

LOVE IN A REVOLUTION

Written by
Matthew Halla

Candy Li
lingconl@usc.edu
Director

Peter Bawiec
bawiec@usc.edu
Producer

FADE IN:

EXT. L.A. FASHION DISTRICT GARMENT FACTORY - DAY

Crowds of workers press against barricades protecting the "Unique 21" factory entrance. They waive protest signs.

A well dressed woman follows close behind a guard who squeezes through the crowd toward the factory door. This is GRACE PARK, 22, beautiful, wearing a stylish business suit, the factory owner's daughter.

PROTESTING MAN
Fair conditions now!

WOMAN WITH CHILD
Your greed is starving children!

The crowd gets rowdy. Grace winces and moves ahead faster.

She makes eye contact with a young man in the crowd, TOMAS, 27, dressed in workers gear. He is calm amongst the mob.

Debris flies at Grace. Tomas reacts and pulls a man backward.

DANIEL, bigger and stronger than Tomas, strikes leader, and Tomas's brother, calms the crowd.

DANIEL
Patience! There will be time to use
our energy!

Grace and Tomas hold eye contact. Grace makes it past the angry workers and safely inside.

INT. GARMENT FACTORY OFFICE - DAY

Grace sets down her leather business satchel and straightens herself near the window.

She looks down at Tomas as he passes pamphlets to the crowd.

DANIEL
(from outside)
...And if not-- then devastation!

A mans voice:

DAE WON
Grace!

Grace's father and the factories owner, DAE WON PARK, lights a cigar at the door. He's dressed in a sleek suit and tie.

CELLO, the office butler, stands against a wall.

DAE WON (CONT'D)
You spend more time looking at them
than at your own father!

Grace tries to ignore the crowd but rocks bouncing off of the walls catches both of their attention.

DAE WON (CONT'D)
What'd he say?

GRACE
The same. Yelling about their
contract demands. Have you decided?

Dae Won shrugs.

DAE WON
Don't worry. Contract or no
contract, workers or no workers,
everything will be fine.

Dae Won notices grace staring down at Tomas.

DAE WON (CONT'D)
How was your dinner date?

GRACE
I didn't go.

Dae Won scowls at her.

DAE WON
Hey, who knows-- maybe Jae-sun will
get better with age! And if not
then maybe his money makes him look
a little more handsome?

GRACE
Oh stop joking. But seriously, I
only like spending your money
father.

Grace smiles broadly at her father. He mimics her smile back.

The crowd starts banging on the doors below.

Dae Won circles his index finger in the air toward Cello.

EXT. L.A. FASHION DISTRICT GARMENT FACTORY - DAY

Tomas watches his brother speak in front of the crowd.

DANIEL
We deserve a fair wage!

Suddenly the storefront doors fly open. SECURITY GUARDS push back the crowd.

Tomas looks up to the window as Grace watches the assault.

A guard raises a fist over Tomas.

INT. FACTORY FLOOR - NIGHT

Rows of sewing machines sit on the dark factory floor. It's empty except for a pool of light in the corner.

Tomas sits, sewing. His eye is bruised. Grace approaches.

GRACE
You shouldn't be in here.

Tomas is sewing an intricate woman's blazer.

TOMAS
I couldn't stay away.

Tomas puts the blazer on Grace.

GRACE
It's beautiful.

Grace sees a pamphlet that says STRIKE! on its cover.

Tomas moves close to Grace. She touches Tomas's bruised eye.

GRACE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

Tomas ignores her gesture and points at the pamphlet.

TOMAS
I wrote that. Do you like it?

GRACE
You're smart Tomas.

Tomas moves to kiss Grace but she avoids his kiss.

GRACE (CONT'D)

But no one has to take the work if they don't want to. It's just business.

TOMAS

Is it just business that mothers work 16 hour days for wages that won't buy milk for their children?

Grace turns away.

GRACE

You're wasting your talent. Your designs are so good that I could fill every store in the US with them! You and me together, it could be so beautiful.

Tomas tries to hold Grace again.

TOMAS

You don't need to exploit people to be happy! It's barbaric!

Grace slaps Tomas. She's shocked with her own outburst.

TOMAS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I know you're helping.

GRACE

There's grain in the storeroom and my father's gone tonight. I can get more too. Or clothing or books.

TOMAS

We need enough food for two more months of strike. And medical supplies.

GRACE

Medical supplies? You said it would be peaceful.

TOMAS

I don't think your father feels the same way.

GRACE

I don't want violence.

Tomas kisses Grace softly.

TOMAS

You'll always have me on your side.

Grace kisses Tomas passionately back.

They make love on the sewing table.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS OF LOS ANGELES - DAWN

Tomas and Grace wander the empty streets, focused and enjoying each other.

INT. SMALL KITCHEN - DAY

Tomas watches his mother serve meager helpings of beans to his family members.

Tomas's father, CARLO, old, in torn flannel, also watches.

INT. SMALL ROOM WITH MIRROR - NIGHT

Tomas sits close to his father, Carlo.

CARLO

It could be worse. Believe me.

Tomas helps his father with something but the room is small and dark so we can't see exactly what's happening.

TOMAS

Now lean. Good. How my mother works, how hard you worked, I mean, you have to sleep sitting up--

Tomas grabs his father and lifts him, struggling to set him down nearby again. It's like a parent lifting a child.

TOMAS (CONT'D)

Isn't what you gave worth more than this? Skinny children, your wheelchair, a dumpy house-

CARLO

Enough!

Tomas is shocked by his father's outburst. We can see now that Tomas has been helping his father from the toilet to a wheelchair.

CARLO (CONT'D)
 I've lived with nothing. Be happy
 for what you do have Tomas. Your
 fighting will only cost us more.

INT. FACTORY STOREROOM - NIGHT

Factory workers lift large sacks stenciled with the word
 RICE. Cello directs them. Grace helps lift bags.

DAE WON
 Grace?

Grace is surprised and turns quickly. The workers freeze.

CELLO
 The cat, sir. He's chased a mouse.

DAE WON
 Oh, it must have been attracted by
 my bags of grain-- Grace, the grain
 must have also attracted these
 workers?

Grace and the workers sit stone still.

GRACE
 We were just moving it to clean the
 storage room--

DAE WON
 Nonsense! I understand what it's
 like to be hungry. I came from
 nothing just as well! Let me help!

Dae Won rolls a bag out the door. He pats a workers shoulder.

DAE WON (CONT'D)
 Cello! Bring twenty more kilos and
 help these men load them up out
 back!

Cello exits with the men and Dae Won looks about the room.

DAE WON (CONT'D)
 I haven't been in here for so long.
 It used to be my office. Do you
 remember that?

Grace shakes her head "no".

DAE WON (CONT'D)

Of course not. You were young. Grace, do you know how proud I am of you? All of this -- This whole company, I built it for you, for your brothers, so that you wouldn't have to break your backs like I did. But now you've helped to make it more productive than I'd ever dreamed. I know that soon you'll be ready to run it alone.

GRACE

You're not mad about the grain?

DAE WON

Grain is simple and disposable. It's cheap. These are small prices to pay for the greater good. It's an opportunity.

Dae Won takes another puff of his cigar.

DAE WON (CONT'D)

But remember, we built this for us, for our family. And someday, for your own children. The workers will come around. They don't have another choice.

GRACE

Will we sign their contract? I've done the math. We can afford it.

Dae Won plays with the edge of a frayed grain bag.

DAE WON

I've decided that there's better ways. I'm moving all of our manufacturing to your Uncle's plant in Wenzhou. China. With the money we save I want to start a luxury line. I want you to run it.

GRACE

Can I take whatever designers I want?

He kisses his daughter on the top of her head.

DAE WON

Yes, of course. But that's enough for now. Relax my dear. Good night.

INT. EMPTY RESTAURANT DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Tomas enters to see his Daniel standing amongst a circle of men talking animatedly.

He tries to grasp what's going on.

Tomas gets handed a flyer that says: FACTORY CLOSING, NOTICE TO CLEAR OUT.

He crumples the paper and throws it on the ground.

DANIEL

See, we waited and this is what we got!

Daniel pulls a knife from his pocket.

TOMAS

Wait! This was never supposed to be violent! Lets think for a minute.

DANIEL

There's nothing left to think about. They've taken everything now. Who's side are you on Tomas?

The workers glare at Tomas.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You never hesitated when something sweeter tempted you. You've forgotten your family, for a woman.

TOMAS

I've always been on the side that's right. Our side.

DANIEL

Then prove it.

TOMAS

How, you'll never believe me.

DANIEL

They'll be a time when you can show us soon.

EXT. LOS ANGELES RIVER - DAY

Grace and Tomas sit against a bridge.

GRACE
You look tired.

TOMAS
Of course I am. I work hard.

GRACE
You don't think I work hard?

TOMAS
That's not what I meant. How come
you didn't tell me about the move?

There's an awkward silence.

GRACE
Because I wanted to make sure that
you knew its was an opportunity.

TOMAS
What?

GRACE
There's a chance we could work
together at the factory.

Tomas takes a moment.

TOMAS
I won't work there.

GRACE
Why not?

TOMAS
Because I won't. And Because their
won't be a factory.

GRACE
What does that mean?

TOMAS
Your father is at the bottom of
every problem that we have. You
should come to our side. We won't
stay still for long.

GRACE
My father won't just let you take
everything he's worked for.

TOMAS
No he won't.

Tomas looks away from Grace. She stands and leaves Tomas.

INT. EMPTY RESTAURANT - LATER

A series of maps and blue-prints unfurls on a pool table.

DANIEL

Marcus, this window will get to the front gate control. Jorge, it's your job to hit the storerooms here. Tomas-- this one is yours.

Daniel points to an "X" on the map.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

It's Dae Won's office--

TOMAS

I know whose office it is.

Daniel hands Tomas a large knife.

INT. FACTORY FLOOR - NIGHT

The workers sneak through the factory floor.

Daniel directs Tomas to split off by himself.

Tomas sees that his brother and Jorge have sticks of dynamite under their jackets.

INT. UPSTAIRS OF FACTORY - CONTINUOUS

Tomas walks in the shadows by the boardroom where Dae Won and another man smoke cigars. Tomas stops for a moment to watch.

INT. GRACE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Grace studies paper work.

Tomas comes out of the shadows.

GRACE

I was waiting for you.

Tomas kisses Grace hard. She feels something around his waist and raises his shirt to see the knife.

GRACE (CONT'D)

You need your knife for me?

TOMAS
Not for you.

GRACE
Then for who?

Grace touches Tomas's knife.

GRACE (CONT'D)
This won't change his mind.

TOMAS
Families can't eat. People die from
being overworked on the factory
line. We don't have anymore time to
keep trying to change minds.

GRACE
You think you know everything. But
you don't really know how it all
works.

Tomas tries to kiss Grace again but she stops him. They
struggle.

An explosion goes off that shakes the building.

TOMAS
My brother won't stop.

GRACE
You can change your mind, Tomas.
You're too talented to do nothing
with your design skill.

TOMAS
It won't stop, Grace.

GRACE
Not even for me?

TOMAS
I won't stop.

Now Grace kisses Tomas hard. She pulls away. Tomas has a
shocked, blank stare on his face.

Grace has stabbed Tomas with his own knife.

Tomas drops to the floor. Grace cleans blood from her hand.

INT. DAE WON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Grace enters her fathers office. Dae Won stands at the window with his arm around two children. These are Grace's nephews.

Light from the flames of the explosion reflect on the smallest girls face.

DAE WON

You were right about the main generator, we stopped two there with gas cans, but they got the storehouse. Sit tight in here until those flames die down.

Grace looks to her young cousins.

DAE WON (CONT'D)

You did good, dear.

FADE TO BLACK.