

SYNOPSIS

The story starts by proposing the early life of little Ai Lin (Hong Kong around 1970s). She lives in Tsimshatsui with her complete parents and brothers, Phillip and Paul. Her parents are Chinese Indonesian. Even though, several generations of them are rooted in Indonesia, they consider themselves ethnically and culturally Chinese. Ai Lin's father is a businessman with a westernized conception. He speaks English to his children. He sends his sons and daughter to Catholic English School to get best education. Later, he sends all of his children to go abroad continuing study. Opposition to Ai Lin's father, Ai Lin's mother always referring their rootedness to Indonesian blood. During the moment, the issue of 'Chinese Identity' is somehow become main concern to their social circumstances. It results to the growth of Ai Lin's insecurities in seeing her identity.

Family conflicts often arouse in the years of Ai Lin's childhood. Ai Lin's mother is always seen frustrated in the redemption of love to Ai Lin's father. She believes that Ai Lin's father is not faithful and often having affairs with prostitutes. The discomfort family conflicts make Ai Lin insecure to the fear, sadness, and loneliness resulted by her dysfunctional family.

One night, Ai Lin experienced the similar family conflicts. Again she has to deal with another fright and sadness. During the moment Phillip is beside her, tries to calm her. In an unexpected condition, they feel an unusual sexual comfort to their closeness. They make love for the first time which for Ai Lin, the

sensation of it is enjoyable. After that night, they agree to commit incestuous relationship within love. Phillip's stating of love make Ai Lin happy, important and complete. During the relationship, Ai Lin is also attracted to Phillip's classmate, Ricardo, which is ended unsuccessfully because of Phillip's jealousy. Ai Lin's incestuous relationship to Phillip is somehow ended by the departure of Phillip for study to USA.

Paul, Ai Lin's first brother has gone to USA long before Phillip's departure. During the moment, Ai Lin has to deal with her kept of love to Phillip and the frustrating family conflicts occurred within parents. One day, she receives Phillip's letter which is said his claiming to be a gay. That makes Ai Lin fall into deep sadness. The dead of her mother lead her to the continuance of sadness. Her almost insane mother, died in frustration and unhappiness living to a man, who never loves and treats her good.

As the story develops, the twenty years old Ai Lin is finally goes to USA to take her study. There she meets and bound relationship to an American man named Derek. Ironically, Derek repeatedly uses her as an exploratory object of his sexual pleasure. Close to her marriage day, she decides to leave him. Later on, she meets Vince, a nice Italian man. Vince's love is finally able in making Ai Lin agree for another relationship. They finally marry, which only phase for four years. After two years of marriage. Ai Lin feels that she starts stopping herself to love Vince even more. Her buried psychologically scars stop her to love Vince. She is afraid to experience more loosing of love. Vince's love and patient cannot help their marriage break down in crisis. Ai Lin faces mentally frustration. She

quests for divorce. Her accumulate depression and the death of Phillip for AIDS leads Ai-Lin to her mentally breakdown. After years of psychological therapy, she is finally able to recover. She decided to bravely go back to Tsimshatsui, the house she never belongs for years after her father's death. She tries to relieve her scars. During the moment, she attains a very good relationship to Don, Vince's brother. Don is working in Hong Kong at that time. Don was a man; she is ever made love once she still married Vince. To Don she is finally hope to reveal herself for another love.

At the end of the story, Paul who is Ai Lin's first brother suddenly comeback home. It relieves almost all of Ai Lin's scars. Suddenly she felts a very great of happiness, recollected all the pieces of family notions that has been formerly breakdown.