

"SEPHONE"

first five pages

Written by

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ACT I

1 EXT. BEACH - GOLDEN HOUR 1

SUPER: Greenwich Beach, Prince Edward Island.

Red sand, honey sky. Tide by tide crashing on the bank.

CLOSER:

A GIRL (16) IN SUNDRESS stands with her back to us.

Holding sandals in one hand, a smooth stone in the other.

CLOSEST:

Her FACE: spikey lashes, orange cheeks, glossy lips.

She brushes a curled lock of hair out of her eyes-

PAM (O.S.)
(distant)
...b-ash-eun?

MORPH TO:

Her FACE: rough eyebrows, plain eyelids, chapped lips.

PAM (O.S.)
(DISTORTED)
S*B*STI*N!

[NOTE: Each time someone deadnames Sephone, censor it or turn it into any 3 syllable word starting with S.]

She snaps out of her trance.

SEPHONE
What?

2 EXT. GAZEBO, PAM'S BACKYARD - GOLDEN HOUR 2

Sephone hunches over a plate of fried lobster wearing a black suit and red tie. Her hair is just past her chin.

Across is her mother, PAMELA "PAM" LU (40s) in a red qipao with gold trim and wedding makeup.

Pam wipes sweat from Sephone's forehead with a napkin.

PAM

I booked you a haircut for next week. Don't want the other boys to think you're gay or something.

Between them sits Seph's grandma QIUYE "Q" LU (70s).

Q

I like the shag, it's hip.

PAM

What would you know about fashion?

Q

Excuse me!

[CAPTIONS: Drop it.]

Pam sighs "whatever" and sulks.

[CAPTIONS: It's me against two.]

Sephone ducks her head down.

[CAPTIONS: I'm developing a poor sense of self-worth.]

Joining them with a plate in hand is Sephone's now stepfather, BRIAN WHITMAN (40s) in a tux, bowtie, khakis.

Brian pats Pam on the shoulder. Sorely out of place.

BRIAN

Hey... Am I interrupting?

PAM

Not at all.

Q

I wish the whole family were here. You remember when cousin Vicky got married in Taiwan?

PAM

And relatives out in California even managed to show up, yes, I guess I must be more modest, mom.

SEPHONE

I think you did well.

4 EXT. GAZEBO, PAM'S BACKYARD - GOLDEN HOUR 4

BRIAN
Ethan from aerospace engineering
sends us his warmest wishes.

Q
A coworker. How polite.

Pam is about to explode. Sephone pushes her chair out.

SEPHONE
Pardon me. Washroom.

BRIAN
Everything alright?

SEPHONE
Yeah.

She forces a smile then heads into the beachside house.

5 INT. WASHROOM, PAM'S COTTAGE - GOLDEN HOUR 5

Sephone walks right past the open door.

6 EXT. SAND & BOARDWALK - LATER 6

Sephone searches for skipping stones, none are right.

Around, SUMMER TOURISTS swim and cliff-dive. RETIREES
paint. LOVEBIRDS split cups of gelato on benches.

CHEESE, an orange cat, ambles over to Sephone. It's
important that he has a slab of BUTTER on his head.

Cheese MEOWS.

[CAPTIONS: Pam again?]

SEPHONE
I can't stay a day longer.

7 EXT. MARINA - CONTINUOUS 7

A seagull take flight. FISHERS dock boats. Laundry hangs
from clotheslines.

SEPHONE (O.S.)
I'll never be who she wants me to
be. I can't make her listen.

Cheese MEOWS again, offscreen.

[CAPTIONS: Then leave. Ditch me like they all do.]

SEPHONE (O.S.)
You'll be fine without me.

8 EXT. BLUFFS - CONTINUOUS 8

On the highest bluff, a LIGHTHOUSE searchlight turns ON.

9 EXT. ANOTHER BEACH - SUNSET 9

Sephone looks out in the direction of the searchlight.

Cheese sniffs a lobster roll in Sephone's hand.

[CAPTIONS: But how will you protect yourself out there?]

SEPHONE
Pepper spray?

Cheese attempts to nibble at the lobster roll.

[CAPTIONS: I do.]

SEPHONE (CONT'D)
Hey! No! Cats can't have these,
you'll die.

Cheese persists.

Sephone tosses the lobster roll into the water.

Cheese MEOWS.

[CAPTIONS: You know what? Maybe I won't miss you.]

SEPHONE'S POV:

Black sand, burnt sky. A deep twilight.

[SCORE: "The Moon Represents My Heart", an instrumental.]

10 INT. SEPHONE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 10

Behind glass, the MOON and LIGHTHOUSE BEAM shine.
Carefully, Sephone climbs in through the window.

Suit jacket on her arm, she tosses it onto a chair.

The floor is an elaborate maze of shiny skipping stones, sand dollars, metal trinkets, dirty laundry. Her table holds DA VINCI PAPERS and a STEAMPUNK GLOBE.

A huge poster of Eileen Vollick on the wall by her bed.

[SCORE: Cut music.]

And IN SEPHONE'S BED sits PAM.

PAM

What did I do to make you hate me.

SEPHONE

How long were you waiting here?

PAM

SRIR*CHA LU. How could you be so selfish. Running off on the family the night of my second wedding, nearly gave Q another heart attack-

SEPHONE

Q does tai chi-

PAM

-sneaking back way past your curfew from god knows where!

(phasing out)

I thought you'd start acting like a proper young man by now, but no, you want to abandon your family, just like your father-

Sephone tunes out Pam and looks out the window.

11 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

11

The first stars peek out one by one. Tides crash. The night sky blooms into Van Gogh-like swirls.

12 INT. SEPHONE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

12

PAM

(snapping)

Hello? Answer me!

SEPHONE

Huh?