

THE CHAIR

Episode Five:
The Last Bus in Town

Written by
Jennifer Kim

JI-YOON sits across from DEAN LARSON and RONNY. She looks calm and professional, but her anxiety is just under the surface.

DEAN LARSON

Did you, at any point, threaten Bill's TA?

JI-YOON

What? No. Where's this coming from?

DEAN LARSON

Did you say she could get "hurt" if she talked to the student paper?

JI-YOON

Oh my God, what happened? No! I mean I... I said that the department could be hurt if we, you know, added any fuel to the fire.

DEAN LARSON

The Pembroke Daily's running an article Monday suggesting that you issued a gag order.

JI-YOON

I didn't! I would never do that.

DEAN LARSON

Did you have a conversation with Bill's TA in which you asked her not to discuss Bill's incident? I can try to kill the story if it's inaccurate.

JI-YOON

I... That was certainly not what I meant to convey.

DEAN LARSON

Students are already mobilized and we're concerned this is going to exacerbate things on campus. We'd like you to make some kind of statement.

JI-YOON

Okay. I mean... Yes.

Dean gestures at Ronny to chime in:

(CONTINUED)

RONNY

(to Ji-Yoon)

I've drafted a letter from both you and Dean Larson alerting Professor Dobson that next week there'll be a hearing on termination for cause.

JI-YOON

What about due process? In order to fire a tenured professor don't you -

-

DEAN LARSON

He violated his suspension yesterday by coming onto Pembroke campus. I believe he was with your daughter? They came to see you?

Then:

DEAN LARSON (CONT'D)

And tenure's not a blank check any more, Ji-Yoon. Particularly in this climate. We heard about him lecturing hung over. Showing nude photos in class - or nude videos I think it was? Getting rides with female students.

JI-YOON

That wasn't... That happened once.

DEAN LARSON

Which one?

JI-YOON

All of them.

Quick beat.

JI-YOON (CONT'D)

I realize that's not a great defense.

DEAN LARSON

So you knew about him with the co-ed?

JI-YOON

It was not in any way... I mean, did she complain? The student whose car he --

(CONTINUED)

DEAN LARSON

She shouldn't have to.

JI-YOON

His wife died a year ago.

DEAN LARSON

Are you two involved?

Ji-Yoon tries not to flinch.

JI-YOON

Are we... If I were a man would you ask me that?

DEAN LARSON

It's a reasonable question. The three of you left campus in the same car yesterday.

JI-YOON

(grasping at straws)

Only because his is in the shop.

DEAN LARSON

If you're romantically involved you need to declare it or you yourself are in violation of university policy.

Then:

RONNY

Another option would be for you to step down as chair.

JI-YOON

We're not involved. My defending Professor Dobson has nothing to do with my *feelings* for him which are entirely platonic and professional. I have a responsibility to protect my department. When Lila asked me if --

DEAN LARSON

You have a *responsibility* to this institution to prevent issues like this from spinning out of control. You've managed to do the opposite.

At Dean Larson's prompting, Ronny slides the letter toward Ji-Yoon.

(CONTINUED)

THE CHAIR - Episode 105 - DOUBLE BLUE REVISIONS 03/09/21 4.
5.1 CONTINUED: (3) 5.1

RONNY
Sign here if you would?

5.2 EXT. ADMIN BUILDINGS - STEPS - DAY 5.2

Ji-Yoon jogs down the steps, letter in hand, while leaving a message for Bill:

JI-YOON
Call me when you get this. We need to talk. It's urgent and it's... pretty bad. For both of us... Anyway, I'm gonna be leaving for that trip, and I gotta drop something off for you, so... Just please call me immediately when you get this. Call me. You better call me. Oh, it's me, obviously.

5.3 INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY 5.3

Bill, wearing headphones, lies on the couch in his living room -- which is a complete disaster area.

Bill's PHONE, half hidden under a pile of shit, buzzes with the message Ji-Yoon just left.

5.4 EXT. BILL'S HOUSE - MORNING 5.4

Ji-Yoon's CAR screeches up to the curb of Bill's house. JU JU is strapped down in the backseat.

JI-YOON
Stay here.

JU JU
I have to tell him something!

JI-YOON
It's not a good time.

JU JU
I have to! I have to tell him something for Dia de los Muertos!

Ji-Yoon jumps out of the car, rushing up to Bill's front door. She rings the bell and knocks on the door.

JI-YOON
(yelling)
BILL! BILL?

(CONTINUED)

THE CHAIR - Episode 105 - DOUBLE BLUE REVISIONS 03/09/21 5.
5.4 CONTINUED: 5.4

No response. She sends a text, and waits. Nothing.

She pulls the termination letter out of her coat (a Pembroke envelope) and slides it under the door.

5.5 INT. JI-YOON'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 5.5

Ju Ju twists her body to keep watch over Bill's front porch. Ji-Yoon gets back in the car and is about to pull out, but:

JU JU
His wife's soul won't know where to go?!

JI-YOON
Yes she will.

JU JU
She won't be able to find him.

JI-YOON
Yes she will, Ju Ju!

JU JU
You don't know anything about Dia de los Muertos. You don't know anything about my heritage.

Ji-Yoon prepares to drive off.

JU JU (CONT'D)
Put a.

5.6 INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY 5.6

Bill schlumps towards the kitchen and, on his way, spots the letter on the floor in the entry way.

He opens it and reads. He crumples it up and drops it on the floor.

He takes off his head phones. Then, thinking the better of it, puts them back on.

5.7 INT. BILL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 5.7

Bill opens a kitchen cabinet.

A bunch of prescription bottles left over from Sharon's chemo.

(CONTINUED)

He finds a prescription bottle that reads "Sharon Dobson" and "hydrocodone." He opens it and examines some HUGE PINK PILLS. He pops a couple in his mouth and pockets the bottle.

He moves to the FREEZER, and sees the TIN FOIL BRICK of Sharon's POT BROWNIES labeled "VERY STRONG."

5.8 EXT. HABI'S HOUSE - DAY

5.8

HABI's front door opens to find Ji-Yoon and a disgruntled Ju Ju standing there. Ju Ju runs inside.

Ji-Yoon puts the bag of MARIGOLDS and other Dia de los Muertos DECORATIONS and a backpack inside by the front door.

HABI

일찍도 왔다
(*You're early!*)

JI-YOON

아니.. 아침에 빌이랑 일이 좀 있었어...
(*Yes, we... there was a mishap with Bill this morning.*)
Here's her stuff.
(beat)
I'll be back later.

(CONTINUED)

HABI

언제 올 건데?
(*When?*)

JI-YOON

I'm not sure.

HABI

이번에 민지가 돌인 건 너도 알지?
(*Minji only has a first birthday once, you know.*)

JI-YOON

Yes, I'm aware.

HABI

어떻게 얼굴 한번도 안 비추냐고 다들 뭐라
그러더라 특히 네 고모 (클레어)가
(*Everyone complains how they never see you. Especially Auntie Claire.*)

JI-YOON

I don't know what you want me to do
-- this is a mandated trip.

HABI

이번 승진으로 일 좀 덜 하겠구나 생각했더니...
(*I thought this promotion means you don't have to work as much.*)

JI-YOON

What promotion ever means you don't
have to work as much?

Ji-Yoon sighs, walking out the door.

JI-YOON (CONT'D)

Ju Ju, be good. Do what *halabuhjee*
tells you.

HABI

한국말도 모르는데 내가 시키는 걸 어떻게
한다니?
(*How can she do what I tell her when she doesn't speak Korean.*)

Ji-Yoon walks back to Ju Ju.

(CONTINUED)

JI-YOON
She understands more than you
think. Watch this.

Ji-Yoon kneels in front of Ju Ju.

JI-YOON (CONT'D)
이따가 보자. 사랑해.
(*See you later. I love you.*)
You understand what I'm saying,
right?
주주야, 사랑해.
[jujuya, saranghae]
(*I love you, Ju Ju.*)

Blank look from Ju Ju.

Off Habi's look:

JI-YOON (CONT'D)
아침에 빌이랑 Mexico presentation을 같이
하기로 했었는데 그러지 못해서 나한테 화 많이
났어.
(*She's mad at me because she was
supposed to work on her Mexico
presentation this morning with
Bill.*)

HABI
Mexico?

JI-YOON
숙제 때문에. She's the cultural
ambassador for Dia de los Muertos.
멕시코 전통이야.
(*For homework. She's the cultural
ambassador for Dia de los Muertos --
it's a Mexican tradition.*)

Blank stare from Habi.

JI-YOON (CONT'D)
Never mind.

5.9 INT. BILL'S HOUSE - DAY

5.9

Bill, pretty high now, grabs his LAPTOP and uses Google Maps to search for the nearest McDonalds. He seems unfazed by the result: "5.2 miles."

He dials his landline.

BILL

Good morning, how are you? Is this McDonald's?

(beat)

The one on Telegraph Road?

(beat)

Great. Do you have any cake today?

(beat)

What do you mean never?

(beat)

But, I've definitely had cake at a McDonald's. And you have pie, so this is confusing to me.

(beat)

Well, who's your supervisor?

5.A10 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

5.A10

Bill is a lone disheveled figure shuffling toward the horizon. He's got a huge smile - enjoying being out in the world - but is also sweating profusely and like he's already been on an epic journey.

He looks down at his phone displaying walking directions to McDonalds. A voice interrupts.

JOCK (O.S.)

Heads up Hitler!

Bill is nailed by a Gatorade bottle thrown by two JOCKS in an SUV. They cackle as they drive off.

After a beat of walking Bill pulls Sharon's pill bottle out and tries to pour one in his mouth. It falls on the ground.

CLOSE UP:

Pink pill on the dirty road.

BILL (V.O.)

(sotto voce)

Five second rule.

As he keeps walking Bill wipes the pill off on his sweater, pops it in his mouth and puts the bottle back in his pocket.

5.10 **INT. YAZ AND RENTZ'S LECTURE HALL - DAY**

5.10

YAZ and RENTZ pack up as the last student stragglers exit the lecture hall.

Awkward silence. Yaz walks over to him and holds out a sheet of paper.

YAZ

You left this at the copier.

Rentz takes it.

(CONTINUED)

RENTZ

You're not supposed to read that.

YAZ

You left it out in public. I only glanced at the first few sentences to see what it was.

RENTZ

That's against the rules.

YAZ

Let's move on from the argument about whether or not I should've looked at it, and move on to the real argument.

RENTZ

I'm all ears.

On Yaz: where to start?

YAZ

Never mind.

Yaz gathers her things and is about to walk out, but:

RENTZ

I offered a positive assessment of your scholarship. But I needed to point to some gaps in the research. I've been doing this for thirty-two years -- the P and T Committee doesn't buy it when I don't express any reservations whatsoever. Believe it or not, I'm trying to help you.

YAZ

Help me? You're helping *me*?
(anger rising)
Ji-Yoon came to me and begged me to co-teach with you because your enrollments were so low.

RENTZ

What?

YAZ

You were on a list -- they were going to try to force you to retire. She merged us so you could piggy back on my enrollments.

(CONTINUED)

5.10 CONTINUED: (2)

5.10

RENTZ

What list?

YAZ

You were lecturing to an empty hall.

RENTZ

Because I don't pander to my students.

YAZ

Nobody wants what you're selling.

RENTZ

I'm not a salesman.

YAZ

You're not a professor either, because you don't have any students.

5.11 INT./EXT. COUNTRY HOUSE - DAY

5.11

Ji-Yoon parks in a grand driveway and walks up to the front door. She knocks. No answer. She tries the door and goes inside.

5.12 INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - FRONT FOYER - SAME

5.12

Ji-Yoon takes in the beautiful entry hall.

JI-YOON

Hello?

Weird.

JI-YOON (CONT'D)

David?

Ji-Yoon starts down a hallway.

5.13 INT. COUNTRY HOUSE, INDOOR POOL AREA - MOMENTS LATER

5.13

Ji-Yoon enters and finds DAVID doing laps.

JI-YOON

(sotto voce)

What the actual fuck?

She squats at the side of the pool and waves her arms.

(CONTINUED)

JI-YOON (CONT'D)
Hey, hi.

DAVID DUCHOVNY
Oh, hey! I didn't realize you were
here. Ji-Yoon?

JI-YOON
Yeah, hi. The door was open. Do you
always leave your door open?

DAVID DUCHOVNY
I've never had a problem. That's
why I love it out here. Nobody
bothers me.

David hoists himself out of the pool -- is he naked?

JI-YOON
Oh God.

To avert her eyes, Ji-Yoon turns, and crashes into a plant.

DAVID DUCHOVNY
You ok?

Ji-Yoon slowly turns back to him. He's wearing a red Speedo.

JI-YOON
Yes, sorry, for a second I thought
you were naked.

DAVID DUCHOVNY
Interesting.

He looks down at his swimsuit.

JI-YOON
Yeah, no. I mean, no.

He towels off.

DAVID DUCHOVNY
I'm really excited you're here.
Should we get down to business?

Ji-Yoon nods.

5.14 **EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY**

5.14

Bill walks down the road. A CAR slows down near him.

(CONTINUED)

JU JU (O.S.)

BILL!

Ju Ju rolls down the window and waves at Bill who waves back, delighted to see her. He walks over toward the car. HABI is driving.

HABI

What are you doing?

BILL

Hey! I'm walking to McDonalds. What are you guys up to?

JU JU

We're going to Minji's birthday party!

BILL

Who's Minji?

JU JU

My second cousin.
(to Habi)
Can Bill come?

HABI

No. No, no, no.

BILL

I'm on a strict schedule.

SMASH CUT:

5.15 INT. HABI'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

5.15

TWO SHOT: Ju Ju and Bill ride in the back. She's delighted. He's high as shit.

BILL

Will there be cake?

5.16 INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

5.16

Ji-Yoon sits across from David -- he's holding a huge manuscript.

DAVID DUCHOVNY

For the distinguished lectureship I was thinking I'd just present my dissertation from Yale.

(CONTINUED)

He hands her the manuscript.

JI-YOON
"The Schizophrenic Critique of Pure Reason in Beckett's Early Novels."

DAVID DUCHOVNY
I only wrote one chapter.

JI-YOON
This is a hell of a chapter. Did you use a really big font?
(opens it)
Nope.

DAVID DUCHOVNY
I got sidetracked for a few decades. But, I'd like to finish it, get my committee back together, and file for my PhD. Doctor David Duchovny -- whaddya think?

JI-YOON
Um...

DAVID DUCHOVNY
Too much alliteration? Maybe too confusing for people to refer to me as Dr. David Duchovny, after having known me for so long as just David Duchovny.

Then:

DAVID DUCHOVNY (CONT'D)
Anyway, take a gander. I re-read it last night -- it's actually good. Prescient, even.

He pronounces "prescient" as an Englishman would.

JI-YOON
It's prescient? Really?

DAVID DUCHOVNY
Prescient.

JI-YOON
I think we pronounce it "prescient." Unless we're English.

DAVID DUCHOVNY
Aren't we speaking English?

(CONTINUED)

Off Ji-Yoon's glare:

DAVID DUCHOVNY (CONT'D)
Maybe you're in the wrong
department. You would have
preferred the schiences. Not
because you're Asian. I didn't --

JI-YOON
Shuck my dick.

As he exits:

DAVID DUCHOVNY
You want a shmoothie? I'm going to
make a shmoothie?

JI-YOON
No thank you.

DAVID DUCHOVNY
You been to the farmers' market out
here?

He gets some veggies out of the fridge.

JI-YOON
No.

DAVID DUCHOVNY
You gotta try it. I used to think
this town was devoid of culture,
but...

He snaps off a carrot.

DAVID DUCHOVNY (CONT'D)
I stand corrected.

Then:

DAVID DUCHOVNY (CONT'D)
Okay, shhhhhh. Just pretend I'm not
here.

5.17 INT. KOREAN RESTAURANT - DAY 5.17

Bill, Habi, and Ju Ju arrive at the birthday party. The room
is decorated colorfully. Dozens of Koreans of all ages, well
dressed and festive, mill about.

(CONTINUED)

5.17

At the front of the room is a SHRINE of vegetables and fruits. A ONE YEAR OLD BABY (Minji), is crying hysterically as her parents attempt to take photos with her.

Bill looks around in intoxicated awe.

TWO GRANDMAS stand off nearby, gossiping.

GRANDMA 1

지윤이는 어디 있대?

(Where's Ji-Yoon?)

GRANDMA 2

누가 알겠어. 맨날 물어 보면 '일해요'
하던데.

*(Who knows. She's always
"working.")*

GRANDMA 1

이쪽은 누구셔?

(Who is this?)

GRANDMA 2

지윤이 남자 친구래.

(Ji-Yoon's boyfriend.)

GRANDMA 1

아~ 피터 성?

(Peter Seung?)

GRANDMA 2

개 말고. 개랑은 헤어진지 꽤 됐지. 피터 성은
미시간에 있어.

*(No, she's not with him anymore.
He's in Michigan.)*

(then:)

지금 내가 스웨터 짜주고 있잖아.

(I'm knitting him this sweater.)

Grandma 2 knits a SWEATER.

GRANDMA 1

그러면 재가 피터 성이 아니야?

(So that is not Peter Seung?)

GRANDMA 2

얼굴 좀 봐. 하얗잖아.

(He's white. Look at his face.)

(CONTINUED)

5.17 CONTINUED: (2)

5.17

Grandma 1 puts her GLASSES on.

GRANDMA 1

어~ 그러네.
(*Ohhh.*)

GRANDMA 2

지윤이 애비가 그러는데, 길에서 헤매는 걸
데리고 왔다.
(*Habi says he's a man they picked
up off the street.*)

GRANDMA 1

그래서 끝이 저 모양이구나
(*That makes sense. He's very
sweaty.*)

5.18 INT. FACULTY LOUNGE - DAY

5.18

Rentz approaches McHALE who is snoozing with a book on his
lap.

(CONTINUED)

RENTZ

John.

McHale stirs, and shifts in his seat. He doesn't want Rentz to know he was just sound asleep.

MCHALE

What?

RENTZ

Have you heard about a list? All us dinosaurs -- they're targeting us. Trying to force us into retirement.

Rentz, with some effort, pulls up a chair next to McHale and sits.

MEDIUM TWO SHOT: these two sages in front of dark wood paneling and an oil portrait of another old white man from some bygone era.

RENTZ (CONT'D)

We need to band together. Strength in numbers. Show them we're still in our intellectual prime and have plenty to offer.

McHale farts.

Beat.

MCHALE

Was that you or me?

5.19 INT. KOREAN RESTAURANT - DAY

5.19

Bill is about to swipe a piece of cake, but Ju Ju pulls him by the hand to a table with two tired, KOREAN GRANDADS.

JU JU

It's not time for cake yet.

BILL

How much longer?

JU JU

Stay here for a sec. I'm trading Pokemon cards.

Ju Ju peels off, and Bill sits. A tired grandad sets two shots of SOJU down in front of Bill.

(CONTINUED)

TIRED GRANDAD 1
Korean ear muffs.

BILL
Excuse me?

TIRED GRANDAD 1
Kids scream, scream, scream...

He mimes taking a shot, and then a smile spreads across his face.

TIRED GRANDAD 1 (CONT'D)
What screaming?

Tired Grandad 1 slides a glass to him.

TIRED GRANDAD 1 (CONT'D)
Hold with two hands and turn your head away. You don't make eye contact or drink in front of another. Like this.

Tired Grandad 1 demonstrates. Bill follows. They all raise their shots.

BOTH TIRED GRANDADS
Gum bae!

BILL
Gumby.

BILL (CONT'D) TIRED GRANDAD 1
Dum gay. "Gum bae."

They all grin at Bill, and he whips around smack into an ancient KOREAN LADY who gives him a sweet smile.

5.20 INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 5.20

David and Ji-Yoon sit on the couch.

JI-YOON
I can't just catch you up with a quick tutorial.

DAVID DUCHOVNY
Why not?

Ji-Yoon checks an incoming text. On her screen:

Dean Larson: Did you deliver the notice to Bill?

(CONTINUED)

5.20 CONTINUED:

5.20

Ji-Yoon makes an annoyed face but doesn't respond.

JI-YOON

(blown away)

Because that's an insane request.
This is 30 years old. A lot's
happened in the last 30 years.

DAVID DUCHOVNY

Like what?

JI-YOON

Uh, like affect theory, eco-
criticism, digital humanities, new
materialism, book history.
Developments in gender studies,
critical race theory. When's the
last time you picked up an academic
journal?

DAVID DUCHOVNY

I... I've been on tour with my
band.

He gestures at his tour hoodie.

She waves his manuscript.

JI-YOON

It shows.

Then:

JI-YOON (CONT'D)

And you know what else? The fact
that you're using this honor from
Pembroke to dust off your
dissertation to go back and get
your PhD? It's self-serving.

DAVID DUCHOVNY

Jesus. Is this hostility because
Pembroke's like a lower tier Ivy
League and I went to Princeton and
Yale?

JI-YOON

No this is hostility because I
promised the distinguished
lectureship to someone who actually
deserves it. The purpose of this
talk is to present cutting edge
scholarship. This reads like it's
out of the mid-eighties.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5.20

JI-YOON (CONT'D)

The discipline's moved forward and
you're still stuck back in a
different era.

DAVID DUCHOVNY is wounded.

JI-YOON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm...

She tries to comfort him.

DAVID DUCHOVNY

No, it's... I just really need to
be alone for a minute.

JI-YOON

Here, can I...

DAVID DUCHOVNY

(weirdly loud, and
petulant)

No!

He exits.

Ji-Yoon flops on the couch and looks at her watch. It's
getting dark.

5.21

INT. KOREAN RESTAURANT - DAY

5.21

The two GRANDMAS GOSSIP while watching Bill.

GRANDMA 1

가족이 무슨 짬뽕이야? 지윤이는 자기 친딸도
아니고. 이제는 작은 백인이나 만나고.

*(It's like a Frankenstein family. Ji-
Yoon, a daughter that is not even
hers, and now this tiny white man.)*

GRANDMA 2

지윤이는 왜 한국에서 애를 안 데리고 왔대?
*(Why didn't she get a baby from
South Korea?)*

GRANDMA 1

결혼을 꼭 해야 입양을 할 수 있대. 지윤이는
혼자라 해외 입양하는 데서 안된다고 했대
*(You can only adopt from South
Korea if you're married.*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5.21 CONTINUED:

5.21

GRANDMA 1 (CONT'D)

*She was closed out from
international adoption because
she's single.)*

GRANDMA 2

그 누구여. 마돈나도 남편 없이 했잖여
*(Madonna's single and she was able
to do it.)*

Beat.

GRANDMA 2 (CONT'D)

안젤리나 졸리도 그렇고
(Angelina Jolie, too.)

GRANDMA 1

그러네.
(That's true.)

During the above, Bill makes his way back to the cake, but someone hands him another SHOT. He takes it, turning away to drink when he finds someone behind him. He turns the other way, finds someone behind him again.

5.A22 INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - EVENING

5.A22

Ji-Yoon hears a plaintive song and follows the music up the stairs.

5.22 **INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

5.22

David Duchovny, sitting on his bed, plays a song about Wallace Stevens.

Ji-Yoon appears in the doorway.

JI-YOON

The only song I've ever heard that quotes Wallace Stevens.

Then:

JI-YOON (CONT'D)

You have a nice voice.

She sits down near him.

DAVID DUCHOVNY

I didn't twist their arm, Ji-Yoon. Your school wanted me to come. To help.

She nods, but he's not exactly convinced.

DAVID DUCHOVNY (CONT'D)

Was there someone else before me? Did Pembroke offer this to someone else first?

Ji-Yoon struggles for a moment.

DAVID DUCHOVNY (CONT'D)

It's okay. I'm a big boy.

JI-YOON

There was talk about James Franco a while back.

DAVID DUCHOVNY

James Franco? Seriously?

JI-YOON

He got his PhD from Yale!

DAVID DUCHOVNY

All right. Well, #2 to James Franco. I can handle that.

JI-YOON

They might have invited Ethan Hawke. But he was shooting in Bulgaria.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID DUCHOVNY
What was he shooting?

JI-YOON
What?

DAVID DUCHOVNY
No I was just wondering what the
movie was. Or was it a TV show?

5.23 INT. KOREAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

5.23

A CROWD gathers in a semi-circle around a large MAT on the floor. On the far end of the mat are several OBJECTS (a STETHOSCOPE, a PENCIL, a PAINTBRUSH, a DOLLAR BILL, a TENNIS BALL and a LONG WHITE STRING).

Habi, Ju Ju, and Bill join the crowd, and he gets handed more booze.

BILL
What's this?

HABI
The main event. The *doljabi*
ceremony. Minji picks her future.

Habi motions toward the objects.

BILL
Her future? She's only one.

HABI
She is very smart. She can make a
clear decision now.

BILL
What are those?

Ju Ju cuts in.

JU JU
A stethoscope for a doctor, pencil
for teacher, paintbrush for artist,
money for being rich, a tennis ball
for athlete, and a white string for
a long life.
(beat)
I would pick the string, so I could
live a long long long time. What
about you?

(CONTINUED)

5.23 CONTINUED:

5.23

BILL

You can only pick one?

Ju Ju nods. Bill clocks the array of choices once more.

5.24 SCENE OMITTED 01/24/21

5.24

5.25 INT. KOREAN RESTAURANT - EVENING

5.25

Minji, dressed in traditional Korean garb (hanbok), is placed gently on one end of the mat. She looks very confused and clearly has limited control over her mobility.

Ju Ju gets down on her hands and knees, to meet Minji's level. She tries to give her a pep talk.

JU JU

You can do it Minji! Get the string!

BILL

Don't pressure her. We can't lead the witness.

Minji begins crawling across the mat toward the objects and her grandmother, who is standing at the finish line, as everyone around her cheers her on.

She makes her way steadily toward the paintbrush, but just as she's about to pick it up, her grandmother jerks the mat with her foot, sliding the money in place of the paintbrush. Minji randomly grabs the money, since it's right in front of her.

Everyone CHEERS!

MINJI'S GRANDMA

어머머, 이게 무슨일이야!
(Oh, what luck!)

Meanwhile, Bill has witnessed the tampering.

BILL

Wait, she... This lady rigged it.
She wanted the paintbrush.

He picks up the abandoned paintbrush and walks it over toward Minji and her family. He tries to hand it to Minji but gets shoved.

(CONTINUED)

BILL (CONT'D)
She wanted the paintbrush!

TIRED GRANDAD 2
Stop that!

Habi grabs Bill's shirt as Bill still tries to hand Minji the paintbrush. He gets spun around.

The bottle of pills from his pocket DROPS on the floor, and pops open.

Bill watches in horror as a splash of PINK PILLS is unleashed.

BABY MINJI HEADS FOR ONE OF BILL'S PINK PILLS.

BILL
No!

Ju Ju grabs Bill's other arm, trying to pull him away in the other direction.

As Bill is being pushed and pulled back and forth, the world begins to spin around him, making him dizzy. Suddenly, he rocks backwards and falls to the ground.

5.26 INT. KOREAN RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS 5.26

BILL'S POV of the paintbrush on the floor, as it gets kicked away from him by the crowd of feet.

Minji's eyes light up and she heads for the pink pill. As she's about to grab it someone picks her up.

FADE OUT.

5.27 INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 5.27

DAVID DUCHOVNY
My senior thesis from Princeton was on Beckett, so I'll just stick with that. Hey you want to take a dip in the pool?

JI-YOON
Oh, I don't... have a bathing suit.

He grabs a leotard with legs Speedo from his bureau. Holds it up.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID DUCHOVNY
You could borrow this?

JI-YOON
Um. Whose... who wore that?

DAVID DUCHOVNY
It's my speed suit -- I wear it if
I'm swimming for time. Skin is a
drag.

DAVID DUCHOVNY (CONT'D) JI-YOON
Because of hair. You can't only teach Beckett
for the rest of the semester.

DAVID DUCHOVNY (CONT'D)
Why not? We got Murphy, Malloy, The
Unnameable --

JI-YOON
The students already bought the
other books.

DAVID DUCHOVNY
I'll reimburse them. I'm a grossly
overpaid actor. Slash musician.
Slash novelist. And they're
students... burdened with student
debt. Let me unburden them.

His phone dings. He picks it up, and starts scrolling.

JI-YOON
The syllabus is a contract with
them. You can't just change the
reading schedule. Plus Bill's
trying to show a connection between
the way Beckett and Barnes
approached linguistic
experimentation. Have you even read
Barnes?

DAVID DUCHOVNY
(while texting something)
Julian Barnes? Yeah.

JI-YOON
Djuna Barnes!

DAVID DUCHOVNY
Of course I've read Djuna Barnes.

Ji-Yoon stares at him, skeptical.

(CONTINUED)

After a beat, he looks up at her.

DAVID DUCHOVNY (CONT'D)
"The unendurable is the beginning
of the curve of joy."

JI-YOON
Please God let's hope so.
(then)
You just Google that?

DAVID DUCHOVNY
No.
(beat)
Yes.

He puts down the phone and holds out his hands for her.

DAVID DUCHOVNY (CONT'D)
Hey, come on. Let's go for an
evening swim!

Ji-Yoon finally blows a gasket:

JI-YOON
Teaching's not a pastime, it's a
profession. And if you really want
to make a contribution to the field
tell them you changed your mind.
Give them a big check to endow a
chair in your name, and I'll get
you an honorary doctorate. It's
either that or I'm going to make
you do the work to teach the class
the right way.

DAVID DUCHOVNY
(mulling it over)
"The David Duchovny Chair in
English Studies."

JI-YOON
The *Doctor* David Duchovny Chair in
English Studies.

We hear a great David Duchovny song as Ji-Yoon heads back to
Pembroke.

5.29 **INT. ENGLISH DEPT - YAZ'S OFFICE - LATER**

5.29

Yaz in her office. Ji-Yoon barges in:

(CONTINUED)

5.29 CONTINUED:

5.29

JI-YOON

I have great news. David Duchovny's
not giving the distinguished
lectureship. You are!

Off Yaz's look:

JI-YOON (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

YAZ

I already agreed to give it
somewhere else.

JI-YOON

Where?

YAZ

Yale.

JI-YOON

Holy shit. That's amazing.

YAZ

It's also a job talk. They invited
me to apply for a position.

JI-YOON

Why didn't you tell me?

Off her look:

JI-YOON (CONT'D)

I know it's been a mess around
here. I've been a mess.

YAZ

You act like you owe them
something. Like you got here
because they let you get here not
because you deserve it.

Then:

YAZ (CONT'D)

What are they without us at this
point? A name, and a pile of
bricks.

JI-YOON

And a shit ton of money.

(CONTINUED)

YAZ

Seeded by benefactors who got rich
off sugar and railroads, on the
backs of black and yellow people.

YAZ (CONT'D)

That includes Yale.

JI-YOON

Yale's different?

YAZ (CONT'D)

You should be running this place.
Instead you spend all your time
playing nice.

Ji-Yoon is gutted by this.

JI-YOON

You think that's how I got here? By
playing nice?

YAZ

...

JI-YOON

(enraged)

Is that how you think I fucking got
here?

YAZ

No.

JI-YOON

You're going to be the first
tenured black woman in the
department.

YAZ

That's why I'm leaving.

Ji-Yoon nods, point taken.

JI-YOON

Pembroke said and did all the right
things to keep me here. But the
real reason I stayed was because of
Joan, and Bill. And this dazzling
new hire named Yaz.

Then:

JI-YOON (CONT'D)

Fuckin' Yale. You know what New
Haven's ranking is on WalletHubs
list of best college towns in
America?

(CONTINUED)

5.29 CONTINUED: (3)

5.29

YAZ

?

JI-YOON

198. A couple of notches below
Fargo, North Dakota.

YAZ

What're we?

JI-YOON

I don't know I have to ask my Dad.

Then:

JI-YOON (CONT'D)

What are they offering?

YAZ

Expedited tenure and an endowed
professorship. And a shit ton of
money.

JI-YOON

We can beat that. I think.

5.30 SCENE OMITTED 01/27/21

5.30

5.31 INT. ENGLISH DEPT - FACULTY LOUNGE - NIGHT

5.31

JOAN, Rentz and McHale sit on the couch. McHale fumbles with
a glucose testing kit while they talk.

JOAN

This is one of the few professions
in which you get more respect when
you get older. I mean part of the
reason I got into this is because
you don't age out.

McHale's device gives a loud BEEP. Joan and Rentz look at
him.

MCHALE

I'm testing my blood sugar. Carry
on.

He pricks his finger to get a sample.

JOAN

I never thought I'd retire. As long
as you're not... out of it...

(CONTINUED)

5.31

CONTINUED:

5.31

The machine beeps again.

MCHALE

69.

JOAN

69?! That's low.

RENTZ

Jesus -- 69?! You have your
glucose tablets?

Rentz dumps Mchale's bag on the floor and they put on their
readers to search for the glucose tablets. Meanwhile, Joan
goes to the coffee station, grabs a packet of honey, and taps
Rentz's head with it.

JOAN (CONT'D)

You get older, you accumulate more
wisdom, you garner more respect.

Rentz opens the honey and hands it to McHale.

RENTZ

I've been here for what? 32 years.
Was chair for six of those and
nothing like this ever happened.

JOAN

For a lifetime of doing this I get
nothing. I get put on a list.

RENTZ

She wanted me to doctor my tenure
letter for Yaz in exchange for co-
teaching. That's the bottom line:
it was quid pro quo.

MCHALE

(mouth sticky with honey)
What about Bill? Guy's turned into
a nut case.

Rentz hands McHale a handkerchief.

RENTZ

I can't take you seriously when you
look like you just stuck your face
in a beehive.

Joan picks up the list and looks at it again.

JOAN

Bill's not on this list.

(CONTINUED)

RENTZ

Everyone knows she's in love with him. If one of us had stepped out of line, she would not be going to the mat like this.

MCHALE

We elected her. Her job is to represent our interests. She's only protected his.

RENTZ

We gotta do something.

JOAN

Like what? You want to stage a coup?

5.A32 EXT./INT. HABI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

5.A32

Ji-Yoon walks up the front porch and sees a trail (as in Hansel and Gretel) of little plates of food heading to the front door. Bewildered, she side-steps them, and opens the door.

5.32 INT. HABI'S HOUSE - FRONT HALL - NIGHT

5.32

As she opens the door:

JI-YOON

Appa? Ju Ju?

She folloes the food trail (a few more steps) and comes upon the altar (ofrenda) Ju Ju made for her Mom.

C.U. of Ju-Hee's altar bursting with color and various offerings: photos of Ji-Yoon's mom with Ji-Yoon as a baby; sugar skulls; marigolds, etc.

5.33 INT. BILL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

5.33

Bill is sitting on his couch, eating something hot whipped up by the Grandmas, who are now cleaning up the house, along with Habi.

BILL

This is delicious. All this was in my refrigerator?

Habi looks at Bill like he's insane.

(CONTINUED)

5.33 CONTINUED:

5.33

HABI

Party leftovers.

BILL

(re: everyone cleaning)

You don't have to do that.

(CONTINUED)

GRANDMA 2

어떻게 다 큰 남자가 이렇게 살아?
(*How can a grown man live like this?*)

GRANDMA 1

홀아비잖아.
(*He's a widower.*)

HABI

저도 혼자예요. 근데 제 집은 깨끗하죠.
(*I'm a widower. My house is clean.*)

GRANDMA 2

아내는 언제 잃었대?
(*How long ago did the wife die?*)

HABI

1 년 됐을 거예요 아마
(*A year.*)

GRANDMA 1

지윤이네서 같이 일하는 거야?
(*He works for Ji-Yoon?*)

HABI

네. 영어 교수예요. 책 한 권 냈어요.
두 권인가?
(*Yes. English Professor. And he wrote a book. Maybe two.*)

Grandma 1 and Grandma 2 have both stopped cleaning now and are staring at Habi.

HABI (CONT'D)

왜요?
(*What?*)

GRANDMA 1

참한 한국 색시가 있으면 딱 좋겠네. 지윤이는
어떻대? 직업도 좋고 얼굴도 저 정도면 괜찮지.
면도 좀 하면. 애들한테도 잘하고.
(*If only there were a good Korean woman in his life. What about Ji-Yoon? He has a good job. Not bad looking if he'd shave. Good with kids.*)

(CONTINUED)

GRANDMA 2

마약중독자래. 술도 많이 마시고. 지윤이도
똑같이 마약, 술 중독에 빠뜨리고 싶어?
*(He's a drug addict. And a drunk.
You want Ji-Yoon to bring a drug
addict alcoholic into her life?)*

GRANDMA 1

내일 모레면 오십이야. 이 동네서 저게
막차인지도 몰라.
*(She is forty-eight. Maybe this is
the last bus in town.)*

They all stare at Bill.

HABI

(to Bill)
We have to go.
(shouting)
Ju Ju! Your mom got home early!
She's waiting.

Ju Ju finishes arranging Sharon's altar.

JU JU

Ok.

Ju Ju gestures at the altar to Bill. Points to the pizza
pockets.

Bill nods, and holds up crossed fingers.

(CONTINUED)

BILL
(to Habi)
I'm really sorry about this
afternoon.

HABI
It's ok.

Then:

BILL
See you soon I hope.

Habi, Grandmas and Ju Ju exit.

Finally: peace and quiet.

BILL (CONT'D)
Wait!

Ju Ju pops back in.

JU JU
What?

BILL
I have a question.

JU JU
?

BILL
Not for you, ya goof. For your
Grandpa.

JU JU
Habi? Wait.

Habi steps back in.

HABI
Yes?

BILL
What did Ji-Yoon pick? For the
doljabi ceremony? Do you remember?

HABI
She pick the pencil.
(he laughs to himself)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THE CHAIR - Episode 105 - FULL GREEN PRODUCTION DRAFT 01/27/21 31.
5.33 CONTINUED: (5) 5.33

HABI (CONT'D)

She crawl straight there. She just
go. No one can stop her.

Off Bill, and one more David Duchovny song:

END OF EPISODE FIVE