

Y2K Take 2

Episode 2: Maia - age 25 - Kuala Lumpur - February 1995

CHARACTERS

ANNISA, scene 2.1 - 2.3, 2.5

MAIA, scene 2.1 - 2.6

TIA, scene 2.2 - 2.6

Scene 2.0

DIRECTOR

Places, please. We'll try again everyone. Right. Whenever you're ready - Take 2.

(MUSIC "Welcome to the Year 2000")

NARRATOR

Episode 2. Welcome to the year 1995. February. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Maia is 25 years old.

Scene 2.1

(INT. Art museum Kuala Lumpur, footsteps of MAIA and ANNISA echo on stone floor and voices approach.)

ANNISA

-last item in our Yong Mun Sen collection, we are very proud of this piece in particular. *(beat)* And over here is our Datuk Lat exhibit, which we have even had some international attention around. *(BOTH stop)* And that concludes the tour. Do you have any questions?

MAIA

(a little overwhelmed) It's... it's incredible. So much...

ANNISA

(pleased) I'm glad you think so. So you won't be bored, staying here for a month, then?

MAIA

(slight laugh) Definitely not! So much to learn.

ANNISA

We've had quite a few students here over the years, I hope we will be able to facilitate your thesis project.

MAIA

I'm sure you will. *(beat)* Sorry, Annisa, guess I'm still a little dazed from the flight.

ANNISA

Of course. I'll let you find your hostel and unpack. Come in tomorrow at 9 to meet the rest of the staff, and to get settled in. We usually all have lunch together on Thursdays, you'd be very welcome to join.

MAIA

Sure, thanks. *(sight laugh)* It's not like I know anyone here, so I have absolutely zero plans. *(smiles)*

ANNISA

(slight laugh) Of course. If you like, you'd be most welcome to join us for dinner this Saturday?

MAIA

Thank you, I'd like that.

ANNISA

My sister and I live in Brickfields, if you go by bus it's about half an hour - maybe forty minutes - from your hostel.

MAIA

Great - that gives me a chance to see the city.

ANNISA

We eat mostly vegetarian and some fish - is that OK for you? I could always order-

MAIA

No, no that's great, I love vegetarian food. Thank you.

ANNISA

Perfect. Now, if you just come with me, Maia- *(BOTH start walking away in opposite direction from where they came)* you can pick up your things here, and we'll get you...

(Fade out)

Scene 2:2

(INT. Apartment building hallway, MAIA's footsteps. Rings doorbell. Footsteps in socks from inside apartment, door opens.)

ANNISA

Maia, welcome! Come in!

MAIA

(2-3 footsteps) Thank you. Sorry I'm so early, I wanted to make sure I wasn't late.

ANNISA

No trouble at all, you are very welcome.

MAIA

(*Sound of gift basket being handed over*) For you, um, I didn't know-

ANNISA

Oh wonderful, thank you!

MAIA

I's just some Auckland delicacies. My mom reminded me to bring something, I would probably have forgotten.

ANNISA

That is lovely, and so thoughtful. (*beat, clears throat*) Could you please-?

MAIA

Oh! Sorry! Shoes. (*takes off shoes and places by door*) Not used to this yet.

ANNISA

No, Malaysia's very different from the US I suppose.

MAIA

It is - though I live in New Zealand. Most don't wear shoes indoors there either, but my family does.

ANNISA

Oh! I thought you were African American?

MAIA

I am! But we've lived in Auckland since I was 15.

ANNISA

Of course! (*small embarrassed laugh*) Sorry! Your accent confused me.

MAIA

(*smiles*) No worries, happens all the time.

ANNISA

Well, if you come through here... (*footsteps from BOTH*)

MAIA

(*polite*) You have a beautiful home.

ANNISA

(*polite*) Thank you. (*sets down gift basket on kitchen counter, much more casual, off in other direction*) Tee, our guest is here.

TIA

(calls from other room, preoccupied and a little annoyed) Coming!

ANNISA

(ignores TIA's tone) My sister will join us soon. Would you like some cordial?

MAIA

Yes please.

ANNISA

(takes out pitcher from fridge, takes out glasses from cupboard, pours two glasses during following) It's rose flavor, is that all right?

MAIA

Yes, perfect, thank you.

ANNSIA

Are you satisfied with your lodgings?

MAIA

(polite) Yes, my room's great.

ANNISA

There are always new things to get used to when you travel. *(hands over glass)*

MAIA

Absolutely. *(sip of drink, polite)* So have you lived here long?

ANNISA

(beat) Almost two years by now. *(sips, calls)* Tee, you want some sirap?

TIA

(finishing up something, annoyed at the disturbance, calls from other room) No- Yes- In a minute, just let me finish this!

ANNISA

(calls, annoyed but trying to hide it) All right! *(to MAIA)* Please, sit down. *(BOTH sit at, glasses clink on table, polite)* We moved here from Kluang six years ago. I got a job at the museum, and my sister is a medical student. Our parents were worried, two girls living alone in the big city, but we've been fine. *(sips)*

MAIA

Is it far from *(hesitates)* Kluang- Kluong? I mean, are you far away from your family? *(sips)*

ANNISA

Quite far. It's about three hours by road - with traffic, easily four - so we don't visit very often. How about you? Does your family live close by?

MAIA

They do - I'm lucky I guess. Or, my parents live in Auckland, but my grandparents and the rest of the family are in Ohio, so that's really far away of course.

ANNISA

So do you visit often?

MAIA

When I can. We used to go once a year but now it's more seldom. It's quite a long way to travel!

ANNSIA

Of course. Do you live with your family?

MAIA

No, I live on my own. *(doesn't know what to say)* I'm single, so it's just me.

ANNISA

I'm single too. I like my independence.

MAIA

Yeah. Me too I suppose.

ANNISA

(not really listening) That's nice. *(calls)* Tee?

TIA

(still finishing task, really annoyed now) I'm coming!

ANNISA

(to MAIA, polite) Sorry, would you excuse me?

MAIA

Of course. *(sips cordial)*

(ANNISA's walks to other room, following conversation is muffled but audible)

ANNISA

(through gritted teeth, in Manglish) Eh, Hello? Tee ah. You're being super rude to our guest.

TIA

(in Manglish) She was early. I have things to do!

ANNISA

(in Manglish) She is our guestlah, hello also you haven't even said.

TIA

(sullenly, in Manglish) Fine. I will say hello. But after I need to come back and finish this lab report. Almost finish already.

ANNISA

(lets out breath, in Manglish) Thanks ok.

(Footsteps ANNISA and TIA)

TIA

(polite) Hello, I'm Tia.

MAIA

(gets up, a little awkward) Hello! Maia. That's me. Yes. Sorry I was so early.

TIA

Nice to meet you. Now-

MAIA

(almost at same time) Nice to meet you- sorry.

TIA

I have to finish up a lab report.

MAIA

Of course. Sorry again.

TIA

It's all right. See you soon.

(TIA leaves, footsteps, door closes firmly.)

ANNISA

Sorry about that. She's stressed, heavy courseload. Please, sit.

(BOTH sit down, ANNISA sips drink)

MAIA

I can imagine. Studying medicine must be... can't even imagine how tough it must be. *(smiles)*

ANNISA

Yes. She doesn't mean to be rude, she just... she's focused. Very good at getting things done, not always great at social niceties.

MAIA

Yeah. *(sips)* That makes sense. Good thing we're all different, right?

ANNISA

(smiles, relaxes) True. *(sips drink)* So what did you think about the Ghani installation? I thought it could tie in with your thesis, with those big sweeping lines and the use of metal...

(Fade out)

Scene 2.3

(INT. Tia's and Annisa's apartment, later the same evening, after dinner. Soft background music? MAIA, TIA and ANNISA are all more relaxed.)

ANNISA

(laughing) -so then they said "All we wanted was some lemons!"

(MAIA and TIA laugh)

MAIA

Did they get their lemons in the end?

ANNISA

I don't know, actually. *(smiles)* Never found out. *(deep breath)* I'd better clear the table. *(gets up, MAIA and TIA both make attempts at getting up)* No, no, you two sit.

MAIA

You sure?

ANNISA

Small kitchen, only really room for one.

(Plates, glasses and serving dishes being cleared during following)

TIA

All right. Thanks Anni.

ANNISA

You need some downtime, Tee, you've been working very hard.

TIA

(affectionately) So have you.

ANNISA

(smiles) Well, this time it's your turn to sit. *(picks up plates, footsteps, faint sounds of water splashing as ANNISA washes dishes by hand, silence as both MAIA and TIA search for something to say.)*

TIA *(same time as MAIA)*

So how did-

MAIA (*same time as TIA*)
So how is living with-

(*BOTH laugh uncomfortably*)

TIA
You first.

MAIA
No, you.

TIA
All right. (*polite*) How did you end up doing your thesis here?

MAIA
(*sheepish*) It... just happened, really. I'd love to say it's because I was passionately interested in Malaysian art - and I am, now! - but I just wanted to do something different, so I applied for a scholarship, and this was one of the options. I've never been to Malaysia before.

TIA
So what do you think?

MAIA
(*smiles*) Well, I've mostly seen the airport and the museum so far, but everyone's been really nice.

TIA
(*gets interested and stops being polite*) Nice? I'm sure they have. But, I mean... What do you really think? What is different, what is interesting, what is... I don't know, disgusting and smelly and foreign and weird?

MAIA
(*taken aback*) I...

TIA
(*intense*) Don't be polite. Come on.

MAIA
(*smiles*) The fabrics.

TIA
What about the fabrics?

MAIA
They're so beautiful. The colors. The sheen. The batik patterns. Mostly the colors.

TIA
On clothes?

MAIA

Clothes sometimes but wall hangings and parasols and tablecloths and lanterns and... there's just so much more fabric everywhere than I'm used to. So vibrant and tactile.

TIA

Huh. Never thought of that. You interested in fabric?

MAIA

Yes! A lot of my own art is textile.

TIA

Like what?

MAIA

Lately I've been really into exploring textile sculpture - making fabric sculptural without any wire or other support structure, it's a challenge!

TIA

I can imagine. What else has struck you as different here?

MAIA

The crowds. Auckland is a big city, and of course it's crowded. But... it never seems this crowded. (*a little overwhelmed*) On the way here... there were just people, everywhere.

TIA

Stressful?

MAIA

N- I mean, yeah. (*relaxes shoulders, lets out breath*) Stressful. Absolutely.

TIA

I think so too, and I'm used to it. Every day, going to and from university. And how about the traffic?

MAIA

(*smiles*) Well let's just say I am very glad I do not have to drive here.

TIA

(*smiles*) Kuala Lumpur is famous for bad traffic. C'mon, what else?

MAIA

The food! There are just so *many* food smells everywhere, and they're so strong, and they smell so interesting, and then when they all mix, sometimes... they smell not good... not good.

TIA

(laughs) There we go. Smells bad, right?

MAIA
Well I just...

TIA
You can say it!

MAIA
(smiles) Yup. Sometimes it does.

TIA
Yes! You re-

MAIA
But usually it smells delicious! It's mainly when Durian's involved
that-

TIA
(exaggerated disappointed sound) You really are just...

MAIA
What?

TIA
(smiles) Annoyingly nice.

MAIA
(smiles) Really?

TIA
(smiles) Yes, really.

MAIA
(smiles) Hm. *(breathes in as if to speak and then changes her mind. Smiles.)* So... food.

TIA
(beat) Yes. What about food?

MAIA
You eat it, right?

TIA
(amused) I do. Also cook it, quite a lot.

MAIA
Even better.

TIA
Why?

MAIA

You like cooking?

TIA

Yes.

MAIA

(slightly nervous) You wanna teach me to make- *(hesitates while trying to think of typical Malaysian food)*

TIA

Nasi lemak? Absolutely.

MAIA

(the widest of smiles) You would?

TIA

(smiles) I would. How about Thursday night?

MAIA

I have absolutely no plans.

TIA

Perfect. Be here at seven?

MAIA

Wonderful. Though I might be early again.

TIA

(laughs) I will expect that this time!

(during previous, dishwashing sounds end in kitchen, footsteps, ANNISA enters)

ANNISA

So, how are you two getting on?

TIA

Very well.

ANNISA

(sits down) Oh good! You really weren't very friendly earlier Tee.

TIA

Sorry about that.

MAIA

It's fine. You were busy and I was early.

TIA

No, Anni's right. I was rude. I didn't mean to be. Sometimes...
Sometimes I get so into what I am doing that I don't really care
about anything else.

ANNISA
(friendly teasing) Sometimes?

TIA
(laughs) All right, a lot of the time.

MAIA
(laughs) I get that way too. My friends at uni are always joking
they can't get a word out of me once I've started focusing on a
project.

TIA
I can definitely relate! So, Anni, Maia's coming over again on
Thursday.

ANNISA
(surprised but pleased) Oh, how nice.

MAIA
Tia's teaching me how to make Nasi- *(hesitates)*

TIA
Lemak! Maia's into cooking.

ANNISA
Wonderful. I think I have a dinner engagement on Thursday, will you
be all right without me? *(grabs paper calendar, pages rustling)*

TIA
Absolutely. We don't need you.

ANNISA
Rude!

TIA
(smiles) That's me!

ANNISA
(laughs, closes calendar) Well, seems I *am* busy Thursday night, so
have fun without me!

TIA
Don't worry, we will, Right Maia?

MAIA
For sure.

(Fade out)

Scene 2.4

(INT. Early evening. Apartment building hallway, MAIA walks up and rings doorbell. No response.)

MAIA

*(calls) Tia? You there? (to herself) Well I *am* early again... (knocks on door, no response, to herself) Suppose I'll wait. (pause)*

(hurried footsteps, TIA approaches with bags of groceries)

TIA

(rushed) Oh, I'm so sorry, the lines at Jusco where so long today! (fishes out keys from purse, opens door) Come in, please!

MAIA

(smiles) No worries. I only had to wait a few minutes. And I was early again.

(BOTH take off shoes, go inside, TIA closes door, all during following.)

TIA

(rushed) I know, but I said I would expect that! Sorry! I usually enjoy grocery shopping but today I had a lecture running late and had to rush through it - but think I got everything. Come in, to the kitchen!

(BOTH head to kitchen, TIA starts unpacking groceries, some go on counter, some in cupboards or fridge, all during following)

MAIA

What can I do?

TIA

Have a seat for now. Don't worry, I'll put you to work in a minute.

MAIA

(sits down on kitchen chair) Counting on it.

TIA

(pauses her unpacking) You want a soft drink?

MAIA

Yes please.

TIA

(hands MAIA soft drink can, continues unpacking) Here you go.

MAIA

Thanks. *(opens soft drink and sips)*

TIA

(starts setting out mortar and pestle, pans, finishes half-way through MAIA's next line) So what have you been doing your first week?

MAIA

Well, I've been to the National Museum and they gave me access to their textile archives, so I've spent a lot of time there researching. Also I've been to the Petronas Gallery and the Asian Arts Museum - there is so much to learn! And I've been helping set up the new Germaine Koh exhibit with Annisa - it's incredible, it's all about knits - I think her work will be central to my thesis.

TIA

Sounds like you squeezed a lot in!

MAIA

Well, I only have a month here, I have to!

TIA

That makes sense. Right, let's get cooking.

MAIA

(gets up and joins TIA at counter) OK, what do I do?

TIA

I'm putting you in charge of making sambal, see, there's the recipe *(slight paper rustle)*, I wrote it out in English for you. You can start with these chilis, then those.

MAIA

All right boss! *(starts deseeding and chopping chilis)*

TIA

(smiles) Am I too bossy?

MAIA

(smiles) Not at all. I have no clue what I'm doing, so orders are helpful! *(starts chopping onions)*

TIA

Good to know. *(starts rinsing rice)* Oh, pop those in the mortar and mash them up.

MAIA

OK. *(starts mashing together sambal)* So what do you do when you're not studying?

TIA

Well, I do enjoy cooking. And baking. *(adds rice to pot, measures water and coconut milk, adds lemongrass, pot starts to simmer)*

MAIA

Me too! What's your favorite thing to bake?

TIA

You're going to laugh, but I love making American-style chocolate chip cookies. Found a recipe in a magazine when I was a teenager and taught myself how to make them.

MAIA

No arguments here! I love chocolate chip cookies! You make 'em regular or double chocolate?

(From this point both lose interest in the cooking, it's still going on but slower)

TIA

Regular I guess. Haven't thought of changing the original recipe much. Sometimes I add nuts.

MAIA

Well you can't really go wrong with cookies.

TIA

True. What do you bake?

MAIA

All sorts of things. I love making Lamingtons - you know those?

TIA

No, what are they?

MAIA

They're kiwi I think - or maybe Australian? Either way, I learnt how to make them as a teenager, after we moved to Auckland. It's sponge cake coated in chocolate and coconut flakes.

TIA

Oh, that sound delicious. Maybe you could teach me how to make them?

MAIA

I would love to. I... *(beat)* Are you... seeing anyone?

TIA

What- Oh, you mean *(slight embarrassed laugh)* dating. Um. No.

MAIA

(carefully) Me neither.

TIA

(really nervous) I never have. Seen anyone. I never figured out how. When all the other girls started having boyfriends I just... didn't.

I focused on school and thought it would happen, later, but it hasn't. It's like there is an invisible wall between me and... romance I suppose. And I want to get to the other side but I just don't know how it all works. *(embarrassed laugh)* Wow. I've never told that to anyone before. I mean, I have friends, but just...

MAIA

(surprised, gently) Really? But you are amazing. How could... I am sure there must have been loads of people interested in you.

TIA

Not that I've noticed. Oh, sure, some boys have tried, but it's the really obnoxious types that I don't even want to *talk* to for longer than five minutes, so...

MAIA

(carefully) Only boys?

TIA

(confused) Yes. Why- Oh. *(understands)* OH. *(very embarrassed laugh)*
I- I don't know any girls who like girls.

MAIA

(gently) Well. You do now.

TIA

(surprised but intrigued) Right.

MAIA

You OK with that?

TIA

Yes. Of course. As long as you're OK with me being... whatever it is I am.

MAIA

(smiles) I like whatever you are.

TIA

I like you too. *(sharp intake of breath, hand to mouth)* Can't believe I said that.

MAIA

(smiles) Well. It was nice to hear. *(beat)* Wanna get back to cooking?

TIA

I think that would be best.

MAIA

All right. Is this sambal looking all right or should I go a bit longer?

TIA
(beat) A little longer I think.

MAIA
OK.

(They cook in silence for a little while, MAIA keeps making sambal, TIA fries peanuts in hot oil, takes them out, adds anchovies to pan.)

TIA
Maia?

MAIA
Yes?

TIA
(nervous but determined) You already know that I'm no good at this sort of thing. So I'm just going to ask. *(beat)* Were you flirting with me before?

MAIA
(beat) Yes. I was. I will stop if you want.

TIA
No! I- I really liked it. I like you. But I don't- I have no idea how to- I've never been-

MAIA
That's OK. We can flirt for a while and you can see how you like it.

TIA
(smiles) Yeah. That would be good.

MAIA
So... *(joking)* Do you come here often?

TIA
(laughs) That's terrible!

(MAIA laughs)

(Fade out)

Scene 2.5

(INT. Art museum, late afternoon. Annisa's office. MAIA is typing on a 90s laptop, ANNISA is doing paperwork.)

ANNISA

(orders some papers into a stack) Right. Inventory's all done. How are you doing, Maia?

MAIA

(typing a few final words) And... there. I think I'm done for the day.

ANNISA

Good. It seems like you are moving along on your thesis.

MAIA

Yes, I'm getting there. And everyone's been so helpful.

ANNISA

I'm glad. Any plans tonight?

MAIA

Tia's picking me up in *(beat to look at watch)* ten minutes. We're off to Central Market - I need to get some gifts to bring home, so far I've only been shopping for myself *(slight laugh)*.

ANNISA

(smiles) Well, have a good time! *(stands up, takes a few steps toward door during following)*

MAIA

Thanks, we will! *(picks up book, slight rustle of page)*

ANNISA

(stops by door before opening it) Listen. Maia. *(beat)*

MAIA

(slightly distracted) Yes?

ANNISA

(hesitant) It seems like you and Tia have been spending quite a lot of time together. *(beat)*

MAIA

Yes, we have.

ANNISA

Excuse me, I don't quite know how to ask this but- Are you- *(starting over)* Tia seems really happy, but I don't want to pry, I-

MAIA

(gently) I think you'd better talk to Tia, don't you?

ANNISA

You are right. Forgive me. It's just... Tia can be naïve about some things. And... *(quickly)* Please be careful in public, all right? Don't kiss or anything like that. It's not safe. Even holding hands, with your short hair and everything... It could be a risk.

MAIA
(taken aback) I-

ANNISA
You don't have to confirm or deny anything. I will talk to Tia. I only... I love my country, but in this matter... We have far to go. And I don't want you to put yourselves at risk.

MAIA
(slowly) All right. Thank you.

ANNISA
See you tomorrow.

MAIA
Yeah. See you.

(ANNISA opens door, almost hits TIA, their conversation is slightly distant)

TIA
(exclaims, in Manglish) Eh, watch out!

ANNISA
(in Manglish) Sorry! *(concerned)* Alamak! You ok ah Tee?

TIA
(in Manglish) Ya, I'm ok, you scare(d) me, that's all. You leaving?

ANNISA
(in Manglish) Yeah I'm going to meet Lili now. Anyway, Maia's inside ya.

TIA
(in Manglish) Thanks! See you tonight.

ANNISA
(in Manglish) Bye! *(calls, in English)* Bye Maia! *(footsteps, heading out)*

MAIA
(calls) Bye, Annisa!

TIA
(walks into office, happy) Hi! Ready to go?

MAIA

Yeah, can we just- You wanna close the door?

TIA

Sure. *(closes door, sits down)* What?

MAIA

Annisa's figured out what's going on. With you and me.

TIA

Oh. Was she... How did she seem?

MAIA

Fine, I think. It was very brief. I told her to talk to you, and she agreed that was better.

TIA

(relieved but not surprised) Oh good. I've been wanting to tell her, I just didn't know how to start.

MAIA

(smiles) Well now you don't have to. I think she'll bring it up.

TIA

(about to get up) OK.

MAIA

Wait, there's something else. I think the reason she brought it up with me was concern over... well how others would react. Here, in Kuala Lumpur. She warned us not to even hold hands in public.

TIA

(slowly) Right... I haven't... You make me so happy and I suppose I've been living in a bubble these past few weeks. A big shiny joyful glittery bubble... *(sadly)* Suppose it was bound to pop.

MAIA

(sadly) I don't want you to feel like that!

TIA

Well, it was going to happen anyway. *(thinking)* And she is right. I just haven't been thinking about it in relation to you and me. Us kissing in public could be... People are awful. The laws are very strict. I haven't been... haven't been putting labels on us, but homosexuality is against the law.

MAIA

(shocked) Oh wow. I never realized that.

TIA

No. I suppose I never thought about it too much. It didn't concern me, or anyone close to me. There have been many stories of atrocities, but most of them directed at gay men, not girls.

MAIA

Not sure I feel like a girl. But that is horrible.

TIA

Yeah. It really is. (*beat, curious*) What do you mean you don't feel like a girl?

MAIA

I never really have. I know I look like a girl, and all my life everyone's been telling me that's what I am. But... I feel like... That's not the right word, for me.

TIA

(*interested*) So do you feel like a boy, or a man?

MAIA

No. Well sometimes, and sometimes like a woman, too. But I feel like it's all just... Like an itchy sweater that's three sizes too small.

TIA

You feel constrained?

MAIA

Yes! Limited. Like people want to put me in a box and I don't fit, but they keep jamming me back in. You know what I mean?

TIA

I can imagine. But I've never felt that way exactly. Maybe when the older generation try some nonsense about a woman's place and are shocked that I am unmarried at 26.

MAIA

Yeah. That's similar, I think. But at least there **is** a box labelled 'medical student' you can fit into. Not sure what label I'd have.

TIA

Maybe you'll find it?

MAIA

(*thoughtful*) Yeah, maybe. I've never put these thoughts into words before.

TIA

I am honoured to hear them.

MAIA

(*smiles*) You are amazing. (*quick kiss*) Off to market?

TIA

Yes. *(BOTH get up)* And just so you know, I will be mentally holding your hand the whole way there.

(footsteps toward door)

MAIA
So will I!

(They open door, walk out, close door)

(Fade out)

Scene 2.6

(INT. TIA's and ANNISA's apartment. Afternoon. MAIA and TIA are watching TV.)

TIA
This is nice.

MAIA
It really is. But... *(sighs)* I think we've both been avoiding this.
(mutes TV)

TIA
Can we avoid it a bit longer?

MAIA
Well, I'm leaving Sunday. And who knows when we'll have the apartment to ourselves again.

TIA
You are right. I just don't know what to say.

MAIA
Me neither.

TIA
All right. How about this. I don't want this to end.

MAIA
That's a very good start. I don't either.

TIA
I want to be with you.

MAIA
And I want to be with you. So how can we make that happen?

TIA
Well, people have long-distance relationships, don't they?

MAIA

They do. Maybe we start there?

TIA

Yes.

MAIA

I feel- I've never felt like this before, about anyone.

TIA

Well, you know I haven't either.

MAIA

I know. But it's only been what - three weeks? We can't jump into deciding everything yet.

TIA

No. But we can still talk about the future. Doesn't mean we're setting things in stone.

MAIA

True. All right. Where do you see this going?

TIA

I think we could live happily ever after.

MAIA

I'd very much like that. But... where? How?

TIA

(sighs) Unless they change the laws here, this isn't the place.

MAIA

No. You are probably right. Being an interracial lesbian couple is not going to be easy anywhere, but it'll probably be less stressful where we're not illegal.

TIA

Yeah. So. Auckland, maybe?

MAIA

Or I can move somewhere else?

TIA

Like where?

MAIA

I don't know. Somewhere. Anywhere. Don't want you to feel like you're the only one who has to move.

TIA

I don't mind. And your family is in Auckland, would be nice to have
someone's family nearby.

MAIA

All right. So the very tentative plan is Auckland. I *think* they
would give you a work permit, there is always need of doctors.

TIA

Yeah. I have another year of medical school before I start my pre-
clinical training. If you're still putting up with me at that point,
I'll move.

MAIA

If you don't get sick of me first.

TIA

(smiles) Somehow, I don't think so.

(BOTH laugh small happy laughs)

(Fade out)

Scene 2.7

NARRATOR

Thank you for listening to Y2K: Take 2. This episode was written and
directed by Karin Heimdahl with sound design by Tal Minear. Our
intro and outro music is created and recorded by Jake Haws, listen
to his podcast "Making Music with Jake Haws" to hear more. This
episode featured Shekendra Morgan as Maia, Su Ling Chan as Annisa
and Sam Yeow as Tia. The drama school director was Sarah Golding,
and the narrator was Emma Laslett. For more information, please go
to Y2Kpod.com or find us on social media @Y2Kpod If you enjoy the
show, please consider supporting us on Patreon.com/Y2Kpod Please
join us again next month when we meet Johnno in 2002.

DIRECTOR

(claps hands) All right, thank you everyone. That's a wrap for
today!

(MUSIC "Welcome to the Year 2000" - instrumental)