

3. CREATIVE WORK

“THIRD”

By

Vincentius Gunawan

FADE IN:

SCENE 1 – THE BEGINNING

EXT. MOUNTAIN – DAY

IN-SEOK, a man in his late twenties, is taking pictures of the scenery with a DSLR camera. A slightly younger woman, YOUNG-EUN, is also doing a similar thing near him.

YOUNG-EUN (O.S.)

Look what I've found.

(Shoves some flowers in front of In-seok's camera)

Isn't it pretty?

IN-SEOK

You know we're here for work, right?

YOUNG-EUN

Oh, come on. Do you have to be that serious all the time?

IN-SEOK

Hold it higher up.

(Takes a picture of Young-eun's face)

You're right. It's beautiful. Alright, I think we've got all the shots we need. Let's go.

YOUNG-EUN

What? No. Let's have some fun while we're here.

(Grabs In-seok's arm and drags him to the ground)

IN-SEOK

Whoa-what are you doing?!

Both In-seok and Young-eun are lying on the grass. In-seok wants to protest but Young-eun ignores him. Finally, he follows her gaze toward the sky.

YOUNG-EUN

Don't you think it's nice to be a bird? They can go wherever they like; no worries of settling in.

In-seok turns to her. He studies her face for a moment without saying a word. Then he looks up again.

IN-SEOK

I don't know. I think I'd like to find a place to return to. Somewhere I really belong. A home.

A beat. In-seok's hand is slowly reaching out to Young-eun's but stops halfway there. Young-eun notices and smiles.

YOUNG-EUN

I guess you're right. Home doesn't seem a bad idea.

Young-eun nudges her hand to In-seok's. He seems surprised but also pleased. They end up holding hand on the grass and looking up to the sky, smiling.

CUT TO:

SCENE 2 - AWAKENING

INT. OFFICE – AROUND 5.00 PM

The room is quite dark and empty. The only persons left are In-seok and a COLLEAGUE. The desk is messy with a lot of stuff. A computer/laptop is turned on, showing a picture of Young-eun holding some flowers like the scene in his dream and an unfinished article. Also on the desk are a DSLR camera, a calendar and a cellphone. In-seok is asleep in front of the computer/laptop. His appearance is messy.

The Colleague comes to wake In-seok up.

COLLEAGUE

In-seok.

In-seok gets up, still dozy.

COLLEAGUE

Let's go. Everyone's left already.

IN-SEOK

You go on ahead. I'll finish this article in a bit.

COLLEAGUE

Come on, In-seok. It's Friday. Dae-sung's buying everyone drinks.

IN-SEOK

Nah, I'll pass. Need to finish some work.

(Minimizes Young-eun's picture and start typing the article.)

COLLEAGUE

Things' changed, In-seok. You know you can't run from life forever.

IN-SEOK

I'm not running.

COLLEAGUE

We both know that's not true.

(Walks away.)

Well, in case you change your mind, we'll be at "Weekend's". Bye.

In-seok continues typing. A beat. He reaches to his phone and checks the notifications. There are a couple of missed calls from an unknown number, a few chat messages and a reminder saying "3rd Anniversary". He opens the reminder, about to delete it. Another call from the same number.

IN-SEOK

Hello?

SPEAKER (OVER PHONE)

Good evening. We're calling from "The Tavern" to confirm about a reservation for 8:00 pm tonight.

IN-SEOK

The Tavern? I didn't make any reservation.

In-seok takes the calendar on his desk. He dusts it off and flips the page from August to November. There's a post-it attached on the 10th with a female's handwriting. The note says "3rd Anniversary: The Tavern @8 pm. Don't be late!!" In-seok studies the note, not paying attention to the phone.

SPEAKER (OVER PHONE)

One second, please. Your number is registered for a reservation for two on November 10th under the name Kim Young-eun. Has there been a mistake, Sir?

In-seok looks at an empty desk across the room. He does not answer for a few seconds.

SPEAKER (OVER PHONE)

Sir? Hello? Sir, are you there?

IN-SEOK

Yes, sorry.

SPEAKER (OVER PHONE)

Would you like to keep the reservation, Sir?

In-seok does not answer. He stares blankly at the window and sees his reflection.

CUT TO:

SCENE 3 - PROMISE

INT. RESTAURANT – NIGHT

In-seok is nicely dressed in a suit. His face is freshly shaved and his hair is nicely combed. He is holding a bouquet of yellow flowers. A waiter shows him to a table for two by the window, overlooking the sea. In-seok sits down and puts the bouquet on the side of the table.

The waiter shows him the menu and goes away. In-seok takes a short look at the menu and sets it aside. He looks around the restaurant a little bit. He looks out the window and stares at the sea.

FLASHBACK TO:

SCENE 4 - REMINISCENCE

EXT. BEACH – DAY

In-seok and Young-eun are facing each other, slowly walking towards the sea. In-seok is walking backwards, occasionally turning his head around to check his path, while holding Young-eun's hands. Young-eun is walking blindfolded, carefully following In-seok.

YOUNG-EUN

How much longer?

IN-SEOK

Almost there.

(Takes a few more steps and stops)

Okay, stop. You ready?

YOUNG-EUN

Oh come on, just take it off already.

In-seok takes off the blindfold from Young-eun's eyes, still facing her. He looks at her eyes, smiles, and moves to her side. Now they are both facing the sea.

IN-SEOK

I know you haven't had time to visit the beach, so...

(CONT'D)

here it is!

YOUNG-EUN

In-seok, this is lovely. But what's with the blindfold?
Even with my eyes closed of course I knew I was
walking on sand, genius.

In-seok moves to stand behind Young-eun. He holds her on the
shoulder and turns her to face the other way. In front of them is an
arrangement of flower petals/seashells/small stones in the shape of a
heart on the sand. Set down in the middle of the heart is a simple but
lovely picnic set.

IN-SEOK

Surprise.

YOUNG-EUN

In-seok, you... You prepared all of this? I... I don't
know what to say.

IN-SEOK

Happy anniversary, sweetheart.

(kisses Young-eun)

YOUNG-EUN

Come on, I'm starving.

FADE TO:

In-seok and Young-eun are finishing up a piece of sandwich while watching the
waves.

YOUNG-EUN

Thanks for the sandwich. And for all of this.

IN-SEOK

Sorry it's nothing fancy. I wanted to make your favorite
but... you know my cooking skill.

YOUNG-EUN

Oh shut up! This is lovely. I know you put a lot of efforts on these. And if you had made lasagna, I would probably end up hating it. (laughs)

IN-SEOK

Alright, next time I'll just order a take-out.

YOUNG-EUN

Oh, I know! Let's try that restaurant you've always wanted to go. But next time, I'm the one giving the surprise!

IN-SEOK

What restaurant? I've never said anything about any place. You know I'd rather-

YOUNG-EUN

Shush, shush. No more words. All you need to do is just be there, okay. I know you'd love it.

IN-SEOK

Wait, but-

YOUNG-EUN

Just promise you'll be there no matter what. That's all. Promise?

IN-SEOK

Kay, I promise. Why wouldn't I be there anyway?

CUT BACK TO:

SCENE 3 - PROMISE

INT. RESTAURANT – NIGHT

In-seok is still staring blankly out the window to the sea. He is distracted by the sound of someone pulling back a chair and sitting on it. He turns and sees Young-eun sitting in front of him. She is a little out of breath, like she has been running.

YOUNG-EUN

(still catching her breath)

(CONT'D)

Sorry to make you wait like this. Gosh, so stupid. I forgot how bad the traffic can be at this hour. Definitely should've used the subway. Oh, have you ordered?
(pause) In-seok?

IN-SEOK

Oh, right. Excuse me?

(Calls for a waiter)

Can I have, um... one spinach ravioli and one- lasagna?
(to Young-eun)

YOUNG-EUN

Actually, I'd like to try the seafood risotto.

IN-SEOK

And one seafood risotto. And two glass of champagne.

WAITER

(a bit uncertain)

Uhm... one spinach ravioli and one seafood risotto for the meal, and... two glass of champagne. Is that correct, Sir? We'll bring your champagne in a moment. If you need anything else, do let me know.

The waiter leaves. In-seok turns to Young-eun.

IN-SEOK

So... risotto?

YOUNG-EUN

Some things have changed, you know.

(Picks up the bouquet)

But I surely still love these flowers. Thank you.

In-seok just smiles and stares at Young-eun while she is admiring the bouquet. The waiter comes and serves the champagne. Young-eun puts down the bouquet

and drinks her champagne.

YOUNG-EUN

Okay. Tell me what's wrong?

IN-SEOK

No, nothing. I-um... I just still can't believe you're here.

YOUNG-EUN

What? Weren't you waiting for me?

IN-SEOK

Yes, of course! I've been waiting for you. I just wasn't sure you'd show up.

YOUNG-EUN

Ah come on, no way I'm gonna do that. After all, I'm the one who made you promise to come. It's always been you who tends to get sucked up with work. (pause) But anyway, let's just cheers for tonight.

In-seok and Young-eun raise their glass and make a toast.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE:

In-seok and Young-eun chatting. The waiter serving their meal. Young-eun talking and laughing while dining. In-seok smiling and laughing a little. Young-eun putting her hair behind her ear. In-seok staring at her, smiling. Young-eun wiping off stains from In-seok's lips.

CUT TO:

YOUNG-EUN

So, what makes this place special to you? Is it really the ravioli?

IN-SEOK

I never said so. You assumed, remember?

YOUNG-EUN

That doesn't mean it's not. Come on, In-seok. I read your article of this place. I could tell it was more than just bullshitting. (laughs) Oh I know! It must be the atmosphere, right? I know it is.

IN-SEOK

Okay, you're half correct. I do love the atmosphere here.

YOUNG-EUN

And the other half?

IN-SEOK

You. It's the first place we worked together, more than three years ago. The first time I found a place where I really belong. I found a home. (pause) That's why I told you I'd rather celebrate at our place. Wherever we are, with you, it would feel like at home anyway. (giggles)

YOUNG-EUN

Anyway, the important thing is that you keep your promise, despite everything.

IN-SEOK

No. You're here, with me. That's what's important.

YOUNG-EUN

Happy Anniversary, sweetheart.

(holds In-seok's hand)

IN-SEOK

Happy Annive-

WAITER

Excuse me, Sir. We could heat up the risotto, if you'd like. Or are you still waiting for someone?

In-seok turns and finds no one is sitting across him. The glass is still full of champagne and the risotto is left untouched. In-seok's hand is still reaching out in a position to hold Young-eun's hand.

IN-SEOK

No. Leave it. There's no one to wait for.

He looks down to his half eaten ravioli. A beat. He picks up his fork and knife and resumes eating, taking small bites at a time. He is chewing very slowly. Gradually, he starts holding back a cry and his hands begin to tremble. He jerks the knife and fork off his hands and covers his face. He slams the table and bursts into tears.

FADE TO BLACK:

SCENE 5 - GOODBYE

EXT. MOUNTAIN – DAY

In-seok is still dressed in the same outfit from the previous night. He is holding the bouquet he bought previously, slightly wilted. He walks through the forest until he reaches a clearing near a cliff. There are safety lines securing the edge. He kneels and sets down the bouquet in front of a framed picture of Young-eun. He stares blankly to the picture for a while. There is a sound of birds chirping. Tears start coming down his cheek but he is holding back a sob. Young-eun hugs In-seok from behind, startling him. She whispers to his ears the words "I'm home", inaudible to the audience. In-seok turns his head but sees no one else there. A small smile slowly curves on his face. He wipes off his tears and looks at the picture again.

IN-SEOK

Thank you.

In-seok gets up and slowly walks away.

FADE OUT:

THE END