

LOVE & NORAEVANG

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

EPISODE 7

MUA x SONORO
Written by

Quincy Cho

quincycho@gmail.com

***Bold text indicates sound design or foley.**

EXT. KOREATOWN - MORNING

Hear deep rumbling.

LOS ANGELES

1 San Andreas, you stop! Now's not a
good time. I'm doing a podcast. A
podcast! No, I'm not seeing another
natural phenomena.

1

Green parrots squawk.

LOS ANGELES (CONT'D)

2 You're upsetting the parrots.

2

The rumbling subsides.

LOS ANGELES (CONT'D)

3 Thank you! Good morning from
beautiful Koreatown, Los Angeles,
where you'll wake up to the
demanding squawks of what are now
called California wild parrots, set
free from the former Busch Gardens
theme park in Van Nuys and the '61
Bel Air brush fire. I'm more than a
city you know. I'm a sanctuary.
These birds were poached illegally
in the '70s and '80s from their
home in northeastern Mexico.

3

(then)

4 When you mess with the natural
order of things, sooner or later,
the tremors of repercussion will
eventually find you.

4

**The parrots flutter, taking air and screeching like they're
in agreement.**

EXT. CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM - DAY

Light museum foot traffic entering/exiting.

As Chloe talks to an artist, BRYN (20s, Black, a grounded
lilt in their voice), we hear a different kind of mama bear.
Still no bullshit but very present and supportive.

CHLOE

5 So, Bryn, what did you think of
Cameron? Isn't she amazing?

5

6 BRYN
Chloe, she was everything. 6

7 CHLOE
I used to host these underground art auctions, and we convinced a rich guy into thinking the shared bathroom was a performance piece by an artist named Tur Dee. We've been friends ever since.

7

They both laugh.

8 BRYN
Thank you for introducing me to
her. The conversation we had was
totally different than what I've
had with White curators.

8

CHLOE
9 Of course. That's what the Choi
Enterprises Artist-in-Residency is
here for. Now, as far as HQ goes--
9

10 BRYN Yes! I actually have a few ideas. 10

11 CHLOE
So you're a yes on the mural work?! 11

12 BRYN
How could I say no to painting your
new headquarters? 12

CHLOE
It's actually my cousin's--

The sound of footsteps approaching. Chloe stops short.

15 CHLOE
Bryn, I just realized I left
something in Cameron's office. Why
don't you go ahead without me?
15

BRYN

16 Are you sure? I can go with you. 16

17 CHLOE
No, no, no. The meeting ran long,
which is good, and I don't want to
keep you any longer. Rule number
one, your time is important. Don't
let people take it for free. I'll
have Anthony set up a proper
meeting, so I can hear your ideas. 17

18 BRYN
Thanks, Chlo. 18

Bryn's footsteps recede. Quiet. Maybe some birds chirping.

19 ANA
What's rule number two? 19

20 CHLOE
(steely)
Ana. What're you doing here? 20

21 ANA
Not a Fight Club fan, huh? 21

22 CHLOE
Rule number two is the same as rule
number one. 22

Chloe walks away. Ana holds up a bulky reusable bag.

23 ANA
(calls out)
What do you say to a truce? I
brought pozole. 23

A beat.

24 CHLOE
Fine. 24

The two approach a huge babbling fountain.

25 ANA
Wanna sit here? 25

26 CHLOE
Sure. 26

Ana takes out Tupperware. Hands one to Chloe.

27 ANA
Was that the artist from your
Instagram? 27

28 CHLOE
Yeah, Bryn. There's an immediacy to
their work that I haven't seen in a
long time.

28

They open the Tupperware.

30 CHLOE
Isn't pozole red? 30

32 CHLOE My mom would buy me *kimchi jjigae* (kimchi stew, 김치찌개) whenever I got mad at her. She wasn't much of a cook. 32

34 CHLOE
34 Girl, I'm Korean. It's never too
spicy.

They laugh, polite.

Awkward silence.

36 CHLOE
I oversee programming and
philanthropy for Choi Enterprises
as the Culture Curator. Ok. Truce
over. Why are you here?

36

Ana takes a deep breath.

	CHLOE	
38	(scoffs)	
	Didn't really have a choice.	38
	ANA	
39	I wanted to straighten things out with you. Until a few weeks ago, I had no idea Mark was in love with me.	39
	CHLOE	
40	Women always know.	40
	ANA	
41	Chloe, he's my best friend. It's complicated.	41
	CHLOE	
42	Thank you for the meal.	42
The sound of Chloe grabbing her stuff.		
	ANA	
43	(rushing)	43
44	I'd never hurt Jaesun.	44
	CHLOE	
45	But you did. You lied to him. You even lied to him about Don Dago's! He found out about the eviction through me! Shouldn't he have heard that from you?	45
	ANA	
46	Don Dago's is family-run and family- operated. And Mark's family.	46
The water fountain babbles in the quiet.		
	ANA (CONT'D)	
47	When we lost our mom to cancer, we didn't know Papi was going to go too. His heart stopped four days later. I was twenty-two. Valentina was nineteen. There was so much I didn't know. The only thing I did know was to roll up my sleeves and keep my head down because that's what my parents and <i>abuelos</i> had done.	47
	CHLOE	
48	And Mark?	48

49

ANA

We grew up next door. His parents were never home, so he was always over. We'd been inseparable since we were kids. We even made a pact not to go to prom because we thought it was lame, but I was really hoping he'd ask me. When he didn't and Manny Torres did, I said yes. We never talked about it or all the other guys I dated, but he was always there to pick up the pieces. He was there when the restaurant almost went under the first time. He was there when I needed help with Valentina's tuition. And he was especially there when my parents died.

49

50

(beat)

The truth of the matter is, I took him for granted, and I hurt him by never setting any boundaries with him, even when I knew I didn't love him the same way.

50

51

CHLOE

I don't mean to be a buzzkill, but what does this have to do with Jaesun?

51

Something like "How Deep Is Your Love" by Bee Gees plays.

52

ANA

With Jaesun, I just wanted to be the amazing person he saw in me. I never wanted him to see me as anything but successful and together. And when that started crumbling, I sort of shut down. That was the last thing I should've done.

52

53

(pause)

He can be so idealistic sometimes, you know? But I love him. Even though waiting for him has sucked, losing him hurts more. I hate that it took that to figure out how much I love him.

53

A beat.

	CHLOE	
54	Okay. Let's say I believe you, and I'm open to giving you a second chance. Now what?	54
	ANA	
55	Well, I obviously owe you an apology.	55
	CHLOE	
56	Me?	56
	ANA	
57	Jaesun's not the only one who saw something in me. You brought me into your family and introduced me to Jaesun. I'm sorry for breaking that trust.	57
	CHLOE	
58	What're you going to do about Mark?	58
	ANA	
59	I asked him to give me some space. But we'll have to hash things out eventually.	59
	CHLOE	
60	Well, let me know how that goes.	60
	(then)	
61	I should get back.	61
	ANA	
62	Oh, right. I'm keeping you.	62
The girls start to pack up and gather their belongings.		
	CHLOE	
63	Wait, so did you figure things out with the restaurant?	63
	ANA	
64	Oh.	64
Ana rummages through her purse. Shows Chloe a letter.		
	ANA (CONT'D)	
65	It's on to greener pastures for us.	65
	CHLOE	
	(taking the letter)	
66	Ana. This is an eviction notice.	66

68 CHLOE
What do you mean? 68

70 CHLOE
Wait... This is... The fuck? 70

73 ANA You seem really pissed off. 73

74 CHLOE
Paper cut. They make me mad. Can I
take a picture of this? 74

ANA

75 Sure. 75

Chloe takes a photo.

76 ANA (CONT'D)
It's less overhead anyways.
Everyone's online now, right? 76

Ana packs up her stuff.

CHLOE
Thanks for sharing.

Chloe clacks her Tupperware shut. Hands it to Ana.

Ana shoulders her bag.

79 ANA (CONT'D)
I think I'm learning that being
strong doesn't mean having to
survive everything on your own.
(MORE) 79

ANA (CONT'D)
It's also about letting people in,
even if they can't change anything.

CHLOE
80 (distracted, but determined) 80
81 Well. Some people have the power to 81
change everything.

SONG CROSSFADES
TO:

INT. CHLOE'S BENTLEY - DAY

Chloe's driver weaves her Bentley in and out of traffic as she makes a phone call. Sookmin picks up.

	SOOKMIN	
82	A, <i>keulloia</i> (Oh, Chloe. 아, 클로이아).	82
	CHLOE	
83	<i>Samchon</i> (uncle, 삼촌), I need to talk to you--	83
	IN-N-OUT EMPLOYEE	
84	Number eighty-seven.	84
	CHLOE	
85	Where are you?	85
	SOOKMIN	
86	I'm at In-N-Out.	86
	CHLOE	
87	Why?	87
	SOOKMIN	
88	Why not? It's the happiest place on Earth.	88
	CHLOE	
89	<i>Samchon</i> (uncle, 삼촌).	89
	SOOKMIN	
90	I'm here to approve the commercial lease for the new LA headquarters in Downtown for Jaesun.	90
	CHLOE	
91	Don't move. I'll be right there.	91

EXT. IN-N-OUT - DAY

The sound of a busy freeway and cars waiting in a drive-through line.

92	LOS ANGELES	92
	Nothing is more quintessentially LA than In-N-Out. The golden yellow arrow. The red-and-white cups. And the two crisscrossing palm trees because X marks the spot. An iconic oasis in La-La Land, favored by Korean dads. An easy and affordable portal to the American dream. Just take a bite.	

The In-N-Out Employee calls out a number.

93	IN-N-OUT EMPLOYEE	93
	Number ninety-nine.	

A beat.

94	IN-N-OUT EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)	94
	(on the mic) Guest order number ninety-nine. One double-double with an animal-style fry and a pink lemonade, light ice.	

Footsteps approach.

95	SOOKMIN	95
	(in English) That's me. Thank you.	

96	IN-N-OUT EMPLOYEE	96
	No problem, Sookmin.	

He walks away. The quiet shake of soda and ice in a paper cup as Sookmin sets his box of food on a table.

In the distance, Chloe argues with Hyun.

97	CHLOE	97
	(far away) <i>Samchon</i> (uncle, 삼촌). <i>Samchon!</i>	

98	HYUN	98
	(far away) Ms. Chloe, I'm sorry, but I must pat you down before you see him. It's protocol.	

He pats her down.

99	CHLOE This isn't LaGuardia.	99
----	--------------------------------	----

100	HYUN I'm sorry, Miss Chloe, being TSA for Mr. Choi is my job.	100
-----	---	-----

101	CHLOE I wish my dating life was as annoyingly consistent as you.	101
-----	--	-----

102	HYUN Thank you.	102
-----	--------------------	-----

103	SOOKMIN (calls out) <i>Gwaenchanh-a, anhaedodoe.</i>	103
-----	--	-----

104	(It's all right, Hyun. 괜찮아, 안해도되.)	104
-----	---------------------------------------	-----

Footsteps hurriedly approach.

105	CHLOE <i>Samchon</i> (uncle, 삼촌), you know you can go to Mastro's anytime, right? I'm besties with the owners.	105
-----	---	-----

106	SOOKMIN <i>Maseuteulo jillyeooss-eo.</i>	106
-----	---	-----

107	(I've been to Mastro's too many times. 마스트로 질렸어.)	107
-----	--	-----

The Korean crossfades into translated English.

108	SOOKMIN (CONT'D) (in translated English) But In-N-Out? They're what a hamburger is all about. Take a bite, sip a coke, and you're American.	108
-----	--	-----

He takes a sip of his soda.

109	SOOKMIN (CONT'D) Like their slogan says, "You can taste quality."	109
-----	---	-----

110	CHLOE It's "quality you can taste."	110
-----	--	-----

111 SOOKMIN
They should change it to that! 111

Sookmin unwraps his burger.

112 SOOKMIN (CONT'D)
112 All this delicious food for eight
dollars! How can anyone say no? And
their secret menu! It's a menu
that's secret. Americans know how
to create...
(in Konglish)
113 *Hy-peuh* (hype). 113

114 CHLOE
114 They also don't know how to keep
secrets. Their secret menu is the
worst-kept secret in America. Well
... after racism.

Takes out his wallet and hands her a credit card.

115 SOOKMIN
115 Here. Join me and eat delicious In-
N-Out or go to Shake Shack, far
away from here.

116 CHLOE
116 (laughing)
117 I don't need you to buy me lunch,
samchon (uncle, 삼촌). 117

118 SOOKMIN
118 Then why are you here? 118

Chloe shows him something.

119 CHLOE
119 Here. Look at this.

120 SOOKMIN
120 Let me see.

Sookmin wipes his hands on some napkins. Then--he SLAMS the table with his fist.

121 SOOKMIN (CONT'D)
121 *Geu michin saekki!*
(That son of a bitch! 그 미친 새끼!)

122 CHLOE
122 You know the person behind this?
Really? How?

123 SOOKMIN
 (sighs)
 I thought perhaps I was being
 overly cautious, but I suppose a
 boil is a boil until it's lanced. 123

124 CHLOE
 Wait, now you've lost me. 124

125 SOOKMIN
 (shaking his head)
 The unspoken rule in business is
 that it's conducted among men.
 Children are off limits. But this,
 this crosses the line. 125

He CRUSHES his burger wrapper.

126 CHLOE
 So what're you going to do? 126

127 SOOKMIN
 Make some phone calls. Get Hyun and
 a team on the ground. 127

128 CHLOE
 Fuuuuck. 128

129 SOOKMIN
 When I move, I move. 129

130 CHLOE
 Just like that? 130

131 SOOKMIN
Eung (Mm. 음.) 131

A slight rumble, like a baby tremor, sets off green parrots flying over head, squawking.

132 LOS ANGELES
 Ooh, looks like someone stirred up
 a pot of trouble for Sookmin. What
 did I say about natural order? Life
 has a way of catching up and
 cleaning house. 132

Cue something like Mel Tormé's "Games People Play."

END OF EPISODE 7