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Hunted in Hong Kong sample
NOT FOR SALE

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Hunted in Hong Kong
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Chapter One

Rose Chen looked out of the window in the living room. She watched her mother and father get into the car and drive away. She walked over to the table and picked up the letter. The letter arrived yesterday. Her father read it, and then gave it to her mother. They seemed shocked. They didn't talk to Rose about the letter. But Rose was interested. Why were her mother and father shocked?

She took the letter out of the envelope and looked at the Chinese letters. Rose and her family moved to the USA from Hong Kong when she was five years old. She went to Chinese school every Saturday morning for a few years, but she couldn't read Chinese very well. But she could understand some of the letter. Her grandmother in Hong Kong was very sick. She was dying. The letter was from a man called Mr Liu. Rose didn't know Mr Liu.

Maybe he is my father's friend, or my grandmother's friend, she thought. She put the letter down and closed her eyes. She had memories of her grandmother. When Rose was a child, her grandmother took her to the park and bought her ice cream. She was a kind woman. She sang songs to Rose, and told her stories. Rose started to cry.

I want to see my grandmother before she dies, she thought. *But I can't go back to Hong Kong. No one in my family can go back there. Not now...*

Rose put the letter back in the envelope and put it on the table. When Rose was a child, she often asked her mother and father, "Why did we leave Hong Kong? Why did we come to the USA?"

Her mother and father said, "We will tell you when you are older."

Then, when Rose was eighteen, her mother told her. A long time ago, Rose's father borrowed money from a gang. He wanted to start his own business. The business was not successful. He couldn't pay back the money to the gang. The leader of the gang was a bad man. He said to Rose's father, "If you don't pay back the money, we will kill you and your family." So, Rose's father took his family to the USA. Rose wanted to go back to Hong Kong, to see her grandmother and her home, but her mother said, "No. We can never go back. It's too dangerous."

Rose sat down on the sofa and switched her iPad on. She looked at pictures of Hong Kong.

I want to go back, she thought. I want to see my grandmother. But if I ask my mother and father, they will say, 'no'. But I am twenty-four years old now. I am not a child. And the gang won't know me. I was five years old when I left Hong Kong.

Then, she had an idea.

I will go to Hong Kong. I will see my grandmother. But I will say to my mother and father, 'I am going to New York to see my friends.'

She opened up a travel company website and started to look for flights from Los Angeles to Hong Kong. She found a cheap flight for one week later. She picked up her phone and called her boss at the bookstore where she worked. She said, "My grandmother is dying. I need to see her. Can I take a week off work?" Her boss said, "OK". She put her phone down and bought an airplane ticket.

Chapter Two

Rose sat on the train. She was travelling from the airport into Hong Kong. She looked at her phone. In Mr Liu's letter, he wrote the name of her grandmother's hospital. Rose searched for it on Google. It was an expensive private hospital north of Kowloon. Rose found it on the map. It was small, but it had large gardens.

Rose was feeling tired. She wanted to sleep. She looked at the time. It was 8:00pm.

I'll eat something quickly, and then go to my hotel and sleep, she thought. Then, tomorrow, I'll go to the hospital to see my grandmother.

She thought about her mother and father. They were surprised when she said, "I'm going to New York," but they did not ask too many questions. Rose often travelled to different cities to see her friends.

If they know I am in Hong Kong, they will be very angry, she thought.

The train arrived at Kowloon Station, and Rose got off. She went out of the station and looked up at the dark sky.

Hong Kong. My home, she thought. I'm home.

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