

Little White Boat

程月旻
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Characters

Voice
Mother Fly
Man thirty something, homosexual
Mother sixty something
Grandma over eighty, on the middle stage of the Alzheimer's disease

[International red-eye flight.

[The sound of snoring, the sound of typing on the keyboard, the sound of baby crying.

[A mother fly who's going to give birth to her kids around the rack.

Voice You haven't found the right place!
The place with warmth, humidity and nutrition!
The place suitable for your babies!
Don't give up!
Open up your 4000 little red eyes!
Stir up the air with your white wings!
Sing the song of your buzz-buzz song!
Don't give up!

Mother Fly Who gives up!

Voice You've got to have two hundred babies soon!

Mother Fly I'm going to be free! I'm going to be free! Buzzzzzzzz!

Man *(eating instant noodle soup)* What a coincidence! I thought, OMG, what a coincidence! Your son is my best friend in high school. His face, his figure, the way of his walking... he hasn't changed a bit. Every time I saw his poster, it reminds me of the memories in childhood. I've heard every single of him. I've been his fan ever since young. Yes, I'm his Number 1 fan. What a coincidence! *(Pause)* Does he have a girlfriend?

Mother *(waving her hands to get the mother fly who's flying around the instant noodle away)* Do you have any recommendation?

Man Does he have a girlfriend?

Mother I can't say anything about it.

Man He does, right?

Mother I can only say, I don't know anything about it.

Man I've seen him dating girls, in high school.

Mother I don't know if you tell me the truth.

Man I haven't criticized his personal life.

[Mother fly flies around the instant noodle bowl.]

Voice You can't stop you can't stop you can't stop
Give birth to your babies on the flight
You babies will be fine
They will be the fastest flies in the world

[Mother fly rests on the shoulder of the man.]

Mother fly I'm tried! I'm tired!

Voice What are you doing now?
Breath in- breath out- breath in- breath out
Relax
Spread your wings
Go up, fly, fly, fly

Mother fly Babies are coming!

Mother *(wipes the ascending mother fly onto the ground)* Ever since he studies aboard, he seldom went back home. Last year he visited us only during the spring festival, and this year, he hasn't been around at all. But I know he misses me. He sent me an article. I know he misses me. You know that there's a girl? The girl brings her grandmother to travel around the world?

Man Right? *(takes a glance at the grandmother falling asleep)*

Mother This girl is a fashion designer. Her grandmother has got into the same situation. *(takes a look at grandmother)* She's very sad. She wants to cheer her grandmother up in her left days, so she hires her grandmother to be her model. It actually eases her symptoms.

Man Right?

Mother I want to travel with my mother, too. I want to travel with my mother to visit my son, I told our nurse. One time in my life. I've never surprised him.

Man Haven't you told your son about this trip?

Mother One time in my life. I'm not travelling with colleagues. I go with my mother, to visit my son, in Paris.

[Mother fly struggles on the ground.]

Voice Don't give up, let yourself fly!

Mother fly The kids are coming! Buzzzzzzzzzz!

Mother *(in a soft voice)* When people are getting old, they behave like children. My mother can't live without me. Me neither. I'm like, travelling with my junior kid, to visit my senior kid. *(touches the forehead of grandmother)* She doesn't go out very often since spring festival, to avoid the flu. This time she's had some sleeping pills. Hope she could sleep well.

Mother fly *(gives up struggling)* I can't make it!

[Mother fly faints.

Man *(looks into his phone)* Look at the picture!

Mother Sure.

Man Are you familiar with VIKI? It's said they are an official couple for some time. Is it true?

Mother Whom?

Man Don't you read the news of your son?

Mother Of course I've seen it. *(Pause)* But I forgot.

Voice Your two hundred babies are waiting for you in the future!
Open up your 4000 little red eyes
Stir up the air with your white wings
Fly, fly, don't give up
Twenty kids on the left, they died!
Wake up!
Twenty kids in the middle, they died!
Wake up!
Twenty kids on the bottom, they died!
Wake up!
There's someone stepping on you!

[Mother fly finally wakes up and struggles to land on the table board.

Man You forget? VIKI or your son?

Mother Pieces of news, you know.

Man VIKI, the singer with the short hair. They broke up and got on for several times. Even their love songs have changed for several rounds.

Mother My son has never had girlfriends. Who he dates is the one he's going to marry. And for this girl, I haven't heard from him until now. He's not the kind of playboy. And all the kissing scenes in his movie are faked.

[Mother closes the table board, and mother fly is dropped onto the face of grandmother.]

Man How come!

Mother He told me so. All the kissing scene are faked. They don't even put the lips onto the face. The actress is not even on the scene sometimes. He's got the talent. He could kiss the paper girl. It's all about post production. *(Pause)* Paper man, I do have some paper man at home.

Man Has he moved away from home?

Mother Could the home be moved away?

Man Oh, your son moved all his things away from your home. Do you know who he is? Have you got any idea about his secret? Oh, perhaps it's because you know it.

Mother Have you finished? Can you throw away the instant noodle bowl?

Man The soup, I haven't finished.

Mother There's a fly rolling around.

[Mother reaches her hand out and wipes mother fly away.]

Mother But don't kill it in front of me.

[Man reaches his hand out and wipes mother fly away.]

Mother Our home doesn't have any secrets.

Man *(drinks the soup)* Alright.

Mother Grandmother's been like this for many years. We are living interdependently, in order to take care of her. When my mother's got the early Alzheimer's disease, she always got infuriated, and I decided to cut my working time. My son's going aboard to study at the same time. I worked during the day time, and took care of my mother in the evening. *(in solitude)* My son won the singing contest and became a singer then.

Man It's been more than ten years... *(Pause)* You know what? One third of the relatives of the Alzheimer's patients may get the disease. It's said that if the relatives living together with the one, the chance of getting dumber grows large.

Mother It's not a cold.

Man People living around the patients, people who are taking care of patients, they've got double chance to earn depression. It's written on scientific report. People are dying, and the feeling is contagious.

[Man used two fingers to pinch the mother fly.

Man Like this fly. It could feel that someone's dying.

[Man puts Mother fly into the garbage bag.

Man I heard that sometimes even the nurses will get the depression. Like the postpartum depression. The nurses coming from the village will get much slimmer, like those young pop stars. The senses of earning bad luck is contagious.

[Mother fly moves her body.

Voice Wake up! Wake up! Don't give up!

Mother fly How can I not give up!
My kids are dead on the flight!
They've never got a chance to see the sunshine!
I can't pull myself together anymore! Buzz-Buzz-Buzz!

Voice You've found the right place!
You are in the garbage bag!
You've found the right place!

Grandmother *(wakes up, struggling)* Where's my son? Where's my grandson?
Where am I? Where are we going?

[Mother fly is dropped out of the garbage bag with the struggling of grandmother, and lands on the arm of the chair.

[Her wings have been broken. She jumps onto mother's arm and hops to the corner of the windowsill.

Mother *(to grandmother)* Sleep, please, sleep. I'm having a chat with the fan of your grandson.

Grandma *(to man)* You come back!

Mother He's not your grandson. He likes your grandson's music.

Grandma Isn't it his best friend?

Mother He said he heard every single song of your grandson.

Grandma You come back!

Man I like him, grandmother!

Grandma Finally you come back!

Grandma Have you found a job? Why don't you teach? If you are teaching German in the broadcasting company, I can see it every day.

Man I'm a German teacher, grandmother.

Mother (*embarrassed*) Grandmother thought you are the classmates of my son in high school.

Man Your son is the best friend of mine in high school. We played volleyball together. He's the attacker and I'm the defense. Your son is always the leader of us. We went to Berlin to study together.

Mother Aren't you his fan?

Man I've always adored him.

Mother The idol lasting for so many years. What a task!

Man We escaped the class. We went to the stadium to watch volleyball game and we were caught by the discipline tutor.

Grandma Li.

Man Tutor Li. We are the enemies of tutor Li.

Grandma Li. Li. Tutor Liyou.

Man He's got a grandson now, grandmother.

Grandma Ok...

Man After we were caught by tutor Li, we were put into different classrooms, to get our detention. He hung an apple onto the pole and reached out to me. He gave a bite and I gave a bite. He gave a bite and I gave a bite. Like we actually kissed each other. So that I like him and he likes me. No matter he's always pretending to date with girls. Like his high school classmates, Shanshan. I became a friend with her as well. We spent time together with Shanshan, eating, sleeping, playing computer game.

Mother (*too shock to say anything*)

Man (*takes a look at Mother*) Me and my boyfriend have known each other in the volleyball team. (*Pause*) It reminds me of him when I talked about your son.

Mother (*still too shock to say anything*)

Grandma You all come back!

Man We've been together for many years. He never told the truth to his family. They never talked about the truth with each other. His mother's getting old. Wouldn't she worth to spend the rest of her life with a man she loves? Why does she need to hold up with her son?

[Mother fly stays on the windowsill.]

Voice Breath in- breath out- breath in- breath out!
Ten kids, round and fat,
They come out
They come out
They come out
They are at the peak of fly's life
They come out!
Ten- nine- eight- seven- six- four- three- two...

Mother fly *(falling onto the ground powerlessly)* Bu-bu-bu-buzz!

Mother *(stands up)* I need some drink.

Man He always told me, "my mother's getting old. Soon enough she won't remember anything. When she still has the memory, I won't break her heart."

Mother *(turns to grandmother)* Do you know him?

Grandma *(hums the well-known Chinese children's song of "little white boat")*
In the blue sky among the galaxy
There is a little boat...

Mother *(grabs the instant noodle bowl and puts it down in anxiety)* I want to drink something. *(to grandmother)* Mother, to be honest, do you know this guy?

Grandma *(humming)* On the boat there is osmanthus tree
The white rabbit is playing around...

Man *(grabs the sleeves of mother)* Since we met in such a coincidence, I want to ask you: should I tell his mother about our relationship? Can you tell me: do you really want to know who your son actually is? Do any parents want to know how we spend our lives? Do we really know how they spend their lives? Is there anyone wants to know the truth of other's lives? Is there anyone who's able to stand the truth, is there?!

Grandma *(humming)* The paddle of the boat can't be seen
The boat doesn't have its sail...

Mother stop it!

[She opens the window sheet instantly. The sunshine above the clouds projects into the flight.]

Grandma (*humming*) It's floating, and floating...
Across the galaxy and towards the nation of clouds...
Across the nation of clouds and nowhere it could go...