

# THE MOVING HEARTS

## Shatin Government Secondary School

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### **CHARACTERS:**

**MR. CHEN MRS. CHEN MRS. TONG BILLY TONG MR. WONG MRS. WONG ADRIAN WONG YING YIK STEPHEN CHAN**

### FIRST SCENE (MORNING)

(Mr. Chen comes out from room B, pours water into a glass.)

Mr. Chen: (Sigh) Everyday, I wake up so early and I can't go back to sleep.

(Billy comes out from room B)

Billy: Mum! Are you ready yet? I'll be late for school if you don't hurry up!

(Billy ignores him and continues to fool around. Mrs. Chen comes out from room B.)

Mrs. Chen: Why is it so noisy out here? (Mrs. Chen realizes the glass of water is on the floor). Oh god! What's happening here? Who did this?

(Mr. Chen points his finger at Billy.)

Mr. Chen: He did it! He won't go to school so he starts fooling around and breaks things.

(Mrs. Tong comes out from room B.)

Mrs. Tong: What's going on? You're waking up the entire house!

Mrs. Chen: Your son ran into my husband and broke his glass of water! How could he be so rough to an old man like my husband? Don't you know how to teach your son to be polite?

Mrs. Tong: Well, in fact, I don't! If you want to teach children, why don't you have one, huh? Oh! I know, you're too old for that, aren't you?

Mrs. Chen: What..... what do you mean? So, I see you want an argument, right?

Mrs. Tong: Actually, I don't. I'm just telling the truth!

Mrs. Chen: You.....

Mr. Chen: Stop it. I know four families living together in such a small place can easily cause arguments. But a broken glass is not worth a fight between you two. It's not the end of the world, right? Just calm down

**(Mr. Chen goes the mop and the broom.)**

Mrs. Tong: Come on, Billy, let's go. I don't want to argue with such a stubborn woman.

**(Mrs. Tong and Billy go out the main entrance. Mr. Chen mops the floor.)**

**(Mrs. Chen is very angry.)**

Mrs. Chen: Look at yourself! Aren't you a man? A kid breaks your glass and you have to clean it up yourself. You're so weak and useless!

Mr. Chen: Well, I'm not a man, I'm an OLD man now. You know what? Anger makes a person die earlier. Do you want to die earlier?

**(Mrs. Chen goes up to him and points her finger at Mr. Chen's head.)**

Mrs. Chen: Fine! You like cleaning so much, right? Then, clean the floor, clean all the rooms, clean the corridor, clean the whole world!

**(Mrs. Chen is furious. She takes the radio and goes into the toilet.)**

Mr. Chen: **(Sigh)** Maybe one day she'll understand other people's feelings!

**(Mrs. Wong comes in the main entrance with bags of food)**

Mrs. Wong: Why are you cleaning the floor? Aren't I supposed to clean it?

Mr. Chen: In fact, I'm doing my morning exercises. You know what? Exercise is good for you and can make one's body healthier.

Mrs. Wong: OK, fine. Let me clean this mess for you. Here, read this.

**(Mrs. Wong hands over the newspaper)**

Mr. Chen: Mrs. Wong, don't you know that I can't read after all the years we've lived together?

Mrs. Wong: Oh! Silly me. I almost forgot.

**(Mr. Chen puts the mop and broom back in the original place)**

**(Mrs. Wong is pouring a bowl of congee, she hands it to Mr. Chen)**

Mrs. Wong: Here, eat this.

Mr. Chen: No thanks, I think I'll get some sleep instead.

Mrs. Wong: OK.

**(Mrs. Chen goes into room B, Adrian comes out from room A and sees Mr. Chen.)**

Adrian: Good morning, Mr. Chen!

Mr. Chen: Good morning! Goodnight.

Adrian: Good night **(Confused)**. Mum, is breakfast ready yet? I don't want to be late for school.

**(Mrs. Wong hands over the bowl of congee to Adrian)**

Mrs. Wong: Eat this son.

Adrian: Thanks, mum.

**(Adrian takes the bowl of congee and sits at the table to eat it, Mrs. Wong gets the broom to sweep the floor)**

**(Ying comes out from room A)**

Ying: Good morning everybody!! **(Screaming)**

**(Mrs. Wong and Adrian look at him)**

Mrs. Wong & Adrian: Good morning.

**(Ying runs to the toilet. He tries to open the door and finds that it is locked)**

Ying: It's locked? Who's in there?

Mrs. Wong: It's me!

Ying: You again?! Every morning you occupy the toilet for over an hour!  
What are you doing in there?

**(Ying is angry)**

Ying: If you don't come out right now, I'll rip you into pieces and tear you into parts!

Mrs. Chen: OK, OK. Fine! What's the big deal?

Ying: Hurry up! Disobey my orders if you dare!!

**(Mrs Chen comes out, Ying runs into the toilet.)**

Mrs. Chen: That man is going mad again. **(See Mrs. Wong)** Oh, Mrs. Wong, you're back. So, are the vegetables cheaper or more expensive than yesterday?

Mrs. Wong: It's very unusual, the vegetables..... **(Realizing Adrian is still sitting at the table)**. Oh, Adrian! It's time for school now. You'll be late if you don't leave now!

**(Adrian grabs his schoolbag)**

Adrian: Bye mum! Bye Mrs. Chen!

Mrs. Wong: Bye! Be careful!, Sorry, where were we?

Mrs. Chen: The vegetables.....

Mrs. Wong: Yes. The cabbages are very expensive today. But the lettuces are much cheaper than yesterday, so I bought 1 kilo of lettuce. Let's have a lettuce meal tonight!

Mrs. Chen: Well done! You're very smart! Just like me!

**(Ying suddenly yells, he runs out of the toilet)**

Ying: Oh, no!! Look! I have a white hair! Oh no oh no! I'm getting old. I'm

**(Ying kneels down and cries, Mrs. Dchen grabs his white hair.)**

Mrs. Chen: What a pity! It really is a white hair! Here, have it back.

**(Mrs. Chen gives him back his white hair)**

Mrs. Wong: What's the big deal? It's only a white hair.

Mrs. Chen: Don't be silly, Ying!

**(Mrs. Chen takes the newspaper and sits at the table to read)**

**(Ying Suddenly stands up)**

Ying: I don't have anymore time! I have to write an autobiography to record the things which have happened in my life and to educate the next generation. Yes, that's right. I'll do it now!

**(Ying runs into room A)**

Mrs. Wong: Why is he always like that? **(Sigh)** Oh, it's time to wake up my

husband.

**(Mrs. Wong puts down the broom and goes into room A to wake Mr. Wong up)**

Mr. Wong: Would you stop it! Don't you see I haven't got a job? Why can't I have more sleep instead?

Mrs. Wong: You should get a job if you don't have one! Don't just stay here! It's useless.

Mr. Wong: OK OK. You're so annoying!

Mrs. Wong: We've just arrived from China, so you have to work harder than other people in Hong Kong, or else you'll never get a job!

Mr. Wong: Fine! Shouldn't I brush my teeth before finding a job?

**(Mr. Wong goes into the toilet.)**

Mrs. Wong: **(Sigh)** When will he really understand?

**(Mrs. Wong goes into room A, Mr. Chen continues to read the newspaper.)**

## **Second scene (Evening)**

**(Mrs. Chen and Mrs. Wong are putting out the dishes for dinner, Ying sits on the floor writing his autobiography, Billy is playing with his gameboy at the table, Mrs. Tong is sitting at the table)**

Mrs. Wong: Adrian, it's dinner time! I wonder what he does in his room all day long. Is Adrian too self-contained, Mrs. Chen?

Mrs. Chen: Well, I've worked as a social worker at the YWCA for many years. I've come across many cases similar to Adrian, one of the reasons is the lack of parental love, and the second reason is that they put themselves under too much pressure, finally, many of them commit suicide. Oh, it's such a pity!

Mrs. Wong: Will Adrian become one fo them? **(Worried)**

Mrs. Chen: Well..... He is a very special case, let me think about it first.

Mrs. Tong: Do you think she knows the answer, Mrs. Wong? Then you're wrong! She always says she was a social worker who has helped other people. How would a person be able to help others if she can't help herself, huh?

Mrs. Chen: Well, well, well. You want an argument again? I thought you had learned your lesson this morning!

Mrs. Tong: Ha! I was telling the truth this morning and I'm telling the truth now!

Mrs. Chen: You.....!

Mrs. Wong: Please stop. There's no reason to argue. Mrs. Chen, would you mind telling my son to come out and have dinner?

Mrs. Chen: No problem. Anyway, I don't like to argue.

**(Mrs. Chen enters room A.)**

Mrs. Wong: Dinner time everyone:

**(Everyone goes to the table, except Ying.)**

Billy: Yeah!Dinner time! Huh? Why is it all lettuce?

**(Mrs. Chen come out with Arian from room A)**

Mrs. Chen: Because lettuce is cheap today. Anyway, lettuce is very good for our health!

**(Mrs. Tong points her finger at Mrs. Wong and Mrs. Chen)**

Mrs. Tong: Why are your husbands so late? Don't they know that we are all waiting for them? How could they be so inconsiderate?

**(Mr. Chen enters from main entrance with a load of flattened cardboard boxes.)**

Mrs. Chen: Oh, it's so heavy! Can anyone give me some help?

**(Mrs. Chen goes to him and pokes his head with her finger.)**

Mrs. Chen: How many times have I told you not to bring these things home? Don't you know that we don't have any space for this trash?

Mrs. Tong: The worst thing is: they create a bad smell!

Mr. Chen: No they don't! They smell good!

Mrs. Chen: I don't care! You throw these things away, including those in the room, immediately!

Mr. Chan: OK, throw me away too!

**(Mr. Chen is furious, he goes into room B.)**

Mrs. Chen: You don't want to eat dinner?

Mr. Chen: No! I'll eat up all the trash instead!

**(Everybody becomes silent.)**

Mrs. Chen: Ignore him! Let's eat.

**(Mr. Wong enters from the main entrance.)**

Mr. Wong: Hey, why don't you wait for me?

Mrs. Wong: Come and have dinner!

Mrs. Tong: Why are you so late? Don't you know that everyone is waiting for you?

Mr. Wong: That's none of your business.

Mrs. Wong: Forget it. Let's eat.

**(Everyone sits down, Mrs. Wong sees that Ying is still sitting on the floor writing.)**

Mrs. Wong: Ying, it's dinner time! Stop writing.

Ying: Can't you see that I'm busy? I haven't got much time! If I don't hurry, I'm afraid I can't finish it!

Mr. Wong: Finish what?

Ying: My autobiography?

Mrs. Chen: This morning, he said that he was getting old and would soon die, therefore he has to make a record of what he has done in his life to educate the next generation.

Ying: Ha ha ha! Make a record of what? Make a record of you fooling around in the house and doing nothing? Make a record of you going mad and yelling like a crazy man? This is absurd!

**(Ying stands up angrily.)**

Ying: This is very meaningful! Don't insult me! You should be proud of it!

Mr. Wong: Well in fact, I'm not proud of it at all! Stop this nonsense, will you?

Ying: This is not nonsense! This is meaningful! You misunderstand me, all of you!

**(Ying picks up his writing and runs into room A angrily.)**

Everyone: **(Sigh)** Hopeless!

Mrs. Wong: You think you can give him some help, Mrs. Chen?

Mrs. Chen: He is a very very special case, let me think for a moment.

Mr. Wong: By the way, why is tonight's meal all lettuce? Who bought them?

Mrs. Wong: Me. Lettuce is cheap today therefore.....

Mr. Wong: Therefore you bought lots of them, right?

Mrs. Wong: Yes, I wanted to save money.....

**(Mr. Wong slaps the table loudly, everyone becomes silent.)**

Mr. Wong: Do you have a problem with your brain? How can we eat them all if there are so many? You are such a drmbbell!

Mrs. Wong: I just wanted to save money.....

Mr. Wong: Shut up, idiot!

**(Mrs. Wong begins to cry, Adrian comforts her.)**

Mr. Wong: Look at yourself! All you can do is cry! You're useless!

Mrs. Tong: How could you do this to her? She's your wife, not your servant!

Mrs. Chen: Don't be so horrible to her!

**(Mr. Wong doesn't know what to do, puts down his bowl angrily.)**

Mr. Wong: It's none of your business!

**(Mr. Wong goes into room A angrily.)**

Mrs. Chen: Let's clean the things up!

**(Everybody stands up and clears the table.)**

**[Curtain close]**

### Third scene (Afternoon)

(Mrs. Wong is doing her work in the kitchen and listening to the radio, Ying is sitting on the floor writing his autobiography, Mr. Chen and Adrian are playing chess on the table, Mrs. Tong and Billy, who is playing with his gameboy, are sitting at the table.)

Mr. Chen: Check! I win!

(Mrs. Chen comes out from room B holding some newspapers.)

Adrian: You're cheating! This is unfair!

Mrs. Chen: Play fair! Don't cheat.

(Mrs. Chen sits at the table.)

Mr. Chen: I didn't cheat.

Adrian: Let's play it all over again!

(Mrs. Chen sees the fan, she goes to the fan and turns it in her direction, she sits back at the table.)

Mrs. Tong: What are you doing?

Mrs. Chen: This is not your fan! Don't be so selfish even though it can't turn!  
Why can't you put it in the middle?

Mrs. Tong: How? If I put it in the middle, neither of us will be able to use it.  
Then why not use it myself?

Mrs. Chen: Fine! Then let's turn off the fan so that neither of us can use it!

(Mrs. Chen turns off the fan.)

Mrs. Tong: Hey, look who's selfish now!

(Mrs. Tong turns on the fan.)

Mrs. Chen: You dare to turn it on again?

(Mrs. Tong and Mrs. Chen fight for the fan, finally the fan breaks.)

Mrs. Tong: Look what you've done now! You've broken it!

Mrs. Chen: It's you! You did it!

(Mr. Wong comes out from room A.)

Mr. Wong: What are you two arguing for this time?

Mr. Chen: Arguments occur everyday. Don't worry, Mr. Wong.

Mrs. Tong: She broke the fan! We'll all have to be hot!

Mrs. Chen: I did it? Very funny! You did it!

Mr. Wong: **(Screams)** Stop it!

Mr. Wong: Look at yourselves! You two look like kindergarden kids fighting for a toy! I don't care who did it! One of you must buy a new one as soon as possible!

Mrs. Wong: Hey, hey, quiet. Listen.....

(Mrs. Wong brings the radio to the table.)

Radio: Century Company Limited together with the government has decided to demolish the old building area in Yuen Long to construct the new railway system. Residents in the area should move out of

their buildings within a month. Compensation and the resettlement of residents will be announced later.....

Mr. Wong: Thank god! I can move! Finally, I can get rid of you bunch of annoying people!

Mrs. Tong: I'm the one who's supposed to be happy! Finally, I don't need to hear you scolding your wife! At last I can live peacefully!

Mr. Wong: You always argue with others! Anyway, scolding my wife is none of your business!

Mrs. Tong: Well, it would be none of my business if you did it somewhere else! Don't you know it annoys all of us?

**(Mr. Wong doesn't know what to say, he points his finger at Mrs. Tong.)**

Mr. Wong: You.....

Mrs. Tong: Don't know what to say?

**(Mrs. Wong grabs Mr. Wong)**

Mrs. Wong: Stop it. We've lived together for so long, there's no reason for an argument.

Mr. Wong: So what? We'll move soon. Soon, we won't need to live with these people!

Mrs. Chen: How can you be so sure that you can move?

Mr. Wong: Of course I'm sure! We're in the old building area, right? We'll get compensation, so we can start a new life in a new house!

Mrs. Chen: **(Sigh)** What do you know? You're just a new immigrant. Do you think they will give you reasonable compensation? I don't think so! All they're worried about is how to kick you out of the flat, they don't care about compensation! We'll all become homeless!

Mr. Chen: Actually, I don't mind being homeless! It's not a big problem for an

**(Mr. Chen goes into room B.)**

Mr. Wong: I don't want to talk to you anymore. You always disagree with me!

**(Mr. Wong goes into room A, Mrs. Wong follows him.)**

Ying: This is so meaningful! I have to write this down! Oh, this is the most exciting thing that's ever happened to me!

**(Ying goes into room A)**

Mrs. Tong: Billy, don't just play with your gameboy! Come in and do some homework!

Billy: OK, coming.

**(Mrs. Tong and Billy go into room A)**

**Fourth scene (Morning)**

**(Ying is writing his autobiography on the floor, all the others are still sleeping.)**

**(Stephen Chan rings the doorbell, there's no answer. She rings again.)**

**(Billy comes out from room B and opens the door.)**

Billy: Who are you looking for?

Stephen: Good morning. My name is Stephen Chan. I'm a representative of the department responsible for all demolition matters of Century Company Limited .....

Billy: Wait, wait, wait! Please speak slowly. I can't keep up!

Stephen; I'm the representative of the .....

Billy: OK, OK. Wait a minute .....Mum, there's someone at the door for you!

**(Mrs. Tong comes out from room A.)**

Mrs. Wong: Who is it?

Stephen: Good morning, madam. I'm a representative of the department responsible for all demolition matters of Century Company Limited. I came to talk about the compensation .....

Mrs. Tong: Compensation? Thank god, please come in!

**(Stephen comes in, Billy wakes up the others.)**

Mrs. Tong: Please have a seat.

**(Everyone comes out from their room.)**

Mrs. Tong: He's come to talk about the compensation.

**(They surround Stephen.)**

Mrs. Wong: Sir, would you like a cup of tea?

Stephen: I .....

Mrs. Chen: Our tea is so cheap! It's not good enough for you!

Stephen: I didn't mean that madam .....

Mrs. Tong: I thought you came to talk about compensation .....

Stephen: Oh yes. My name is Stephen Chan. I'm a representative of the department responsible for all demolition matters of Century Company Limited. Because of the construction of the new railway system, we have decided to demolish several areas, where you are living now is in one of the areas we will demolish .....

Mr. Wong: Who cares about the railway system? What about compensation?

Stephen: Well, about the compensation .....

**(Ying suddenly stands up, he runs to Stephen and grabs him.)**

Ying: I want 5 million dollars in compensation! Or else I won't leave this place!!

**(Mr. Wong grabs his autobiography and throws it into room A.)**

Ying: Ahhhhh!!

**(Ying runs into room A.)**

Mr. Wong: Never mind, just continue.

Stephen: .....OK ..... because where you are living now is our company's property, therefore, we don't need to give you any compensation .....

**(Everyone is surprised.)**

Stephen: Listen to me first, I haven't finished yet. Our company understands your situation therefore we have arranged \$3000 for each family living in this flat .....

**(Mr. Wong grabs the duster from behind and hits the table with it.)**

Mr. Wong: What? \$3000? You want us to move out by giving us just \$3000?

Stephen: It's been decided by your company, not by me. I was ordered to do this.

Mrs. Tong: My baby will soon be born! Where can I find a place to live with \$3000? Will you be responsible for any accidents? Will you be responsible for finding a flat for me?

Billy: Mum, is \$3000 a small amount?

Mrs. Tong: Of course! \$3000 is not even enough to rent a bird cage!

Stephen: Well ..... actually you have a second choice. We can arrange for you to live in an estate in Sha Tau Kok .....

Mr. Wong: Sha Tau Kok? That's so far away from the centre!

Billy: Where is Sha Tau Kok, mum? Are there any video games there?

Mrs. Tong: Of course not!! It's out in the country!

Mr. Chen: Silence please, everyone. Let me ask a question first. Ms. Chen, are there any cardboard boxes over there?

Ms. Chen: You're such a useless man! All you care about are the cardboard boxes! Don't you care about our home? We'll soon be kicked out!

Stephen: In fact, you don't have to worry. Sha Tau Kok will have become a big city in ten to twenty years time .....

Mr. Chen: Will there be any cardboard boxes then?

Mrs. Chen: You'll be dead by then! Stupid!

**(Mr. Wong hits the table with the duster again.)**

Mr. Wong: We won't leave this place if you don't give us reasonable compensation!

Stephen: It's already reasonable.

Everyone: What? Reasonable?

**(Everyone grabs at Stephen, they are not satisfied.)**

Stephen: Don't grab at me! It's not my decision ..... Let me go!

**(Stephen get rid of them and runs out the main entrance.)**

Mr. Wong: Lucky you! If you'd escaped two seconds later, you would have lost a leg!

**(Everyone is depressed, Ying comes out from room A.)**

Ying: **(Serious look)** I heard everything. I think we have to confront with them until we get what we deserve!

Adrian: Yes. I agree! We won't get what we want by just sitting here!

Mr. Chen: Yes. Let's go and demonstrate tomorrow!

**(Mrs. Wong begins to cry and enters room A, Adrian follows and comforts her.)**

Mr. Wong: Look! Women can't help us! They're useless!

Mrs. Tong: Hey! Mind what you say, Mr. Wong! What do you mean? You think I'm not brave enough?

Mr. Chen: Stop! It's no time for another argument>

**(Mrs. Tong and Billy go into room B, Mr. Chen, Mr. Wong and Ying shake their head.)**

Mr. Chen, Mr. Wong and Ying: (Sigh.)

**(Mr. Wong and Ying go into room A, Mr. Chen goes into room B.)**

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Mrs. Chen: I thought I could live in this flat until the day I died, but suddenly, we have to move out. I really don't want to leave!

Mrs. Wong: At first when we had just arrived in Hong Kong, we didn't know what to do. Luckily we found you ..... if not, I think my husband and I would never have got any other place to live.

Mrs. Wong: If you two understand that you argued over nothing in the past, then we could live peacefully together and there won't be any more arguments.

Mrs. Chen: I understand .....

Mrs. Tong: Well, what can we do now? Any suggestions?

Mrs. Chen: We won't give up! Let's fight against the company!

Mrs. Tong: Great idea! Let's do it! Anyway, it's quite late now. Better go to sleep. Goodnight.

Mrs. Wong: Goodnight.

Mrs. Chen: Goodnight.

**(They go back to their own rooms.)**

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Mr. Wong: **(Sigh)** I always wanted to leave this house and move to another place, but now, I realize that I'd miss this place, and that I don't want to leave.

Mr. Chen & Ying: We don't either.

Mr. Chen: Well ..... I hope it will be successful tomorrow.

Ying: Anyway, it's kind of late now, let's get some sleep. Or else we won't have enough energy to protect our home!

Mr. Wong: OK. Goodnight.

Mr. Chen: Goodnight.

## **Sixth scene (Evening)**

**(Mrs. Wong is cooking in the kitchen, Mrs. Tong sits at the table, Billy is beside her.)**

Mrs. Wong: Will they succeed?

Mrs. Tong: I think so. Don't worry.

Mrs. Wong: I hope so.

**(Everyone comes back.)**

Mrs. Tong: They're finally back!

Mrs. Wong: How's everything going?

Mr. Wong: This is absurd!!

Mrs. Chen: The government always gives advantages to the company!

Mr. Chen: I wonder if they have listened to our complaint!

Mrs. Wong: Let's have a dinner first.

**(Everyone sits down.)**

Adrian: you don't have to be so depressed!

Ying: Yes, the government hasn't announced the decision yet. We still have hope, right? Maybe we can stay here.

Mrs. Tong: Hey! It's time for the news report! Somebody turn on the TV.

**(Billy turns on the TV.)**

Television: This afternoon, residents living in Yuen Long old housing area went to the government secretariat to complain about the demolition of their buildings. The government sent a representative to collect their letters of complaint. However the government announced that they won't make any changes to the planned compensation for the residents. On the other hand, the new railway system .....

**(Everyone feels very depressed. Mr. Wong puts down his bowl and goes into room B, the others also go back to their own rooms. Mrs. Wong and Mrs. Tong are still there. They also feel depressed. They clear up the table slowly then go back to their own rooms.)**

**Seventh scene (Morning)**

**(Everyone is very sad, holding their luggage preparing to leave the house. Mrs. Tong [Crying] and Billy leave first, then Mr. Wong, Mrs. Wong [Crying] and Adrian, then Ying, lastly Mr. Chen and Mrs. Chen [Crying]. Mr. Chen shuts the main door.)**

**[Curtain close]**

**The End**