CP: You mean those white cylinders over there? Here.

Ella: Oh, thank you!

CP: I've never tasted these before.

Ella: (chuckles) CP, not everything in the store is edible! Oh, I nearly forgot! (walks to counter to get book) I know how much you love science-fiction, so I got you this book. It's based on the movie, 'Demolition Man'.

CP: The year 2074. This is way past my age.

Ella: (laughs) You know, you're starting to have a sense of humour! It must be getting really late..... do you want to stay here tonight?

CP: That would make a change.

Ella: Great! I think we're just about done. Let's sit down and have a drink. (sit on steps)

CP: Where's Auntie?

Ella: She's out playing MaJong.

CP: Auntie has fluctuating emotions too. She's always angry with you.

Ella: I know, sometimes it seems as if she doesn't want me around at all.

CP: Then leave. Where I come from, humans live independently, isolated from each other.

Ella: I can't. I owe it to her to stay.

CP: What do you owe her?

Ella: I've never told anyone this... My parents died because of me.

CP: Then just create new ones.

Ella: My parents are irreplaceable. They died in a fire that I started. I never meant to kill anyone, but I'm the only one to blame.

CP: But it was just an accident.

Ella: But I should have been the one to die. I deserve more than just losing my sight. Mummy made Auntie save me instead of her. She sacrificed her life for mine.

CP: I've never heard of human beings sacrificed their lives for each other.

Ella: My Mummy really loved me more than her own life. Auntie has every right to hate me. If somebody killed my sister, I'd be just as angry.

CP: When you live in your own world, you're responsible for no one but yourself. There's no such thing as guilt or dying for one another.

Ella: But if you live in your own world, then you can't talk or love.

CP: Exactly.

Ella: But don't you like talking to me?

CP: I don't know.

Ella: Then why do you keep coming to the store?

CP: To get chips.

Ella: Is that all? Would you still come back if there weren't any chips?

CP: Yes, I would.

Ella: For what?

CP: I have a special feeling when I'm with you. A feeling I've never had before.

Ella: It's what you call friendship, CP.

CP: Friendship.

Ella: You know, you're the only one who really talks to me.

CP: You are too! Is it because we both have defects?

Ella: You know, everyone in this world has defects.. It's just that mine is more obvious. Remember, CP, all human beings deserve respect. (pause) CP, is it all right if I ask you a question, why don't you let me touch you?

CP: Because touching is infectious.

Ella: But it isn't. CP, why do you think that way?

CP: (takes deep breath and pinches herself) I live in the Metropolis where the law makes everybody perfect. Anyone imperfect must be exiled. I touched someone, Ella. I have a defect. I am highly infectious.

Ella: Cut it out CP! Touching is not infectious! I mean, without touch, I wouldn't even be able to survive!

CP: I can survive without touch.  
Ella: But touch is all part of being human! It's a way of expressing love and affection. I remember when my mummy used to cuddle me, it felt so safe and warm.  
CP: The last time I touched a human being, it didn't feel safe and warm...

(gang barges in)

Gang: Hahahahaha!  
Jaque: Hey! Who turn off the lights?  
Ella: Excuse me, but we're closed for the day.  
Gang: Oh! It's the blind girl!  
Sade: We can see you're closed for the day. We're not blind you know!  
Ella: That's enough! Would you please leave now!  
Sade: Oooo... the blind girl's got an attitude!  
Mich: Who are you to order us around?  
CP: Stop it! All human beings deserve respect!  
Jaque: Oh, look! The weirdo can talk!  
Vic: Isn't it a bit early for Halloween?  
Ella: I'm warning you! If you don't get out now, I'll call the police!  
Gang: Oooo! I'm so scared!  
Sade: Chill out guys. We're gotta RESPECT the visually challenges.  
Ella: CP, go get the phone!  
Sade: Touch that and I'll beat you up!  
Ella: Leave her alone! Don't touch her!  
Sade: Look, blind girl, I've had enough of you! You want respect, I'll give you respect!

(Gang beats Ella up)

CP: Stop it! Stop it! Stop it! Touching is infectious! Go away! Go away!  
Go away!  
Sade: (Pushes gang away) That was just a warning! Let's go!  
CP: Ella! Are you all right? I'm sorry Ella, I'm sorry! I just couldn't touch you, I  
Ella: It's OK, CP, I'll be all right! I just wish I could fight back..  
CP: Ella! You did what you're mother did! You sacrificed yourself for me!

## SCENE 7

(Mr. Chan and Auntie enter)

Auntie: Oh, Freddie! Wasn't that a refreshing jog? And it's such a beautiful day as well!  
Chan: Yes, it is. Why don't we have breakfast together?  
Auntie: Oh I'd love to have... (sees mess) ELLA!!!  
Chan: Uh .....maybe some other day..Bye!  
Auntie: Wait, Mr. Chan! Don't go!.....Ella! Get up this instant! You've got some explaining to do!  
Ella: Auntie! You're back! Last night...  
Auntie: What have you done to the store? How dare you embarrass me in front of Mr. Chan!

Ella: No, listen! Last night, a gang broke into the store and they messed everything up and...

Auntie: Stop lying, Ella! By the looks of things, you had a party here last night! Who do you think you are, making your own decisions!

Ella: No, Auntie, I ... ..

CP1041: Calm down Auntie, pinch yourself or count to ten.

Auntie: And what is she doing here? I told you to stay away from her! She's dangerous!

CP1041: I'm not dangerous! All human beings deserve respect.

Auntie: SHUT UP! You get out of my store now! NOW!

Ella: Auntie, how can you treat her like that?

Auntie: This is my store, I have the right to treat anyone in anyway I please. Now out!

Ella: If you make my friend leave, well then I'm leaving too!

Auntie: But you can't leave!

Ella: I know I've caused you a lot of pain, But it's not easy for me either.

CP1041: Ella, you don't have to do this.

Ella: No, CP you were right, I should have left a long time ago.

CP 1041: Don't you remember what you told me last night? About friendship, about love? I really wish I could experience the love which you have for others if only touch was not infectious. You have to stay Ella, or you'll regret it.

Ella: Oh, CP....

Auntie: (embarrassed) I think I need an asprin (leave)

CP 1041: I think it's time for me to leave you Ella. Thank you for being my friend. Goodbye.

Ella: Wait!

(CP turns around)

Ella: Before you go, can I see you?

CP 1041: See me?

Ella: Well Blind people see with their hands. Can I touch you?

CP 1041: But...

Ella: Trust me, it's OK....relax.... Your hands, they're so cold. Now can I see your face?

CP 1041: Is this what it felt like when your mummy used to cuddle you?

## SCENE 8

CP 1041 (VO) This is CP 1041 contacting the Metropolis, I am calling from HK in the year 1999. I wish to inform the Metropolis that I am not guilty. However, I am glad that I have been exiled because I have learnt that touch is not infectious, it makes you feel safe and warm and it took a person with a defect to teach me that. Your honour I sincerely hope that the Metropolis will one day learn to experience touch. Human Touch.

**END**