

LOU YE**A film synopsis*****PASSION***

Subtitle: *PASSION 1905*

Shanghai, 1905. A movie of earlier ages playing in a theatre. Among the audience are two young lovers, MEI, a novelist and his girlfriend, LAN, an illustrator.

The basic story of MEI and LAN: Watching the movie, the art of magic, their imagination flies. The idea of writing together is burning in their minds: MEI will write the story while LAN will illustrate it. Thus, in 1905, in an ordinary and quiet house in Shanghai, they withdraw into a reclusive life--so deeply are they immersed in their story. They imagine what life would be like a hundred years later here in Shanghai, and imagine love. (In their imagination, even shapes of early computers and computer games appear.) The title is *PASSION 1905*.

LAN makes drawings of all the characters in the story as they imagine it. (These have in fact become the design drawings for 2nd part of this movie.)

After all their efforts, their novel is finally completed. They congratulate each other and, with great excitement, submit the manuscript to a publisher...

Looking at the strange couple in front of him, the publisher is curious to know what kind of book they could produce, so he agrees to read it.

(Since they have been living in their imaginary Shanghai of 2005 for so long, their clothes are now somewhat eccentric. A combination of different fashion styles characteristic of both 1905 and 2005 may here introduce some comedic elements.)

At night, the publisher starts to read the novel. Its wild imagination almost drives him mad. The next morning, when he comes into the office, he looks even more surprising and weird than MEI and LAN.

But the first thing he does is to phone the police, saying he found two dangerous sorts...

MEI and LAN notice something is going wrong. Just minutes before the police arrive, they leave their house. So, a chase takes place in Shanghai in gloomy rain... (scenes of chasing and confrontation)

Finally both are arrested...

After a secret trial by a secret court, they are secretly forced into an asylum. They

desperately explain their novel to everyone they meet, hoping to convince them that they are not lunatics and that everything in the novel is likely to happen in the future, but nobody believes them...

In the asylum, nobody knows who they are and nobody speaks with them. They can do nothing but console each other and talk. They are company to each other through the many evenings and sleepless nights...

Later, early one morning, people find them dead, embracing. A manuscript is found tucked under their clothes. It has been read so many times that the handwriting and the illustrations have faded away. Nobody can recognize what is written in the book... So the book is put into the grave along with them and buried...

The moment when the last spade of earth is thrown onto their faces, to our great surprise, an eerie smile suddenly appears on their faces. Or maybe they open their eyes at the same moment, suddenly, without being noticed...

Subtitle: PASSION 2005

Shanghai, 2005. Everything in MEI and LAN's manuscript has now become reality. It seems so natural that no one will notice. It's all so unattractive, even a little bit dull... (almost a representation of a stream of life)

Two young people in Shanghai, ZHU, 27, and JIU, 25. ZHU is a CEO of a software company while JIU is the editor of a fashion magazine. Both of them are successful in their career and happy with their companion. To fully relax during what little leisure they have, both of them love playing online games at home. The hottest game of the moment is Passion 2005.

(Rules of 'Passion': first the player must create a character [an avatar] according to his own imagination, determining its personality, actions, clothes even makeup, per his own will. Then the player has to make his character ask a stranger out. The final aim of the game is to make one's character fall in love with another.)

The first character ZHU creates is killed during a fight. He is annoyed and breaks into the database of the Municipal Asylum, searching items with the keyword "Passion". He finds a heretical book with the title "Passion" but is denied the access to the content. He then searches for the author. Among the many recorded cases, he finds a patient named MEI. He copies all the information about him and creates an avatar named MEI. Shortly after that, one day, ZHU finds a girl named LAN is appearing in the online game (which JU creates after she reads about MEI).

Thus, they start their love journey online. (This should be two-edged love story, at once

that of Zhu and Ju and as well as the on-line extension of MEI and LAN. It also builds up an interactive connection with the first part of the story).

Shortly after that, because of love, they exchange their real contact information online, so...

They meet... They feel they've known each other before...

They fall in love... At certain moments, both will suddenly feel they have been in love before...

Then they put MEI and LAN in dormancy (thus Mei's and Lan's clues also become dormant), sealing them with a password so that they can only be re-activated with that password. MEI and LAN put aside the online game and start to enjoy the love in reality...

As they indulge in their loving sweetness, ZHU happens to find there is something JU is hiding from him. He doesn't know what it is, but it's weighing on his mind. He also finds JU's behaviour more and more incomprehensible. She even talks online with an unknown identity, in mysterious codes. And her expression is never normal...

And she often disappears. Finally, after Ju disappears for an entire night, she comes back to ZHU early in the morning. She cries and says many things to him as if she were about to leave forever and is bidding him farewell...

JU tells ZHU her secret. Recently, she has found out that she is originally from a remote planet in the universe. Hundreds of years ago, during a space voyage, she had accidentally been left behind on this "Planet Game." And they call this game "PASSION, Version 2005". According to the rules, the characters are called "human," the virtual planet is called "Earth," and the year is labelled 2005. But in fact this game has been originated as part of a "Biological Species Game," billions of years ago. Now, everyone on Earth is a component of this immense "biological species game" --ZHU included. That is why everyone on earth has his own constellation.

(Details of the program, i.e. the pattern and rules of this biological species game are to be determined.)

JU also tells ZHU that in one month a spaceship will be flying to the Earth and take her away from this game planet to the remote world where she is from. If she misses this ship, she will never be able to return and will forever become a component in the game. This is her last chance. She wants to go back to where she is from, but at the same time, she can't leave ZHU, can't leave "Earth"...

ZHU believes there must be something wrong with her mind and wants to take her to see a psychiatrist. No matter how JU tries to explain what she is saying is true, he won't believe her words. He tries to persuade her to go see the doctor with him... In the end, JU agrees.

Later, on their way to her office, JU is suddenly knocked over by a speeding car. JU lies in a pool of blood, looks at ZHU and slowly closes her eyes...

A stormy night; ZHU suddenly wakes up from a sad dream. In the room where he lived with Ju, he is sleepless. He starts up his computer and enters the PASSION Game. He sees his character "MEI" is still locked under dormancy, but when he checks "LAN," to his surprise, he finds LAN has been activated...

TV News: Full coverage of someone spotting a UFO. Newsclippings of what is happening on Earth at the moment the movie has been finished.

Subtitle: PASSION 2105

Shanghai, 2105. Ju returns to the Earth, the Game Territory, 100 years later. She comes back to a city called Shanghai. She appears to be tracking ZHU, but is in fact, a special envoy with a secret mission, an interstellar mission...

THE END

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