

Love is ColourBlind

(ending 3)

by
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LOVE IS COLOURBLIND

INT. CHINESE-CANADIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

HANJOO SOMERFIELD, 15 year old Korean girl is sitting across an ugly brown table from TERRY WILLIAMSON, a perky potbellied man in his mid-sixties wearing a cowboy hat. Hanjoo resembles a typical apathetic punk kid. They are at the back of his ritzy but dated Chinese-American restaurant. Carol is currently interviewing Hanjoo for a waitress position.

TERRY

Hanjoo Somerfield. Such a culturally diverse name! Where is it from? Let me guess. Vietnam!

HANJOO

Umm no it's Korean.

TERRY

Golly, I was out in Korea with the 21st regiment back in the fifties. How's the old country doing?

HANJOO

Ummm I dunno. I was adopted when I was 2 months old.

TERRY

Oh. I guess you can't speak the language then? (He tries to speak a couple of Korean phrases)

Hanjoo shakes her head.

TERRY (CONT'D)

That's a shame because we've never had an ethnic on our staff before and I'm sure our regulars would love to learn little trinkets of culture or how to properly pronounce the dishes.

Carol goes into the closet and brings out a tacky looking Kimono.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Here is your uniform. We have them imported from China. Those Chinamen have their craftsmanship really nailed to the tee. Amazing work for a fraction of the cost too!

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Hanjoo forcefully smiles.

EXT. CHINESE-CANADIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

Hanjoo storms out of the restaurant with her kimono and shows the tacky kimono to MITCHELL DAVIS, her thugged out best friend. They snicker.

MITCHELL

Bullshit!

HANJOO

I know!

She shoves the kimono in her bag, lights up a cigarette and they start walking through the idyllic main street of Canmore, Alberta.

Credits roll over a montage of a the wealthy small town full boutiques, ski chalets, tourist attractions, idyllic scenery and mansion filled neighborhoods.

INT. SOMERFIELD HOUSE - DAY

Hanjoo arrives home. The house resembles a typical white home but gaudily accented with Asian art, multi-cultural trinkets and pieces of art by Sherry. SHERRY SOMERFIELD, the matriarch of the household, is a worldly artist in her mid forties, with a lanky frame and frizzy hair. She is nakedly rolling around in paint on a gigantic canvas. SERENITY SOMERFIELD, her other adopted Korean daughter, is patiently flicking latex paint from a bucket onto the canvas for her mother to roll over. *NEW AGE MUSIC* is playing on the stereo in the background. Serenity notices the arrival of Hanjoo.

SERENITY

Hanjoo can you help mommy mix the red and the yellow paint together? We need more orange paint.

HANJOO

Why?

SERENITY

Because red and yellow make orange.

Hanjoo sullenly goes over to the paints and starts mixing them.

SHERRY

(while rolling around on the canvas)

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SHERRY(CONT'D)

Honey, how did the job interview go with Terry?

HANJOO

Stupid.

SHERRY

Oh no, did he pick someone else for the job?

HANJOO

No. He's just a fucking douchbag.

SERENITY

No swearing in the house. You're being a bad example.

SHERRY

Hanjoo don't use that kind of violent language in front of your sister. You know it's bad for early childhood development

Hanjoo continues to sullenly mix the paint but sabotaging the mixture with globs of brown to make the bright orange less vibrant.

INT. SERENITY'S BEDROOM - DAWN

It is 5:59 am in the morning. Everyone is peacefully asleep except for Serenity who is wide awake in her bed. Her clock strikes six.

SERENITY

Wake up mommy, it's time for halloween!

INT. SHERRY'S BATHROOM - LATER

Sherry is meticulously fixing Hello Kitty barrettes onto Serenity's pigtails to complete her China doll costume. Serenity is sporting a red kid-sized Cheongsam. Sherry is sporting a tacky kimono with half done geisha makeup. Hanjoo is leaning against the door frame in an oversized X-files shirt and half-assed alien antenna with Goth makeup.

HANJOO

Mom, it's pretty obvious that she's Asian, you really don't need to dress her up as one to illustrate the fact.

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SERENITY
I'm not just an Asian, I'm an Asian
PRINCESS!

HANJOO
Then where's your crown?

SERENITY
Asian princesses don't wear crowns.
What's your costume Hanjoo?

HANJOO
I'm an Alien.

SERENITY
Umm you don't look like one. Why
isn't your face green?

HANJOO
Shut up. Why can't you just be a
normal princess like everyone else.

SHERRY
Don't give your sister such a hard
time. She's trying to share her
culture with her class. Besides,
there's no fun to being a normal
princess.

SERENITY
Yeah. I'm special because I'm
different.

Hanjoo gives them a dirty look and walks away.

INT. PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOM - LATER

The grade 3 classroom is in the midst of doing presentations on their Halloween costumes. MR. DALTON, a teacher in his mid fifties is sitting at the back grading the class.

SERENITY
I'm dressed up as an Asian
princess. You can tell because of
the Cheongsam I am wearing. They
don't wear crowns like we do in
Asia. Being a Asian princess is
really cool because they had
servants doing everything for them.
They didn't even have to leave the
imperial palace and just sat in the
garden all day.

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CONTINUED:

TEACHER

Good job Serenity. Does anyone have any questions about her special costume?

SHAUN

What country in Asia are you a princess from?

SERENITY

Ummm all of them.

SHAUN

You can't be from ALL of them. You have to pick one.

TEACHER

Shaun that's enough from you!

JESSIE

Ummm do the princesses in Asia not wear crowns because they're poor?

SERENITY

Of course not! People aren't poor in Asia.

JESSIE

Yes they are! My mom said so!

SERENITY

Your mom's wrong. I know because I'm Asian.

TEACHER

Girls stop arguing!

COREY

Were you adopted because your mom died of AIDS? Like those kids in the commercials?

TEACHER

Corey that's not an appropriate question to ask.

COREY

Why?

TEACHER

It just isn't. Serenity you can sit down now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The boy in the seat behind Serenity goes up to the front dressed as a bloody chain-saw massacre victim. As Serenity goes to sit down. Jessie whispers over.

JESSIE

My mom is always right. Maybe
you're wrong because you're not a
real Asian.

INT. SOMERFIELD KITCHEN - EVENING

Serenity is in the midst of assisting Sherry in folding a gigantic paper crane out of a huge piece of origami paper on the kitchen floor.

SERENITY

Am I a real Asian mom?

SHERRY

Of course you are! Why would you
ask that?

SERENITY

Because Jessie said I wasn't today.

SHERRY

That's silly. Even if you weren't
really from Asia you could be
whatever you wanna sweetie.

SERENITY

I don't think I wanna be different
anymore. Can I stop being Asian?

SHERRY

Why would you want to do that?
Being Asian is what makes you
special. It's not fun being a
boring regular person. That's
probably why Jessie said that
stuff, she's probably jealous.

Sherry finishes folding the crane, opens it up and starts painting it with black India ink. The paint makes the crane look gaudy and too "extra".

SERENITY

Where in Asia do I come from?

SHERRY

Korea honey.

(CONTINUED)

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SERENITY
Can we go back to visit.

SHERRY
Sure.

SERENITY
Can we go this weekend.

SHERRY
Asia's very far honey. Maybe next summer.

SERENITY
But I wanna go now.

INT. "LOVE SEES NO COLOUR" FESTIVAL - DAY

Sherry and Hanjoo are sitting in a conference hall amongst an audience filled with white adoptive parents and a potpourri of ethnic toddlers. Serenity is running around the room wearing a "love see's no colour" t-shirt and multicoloured balloons. There is an expensive banner bearing the same slogan at the front.

HANJOO
Why are we here again?

SHERRY
Serenity has been asking a lot of questions about her culture lately and I thought that this would be a good opportunity for her to socialize with members of the ethnic community.

HANJOO
Everyone's white here other than the babies. What is she going to do? Teach them how to walk?

SHERRY
Why must you be such a downer Hanjoo. This might be a good learning experience for her and maybe you too.

The lights dim and MRS. THOMPSON, a portly middle-aged woman walks onto the podium wearing a *Love sees no Colour* t-shirt hand in hand with KASEKO, an 8 year old black boy.

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KASEKO

Love sees no color, no race, no religion, we are the same as the rays from the sun. Love sees no color, no race, no religion. Only through love can we live as one.

Everyone starts applauding heartily. Kaseko walks off the stage.

MRS. THOMPSON

Like famous words of Fred Nassiri, we as transracial adoptive parents have proved that there is no difference between children from Ethiopia to children from Vietnam. We are all of one species and speak one language, the international language of love.

Applause.

MRS. THOMPSON (CONT'D)

Racism is a thing of the past and we are on the forefront of a new social movement, a new globalized raceless community, a new world, a world of peace-

Everyone is avidly listening to the speaker, one woman is even in tears. Hanjoo groans in her seat and puts her earbuds on.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Hanjoo and Serenity is watching news coverage of Korea's alleged nuclear weapons test. She flips the channel and shows a historical documentary on the Korean War and the unwanted orphaned Korean babies walking barefoot on the streets.

SERENITY

Are people from Korea the bad guys? Like the Russians in James Bond?

HANJOO

Uhhh no. Americans are just being stupid.

SERENITY

But aren't WE Americans and why would they want to bomb us if they weren't the bad guys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HANJOO

Well like the Americans they're
doing stupid things too.

SERENITY

I don't get it, how could the good
guys and the bad guys both be
stupid.

HANJOO

The world's a very stupid place
with no good guys only bad guys.

SERENITY

Hmmmmph I think you're just lying
to scare me. I'm glad mom rescued
us from the bad guys in Korea.

HANJOO

Whatever.

Sherry comes home with a small box.

SHERRY

Honey, you know you wanted to visit
Asia? Well since we can't go there
right now I've brought a little
piece of Asia home with me.

SERENITY

Ohhh what is it! An Asian princess?

Sherry opens the a small box revealing a giant panda adoption
kit, with a little stuffed panda, a picture of a white
environmentalist holding a panda named Mei Mei, a DVD and a
colourful adoption brochure.

SHERRY

We're going to adopt a Giant Panda!

Serenity grabs the stuffed panda and starts screaming
joyfully and running around the room.

Hanjoo takes the framed picture of the woman and panda and
puts it on a shelf filled with cheesy adoption pictures of
Sherry first with Hanjoo and then Sherry with Serenity. All
of the pictures have sullen faced locals in the background.

HANJOO

What an uncanny resemblance.

EXT. SKATEPARK - MAGIC HOUR

Hanjoo is sitting at the side of the drinking a 40 hidden inside a paper bag while Mitchell pops out from the lip of the bowl.

HANJOO

My mom's so fucking lame, my sister is going through some racial identity crisis so she adopts a Giant Panda to help her cope.

MITCHELL

There's a panda at your house right now? That's wicked.

HANJOO

No douchbag! It's through some agency. They send us pictures.

Mitchell drops back into the bowl.

HANJOO (CONT'D)

I hate how she thinks that adopting shit like pandas is going to expose my dumbass sister to Asian culture.

MITCHELL

Maybe your sister should just read a book about Asia or somethin'. Learn it like y'know how we learn math.

HANJOO

Ha, I doubt that'll help. But I think we could "teach" them a lesson.

MITCHELL

We?

HANJOO

Do you have any spray paint and toilet paper?

EXT. SOMERFIELD HOUSE - MORNING

Chink, yellow skins, don't bomb us Korea graffiti is left garage door of the Somerfield house while chunks of toilet paper decorates the rest of building. A news van is parked on the driveway.

INT. SOMERFIELD HOUSE - DAY

Sherry Somerfield, with Serenity sitting by her side is being interviewed by a REPORTER, a blond generic looking journalist.

REPORTER

Missey, how do you feel about the horrible words on your garage?

SERENITY

Really sad because I don't like mean people.

REPORTER

What monsters would do such a thing and target such an innocent little girl? Mrs. Somerfield, how do you feel about this incident has it affected your sense of security?

SHERRY

I'm pretty sure that this is just an isolated incident due to the recent anti-Korean sentiments on the news. But this has really opened my eyes to the need for education about sensitive cultural issues and co-cultural existence. Thus I'm going to be exhibiting some of my current Asian themed work at the Jacksonville gallery next week. In hopes to spread the word about cultural tolerance and diversity.

Reporter continues with the interview while Hanjoo rolls her eyes while watching from the staircase.

INT. JACKSONVILLE GALLERY - NIGHT

Hanjoo is staring straight ahead of her in sheer and utter resentment.

Asia is my Vagina: an exhibition by Sherry Somerfield is stenciled into the wall of the gallery. All sorts of white people are milling around the exhibition space. At one end of the room there is a piece showing a woman at various stages of the masturbatory process with unflattering synthetic fur to accent certain parts of genitalia and infused with gold Asian style lettering.

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On the other end, a Christmas tree with pictures of orphans from different cultures as tinsel stands against a map of the world. On another wall there is a projection piece of a porno intercut with a travel film about Asia. On yet another side of the gallery hangs a seemingly pointless pollock with stencils of Mao's face spread evenly over the expanse of the large canvas. Overhead are giant origami cranes with black patterns painted on. In the middle of the gallery, an obese Caucasian woman wearing a long black wig is painting Chinese letters onto another obese Caucasian woman's back.

At the side of the room. The same reporter from the house is interviewing Sherry (in an expensive looking kimono), Serenity (in her Cheongsam) and the sullen Hanjoo. They are standing around a mixed media piece titled Serenity. It consists of a bridge composed of Serenity's smiling pictures connected to a smiling painting of Kim Jong-il (N. Korean dictator) dismantling nuclear missiles.

REPORTER

Sherry, can you tell us a bit about this piece you made titled Serenity?

SHERRY

Well it's inspired by my daughter and represents how we can bridge the gap between cultures and work towards world peace through love and cultural adoption. I used the nuclear arms race in North Korea as an example of a current event we could apply this technique to.

REPORTER

A spectacular and brilliant achievement Sherry. What do you think about your mother's work?

SERENITY

I think it's very pretty and shows that she loves me very much and that those bad guys in Korea should stop making bombs.

REPORTER

Such an insightful and articulate little girl. How about you, as the elder sister you must be really proud of both your mother and your sister.

Hanjoo shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HANJOO

No comment.

REPORTER

C'mon now don't be shy.

SERENITY

(Whispers in her ear)

Say something, you're embarrassing
mom.

HANJOO

Okay. Fine. I think this is lame.
And that this piece is bullshit.

SHERRY

Hanjoo's not normally like this
it's probably just stress from the
recent racial attack-

HANJOO

Mom stop. I vandalized our house to
show how big fucking hypocrites we
are. Face it, adopting Korean kids
isn't gonna stop the next world
war.

SERENITY

Shut up Hanjoo. You are being so
mean you should be grateful that
mom rescued us from Korea.

HANJOO

You shut up! You're just a little
doll that mom collected from Korea
as a souvenir.

Serenity gasps.

SHERRY

Can you please turn off the camera.

Sherry pulls Hanjoo aside, Serenity follows. Sherry is
visibly distraught.

SHERRY (CONT'D)

What's gotten into you.

HANJOO

I hate you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SHERRY

Too bad I'm your mother and I love you.

HANJOO

Thats the lamest thing I've heard tonight.

SHERRY

Why are you being so resentful?
What do you want from me? Can't you see I'm trying my best?

HANJOO

That's the problem. Stop trying period. We don't live like Asian people, we're not supposed to live like Asian people. We're just a regular whiteass family in the whitest part of Alberta. Let's just deal with it and be white. Forget trying to be Asian and let's try to be Canadian okay?

INT. PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Dalton is in front of the class dictating to his students. He writes *what Canada means to me* on the board and underlines it.

MR. DALTON

Next week we're doing a presentation on Canada. Can anyone give me some examples of what Canada is.

Everyone looks at him blankly, finally Corey raises his hand.

COREY

Ummm hockey?

MR. DALTON

(writes it on the board)

Sure.

JESSIE

Moose?

MR. DALTON

Good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PAUL
Lots of land.

MR. DALTON
Okay.

Everyone looks puzzled.

MR. DALTON (CONT'D)
Okay according to our class, Canada
is Hockey, Moose and lots of land.
It seems to me that everyone needs
to go home and think a bit harder.

SCHOOL BELL RINGS.

INT. SOMERFIELD HOUSE

Serenity is sitting at the dining room table with a piece of
blank looseleaf in front of her and the title *Canada*
underlined twice. Sherry doing yoga in front of the
television.

SERENITY
Mommy what is Canada?

SHERRY
Everything around us honey.

SERENITY
You mean the trees and the houses
and the cars and stuff?

SHERRY
Sure.

SERENITY
That's boring. Can I just use my
imagination and pretend things
about Canada.

SHERRY
Sure.

Serenity pauses to think for a bit and then starts writing...

Canada is...full of aliens.

FADE OUT.