



Locked in the Store Room

Characters: Li Bin, Iris, Emily, Daisy, Anita, Miss Perkins Big Dollar, Hammer, Ricky.

Synopsis: Li Bin has just come to Hong Kong from the mainland. Her first days are unhappy ones. In this episode things go from 'bad to worse for Li Bin. Li Bin's classmates are nasty to her, Big Dollar extorts protection money from her, she gets lost in the streets and no one will help her. Finally her classmates, led by Daisy, lock her up in the store room at school. Li Bin' s shouts for help are heard by Ricky. He breaks the lock with his penknife and let' s Li Bin out. But Miss Perkins happens to be passing at the time and she thinks Ricky and Li Bin have broken into the store room to steal something. She refuses to listen to their explanations and says she will report them to the principal.

Scene 1 In the classroom

Miss P: Where' s the new girl?
Li Bin: (Soft voice) Here Miss.
Miss P: (Irritable) Speak up I can't hear you.
Li Bin: Here Miss
Miss P: Oh THERE you are...now what's your name.
Li Bin: (Soft voice)Li Bin Miss
Miss P: (Irritated) For goodness sakes, SPEAK UP
Li Bin: Li Bin Miss
Miss P: Li what?!
Li Bin: BIN, Li Bin Miss.
Miss P: Bin Li...now listen Bin Li...you'd better speak up or else no one will hear a word you're saying.

(Fade out Fade up)

In the playground

Daisy: Look at her.
Anita: Li Bin.
Daisy: From the mainland. Hey Anita, look at Li Bin' s shoes.
Anita: I know Daisy, so unfashionable... how can she wear such ugly shoes?.
Daisy: I bet they're the only shoes she's got.
Anita: I bet she shares them with her grandmother.
Daisy: One pair of shoes between two people.

(They giggle nastily)

Anita: I bet her grandmother's sitting at home now waiting for Li Bin to get home...
Daisy: Yes, so grandmother can borrow the shoes....
Anita: And go out for a walk.

(They laugh nastily)

Iris: My mother says that people from the mainland only come to Hong Kong for money.
Anita: You're mother is RIGHT Iris... My dad says they want a free ride.
Daisy: Your father is RIGHT Anita. My Dad says they should all be sent back home.
I & A: Your father is RIGHT Daisy.
Anita: Li Bin, why don't you go back home.
Daisy: Back to where you came from!
Li Bin: I want to go back but my father is working here.
Anita: Legally or ILlegally?
Li Bin: Of course, legally, why do you ask such questions?
Daisy: Huh! Hong Kong is full of Il's.
Anita: Breaking into people' s homes.
Iris: Stealing their money.
Emily: Come on Iris... give Li Bin a break.
Iris: Why should I? She doesn't belong here.
D & A: No, she should go back to where she comes from.
Anita: Go back to mainland China.
Emily: But Daisy... Anita...we ALL came from mainland China.

Daisy: My mother was born in Hong Kong AND my father.
Anita: Same for me.
Iris: And me.
Daisy: What about YOU Emily?
Emily: My father was born in Hong Kong but my mother was born in Guandong.
Daisy: Huh! I see!
Anita: (Sarcastic) Guandong? I see.
Iris: Is that why you are defending Li Bin?
Emily: No...no I'm not defending anybody ... why should I?
Daisy: Just make...sure that you don't Emily.
Iris: Yes Emily...if you want to be our friend-
Anita: ...don't go siding with any mainland girls.
Daisy: Is that clear?
Li Bin: Excuse me...I must go.
Iris: Oh good, Li Bin is going.
Anita: Back to China.
Daisy: Good riddance.

(They laugh nastily)

Emily: (Sweetly) Good bye Li Bin, it's really nice having you in our class... I hope you will be happy here.
Li Bin: Thank you Emily... thank you very much.
Daisy: (Annoyed) Huh!
Anita: (Annoyed) Huh!
Iris: (Annoyed) Huh!

Scene 2 Outside the school gates.

Big Dollar: Hey Hammer... who's that over there? That girl? I've never seen her before.
Hammer: That's a new girl Big Dollar.
Big Dollar: Really, a new girl.
Hammer: She comes from the mainland.
Big Dollar: Really?
Hammer: Yes Boss.
Big Dollar: Hmmm... I smell money.

Hammer: Do you Big Dollar?... where is the smell coming from?
Big Dollar: Her, over there, the new girl.
Hammer: I see what you mean Big Dollar.
Big Dollar: (Sarcastic) The poor little girl is ALL alone... no one to play with,
no one to protect her.
Hammer: (Laughing nastily) I see what you mean boss.
Big Dollar: Maybe WE should go and play with her... what do you think
Hammer?
Ham: (laughing nastily) Good idea.
Big Dollar: Come on Hammer... let's go....

Brief pause.

Big Dollar: Hello.
Li Bin: Oh, hello.
Big Dollar: My name's Big Dollar.
Li Bin: Big Dollar?
Big Dollar: Yes, nice name don't you think?
Li Bin: I've never met anyone called Big Dollar before.
Big Dollar: Neither have !... And this here is my friend, Hammer.
Li Bin: Hammer? I've never met anyone called Hammer before.
Big Dollar: Well you have now so shake his hand and smile at him.
Li Bin: Yes, yes of course, how do you do Mister Hammer... How do you
do Mister Big Dollar.
Big Dollar: Hey Hammer.... hear that?.... the girl's polite... she shows
respect, not like a lot of the other girls around here.
Hammer: Yeah, she shows respect... I like that boss.
Big Dollar: So, new girl, what's your name?
Li Bin: My name is Li Bin.
Big Dollar: Li Bin. Hmmm... and you're from the mainland.
Li Bin: Yes, how did you know?
Big Dollar: Hey Li Bin, get used to it, Big Dollar knows everything around
here, isn't that right Hammer.
Hammer: Yes Boss...it sure is.
Li Bin: Well, Mister Big Dollar, Mister Hamme...nice talking to you but I
must go now because my family are waiting for me.
Big Dollar: No, no, no, no..., don't spoil it Li Bin...you were being Sooo polite
and respectful.

Hammer: Listen New Girl...no one leaves before Big Dollar says so.
Li Bin: Oh, I see, I understand.
Big Dollar: Smart girl. She learns fast Hammer.
Hammer: Yes Boss.
Li Bin: Mr Big Dollar, may I go now please.
Big Dollar: Of course you can Miss Li Bin.
Li Bin: Thank you.
Hammer: Sir... don't forget the Sir.
Li Bin: Yes, of course Thank you sir.
Hammer: Hmmmm.
Li Bin: May I go now Sir?
Big Dollar: As I said...of course BUT.... um...before you go.... could you lend me some money?
Li Bin: Money?
Hammer: Sir!
Li Bin: Money Sir?
Big Dollar: Yes New Girl... money ... a hundred dollars.
Li Bin: But, um...um... I don't have such money.
Hammer: She's lying boss.
Big Dollar: Open your purse.
Li Bin: My purse?
Hammer: Sir! Don't forget the Sir!
Li Bin: Yes Sir...yes sir...here...look...
Hammer: Fifty dollars and some coins.
Big Dollar: Take it Hammer.
Li Bin: But I have to get home Sir, on the bus.
Hammer: Shall I leave her the bus money boss?
Big Dollar: No Hammer, take it all.
Hammer: Okay.
Big Dollar: Hey New Girl, you should be happy ...you've just bought yourself a week's worth of protection.
Li Bin: Protection Sir?
Big Dollar: Yes...if anybody messes with you, asks you for money or anything...tell me understand ... me and Hammer here, and the others ... we're your Big Brothers under stand...
Hammer: You help us...we help you.
Big Dollar: Get it.
Li Bin: Yes Sir, thank you Sir.

Big Dollar: You can go now girl.
Li Bin: Yes, thank you Sir, good bye.
Hammer: And don't go squealing to any teachers, you hear! Just keep quiet.
Big Dollar: (Slight pause) So Hammer... she should be a regular source of money.
Hammer: Yes Mr Big Dollar,

(They laugh nastily)

Scene 3

Li Bin: (To herself) Oh I'm so tired... why did they take all my money ... who are they?...and now I have to walk home all by myself. Where am I? Oh dear I think I'm lost..Hong Kong is so busy and confusing. I'd better ask someone.....Excuse me Madam.
Lady: (In Cantonese. Unfriendly) What do you want?
Li Bin: Please can you tell me where Chong Dong Street is please?
Lady: (Irritated. In Cantonese) How do I know?!
Li Bin: Oh dear, she seemed quite cross.... I'd better ask that man. Excuse me Sir.
Man: (In Cantonese. Unfriendly) What?
Li Bin: Can you tell me where.....
Man: (Interrupting her angrily) No, no... go away ... I'm busy!
Li Bin: Oh dear, he seemed quite angry with me... maybe I can ask that little girl. Excuse me little girl...can you tell me where..?
Girl: (Interrupting her. In Cantonese. A whining, frightened voice.) Mummy, mummy, a strange lady is talking to me.
Li Bin: Oh dear, the little girl seemed frightened of me... oh well... I'd better stop trying to ask people the way and just try and find my own way home. Oh dear... why did daddy have to bring me to Hong Kong... I feel so unhappy here?...the teacher cannot understand me when I speak... the girls in my class are so nasty to me... the boys in the playground take my money and the people in the street are so rude when I ask the way- What am I going to do? Oh dear, I'm lost... where am I? These big buildings make me feel so small. I feel like an ant...a little ant lost in a strange world.

Interval

Scene 4

Miss Perkins: Okay class settle down. Now what's the past tense of the verb 'to buy?' Daisy?

Daisy: Bought Miss.

Miss P: No Daisy, not 'bued'... that's regular... the past tense of the verb to buy s irregular. Iris?

Iris: Buying Miss.

Miss P: No Iris. Anita?

Anita: Buedid.

Miss P: No... what about you... what's your name...the new girl.

Li Bin: (Soft voice) Li Bin Miss.

Miss P: Yes, Bin Li... what's the past tense of the verb 'to buy?'

Li Bin: (Soft voice) Bought Miss.

Miss P: What did she say?

Iris: Bought Miss.

Miss P: At last, someone got it right... why didn't you say that in the first place Iris, I KNEW you knew it.

Iris: Yes Miss.

Li Bin: (Soft voice) But... I said it.

Daisy: (Nasty whisper) Shut up Li Bin, Iris got it right, not you.

Li Bin: But....

Daisy: (Nasty whisper, interrupting) I said... SHUT UP.

Miss P: And who can tell me the past tense of the verb 'to fight?' Daisy?

Daisy: Fighted Miss.

Miss P: No. Anita?

Anita: Fighteded.

Miss P: No. Anyone?

Li Bin: (Soft voice) Fought.

Miss P: What was that? Did someone just give me the right answer?

Iris: Fought Miss.

Miss P: Yes, 'Fight'...'fought'... well done Iris.... good to hear you're on the ball.

Li Bin: (Under her breath) It's not fair... I got it right... not Iris.

Daisy: (Nasty whisper) What did you say?

Miss P: Okay everyone, now I want you to do exercise three on page fifteen.... hat you have to do is read the sentence and then put the verb in brackets nto the past tense... is that clear....

All: Yes Miss. (Fade on this)

Miss P: (Fade up) Okay that's it for to-day ... class dismissed.

(SFX: Students leaving the classroom)

Li Bin: Um, excuse me Miss.

Miss P: Oh bin Li... yes, what is it? Better make it quick... I've got another class to go to.

Li Bin: I want to say sorry Miss.

Miss P: Sorry? What for?

Li Bin: Speaking so softly Miss... you can never hear what I am saying.

Miss P: Yes, you've got to speak up...you must speak up... now I'm sorry, I have to rush to my next class... come on Li Bin... or else you'll be late too.

Li Bin: Miss... some boys in the play ground....

Miss P: (Interrupting. In a hurry) Oh just ignore them... they won't hurt you... they always tease new kids... just ignore them... now I really must be going. Come on... off you go Bin Li..., out, out, out.

Li Bin: Thank you Miss Perkins.

Miss P: Yes, yes, yes now off you go.

Scene 5 In the school corridor

Daisy: Look Anita, Look Iris, Look Emily ...here comes Li Bin.

Anita: Let' s play a trick on her.

Iris: Good idea Anita... What shall we do?

Daisy: I know.

All: What Daisy?

Daisy: (Nasty giggle) Let's lock her in the storage room.

Iris: Good idea... but how? We haven't got the key?

Daisy: Oh yes we have... look!

All: Wa!!!

Iris: The key.

Anita: Where did you get the storage room key from Daisy?

Daisy: (Giggling nastily) Let's just say... I borrowed it. (All giggle nastily)

Emily: But..., don't you think....

Daisy: Think what Emily?

I and A: Think what Emily?

Emily: Well..... it isn't a very nice thing to do... I mean... what if she's claustrophobic.

Anita: What if she's WHAT?

Iris: Speak English Emily.

Emily: 'Claustrophobic' is English..... it means someone who's afraid of being in small places..... like crushed on the MTR or all alone in a small room behind a locked door.

Daisy: (Giggling nastily) Do you think Li Bin IS claustrophobic?

Anita: (Nasty) There's only one way to find out.

All except E: Lock her in the store room.

Daisy: Follow me.....(Very friendly) Um, hello Li Bin.

Li Bin: (Wary) Hello.

I and A: (Very friendly) hello Li Bin.

Li Bin: (Wary) Hello.

Emily: Hello Li Bin.

Li Bin: (Friendly) hello Emily.

Emily: Excuse me... I've got to go.

Iris: (Annoyed) Where are you going Emily?

Daisy: Leave her. (Very sweet) Li Bin...come on in here... we've got something to show you.

Li Bin: (Wary) What is it?

Iris: A present.

Li Bin: (Wary) A present?

Anita: (Sweet) Yes, we felt so sorry for being, well, a bit unfriendly to you so we thought we'd buy you a present...

Iris: As a way of saying welcome to your new school.

Li Bin: (Duped) Oh... you needn't have done that... I don't need a present.

Daisy: (Sweet) We've bought it now ...please, do us the honour to come and see it.

Li Bin: Very well ... thank you.

Daisy: This way.

Iris: (Unable to control herself giggles but then suppresses it and turns it into a cough)

Daisy: We put it in here so no one would take it...
Anita: It's rather big you see.
Li Bin: A present...that's so nice of you...thank you.
Daisy: It's in there...you go first Li Bin...so you can see it straight away.
Li Bin: Okay...thank you.

(SFX: Door Slamming)

Anita: Quick, lock the door.

(SFX: Key turning in door.)

Daisy: I am, I am.

(SFX: Li Bin thumping on the door. This continues throughout the rest of the scene.)

Li Bin: (Muffled voice from behind the door) Let me out! Let me out!
All: (Giggle nastily)
Anita: Serves her right!
Daisy: Come along...let's go to class.
Iris: Li Bin's going to get into SUCH trouble!

(All giggle nastily)

Scene 6 School corridor

(SFX: Li Bin banging on the door. But she is tired now. The knocking is weaker and her voice is tired.)

Li Bin: (From behind the door) Please, please...somebody...let me out.
Ricky: Huh? What was that?
Li Bin: (Knocking) Please...someone...anyone...
Ricky: (To himself) Sounds like someone's locked in the storeroom.
(calling) Anybody in there?
Li Bin: Yes, please...I'm locked in ...please...get me out...I'm
frightened.
Ricky: Why are you locked in there?

Li Bin: Please let me out.
Ricky: Did Big Dollar lock you in here?
Li Bin: No...some girls did.
Ricky: You sure it wasn't Big Dallar?
Li Bin: Yes. Yes I'm sure.
Ricky: Okay, I can help you then. Where's the key?
Li Bin: I Don't know.
Ricky: Okay, okay...let me think . Huh...I know...I've got a penknife...I'll try to pick the lock with my penknife.
Li Bin: Please...hurry up...I'm frightened...I want to get out.
Ricky: Okay, okay...I'll do it as quickly as I can.

(SFX: Picking lock with penknife)

Li Bin: Hurry, please hurry.
Ricky: Okay, okay, okay, okay laa.... Hmmmm....it's difficult....
Li Bin: Difficult?
Ricky: But... no lock has ever stopped Ricky boy before.... Ha! That feels good...I think I've got it... hold on....
Li Bin: Have you done it?!
Ricky: Nearly, nearly! There! Open.

(SFX: Opening door)

Li Bin: (Clear voice as she emerges from the store room) Oh thank you, thank you, you are so kind... so very kind... you saved me....
Miss P: Ricky?! What are you doing out of class?
Ricky: Miss Perkins!
Miss P: Yes, Miss Perkins. Surprised to see me Ricky?
Ricky: No, No, I....
Miss P: (Interrupting) What are you doing by the store room Ricky?. (Seeing Li Bin) And Bin Li? What on earth are YOU doing here?!

Li Bin: Please Miss I....
Miss P: (Interrupting) What's going on? How did you two get in the storeroom?
Ricky: It was like this Miss...I heard....
Miss P: (Interrupting) What's this?!..., the locks been broken! Ricky Chin! Bin Li! Lucky I came out of my class when I did! You've broken

the lock of the store room door.

Ricky: No Miss!

Li Bin: That's not true! Honestly Miss, that's just not true... I can explain

Miss P: You don't have to explain... I can see with my own eyes what's been going on here.... well Li Bin, it didn't take you long to fall in with the bad elements in the school.

Li Bin: But Miss Perkins... please.....

Miss P: I'm afraid Bin Li you'll soon learn that in Hong Kong we do not tolerate such behaviour. Now you Ricky Chiu and You Bin Li... go your classrooms ... I'm reporting this to the principal!

Both: But Miss!

Miss P: Now go to your classes before I add truancy to your list of crimes.

Ricky: It's not fair... okay, I broke the lock but she did nothing... let her go.

Miss P: Too late for that Ricky Chin... you've both been caught red handed and now it's time to face the music... and I tell you something for free... I wouldn't like to be in your shoes when the principal hears of this. Now go to your classes. Immediately!

The End