

THE BABYMAKERS

THE BABYMAKERS

(Working title)

A comedy feature film script

By

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A love story with
laughs about the
foibles, fears and
fantasies of two
people finding it
hard (or not hard
enough) to conceive.

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THE BABYMAKERS

1. EXT. AMSTERDAM - DAY

A shot from high above Amsterdam centred on the *grachtengordel*. The image appears like a Multi-map aerial photo. Slowly we drop towards the ground and follow a Thalys train into Central Station. We hear only the noise of birds, but then yells and shouts of children too, and finally, as we track parallel to the train, the bawling of a baby.

2. INT. AMSTERDAM CENTRAAL STATION - DAY

A SMALL BOY WITH RED HAIR, 8, and a SMALLER BOY WITH FRECKLES, 5, sit on a bench opposite the sleek maroon-liveried locomotive of a Paris-bound Thalys TGV train. They are dressed in Eurostar T-Shirts and too long shorts. The older boy has a stills camera, the smaller one a notepad and pencil.

RED-HAIRED BOY (*in Dutch*)
This here's a TGV. (*SMALLER BOY nods*). Write that down.
T...G...V...(SMALLER BOY opens notebook and writes) And then write Thalys alongside. Right?
T..A..R..L..I..E..S

The SMALL BOY nods and screws up face in concentration. He has difficulty writing.

SMALLER BOY (*looking up*)
I want a wee.

The RED HAIRED BOY shakes his head, grabs the SMALLER BOY'S hand and leads him off down the platform. They pass two adults hurrying in the opposite direction

One is HENK PIERSMA, mid 30's, conventionally cut hair in need of a comb, thin legs and an off the peg suit with waistcoat. He is trying to keep up with the other man, his CEO from London, MR PARKINSON, mid 50's, grey coiffured hair, well maintained figure and Saville Row charcoal pinstripe.

They are walking at speed down the platform towards the first class carriages of the Thalys train for Paris. HENK carries two heavy brief cases and a camel hair overcoat.

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PARKINSON (*in English without turning*)
You've done a grand job in
Amsterdam, Piersma. As always.
Groningen, Rotterdam, Gouda,
Maastricht. You've sorted them
all out

HENK (*panting*)
Thankyou, sir.

PARKINSON.
Got the Dutch end of things
back on its feet good and
proper. Shipshape and Bristol
fashion.

HENK
Thankyou, sir.

HENK nearly trips over a YOUNG MOTHER with BABY IN
PUSHCHAIR. The BABY starts crying. The MOTHER curses. HENK
pats the BABY on the head and it goes quiet. HENK is
surprised at his success and waves at the baby, the mother
scowls and hurries on. The BABY looks back out of
pushchair and waves at HENK. HENK is mesmerised for a
moment and then hurries after his superior.

PARKINSON
I'll put in a good word at
head office. See if we can't
find you a new challenge.
(*without turning*) Ever thought
of working abroad, Piersma?

HENK, still several yards behind PARKINSON, is either too
exhausted to answer or not listening. Occasionally he
turns and waves at the disappearing baby, but gets no
further response.

PARKINSON stops by a smiling hostess in a smart tight-
fitting uniform and turns. HENK catches up and hands over
the coat and briefcases. PARKINSON holds out a hand.

PARKINSON
Mission accomplished. Well
done.

HENK takes PARKINSON's hand.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK (*still out of breath*)
Yes, sir. Thankyou, sir.

PARKINSON
Bye, Piersma. *Tot ziens* as you
people say. I'll keep you
posted.

PARKINSON turns and boards the train. The hostess smiles
at Henk and boards as well.

HENK (*hesitantly*)
Mr Parkinson, sir? About my
salary...

But the hostess continues her power-smile as doors down
the train slam shut in unison.

HENK (*mesmerised by hostess*)
Bye, sir. Thankyou, sir.

A whistle blows.

HENK slumps on to a bench and watches as another baby
passes in a pushchair. He tries his smile and wave, but
this time the baby bursts into tears.

HENK shrugs his shoulders, and takes a digital camera from
his pocket. As the Thalys slips out of the station HENK
clicks away, even lying on ground to get a better angle.

When the train has passed THE RED HAIREd BOY and SMALLER
BOY come into view on the platform opposite.

They stare at HENK flat on his back. The RED HAIREd BOY
gives HENK a thumbs up sign. HENK notices, jumps up and
waves back.

SMALLER BOY (*in Dutch*)
He got homework from school,
too?

RED HAIREd BOY
Don't be daft. Just a nutter
with nowt else to do.

SMALLER BOY
Like Uncle Joop and his
airplanes?

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The RED HAired BOY nods. The SMALLER BOY satisfied turns to the rubbish bin behind him, unzips his trousers and starts to pee.

3. EXT. SEAFRONT ZANDVOORT - DAY

A mini-bus with a TV company logo is parked on the promenade. CAMERAMAN, SOUNDWOMAN and TIMID DIRECTOR are unloading equipment.

A high powered company car screeches to a halt behind the van. FRAN, mid fifties, auburn over-rinsed hair, beige slacks and safari jacket climbs out, slams the door, lights a cigarette and strides onto the beach.

FRAN (*in Dutch shouting*)
Come on you lot. Get a move on. (To TIMID DIRECTOR) You directing?

The TIMID DIRECTOR nods.

FRAN (*continuing*)
Move your ass and dig up some kids. No runny noses, DOCILE. And a few adult bums and tits for the older viewers.

The DIRECTOR runs off.

FRAN (*continuing*)
Camera! Find some turds and get a close up. If you can't find any, use the ones props made up. GREEN vacuum flask. LEFT-hand door pocket. MY car.

FRAN now halfway to the sea turns back to the car.

FRAN (*shouting*)
Amy...!

AMY LAU-PIERSMA emerges from the car dressed in stylish anorak and designer jeans with zips up the ankle. She is in her late twenties with long black hair around an elegant but friendly face. Her body combines Chinese grace with Dutch sexiness. She checks her make-up in the wing mirror. A tiny 3 YEAR OLD GIRL approaches and stares up at her in awe.

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LITTLE GIRL (*Nord Hollands accent*)
You from the tele Miss?

AMY smiles and bends down to the LITTLE GIRL's level.

AMY (*slight Chinese accent*)
Yes. We're making a film about
the sea. We want it to be
clean and safe for children to
swim in. No more sewage every
time it rains! Ugh!

AMY holds her nose and smiles. The GIRL stares, mouth open.

AMY (*continuing*)
Would you like to help?

LITTLE GIRL
Will I be on tele?

AMY nods. The GIRL holds open her arms to be carried.

AMY laughs, picks her up and heads to where FRAN is playing Canute at the water's edge.

FRAN (*noticing child with distaste*)
Kids! Can't see what people
see in 'em.

AMY (*stroking little girl's hair*)
Didn't you ever want one?

FRAN (*laughing with smoker's cough*)
How? By mail-order?

AMY (*looking concerned*)
Couldn't you...? I mean...
Was there something wrong?

FRAN turns away and wipes a speck of sand from her eye.

FRAN
Went off men, didn't I.

AMY
All men?

FRAN (*staring out to sea*)
There was one. Way back. Didn't want kids.

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She wipes her eye again, turns back and grins at AMY.

FRAN (*continuing*)
I'd have one with you.

AMY laughs. The LITTLE GIRL laughs too.

A breaking wave pushes up the beach and surrounds FRAN's feet.

FRAN (*looking down*)
Shit! Shit! And more shit! Amy
put that kid in the water. Now!

AMY (*taking a step back*)
But there's ... in it..

FRAN
I know. (*Yelling*) Camera?! Sound?!

The SOUNDWOMAN, an attractive, short-haired twenty-something appears with boom mike and points it at the floating sewage. She looks for approval to FRAN.

FRAN
Well done, Marieke. At least we'll
have the sound of sewage.

4. EXT/INT. KALVERSTRAAT WATERSTONE'S BOOKSHOP - DAY

Moving from a bird's eye view of Kalverstraat to a first floor shop window we see HENK, humming, as he browses through a book in the travel department. Every now and then he pulls at his left ear lobe and clears his throat.

We move inside as he takes an old-fashioned railguard's watch from his waistcoat and checks it. 5.55 p.m precisely. He clears his throat again and hums more contentedly.

TWIN GIRLS, aged 8, climb the stairs and push each other towards HENK. HENK smiles, stops humming and buries himself deeper in his book 'Trans-Siberian Rail Tales.'

The FIRST TWIN nudges the SECOND TWIN.

SECOND TWIN (*taking deep breath*)
Meneer... Meneer do you have
any books about....

THE BABYMAKERS

She clears her throat. HENK ignores her.

SECOND TWIN (*continuing*)
About... babies?

FIRST TWIN (*with serious
expression*)
About *making* babies.

HENK's eyes swivel from left to right and up and down. He takes an intercom from his pocket.

HENK (*sotto voce into phone*)
Karen? Would you come to
'travel' please.

Within seconds KAREN, a kindly, solidly-built woman in her mid-fifties with greying blonde hair, sensible shoes and Waterstone blouse and skirt appears from the floor above.

HENK (*continuing*)
These young ladies are
interested in biology.

KAREN puts a maternal arm around the girls and sweeps them off.

HENK relaxes, reads for a moment longer and then rechecks his watch.

The second hand approaches six o'clock. HENK takes a railguard's whistle from a pocket and is about to blow it when he suddenly sneezes. He feels his forehead and sneezes again. He shakes his head.

A STAFF MEMBER appears and taps his watch. HENK nods and blows the whistle.

5. EXT. BEACH - DAY

AMY, now with a BABY in her arms, talks to camera at the waters edge surrounded by half a dozen different sized children including the SMALL GIRL she carried on to the beach and two incongruous twenty-something WOMEN IN BIKINIS.

FRAN and PROUD PARENTS are ranged behind the camera.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY (*TV voice*)
...so if you're concerned why
not write to the environment
ministry and protest.

The BABY starts to cry, the TIMID DIRECTOR calls cut and looks at FRAN. FRAN pushes him aside, strides up to AMY and grabs the baby.

FRAN (*turning to parents*)
Whose is this? (*A woman puts
up a hand*). Take it away.

She surveys the motley group of children, grabs the SMALL GIRL and plonks her in AMY's arms. She then repositions the WOMEN IN BIKINIS to better display their bodies.

FRAN
O.K. Take 10. (*To small girl*)
Smile and you get ice cream
plus sweets. Cry and you
don't. (*She turns to the TIMID
DIRECTOR*) Get on with it!

TIMID DIRECTOR (*timidly*)
Um, yes.

FRAN (*yelling impatiently*)
Oh, for Christ's sake. ACTION!

The WOMEN IN BIKINIS pose provocatively. The SMALL GIRL clings to AMY. AMY cuddles her and speaks to camera.

AMY
Sewage floating in the sea
isn't acceptable. So if you're
concerned write in to the
minister and protest.

Two of the children fight over their place next to AMY. FRAN stares at them and they freeze.

AMY puts a calming hand around their shoulders and continues.

AMY (*continuing*)
Don't be complacent: complain!

FRAN (*before the director can speak*)
Cut! That's a wrap.

THE BABYMAKERS

PROUD PARENTS applaud. Children crowd around TIMID DIRECTOR for sweets and ice cream. WOMEN IN BIKINIS flirt with the CAMERAMAN and/or his camera.

FRAN walks away from the crew with an arm round AMY. SOUND WOMAN MARIEKE looks peeved and points her boom mike in the direction of the two departing women.

FRAN (*through SOUNDWOMAN's earphones*)
You're a dream, Amy. I love
ya!

6. EXT. STREET IN ZUID - EVENING

HENK with briefcase and bulging 'Reformwinkel' (Health Shop) carrier bag approaches front door of his house in a tree-lined street in Amsterdam Zuid.

He stops on the doorstep to stretch his shoulders and take a breath of evening air. As he does so, he sneezes.

BOY ON BICYCLE rides past. HENK waves. The BOY makes a rude gesture back. HENK shrugs his shoulders, turns, opens his hosedoor and with a practiced skip disappears inside.

7. INT. KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM 'BOVENHUIS' - EVENING

HENK, thermometer in mouth, unpacks the carrier bag on a stripped-pine kitchen table. A new supply of vitamins, massage oil, seaweed extract and ginseng are taken out and positioned in an already full 'food supplements' cupboard.

He eyes a box of Mega C sachets, but then slams the cupboard shut and grabs a beer from the fridge.

He presses a switch by the toaster and a model freight train appears out of a hole in the wall loaded with chocolate peanuts.

He manoeuvres it into a siding and remote controls a tipper wagon to deliver a pile of nuts into his hand. He reverses the train back into the tunnel.

He moves into the living area, sinks into a large IKEA sofa, removes thermometer without checking it, pops open his beer and remotes the TV into life.

An image of AMY talking to camera appears, intercut with sewage floating in the sea around a small child's ankles.

THE BABYMAKERS

He is so engrossed in the TV he does not notice the real AMY creep in behind him clutching something behind her back. She tiptoes to sofa and dangles a bag from an Etos 'drogisterij' in front of HENK's face. HENK swivels round and then stares from her to the TV and back.

HENK (*indicating TV*)
Thought you were in Zandvoort?

AMY puts her arms round his shoulders from behind.

AMY (*laughing*)
It's not live, stompie.

HENK (*defensively*)
They said it was...

AMY
They were lieing.

HENK turns back to the TV and pretends to watch. AMY watches with him

HENK
And don't call me stompie.

AMY
Sorry.

HENK
It makes me sound old.

AMY
How about 'bai chi'?

HENK
'Bai chi'?

AMY
'Stupid' in Cantonese.

AMY hugs him.

HENK
Charming.

AMY removes her arms and goes to the kitchen for a beer.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY (*through door*)
Why don't you learn some
Cantonese?

HENK
I have. (*In Dutch accent*) Nei
ho ma. Biertje-la mgoi sai,
sin-san sexy la. Ho la?

AMY (*with beer*)
Ho-wa.

HENK
Not bad, eh-la?

AMY
Pathetic-la

AMY puts down her beer and once more dangles the open
drugstore bag under his nose.

HENK tries to ignore it, but can't resist a peek.

HENK (*licking his lips*)
Condoms. Multi-coloured!

He makes a grab for the bag.

AMY holds it away.

HENK tries to get up, but is pushed back.

AMY
Kusje...

HENK holds up his mouth like a little boy. Eyes closed,
lips pursed.

AMY (*continuing*)
Chicken's bottom.

She falls on top of him. They kiss with obvious affection.

AMY (*softly*)
Ik hou van je.

HENK
Bai chi!

CUT TO:-

THE BABYMAKERS

8. INT. ATTIC 'PLAYROOM' - NIGHT

HENK dressed in striped pyjamas stands, remote control in hand, in front of a large and detailed model railway layout. He looks at his watch as a passenger express train slips into a terminus on the far side of the room. He then shunts a goods train under a loading hopper and one by one the coloured condoms are released from the storage hopper into the open wagons of the train.

9. INT. ATTIC BEDROOM - NIGHT

HENK hurries in holding the remote control and, after quickly swallowing a large ginseng tablet from a bottle by the window, jumps into bed in the manner of a child.

AMY showers off-screen, singing in Cantonese.

HENK puffs up the pillows, slips his hands, still holding the remote, under the duvet and settles back with an anticipatory glint in his eyes.

As a church clock strikes eleven AMY enters in a Marlies Dekkers black nightie and briefs set. She moves to HENK'S bedside table and waits, tapping her fingers impatiently.

Suddenly the train from the attic shoots through a hole in the wall of the bedroom and halts beside the table.

AMY peruses the condoms and looks HENK up and down. She holds up the different colours against his pyjamas and selects a black one. HENK shivers in anticipation. She pulls down the bed clothes and climbing astride HENK bites open the condom packet with her teeth.

She removes the condom and twirls it on her forefinger in front of HENK'S glowing eyes. She begins to rotate her hips HENK closes his eyes.

Suddenly she stops.

AMY

Henk?

HENK

(eyes still closed)

Mmmm...

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY

Can we do it without tonight?

HENK opens his eyes and stares at her in amazement.

HENK

Without what?

AMY

Without this.

She tosses the condom on to the bed.

HENK

But it's my favourite colour.

AMY

I want to feel YOU.

HENK reflects on this. He looks from AMY to the condom and back. AMY pouts at him and begins to rotate her hips.

HENK hesitates, but then starts to get in the mood again. He tosses the condom over his shoulder in an abandoned manner and closes his eyes. AMY moves into position.

Suddenly HENK opens his eyes again.

HENK (*a thought dawning*)

But Amy...

AMY

Relax Henk, relax and rotate,
rotate and relax.

HENK rotates, but does not relax. He is now more alarmed than aroused.

HENK

But Amy, seriously, you
might...well you might...

AMY (*sighing*)

Get pregnant?

HENK nods and tries to lean across for the condom, which has lodged on his Thomas the Tank Engine alarm clock. He grabs it, but sets off the alarm by mistake.

He stuffs the clock under his pillow and holds the condom out to AMY.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY sighs, rolls over on to the empty side of the bed without taking the condom and props herself up on an elbow. HENK pulls the duvet protectively over his exposed pyjamas and, not knowing what to do with the rejected condom, drops it in his pyjama pocket.

AMY (*continuing*)
I'm almost thirty.

HENK
I'm thirty five. So what?

AMY (*bluntly*)
I want a baby, Henk.

HENK pulls the duvet up until it covers his head. Silence.

HENK (*muffled*)
I'm not ready yet.

AMY
You've been saying that for five years.

HENK
It's a big step

AMY
You're a big boy.

HENK
No, I'm not.

AMY looks up at HENK'S covered head and then at the model freight train by the bed, which suddenly reverses out of the bedroom.

She smiles wily.

HENK (*continuing*)
I need a higher salary, a more permanent posting. Not this moving from branch to branch.

HENK lowers the duvet and watches AMY. A tear forms in her eye. She wipes it away and reaching for a tissue blows her nose.

AMY
Maybe you're right.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK (*softly*)
I love you Amy.

AMY nods, rolls over and grabs the condom from HENK, yanks down the duvet and again sits astride him, moving her hips in a circle and twirling the condom. HENK closes his eyes.

10. EXT. STREET IN ZUID - DAY

HENK emerges from frontdoor. BOY ON BICYCLE approaches. HENK raises his finger in a rude gesture. BOY is non-plussed, then laughs and gives HENK the thumbs up.

11. EXT. TV STUDIOS AMSTERDAM - DAY

AMY'S red VW Beetle screeches to a halt in the car park of SBS TV. She jumps out of the car, glances at her watch and runs across the lot.

As she enters the swivel door to the studios, a very PREGNANT WOMAN enters the inside half of the door. AMY takes no notice.

12. EXT. BOOKSHOP IN KALVERSTRAAT - DAY

HENK checks his stopwatch and unlocks the glass front door to let in employees queueing outside.

HENK (*brightly*)
Morning Bob, Jan, Hildegard,
Karen, Vincent, Els, Geert.

KAREN appears out of a door marked 'Private: Staff Only' and marches over to HENK.

KAREN
Telephone, Mr Piersma. Head
Office. Mr Parkinson.

HENK raises an eyebrow and heads for a staff door at the back of the shop.

THE BABYMAKERS

13. INT. FRAN'S OFFICE AMSTERDAM - DAY

FRAN sits behind her desk smoking. A bottle of whisky acts as a paper weight in front of her. A knock at the door.

FRAN (*gruffly*)
Come!

AMY enters.

AMY
Sorry I'm late.

FRAN (*waving a hand dismissively*)
Forget it. Time to celebrate.

She pours a whisky and holds it out to AMY.

AMY puts up a hand.

AMY
No thanks.

FRAN gulps it down herself.

AMY (*continuing*)
You drink too much.

FRAN
Eases the pain.

She raises her empty glass and gets up. She takes AMY by the arm and leads her to a black leather sofa.

FRAN (*continuing*)
Guess what, honey? I've been offered a prime-time slot. One whole year with full control.

AMY
Fantastic.

FRAN
Yeah. They want women's issues for the masses. Serious stuff in an entertaining format. That's me all over.

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AMY

I am pleased.

AMY leans gives FRAN a pat on the shoulder. FRAN beams.

AMY (*continuing*)

They couldn't keep you down for long. I'll miss you, of course, but...

FRAN goes to the desk and pours another whisky.

FRAN

No you won't, hon! You're coming with me.

FRAN returns with a refill and sinks into the sofa.

FRAN (*cont*)

I want YOU to front it.

AMY'S mouth falls open.

AMY

Me? Funny old Chinese Amy?

FRAN

Why not? You're bright and ambitious. You've got technique. You've got talent.

She takes a slug of whisky and grins at AMY.

FRAN (*continuing*)

A great butt too. But I'm not supposed to say that.

AMY is lost in thought.

FRAN (*continuing*)

Well?

AMY's face lights up.

She jumps up, runs over and hugs FRAN, planting an enormous kiss on her producer's overmade up cheek.

AMY

I'll do it. And I won't let you down, I promise.

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FRAN coughs as cigarette smoke goes down the wrong way. She hugs AMY with one arm and wipes away a tear from her eye with the other.

FRAN
You'd have made me a swell daughter, hon.

AMY (*pulling free*)
Thought you didn't like kids.

FRAN
No. But I like you.

14. INT. HENK'S OFFICE AT BOOKSHOP - DAY

HENK stands staring at the telephone receiver in his hand. There is a knock. HENK doesn't react. KAREN pokes her head round the door.

KAREN
Mr Piersma?

HENK registers KAREN's presence and slumps into his eco-ergo desk chair, still holding the receiver.

HENK
I've had a shock, Karen.

KAREN
Someone passed away?

HENK
No, no. Mr Parkinson, from England, just offered me a two year posting. (*Pause*) With the possibility of permanency.

KAREN replaces the receiver and puts a motherly arm around HENK's shoulder.

KAREN
I'll put coffee on, Mr Piersma. That'll help.

15. EXT/INT. AMSTERDAM CENTRAAL STATION - EARLY EVENING

HENK, briefcase bulging, suit flapping, strides into the station concourse.

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He emerges on a platform and takes out his camera. En passant he snaps a smart new Wagon-Lits Sleeping Car. He then wheels to the right and into the station bar

AMY's VW screeches to a halt on the Stationsplein. AMY jumps out and jamming a 'Journalist at work' sticker under the windscreen heads for the bar too.

16. INT. CAFE-BAR IN AMSTERDAM CENTRAAL STATION - EVENING

HENK and AMY sit at a table, surrounded by commuters reading papers and shoppers gossiping.

AMY (*animatedly*)

Runs to the end of my contract
and I get to front ALL
programmes. Isn't it great?

HENK (*non committedly*)

I hope so.

AMY

Aren't you pleased. For me?

HENK

Yes, I am. Don't trust the
Yank that's all.

AMY (*laughs with relief*)

Fran? She's alright. She just
frightens you. How do they say
in English? A balls breaker.

HENK (*glancing around*)

Amy, please!

A commuter pushes past AMY and spills drink on her jacket.

AMY (*crossly*)

Why do we always meet here?

HENK (*defensively*)

I like it. Trains coming and
going. People on the move.

AMY wipes beer from her jacket.

AMY

Wish you liked boats. We could
drink by the water then.

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HENK looks hurt. AMY offers a conciliatory hand.

AMY (*continuing*)
Sorry. Now, tell me your news.

HENK swigs his beer and wipes his mouth with a sleeve.

HENK
You're not going to believe
this but I've been offered a
contract for two years!

AMY
No?

HENK
With an option on permanency.

AMY's face lights up.

AMY
We can buy a house.

HENK
Not here. (*AMY's face falls*)
Not in Amsterdam. In...

AMY
Rotterdam? Utrecht?
Maastricht? (*Henk shakes head
each time*) Groningen?
Enschede? Schiermonnikoog?

HENK takes another sip of beer.

HENK
No.

AMY (*impatiently*)
Where then?

HENK
Hong Kong.

AMY
Where?!

HENK
Hong Kong.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY cannot contain her joy. She jumps up hugs HENK, kisses an OVERWEIGHT MAN at a neighbouring table and then turns to the assembled crowd of commuters and shoppers.

AMY (*shouting*)
We're going to live in Hong
Kong. (*To HENK*) Oh, Henk!

She hugs him again.

One or two commuters clap and then, embarrassed by their own loss of control, return to beer and paper.

HENK
I haven't said I'll take it.

AMY calms down and pulls her chair round beside HENK.

AMY
Of course, you'll take it.

HENK
I'm not sure. The language...

AMY
They speak English.

HENK
Where to live...

AMY
With brother Johnny. (*She
pauses*). No. The boyfriend
wouldn't like it. (*Thinks*).
With my grandparents.

HENK (*alarmed*)
Your grandparents?!

AMY
Granny would love it..

HENK
And Granpa? The Mao lookalike?

AMY
You thought he was charming
five years ago. At our wedding
reception.

AMY fingers her ring. HENK takes a swig of beer.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK (*continuing*)

I was with him two hours then
- not two years.

AMY

We'll find something. Or the
firm will.

HENK nods unconvinced.

AMY (*continuing*)

Please take it. It's a great
chance. In six months I'll
join you, get a job there...

Suddenly her face brims anew with joy.

AMY (*continuing*)

...and we can have a baby!

HENK

A what?!

AMY yanks a diary from her bag, leafs through it.

AMY (*loudly*)

Period's due in a week...

Other customers now follow the conversation with interest.

HENK(*with gritted teeth*)

Amy, please!

AMY (*ignoring and continuing*)

Missed this month, but thirty
minus seven plus three...

HENK (*now alarmed*)

Amy! What are you on about?

AMY (*without looking up*)

When could you to start?

HENK

In three weeks.

AMY

Perfect. We'll get one chance.
Just before you leave. Then
I'll fly out once a month.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK

Once a month?! To Hong Kong?!

AMY (*ignoring him*)

Oh, Henk!

Other customers have followed AMY's calculations and give a thumbs-up sign.

17. EXT. STREET IN ZUID - DAY

BOY ON BICYCLE cycles along with his FATHER. In the background, we see HENK standing at his *bovenhuis* bedroom window. In the distance, an ambulance siren wails.

18. INT. HOUSE IN ZUID - DAY

HENK in pyjamas stands at the window, ambulance still audible. He shakes his head, moves to the bed and packs clothes into a battered brown suitcase. He checks his bedside table and, opening the drawer, sees the condoms lying neatly side by side. He presses the model train remote and a train appears. He loads the condoms on to the wagons.

AMY, still in nightie, emerges from the bathroom with a thermometer clamped in her mouth. She grabs graph paper and pen from her bedside table and lies down on the bed.

HENK watches and then forgetting the condom train returns to packing. AMY removes the thermometer and studies it. She looks at her chart and jumps off the bed.

AMY (*yelling*)

It's dropped Henk!

HENK

What's dropped?

AMY

The egg, stompie. The egg.

HENK (*carrying on packing*)

Congratulations.

AMY comes up behind him and puts a hand in his pyjama top.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY

Shall we...?

HENK

At ten o'clock in the morning?

AMY (*hand moving downwards*)

Please!

HENK

I'll miss my plane.

AMY

We've twenty minutes.

HENK

Twenty minutes! Wow! 'In
twenty minutes, God created
man.'

HENK takes up his ritual position on the bed with puffed up pillows and the duvet pulled to his chin.

AMY notices condoms in the train and presses the remote. The train disappears through the wall. She pulls down the duvet, sits astride HENK'S pelvis and starts to gyrate.

HENK closes his eyes tight. Camera closes in on his face.

MONTAGE INSERT *In grainy b&w we see BOY ON BICYCLE emerge on to main street. His FATHER follows also on a bicycle. We hear the ringing of a tram bell. The BOY heads into the road. FATHER waves at him. There is a scream and a crash.*

AMY turns and gyrates in the other direction.

MONTAGE INSERT *The wail of the ambulance, this time very loud. We see the lifeless body of the BOY in the arms of a weeping FATHER. A tram looms behind them. A touching, tragic scene not in the least comic.*

HENK puts a pillow over his head to escape the images.

The church clock strikes ten.

HENK (*removing pillow*)

It's no good Amy!

AMY'S gyrations stop. She grabs the remote and resummons the train, which hurtles in and crashes.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK (*continuing*)

Amy!

AMY ignores HENK and picks up a condom.

AMY

If I put it on, then take it off at the last moment...

HENK (*shaking his head*)

No. It's not that. (*Pauses*)
It's the responsibility

AMY (*half listening*)

Of what?

HENK

Of having a child.

AMY stops opening the condom and takes HENK'S hand.

HENK (*continuing*)

And all such a rush.

AMY (*looking at clock*)

We've got fifteen minutes. You only take five.

HENK

This is different. The bonking bit is the most important part for men. The only bit, really.

AMY

But you want a baby?

HENK (*after a pause*)

Will you still love me? When there's a baby?

AMY (*laughing*)

Of course! I'll have two babies. That's all.

AMY kisses him on the cheek and squeezes his hand.

AMY

We'd better get dressed.

THE BABYMAKERS

19. EXT. HONG KONG/LANTAU VISTA - DAY

Jumbo jet approaches Chep Lap Kok Airport, sub-tropical sun shines down on a sparkling South China sea, Hong Kong hills glow green in the humid heat.

20. INT. CHEP LAP KOK AIRPORT, HONG KONG - DAY

HENK, in a crumpled linen jacket and beige Chinos, appears out of passport control with suitcases piled on a trolley.

A tall Chinese man with black hair in a ponytail, a Helmut Lange T-Shirt and pin-striped suit approaches HENK from behind and claps him on the back. Amy's brother, JOHNNY.

HENK, startled, turns round.

HENK
Johnny. Hi!

JOHNNY (*in Dutch*)
Welcome to Hong Kong, man.
I wait two years for this.

He looks HENK up and down.

JOHNNY (*continuing*)
My brother-in-law. You look
great. So Dutch.

JOHNNY gives HENK a hug. HENK is not sure what's hit him.

There is a bleep. JOHNNY whips a mobile from his pocket.

JOHNNY (*continuing*)
Excuse me... (*In Cantonese*)
Wei?... Hai... Hai... Ho-wa...
M'goi sai... Bye-bye. (*He
closes the telephone*) We have
first to go to my clinic.
Small emergency. Then we go to
your apartment. Get you sett-
led in. You have the address?

HENK hands him a piece of headed Waterstone's notepaper. JOHNNY studies it, grabs HENK's trolley and strides off.

HENK follows a few feet behind, a lonely looking figure.

THE BABYMAKERS

21. EXT. LANTAU SUSPENSION BRIDGE, HONG KONG - DAY

JOHNNY drives his BMW at speed across the Tsing Yi/Lantau suspension bridge. Hong Kong harbour and skyline shimmer in the background. He sits on the tail of cars, flashes his headlights and drives in a showy and dangerous manner.

22. INT. JOHNNY'S CAR - DAY

JOHNNY

Hong Kong's a great place.
Makes Amsterdam look like a
North Holland fishing village.
Work hard, play hard, make
money. That's the game.

JOHNNY hoots at a car in front.

JOHNNY (*continuing*)

I'm in the health biz. (*HENK
nods*) But healthcare with a
difference: hi-tec with new
age sensibility, fleece the
rich for all they've got. SARS
was a godsend.

JOHNNY laughs and flashes a car in front of him.

JOHNNY (*continuing*)

Osteopathy, aroma therapy. You
name it, I do it and make
extra bucks writing about it.

JOHNNY brakes and swerves. HENK clutches the door handle.

HENK

You write? In English?

JOHNNY (*making rude sign at motorsit*)

No. In Chinese with English
translation. Dual language -
twice the dollars-la. Can't be
a hippy all your life, eh?
Take that Branson guy. Cool
cat, eh? (*He claps HENK on
the back*) I give you a check-
up later. For free of course.
Family and all that. (*HENK
nods*) Shit-la, need to get off
here... Hang on!

THE BABYMAKERS

JOHNNY swerves across three lanes and shoots up exit ramp.

JOHNNY (*patting Henk's knee*)
Don't worry man.

HENK (*with eyes firmly closed*)
Worry? Of course not.

23. EXT. LAN KWAI FONG STREET - DAY

Looking down a steep, narrow and busy street with neon signs in Chinese strung across it and a fitness centre with perspiring runners on treadmills in the foreground. Johnny's car screeches up from bottom of hill and swerves off into an underground car park.

24. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC IN LAN KWAI FONG, CENTRAL HK - DAY

Low lights and furniture in eco-friendly wood, mix with TV sets showing new-age videos and pulsing out new-age muzak. Waiting patients - an ethnic mix of fashionably clad twenty, thirty, forty and even fifty something females (with a spattering of males) - meditate, interact with self-analysis screens or merely merge with the decor. Two smart-casual dressed Chinese RECEPTIONISTS - one male, one female - tap keys and occasionally announce, in husky tones, a patient's name through concealed microphones.

The door wafts open. JOHNNY enters followed by a still shaky HENK. Patients look up with awe in their eyes. JOHNNY puts his palms together in a new-age version of an Indian greeting and sweeps across to the reception desk.

JOHNNY (*in Cantonese*)
Fan-li, Oi-ki this is brother-
in-law, Henk. Show him around
while I deal with Mr Lo.

FAN-LI and OI-KI smile and stretch out caring hands. HENK nods politely and stares bemused as a MIDDLE-AGED CHINESE MAN - with a shaven head and all in black approaches JOHNNY, falls into his arms and bursts into tears. JOHNNY with a 'won't-be-a minute' sign to HENK leads the man off.

FAN-LI (*aside to HENK*)
Suspected male menopause.
Sexual dysfunction is Dr Lau's
speciality.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK stares at poster of couple of indeterminate gender.

FAN-LI takes his arm and guides him off down a corridor.

FAN-LI (*continuing*)
On left - acupuncture room.

HENK peers through a window and flinches as a needle pierces pristine flesh.

FAN-LI (*continuing*)
On right - aromatherapy suite.

The door opens and a MIDDLE-AGED FEMALE PATIENT emerges exuding serenity and a stench of essential oils.

FAN-LI (*continuing*)
Next - Le Boyer birthing room.

HENK peers in, but it is pitch black inside.

FAN-LI (*continuing*)
For having babies under water.

HENK looks alarmed, but follows FAN-LI, who has now reached the end of the corridor.

FAN-LI throws open the door to a brightly lit room.

FAN-LI (*continuing proudly*)
Here: class for development of
pre-natal body bonding and
biorythmic balancing.

HENK inches forward to peer over FAN LI's shoulder. A line of pregnant women, Asian and Caucasian, kneel on all fours groaning and arching bottoms in the air. A macabre sight. Suddenly all participants scream at once.

INSERT. HENK hears and sees BOY ON BICYCLE scream as he falls in front of the tram.

HENK blocks his ears, and closes his eyes.

THE BABYMAKERS

25. EXT. APARTMENT IN CONDUIT ROAD, MID-LEVELS - DAY

JOHNNY'S BMW skids to a halt in driveway of a high-rise block. It is undergoing renovation and covered from top to toe in bamboo scaffolding and gauze netting. WORKMEN de-clad the walls with jack-hammers. It is not quiet.

JOHNNY flicks on warning lights and jumps out. A GUARD tells JOHNNY not to park, but is pacified with a HK\$100 bill. JOHNNY grabs the cases and leads HENK inside.

26. INT. LIFT LOBBY - DAY

JOHNNY presses lift button for Level 30. A lump of rubble whistles past the lift-lobby window and lands with a thud in the container outside. HENK jumps.

JOHNNY (*clapping HENK on the back*)
Hong Kong! Always rebuilding.

27. INT. CONDUIT ROAD APARTMENT - DAY

A CHINESE ESTATE AGENT'S ASSISTANT in off-the-peg suit, white shirt and black tie finishes showing HENK round the sparsely furnished one-bedroomed apartment. JOHNNY is busy on his phone and has draped himself across a single bed visible in a small bedroom in background.

ESTATE AGENT'S ASSISTANT
On behalf of Waterstone's Hong
Kong I present you with key to
your apartment. Please enjoy.

He bows and hands over a key. A bemused HENK takes it.

HENK
Thank you.

Rubble whizzes past the window. The ASSISTANT backs out. HENK crosses to the window, glances at the street thirty floors below and staggers back dizzy with vertigo.

JOHNNY rings off and looks at his watch.

JOHNNY
Gotta go man. Let's meet
tomorrow night. Hit the town
Hong Kong style. OK brother?

THE BABYMAKERS

JOHNNY holds up a high-five. Another piece of rubble sails past the window and lands with a metallic thud.

JOHNNY rushes to the window.

JOHNNY (*continuing*)
Shit-la!

JOHNNY exits at speed.

HENK curls embryo fashion on the sofa. Hammering starts outside, a baby screams above, a phone rings and far below horns and angry shouting merge into the mele of noise.

HENK'S eyes close.

DISSOLVE TO:-

28. INT. BABY KINDERGARTEN AMSTERDAM - DAY

AMY, mobile phone to ear, and FRAN, lighting a cigarette despite large no smoking sign, stand in a room surrounded (at floor level) by SMALL CHILDREN and BABIES crawling on the floor. The sound of a screaming baby continues from the previous shot as does the ringing of a phone. AMY claps shut her mobile and the ringing stops.

AMY
I hope he's alright.

FRAN.
Who, hon?

AMY
Henk. He must be there by now.

FRAN
He'll be fine. (*Taking AMY's arm*)
And so will you. Let's get out of
this hell-hole.

On the way out they pass SOUNDWOMAN MARIEKE pointing a boom mike at SCREAMING BABY held by an OLDER SISTER.

FRAN (*continuing*).
What are you doing Marieke?

SOUNDWOMAN MARIEKE points to the TIMID DIRECTOR (trapped in a corner by toddlers demanding sweets) then at the BABY and then at her tape recorder.

THE BABYMAKERS

FRAN (*shaking her head*)
God protect me from directors. And babies.

OLDER SISTER
Shall I make him cry some more?

MARIEKE shakes her head and casts a jealous glance at FRAN's arm round AMY, who is phoning again. FRAN and AMY move off. MARIEKE aims the boom in their direction.

FRAN (*filtered through headphones*)
Put that goddam thing away, Amy.
What you need is a good drink.
Wanna come back to my place?

AMY (*still on phone*)
No thanks, Fran. I'm beat.

FRAN turns to MARIEKE, who redirects the mike.

FRAN
Hey, Marieke. Fancy a drink?

MARIEKE's face lights up. She removes headphones and nods.

FRAN (*continuing*)
Get your ass over here then.

CUT TO:

CU on AMY in doorway with phone to her ear. No reply. She lowers phone and a picture of HENK appears. She kisses it.

We pull focus to FRAN in the background watching her.

29. INT. HENK'S CONDUIT ROAD APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

HENK still lies on sofa, a cushion over his head. Sounds from previous afternoon return one by one: horns, baby, jackhammers. Then a loud knock close by, at the window. HENK removes the cushion and opens a wary eye .

A building worker in safety harness and with a large drill gives a wave and taps his watch.

THE BABYMAKERS

30. EXT. OUTSIDE APARTMENT - DAY

HENK, in blazor and flannels, briefcase and umbrella in hand, queues for the apartment's mini-bus shuttle service. The bus arrives. Henk is last on.

31. INT. SHUTTLE BUS - DAY

HENK squeezes his way down gangway past suited men and women babbling into mobile phones in Japanese, German, Korean, Putonghua, Cantonese and English.

The bus starts with a jolt. Henk falls on to the back seat between a Japanese man and an American, both on mobiles.

HENK pulls out his own mobile, but has no one to call. It is the middle of the night in Holland. He stares at the picture of AMY on the screen. A tear rolls down his cheek.

32. INT. PRINCE'S BUILDING SHOPPING MALL, CENTRAL - DAY

HENK approaches his new branch, situated on the second floor of a well-to-do shopping mall. He is surprised to see a crowd outside the door.

HENK tries to push through, but is held back. In true Hong Kong fashion everyone wants to be first in. HENK clears his throat and approaches a middle-aged CHINESE WOMAN.

HENK

Why(*he points*)so many people?

CHINESE WOMAN

Someone sign books.

HENK (*not understanding*)

Sign books? Who?

CHINESE WOMAN

Maybe Harry Potter. Maybe Jackie Chan. Maybe (*looks at adjoining shop*) Mr Armani. As long as famous, I don't mind.

By tapping people on the shoulder and pointing at the ceiling HENK gets to front of the queue.

He knocks on a glass door. It is opened by a young MAN IN GLASSES.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK

I am the new manager.

MAN IN GLASSES, in difficulties with the crowd, ignores HENK. HENK blocks the door.

HENK (*continuing*)

I am the new manager. De Baas.
Boss Sin-San.

MAN IN GLASSES still ignores him.

HENK, forced to let go of the door frame, is swept into the shop on a sea of bodies.

33. INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

HENK is propelled across the shop past a table where JACKIE CHAN, or his double, sits behind a pile of books.

HENK (*trying to get attention*)

I'm the new manager. Hello!

JACKIE CHAN ignores him. HENK is swept on towards a door marked 'Personnel'.

HENK

Hello! I'm the new...

But the door is shut in his face and locked from inside.

HENK fights his way back through the crowd swarming round JC, and reaches the cash desk. He climbs on to the counter, pulls out his train whistle and blows it.

The ear splitting noise stops the crowd in its tracks.

STAFF emerge from the 'Personnel Only' door. All eyes, including those of miffed JACKIE CHAN, turn towards HENK.

HENK

Thankyou. Before we continue
with the signing session, I'd
like to make an announcement.

He surveys the crowd and bows politely to JACKIE CHAN.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK (*continuing*)

I am Henk Piersma of Amsterdam,
the new manager of your branch.
(*Spattered claps*). One of you
must be my assistant manager Mr...

HENK pulls out a notebool. MAN IN GLASSES raises a finger.

MAN IN GLASSES (*making bow*)

Kwok. Welcome to Hong Kong.

HENK peers down at MR KWOK.

HENK (*smiling*)

Bit of a cock-up, Mr Kwok?

MR KWOK nods.

MR KWOK

I expected you tomorrow, sir.
Another important person here,
so my mind was...

HENK

Understandable. But now it's time
for work.

34. INT. BOOKSTORE - LATER THE SAME DAY

HENK already at home in the travel section browses through a book on Japanese Railways. He pulls out his pocket watch and is about to blow his whistle when a CHINESE WOMAN in her twenties with short black hair, friendly face and wearing a smart uniform enters through the glass doors. She has something of a young Audrey Hepburn about her, innocent but knowing at the same time.

HENK (*eyes taking her in*)

I'm afraid we are about to
close.

WOMAN (*disappointed*)

Oh, dear. (*Brightening up*) Are
you English?

HENK

No, Madam, I am Dutch.

HENK looks at his watch and puts whistle between his lips.

THE BABYMAKERS

WOMAN

Dutch will do. I'm looking for
a book on Railways in Europe.
But I am too late, yes?

The WOMAN smiles. HENK'S face lights up at mention of
railways and is further softened by the charm of the
smile. He pockets the whistle and reaches for an intercom.

HENK

Not at all. One moment please.

HENK presses a number on the intercom.

HENK (*continuing*)

Mr Kwok?

MR KWOK appears from behind a bookcase.

MR KWOK (*Standing behind HENK*)

Yes, Mr Piersma?

HENK (*still talking into phone*)

Close up shop, please. (*He turns,
sees MR KWOK, jumps and
hangs up the phone*). Whilst I
help this lady find a book.

MR KWOK nods and departs. HENK turns to the WOMAN.

HENK (*looking at her uniform*)

You work with trains?

WOMAN (*laughing*)

With planes. I'm an announcer.
At the airport.

HENK

But interested in railways?

The WOMAN smiles at HENK.

HENK, flattered but embarrassed, plays with his whistle.

HENK (*continuing*)

Bit of an enthusiast myself.

WOMAN

Oh. What a coincidence. (*She
puts out a hand*) Chan Su-yin.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK

Piersma Henk. Yes.

He shakes the hand, mesmerised by her presence.

SU-YIN

So, do you have any?

HENK (*blankly*)

Have any...?

SU-YIN (*laughing*)

Books on European railways.

HENK

Oh, yes. Let's see.

HENK moves a finger along the books.

SU-YIN watches him.

HENK

Good introduction for a beginner... Ah! (*Pulls out a book*) Russian Railways. They run on a different guage to other countries. Did you know that? Have to change wheels at the border... fascinating...

35. EXT. BOOKSTORE ENTRANCE - EVENING

MR KWOK looks at his watch, not happy at having to wait.

He holds the door open as HENK and SU-YIN - the latter with a bag full of books - approach from inside the shop.

HENK (*to SU-YIN*)

Those will keep you busy.

SU-YIN

Yes! Thank you.

MR KWOK (*in background*)

Goodnight, Mr Piersma, Madam.

HENK (*without turning*)

Goodnight, Mr Kwok.

HENK stands outside the shop, under the spell of SU-YIN.

THE BABYMAKERS

SU-YIN

A drink? To thank you for
keeping the shop open.

HENK is startled but pleased.

HENK

I have an appointment - with
my brother-in-law.

SU-YIN

Married?

HENK nods

SU-YIN (*continuing*)

How nice. Children?

HENK

Not yet.

SU-YIN smiles.

SU-YIN (*with a smile*)

Enjoy yourself. Choo, choo!

HENK

Yes, choo, choo! And that
drink. Maybe some other time.

SU-YIN

May be.

SU-YIN walks off, turning once more to wave. HENK waves
back, and watches until she disappears around a corner.

36. EXT. LAN KWAI FONG STREET - NIGHT

HENK climbs a steep, pedestrians-only street with
colourful market stalls on either side. There is much
shouting and jostling. HENK looks at his piece of paper
and shows it to a stall-holder, who points up the street,

THE BABYMAKERS

37. INT. EXARSPERELLA'S, LAN KWAI FONG - EVENING

HENK makes his way through a dimly lit, obviously gay, dance-bar decorated in a mix of hi-tec harsh and new-age mystic styles. Two lone males dance catatonically in time to repetitive house music and pulsing lights.

JOHNNY in sweatshirt and black knee-length cycle shorts sits at a steel-rimmed bar drinking whisky. Beside him sits boyfriend KA-WAI - mid-20's, Chinese and beautiful with soft eyes. KA-WAI spots HENK staring at the dancers and half-trying to imitate them. He nudges JOHNNY.

KA-WAI (*in Cantonese*)
The Dutchman, I presume.

JOHNNY turns, shades his eyes against the light and nods.

JOHNNY (*calling over in English*)
Hi, man. Over here

HENK crosses to JOHNNY, perches himself on a stool. KA-WAI leans across JOHNNY and kisses HENK on the cheek.

KA-WAI (*in English*)
Hi, brother-in-law. I'm Ka-wai,
Johnny's friend. (*HENK nods curtly*). Love the blazer.

HENK (*nervously*)
Thank you.

JOHNNY
Ka-wai's not stopping. Got a
therapy session to run. Haven't
you, dear?

KA-WAI looks peeved, but slides off his stool.

KA-WAI
Ciao, Henk. Look after Johnny.
(*Pecks JOHNNY on cheek*) Bye, babe.

JOHNNY turns to HENK

JOHNNY (*in Dutch*)
Good day? (*HENK nods. JOHNNY points at whisky*) Want some?

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK

I don't drink.

JOHNNY

Don't drink? It's good for you. (*Takes a slug of whisky*)
Relaxes the inner self.

HENK (*tensely*)

My inner self is relaxed,
thank you.

JOHNNY

Just a beer. Go on.

HENK

Well, alright.

JOHNNY waves to the barman.

DISSOLVE TO:-

38. INT. EXARSPERELLA'S - LATER

The dance floor is filled with male couples - noise intolerable, smoke everywhere. But HENK has mellowed. He has been drinking and sits surrounded by bottles. JOHNNY has a glazed look in his eye and is smoking a cigar.

HENK (*slightly slurred*)

She wants a baby, I have to do my bit. Egg drops, willy goes to work.

JOHNNY nods doctor-fashion, exhaling clouds of blue smoke.

JOHNNY

You wanna be a dad?

HENK

It's a big responsibility.

JOHNNY

Bringing up a child?

HENK

Creating another human being.
Another Henk Piersma. Another me. It's an awesome prospect.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK sinks chin on chest, depressed by his own thoughts. JOHNNY offers his whisky. HENK empties the glass.

JOHNNY
Release the inner self!

HENK slumps in his chair, arms hanging by his side. As his inner self releases, he starts to giggle and then sob.

JOHNNY (*in a soothing tone*)
You can be a dad. You're not
the first. You love Amy. She
loves you...

But the mention of 'love' makes HENK cry more.

HENK (*through tears*)
Maybe she only loves me for my
my spermatoes

JOHNNY (*helpfully*)
Spermatazoas.

HENK nods and blows his nose on a napkin.

HENK
No baby will mean bye bye
Henkie. She'll not want me
without babas. Oh, Johnny!

HENK slides onto the lap of his embarrassed brother-in-law.

HENK (*slurred speech*)
If I was gay there'd be no
bother with babies. You'd love
me, baby or not, wouldn't you?

JOHNNY
Sure, but..

HENK throws his arms around JOHNNY. Couples stare in distaste at howling HENK and embarrassed JOHNNY. This is not laid-back Lan Kwai Fong gay-behaviour.

39. EXT. TV STUDIOS AMSTERDAM - DAY

AMY's red VW beetle screeches to a halt. She jumps out and runs to the revolving door. A PREGNANT WOMAN is again passing through the other way. AMY revolves round after her and then pulling herself together carries on inside.

THE BABYMAKERS

40. INT. FRAN'S OFFICE - DAY

FRAN pacing and talking at the top of her voice. AMY sits on the black leather sofa listening in awed silence.

FRAN

(in Dutch with American accent)
Sex is what the programme bosses want and sex is what they're goddamn gonna get, Amy. We're gonna put so much sex in our shows ratings will go through the roof. Seedy sex, serious sex, sumptuous sex, sex for the over sixties. Understand what I'm saying?

AMY nods, not at all sure what FRAN is saying.

FRAN slumps onto the sofa beside AMY, putting a more than maternal arm round her star reporter's shoulder.

FRAN

Any ideas?

AMY

Can we talk about something else?

FRAN

Not sex? What else is there?

AMY

Something personal. A bit to do with sex.

FRAN

Leaving Henkie? Want to come out lesbian? About time, hon.

AMY

No, no. Can you keep a secret?

FRAN

My lips are sealed. The upper ones at least.

AMY

We're trying to get pregnant.

THE BABYMAKERS

FRAN

You AND Henk. Jeez!

AMY

You know what I mean.

FRAN (*removing arm*)

Sure. Great news, hon. Don't let it mess up your career though. (*She pauses*) That's what I did. Gave up my job after one missed period.

AMY (*surprised*)

You were pregnant?!

FRAN

Once upon a time. Yeah

AMY

With that man?

FRAN

Naw. A Thai trannie who took me for a ride.

AMY

What happened?

FRAN

Came out in the wash.

AMY

I'm sorry

FRAN

Yeah, well. Anyway great news for you.

AMY nods. FRAN, overcome by memories, goes to her desk, fetches a cigarette and returns to the sofa.

She stares into space and then clicks her fingers.

FRAN (*continuing*)

I got it hon. You're Chinese. Your man's in Hong Kong. And you want to make babies. So...

She lights up the cigarette and takes a drag.

THE BABYMAKERS

FRAN (*continuing*)
...we send YOU to Hong Kong.
You ball Henkie till you're up
to your boobs in babies AND...
(*she exhales a smoke ring*)...
you file me a report on the
sizzling city of Suzie Wong!

AMY digests what FRAN has said and then grins.

AMY
You'll send me to Hong Kong?

FRAN
You got it, hon, AND we'll
schedule it to fit the old egg
factory. How about that?

AMY leans across and hugs FRAN.

AMY
Thanks, you're a real friend.

FRAN, delighted at show of affection squeezes Amy's hand.

41. EXT. LANTAU ISLAND, HONG KONG - DAY

A KLM 747 lands against backdrop of Lantau Island.

42. INT. CHEP LAP KOK AIRPORT - DAY

HENK in arrivals scans the wrong giant-sized monitor. AMY appears behind him, trolley loaded with cases. She taps him on the shoulder.

HENK jumps and looks from monitor to her and back.

AMY releases the trolley and hugs HENK.

AMY (*in Dutch, still hugging*)
Lover boy. I've missed you.

HENK (*not at ease*)
Me, too. (*AMY covers him in kisses*). Thought we'd have coffee first in the airport restaurant.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY (*laughing*)

No stations here?! (*She hugs again and pulls back*) Hey? Not pleased to see me or what?

HENK (*between teeth*)

Of course. It's just, well, a bit public for Hong Kong

AMY (*laughing*)

I was born here, remember?

AMY takes HENK, now pushing trolley, by the arm and leads him off along the concourse.

43. INT. AIRPORT RESTAURANT - DAY

HENK and AMY sit drinking coffee.

AMY

We'll pick up your stuff and take a taxi to grandad's. Granny says you can stay as long as you like.

HENK

Anything will be better than that building site.

AMY (*stroking his hair*)

Poor you.

Suddenly a cry of 'Choo, choo!' echoes across the room. HENK sees SU-YIN in a navy suit with an airport hat on her head - the spitting image of Audrey.

SU-YIN (*In English*)

Mr Piersma. How are you? I'm enjoying the books.

AMY'S eyes narrow.

HENK (*embarrassed*)

Kello. Amy, this is...

SU-YIN (*to AMY*)

Ms Chan. Chance acquaintance.

AMY

Chance acquaintance?

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK (*nuancing*)
Customer. Bought some books.

SU-YIN (*beaming at AMY*)
Customer and acquaintance.

HENK (*trailing off*)
More customer than acquaintance.

AMY (*to SU-YIN in Cantonese*)
Amy. Chance wife of this man!

SU-YIN (*surprised*)
You speak Cantonese?

AMY
I was born in Hong kong.

SU-YIN
How nice.

An awkward silence.

SU-YIN (*in English to HENK*)
I must return to work.

AMY (*in Cantonese, staring at Su-Yin*)
You work here? In the airport?

SU-YIN (*in Cantonese*)
Public Announcements.

SU-YIN turns to HENK.

SU-YIN (*in English*)
Choo, choo, Mr Piersma. Come
up and see me sometime.

HENK smiles politely.

AMY glowers.

SU-YIN walks off with a sway of her hips.

HENK (*in Dutch*)
Very into Russian Railways.

AMY
Very into you, I'd say.

THE BABYMAKERS

44. EXT. NEW TERRITORIES FARMHOUSE - DAY

A green New Territories taxi draws up outside a village house with white walls and tiled roof. The house and stone outbuildings are surrounded by a field. Pigs eat from a trough. They glance at the taxi and return to their food.

MRS LAU, a small wiry woman in her mid-seventies with a crinkled face, emerges from the front door. She has on gumboots, Chinese three-quarter pants, a black smock and traditional bamboo sun hat. AMY runs to meet her.

HENK unloads luggage, pays the taxi, then stares with mild alarm at his surroundings. A pig oinks behind him. HENK jumps and puts his foot in a dog turd. AMY beckons to HENK.

HENK picks up two cases and staggers across the yard. MRS LAU bows and indicates the house and land.

MRS LAU (*in broken English*)
Please, welcome to our
ancestral home. Hong Kong's
number one organic farm.
Everything made with real
shit. You smell? Hai?

She takes a deep breath of air and beams.

HENK
Very refreshing, Mrs Lau. I
was admiring the pigs. Amazing
in the middle of Hong Kong.

MRS LAU
Mgoi sai. All pigs one hundred
percent antibiotic free and
naturally fucked up.

AMY (*in Dutch to HENK*)
She means 'bred'. I taught her
'opgefokt' in Dutch. (*To Mrs
Lau in Cantonese*) Where's Opa?

MRS LAU whispers something to AMY, points to the barn and then beams at HENK.

AMY (*straightfaced*)
Opa is servicing the pigs. Oma
asks if you'd like to watch.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK (*alarmed*)
He's what?!

AMY
Not literally, *stompie*. The male pigs get overexcited and come too soon. So they do it artificially. Inject semen up the sows' fannies... Henk...?

HENK swallows hard and sways. AMY steadies him.

MR LAU, a short but fierce looking man of eighty with a shock of white hair and nicotine stained teeth, emerges from a barn. He wears a green waterproof apron and thigh boots. From his arm he removes a long glistening rubber glove. He holds out the freed hand to HENK.

MR LAU (*in Cantonese*)
Josan.

HENK stares at his grandfather and sags into AMY's arms.

AMY (*in Cantonese*)
Works too hard. Needs country air.

MR and MRS LAU nod wisely.

45. INT. DINING AREA LAU'S FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

HENK, AMY and MR LAU sit round a dining room table. Various home-made Chinese delicacies are on the table, including diced pork, fresh peeled garlic prawns, sliced beef and green pepper and various types of 'choi' (cabbage).

HENK eyes the 'choi' suspiciously. MRS LAU appears from the kitchen and places a dish of rice on the table. Beaming at HENK she fills his rice bowl to the brim. She takes her seat at the head of the table.

MRS LAU (*In Cantonese*)
Da jia shi fan!

HENK (*imitating badly*)
Dar jihad shit fang! (*Aside to AMY with pride*) That means 'eet smakelijk' in Cantonese.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY

Really?

HENK

It's on my teach-yoursef tape.

HENK watches as MR LAU grabs a prawn with his chopsticks, dunks it in sauce and jams it into his mouth.

HENK tries to follow suit, but his chopsticks fail him. After three attempts, he uses a spoon proffered by MRS LAU.

MR LAU has meanwhile consumed all the prawns and most of the pork.

MRS LAU (*In English*)

Tomorrow you see father pig. We fetch 'Big Mao' from Uncle Ho. Uncle Ho's Big Mao is good baby maker.

HENK

I thought you were... the sows

AMY (*in Cantonese*)

He thought you artificially inseminated all the sows.

MRS LAU (*Beaming*)

(*In Cantonese*) Only younger ones. (*In English with a wink*) Old ladies prefer real thing!

HENK

Yes. I'm sure they do.

HENK goes back to eating, hoping the subject is closed.

MRS LAU (*In Cantonese to Amy*)

He can help Opa if he likes.

AMY (*In Dutch*)

Oma says you can lend a hand.

HENK (*alarmed*)

Lend a hand?!

MRS LAU (*in English again*)

Sometimes Big Mao get overexcited. Can't find right

THE BABYMAKERS

place, you know - right hole.

HENK drops his fork and swallows hard.

MRS LAU (*continuing with big smile*)
So, we help put in.

HENK stares at his pork.

MRS LAU (*continuing*)
Interesting for you. No?

HENK
No. I mean... Yes.

MRS LAU (*beaming at HENK*)
More pork?

HENK shakes his head.

MR LAU (*In Cantonese to Amy*)
He give you baby soon?

AMY (*In Cantonese*)
Grandfather!

HENK (*In Dutch*)
What did he say?

AMY
Wonders if we'd thought of
starting a family.

MR LAU grins at HENK and winks.

HENK (*weakly*)
We're thinking about it.

MR LAU (*In Cantonese to Amy*)
Sperm of young bull more
fertile. Make healthy piglet.

AMY (*In Cantonese*)
Grandfather!

HENK (*in Dutch*)
What did he say?

AMY
'Oh'.

THE BABYMAKERS

46. INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

HENK and AMY are in bed. HENK, in green striped pyjamas, is propped up on pillows as usual.

AMY is leant against his shoulder reading (in English) - from 'Great Railway Journeys of the World Vol. 2'.

AMY (*mid-sentence*)
'...rounding the bend, the 504
Pacific E-Type locomotive
begins to get up steam.'

AMY opens the top button of HENK's pyjamas. A pig oinks.

AMY (*continuing*)

'The view is breathtaking, the
peaks of the Andes, soaring up
towards the sky, the valleys
of the foothills plunging off
to left and right.'

AMY begins to play her hand across HENK's left nipple.

AMY (*continuing*)
'The sound of the steam engine
becomes more urgent as it
strains to scale the heights.'

HENK closes his eyes and begins making noises something like a steam engine. He is clearly excited.

AMY (*continuing*)
'In-out, in-out, go the giant
pistons. Sparks start to fly
from the belching funnel...'

AMY'S hand moves down to HENK's stomach.

A creaking sound from through the wall. HENK tenses.

HENK (*in Dutch*)
What's that?

AMY (*soothingly*)
Nothing. 'Sparks fly from the
belching funnel, red hot coals
glow in the bowels...'

THE BABYMAKERS

A second creak follows.

HENK
There it is again.

AMY (*impatiently*)
Henk! It's only rats. (*Reads*)
'...red hot coals glow...'

But the train is grinding to a halt.

HENK (*alarmed*)
Rats?

AMY (*persevering*)
'...coals glow in the...'

Next door there is a burp followed by a giggle.

HENK (*incredulously*)
Rats?!

AMY
'...glow in the bowels...'

Bed springs creak rhythmically, interspersed with groans from MR and MRS LAU. HENK sits bolt upright.

HENK
Rats?!!

AMY
Oma and Opa, that's all.

HENK (*listening with disgust*)
But he's eighty two!

The sounds get more hefty.

AMY (*reading very fast*)
'...coals glow in the
bowels of the mighty
locomotive, flames lick
round the edge of the
cavernous boiler...'

But the fire is out. The geriatric bonking builds. HENK turns on his side and covers his head with a pillow. AMY closes the book, switches out the light and lies on her back staring at the ceiling. MR and MRS LAU climax.

THE BABYMAKERS

47. EXT. FARMHOUSE - NEXT MORNING

Sunshine plays on the green sub-tropical hills. The young 'serviced' pigs sleep in the shade of a bamboo grove. The older sows look hopefully down the track.

MR LAU reverses a three-wheeler pick-up truck out of a barn. MRS LAU appears with a rope halter and climbs in beside him. She waves at the house.

48. INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

AMY, in white towelling dressing gown, stands at the window. She has clearly been there some time. She waves back as the jeep drives off. Behind her HENK is still fast asleep. Flat on his back, breathing through his mouth.

AMY turns and looks at him. She takes off her dressing gown, creeps across, pulls down the duvet, lifts up her nightie and lies down on top of the sleeping HENK.

She moves up and down - gradually picking up speed.

HENK opens one eye. AMY'S head is buried in his shoulder.

HENK (*in Dutch*)
What ARE you doing?

AMY
Go back to sleep

HENK
With you doing aerobics on top
of me?

AMY
Henk! We have thirty minutes
before my grandparents get
back with Big Mao.

HENK (*getting the message*)
Right. In thirty minutes God
created man.

He rolls over on top of AMY and pulls the duvet up.

HENK (*continuing*)
Let's get bonking.

THE BABYMAKERS

MONTAGE SEQUENCE. Wriggling under duvet with HENK and AMY coming up for air, interspersed with Big Mao being loaded by pulley into open back of three-wheeler truck and travelling with his head to the wind.

Back at the farm the sound of a front door opening heralds return of the Grandparents.

HENK crawls from bed and lies on his back on the floor.

HENK
Sorry. Out of condition.

AMY pulls duvet to her chin.

AMY
Don't you find me attractive?

HENK
Of course.

He rolls over and starts press ups.

AMY
More attractive than your
train friend? Ms Chan.

HENK (*out of breath*)
Of course.

AMY looks unconvinced.

HENK, belly sagging, is at top of a press-up when there's a knock on the door.

MR LAU pokes his head round. HENK wobbles.

MR LAU (*In Cantonese*)
Josan! Big Mao's here. All
hands on deck.

HENK collapses on the floor. A pig oinks.

49. EXT. NEW TERRITORIES FARMHOUSE - DAY: MONTAGE SEQUENCE:

From a distance, we see HENK in the farm's field trying to assist MR LAU get Big Mao into position behind a sow. HENK is chased by Big Mao and then by the sow. Finally, exhorted MRS LAU to 'grab Mao's thing, he collapses.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY and MRS LAU prop him up in the shade. He watches in a stupor as, with MRS LAU and AMY pushing Big Mao and MR LAU guiding, copulation is completed with an exultant oink and exuberant squeal from the happy couple.

50. INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

HENK's head appears round edge of a bookcase marked Healthcare. Checking no one is around, he stations himself at the foot of a mobile step ladder and moves his finger along the books as he climbs up the steps. When he is on the highest step he reaches to the top shelf and pulls down a volume entitled 'Impotence in Marriage'. Unseen by HENK, TWO 8 YEAR OLD GIRLS approach the ladder.

FIRST GIRL

Josan!

HENK looks down.

HENK

Josan. Yes? How can I help?

The CHILDREN glance at one another.

SECOND GIRL (*in broken English*)

Book on making babies, please.

HENK stares at the children.

HENK

Making babies? (*The GIRLS nod. HENK shakes his head and yells*) Kok! I mean Kwok!

KWOK appears from behind a bookcase.

MR KWOK

Mr Piersma?

HENK, startled, drops the book he is holding.

HENK

Always creeping, Kwok. Can't you knock?

MR KWOK

No door, Mr Piersma.

THE BABYMAKERS

KWOK picks up 'Impotence in Marriage' and hands it back.

MR KWOK
I found this one useful.

HENK, now off the ladder, grabs the book.

HENK (*through teeth*)
It's not for personal use. I'm writing a paper on 'Sex & Marriage in the cross-Cultural Context'. For the Sino-Dutch society. Find these children what they want.

HENK glares at the CHILDREN and storms out.

CUT TO:-

HENK at desk turning pages of the book recommended by KWOK. It is a glossy dual-language (Chinese and English) manual. He finds an illustration of the body, pulls open his trousers and checks if 'his' matches the illustration. Uncertain, he slams the book shut. Staring at him from the back cover is a photo of JOHNNY. He checks the author's name - Dr Johnny Lau. HENK reaches for a phone and dials.

HENK
An appointment with Dr Lau,
please.

51. EXT/INT. CROSS-HARBOUR STAR FERRY - DAY

A green and white Hong Kong Harbour ferry plies its way from Tsim Sha Tsui to Wanchai. On its upper deck AMY and crew - made up of CAMERAMAN, TIMID DIRECTOR and MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN - are filming a piece to camera.

A crowd of fellow passengers - mostly camera-clicking mainland tourists - has gathered to watch.

AMY, looking hot and uncomfortable, is dressed - on Fran's instructions - in leather jacket, leather trousers and leather boots. This is partly what has drawn the crowd.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY (*to camera in Dutch*)
We are in Hong Kong, where
East meets West and money
talks. City of high rise and
hi-tec, former British Colony
now run by communists, home of
Dim Sum and Suzie Wong. And
talking of Suzie, we're
sailing across to Wanchai...

AMY indicates the approaching skyline behind her

AMY(*continuing*)
To see what's happened to:
'Sex...' (*falters*) Sorry, cut!

TIMID DIRECTOR
(*Prompting*)
'Sex under the Red Flag.' Amy, schat.

AMY wipes eye and nods. DIRECTOR holds up a clapper board.

TIMID DIRECTOR (*in Dutch*)
Scene 1. Take 2. Pick up.

MARIEKE indicates that she needs him to talk louder.

TIMID DIRECTOR (*louder*)
Scene 1. Take Two. Pick up.
(*He claps*) Action!

AMY
To see what's happened to...
(*her voice wavers again*)
'Sex...' It's no good. Cut!

TIMID DIRECTOR
Relax. 'Sex under the Red Flag!' OK?
(*Yelling into microphone*) Scene 1.
Take 3. Pick up. Action!

MARIEKE raises her middle finger at the DIRECTOR.

AMY
To see what's happened to...

AMY can't even get the word 'sex' out this time. An elderly AMERICAN COUPLE finish the line for her: "'Sex under the Red Flag', honey!" MAINLAND TOURISTS, keen to practice English, join in with "Sex under Red Flag Honey!" and, assuming her tears are part of the drama, also clap.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY (*Shouting at onlookers*)
Rot op klootzaken!

Neither set of TOURISTS speak Dutch, so continue to clap.

52. INT. JOHNNY'S CONSULTING ROOM - DAY

HENK, in underpants, face down on treatment table. HENK winces as JOHNNY sticks acupuncture needles in his feet.

JOHNNY (*In Dutch*)
Feeling run down?

HENK nods. JOHNNY lowers HENK's underpants and inserts a needle in his left buttock.

HENK (*continuing*)
Ouch! I'm having trouble coming to attention. Ouch!

JOHNNY
I beg your pardon?

HENK
Getting Percy perpendicular.

JOHNNY (*needle poised*)
I don't understand.

HENK
Responding.

JOHNNY (*at a loss*)
Mind wandering? Fatigue?

HENK
No steam. Piston's seized.

JOHNNY (*confused*)
Steam in your piston?

HENK
I thought you spoke Dutch. I can't get a hard on. An erection, a stiffy. Willy won't work. Penis will not perform.

THE BABYMAKERS

JOHNNY

Why didn't you say so.

He starts removing needles at speed.

HENK

I found your book at the shop.

JOHNNY

'Impotence in marriage'?

HENK

Yes. Thought you might lend a hand. Not literally of course, but... Johnny? Have you ever... not been able to?

JOHNNY

Activate the erectile tissue?
(*HENK nods, JOHNNY shakes head.*) Not married, (*removes last needle*) turn over please.

HENK rolls over, hands clenched between his legs.

JOHNNY crosses to desk and takes something from a drawer.

HENK (*nervously*)

What are you going to do?

JOHNNY

Ask some questions.

HENK relaxes, arms by his side. JOHNNY, with notepad and pen, sits behind HENK in a high backed swivel chair.

JOHNNY

Which of the following have erotic significance for you.

HENK

Erotic significance?

JOHNNY

Which of them turns you on.
Negative or positive.

HENK replaces his hands over his private parts.

JOHNNY

I begin. Yoghurt.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK
Yoghurt?!

JOHNNY
Relax and react.

HENK
Mmm... Negative.

JOHNNY
Spaghetti.

HENK (*thinks*)
Positive.

JOHNNY
Carrots.

HENK
Negative - unless organic.

JOHNNY
Toothpaste.

HENK (*thinks*)
Positive.

JOHNNY
Vacuum cleaner. (A) Off

HENK (*thinks a moment*)
Positive.

JOHNNY
(B) On

HENK
Negative.

JOHNNY
Black plastic bin liners.

HENK
Positive - if clean.

JOHNNY
Camembert cheese?

HENK
Negative. Very.

THE BABYMAKERS

JOHNNY

Fine. That's it.

HENK (*disappointed*)

That's it? What about panties, suspenders, stilleto heels.

JOHNNY (*writing*)

Not relevant. (*He hands HENK a note*) I want you to go to Wanchai and see this Doctor. A Chinese medicine practitioner. He'll check your chi and prescribe a tonic.

HENK (*concerned*)

Check my shi...?

JOHNNY

Your energy level. What he prescribes may taste foul, but drink it. OK? (*HENK nods. Johnny gets a vial of essential oil from a cabinet*) Tonight rub this oil into your chest. Then, before commencing sexual activity, enter a state of deep relaxation. I'll teach you how. Close your eyes, breath in, think of the sea.

HENK

Dutch sea or Chinese sea?

JOHNNY

Chinese. It's warmer.

HENK follows instructions and is soon smiling peacefully.

DISSOLVE TO:-

53. EXT. NARROW STREET IN WANCHAI BAR DISTRICT - DAY

HENK approaches a Chinese Herbalist's shop. It is open to the street with counters running down either side of its one room. Medicines are prepared from dried roots and leaves hung from the ceiling and stacked in cabinet drawers. Customers drink lethal looking brews. HENK gives the note from Johnny and is shown a door at back of shop.

THE BABYMAKERS

54. INT. CHINESE MEDICINE CONSULTING ROOM - DAY

HENK enters a wood-panelled room with a low wooden room-divider. PATIENTS wait on benches. On the far side of the divider, the DOCTOR has a desk. He holds a patient's wrist and talks to her - audibly - in Cantonese. Behind him bookshelves are piled high with manuscripts. When he has finished he beckons to HENK. The other patients indicate he should go forward. At the desk, the DOCTOR, an old man, smiles and takes HENK's left wrist in his right hand.

DOCTOR (*in good English*)
From my friend Dr Lau. Problems
in the bed?

HENK (*leaning across to whisper*)
Could you keep your voice down?

DOCTOR (*smiling enigmatically*)
What's yours is mine, what's mine is theirs,
what's their's is yours. The flow of life.
Other wrist please.

As he feels the 'chi' in HENK's left and right wrists, with his free hand the DOCTOR writes a series of Chinese characters on a scroll in long brush and ink strokes.

HENK (*still whispering*)
I have a small wart on my penis...

DOCTOR (*loudly*)
Your penis is of no interest.
I treat the body as a whole.

HENK glances round, no one is listening. The DOCTOR finishes his brush strokes, lets go of HENK's wrist and hands him the scroll.

DOCTOR
Take this to the counter below.
Your chi is a clogged that's all.
(*He bows slightly*) Joygin!

55. INT. CHINESE TRADITIONAL HERBALIST SHOP - DAY

A glass of thick coffee-like liquid is set before HENK, along with home-made sweets. He takes a sip of the tonic and gags. A WOMAN points at the sweets. HENK takes one.

THE BABYMAKERS

56. EXT. NARROW STREET IN WANCHAI BAR DISTRICT - DAY

HENK leaves the herbalist and wanders down the street towards us. In the foreground, several pot-bellied CAUCASIAN EX-PATS sit drinking beer in a bar, open on to the street. ASIAN GIRLS, in sexy attire, lean on the back of the men's chairs and giggle.

As HENK approaches the taste of medicine is still causing problems. He looks at the men's beer and peers into the bar. AN ASIAN GIRL smiles and makes a drinking movement with her hand. HENK nods, enters the bar and disappears into darkness.

At the other end of the street, AMY and FILM CREW appear. The CAMERA tracks down the bars. AMY talks in foreground.

POV cameraman. AMY in foreground with bars, pot-bellied CAUCASIAN EX-PATS and sexily clad ASIAN GIRLS behind.

AMY (*to camera in Dutch*)

This is the heart of the World of Suzie Wong. But in the bars, where once British soldiers and sailors came to let their hair - and pants - down, tourists and businessmen from all over the world now savour the Eastern promise of Suzie's 21st Century sisters.

With a flourish AMY turns to the bar behind her where...

HENK is having his jacket removed by the ASIAN GIRL and being served a beer by an OLDER CHINESE WOMAN in a traditional cheongsam dress.

HENK turns and sees AMY just as the ASIAN GIRL puts her arm around his neck.

AMY throws down her microphone and runs into the bar. SOUNDWOMAN MARIEKE curses. The CAMERAMAN, still filming, follows. The TIMID DIRECTOR sits in street head in hands.

AMY re-emerges dragging HENK followed by irate OLDER CHINESE WOMAN (modern day Mamasan) and CAMERAMAN filming.

CROWD forms, assuming this is a scene for a fiction film.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK trips over sound boom and falls to ground. AMY beats off OLDER CHINESE WOMAN - ripping her cheongsam in the process - sits astride HENK and starts to pummel his back.

HENK (*in Dutch*)
She just wanted money for the
beer. That's all. Ouch!

AMY
And the young girl?

HENK
A refugee from Thailand

AMY
Thailand?!

HENK
Said I could help her son go
to School.

AMY
So you were giving her your
jacket. Klootzak!

HENK
I was getting hot... Ouch!

AMY
'And bothered' no doubt.
Vieze, vuile, gore...

CAMERAMAN moves in for a CS, MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN has her boom in position too. CROWD stares, like a cinema audience, watching the story unfold.

CAMERAMAN lies down to get better close-up of AMY'S face.

AMY suddenly notices him and the crowd.

AMY
Cut you idiot! Cut!

The CAMERAMAN cuts. The CROWD disperses. The TIMID DIRECTOR approaches.

TIMID DIRECTOR (*very timidly*)
That O.K. for you, love?

AMY opens her mouth and screams.

THE BABYMAKERS

57. EXT. NEW TERRITORIES FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Crickets perform a nighttime chorus. Contented pigs snort in the darkness. The hum of airconditioners remind us of the heat. A light shines out from an upstairs window.

58. INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

HENK sniffs tea-tree oil, turns up his nose and smears it on his chest. Glancing over his shoulder at the door he pulls open his underpants and dabs a bit down there.

59. INT. FARMHOUSE BATHROOM - NIGHT

AMY in CS at mirror applies lipstick beneath made up eyes. She pouts her lips.

60. INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

HENK lies on bed, naked apart from boxer shorts. He breathes deeply, relaxing as per Johnny's instructions.

HENK (*outloud*)
Relax, unwind and think of the sea...

Next door, MR and MRS LAU begin to grunt pig-fashion.

AMY enters in uniform of a Thalys rail-hostess. She moves to the recumbent figure of HENK and pulls up her skirt to reveal stockings and suspenders. She lowers herself on to his crumpled boxer shorts and puts her mouth to his ear.

AMY
Hi there Mr Engine Driver, I'm
a randy rail hostess raring to
go. Choo-choo!

But HENK is so relaxed, he has fallen asleep.

AMY stares at the prostrate figure.

AMY(*continuing*)
Henk! Wake up!

HENK smiles in his sleep. AMY throws her hat across the room, turns round and plonks her behind on his face.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK

Help! I'm drowning.

AMY climbs off and lowers her face to HENK'S.

AMY

You're not drowning. You're having sex with your wife.

HENK (*coming to*)

I was in the sea, completely relaxed when...

AMY sniffs his chest.

AMY

What is that?

HENK (*hurt*)

Tea Tree oil.

AMY

Diesel oil more like.

AMY stands up on the bed and strikes a sexy pose.

AMY

Like the kit? (*HENK nods*)
Better than a cheongsam?

HENK

Amy! I explained.

Silence. AMY pouts. A light fitting rattles as MR and MRS LAU grunt more urgently. HENK stares at the uniform.

AMY (*continuing*)

Do something.

HENK

Like what?

AMY

Pull down my knickers. Bend me over your knee. Make me spank you. I don't know. Whatever you'd do with a prostitute.

HENK

Amy! You are not a prostitute.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY (*close to tears*)
I know. I'm a wife and I want
a baby. But I've got to get
you to stick that thing up me.

HENK nods. MR and MRS LAU climax. The light goes out.

AMY
(*Collapsing on to Henk and
pummelling his chest*) Henk,
Henk, Henk! Fuck me, please.
Fuck me, PLEASE! FUCK ME!

MR and MRS LAU's climax stops. The light comes back on. A
terrified HENK closes his eyes. AMY stops pummeling,
buries her face in his chest and bursts into tears.

HENK
Relax, unwind and think of the
sea. Relax, unwind and ...

The wail of an ambulance siren breaks into Henk's mantra
and continues into the next shot.

61. EXT. CHEP LAP KOK AIRPORT - DAY

Pull out from sea to reveal planes landing and taking off
either side of longest terminal building in the world,
which seems to float on its island in the ocean.

62. INT. CHEP LAP KOK AIRPORT - DAY

HENK and AMY stand at entrance to passport control. In
foreground the CAMERAMAN frames them with his fingers.

The TIMID DIRECTOR hovers timidly.

SOUNDWOMAN MARIEKE is on her mobile. After a big kiss down
the phone she hands it to the TIMID DIRECTOR.

TIMID DIRECTOR
Hello? Fran, it's you. Everything's fine.

HENK stares at the ground. AMY hugs him.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY (*smiling bravely*)
I'm sorry. I shouldn't have
lost my temper. Egg number
three? Third time lucky?

HENK nods half-heartedly.

HENK
The uniform was terrific.

AMY
Thanks.

HENK
Where'd you get it?

AMY
Costume department. Said it
was for a friend.

HENK
Would they do me one? (*AMY
looks at him*) Ticket collector
I mean, not hostess?

AMY (*almost crying*)
Oh, Henk. You and your trains.

AMY wipes away a tear and followed by the pretend-filming CAMERAMAN heads through passport control. She waves once more before disappearing.

HENK waves back, then walks off down the airport concourse - a disconsolate figure.

63. INT. AIRPORT RESTAURANT - DAY

HENK sits gloomily stirring a cup of coffee. Suddenly a voice booms out over the airport tanhoy.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE
Would Henk Piersma, currently
in the airport restaurant,
please go to arrivals meeting
point. I repeat...

HENK pretend message is not for him. Then, as it repeats, he sidles out.

THE BABYMAKERS

64. INT. ARRIVALS MEETING POINT AIRPORT - DAY

HENK arrives at the meeting point where SU-YIN, dressed in her work uniform, is waiting.

SU-YIN (*smiling*)
Hi. I saw you on the monitors.
You looked sad.

HENK (*Shaking his head*)
I'm fine.

SU-YIN
Mrs Piersma gone? (*HENK nods. SU-YIN takes a deep breath.*)
Why don't you visit me one evening? (*HENK's eyes widen. SU-YIN laughs.*) For a meal.

HENK (*Still hesitatnt*)
I'm not sure...

SU-YIN
I want to show you something.
It might cheer you up.

HENK (*frowning*)
I'm a married man!

SU-YIN
I know. Let me explain...

In LS SU-YIN continues talking, her words not audible.

65. EXT. AMSTERDAM TV STUDIO COMPLEX, HOLLAND - DAY

Pouring rain. In the foreground a poster proclaiming the latest infotainment programme from America in which people undergo cosmetic surgery: 'Exclusively on SBS: Extreme Makeover' splashed across 'before' and 'after' photos.

66. INT. VIEWING THEATRE AMSTERDAM - DAY

AMY, FRAN, TIMID DIRECTOR, CAMERAMAN and MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN watch rushes. FRAN smokes, whisky bottle on a table in front of her. MARIEKE holds Fran's hand. The CAMERAMAN sleeps, fingers in 'frame' position on his lap.

FRAN lets go of Marieke's hand and puts an arm around AMY.

THE BABYMAKERS

FRAN

Great stuff, hon.

AMY is chuffed by FRAN's praise.

MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN sulks.

On screen, tracking shot down Wanchai bar street begins.
AMY picks up the remote.

AMY (*nervously*)

Cover shot. Repeat of last scene. Should have been cut out. I'll stop it.

FRAN

Let it run, hon. You look more sassy in this one.

AMY lowers the remote. Then, as the track ends, she tries again to stop it. FRAN grabs the remote and watches spellbound the sequence of HENK and AMY fighting.

FRAN starts laughing.

MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN joins in.

The CAMERAMAN wakes up and laughs too.

AMY is mortified.

FRAN

Got to use that, hon. It's sensational. Henkie's face when he sees you. Oh, my God!

FRAN nudges MARIEKE. AMY runs out of the theatre. FRAN's laughter turns into a cough. MARIEKE pats her on the back.

67. INT. CANTEEN OF TV STATION - DAY

AMY sits at a corner table. She's been crying. FRAN slumps down beside her, puts a hand over AMY's. AMY looks away.

FRAN

Sorry, hon. We won't use it.

AMY

It's not that. It's...

THE BABYMAKERS

She burst into tears and throws herself into FRAN's arms.

AMY (*continuing*)
I don't know what to do.

FRAN hands her a tissue.

FRAN
Your man going with a whore
ain't the end of the world.

AMY
It's not that. He didn't go
with her. It's almost worse.
He can't do it anymore.

FRAN (*perplexed*)
Can't do it?

AMY
Babymaking makes him impotent.

FRAN (*sympathetic*)
Honey Bunch. I'm so sorry.
(*She hugs AMY*). It'll pass.

FRAN rocks AMY to and fro.

MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN appears in background. FRAN waves her away.

MARIEKE scowls and disappears.

AMY (*between sobs*)
Frightened of being a dad,
that all...

FRAN
Sure hon, sure.

AMY
... but convinced his willy's
gone wonky. You know what men
are like.

FRAN
One failure and they think the
sperm bank's gone bust and
their libido's sprung a
terminal leak.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY
Oh, Fran!

AMY bursts into tears again. FRAN kisses her on the forehead and strokes her hair, like a lover.

Suddenly a glint comes into FRAN's eyes.

FRAN
Know what? I might just have
an idea. Fancy dinner tonight?

68. EXT. FERRY LANDING STAGE TSING YI, HK - EVENING

HENK emerges from a ferry. HK Island's skyline glimmers across the water in the background. He is met by SU-YIN.

She take his arm and leads him towards three tall high-rise apartment blocks set back from the landing-stage with steep hills rising up behind them into the darkness.

69. INT. TSING YI APARTMENT LOBBY LIFT ENTRANCE - EVENING

SU-YIN dangles keys in front of HENK'S face.

SU-YIN (*Smiling*)
Sure you want to come up?

HENK
Can we play? Properly?

SU-YIN (*smiling*)
Promise. My son's at his
granny's. No interruptions.
(*Shivers*). Mmm! Why haven't I
met someone like you before.

Lift doors open and SU-YIN enters. HENK rubs his hands in anticipation and follows her.

70. INT. NIGHTCLUB/RESTAURANT AMSTERDAM - NIGHT

FRAN sits with AMY at candle-lit table. In background WOMEN dance together arm in arm. AMY has been crying again. FRAN dabs Amy's cheek with a napkin. The waitress in a male black suit arrives with two enormous cocktails.

THE BABYMAKERS

FRAN

And a double scotch for the lady, Sophie

The WAITRESS smiles knowingly at AMY. FRAN takes a slug of cocktail. AMY plays with hers.

FRAN (*continuing*)

To be frank, you're no good to man nor beast in this state.

AMY (*sniffing*)

I know.

FRAN

You're gonna blow your marriage and your career. (*AMY nods and blows her nose on FRAN'S napkin*) So Auntie Fran's had a brainwave.

AMY (*warily*)

What?

FRAN

Do a programme on the issue.

AMY (*confused*)

What 'issue'?

FRAN

The one causing tears. Fertile female, wilting willy. Working title: Hard to conceive.

AMY hovers between a return to tears and anger.

AMY

Fran!

FRAN

Just an idea. Might help you - and Henkie. Bringing it out in the open, airing the issue.

FRAN peers over her cocktail at AMY. AMY is not convinced.

FRAN (*continuing*)

It'd help others in a similar predicament. You'd be doing a public service.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY butters a roll. FRAN presses home her advantage.

FRAN (*continuing*)

It'd mean another trip to Hong Kong, a boost to your career as a serious journalist. (AMY bites into her roll) Maybe persuade Henkie to talk to camera - incognito of course.

AMY looks doubtful.

FRAN (*continuing*)

Hong Kong's full of rich guys with wonky willies and money to burn. We film in an IVF clinic. Talk to the boffins. Sample the semen, so to speak.

AMY (*nervously*)

You want me to undergo artificial insemination?

FRAN

Not in person. But I want to look at the whole works - from a personal angle. That's where you come in. Serious sex with high ratings. A winner.

AMY (*calculating*)

I have to talk to Henk.

FRAN

Of course.

AMY

You'd pay for me to go back?

FRAN

Sure, hon. And me and the crew'll come along too. Just in case he says yes. If he doesn't, no sweat. We go film a clinic anyway.

AMY

YOU and the crew?

THE BABYMAKERS

FRAN (*nodding*)

I'm taking control on this.
Needs sensitive handling.

AMY smiles. FRAN raises her glass to the project.

FRAN (*continuing*)

And Hon? If Henkie don't deliver,
you can have a baby with me.
I love ya, honey. I do.

FRAN kisses AMY on the lips and pulls her up to dance.

71. INT. SPARE BEDROOM OF SU-YIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A train whizzes out of a tunnel, its whistle shrieks.

HENK and SU-YIN sit side by side at the console of a model railway, totally involved in 'chuff-chuffing' freight and 'choo-chooing' passengers around the track.

SU-YIN lays down her remote and fills her glass from a bottle of wine.

HENK plays on.

HENK (*in English*)

Wish my mum had built me
something like this!

SU-YIN smiles and watches. HENK couples up sleeping cars.

SU-YIN

You'd make a good father.
(*HENK grunts*) Does your wife
want children? (*HENK grunts*)
So why not have them?

HENK's manouevres a train into the station, while his free hand pours a glass of wine from an almost empty bottle.

HENK (*lining up carriages*)

We're working on it.

The night train moves off. HENK gulps the wine.

SU-YIN (*perplexed*)

Working on it?

The train speeds up and rounds a bend almost too fast.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK (*concentrating on trains*)
With Amy in Holland it's hard.
Fitting it in. (*Train enters
tunnel*) Not literally, of
course, no problems there,
but...

SU-YIN
But?

HENK crashes the train through a level crossing.

HENK
Did I say 'but'? (*SU-YIN nods*)
Amy needs to relax more.

HENK turns the speed control to full.

SU-YIN
It's a responsibility. Having
a child.

HENK purses his lips and grips the control.

FAST MONTAGE: *We hear a trambell, the screech of brakes,
we see BOY ON BICYCLE scream, hear the wail of an
ambulance, see the FATHER crying, the BOY in his arms.*

HENK
Yes. Your son's father, does
he take responsibility?

SU-YIN
Disappeared. No trace. You
wouldn't do that, would you?

HENK shakes his head. A tear forms in his eye. In slow
motion his train derails and plunges into the cardboard
sea. The tear drops. SU-YIN puts an arm around HENK.

SU-YIN (*continuing*)
Come on. Bedtime. You can
sleep in my son's room.

72. INT. CHILD'S BEDROOM IN SU-YIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

HENK, still clothed, lies down and closes his eyes. SU-YIN
lays a blanket over him and pulls it up to his chin.

THE BABYMAKERS

SU-YIN

Thanks for playing with me.

HENK (*half asleep*)

Su-yin?

SU-YIN

Yes?

HENK

Do you worry? About something happening to your son?

SU-YIN

Like what?

HENK

Being run over, taken ill?

SU-YIN

Yes. All parents worry, but they still have children.

HENK remains silent, staring into space. The sound of trambell, scream and ambulance siren well up in his head.

HENK (*turning to SU-YIN*)

What's you son's name?

SU-YIN

King.

HENK (*closing eyes*)

King Chan the Choo-choo King.

SU-YIN kisses HENK's cheek, turns off light and creeps out

73. INT. HONG KONG BOOKSTORE - DAY

HENK is unpacking and checking a consignment of new books. As he holds up the titles we see they are either about sex, alternative therapies or railways.

The phone rings.

It is answered by MR KWOK in the children's section.

THE BABYMAKERS

MR KWOK

Mr Piersma. It's for you.

MR KWOK holds out the receiver.

MR KWOK

Your brother-in-law.

HENK grabs the phone and turns away from MR KWOK.

HENK (*in Dutch*)

Hello? Johnny! How are you? A what!? Tonight? Really? And you think it might help? Alright. I'll be there. Bye.

He puts the receiver down and swivels round to see if MR KWOK has been eavesdropping.

But KWOK is by the cash desk directing a SMALL CHINESE BOY towards HENK. HENK tries to retreat, but is cornered.

SMALL CHINESE BOY (*directly*)

Do you have books about...

HENK (*cutting in*)

No, we don't.

SMALL CHINESE BOY

But...

HENK

No books about babies for beginners, sex for six year olds, facts of life made fun or related topics. Try a Chinese book shop.

SMALL CHINESE BOY

But, sir...

HENK

Now, if you'll excuse me.

SMALL CHINESE BOY

But, sir, I want...

HENK disappears through the Personnel Only door.

The SMALL CHINESE BOY bites his bottom lip.

THE BABYMAKERS

MR KWOK bends down and puts an arm around him.

MR KWOK (*in Cantonese*)
How can I help?

SMALL CHINESE BOY
I want book about railways -
not sex.

74. EXT. LAN KWAI FONG - NIGHT

HENK, whistling the Chatanooga Choo Choo, walks up from Queen's Road East to Johnny's clinic. Through a glass window above the neon-lit street we see exercisers walking and running to nowhere on their gym fitness treadmills.

75. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC, GROUP THERAPY ROOM - EVENING

SIX MEN including JOHNNY and KA-WAI, sit in a circle on floor of a low-lit Japanese-themed room. All are humming.

A door creaks open. HENK peers in.

JOHNNY, in green kimono, points, whilst still humming, to a space on the floor between two men with earrings.

HENK squeezes in, and tries a lotus leg-cross like the others. He ends up bent forward in a failed half-lotus. He starts humming, but it comes out too high.

The humming stops. The men drop their heads forward simultaneously then inhale and expel air quickly.

HENK follows suit, but ends up choking.

The men look across at JOHNNY.

JOHNNY (*doing introductions*)
Henk, my brother-in-law.
Members of the Lan Kwai Fong
gay, straight and bisexual
men's consciousness raising
group.

JOHNNY indicates each person in the circle.

THE BABYMAKERS

JOHNNY (*continuing*)

Ka-wai you know. Sven a banker from Sweden (*muscled in earring*), Haruki a banker from Japan (*overweight in earring*), Yuen-tat a financial advisor from Hong Kong (*very thin Chinese in tight T Shirt and spandex shorts*) and last but not least ex-pat tax-advisor Wayne Bainbridge from the US of A (*yuppie with balding head, grey ponytail, headband and chewing gum.*)

HENK nods as each man is introduced.

JOHNNY (*continuing*)

Now, who's going to be our first contributor?

SVEN raises a muscle-bound arm, hitting HENK in the process.

JOHNNY (*continuing*)

Sven. Good for you.

SVEN

I have a problem.

JOHNNY

Good.

SVEN

I like sex in the morning. My boyfriend like sex at night...

The group nods wisely. HENK follows suit.

SVEN (*continuing*)

...which mean we don't never want sex at the same time.

JOHNNY

Difficult. (*Looking round*) Any ideas?

HENK concentrates on his shoe laces. WAYNE puts up a wrinkled arm.

THE BABYMAKERS

WAYNE (*chewing*)
Lurv in the lurnch hour?

He chortles. The others nod approval at his solution.

JOHNNY
Not a bad idea Wayne. A little lunchtime tenderness. (*Turning to HENK*) Now what about you Henk? What's your problem?

HENK (*quickly*)
I don't have problems - atall. Absolutely *probleemos* as we Dutch say. (*He pauses*) I'm a fully functioning, enormously happy human being. (*All stare at him*). I'll just listen.

HENK waits for JOHNNY to move on to someone else.

JOHNNY
Henk suffers from impotence due to the pressures of trying to conceive a baby.

HENK'S shoulders sag. The group nods and stares at HENK.

HENK (*deprecatingly*)
Just a blip. Shortage of Dutch cheese, perhaps. No big deal.

JOHNNY (*ignoring HENK*)
Any ideas?

The group thinks. WAYNE chews loudly. HARUKI burps.

KA-WAI
He could buy some new clothes. Re-style his hair. That helped you didn't it, Johnny?

JOHNNY (*annoyed*)
We weren't trying to conceive.

KA-WAI
No, but...

THE BABYMAKERS

JOHNNY (*sharply*)

Thank you, Ka-wai. Other contributions? We must try to help. It's a pressing problem.

The group nods, but says nothing.

JOHNNY

Then I suggest we adjourn to the sauna - for inspiration.

76. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC, BASEMENT SAUNA - EVENING

The six men, now naked and led by JOHNNY, crowd into a sauna. HENK struggles to get his underpants out from under his towel. Eventually he succeeds and enters the cabin with towel still round his waist. JOHNNY closes the door.

HENK squeezes in between the soft mountainous buttocks of HARUKI and the rock-hard buttocks of SVEN. SVEN tries to remove HENK'S towel. HARUKI burps. Sweat rolls down pink and brown flesh. WAYNE splashes water on the coals.

A moaning sound becomes audible from HENK'S corner.

WAYNE, SVEN, HARUKI, YUEN-TAT, KA-WAI and JOHNNY all turn.

HENK stares into space and mumbles in Dutch, then suddenly keels over on to the sweaty lap of HARUKI.

WAYNE (*chewing*)

Closet gay overcome by proximity to fat-assed fantasy man - or totally stressed out.

A chorus of 'Totally stressed out!' then, on a sign from JOHNNY, the six men start to hum and carry HENK outside.

In an adjacent room, they remove HENK'S towel and lay him on his tummy on a massage table. Then, with each member of the group taking a different part of the body, they massage him, continuing to hum as they do so.

77. INT. ARRIVALS HALL CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT - DAY

HENK waits at door 'A'. He's worked on his image and wears a leather jacket, black Versace jeans and T-Shirt and reflective dark glasses. He also has a new bouffon hairstyle - but does not look at ease.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY appears and holds out her arms. Then, on registering HENK's appearance, she drops them.

AMY (*in Dutch*)
What have you done?

HENK
Cool? (*AMY swallows and nods*).
Johnny's man made the jacket.

HENK slinks forward in John Travolta mode to embrace AMY.

Over her shoulder he sees SOUNDWOMAN MARIEKE emerging from customs.

HENK
What's she doing here?

AMY takes his hand and squeezes it.

AMY
I'll explain. Let's go.

HENK (*looking at the CAMERAMAN*)
But...

AMY (*briskly*)
Come on!

She pulls HENK towards the exit.

As they disappear FRAN emerges from customs and joins MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN.

FRAN
What a flight. The babymakers gone? (*MARIEKE points at the receding couple. FRAN looks wistful*) Poor old Amy. She deserves better than him.

MARIEKE shrugs her shoulders, puts an arm through FRAN's.

FRAN (*removing gaze from AMY*)
Where's the bar in this place?

THE BABYMAKERS

78. EXT. NEW TERRITORIES FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

The house is bathed in sub-tropical moonlight. Crickets chatter, pigs oink, aircon whirs.

79. INT. NEW TERRITORIES FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

HENK and AMY in bed. Grandparents begin a restrained sex session next door. Leaflets on impotence, IVF and Artificial Insemination are strewn on AMY's side of bed.

AMY

...so it'd be selfish NOT to take part. You'd help so many people. Not just us.

HENK

Fran's put you up to this.

AMY

Yes. But I agree with her. We have a duty. And you can remain anonymous.

HENK

I don't trust that woman.

AMY cuddles up to HENK in a non-sexual manner.

AMY (*sleepily*)

She's not as bad as you think.

HENK

No. Worse.

AMY

Sleep on it, schat.

HENK strokes AMY'S hair. The grandparents climax and start to snore. HENK picks up a pamphlet from a private Hong Kong IVF clinic with a smiling sperm logo.

A heading catches his eyes.

HENK (*muttering*)

'The Ultimate Insurance -
Semen on Ice.'

THE BABYMAKERS

He raises an eyebrow and glances at AMY. She is asleep. He reads on. When he has finished, he hides the leaflet in Johnny's book, which he keeps under the bed in a Versace carrier bag. He kisses AMY's hair and turns out the light.

80. EXT. NEW TERRITORIES FARMHOUSE - DAY

HENK - with Versace carrier bag and new briefcase - and AMY climb into a stationwagon hired for filming. MR LAU disappears into the pig shed to a morning chorus of oinks. The stationwagon accelerates off in a plume of dust.

81. EXT. PRINCE'S BUILDING (LOCATION OF BOOKSTORE) - DAY

CAMERAMAN positioned outside Prince's building.

Through his lens we see stationwagon draw up in foreground with Legislative Council building in background. Camera moves in as HENK climbs out. HENK looks into the lens startled. FRAN appears and claps HENK on the back.

FRAN

Hi, Henkie. Just exercising
Mr Steadicam. How's tricks?

HENK

Fine thankyou, Francesca.

The CAMERAMAN circles around HENK and FRAN. FRAN holds the stationwagon door open and the CAMERAMAN disappears inside next to the DRIVER. FRAN climbs into the back next to AMY and slams the door. MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN is squeezed into the rear equipment hold.

AMY (to HENK through window)

Eleven. At Johnny's clinic.

HENK nods. FRAN puts an arm round AMY. MARIEKE grimaces and jams on her headphones. AMY waves. HENK waves back, turns and goes into Prince's Building shopping mall. AMY lays her head on FRAN's shoulder and closes her eyes.

FRAN

It'll be all right, hon.

The stationwagon roars off.

A moment later, HENK reappears talking into his mobile, checks the coast is clear, hails a taxi and jumps in.

THE BABYMAKERS

82. INT. CHEP LAP KOK AIRPORT RESTAURANT - DAY

HENK sits at same table as before. He looks up at a CCTV camera and waves as unobtrusively as possible. After his fourth attempt an announcement booms out.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

This is an announcement for Mr Piersma from Holland. Would he kindly make his way to the Departure Hall Meeting Point.

HENK exits at speed.

83. INT. DEPARTURE HALL - DAY

SU-YIN waits for HENK as he runs up and greets her.

SU-YIN

What's up?

HENK (*clearing throat*)

Nothing in particular.

SU-YIN

So why have you come here at nine o'clock in the morning when you should be at work?

HENK (*shrugging his shoulders*)

To say hello.

SU-YIN heads for a Pacific Coffee Lounge.

HENK (*continuing*)

There is something. Babymaking isn't going as smoothly as I made out the other night.

SU-YIN looks sympathetic, but keeps walking.

HENK

I wanted your advice. (*He lowers his voice*) I'm thinking of getting my sperm frozen.

SU-YIN stops and looks at him in disbelief.

THE BABYMAKERS

SU-YIN

You what?!

She bursts out laughing. HENK starts to walk away.

SU-YIN (*continuing*)

I'm sorry. (*She looks at her watch*). You're right. You need advice. Let's have a coffee.

84. INT. AIRPORT/PACIFIC COFFEE OUTLET - DAY

SU-YIN and HENK at a table. They've been talking a while.

SU-YIN

Look, Henk, I'll say it one more time: Sperm freezing at some costly clinic on the Peak is crazy. You're not impotent. You're just frightened. Sex was sex before. Now it's about making a human being, taking responsibility for another life. Worrying about more than yourself. That's scary. But I repeat: Don't freeze, please!

HENK (*stubbornly*)

It's just in case.

SU-YIN

Just in case what?

HENK

In case I can never... again.

SU-YIN slumps back.

HENK (*continuing*)

Sperm or two in the freezer. What's wrong with that?

SU-YIN (*leaning forward now angry*)

What's wrong? Firstly it's a waste of money, secondly it's avoiding the problem, and thirdly you men are so obsessed with the functioning of your thingies, you can't see beyond them.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK remains seated a moment and then stands up.

HENK (*hurt*)
And you women can, I suppose?

SU-YIN
You asked my advice and I'm giving it: don't make that appointment.

HENK
I already have!

HENK grabs his briefcase and storms off.

SU-YIN (*shouting*)
Henk!

But HENK keeps walking.

SU-YIN shakes her head, straightens her uniform and looks at her watch. She gets up and is about to leave when she notices the Versace carrier bag Henk has left by his chair. She picks it up and looks up and down the concourse. No sign of Henk.

She peers in the bag and pulls out Johnny's book, an IVF leaflet sticking from its top. She scans the book's title 'Impotence in Marriage' and is about to return it to the bag when she sees the author's picture on the back.

Her jaw drops in amazement.

SU-YIN (*outloud in Cantonese*)
I don't believe it!

85. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC, CONSULTING ROOM - DAY

A filmed interview being set up. HENK is in a high-backed chair in a window alcove. CAMERAMAN checks HENK with his meter. FRAN hovers nearby smoking. AMY sits with script in background. MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN moves her boom and microphone above each person in turn, as they speak.

HENK (*nervously in Dutch*)
No one will recognise me?

THE BABYMAKERS

CAMERAMAN

You'll be a mass of pixels.
An anonymous blob.

HENK (*vanity slightly hurt*)

Oh. And the voice?

CAMERAMAN

Barely recognizable.

HENK (*unconvinced*)

But...

FRAN who has been listening to the last exchange comes over and exhales smoke over HENK.

FRAN

Henkie, schat. Stop fretting.
No one you know is going to be
watching this. (*To crew*) Can
we get this show on the road?

HENK beckons to AMY. He whispers in her ear and AMY makes a signal to FRAN to leave. FRAN looks peeved.

FRAN (*continuing*)

But I'm directing ...

AMY (*softly to FRAN*)

Sensitive handling, you know?

FRAN blows more cigarette smoke at HENK and sulks out.

AMY

Positions please. Ready? Scene
5. Take 1. Action.

AMY sits opposite HENK.

AMY

Describe the pressures on a
man trying to make a baby?

HENK (*deep voice*)

Yes. I'd be happy to answer
that question. Firstly...

AMY (*annoyed*)

Cut! Henk... Talk properly.

HENK clears his throat and starts again.

THE BABYMAKERS

86. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC, CORRIDOR - DAY

FRAN wanders down the same corridor inspected by Henk on his first visit. Despite large NO SMOKING signs FRAN smokes. Every now and then she stops and peers in at a window set into one of the doors. She shakes her head in disbelief as therapeutic groans and shrieks emanate from within. At one door we peer in with her. A well-built young CHINESE MAN is suspended upside down from a bar, naked apart from his brief underpants. A MALE NURSE rubs oil into the soles of his feet. FRAN shakes her head.

FRAN (*talking outloud in English*)
Weird...(upside down CHINESE
MAN catches her eye and winks)
...but fun.

FRAN continues to watch and momentarily sees a new image.

FANTASY SEQUENCE. AMY in same position as Chinese man with FRAN as a nurse carrying a syringe.

NURSE FRAN
Relax hon, we're gonna make babies.

AMY nods and smiles lovingly. NURSE FRAN approaches.

NURSE FRAN (*continuing*)
*Then we're going to live together.
Just you and me. Happy ever after*

AMY nods again.

The real MALE NURSE reaches across and draws a curtain.

FRAN stubs out her cigarette on the floor and heads on.

87. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC, RECEPTION AREA - DAY

FRAN collapses on to a sofa. She glances at her neighbour who is studying a leaflet on sperm freezing, which half obscures her face. FRAN reads the title. The leaflet is lowered and the neighbour smiles. It is SU-YIN.

FRAN (*smiling back, in English*)
Quite a place. (*SU-YIN nods
and returns to reading*) In for
a tune up?

THE BABYMAKERS

SU-YIN
No. Meeting a friend.

FRAN
Uh,uh.

SU-YIN returns to the leaflet.

FRAN (*Indicating the leaflet*)
You into that stuff?

SU-YIN (*laughing*)
Not personally! (*Pause*) But I
know a man who is.

FRAN (*interested*)
Oh, yeah?

SU-YIN puts down the leaflet, crosses her legs and leans forward towards FRAN, woman to woman.

SU-YIN
Men are completely mad.

FRAN makes herself more comfortable on the sofa.

FRAN
You said it.

SU-YIN (*lowering voice*)
There's this guy. He fails to
perform twice. And now...(*FRAN*
is all ears)... he wants to
freeze his sperm. Mad or what?

88. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC, CONSULTING ROOM - DAY

The interview progresses. HENK talks normally.

HENK
The thing is to relax. Breathe
deeply, think of the sea -
warm sea. Like this: in-out,
in-out...(*he nods off*)

AMY
Cut! Henk? Wake up!

HENK comes to with a start

THE BABYMAKERS

89. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC, RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Seen from reception desk FRAN and SU-YIN are deep in conversation, heads together, crossed legs meeting. A phone rings in foreground. Receptionist OI-KI picks up.

OI-KI (*in English*)
Lan Kwai Fong Wealth - sorry,
Health Clinic, Oi-ki speaking.
(*in Cantonese*) Hai. Ho-wa.

She replaces receiver, stands up. We move with her to FRAN and SU-YIN. The two women stop talking.

OI-KI (*in Cantonese to Su-yin*)
Dr Lau will see you now.

SU-YIN (*also in Cantonese*)
At last!

OI-KI returns to reception desk. SU-YIN turns to FRAN.

SU-YIN (*in English*)
I've enjoyed our talk.

FRAN
Me too, hon. (*SU-YIN gets up*)
You know the name of this
sperm-freezer guy? I'm doing
research into impotency. For a
doctoral thesis ...

SU-YIN (*pausing for a moment*)
No. I'm afraid not. Goodbye.

FRAN
Goodbye. And good luck!

FRAN picks up the leaflet that SU-YIN left on the coffee table. She reads it for a moment then stares into space.

FANTASY SEQUENCE: *Soft-lit, radiant AMY sitting in a luxuriant bed cradling a baby in her arms and FRAN, the proud 'father', sitting beside her stroking AMY's hair.*

Suddenly FRAN comes to and clicks her fingers in an 'I've got it!' manner.

FRAN (*outloud in English*)
You're a genius, Francesca!

THE BABYMAKERS

90. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC, TOILET - DAY

We move up and over a locked toilet door to reveal FRAN, seated on the closed lid, hunched over her mobile and punching in a number from the IVF clinic leaflet.

FRAN (*imitating caring wife*)
Hi. Mrs Piersma here. Mrs Henk Piersma. I'm ringing to check if my husband, Mr Henk D. Piersma, remembered to make an appointment. 'Pier' spelt P-i-e-r that's right. He's so forgetful. He has? Tomorrow at 12? That's a relief. Thank you. Goodbye.

She snaps her phone shut and with a look of triumph on her face flushes the toilet.

91. EXT. FERTILITY CLINIC ON PEAK - DAY

HENK arrives in a taxi at a modern building on a quiet road above the Peak Tram vernicular railway terminal. The clinic has a spectacular view of Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour, Kowloon and the New Territories mountains beyond. The tram, dwarfed by a mass of highrises, can be seen way below clawing its way up an almost vertical hillside

Board at entrance gate reads 'FERTILITY UNLIMITED CLINIC' in English and Chinese, a smiling sperm logo alongside. The taxi departs. HENK stands, uncertain whether to enter or not. Finally he heads for the front door.

Moments later, the film-crew's hired stationwagon draws up. FRAN, CAMERAMAN, MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN and AMY climb out. The two technicians begin unloading gear.

AMY (*in Dutch to FRAN*)
What was wrong with the clinic
I booked to film?

FRAN
Nothing, hon. (*She points at the board by the gate*) I liked the initials of this one. F.U.C. And the location. Wow!

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY shrugs her shoulders and checks her lipstick in the wing mirror. The CAMERAMAN dons his steadicam kit.

FRAN (*continuing casually*)
I'll do location visuals with Mr Steadicam. You go sound out the boss with Marieke. O.K?

AMY nods and smiles at herself in the mirror.

With MARIEKE and CAMERAMAN in foreground FRAN goes across and gives AMY a kiss on the cheek. MARIEKE points the boom at them. FRAN whispers in AMY's ear. Through the headphones we make out the words 'Love ya, hon'.

92. INT. CLINIC/ RECEPTION AREA - DAY

HENK sits on a chair near the reception desk. A corridor stretches away in the background.

An Indian MALE NURSE appears and walks HENK off down the corridor.

A moment later, the film crew enter. After a word with the receptionist, AMY and MARIEKE head through a door to the right. FRAN and the CAMERAMAN are told to wait.

93. INT. CLINIC 'WARM-UP' ROOM - DAY

HENK is shown into a waiting room arranged as a bar. He looks around nervously.

Half a dozen men, TWO CAUCASIAN and FOUR CHINESE, drinking beers and reading. Some look relaxed, some nervous.

The NURSE guides HENK to a chair with a table next to it. The table is piled high with gay and straight Men's mags.

MALE NURSE
You sit here. You read. When you feel ready, you go to the bar and ask for a key to one of the cubicles. (*He points to a door beyond bar*) The rest, I have already explained. Yes?

HENK nods. The MALE NURSE pats him on the back.

THE BABYMAKERS

MALE NURSE

Good luck.

The MALE NURSE leaves. HENK picks up one of the magazines.

His eyes grow wide as he stares at photos of naked men alone and together in varied poses. He glances up. A BLONDE MAN sitting opposite him winks.

BLONDE MAN (*strong Australian accent*)
All in a good cause, eh, mate?

HENK returns to his magazine.

94. INT. IVF IMPLANT ROOM - DAY

The CAMERAMAN films through the window of a door where a patient, whose face is out of shot, is being 'treated' by a masked DOCTOR.

FRAN turns to the English middle-aged FEMALE in stiff uniform accompanying the filming.

FRAN

Is it easy to arrange? This artificial fuck?

NURSE

I beg your pardon?

FRAN

Artificial insemination.

NURSE (*in a superior tone*)

If you have the money, yes.

FRAN

And do you do the goods to go?

NURSE (*raising an eyebrow*)

Product may be purchased for use outside the clinic - if you have the money, and an ice box.

FRAN (*smiling*)

Do you have to be a couple?

NURSE

Single women may be considered if...

THE BABYMAKERS

FRAN

They have the money. Yeah.
And dykes?

NURSE

I beg your pardon, madam?

FRAN

Never mind. (To CAMERAMAN) Hey
big guy? Let's find Amy. (To
NURSE) Thanks, hon.

The NURSE nods curtly and walks off.

95. INT. CLINIC 'WARM UP' ROOM - DAY

HENK heads to the bar with an armful of magazines.

HENK (*clearing throat*)

I'm ready. May I have a key?

The CHINESE BARMAN selects a key and hands it to HENK.

BARMAN

Number 3. (*Pointing at large
pile of mags*) First time, eh?

HENK nods.

96. INT. CLINIC/CUBICLE THREE - DAY

HENK enters cubicle. An angle poise lamp and cushion covered stool stand in one corner. On a shelf are small plastic screw top containers.

HENK places magazines on stool, removes trousers and hangs them behind the door.

He picks up magazines and sits on the stool. Through the wall low grunts and groans are audible.

HENK sits still, debating something with himself.

Suddenly he throws the magazines on to the floor, places his hands on his lap - almost as if praying - and closes his eyes.

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK (*outloud in Dutch*)
I am doing this for you, Amy.
Because I love YOU and I want
to give a baby to YOU. But I'm
frightened. Making another
person is a big step. Another
me. Another you.

He selects a plastic pot from the shelf.

HENK (*continuing*)
So, if I can't manage it in
person, there'll be this
bit... of me... in the fridge.

He pauses and switches off the light. It is pitch dark.

HENK (*continuing*)
I love you, Amy. I love you. A
baby will be in good hands, I
know. Your hands. Your hands.
Your face. Your body, Amy. So
soft. So warm. I love you. I
love you, Amy. I love you!

There is a soft gasp and then silence.

97. INT. CLINIC RECEPTION AREA - DAY

AMY appears with MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN, who jams on her headphones and busies herself logging tapes. AMY, to her amazement, sees the figure of HENK approaching up the corridor clutching a small plastic pot. She freezes.

MARIEKE sees him too, aims her boom and starts recording.

HENK stops and stares at AMY and MARIEKE a look of bitterness and betrayal on his face.

HENK
Amy! You followed me!

AMY shakes her head. But HENK has seen something more shocking behind her. A look of panic comes over his face.

HENK (*yelling*)
Amy! You promised!

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK runs off the way he came. AMY wheels round to see what has scared him.

To her horror she sees FRAN and the CAMERAMAN, half-hidden behind a plant, filming. She freezes then explodes.

AMY (*screaming at FRAN in Dutch*)
Fran! You bitch! You fucking
bitch!

FRAN
Calm down, honey. I didn't
know he'd be here. Honest.
We'll pixel the face. OK? Mr
Nobody...

AMY is unsure who to believe and what to do. Then she spins round and sets off after HENK. CAMERAMAN follows.

FRAN
Cut!(CAMERAMAN *continues to*
film). I said 'Cut!'

CAMERAMAN comes to a halt. But MARIEKE keeps recording, her boom at hip level pointed at FRAN. FRAN lights a cigarette beneath a NO SMOKING sign.

FRAN (*half to self, staring after AMY*)
Leave him, live with me.
That's what I'd do. Franny'd
make a better dad than Henkie.

CAMERAMAN (*returning*)
Great shot. You knew he'd be here?

FRAN (*still staring after AMY*)
Sure. They needed a crisis. Good
for our programme, good for them.
Make up or break up. We'll see.
(*Turns to MARIEKE and CAMERAMAN*).
You pack up. I've shopping to do.

98. EXT. CLINIC - DAY

AMY appears out of a side exit and looks around for HENK.

He is heading up a hill behind the clinic - Victoria Peak, highest point on Hong Kong Island.

AMY runs after him.

THE BABYMAKERS

99. EXT. SUMMIT OF VICTORIA PEAK - DAY

Right at the very top with 360 degree views of Kowloon, Lantau, Lamma and the South China Sea, HENK stops. He is covered in sweat and breathing heavily from the climb. He leans over a viewing rail and stares down at the steep scrub-covered drop below.

AMY, out of breath, arrives at the summit and, nervous of what HENK might do, slows her pace to a walk as she approaches him. She stops behind a statue and watches him. HENK loosens the lid on the small plastic container and then holding it at arms length, hurls it into the void.

It falls in slow motion, spilling its contents, and disappears into undergrowth far below. A parrot squawks

AMY walks towards the rail until she is a few feet from HENK. She holds out a hand.

AMY (*softly*)
I'm sorry. That was awful.

HENK remains motionless. AMY drops her hand.

AMY (*continuing*)
I didn't follow. I promise.
I'd no idea you'd be here.

HENK stares at Outlying Islands shimmering in the heat.

HENK (*still without turning*)
Even if I believed you, and I'm not sure I do, I don't think it'd help. You're better off without me. (*He pauses*) Some bloke out there's longing to be a father, raring to make babies. I'm just a mixed-up kid. A babe in arms - not a big boy, not a future father.

AMY puts an arm round his shoulder.

AMY
You're Henk. That's all. The person I love. Babies or no babies. (*Pause*). What were you doing at the clinic, anyway?

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK

Putting tadpoles on ice.

AMY

For me?

HENK (*nodding*)

Just in case.

AMY (*tenderly*)

Stompie. Bai chi!

HENK reaches up, squeezes the hand on his shoulder. But his eyes stay staring into space.

HENK (*quietly*)

A celibate railway fanatic.
That's me. A child in a grown-up's world. (*Pauses*) Go now, Amy. Please. Back to Holland. And take that woman with you.

AMY (*trying to be fair*)

It was a coincidence. She couldn't have known.

HENK (*bitterly*)

You let her make this film. Didn't you? You persuaded me to take part. Didn't you?

AMY (*in a whisper*)

Yes.

HENK

Go and make your film, go and make your babies, but leave me alone. Please, Amy. Just go.

AMY hesitates, removes her arm and walks away. Before disappearing down the hill she glances back and waves.

But HENK does not turn. Instead he walks to a path on the opposite side of the peak and disappears.

Tears run down AMY's cheeks.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE UP TO

THE BABYMAKERS

100. EXT. BOOKSTORE IN PRINCE'S BUILDING - NIGHT

Title: 'Two months later, Christmas Eve.'

Muzacked Christmas Carols fill the air. HENK locks up shop with MR KWOK. KWOK does the bottom lock, HENK the top one.

SMALL CHINESE BOY, who Henk had avoided before, runs up.

BOY (*to Kwok in Cantonese*)
Are you closed?

KWOK
Afraid so.

BOY (*pointing at Henk*)
He's the boss? He can open up.

HENK stares at the boy suspiciously.

BOY (*in Cantonese*)
I want to exchange a book.

HENK
Still after books about sex?

The BOY shakes his head and holds up a book on steam locomotives. HENK's stare softens and he unlocks the door.

101. INT. BOOKSHOP - NIGHT

HENK hands a new book to the BOY - his face lights up.

BOY
Thankyou sir.

HENK shakes the boy's hand. The BOY smiles again at him.

BOY (*continuing*)
You're a nice man, sir.

102. EXT. PRINCES BUILDING SOUTH SIDE - NIGHT

HENK emerges at street level from the bookshop building with the BOY. They stop at a pedestrian crossing. A tram approaches from the right, steel wheels screeching.

HENK looks from it to the BOY in panic and, as the BOY steps on to the rails, HENK's arm shoots out to stop him.

THE BABYMAKERS

The BOY points at the green "Crossing man", takes HENK by the hand and leads him across in front of the tram.

103. EXT. AMSTERDAM - EVENING

Snow flutters down. We move in from an aerial shot of Amsterdam to the lit upper window of the Piersma-Lau 'bovenhuis' in its tree-lined street in Zuid.

104. INT. AMSTERDAM BOVENHUIS - EVENING

AMY is in the double-bed suffering from a cold. On TV in background a mindless build-up-to-Christmas programme plays. AMY sips hot whisky and lemon. The model railway is still. As music from TV gets louder

CUT TO:

105. INT. AMSTERDAM STUDIOS - EVENING.

A Christmas party in the canteen. Laughter, shouting singing and dancing. Amongst the DANCERS we find FRAN jiving with the TIMID DIRECTOR who is pulled here, there and everywhere by his taller and tougher producer. Further on the CAMERAMAN attempts to get close up with MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN, but she only has eyes for FRAN.

FRAN (*spinning TIMID DIRECTOR round*)
You're a mean dancer, but
I've got to go. (*DIRECTOR*
looks relieved). See the patient.

TIMID DIRECTOR (*shouting above music*)
Amy? (*FRAN nods*) Send her my love.

FRAN makes her way out of the canteen. MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN hears the name 'Amy' and sees FRAN leave. She disentangles herself from the CAMERAMAN and follows.

106. INT. FRAN'S OFFICE - EVENING

FRAN in overcoat and scarf removes a bottle of champagne and a wrapped Christmas present from the fridge, brushes ice fragments from the wrapping, kisses the package and then heads out turning off the light behind her.

THE BABYMAKERS

107. INT. AMSTERDAM BOVENHUIS - EVENING

AMY half asleep with TV still on. Doorbell goes. AMY drags herself out of bed, crosses to the intercom and lifts the receiver. Nothing. She hits the intercom.

AMY (*blocked nose voice*)
Oh, its you. Come on up.

She presses a button. Nothing happens. She hits the intercom and shuffles back to bed. Moments later FRAN appears in the doorway, hurries across and hugs AMY.

FRAN
Happy Christmas, hon.

AMY (*pointing at her nose*)
Not too close.

FRAN
Still bad, eh? This'll cheer you up.

FRAN hands AMY the wrapped package and watches on tenterhooks as AMY opens it. Inside is a silver cannister with no obvious way of opening it. AMY looks perplexed.

AMY
Thanks, Fran. But what is it?

FRAN
The ultimate accessory.

AMY (*shaking her head and smiling*)
One of your sex toys?

FRAN
Not exactly. (*Pauses*) It's sperms, hon.
Real live sperms.

AMY (*befuddled by cold and FRAN*)
Sperms? Human sperms? For what?

FRAN
For you and me, honey. To make a baby.

AMY goes silent, mouth agape, then laughs. Then, as the reality of the suggestion enters her mind, looks shocked.

AMY
You want to have a baby? With me?
(*FRAN nods*) But Fran...

THE BABYMAKERS

FRAN

Why not? (*indicating gift*) I've got the goods. No word from Henk. And... I love ya.

AMY closes her eyes. Then reopens them and gazes at FRAN

AMY

Fran... You're such a crazy lady. And I do love you too. But I'm not a lesbian.

FRAN

Doesn't matter. You can fake it.

AMY stares at her friend, tears welling up. FRAN takes her hand and squeezes it.

FRAN (*continuing*)

Think about it. (*She gathers up the cannister*). Meanwhile I'll keep the goods on ice. OK? (*FRAN kisses Amy and heads for the door*). And take care of that cold! Bye.

AMY closes her eyes. Sound of a Christmas Carol on TV.

The doorbell rings again. AMY comes to and sees Fran's scarf. She crosses to the intercom, which refuses to work even after repeated blows.

Donning a bathrobe she descends to the ground floor with the scarf and opens the front door.

MARIEKE THE SOUNDWOMAN stands, covered in snow, holding a package. For the first time in the film she speaks.

MARIEKE (*Amsterdam accent*)

Sorry to bother you, (*she holds out package*), but you need to know the truth.

AMY takes the package.

AMY

What is it?

MARIEKE

It might help. You *and* Fran.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY

Help?

MARIEKE (*nodding*)

I should have brought it earlier, but hoped Fran'd see sense without me having to.

AMY shivers. MARIEKE remains on the doorstep.

AMY

Do you want to come in?

MARIEKE

No thanks, Mrs Piersma.

AMY (*after pause*)

You love Fran don't you?

MARIEKE

Yes, Mrs Piersma I do.

Very much. Happy Christmas.

MARIEKE disappears into the night. AMY closes the door, opens the package and removes a digital sound tape.

108. EXT. HONG KONG SKYLINE - CHRISTMAS MORNING

Aerial view of HK skyline closes in on upper window of mid-levels apartment block.

109. INT. HENK'S ORIGINAL RENTED FLAT - EARLY MORNING

HENK sits on an unmade bed nibbling nuts and watching TV.

A photo of AMY has pride of place by the bed.

On TV is a quiz show in Chinese. Between mouthfuls, HENK repeats Chinese words. Then he jumps off the bed.

In the living room he kneels by a small plastic Christmas tree and opens the only present beneath it. A tag says 'To Henk from Henk: Good Luck!' It's a book on Tibetan Monasteries. The phone rings. The answer machine cuts in.

SU-YIN'S VOICE

Hi Henk. Su-yin here. Happy Christmas. Not heard from you in a while. You alright?

THE BABYMAKERS

HENK looks at Tibetan monks in robes. Phone goes again.

JOHNNY'S VOICE (*in Dutch*)

Henk. Johnny. LKF Men's group
Christmas Meal this evening.
Want to join us? Haruki would
love to see you again. And remember
what I said at our last therapy
session: if you think you're gay,
go with it. Happy Xmas.

HENK goes across to a calendar on the wall. He flips through it. In each month the dates of Amy's ovulation are circled. In December, the 26th is circled. He picks up the phone and dials, then changes his mind and, slamming the receiver down, grabs a jacket and leaves the flat.

110. EXT/INT. CHINESE HERBALIST IN NARROW WANCHAI STREET - DAY

HENK sits at counter alongside CHINESE CUSTOMERS. A SHOP ASSISTANT plonks down glass and pile of homemade sweets.

SHOP ASSISTANT

The usual, sir. Merry Christmas.

HENK takes a sip and jams a sweet into his mouth.

111. EXT. WANCHAI STREET WITH BARS - LATER SAME DAY

HENK walks past bar where he fought with Amy. The street is busy - everyone shops on Christmas Day in Hong Kong.

The CHINESE WOMAN IN CHEONGSAM sits with two CAUCASIAN MEN outside the bar. She waves at HENK.

HENK waves back, but continues walking until out of shot.

112. INT. TRAVEL AGENT HONG KONG - LATER SAME DAY

HENK receives an airline ticket from a TRAVEL AGENCY ASSISTANT. HENK leaves the agency.

113. EXT. SCHIPOL AIRPORT - DAY

Terminal building with planes landing and taking off in the background.

THE BABYMAKERS

114. INT. SCHIPOL PASSPORT CONTROL - DAY

AMY clutching Marieke's soundtape, and an overnight bag runs up to customs.

VOICE OVER

This is the final call for
KLM Flight 852 to Hong Kong
now boarding at gate 27.

AMY runs to her boarding gate on far side of the barrier.

115. INT. HENK'S FLAT IN HONG KONG - BOXING DAY

Flat is empty with all posters, books and other personal items removed. HENK closes a suitcase, takes a last look round, picks up air ticket and prepares to leave.

The doorbell rings. He opens door. It is AMY.

HENK

Amy! What...?

AMY

You're leaving? (*HENK nods*) Well don't. Listen to this first. (*She waves the tape in his face. HENK hesitates*) It's important. For us.

HENK

I've nothing to listen to it on.

AMY

Come to Johnny's office. Quick!

HENK (*Pointing at suitcase*)

What about this? I have to vacate the flat.

AMY

Bring it with you.

HENK hesitates again.

AMY (*continuing*)

Please Henk. Please!

THE BABYMAKERS

116. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC, JOHNNY'S OFFICE - BOXING DAY

HENK, AMY, JOHNNY and KA-WAI listen to tape.

FRAN ON TAPE

Leave him and live with me. That's what I'd do, hon. Franny'd make a better dad than Henkie.

CAMERAMAN ON TAPE

Great shot. You knew he'd be here?

FRAN ON TAPE

Sure. They needed a crisis. Good for the programme, good for them. Make up or break up.

HENK turns off tape and sinks back into the sofa.

HENK (angrily in Dutch)

The bitch! (To Amy) I said she was no good.

AMY (nodding)

You did. Sorry.

AMY puts a hand out to HENK.

JOHNNY

She was in love, Henk. People in love do crazy things.

JOHNNY and KA-WAI wink at each other.

HENK (recovering)

Fran in love with my Amy? (He hugs Amy). Can't say I blame her.

Then HENK'S brow furrows and he pulls away from AMY.

HENK

*Wait, if you didn't follow me to the clinic, then how *did* Fran know where I'd be? The only person I told was...*

JOHNNY (in English)

An ex of mine.

HENK (in English confused)

An ex? Ka-wai?

THE BABYMAKERS

KA-WAI (*piqued*)
I'm a current, Henk, honey.

JOHNNY opens the office door. SU-YIN and son KING enter.

SU-YIN
Hi, Henk! This is my son. You
have met, I think. (*Turning to*
JOHNNY) This is his dad.

HENK stares in amazement from SU-YIN to JOHNNY to KING,
the small Chinese boy from the bookshop on Christmas Eve.

HENK (*now totally confused*)
This boy is Johnny's son? You,
Johnny, had...?

SU-YIN smiles and nods.

SU-YIN
An affair. He left. I never saw him
again. He didn't know I was pregnant.

HENK stumbles back to sofa where AMY hands him a drink.

SU-YIN (*continuing*)
When I saw Johnny's photo on
the book you left at the
airport, I knew he was King's
dad. I came to the clinic. The
American woman saw the leaf-
let, got me talking and...

HENK
Put two and two together.

SU-YIN (*nodding*)
I didn't mention your name,
but... I'm sorry.

She gives HENK a hug and kisses AMY on the cheek.

JOHNNY (*hugging KING*)
As a result I now have a son

AMY (*aside to Henk in Dutch*)
Didn't know he could do it
with girls.

THE BABYMAKERS

JOHNNY (*also in Dutch*)
We only did it once, Amy,
dear. I was drunk.

HENK (*to Johnny*)
You and Su-Yin did it once and
made a baby?

JOHNNY nods. HENK looks gloomy.

AMY (*hugging HENK*)
And now we can!

HENK (*standing*)
Yes. Excuse me. Back in a minute

The others continue to chat. HENK slips out of the door.

117. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC, GENT'S TOILET - DAY

Looking down a row of cubicles, all doors open apart from one. JOHNNY enters and approaches the closed door.

JOHNNY (*in Dutch*)
Henk? You alright. (*No reply*).
You've been gone a while.
We're getting worried. Henkie?

VOICE (*Australian*)
Look, mate, I don't know what
lingo that is, but my name is
not Henkie and I don't want no
henkie-penkie! Alright?

JOHNNY checks the empty cubicles.

JOHNNY
Shit!

VOICE
Doing my best mate!

JOHNNY exits.

118. INT. JOHNNY'S CLINIC, RECEPTION - DAY.

JOHNNY rushes up to OI-KI and FAN-LI at the reception desk.

THE BABYMAKERS

JOHNNY (*in Cantonese*)
You seen my brother-in-law?

FAN-LI
He walked out ten minutes ago.
Asked us to call a taxi.

JOHNNY
He what?

SU-YIN and AMY overhear the conversation.

AMY (*in Cantonese*)
Did he take his suitcase?

FAN-LI nods. AMY burts into tears. OI-KI offers a tissue.

SU-YIN thinks and then grabs JOHNNY by the arm.

SU-YIN
Your car here? (*Johnny nods*) Let's
go then. To the airport.

JOHNNY
The airport?

SU-YIN
A hunch. King! Ka-wai! Let's go!

She exits, followed by AMY, JOHNNY, KA-WAI and KING.

119. EXT. MONTAGE SEQUENCE OF RACE TO AIRPORT - DAY

Everyone piles into JOHNNY's BMW, now with it's roof open.

It screeches down the hill to Queen's Road East, makes a left across oncoming traffic and disappears

BMW plunges into Harbour Tunnel. KING and KA-WAI cling on to their baseball caps.

BMW emerges at speed , KING and KA-WAI now minus caps.

Aerial shot of BMW speeding across Tsing Yi bridge.

BMW screeches to a halt outside airport.

Everyone piles out ignoring parking officials.

THE BABYMAKERS

120. INT. CHEP LAP KOK AIRPORT DEPARTURE GATE - DAY

HENK sits in meditative pose - hands in lap, eyes closed - at a departure gate. We hear the hum of air-con and Henk's rhythmic breathing. Information board at gate says, Dragonair Flight 202/Dep:2pm/Destination:Lhasa.

Pulling out we see that HENK is surrounded by bald-headed BUDDHIST MONKS in robes. Some have hands in meditative prayer pose, others read. There is also a spattering of ageing AMERICAN TOURISTS on a package tour munching chips.

The peace and quiet is broken by an announcement.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE (*In English*)

This is an announcement for Mr Piersma. If he is in the airport could he please make his way to the Airport Information desk as soon as possible. (*HENK ignores voice*). I repeat...

A scuffling noise over the speakers and a shout of 'Give it to me, klootzak!'

AMY'S VOICE (*In Dutch*)

Henk, schat. It's me Amy. (*HENK closes eyes tighter*) If you're out there, please don't fly away and leave me... Ow!

Further scuffling and the speaker goes dead. HENK looks around to see if anyone has understood, but monks still meditate and Americans munch their chips as before

SU-YIN'S VOICE (*in English*)

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. We are urgently looking for a man with blonde hair wearing a black anorak with hood, a black T-shirt, blue jeans and Nike trainers. Any information on his whereabouts will be rewarded with a free meal at the airport restaurant.

AMERICAN TOURISTS perk up at the mention of a food-reward and look around. They spot HENK and nudge each other. The message is repeated in Mandarin and the BUDDHIST MONKS look around too. Now everyone is staring at HENK, who has pulled his hood over his head and sunk into his seat.

THE BABYMAKERS

SU-YIN starts in Cantonese, but again a sound of scuffling.

AMY (*Almost in tears*)
Henk, schat je moet me geloven.
Ik hou zo veel van jou. (*In*
Cantonese) Wo ai ni. (*In*
English) I love you SO much.

The speaker goes dead. HENK lowers his hood and sees the BUDDHIST MONKS and AMERICAN TOURISTS smiling at him.

The OLDEST MONK puts his hands in prayer position. OTHER MONKS follow suit and close their eyes.

Fattest AMERICAN TOURIST (female)) stops munching.

AMERICAN TOURIST (*as if watching film*)
Go get her, hon.

HENK glances at OLDEST MONK, who nods imperceptibly.

But HENK still remains seated.

121. INT. ARRIVALS HALL GATE CHEP LAP KOK AIRPORT - DAY

AMY, JOHNNY, KA-WAI, SU-YIN (on mobile) and KING stare at video screen on which incoming passengers can be seen.

AMY (*in Cantonese*)
He's not going to come.

JOHNNY puts an arm around his sister.

SU-YIN (*excited, closing mobile*)
He's on his way!

KING (*staring at screen*)
There he is!

A moment later, HENK emerges with suitcase in tow. AMY runs to greet him. HENK stops and looks like he might run again. AMY stops, the others stop behind her.

AMY (*in Dutch*)
Hoi, schat.

HENK
Hoi

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY

Do you still love me?

Henk nods and a tear forms in his eye.

HENK

But... making a baby... in one
go! Perhaps I'm impotent.

AMY approaches and hugs him. HENK remains dejected

AMY (*whispering in his ear*)

I've a surprise for you, schat.
Johnny's set something up. You
want to know what?

HENK looks at the others, nods and kisses AMY.

A cheer goes up.

122. EXT. HONG KONG CITYSCAPE - SAME DAY TWILIGHT

A rich, red-orange, sub-tropical sunset over Hong Kong
looking West to the Outlying Islands

124. EXT. HUNG HOM RAILWAY STATION KOWLOON - LATER THAT EVENING

Johnny's BMW squeals to a halt.

JOHNNY, KA-WAI, KING and SU-YIN unload Amy and Henk's
suitcases.

AMY emerges from the car with a blindfolded HENK.

HENK is led by the whole troupe into the station.

125. INT. STATION PLATFORM - EVENING

Kisses between all, then AMY helps HENK into a sleeper
train. As she boards, AMY whispers to a CHINESE FEMALE
ATTENDANT and hands her a carrier bag. The ATTENDANT nods.

The train departs.

SU-YIN, JOHNNY, KA-WAI and KING, wave, give a thumbs-up
sign and then, arm in arm, walk off down the platform.

THE BABYMAKERS

126. INT. SLEEPING COMPARTMENT - NIGHT

AMY ushers HENK into a sleeping compartment with two beds either side of a table. He is still blindfolded

She lowers the blinds and guides HENK to one of the beds.

HENK (*impatiently*)
Can I take it off now?

AMY
When you hear a knock.

AMY slips out of the compartment, closing the door.

127. INT. TRAIN CORRIDOR - NIGHT

AMY emerges from train attendant's compartment wearing sexy version of Chinese train attendant's uniform. The FEMALE TRAIN ATTENDANT straightens AMY's cap. AMY slips her some money and sets off towards us down the corridor. In the foreground, she knocks on her own compartment door.

128. INT. SLEEPING COMPARTMENT ON TRAIN - NIGHT

HENK hears knock and removes blindfold.

He looks around taking in details of compartment. Then, as the door opens, he stares at AMY in her uniform.

AMY (*in her best Mandarin*)
Anything you require, sir?

HENK
Amy? Is that you? But how...?

AMY (*removing cap*)
The uniform? Johnny's tailor.
This afternoon. Hong Kong
never closes.

They gaze at each other and then HENK pulls AMY down on to the bunk and kisses her.

HENK
You're the best. Where are we
going?

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY

You'll see. Tomorrow morning.

Henk's eyes take in the details of the compartment. He is thrilled, like a child.

AMY watches happily.

And then, as the rocking of the train begins to relax HENK, she undresses him.

AMY (*pointing at her uniform*)

Want me to keep this on?

HENK (*smiling*)

No. I'm a big boy now.

She removes her costume until she too is naked, stretches out on the bunk and looks HENK admiringly up and down.

AMY

Mijn lieve mooie mannetje.

They start to kiss. Softly at first, then, as the train picks up speed, more intensely and confidently.

128. EXT. RAILWAY LINE - NIGHT

Train hurtles through darkness. Its whistle blasts as it disappears into a tunnel.

129. INT. SLEEPING COMPARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

HENK and AMY asleep in each other's arms. A knock. HENK gets up and struggling into his underpants opens the door.

FEMALE TRAIN ATTENDANT

Nee hou! Chai tse tse!

HENK (*surprised*)

Er... .nee hou. Tse, tse

He takes the tea and sets it down between the beds. He opens the blind and sees lush mountain scenery. He whistles between his teeth. AMY opens her eyes and smiles.

THE BABYMAKERS

AMY (*from bed*)

We reach Beijing this evening.

HENK (*still at window*)

It's beautiful.

AMY

So was last night

HENK sits on bed and kisses AMY's stomach,.

HENK

A Chinese baby conceived in China.

AMY

Or Mongolia or Russia. (*HENK is confused*) We're booked on the Trans-Siberian. One night in Beijing and then...

HENK (*glowing with excitement*)

Six days and five nights to Moscow!

AMY (*laughing*)

Paradise for Piersma - and his tadpoles!

The train whistle sounds in the bright morning air.

130. EXT. CHINESE LANDSCAPE - EARLY MORNING

Seen from above, with whistle still blowing, the train emerges from the mountains and speeds towards the vast expanse of the Yangtse river. Camera tilts up to sky.

DISSOLVE TO:-

131. EXT. TREELINED STREET IN AMSTERDAM ZUID - SUMMER EVENING

Camera tilts down from sky until, seen from above, it finds a whistling HENK cycling up the street, a blue wooden object strapped to the back of his bike.

He waves at BOY ON A BICYCLE who passes in the opposite direction.

The BOY makes a rude sign and then waves back.

THE BABYMAKERS

132. INT. ZUID BOVENHUIS - DAY

Very pregnant AMY on sofa watching TV, a travel programme.

On screen a fairly pregnant AMY reports from Northern Norway on Railway Journeys of Europe. The programme ends.

AMY switches to AT5, the Amsterdam cable channel. A news item attracts her attention. FRAN dressed in a morning suit at a wedding. FRAN talks to camera. The shot widens to show a pregnant MARIEKE beside her in a wedding dress.

AMY

Henk, schat. Come and look.

HENK enters with a Thomas the Tank Engine cradle. He puts cradle down and watches TV from behind sofa. He smiles, leans down to kiss AMY, loses balance and disappears over the back of the sofa. Kissing noises start as we move in on to TV and the kissing faces of FRAN and MARIEKE. Off-screen a wedding guest's baby starts to cry.

The image freezes. The crying continues and then turns to gurgling as the baby is pacified.

FADE TO BLACK

END TITLES.

T H E E N D