

Screenplay

A SECOND CHANCE

FADE IN:

MONTAGE:

Vietnamese boat people starving and dying on sea.

Boat people rescued by a U.S ship and transferred to refugee camps.

The following are superimposed on the montage:

After the Vietnam War, thousands of South Vietnamese fled their country by boat to escape from the tyrannical reign of the North Vietnamese leaders...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

MONTAGE:

Sponsors from America accepting Vietnamese families for refuge in church.

Vietnamese kids going to school.

Vietnamese parents washing dishes, cutting grass, delivering news paper.

The following are superimposed on the montage:

Finding life in the new land, many Vietnamese became successful and begin to heal their fresh wounds from the war...

FADE TO BLACK.

(FADE IN:)

(cont) some were not as lucky however, as their sufferings after the war only marked the beginning of their new struggle in America

FADE IN:

MONTAGE:

A shady room dimly with a group of Vietnamese smoking and drinking.

Knives and pistols are scattered on the table along with drugs, money and playing cards.

FADE OUT.

INT. POOL HALL. NIGHT

Close up of an 8-ball, the ball is hit as it rolls and falls into the hole.

KHANG (18) wearing a gray paneled shirt and black pants jumps off his STOOL and walks to the pool table

KHANG

You got it again Hung.

HUNG (19) A skinny but fit teenager with a serious face stands up after hitting the ball into the hole and looks at his friend.

HUNG

Yeah, down the hole every time...like always.

Khang throws down a STACK OF MONEY and starts counting.

KHANG

Twenty, thirty, forty...damn! You robbing me of my greens today...

Khang takes a CIGARETTE off his ear and puts it in his mouth, he searches inside his pocket for a lighter as he continues to mumble numbers.

KHANG (CONT'D)

Fifty five, sixty...hey you got a lighter? Ey yo Hung...hey...

Khang looks up at Hung as Hung gives no answer to Khang.

Khang catches Hung looking straight to the other side of the pool hall.

Khang follow Hung's eye as he sees a group of around 10 Chinese teenagers staring at Hung from the other side.

(CONTINUED)

KHANG (CONT'D)

Chill yo, we're in their part of town.

Hung continues to look at the other side for a while before going back to set the pool table.

Hung continues to set up the pool table and grabs Khang's money, he starts counting.

HUNG

Twenty, thirty...sixty...Ey Khang you still own me ten dawg...

Khang gives no answer and Hung looks up at Khang.

Khang is looking straight at the other side of the pool hall.

Hung follow Khang's eyes to see that the whole group is walking towards them.

The group gains speed and starts running towards them.

Hung and Khang violently throw stools at the gang.

The gang spread out to dodge the stool.

Hung picks up a pool stick and come charging at the closest person to him.

Khang runs outside and disappears from the pool hall.

Hung whacks his rival with the pool stick.

The rival blocks but breaks his own wrist in the process.

Hung hits him on the head with the stick one more time knocking him out.

Two other gang members jump on the pool table with pool sticks and swing down at Hung.

Hung dips the attack and swing at one of the guy's legs.

Hung hits the guy's face as he falls down on the pool table.

The other guy jumps down from the table and wrestle Hung to the floor.

The rest of the gang runs over and stumps on Hung's face and body.

(CONTINUED)

KHANG(O.S)
Hurry the fuck up yo! They're in
here!!

A group of Vietnamese gang come running from outside led by Khang with brass knuckles and wooden sticks.

The rival gang lets go of Hung and turn their attention to the Khang and his gang.

As one of the rival turn to walk towards Khang, Hung sweeps his leg.

The rival falls face down slamming his nose onto the side of the pool table.

Hung gets up and pounds the guy on his face.

A huge fight breaks out between the two gangs.

Shortly after police sirens is heard and everyone scatters.

Hung was still beating on one of his rival gang members as the police comes in and cuffs both of them.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. COURT ROOM. DAY

Hung is standing in trial in the court room as the JUDGE reads his sentence.

JUDGE
Vandalism, public disturbance,
misconduct, fighting...

The Judge's voice slowly fades away as Hung looks around and remembers how he gets here.

Flash back of Hung and HUY(49), a Vietnamese lawyer talking

INT. HOLDING CELL. DAY

HUY
You owe your father on this one, I
would never defend someone like
you.

(CONTINUED)

HUNG

My father got nothing to do with me.

HUY

He's got a lot to do with you.

HUNG

I don't want to owe him or you anything.

HUY

You never had a choice, your parents nurished you since before you had coherrant thoughts, you owe them your very breathe.

HUNG

To do what? Help me grow so I can work and pay him back when I'm old enough?

Huy sits back in his chair and sighs.

HUY

I knew you since your family first came here.

HUNG

Picked the wrong family to be friends with.

HUY

What happened to you?

HUNG

I stopped being traditional.

HUY

why?

HUNG

Because in this society, no one is.

HUY

That's what make us different and special.

HUNG

Different...not special.

Hung closes his eyes as Huy's voice fades away.

(CONTINUED)

FADE TO BLACK

The Judge's voice slowly gets louder until he can be heard clearly.

JUDGE(O.S)

And you are now sentenced to 6
months of community service based
on the above charges.

BANG! Hung's eyes open as the sound of the Judge's hammer slams on the desk.

EXT. OUTSIDE VIETNAMESE'S NURSING HOME. DAY

Hung is outside a Vietnamese nursing home with a bucket of paint and brushes, looking at a wall filled with graffiti from top to bottom with his back turned.

Hung continues to look at the wall while gripping up the paint bucket, muttering to himself.

HUNG

That's bullshit, why the hell do I
have to clean up the Chinks'
graffiti?

THANH(63), an old man in a wheel chair rolls himself out of the nursing home right next to Hung, listening to his mutterings

The old man looks at Hung as Hung completely ignores him and continues to stare at the wall.

The old man start speaking (the rest of the conversation, THANH speaks in Vietnamese and Hung speaks in English).

THANH

Aren't you a chink too?

Hung turn around.

HUNG

The hell?

THANH

Don't talk to old people like that.

HUNG

I'm not in the mood old man.

(CONTINUED)

THANH

You draw on the wall so you clean
it, it's fair.

HUNG

I didn't draw on the wall

THANH

Your friends did.

HUNG

They're not my friends.

THANH

So you're not Chinese?

HUNG

I'm talking to you man, how am I
Chinese?

THANH

You talk English, I don't know

HUNG(IN VIET)

Then how am I understanding
you then?

THANH

Oh! you are Viet.

Hung roll his eyes and puts down the paint bucket, he starts
dipping the brush into the paint bucket madly and sloppily.

THANH (CONT'D)

Be careful, you dropping paint on
the floor.

HUNG

Yo would you just...

THANH

Just looking out, what if they make
you repaint the whole side walk
because you drop paint all over it?

HUNG

Old man! Get away from me, go back
to your home.

THANH

I don't have a home.

(CONTINUED)

HUNG
Well, go in there, inside there!

THANH
That's a nursing home, not my home.

HUNG
Whatever, just go.

THANH
I want fresh air.

HUNG
Then go get your fresh air else
where.

THANH
I get fresh air here everyday.

HUNG
Where?

THANH
There.

HUNG
There where?

THANH
There there, where you standing.

HUNG
What?

THANH
Yeah there!

HUNG
Arhh! What the fuck? That's it!
Hung throws the brush on the floor
and walks away

Thanh looks at Hung walking away and make a sad face then
looks down.

VI(19), a beautiful girl with long bangs and a high pony
tail runs out of the nursing and come to aid Thanh.

VI
Common, let's go inside, that's
enough for today.

THANH

I want my fresh air.

VI

I understand but let's inside OK?

THANH

No! That guy took my spot!

Hung over hears it and turns around to throw a tantrum.

HUNG

Yo man I ain't never took no...

Hung pauses for a bit as he is stung by Vi's beauty.

Vi continues to comfort Thanh and tries to wheel him back inside as Hung continues to look at Vi.

Vi turns around to catch a glimpse of Hung looking at her as she wheels Thanh back into the nursing home.

EXT. OUTSIDE VIETNAMESE'S NURSING HOME. EVENING

Vi comes out of the nursing home waving goodbye to Thanh.

Hung looks at Vi and then at Thanh.

Thanh looks at Hung and then at Vi.

Thanh points at Hung and gives a thumbs down.

Vi laughs and leaves.

Hung waits until Vi turns the corner and walks towards Thanh.

HUNG

Hey hey, who's was that?

THANH

Go away you took my fresh air.

HUNG

Aww common man, I didn't know.

THANH

Yes you did, you disrespect old people.

(CONTINUED)

HUNG

You caught me at a bad time.

THANH

Never do that again to me.

HUNG

Ok, done deal.

THANH

I'm not stupid, you're being nice to me because of the girl.

HUNG

No I'm not.

THANH

Yes you are.

HUNG

No, I'm not like that.

THANH

But it's OK.

HUNG

yeah?

THANH

If you buy me beef noodle everyday I'll help you.

HUNG

You forreals?

THANH

Yeah you pay though.

HUNG

Yeah yeah, I can do that for sure.

Hung and Thanh shakes hands

Hung and Thanh both laugh

INT. VIETNAMESE NOODLE HOUSE. DAY

Vi is ordering beef noodle as Hung walks in the store filled with paint all over his outfit.

Hung stands behind Vi and waits for her to finish ordering.

(CONTINUED)

Hung cuts in front of her and pays for her food as soon as she's done ordering.

VI

No thank you, I can pay for myself.

Vi pushes Hung aside and pays for her own food.

Vi sits down and wait for her food.

HUNG

Can I get a number three please?
With meat balls.

Hung sits down next to Vi.

HUNG

Hey, I saw you yesterday.

VI

I know, I've seen you.

HUNG

Yeah I just want to...

VI

I don't want to talk to you OK?

HUNG

Why?

VI

Don't you think your people have
done enough to that old man?

HUNG

What? I just met him.

Vi's eyes start to water.

Hung frowns and looks confused.

CASHIER

Number 86!

Vi picks up her order

HUNG

Please wait!

Vi doesn't answer and walks straight out the door.

Hung looks after her still confused.

EXT. OUTSIDE VIETNAMESE'S NURSING HOME. DAY

Hung waits for Thanh to come out of the nursing home.

Thanh comes out with a pair of chopsticks ready in his hands.

Hung chuckles and walks towards him.

HUNG

Here you go, number three with meatballs.

THANH

Oh yeah baby that's good stuff.

Thanh waste no time chowing down.

THANH

Hey where's your lunch?

HUNG

I forgot to order it.

THANH

You're getting old young man.

HUNG

No, it's just that I ran into her this morning.

THANH

Who? Vi?

HUNG

Oh her name's Vi?

THANH

You didn't know?

HUNG

Why would I?

THANH

I thought young people know everything.

HUNG

I thought it was the other way around.

(CONTINUED)

THANH

We do, but we also forget easily.

HUNG

Hey, can I ask you something?

THANH

Is it nasty?

HUNG

Nah, nothing like that.

THANH

Good, cause I'm eating.

HUNG

In the store, Vi mentioned that I did something to you?

THANH

What? Se just met.

HUNG

That's what I say!

HUNG

Did something happened to you though?

THANH

I got old.

Hung scratches head.

HUNG

Nah man I mean like something big, tramatic.

Thanh pauses for a bit, gripping onto his chopsticks.

Hung is oblivious and keeps asking.

HUNG

You know, something crazy, like gang related stuff or something.

Thanh throws away his bowl of noodles and screams

HUNG

Whoa wait wait wait, what happened? What did I say?

Thanh throws a tantrum and cries loudly.

(CONTINUED)

Vi and a few other girls run out of the nursing home.

Vi come to aid Thanh and he pushes her off.

THANH(CRYING)
Why did you tell him, why?

VI
I'm so sorry, please come inside
OK?

Thanh slams his fist against the wheel chair and weeps

THANH
Give me back my sons, give them
back

Vi turns and looks at Hung furiously as he wheels Thanh inside.

Hung stands there frozen and shocked by Thanh's reaction.

INT. KHANG'S CRIB. NIGHT

Hung sits back on the sofa as Khang and the rest of the gang plays thirteen while drinking beer.

A girl snuggle up next to Hung, falling on his shoulder.

She tries to kiss Hung but he looks away.

Khang notices this and come sit next to Hung.

Khang ask the girl to move away and offer Hung a beer.

KHANG
What's good man? Community service
too much for you?

HUNG
Nah...

KHANG
You sure you're OK?

HUNG
Yeah I'm good.

KHANG
Good, because I need you to be
alert.

(CONTINUED)

HUNG

For what?

KHANG

Something's about to go down tomorrow.

HUNG

Why?

KHANG

Know them fools you fucked up? They've seen you painting outside the Nursing home.

HUNG

Oh shit forreals?

KHANG

Yeah, not to sound fucked up or nothing but we need you to lure these cats out.

Hung sips some beer and nodd his head

Khang laughs loudly

KHANG

This community service business is useful after all!

EXT. OUTSIDE VIETNAMESE'S NURSING HOME. DAY

Hung is painting the wall and occasionally checking for any suspicious people.

Hung rubs his back pocket once in a while.

A glimpse of a knife handle is seen as Hung rubs his pocket.

Thanh rolls out from the nursing home and calls to Hung.

THANH

Where is my noodle?

HUNG

What? I thought you wouldn't want any after yesterday.

THANH

What happened yesterday?

(CONTINUED)

HUNG
You went crazy and...

VI
Stop it!

Vi comes out of the nursing home and cuts Hung off before he finishes the question.

Vi wheels Thanh back inside and looks at Hung.

VI
I need to talk to you, stay right there.

Hung sits down on the steps waiting for Vi.

Vi comes out after a few minutes.

VI
Come with me.

HUNG
Where are we going?

VI
We can't talk about the patients here, I could get in trouble.

EXT. SIDE WALK IN A PARK. DAY

Hung and Vi are walking and talking.

HUNG
If I did anything, I'm sorry.

VI
Listen, I know you're not all bad, Thanh told me about the whole noodle thing.

HUNG
Did he tell you I wanted to...

VI
Yeah and he say don't fall for it, you're just using him.

Hung laughs

(CONTINUED)

HUNG

Damn, that's messed up!

VI

It's OK, I can judge for myself.

HUNG

Yeah?

VI

But I'm not here to talk about that, you need to stay away from Thanh.

HUNG

Why?

The two stop at a bench and sit down.

Vi gives a big sigh before speaking.

VI

Thanh's sons passed away two years ago in a drive-by shooting...

Cut away to Thanh sitting in his room.

INT. THANH'S ROOM. DAY

Thanh pulls out an old box with dusted pictures in it.

In the pictures there are three people: Thanh and his two sons.

Some pictures are of Thanh's sons and him on his birthday.

An older picture of Thanh's wife's funeral with his two young sons holding his hands crying in Vietnam.

Another picture of his two sons' funeral with Thanh crying by himself.

Thanh drops the pictures and bury his face in his hands as tears leaks through his fingers and drops onto the photos.

FADES OUT:

FADES IN:

EXT. PARK. DAY

Vi finishes up the story.

VI

Having already lost his wife at sea
and then his two sons in
America...Thanh just kind of lost
it.

Hung looks at Vi sadly.

Vi cries as she continues.

VI

I went to school with his sons.

Hung hands Vi some tissue.

VI(CONT)

When I volunteered for this job, I
didn't realize Thanh would be
there...

HUNG

I see you here most of the times
taking care of Thanh, when do you
find time for yourself?

VI

I don't have families or friends,
my only dedication is to this job
and school.

HUNG

Where are your families?

VI

My parents were killed by pirates
at sea while escaping Vietnam...

Hung looks around and sees a couple with their young son
eating in the park.

The son accidentally knock down a can of opened soda and is
scolded by the father.

The mother holds the son near and cleans up the mess.

The young kid then runs off to play ball.

The couple sit back and his father looks at his son and
smiles.

(CONTINUED)

Hung sighs.

Hung stands up and put out his hand.

Vi looks confused.

HUNG

Well, It is nice to officially meet you Vi, my name is Hung.

VI

I know, and I'm Vi.

Both Hung and Vi smiles as they walk back to the nursing home.

As Hung and Vi approach the nursing home they see Thanh waiting for them on the steps.

Hung and Vi waves hello to Thanh and Thanh give them the cheesiest smile.

HUNG

Vi...I know I'm probably not your type but after this whole community service thing is over...

Vi stops walking and looks at Hung.

HUNG

I would like to help you work at the nursing home, and in time, I hope to win you over, I won't lie, I really like you.

Hung then looks at Vi and makes a serious gangster face

HUNG

Can a gangster get some loving too?

Hung then breaks out of character and makes a silly puppy face.

Vi laughs out loud.

Hung walks back to his unfinished wall and Vi walks towards Thanh.

Hung notices a car approaching and sees Khang in it.

Hung smiles at Khang but see Khang completely serious.

(CONTINUED)

The car stops and Khang step out with four other members running towards Hung with machets and wooden sticks.

Hung reaches for his knife as Khang approaches.

KHANG

Behind you!

Hung turns around to see a group of 5 Chinese gangsters wielding long knives and bats.

One of the Chinese gangster kicks Thanh off his chair because he was in the way.

Thanh falls off and hits his head against the brick pavement.

Vi rushes over to help.

The two gangs collide but Hung does not participate.

Hung runs over to check on Thanh and Vi.

Hung helps Vi lift Thanh up and rush him into the nursing home.

KHANG

The fuck you doing Hung? we need back up!

Hung looks at Khang getting bashed by a bat, Khang's arm is broken as he staggers backward.

Hung looks at Vi as Thanh slowly regains consciousness.

Hung shakes his head and lets go of them.

HUNG

I'm sorry...

Hung pulls out his knife and runs towards Khang.

Thanh tries to grab Hung's shirt but misses.

Thanh struggle to yell with no strength,

THANH

No...my son, come back

The rival gang member is about to smash Khang in the face when Hung comes in and slash the other guy on the arms making him drop his bat.

(CONTINUED)

The rival gang member turns around punching Hung but Hung blocks it

HUNG

Stop man! Stop this bullshit!

Hung raise up his hands and drops the knife.

HUNG

No more fighting!

The rival gang looks confused for a second but quickly bend down to pick up the knife.

As he picks up the knife, Khang pulls out a 9mm and shoot him through his gut.

Blood splatters onto Hung's face.

The Chinese gang run away upon hearing the gunshot.

Khang points his gun at one of the Chinese gangster running closely to Vi

Hung catches Khang's hand and pushes it to the side.

HUNG

NO!

The shot is fired and the stray bullet goes right through Thanh's neck.

All sounds are blocked out and only heartbeat can be heard as Thanh falls to the floor.

Hung stands frozen, staring at the sight.

Vi is crying uncontrollably.

Hung turns and looks at Khang.

Hung sees Khang signalling him to run away as police cars are seen coming in the background.

Khang screams out but no audio is heard and Hung slowly turns back at Thanh and Vi.

Vi looks at Hung, whom's face is now filled with blood.

Tears roll down Vi's eyes.

Police approaches and surround the area.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

22.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

MONTAGE:

The nursing home is surrounded by police ducktape.

Flowers and stuffed animals are placed where Thanh died.

The walls is half painted, with one side completely new and the other filled with graffitti and cracked bricks.

FADE TO BLACK.