

# **Waking Ah Por**

A VR360 Story  
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INT. BEDROOM - DAY

[Rag Doll/Camera is sitting on Ah Por's stomach.]

AH POR is sitting on the bed. Chinese opera plays on a TV at the foot of the bed. There is a photo of a young couple in their late twenties, posing beside a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Beside it, there is a small altar with burning joss sticks, and individual portraits of the couple. MEI XUAN offers a Joss Stick.

AH POR  
(in Hokkien)  
Come.

Mei Xuan runs to the left of the bed.

Ah Por reaches for a toy alarm watch. She straps it on Mei Xuan's wrist.

AH POR  
(in Hokkien)  
Happy Birthday, Mei Mei.  
(hands ragdoll to Mei Xuan)  
Ah Por made this. Nice?

[Rag Doll/Camera is held by Mei Xuan. She is facing the doll.]

MEI XUAN  
(in Hokkien)  
(looking at doll)  
Very cute...like...

Mei Xuan points her finger first at herself, then to Ah Por.

MEI XUAN  
(in Hokkien)  
...you!  
(giggles)  
Thank you Ah Por!

Ah Por shakes her head, as she pats Mei Xuan lovingly. Mei Xuan hugs the doll tightly.

FADE TO BLACK

OVER BLACK

TITLES: WAKING AH POR

FADE IN

INT. VOID DECK - DAY

*[Rag Doll/Camera is being held by Mei Xuan, front facing the coffin and picture.]*

We see a framed portrait of Ah Por in front of a coffin. FAMILY MEMBERS are dressed in mourning garments.

UNCLE CHANG and AUNTIE CLAIR are setting up food at the offering table for the last day of the wake. Mei Xuan stands next to MARVIN in front of the offering table, clutching the ragdoll. Uncle Chang approaches her.

MEI XUAN  
Uncle, I want Ah Por.

Uncle Chang puts his finger on lips to gently silence her. He sweeps her fringe gently upwards.

MARVIN

(whispers to Mei Xuan)  
Ah Por don't want you anymore.

Auntie Clair walks by.

AUNTIE CLAIR  
(to Mei Xuan)  
You stay here quietly. Don't anyhow run.  
(to Uncle Chang)  
Cremation tomorrow delayed?

Uncle Chang nods. He walks with Auntie Clair to the monk area.

Mei Xuan watches them, puzzled.

Marvin  
(to Mei Xuan)  
They're going to  
burn Ah Por.

Marvin sneers. Mei Xuan bites on her lip, as she holds back her tears. Auntie Clair and Uncle Chang are talking to some MONKS.

Mei Xuan turns right and walks toward the coffin, leaving the doll on the offering table.

She turns the little knob on her watch then holds it high up. The watch lets out a little beeping sound.

MEI XUAN  
(in Hokkien)  
Ah Por, wake up...

Nothing happens. The watch continues to beep. Mei Xuan raises the watch a little higher.

Marvin sees Mei Xuan struggling on her tip toes and starts to make his way to her, a mischievous smile on his face. Marvin trudges up to her.

MARVIN  
Oi!

Marvin snatches the watch from Mei Xuan. He smashes it on the ground. Mei Xuan is taken aback.

A BLACK CAT enters the scene and catches Marvin's attention.

Marvin moves towards it aggressively. The cat retreats slightly. Auntie Clair spots the cat as well, seeing Marvin stomp his right foot. The cat turns and sprints away.

Auntie Clair makes her way over to stop Marvin as he is about to give chase.

AUNTIE CLAIR  
(smacks Marvin)  
Don't play  
near the coffin!

MARVIN  
(flinches)  
There's a cat.

AUNTIE CLAIR  
Black cats got curse.  
You don't bring play  
the fool.

MARVIN  
(excitedly)  
Yeah!  
Justin said if black cat go  
over dead body,  
they'll wake up. Like Zombie.  
Means Ah Por will come back...

Mei Xuan's eyes light up.

Auntie Clair smacks Marvin in the mouth.

AUNTIE CLAIR

Choy!  
There are spirits around now.  
Can you just shut your mouth?

Auntie Clair smacks Marvin in the mouth again.

Mei Xuan snickers. Marvin glares at her, as Auntie Clair pulls him away by the ear.

MARVIN  
(whispers to Mei Xuan)  
You watch out.

Mei Xuan carefully picks up the pieces of her watch. She continues to look apprehensively around her. Something flashes past.

Everyone is normal going about their business, guests are still chatting, Auntie Clair is with the monks as Uncle Chang entertains other people by the buffet table.

Mei Xuan picks up her doll hurries back to her seat, broken watch in hand, putting the doll down on the table.

[Rag Doll/Camera is put on table, front facing Mei Xuan/coffin direction]

She climbs on the chair, back facing the coffin, the bells on her bag jingling, getting the attention of the cat. Mei Xuan closes her eyes.

Someone suddenly taps Mei Xuan shoulder, from behind her. Mei Xuan screams. She turns to see Uncle Chang. He is dressed as a Hero from a Wayang. He passes Mei Xuan a juice box and sandwich.

UNCLE CHANG  
Mei Xuan, eat this first.  
Later, we'll do long prayers,  
you'll get hungry.

Mei Xuan accepts the food.

Uncle Chang walks towards the buffet table, grabbing a plate of food before heading towards the coffin area.

The black cat emerges from behind the pillar. Mei Xuan sees the cat.

MEI XUAN  
(to Ragdoll)  
You wait here.

She continues to tinkle with the bells on her bag, causing the black cat to edge closer to her.

When the cat is right by her feet, Mei Xuan tries to catch the cat. This startles the cat, and it starts running to escape.

People start to notice the rampaging cat.

Mei Xuan gives chase. The cat crawls underneath Table 2, 3, 4, then under the buffet table and through people's legs. Mei Xuan knocks over chairs and crawls under tables in her dogged pursue. She finally corners the cat.

Auntie Clair, dressed like the villain from a wayang show, suddenly steps in, and pulls Mei Xuan by the ear.

Uncle Chang rushes over from the coffin area, apologizing to the guests at Table 2 and 3 as he helps to wipe up the mess.

The cat escapes off screen while Mei Xuan is distracted. Auntie Clair slaps Mei Xuan.

Guests all around are looking at the commotion, pointing fingers and whispering.

AUNTIE CLAIR  
Why can't you just behave?

MEI XUAN  
(under her breath)

You're not my Ma.

AUNTIE CLAIR  
Say that again.

Mei Xuan looks away from Auntie Clair as tears flow down her cheeks.

AUNTIE CLAIR  
Ungrateful, like your Ah Por.

Auntie Clair raises her hand to strike Mei Xuan again. Mei Xuan flinches, and the bell on her bag jingles. Auntie Clair snatches Mei Xuan's sling bag away.

Auntie Clair leaves to join Uncle Chang in cleaning up the mess.

Mei Xuan walks back to the table and takes the doll back in her arms.

*[Rag Doll/Camera is being held by Mei Xuan who is back facing the buffet table, doll facing Table 2 and 3's direction.]*

There's a soft meowing as the black cat saunters in towards the spilled food. Mei Xuan wipes her tears away and turns around to face the cat.

*[Rag Doll/Camera is being held by Mei Xuan who is front facing the buffet table.]*

She sneaks over, grabs a small, fried fish and dangles it, so it catches the attention of the cat. The cat begins to follow her. Mei Xuan lures the cat all the way to the coffin area.

Mei Xuan puts the doll down on the offering table.

*[Rag Doll/Camera is put on table, front facing Mei Xuan and the side of the coffin.]*

Mei Xuan and the cat reach the casket. She carefully sets up a scaffold for herself with some cardboard boxes.



Marvin is hanging out, bored, at the monk area with Uncle Chang as the adults in the family are talking.

Mei Xuan allows the cat to feed on the fried fish she was holding. The cat, chomping away at the fish, does not protest as Mei Xuan picks him up.

The cardboard boxes shake unsteadily under Mei Xuan's weight, as she climbs on.

Mei Xuan reaches the peak of her cardboard mountain.

Some of the adults at the tables start to notice Mei Xuan's shenanigans. They slowly gather the attention of everyone at the table.

She surveys the area, and makes a note of how far she has to toss the cat over. Mei Xuan takes a deep breath.

MEI XUAN  
One...two...THREE

Mei Xuan tosses the cat. The cat is taken by surprise, letting out a loud meow but somehow instinctively manages to catch on, and stay on the coffin.

The adults start to make noise, shouting for Mei Xuan to stop it.

Monks and family members finally notice Mei Xuan and are alarmed.

Auntie Clair turns her attention away from the paper houses to check out the commotion.

AUNTIE CLAIR  
MEI XUAN!

Mei Xuan tries to push the cat over the coffin. She is tip-toeing on the edge of the cardboard boxes.

MEI XUAN

Mew mew, go, go.

Marvin runs to where she is. He grins then gently kicks one of the bottom boxes.

Mei Xuan loses her balance and falls over, tipping the coffin over.

Auntie Clair rushes over.

The cat gets flung over the coffin, but lands confidently on the ground, before taking off. Mei Xuan sees Ah Por's face through the coffin.

MEI XUAN

(in Hokkien)

Ah Por! Ah Por! Wake up!

There is no response.

The adults rush in to set the coffin back up.

Auntie Clair grabs Mei Xuan tightly, nails digging into Mei Xuan's arm. Auntie Clair spansks Mei Xuan hard. Auntie Clair raise her hands again but Uncle Chang stops her midway.

He carries Mei Xuan and walks away from the coffin. Mei Xuan looks forlornly at the coffin. The doll is left behind.

**CUT TO BLACK**

**THE END**

