

BAO

By

Michael Zammit

14/01/19

RADIO STATIC OVER BLACK. A VOICE STRUGGLING TO COME THROUGH.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

JIN (32) sits behind the wheel of a CAR moving at SPEED. Heart pumping out of his chest, OFFICE TIE loose around his neck, wide eyes locked on the rapidly unfolding road.

THE CAR RADIO VOICE intermittently speaks in between static.

RADIO VOICE (V.O.)
 Fitting that - which destroys us -
 brought us back, as one.
 (Static interruption)
 You are not alone.

Tears in his eyes, Jin grinds the car to a halt, jumps out, leaving the door wide open. He sprints up a short lawn towards a MODEST HOUSE.

RADIO VOICE (V.O.)
 Something will find a way to carry
 on. Life is precious.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Jin bursts into a HALLWAY. Listens to the SILENCE for a few seconds. The house a haven, unaffected by the chaos. Until --

All the HOUSE LIGHTS suddenly cut out. DARKNESS.

Jin anxiously looks into the empty lounge, kitchen --

A WOMAN'S VOICE SCREAMS UPSTAIRS

JIN
 SU!?

Jin runs up the stairs, stalls at the top of the landing, finding a small POOL OF BLOOD-STAINED WATER on the floor.

The WOMAN'S VOICE, now more a GROAN, CRIES OUT, coming from behind a DOOR AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY. Jin hurriedly approaches, walks through the door to find --

SU (30), his wife, PREGNANT and about to give birth. She's stood, hunched over, leaning on a small cabinet for support.

The room, CANDLE LIT, is newly decorated, BABY CRIB in the corner, PINK BALLOONS tied to it.

Their eyes meet and with a look of horror on his face, Jin runs out of the room.

SU

JIN!?

Jin returns with bed sheets, lays them on the floor. Su lies down, SCREAMING OUT. Contractions coming fast and hard.

SU (CONT'D)

I don't think I can do this.

Jin gently places his head against hers.

JIN

You can. Nothing's stopping us from meeting our girl. Breathe...

Su calms, sinking her breaths with Jin's.

NOT LONG LATER

Jin sits against the cabinet on the floor, Su and BABY in his lap, arms wrapped around them. All exhausted, but serene. Mother and father look adoringly down at their daughter now nestled in a blanket, as the room begins to LIGHTLY TREMOR.

SU

Your father and I will love you forever.

A thought hits her --

SU (CONT'D)

Jin, we haven't come up with a name... she must have a name!

They both stare off, desperately thinking.

JIN

What about Bao?

Su smiles, agreeing. They both calm.

The room starts SHAKING VIOLENTLY. The BLAST WAVE APPROACHING, seconds away. 10...9...8...

Mother and father don't allow themselves to fear. They shut EVERYTHING ELSE OUT, getting lost in the last and only moments with their baby BAO, peaceful, a family, as --

IMPACT. Everything obliterated.

BLACK