



## The Trial

**Characters:** Headmistress, Miss Perkins, Miss Ho Daisy, Iris, Anita Emily, Alysha, Li Bin Big Dollar, Hammer

**Synopsis:** The fight in Bendyburgers between Big Dollar, Hammer and Ricky involving Daisy, Iris and Li Bin comes to the attention of the Headmistress. She is terrified that such behaviour is getting the school a bad reputation before a school inspection. She calls a mock trial in her office to find out the real culprits. Miss Ho is to act as lawyer of the defense for Ricky and Li Bin and Miss Perkins for Daisy, Iris, Big Dollar and Hammer. But the trial does not get very far, it ends in fiasco as Ricky repeats everything Miss Perkins says, not just the oath.

### Scene 1 Reprise

Emily: Li Bin... you look so happy to-day.  
Alysha: Why are you looking so happy Li Bin.  
Li Bin: I'm happy because...  
A & E: Yes.  
Li Bin: Ricky is taking me out to dinner.  
Emily: Fantastic!...  
Alysha: Where's he taking you Li Bin?... somewhere nice?  
Emily: An expensive restaurant?  
E & A: You're so lucky Li Bin!

Brief music

Ricky: Hm... what's the time?... ten to seven... hmm... Li Bin will be here.  
Oh my head... it's going round and round... why did I ask Li Bin out on a date?... huh?!... what's wrong with me?... I've asked hundreds of girls out on dates before... and I never felt like this before... my heart is beating so fast... and I'm sweating... What's happening to me ?  
Li Bin: Hello Ricky.

Ricky: Um, um, um... . hello Li Bin, hello, hello.  
Li Bin: I'm sorry I'm a bit late.  
Ricky: Late?! No, no... you're not late... I'M late.  
Li Bin: But you were here before me.  
Ricky: Was I?  
Li Bin: (Little laugh) Oh Ricky... you're so funny sometimes.  
Ricky: Funny? Oh, am I?  
Li Bin: Don't worry Ricky, I like it.  
Ricky: Oh, you like it.  
Li Bin: So... where are we going to eat Ricky?  
Ricky: Over there.  
Li Bin: Um... you mean... 'Glorious Jade'... that Chinese restaurant over there?  
Ricky: No. The place next to it.  
Li Bin: Next to it? ... but next to it I can only see a Bendyburgers.  
Ricky: That's where we're going...  
Li Bin: Bendyburger's?!  
Ricky: Yes.  
Li Bin: Oh.  
Ricky: Good food there... very good food.  
L. Bin: And fast.  
Ricky: Yes, fast, fast... come on... let's go... you must be hungry,

Brief music

(Inside the Bendyburger)

Ricky: Um, sit down in the corner over there.  
Li Bin: I'll come to the counter with you... help you carry the food back.  
Ricky: No, no, no, no... you sit down... I'll get the food and bring it to you.  
Li Bin: Oh, okay

Brief music

Daisy: Hey Big Dollar... where are you taking me to eat?  
Big Dollar: It's a surprise.  
Iris, Yes, where are we going to eat Hammer?  
Hammer: Hey Iris... I'm not sure... just follow Big Dollar.  
Daisy: Big Dollar.

Big Dollar: Yes Daisy my sweet.  
Daisy: I hope you're not taking us anywhere cheap to eat... you know I hate cheap places... they give me indigestion and I hate indigestion.  
Big Dollar: (Bright and enthusiastic) Okay... here we are!  
Daisy: (Furious) Bendyburgers!!  
Big Dollar: Yes... you're favourite place Daisy.  
Daisy: (Furious) Bendyburgers?! My favourite place?! Rubbish! I HATE Bendyburgers... it's cheap, cheap, cheap.  
Iris: Hammer... I'm NOT going into Bendyburgers.  
Hammer: Why Iris? I thought you said you were hungry.  
Iris: I AM... but NOT for a Bendyburger.  
Daisy: Big Dollar!  
Big Dollar: Yes Daisy dear.  
Daisy: Take us somewhere else.  
Iris: Daisy... look!  
Daisy: What is it?  
Iris: Inside Bendyburgers... that mainland girl... in our class... .  
Daisy: Li Bin?  
Iris: Yes... Li Bin with your brother.  
Daisy: Ricky?!! Where?  
Big Dollar: Look girls... why don't we just go inside.  
Daisy: Okay Big Dollar, you and Hammer are in luck... Iris and I never go to cheap places BUT... to-day... just for fun... we agree to go in.

Brief music

Ricky: Here Li Bin... your dinner.  
Li Bin: Thank you Ricky.  
Ricky: (SFX: rustling about in his carrier bag)  
Li Bin: What have you got in your bag Ricky?  
Ricky: Um... where is it... oh yes... here it is.  
Li Bin: A candle?!  
Ricky: Um, yes... a candle... .  
Li Bin: What's it for?  
Ricky: (SFX - clicking a BIG lighter)  
Li Bin: You're lighting the candle?! Here in the middle of a Bendyburger's?  
Ricky: Um... yes... there... now we can eat.

Brief music

Big D & H: What would you like dear?  
Daisy: The most expensive thing they've got.  
Iris: Same here.  
Big D & H: Okay dear... whatever you say.  
Daisy: Huh! Look at Ricky and Li Bin eating their bendyburgers by candle light.  
Iris: Stupid... it's already so bright in here... so many electric lights...! You're brother's mad Daisy!  
Daisy: Huh! Come on Iris.  
Iris: Where are we going Daisy?

Brief music

Li Bin: Oh Ricky... this is the nicest dinner I've ever had in my whole life.  
Ricky: Really? Oh. Me too! Me too!  
Li Bin: Oh no!  
Ricky: What Li Bin? What's the matter? You don't like your bendyburger?

(SFX: Daisy blowing the candle out with a loud, vicious puff)

Ricky: Hey! Who's blown out the candle!  
Daisy: (Sarcastic) Ricky... my dear sweet brother... how did you know it was my birthday? (she laughs nastily. Iris joins in).  
Ricky: Hey sister... it's not your birthday... and that candle was not for you.  
Daisy: Not for me?... how disappointing... Who was the candle for Ricky?  
Ricky: Go away and mind your own business sister.  
Daisy: (Giggling) Was it for... her? (Iris and Daisy giggle nastily)  
Ricky: I'm sorry Li Bin... my sister has no manners... I apologize.  
Daisy: (Furious) Don't you go apologizing to that mainland peasant girl about ME!  
Ricky: Hey sister... watch your tongue.  
Daisy: No little brother... You watch YOUR tongue. Did you hear that iris?!  
Huh! He was saying sorry to Miss Peasant girl because of me!  
Iris: I know... I heard! Terrible! Terrible!  
Big Dollar: Hey Daisy... what's going on... how come you moved places without telling us.

Ricky: So big sister... you're here with Big Dollar.  
Daisy: Huh! So what? It's none of your business.  
Ricky: Are you dating Big Dollar?  
Big Dollar: Yeah... sure she's dating me... what's that to you Ricky boy.  
Hammer: Where shall I put these bendyburgers boss?  
Big Dollar: Where are we sitting Daisy?  
Daisy: (Sarcastic) Here... right here... with my lovely little brother.  
Ricky: Oh no... I don't want you sitting here... go sit somewhere else.  
Daisy: But I don't want to sit somewhere else... I want to see sit here with my little brother and his little girlfriend.  
Ricky: No... no way.  
Daisy: Big Dollar... Hammer... put the tray down on this table... we're eating here.  
Ricky: I said no!  
Daisy: You here that Big Dollar?... I want to sit here and he says I can't.  
Big Dollar: Um... but Daisy... he's your brother isn't he.  
Daisy: So what?! I want to sit here and he says I can't now are you going to look after me or not!!  
Big Dollar: Okay, okay... Hammer... put the stuff down here.  
Hammer: Okay Boss.  
Ricky: No!  
Li Bin: It doesn't matter Ricky... we can sit somewhere else.  
Daisy: YOU can sit somewhere else you mean... my little brother's staying here with me, isn't he Big Dollar.  
Big Dollar: Um... sure... whatever you say Daisy.  
Daisy: So Miss mainland girl Li Bin... go and find somewhere else to sit.  
Li Bin: I will.  
Ricky: And I'm going with her.  
Daisy: Big Dollar... Hammer... make sure Ricky stays with me.  
Big Dollar: Sit down Ricky.  
Ricky: Look Big Dollar... this is between my sister and I... just stay out of it.  
Daisy: Big Dollar! If you let him sit somewhere else I shall be furious!  
Big Dollar: Sit down Ricky. Hammer... make him sit down.  
Ricky: You lay your hairy hands on me Hammer... and you'll find yourself with tomato sauce all over your head.  
Hammer: Shut up and sit down.  
Li Bin: Ricky... it's alright... I'll go... you stay.  
Daisy: (Sarcastic) Sensible girl.

Ricky: No Li Bin... you haven't even finished your burger.  
Daisy: She can take it with her... Here you are mainland girl... here's your tray.

(SFX: Tray being dropped on the floor)

Daisy: (Sarcastic) Whoops... sorry... I've dropped your tray.  
Ricky: (Angry) You did that on purpose sister!  
Daisy: Did I? Did I Iris?  
Iris: No Daisy... I saw it... the tray was so greasy it just slipped out of your hands.  
Daisy: There, you see... I didn't drop... it just fell..  
Ricky: I'm sorry Li Bin... my sister's a pig... let's get out of here.  
Daisy: (Almost speechless with rage) How!... How DARE you speak to me like that!! Big Dollar! Hammer! Teach that little brat a lesson... now!!!  
Ricky: Back off boys... the manager is watching... and he'll see it was you started this... you're the ones who will be in trouble.  
Daisy: (Mad with rage) Don't listen to him! Hit him! Hit him hard! Now!!  
Big Dollar: Well what are you waiting for Hammer... you heard... KILL HIM.

(SFX: A big fight between Hammer, Big Dollar and Ricky. Grunting, punching, things falling on the floor)

Li Bin: No! No! leave him alone... you're hurting him!  
Daisy: Kill him... just kill him!

(SFX: Fighting sounds go on. fade)

## Scene 2

Head: Miss Perkins... Miss Ho... I have called you hear as a matter of urgency.  
Miss P: Yes Headmistress, I came straight away.  
Miss Ho: What's the problem Headmistress?  
Head: I have had a phone call from the police station.  
Miss P: The police station?!  
Miss Ho: What did they say Headmistress?  
Head: It seems there was a fight in a local fast food shop.  
Miss P: A fight?

Miss Ho: And the people involved were OUR students Headmistress?

Head: Quite so Miss Ho.

Miss P: I'm sorry to hear it Headmistress.

Head: We've got a school inspection coming up later this month... if news of this... burger bar brawl gets into the press... well... it will bring great shame on us all.

Miss P: But it's not YOUR fault Headmistress.

Head: Miss Perkins... I am the headmistress of this school... whatever happens here, good or bad MUST reflect on ME.

Miss P: I know Headmistress... I only meant... well, you are such a GOOD Headmistress that whatever happens in some burger bar... well nobody will think...

Head: Please Miss Perkins... I have not called you here to listen to your benign but vacuous sympathy...

Miss P: Of course not Headmistress I only meant...

Head: Yes, yes, yes... we all know I am a good headmistress but however good I am I do NOT want negative news reports about us in the press... now is that clear Miss Perkins?

Miss P: Yes Headmistress.

Head: Good.

Miss Ho: Headmistress... you have called Miss Perkins and I here about this so I assume the incident involves some of OUR students.

Head: You assume correctly Miss Ho.

Miss Ho: And may I ask the names of the students involved in the fight?

Head: You may... Ricky Chiu

Miss P: Huh! I might have guessed... in fact I DID guess... while you were speaking I thought to myself... I thought... fight... this sounds very much like the kind of trouble that little hoodlum Ricky Chiu would get into... that boy's been nothing but trouble from the day he arrived...

Miss Ho: I'm very sorry to hear that Ricky is involved in this... I honestly believed he was trying to reform.

Miss P: Huh! Reform?! Ricky Chiu reform?! Can a leopard change its spots?!

Miss Ho: There has been a remarkable change in Ricky Chiu's behaviour over the last few months Miss Perkins.

Miss P: Oh yes... such as being involved in fights in hamburger bars.

Miss Ho: Miss Perkins... innocent until proven guilty please... let us not prejudge this situation.

Miss P: Miss Ho... I'm sorry to say that you are too starry eyed about Ricky

Chiu... you'd LIKE him to reform so much that you actually think he IS changing for the better... but the problem is he isn't... I'm afraid... you're too... gullible Miss Ho.

Miss Ho: (Flabbergasted) Me gullible?! Miss Perkins if you'll permit me to say so that is a fault that you yourself possess in some abundance!

Head: Miss Ho... Miss Perkins... please... I have not called you here to witness a brawl in my very own office... I have called you both here to offer help and advice and insight into the students involved.

Miss P: Well I've given you my insight on Ricky Chiu Headmistress... he's trouble and high time he was expelled.

Miss Ho: Headmistress... I believe you said that more than just one of our students was involved in the fight.

Head: Correct.

Miss Ho: May we know the names of the other students?

Head: You may... Li Bin.

Miss P: Huh! There we are! Li Bin! I might have known in fact I DID know! You see! When I caught Li Bin and Ricky Chiu breaking into the school store room no one believed me... instead you believed THEIR pathetic little story.

Miss Ho: Miss Perkins... you forget that Emily Lam corroborated Ricky and Li Bin's story.

Miss P: And how do we know that Ricky Chiu hadn't paid her to back up their story?

Head: Please, please ladies... let us not reopen that sad chapter from the past... we are here to address the present... the fight in the local burger bar involving our students.

Miss P: Ricky Chiu and Li Bin.

Head: And Daisy Chiu.

Miss P: Daisy? Oh the poor girl.

Miss Ho: Miss Perkins, why do you so quickly assume that Daisy Chiu is a victim and not a perpetrator?

Miss P: Innocent until proven guilty Miss Ho... isn't that what you said?... or have you suddenly changed your mind.

Head: The list, alas, is not yet complete... Also involved were Iris Chiu.

Miss P: Poor Iris.

Head: And those two young men who go by the somewhat odd names of Big Dollar and Hammer.

Miss P: Fine boys.



Miss Ho: With names like that?!

Miss P: Those names are a bit of fun, that's all... harmless fun.

Miss Ho: Miss Perkins... those are the kind of names adopted by triad gangs.

Miss P: Triad gangs?! Miss Ho... I hardly think we have triad gangs in THIS school.

Head: I regret to say Miss Perkins that that is not beyond the bounds of possibility as much as I regret to say it.

Miss Ho: Was anybody hurt in the fight?

Head: Yes, but not too seriously it seems.

Miss Ho: Was much damage done in the fight Headmistress?

Head: It was a Bendyburger... you know what those places are like... all plastic... difficult to break things.

Miss Ho: So what are you going to do Headmistress?

Head: I want you... both you Miss Ho and YOU Miss Perkins... to help me get to the bottom of this... I must know WHO is causing trouble for the school and act accordingly.

Miss P: It's obvious what you should do Headmistress.

Head: Oh yes... and what's that Miss Perkins?

Miss P: Expel Ricky Chiu and get rid of that new girl Li Bin...she's been nothing but trouble ever since she arrived.

Miss Ho: Miss Perkins... you cannot prejudge in that manner...it simply isn't fair.

Miss P: Fair or not fair... it's the truth.

Head: What I propose is to hold a trial.

Miss P: A trial Headmistress?

Miss Ho: How do you propose to hold a trial Headmistress?

Head: Right here in my office... and I want you, Miss Ho, Miss Perkins, to be the lawyers.

Miss P: Lawyers?

Head: Yes... I propose that we will call each of the accused in turn and cross examine them. YOU Miss Perkins will be lawyer for the defense for Daisy Chiu, Iris, Big Dollar and Hammer... and YOU Miss Ho, will be prosecutor.

Miss Ho: I see... certainly Headmistress, if that is what you wish.

Miss P: What about Ricky Chiu and Li Bin, are they to be let off altogether?

Head: No Miss Perkins... Miss Ho will be their lawyer for the defense and YOU Miss Perkins will be lawyer for the prosecution.

Miss Ho: I see.

Head: Do you both agree.  
Miss Ho: Yes Headmistress.  
Miss P: Happy to Headmistress.  
Head: And I want you to assemble a jury of seven fair minded students to act as the jury.  
Miss P & Ho: Yes Headmistress.  
Head: Very well... let the trial commence in two days time here in my office a ten o'clock in the morning.  
Miss P & Ho: Yes Headmistress.

Break

### Scene 3

Emily: Alysha, have you heard... there's going to be a trial.  
Alysha: A trial?  
Emily: Yes... Li Bin and Ricky were in a fight with Daisy, Iris, Big Dollar and Hammer... and the Headmistress is going to have a trial, and she is going to have a jury.  
Miss Ho: Alysha... Emily... just the girls I wanted to see.  
E & A: Hello Miss Ho.  
Miss Ho: Now I regard you two girls as honest, open and mature minded young ladies.  
E & A: Thank you Miss.  
Miss Ho: And as such I would like you to be members of a jury.  
E & A: A jury Miss?  
Miss Ho: Please come to the Headmistress office tomorrow at ten o'clock in the morning.  
E & A: Yes Miss Ho.

(Slight pause)

Miss P: Ah there you are Anita.  
Anita: Hello Miss Perkins.  
Miss P: Now Anita, I want you to do something for me.  
Anita: Yes Miss Perkins, of course I will.  
Miss P: I want you to be part of a jury.

#### **Scene 4        Headmistress Office**

(SFX: Buzz of excited voices. The thump of a judge's gavel calling for order)

Head:            Order... Order. (SFX: The buzz dies down into silence) The court will now commence.

Miss P:        The prosecution would like to call Ricky Chiu to the witness stand your honour.

Voice:         Calling Ricky Chiu.

(SFX: A buzz of voices. The judges gavel.)

Head:            Order... order. (SFX: The buzz dying away)

Miss P:        Ricky Chiu raise your right hand and repeat after me... I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help me God.

Ricky:         I promise to tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth Miss Perkins.

(SFX: sustained giggles and titters.)

Miss P:        (Speaking over the laughter) GOD Master Chiu... GOD NOT Miss Perkins. (SFX: The judges gavel comes down)

Head:            Order, order in court... I will not have the order of the court upset by a lot of silly giggling.

Miss P:        Master Chiu... would you please swear the oath again.

Ricky:         Swear?! You want me to swear?! In the Headmistress office?! No way. No foul language in front of the Headmistress.

(SFX: All giggle loudly. Judges gavel.)

Head:            Master Chiu... . to swear an oath does not mean to use foul language now simply repeat what Miss Perkins says to you.

Miss P:        Very well then, let's try again.

Ricky:         Very well then, let's try again.

(SFX: All giggle and titter. Judges gavel comes down)

Miss P: Master Chiu, you are subjecting this court to ridicule.  
Ricky: She told me to repeat whatever you said!  
Head: Master Chiu kindly proceed in a more serious or dignified manner or I shall be forced to... penalize you.  
Ricky: But Miss...  
Miss P: Master Chiu Kindly address the judge in the proper manner.  
Ricky: Huh?  
Miss P: Address her as a high court judge should be addressed.  
Ricky: Huh?  
Miss P: (Sighs) Your lordship.  
Miss Ho: Objection! How can the Headmistress be a lord?... There is surely a gender contradiction in such a term of address.  
Head: Objection sustained.  
Miss Ho: Thank you your honour.  
Miss P: I'm sorry your honour. Now then Master Chiu... urn... where were we.  
You want me to say foul language.  
Ricky: Ah yes... to swear the oath again....  
Miss P: Now repeat after me.  
Ricky: Repeat after me.  
Miss P: No, no YOU repeat after ME!  
Ricky: No, no YOU repeat after ME!  
Miss P: Oh for goodness sakes!  
Ricky: Oh for goodness sakes!  
Miss P: Stop it!  
Ricky: Stop it!  
Miss P: Right now!  
Ricky: Right now!!

(SFX: All start to gasp and gossip. An underlying hum of voices grows louder and louder as the exchange between Ricky and MissP goes on)

Miss P: You're doing this on purpose!  
Ricky: You're doing this on purpose!.

(SFX: The judges gavel comes down)

Head: Order... order in court I say.  
Miss P: Stop repeating what I say!!

Ricky: Stop repeating what I say!

Miss P: No, You stop repeating!

Ricky: No YOU stop repeating!

Head: (SFX: Speaking over a general hubbub) Court dismissed! Court  
DISMISSED!!

Music

**The End**