



## The Boy Behind the Dustbin

**Characters:** Alysha, Li Bin, Ravi, Billy, Ricky

**Synopsis:** Ravi and Billy are both very attracted to Li Bin. Ravi takes her to play tennis. Billy sweet talks her. Li Bin becomes interested in both boys. Alysha accuses her of forgetting Ricky. In the final scene Li Bin is having a romantic day dream about her two suitors. Suddenly a familiar voice interrupts her reverie. It is Ricky, hiding behind a dustbin.

### Scene 1 Reprise

Alysha's flat

(SFX: Indian music playing)

(SFX: door slamming shut)

Ravi: (From outside room) Alysha?!

Alysha: Oh no! It's Ravi! (SFX: Music stops) (Hurriedly) Bax... you've got to go.

Ravi: (Calling from outside room) Alysha!

Alysha: Quick Bax... go!

Ravi: (Coming into the room) What's going on here?!

Alysha: Um Bax... this is my brother Ravi.

Bax: Hi Ravi. (Ravi doesn't answer)

Alysha: (To brother) I thought you had tennis lessons to-day?

Ravi: The coach was sick, the lessons were cancelled.

Bax: Um... I'd better be off... bye Alysha.

Alysha: Bye Bax.

Bax: Nice meeting you Ravi.

(SFX: Door closes)

Ravi: Well little sister, bringing boys back when you thought big brother was away, you just wait till Father hears about this!

Music

In the street

Alysha: Look Li Bin... what do you think of that top?

Li Bin: Where?

Alysha: In the shop window... there... look.

Li Bin: It's nice.

Alysha: I wonder how much it costs?

Ravi: (Meeting them in the street. Bright and breezy) Hi Alysha!

Alysha: (Subdued voice) Hi Ravi.

Pause

Ravi: Well.... aren't you going to introduce me to your pretty friend?

Alysha: Li Bin, this is my brother Ravi.

Li Bin: Hello.

Ravi: A great pleasure to meet you Li Bin. Um... I'm just off for some tennis coaching. Do you play tennis Li Bin?

Li Bin: No, no I don't.

Ravi: Would you like to learn?

Music

(SFX: School bell)

Li Bin: Home time... thank goodness for that... I feel exhausted.

Alysha: Me too.

Li Bin: Shall we walk to the MTR together Alysha?

Alysha: I can't Li Bin, I'm playing in a chess tournament tonight.

Music

In the street outside the school

Ravi: Hello Li Bin  
Li Bin: Ravi! What are you doing here?!  
Ravi: I was waiting for my sister, I thought we could go home together, you know, brother and sister, have a nice chat, look after her on the MTR... you can get some pretty creepy types on the MTR... know what I mean?... like to stand close to the school girls.  
Li Bin: But Alysha's playing chess tonight!... there's a chess tournament. Oh well, I'd better go. Um... are YOU walking to the MTR Li Bin?  
Li Bin: Yes.  
Ravi: Perhaps, er... I could accompany you... if that's alright?... I mean if you'd rather I didn't of course I would be only too happy to...  
Li Bin: That would be very nice.

#### Music

On the train

Li Bin: My stop is coming up next...  
Ravi: Um... why don't you stay on till Tsim Sha Tsui...  
Li Bin: Tsim Sha Tsui?  
Ravi: You know I've got nine tennis racquet.  
Li Bin: Nine?!  
Ravi: Yes nine, crazy isn't it... who needs nine tennis racquets?... You can have one if you like.  
Li Bin: Really?!  
Ravi: Come and chose one.  
Li Bin: Now?  
Ravi: Yes, it won't take long... just a few stops more to Tsim Sha Tsui.

#### Music

Outside Ravi and Alysha's flat

Ravi: Here we are

(SFX: Rattle of keys)

Li Bin: Are you sure it's alright?  
Ravi: Of course Li Bin... please... come in.  
Li Bin: Thank you.  
Ravi: The tennis racquets are in my room which is... this way.

(Pause. Music more distant now as they go into another room)

Pause

Li Bin: Look at all your racquets!  
Ravi: Please... feel free to chose one.  
Li Bin: That one's nice.  
Ravi: Pick it up... see if you feel the electricity... Okay?  
Li Bin: (Excited)... I can feel my hand... tingling...  
Ravi: It's the electricity!  
Li Bin: (Excited) Really?!  
Ravi: Hold it like this... may I... I'll just come behind you and...  
Li Bin: (Excited) Oh Ravi... I can feel the electricity! My whole arm is tingling... my whole body is shaking.  
Ravi: Here... can I? Put your hand a bit further down the handle... like this...  
Li Bin... you're shaking  
Li Bin: I... I can't help it.  
Ravi: Don't worry Li Bin, I'm right here, behind you... just hold the racquet... hold it tight.  
Li Bin: (Gasps)

Pause

Alysha: (Amazed and furious) Li Bin! Ravi! What on earth is going on?!!!  
Ravi: (Angry) I thought you were playing chess!!  
Alysha: My opponent didn't turn up so I came home.  
Li Bin: Um, I think I'd better be going now.

(SFX: Door slamming shut)

Ravi: (Furious) Alysha! Why did you have to come back so soon!! Why couldn't you have stayed and played a long long game of your precious chess!

Alysha: You wait till I tell Dad!

(SFX: Door slams shut)

Ravi: Damn!

## Scene 2

Li Bin: Hi Alysha.

Alysha: (Cold) Hello.

Li Bin: What's wrong Alysha?

Alysha: (Cold) Nothing's wrong. What should be wrong.

Li Bin: Look Alysha... if you're upset about me going to your home with Ravi, I can explain.

Alysha: You don't need to explain.

Li Bin: But Ravi told me to come home with him... he was going to give me a tennis racquet.

Alysha: Li Bin... when I walked into Ravi's room... he was standing behind you and he had his arm around you.

Li Bin: He was showing me how to hold a tennis racquet.

Alysha: I couldn't believe my eyes!

Li Bin: Oh Alysha... please believe me... he was just showing me how to...

Alysha: Li Bin... I know my brother... he's crazy about girls... he gives them sweet words and he seems so kind but all the time he just wants....

Li Bin: What Alysha?

Alysha: (Angry) Do I have to spell it out?! Isn't it obvious what he wants?!

Li Bin: Oh Alysha... please don't be angry with me.

Alysha: (Angry) I'm NOT angry with you.

Li Bin: We're such good friends... I couldn't bear it if we fell out over something as trivial as a tennis racquet.

Alysha: Why didn't you phone me when you got home?

Li Bin: I wanted to... I wanted to explain... but I had to go to dinner with my parents... my aunt is in Hong Kong at the moment... visiting from Guangdong and I had to...

Alysha: It wouldn't have taken long... a quick phone call just to talk things through.

Li Bin: I know, I'm sorry, I should have... Alysha.... where are you going?

Alysha: I've got something to do.

Li Bin: But Alysha... don't you want to.... ? Oh dear... now she's mad at me... What am I going to do?... Alysha is my best friend.... but when I'm near Ravi... I can't help it... my heart starts beating faster and I feel so alive... I'd better stay away... stay away from him and everything will be okay... Oh Ricky... why did you run away? If you hadn't run away none of this would have ever happened!

### Scene 3

Billy: Hello Li Bin.  
Li Bin: Hello Billy.  
Billy: Are you okay?  
Li Bin: Yes. Why?  
Billy: Nothing, just that you look... kind of miles away.  
Li Bin: Do I?  
Billy: Yes, like you were in another world.  
Li Bin: I suppose I was really.  
Billy: I do that to.  
Li Bin: Do what Billy?  
Billy: Day dream.  
Li Bin: Really.  
Billy: I can't stop myself, I'm walking down a street and suddenly I'm not in the street anymore... I'm somewhere else.  
Li Bin: That happens to me.  
Billy: How about in class?  
Li Bin: If I'm not careful.  
Billy: I get Bax to pinch me if he sees me drifting off into a dream.  
Li Bin: And does he?  
Billy: If he's not dreaming himself.

(Both laugh)

Billy: Um... what were you dreaming about just now?  
Li Bin: Just now? Oh... nothing really  
Billy: Nothing?  
Li Bin: Well... nothing important... just somebody I met.  
Billy: Somebody nice?  
Li Bin: Yes, very nice... but...

Billy: But what Li Bin.

Li Bin: Nothing... it doesn't matter... it was just a dream.

Billy: You look nice when you're day dreaming.

Li Bin: Do I?

Billy: Yes... like an angel.

Li Bin: An angel.

Billy: A beautiful angel.

Li Bin: Don't say things like that Billy... it's embarrassing.

Billy: But it's true.

Li Bin: I don't think I'm an angel.

Billy: That's because you ARE an angel... Angels are modest... so they don't think they're angels... they think they're just ordinary... but they're not... far from it.

Li Bin: Oh Billy... you say such nice things.

Billy: Only when I'm with you.

Li Bin: Really?

Billy: Yes... you inspire me.

Li Bin: Inspire you?! What do you mean?

Billy: When I look at you my tongue wakes up and starts flapping around in my mouth and I start saying all kinds of crazy things.

Li Bin: (laughing) And that's what you mean by 'inspire.'

Billy: Yes... inspiration is when something strange happens to you and you can say things, or write things you've never said or written before.

Li Bin: Okay... look at me and say something else.

Billy: You were once a princess.

Li Bin: Once a princess?!

Billy: You have had many lives Li Bin.

Li Bin: Have I? How do you know?

Billy: I can sense it.

Li Bin: (Laughing) Oh Billy... you are so funny.

Billy: I'm serious.

Li Bin: Inspired?

Billy: Yes. You told me to look at you and speak... so I looked and I saw you dressed as a Ming Dynasty Princess.

Li Bin: (Laughing) Like a ghost?!

Billy: No, you were real... soft and real.

Li Bin: (Laughing) You're making this up Billy.

Billy: It was what I saw when I looked at you.

Li Bin: So I was a Ming Dynasty Princess.  
Billy: With a pale blue robe and white flowers in your hair.  
Li Bin: What was I doing?  
Billy: Dreaming.  
Li Bin: (Laughing) So I've always been a dreamer.  
Billy: Yes.  
Li Bin: And what was I dreaming about?  
Billy: You were dreaming of your future... you were dreaming of... now.  
Li Bin: (Laughing) Dreaming of now?  
Billy: Yes, when you were a princess you were alone and sad... you used to dream of the time when you would meet your soul mate.  
Li Bin: My soul mate?  
Billy: Yes, somebody who would understand you... someone with the same soul... another dreamer.  
Li Bin: But you said I was dreaming of now.  
Billy: You were.  
Li Bin: So now is when I find my soul mate?  
Billy: Yes Li Bin.  
Li Bin: But... there's only you and me here Billy... Where's my soul mate? I can't see him?  
Billy: Open your eyes Li Bin... open them wide... wake up from your dream you're soul mate is standing here... right in front of you.  
Li Bin: Where? I can't see him. I can only see you Billy... I can only see you.

### **Interval**

#### **Scene 4**

(SFX: Sound of tennis balls being hit by tennis racquets)

Li Bin: Oh no... I'm useless Ravi! Useless!  
Ravi: Nonsense Li Bin... you're very good... you just need some more practice that's all... for a beginner you show enormous potential.  
Li Bin: Do you think so?  
Ravi: Definitely.... you've got style and speed and grace...  
Li Bin: But I keep missing the ball.  
Ravi: Only sometimes.  
Li Bin: Anyway, I don't care... it's fun.

Ravi: That's the spirit Li Bin.... it's only a game.  
Li Bin: But your so good at it Ravi.  
Ravi: My dear Li Bin, that's because I've been playing tennis from the day I was born.  
Li Bin: (Laughing) From the day you were born?!  
Ravi (Laughing) And even before that!... my dear mother said she could feel me playing tennis even before I was born.  
Li Bin: (laughing) Really?  
Ravi: Okay... let's try again... This time... YOU try serving.  
Li Bin: Me?!  
Ravi: Don't be nervous... just throw the ball up into the air... keep your eye on it... and then before it starts to fall... hit it as hard as you can in my direction.  
Li Bin: Okay... I'll try... but don't be surprised if I'm a total failure.  
Ravi: Remember... keep your eye on the ball.  
Li Bin: Okay.

(SFX: A mighty thwack of the tennis racquet as it hits the ball in a blistering ace)

Ravi: My God! I don't believe it?  
LB: Was that okay?  
Ravi: Was that okay?! That, Li Bin, was an ace!  
LB: Is that good?  
Ravi: Is that good? That, Li Bin, is more than good... that is brilliant... an ace... the ball went past me like a bullet... it's incredible... nobody ever scores an ace when they play with me... normally I can return any ball... but... well I'm speechless. How did you do it?  
Li Bin: (Laughing) I just closed my eyes and swung the tennis racquet.  
Ravi: Closed your eyes?! Oh my god... You did THAT with your eyes closed?!  
Li Bin: (laughing) Yes.  
Ravi: Unbelievable! You know what I'm going to do Li Bin?  
Li Bin: What?  
Ravi: I'm going to treat you to dinner in the club.  
Li Bin: But... but I've got to....  
Ravi: No, I insist.... and you can order whatever you like! You're a star Li Bin... a rising star... soon your name will be on everyone's lips... Li Bin.... Number One Seed... Number One Girl.

Li Bin: Oh Ravi.

## Scene 5

Li Bin: Alysha.

Alysha: I can't stop I'm in a hurry.

Li Bin: Alysha... please... please stop and talk to me.

Alysha: Why? You've got plenty of other people to talk to... like Billy... and Ravi... why do you need me for?

Li Bin: Because you're my best friend Alysha.

Alysha: Look I'm sorry, I've got to go.

Li Bin: Don't do this to me Alysha!

Alysha: (Angry) You're dating Ravi aren't you.

Li Bin: No! We played a quick game of tennis, that's all.

Alysha: AND had dinner afterwards

Li Bin: How do you know that?

Alysha: Because last night your mother phoned me... she didn't know where you were... she was really worried... she thought you might be with me... then Ravi comes home boasting about how you're falling into his hands like a ripe fruit from a tree.

Li Bin: (Shocked) He said that to you?

Alysha: No, he said it to one of his friends on the phone.

Li Bin: And you were listening.

Alysha: When Ravi boasts about his conquests he tends to speak in a very loud voice.

Li Bin: I'm NOT a conquest!

Alysha: Ravi thinks you are!

Li Bin: I like Ravi Alysha... he's showing me how to play tennis, that's all!

Alysha: And Bax told me that Billy's in love with you.

Li Bin: In love with me?!

Alysha: Yes.

Li Bin: Alysha... that's got nothing to do with me, I promise.

Alysha: Hasn't it?

Li Bin: NO! I talk to him but...

Alysha: I've seen your talks... laughing and giggling... You flirt with him Li Bin, no wonder he thinks he's in love with you.

Li Bin: I do NOT flirt with him.

Alysha: Huh! You soon forgot Ricky didn't you.

Li Bin: Don't say that Alysha... that's not fair... I HAVEN'T forgotten Ricky, I will NEVER forget Ricky... EVER.

Alysha: And in the mean time your playing tennis with Ravi and having expensive dinners with him at the club.

Li Bin: He's giving me some coaching, that's all.

Alysha: And you spend every break and lunch time flirting with Billy.

Li Bin: He's interesting to speak to that's all... I like Billy... he's not like the other boys.

Alysha: Face it Li Bin... Rick's only been gone a few months and you've completely abandoned him. Now I've got to go... I'm late.

Li Bin: Alysha... please... comeback... Oh no, she's really mad at me.... What's happening?... I feel confused... When I'm with Billy I feel so... drawn to him... he says such... incredible things... I can't stop wondering what he'll say next.... and when I see Ravi, my heart bounces like a ball... he's so strong and tall, and when I look into his big brown eyes... I feel as if I am losing my way.... What am I going to do? Oh Ricky... why did you go away? Why did you go away and leave your Li Bin all on her own.

(Echo effect)

(SFX: Tennis match being played. Pic poc of balls being hit.)

Ravi: Wonderful Li Bin... you're a natural... a real star.

Li Bin: Thank you Ravi.

Ravi: Here... let me show you how to hold the tennis racquet... I'll just stand behind you and... (inhaling) Mmm... Li Bin... your hair smells so fresh.

Li Bin: Thank you Ravi.

Ravi: And your neck... it smells like a field of delicate scented flowers... You're shaking Li Bin.... Why are you shaking?

Li Bin: Oh Ravi.

Brief slow evocative sitar music

This fades into some romantic sitar music

Billy: Li Bin.... you are my inspiration.

Li Bin: Am I Billy?

Billy: In a former life you were a Ming Dynasty Princess.  
Li Bin: How do you know?  
Billy: When I look at you I see you in a pale blue silk dress with delicate white scented flowers in your hair. And I know you are sad... and I know you are searching... searching for your soul mate... someone to share your life with.  
Li Bin: (Dreamy) Someone to share my life with.  
Billy: Someone to share your soul with.  
Li Bin: Oh Billy.

Ricky: (No echo effect. Ricky is hiding behind a dust bin. He is trying to catch Li Bin's attention. But Li Bin is day dreaming.) Pssst... pssst.... (Loud whisper) Li Bin.... hey, Li Bin... over here.

(Echo effect)

Ravi: Let me place my burning lips on your smooth white skin.  
Li Bin: Oh Ravi.

Billy: Let our souls dance together in eternity  
Li Bin: Oh Billy.

Ravi: Look deep into my eyes... that's it... yes... yes... let me enfold you in my arms and love and protect you forever.  
Li Bin: Yes Ravi... yes.

Billy: Princess... princess... say goodbye to sadness... together we shall fly to the clouds... together we shall find love and joy.  
Li Bin: Yes Billy... yes.

Ricky: (No echo effect) Pssst.... Li Bin... Li Bin.  
Li Bin: (Waking up from her day dream) Uh? Who was that?  
Ricky: (Loud whisper) Over here! I'm over here!!  
Li Bin: Uh? I must be dreaming... I, I thought I heard...  
Ricky: It's me... Ricky.  
Li Bin: No, no it can't be, can't be... I'd better get going.  
Ricky: (To himself) What's the matter with her! Li Bin! Li Bin!  
Li Bin: Uh! I don't think I am dreaming... that WAS Ricky... and his voice was

coming from...

Ricky: Here! Here! Behind the rubbish bin!  
Li Bin: Behind the rubbish bin. (Gasps) It's You Ricky! You've come back!  
Ricky: Shhhh.... not so loud! Someone will hear you!  
Li Bin: Ricky... oh Ricky... I've missed you so much!  
Ricky: Have you Li Bin?  
Li Bin: Oh yes Ricky, yes... I've thought about you every day, every hour, every second you've been away!  
Ricky: That's nice. Me too.  
Li Bin: Where have you been?  
Ricky: I can't speak now... (gasps) Somebody's coming!  
Li Bin: Ricky! Where are you going?  
Ricky: I'll be back soon.  
Li Bin: No! Don't go! Ricky! Cone back! Please. Come back!

(Echo effect)

Ravi: Li Bin.  
Billy: Li Bin.  
Ravi: Come to me.  
Billy: Come to me.  
Ravi: Forget Ricky.  
Billy: Forget him.  
Ravi: I am more ravishing.  
Billy: I am more interesting.  
Alysha: Huh... see how quickly you've forgotten Ricky.  
Li Bin: I haven't forgotten him, I haven't, I haven't!  
Ravi: Forget him Li Bin.  
Billy: Forget him.  
Alysha: You see... you see Li Bin... you can't stop thinking about other boys!  
Li Bin: Ricky! Ricky come back! Come back!!!! Come back before it is too late!

**The End**