

The Second English Radio Drama Competiton for Hong Kong and Macau Schools  
Senior Secondary S4 - S6 (March 2010)  
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Title : The last minute

(sound of waves lashing the beach.)

Narrator: There was a beautiful beach in somewhere of the world. That day, the scenery there seemed more fascinating: golden sand covered the endless seashore, the glitter of the sun spread thoroughly and gently on the beach, just like a kind mother covering a lovely baby up with a piece of golden blanket. On the beach, a girl in a plain dress was walking alone slowly, while the footprints of hers were left on the sand. However, she was walking towards the water. When the sea water immersed her knees, she stopped.

Isabella(desparately): Mum, I remember, you said the dusk on the beach is the most beautiful thing in the world. But the sun will go down anyway, no matter how beautiful the scenery is, it won't last forever. Now, my wonderful "dusk" with you will not exist anymore. But no worry mum, later, I will see you and be with you for good. Before that, I got to find out the secret in the little box you left me, and the key...

(flashback, sound effects)

Isabella(extremely angry): Mum, how can you read my diary and letter without my permission? Those are my private secrets!

Grace(full of regret): Sorry, I... I just... What I did is for your own good, sweetheart.

Isabella(shout out loud): Never say that. You got to respect my privacy?

Grace: No. I told you to love yourself all the time! You should know that boy isn't a good guy. Stay away from him!

Isabella(Impatiently): Well, that's my own business!

Grace: You said you want to be a nurse, so go for it! Don't waste any time on that bad guy. He is..... (Grace is interrupted)

Isabella: Stop it!! You and dad don't even care about me.

Grace: If I don't care about you, tell me who's brought you up as a teenager right now?

Isabella: You cannot fix your own problem though, you don't even know where Dad is, how stupid...

(sound effects :Grace didn't say anything.Froze for a few seconds. Then she whimpered, door opened and closed very quickly, sound of footsteps, Grace slammed the door angrily.)

Isabella:Oh, what have I done just now..... I never saw mum look so sad! I can see all on her face is sorrow. hummm... maybe I should forget it. Everything will be better in some time.

(sound effect:the phone rang, someone picked up the phone)

Isabella:Sorry mum. I.. I didn't mean it...

Connector(a cold voice):May I talk to Mrs. Grace's family?

Isabella:Y...Yes, I'm her daughter.Who is speaking?

Connector: This is the Central Hospital. I regret to tell that Mrs. So has just had a car accident... I think you'd better come here as soon as possible.

Isabella(shocked):What??(the phone is hung up, "do, do" sound is heard through the phone)hello??Oh dear!! I must go to the hospital now!

(turn on the car)

Isabella(hurriedly):Can you tell me where Mrs. Grace So is? She was just sent here and I'm her daughter...

Nurse(using a keyboard): Please wait for a moment. Grace So... She is in the emergency room.....Oh, she is out of the room now.  
(rapid sound of footsteps and gasp)

Isabella:Mum!!Mum!!What happened!(crying)

Grace:Isa..bel?

Isabella:No, please. Stop talking! You'll be fine... You will!

Doctor:Are you the relative of Mrs. So? Please come here and have a talk. .... (sound of footsteps) We're sorry that Mrs. So doesn't have much time. We're sorry about that.

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Isabella:No...no..It won't be true.It's just an illusion... Mum... (crying loudly)

Grace:Come...nearer.

Isabella:Don't talk anymore!!Mum, please...

Grace:Be strong.....the..k..key...on...the...the...necklace...

(Sound effect:Dooooooooooooooooooooo)

Isabella:Mum?? Mum??I don't understand...

Nurse:Sorry,miss.We must send her away. (sound of hospital bed pushing away)

Isabella:Sorry! Please don't leave me alone. (cried even louder)

(sound effect,back in the reality)

Isabella:Maybe the key can be used to open the lock on the little box.  
(used the key,sound effect)

Narrator:The girl found that there was a letter in the box,and under the letter there was a half box of sand.The girl opened the envelope(sound effect)

Isabella:.....It's from dad!(inhaled sharply)

Matthew:

Dearest grace,

I think this is the first letter,also the last letter that I wrote to you. When you read this letter,I'm probably on my voyage. Thyat's my feeling about you:you're a special girl that I have ever seen though.Do you remember that we met on the warship? I could see me through your eyes.You teach me how to see all that's beautiful.Your love shines the way into paradise, so I offer my life as a sacrifice.Now,I give my hope to you.

This box of sand represents all the colours of love and of life. I collected all of them from every countries. But sorry,Grace, I regret to tell you that I have to carry on with my journey.I'm very pleased that I have lived with you and our adorable daughter. I'm sure that it will be my best memory of my life.But promise me, you will look after Isabella instead of me. I know my departure may hurt you and our little daughter so much,thus you must educate her to be a good girl, and tell her to learn to take life preciously.Please believe that we can take control of our life because life is just in our hand.

Love,

Matthew

Narrator:The girl put the letter back into the evelop,then she grabbed the sand,and watched the sand flowing off from her hand bit by bit.

Isabella:(whimpering)yes.my life is given by you two,I don't even have any right to finish it...and it is too precious to lose. Mum,and dad,I promise you,I won't let my life flow away.

Narator:The girl clenched her fist, the sand stopped dropping from the box.

Isabella:Yes, I can feel it, it's in my control, I did it. Because you said:

Isabella, Matthew: Life, is just in our hand.

THE END