

情书

Written by

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INT. GRANDFATHER'S BEDROOM - DAY

A man, HYO, walks into the bedroom. He is carrying his laptop in one hand and an empty cardboard box in another. The laptop screen shows some animation drawings. He puts the things down on the bed. He has his phone sandwiched between his ear and shoulder.

HYO

I need a few more days. My grandfather's funeral just ended, need to help my family pack up some stuff. I just need some inspiration.

Hyo picks up some of the things his grandfather had on his table, including some old photo frames and throws them into the box.

HYO (CONT'D)

You want me to use my dead grandfather as inspiration? Are you insane? Just tell the producer we will deliver the first draft by the end of the week, ok? I'll think of something by then.

Hyo ends the call, throws his phone onto the bed.

He bends over to search under the bed, takes out some old items and throws them into the box as well. He digs out an old tin box - opens it curiously. The box contains a stack of OLD LETTERS, yellow with age, and dozens of STRAW HEARTS.

Hyo sits down on the bed with the box on his lap, opens one of the letters. The text is faded, written in Chinese.

KANG (V.O.)

阿萱，当你收到这封信的时候，我应该已经到了军营。我阿妈还说我是个傻的，人还没走就已经开始给你写信了。。。

EXT. FRONT GATE 1930S - DAY

The letterbox CREAKS as someone opens it. A young lady rushes out of the house and to the gate. This is XUAN, Hoy's grandmother. She opens the letterbox and fishes out the letter inside. She rips it open immediately and reads.

Xuan smiles.

XUAN

真是个大傻瓜。

She walks back towards the house, still reading.

KANG (V.O.)

我已经把需要带的东西都收好了，包括你的一颗心。记得吗？我会把它放在口袋里，时时刻刻都把你带在身旁。。。

XUAN

去打战又不是去旅行，怎么还带这种东西？

She smiles anyway.

EXT. UNDER A TREE - NIGHT

A SOLDIER is leaning against a tree, with letter paper propped up on his knees. This is KANG, Hoy's grandfather. He is writing a letter to Xuan. In his other hand he is holding on to a small heart folded from a straw.

KANG (V.O.)

我已经差不多适应了这里的日子。虽然有些苦，但是每当我想起你我就会告诉我自己一定要撑住，直到能回到你身边的那一天。

INT. XUAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Xuan is at her desk, writing a letter. The dirt-stained letter she received from Kang is lying at the side of the table, beside an unfinished straw heart.

XUAN (V.O.)

阿康，你不用担心我。我在家里一切都好。今天我和我妈去领了我们的喜帖，帖子都印好了。你说好不好看？

EXT. UNDER A TREE - NIGHT

Kang takes out the red invitation from beneath the letter - it's the other design that they didn't choose. He smiles as he opens the card and sees a new straw heart fall out.

XUAN (V.O.)

我又改变主意，换了样式，但是我想你不会介意的吧？

KANG

就知道你会改变主意。

INT. XUAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Xuan is in her room folding a straw heart. We see her fingers deftly folding the straw.

CUT TO:

EXT. XUAN'S HOUSE GARDEN - DAY [FLASHBACK]

Xuan and Kang are sitting in the garden, with Xuan teaching Kang how to fold straw hearts. Kang is terrible at it and keeps making mistakes, stuffing the end of the straw in and pulling it out again. Xuan laughs, putting the heart she made in his pocket.

BACK TO:

INT. XUAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Xuan continues writing her letter, the finished straw heart sits at the side of her table.

XUAN (V.O.)

等你打完战回来我们就可以一起把喜帖写好寄出去，你说好不好？

EXT. UNDER A TREE - NIGHT

Kang is still reading the letter, a smile on his face. He runs his fingers over the wedding invitation.

KANG

好，当然好。。。

EXT. FRONT GATE - DAY

Xuan in her front yard waiting for the postman. She hears the letterbox creak and immediately runs towards the gate. She finds a letter inside and smiles, fishing it out happily.

INT. XUAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Xuan is takes out a new sheet of paper and starts to write a new letter.

INTERCUT BETWEEN XUAN'S FRONT GATE AND VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE HOUSE

Xuan opens the letterbox to find a new letter inside.

Xuan folds straw hearts in the living room.

Xuan is playing the piano when she hears someone outside.

Xuan opens the letterbox to find a new letter inside.

Xuan folds her letter carefully, including a straw heart with it.

XUAN (V.O.)

阿康，你知不知道我有多担心你？每当我收到你的信的时候，我心中就好像有颗石子轻轻落下。好在你天天给我写信，让我知道你一切平安。听人家说最近战事吃紧，你那里危不危险？什么时候能够回来？

EXT. UNDER A TREE - NIGHT

Kang is writing another letter under the tree, he looks considerably more haggard than before.

KANG (V.O.)

我不知道。阿萱，最近战事开始变得有点激烈，也不知道时候能够打完。我好累。

A loud explosion goes off in the distance and he looks up, gripping the straw heart tightly in his hand, then goes back to his writing.

CUT TO:

INT. XUAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Xuan is sitting at her desk, reading a new letter. She is folding another straw heart while she reads, but her actions slow down.

KANG (V.O.)

睡我隔壁的小安今天早上踩到地雷，虽然一条命捡了回来，但是那双腿却没了。。。我有时候真的很害怕，害怕自己哪个时候一不小心就回不去了--

Xuan grips the letter tightly, biting her lower lip to stop herself from crying. She puts the letter down and picks up her pen, starting to write a reply.

BACK TO:

EXT. UNDER A TREE - NIGHT

Kang is halfway through his reply when someone shouts for him. He puts down everything and runs. The straw heart accidentally falls out of his pocket and onto the grass.

KANG (V.O.)

但是你放心，我一定会保重自己，因为我知道你还在等着我回来。

EXT. FRONT GATE - DAY

Xuan is sitting on her doorstep, waiting for the postman. She hears the letterbox creak and immediately runs towards the gate, but when she opens the letterbox, she realises there is nothing in there.

Every day she folds a new straw heart, but she doesn't send it out because there is no letter for her to reply to.

The same routine continues for a few days - each time she hears someone at the gate, she rushes to it but finds no letter from Kang.

Slowly her tin of straw hearts begin to fill up.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Xuan is sitting in the living room playing the piano. She hits the wrong note and stops, remembering something.

XUAN (V.O.)

我已经很多天没收到我未婚夫的回信了。是不是军营的邮政局出了点状况？

WOMAN (V.O.)

姑娘，如果你的未婚夫有回信的话那你一定会收得到。。。如果没有。。。军机处每隔几天都会贴出战士死伤名单，也许你可以去那里问一问。。。

Xuan hears the familiar creaking of the letterbox being opened. She hesitates. Eventually she gets up from the chair and walks slowly towards the door.

EXT. FRONT GATE - CONTINUOUS

Xuan walks slowly towards the gate, no longer with the same enthusiasm as she used to have. She reaches for the lid of the letterbox, hesitating again when she puts her fingers on top of it. She opens the letterbox - there is nothing inside.

Tear start to well up in her eyes.

Further down the street, a shadow of a man appears. He takes a few steps forward.

KANG

阿萱。

Xuan looks up, staring at Kang in disbelief. He is standing there in front of her, and he smiles.

INT. GRANDFATHER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Hyo finishes with the final letter, sighing as he sets it down on his lap. He puts the letters carefully back into the box and closes the lid, putting it into the cardboard box with the rest of his grandfather's belongings.

He is about to continue with the packing but he stops and looks back at the tin box. He picks it up again and puts it down beside his laptop. Reaching for his stylus, he begins to draw a new animation frame, one that's of a straw heart.

END