

"SEPHONE"

(first three 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, it may be partially censored and/or turn into any three 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.

(CONTINUED)

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, we were just saying-

Q

-that I wish the whole family could be here on your special day. You remember when cousin Vicky got married in Taiwan, relatives out in California even managed to show up. But I see you're more modest.

A pause, nobody can quite respond.

It is a tiny reception. A handful of other tables nearby dine a distance off by the shore.

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.