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THREE FAT VIRGINS UNASSEMBLED
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Three Fat Virgins Unassembled
for Pat Chan

characters:

WOMAN

VIRGIN A

VIRGIN B

VIRGIN C

WOMAN

Once upon a time, at a National Day Celebrations tea held in the Kebun Istana, three fat virgins met under a red and white tent where tea and refreshments were provided and there they made polite conversation.

[THREE FAT VIRGINS COME ON. THEY ALL HOLD CUPS OF TEA WITH PINKY FINGERS STUCK OUT.]

VIRGIN A

Isn't it so hot here?

VIRGIN B

My Louis Feraud shoes are killing me!

VIRGIN C

I love your dress! Where? How much?

WOMAN

And in the course of their tea and polite conversation, these three fat virgins discovered that they knew each other from a long long time ago in school— Of course, they were not virgins then. They were just schoolgirls. Women in Singapore do not become virgins until they reach puberty and finish secondary school. And if they do not become virgins then... they never will. And if they do become virgins then... they tend to stay that way.

VIRGIN B

You look very familiar!

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VIRGIN A

Actually, I was just thinking that You looked very familiar!

VIRGIN C

Oh sorry—I thought you were talking to me! I was just thinking that You looked very familiar!

VIRGIN B

Didn't you use to be in CHIJ?

VIRGIN A

Didn't You use to be?

VIRGIN C

Didn't you use to be thin?

VIRGIN B

Mavis Wee!

VIRGIN A

Yes! Choo Beng Kee!

VIRGIN C

Well, now I'm Mrs Chee... and aren't you Lai Fong? My, you've put on weight!

WOMAN

Inside every fat virgin is a thin schoolgirl.

There is no sadness like the inner sadness of fat virgins and skinny schoolgirls.

There is no sadness like the sadness of a dreamy schoolgirl trapped inside the body of a fat virgin.

This has nothing to do with penis envy.

It is usually men that suffer from penis envy.

VIRGIN A

If a woman wants a penis she can buy one in a sex shop. Only there aren't that many sex shops in Singapore.

[TELEVISION COOKING PRESENTATION STYLE]

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Ladies, what you can use as an alternative is the common cucumber or tseng gwa.

But make sure that you wash it carefully first, because not all cucumbers are Green and cucumbers that come from Cameron Highlands may have pesticides on their skin that can give you an ugly rash.

You can wash your cucumber with douche.

Or better still, you can slip a condom over it.

[COAXES CONDOM OVER CUCUMBER AND LOVES IT UP A LITTLE WITH HER HANDS]

VIRGIN A

Cucumbers that come straight out of the fridge can give you a nasty shock. So unless you Like that sort of thing, plan ahead and leave your cucumber out in the sun for two or three hours until it is soft and pliable. Then peel off the skin just before you are ready to use it.

And afterwards, if you really want to, you can make achar.

[STRIPS OFF CONDOM AND CHOPS UP CUCUMBER EFFICIENTLY]

That is one of the many advantages of using cucumbers instead of using a man. It is also much cheaper.

If you want to know more about cucumbers, send for our free recipe book.

If you want to know more about men, call my boss.

His name is Mr Ong.

WOMAN

[FLAT ENGINEER VOICE]

I am a man.

I am Mavis Wee's boss. My name is T.M. Ong. I used to work in SIA but now I work in a private company. I am a firm man with a sense of humour and a big house. I am strict with my sons but I spoil my daughter.

I don't have affairs in the office so I consider myself a very upright and moral man. I know that a lot of my senior staff play around. I don't mind as long as it does not distract them from their work.

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I like to joke around with them to make them realise that I am just one of the boys.

To be fair to Mavis Wee, I also joke around with her, to show her that she is also one of the boys as far as I am concerned.

Mavis! Come into my office for a moment.

VIRGIN A

Do you want me to bring in the quality control report from HDB?

WOMAN

Yes, yes, bring it in, bring it in.

[VIRGIN A BRINGS THE REPORT INTO THE OFFICE]

WOMAN

Is this it?

VIRGIN A

Yes. And I think it's quite complete. Will that be all?

WOMAN

Hmm. I see.

On your way home?

VIRGIN A

Yes, unless there's something else...

WOMAN

No, no. Nothing else.

I think I might go for a massage. What do you think, Mavis?

VIRGIN A

Sounds like a good idea. Well, have a good one, T.M.

WOMAN

Have you ever gone for a professional massage?

VIRGIN A

No...

WOMAN

It's very good you know. Relaxes you... you just lie there... it loosens all the

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tension out of your body. Out of your shoulders, especially. You should try it. Especially as you are sitting down at your desk all day.

VIRGIN A

Well, I swim off the tension. In fact, I'm off to the pool—

WOMAN

I think you should try it, you know, Mavis. But of course, I don't know how they finish it off for women. You should try it and let me know; you know what I mean?

VIRGIN A

I don't see why it should be any different, Mr Ong. Well, I'll see you—

WOMAN

Let me ask you one question, Mavis. Do you know what is a powder massage.

VIRGIN A

I don't know.

WOMAN

What do you think?

VIRGIN A

I suppose... when you get a massage with powder instead of with oil?

WOMAN

Ha, that's what you think, is it?

Well, let me tell you something that you don't know.

When the girl has finished your massage she will give you a powder massage... you get the idea? To release the tension from all parts of your body completely she will use her hands and give you a powder massage. You can ask Jack. He introduced me to this health club at the Paramount Hotel—

VIRGIN A

I don't really talk to Jack that much—

WOMAN

You should you know. You might learn something. He's a very interesting chap. You know what the girl at the Health Club told me? Her name is Soriya

VIRGIN A

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I have No Idea.

WOMAN

She told me, your friend Jack comes here quite often.

VIRGIN A

Oh, really?

WOMAN

They all know Jack down there. Do you know what else she told me?

VIRGIN A

I'm sure you'll tell me.

WOMAN

She told me, your one is six and a half inches, not bad, quite average... but your friend's one is six and three quarter inches! These girls I tell you, they know everything!

VIRGIN A

[Coldly] Why are you telling me this?

WOMAN

Just for your information.

[VIRGIN A LEAVES THE OFFICE]

VIRGIN B

I am a man.

I am Mavis Wee's colleague, Jack.

[VIRGIN B/JACK GOES INTO THE OFFICE]

VIRGIN B

So, T.M., how's things going!

WOMAN

Today something very funny happened!

I told Mavis Wee about the powder massage.

You should have seen her face!

Ha! Ha! Ha!

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VIRGIN B

I am a bit intimidated by Mavis Wee.
But I know how to carry balls in the right places.
Ha! Ha! Ha!

WOMAN

She didn't know what to say!
I had to explain to her what a powder massage is!
Ha! Ha! Ha!

VIRGIN B

Ha! Ha! Ha!
These virgins can't take a joke.

WOMAN

This Mavis Wee. She is a joke.

VIRGIN A

A powder massage is when you grind a man into powder.
With a SEA Games gold medal in judo, I can still grind my boss into powder.
But I don't.
I am not sure about certain things.
Virgins can't always tell where the dividing line between a joke and sexual harassment is, exactly.
When it is your boss.
It is usually a joke.

VIRGIN B

I think I'm being sexually harassed in the office.

VIRGIN A

Take it. If you can't take it, leave it.

VIRGIN C

Men. You can't live with them and you can't turn them into sushi.

VIRGIN A

Or tempura

VIRGIN B

Or sashimi

VIRGIN A

Sashimi maybe can.

ALL

Hmmmm

VIRGIN C

But how can you eat your man?

As it is, I am already always warning my little daughter, don't put strange things in your mouth.

And sometimes I wonder, who am I to tell her this?

VIRGIN B

You don't know who you are? No IC?

VIRGIN A

Only got IC but no identity?

VIRGIN C

Of course I have an identity. I am the wife of Mr Wilson Chee. I am the mother of Jonathan Chee and I am the mother of Melissa Chee.

In fact, I have three identities. Isn't that better than having just one?

What do you mean, who am I?

WOMAN

Think of me as a man.

I am the man who is Mrs Chee's husband.

I am Mr Wilson Chee. My friends call me Will. At the office my superiors call me Wilson. My subordinates call me Mr Chee.

My wife calls me Ah Ba.

VIRGIN C

Where are you going, Ah Ba?

WOMAN

Out.

VIRGIN C

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Out where?

WOMAN

Meeting.

VIRGIN C

When will you be back?

WOMAN

Late.

[Theme music from Popular Mandarin Soap]

Sometimes I think that I will tell my wife who I respect but do not love that I am having a torrid extra-marital love affair with a woman who I love but cannot respect because she is not a graduate... but then the commercial break ends and the chance of a lifetime is lost. Again.

WOMAN

I will buy back supper for you.

VIRGIN C

Ah Ba, you're always such a good husband!

WOMAN

You be Doris

B/DORIS

Doris is neither fat nor a virgin. She is, however, a woman.

[B/DORIS STRIKES A SEDUCTIVE POSE]

WOMAN

Doris calls me Dahlingk.

B/DORIS

Hello, Dahlingk.

WOMAN

Hello, Doris.

[PASSIONATE KISS]

B/DORIS

af chew plannt alreaty whats are we goingk chew do tonights?

WOMAN

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Tonight as usual we will go to your Taman Serasi flat which is filled with cute, expensive things that you have bought with the money I give you every month. As usual we will have some fucky and some sucky and then as usual we will go to Kreta Ayer Road for some siew yeh because as usual I said that I would buy supper back for my wife. Doris, you know I always buy supper back for my wife.

B/DORIS

Of course, Dahlingk.

Do chew know whats itis that I liked best abow chew hah, Dahlingk?

Thats is thats in spites of everythink you are remaining still a goods husband excepts for being fateful.

Sometimes at times I likes to just pretent and imachine that I am marrit to you... really marrit... which chiltren... yours chiltren... and I wonter exakerly whats its wout really be liked.

WOMAN

You really want to know?

[B/DORIS SITS DOWN ON SOFA AND PUTS
FEET UP. WATCHES TV]

VIRGIN A

I'm going to bed now, Ma.

B/DORIS

Goodnight Jonathan. Have you finished your homework?

VIRGIN C

I'm going to bed now, Ma.

B/DORIS

Goodnight, Melissa. Have you packed your school bag?

WOMAN

I'm going to go out now, Ma.

B/DORIS

Goodnight, Ah Ba.

WOMAN

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I will buy back supper for you.

B/DORIS

Ah Ba, you're always such a good husband!

WOMAN

I will always be a good husband.

It is easy to always be a good husband.

All you need is a good wife.

A fat virgin makes a good wife.

WOMAN

Sometimes a woman marries a man who first makes her his wife and then makes her fat then makes her a virgin.

Once upon a time, three fat virgins on diets met at the buffet tea at Goodwood Hotel.

VIRGIN A

I simply have to lose ten kilos before the annual dinner and dance.

VIRGIN B

I signed up for a slimming course, you know. Carrot juice and water melon juice, that's all they allow you to take.

VIRGIN C

Does it work?

VIRGIN B

It cost me five hundred dollars! Of course it works!

VIRGIN A

My cycling machine cum rowing machine cum compact disc player cost more than three times that but it didn't do a thing for me.

VIRGIN C

Oh, I hate those D-I-Y machines.

VIRGIN B

I hate to diet

VIRGIN A

But then why do you diet?

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VIRGIN B

My husband makes jokes about me in front of our friends.

WOMAN

My wife is on a seafood diet. When she sees food she eats it...

VIRGIN B

What is so sad is that his jokes are not even funny so no one even laughs at them. At least if they were good jokes and made people laugh, I would not mind so much. After all, I have a good sense of humour.

Fat virgins always have a good sense of humour.

Or at least they have to give the impression of having a good sense of humour.

But no one laughs when my husband jokes about my weight.

My husband thinks that he can make his joke funnier by making me fatter.

WOMAN

Here, wife. Eat this. You know that you like satay with lots of satay gravy. Here, wife, eat this. You know that you like kway pie tie. Here, wife. Eat this. You know that you like eating a lot at parties. You know that you like eating a lot anywhere.

VIRGIN B

I eat a lot at because my husband is always buying more food and putting more food on my plate and I hate to see food to go to waste. When I was a little girl, my mother told me that,

VIRGIN C

If you don't finish all the food you are given, your future husband will have as many pock-marks on his face as there are rice grains left in your bowl! Do you want to marry a man with a face covered with pock marks?

[VIRGIN A lifts her bowl to her mouth and pushes
food in with chopsticks then stops suddenly.]

VIRGIN A

But Ma!

VIRGIN C

What?

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VIRGIN A

What if my future husband doesn't finish all his food? Does that mean that I will be getting pock marks all over my face?

VIRGIN C

Don't talk with your mouth full.

[VIRGIN A swallows hard]

VIRGIN A

Ma. what if my future husband doesn't finish all his food? Does that mean that I will be getting pock marks all over my face?

VIRGIN C

Here, Girl. Eat some more food.

I hate to see food go to waste because when I was a little girl there was never enough food, especially if you were a small girl with a big hunger. What I remember best about being a little girl is always being hungry and wishing I was a boy because boys got to eat eggs. Now that I have a daughter I make sure that she gets enough to eat. Feeding her helps me to deal with my hunger of long ago. Eat, eat, eat!

VIRGIN B

My husband doesn't know how much I went through to make sure that he had a beautiful complexion. Now he does have a beautiful complexion. Sometimes I think that all the pimples and blackheads and dry skin that should have gone to him ended up on me... I'm going to do it! I am going to go on a diet until I am beautiful again. I can do it!

VIRGIN A

Of course you can, go for it!

VIRGIN C

Of course you can. You will be a shining example to all fat wives and fat mothers and fat daughters. You will be thin and beautiful!

WOMAN

But you are beautiful now! Who says you have to be thin to be beautiful?

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VIRGIN B

I'm going to plan a reasonable diet and stick to it.

I'm going to exercise. I'm going to cut out sugary snacks and fried foods all together. I know that my husband who loves me and supports me will help me in my efforts to lose weight and be beautiful again!

WOMAN

Darling, I'm home!

VIRGIN B

Darling, I've decided that I'm going to pull my life together!

WOMAN

That's wonderful, Darling. How much money do you need this time?

VIRGIN B

I don't—I didn't...

WOMAN

Here, take this. Buy yourself something nice. No one can say that I am not a generous husband where you are concerned. I am always more than generous. I am more generous than any other husband I know who has a wife as fat as you are.

VIRGIN B

Thank you, Darling. You are always so good to me.

WOMAN

Darling, now let's go out to dinner to celebrate! What do you feel like eating?

VIRGIN B

Oh Darling, the thing is, you see, my diet...

WOMAN

You can start tomorrow!

VIRGIN B

Oh... Darling, tomorrow we're supposed to be going to have dinner with your golfing friends, I was wondering if I could stay home just once...

WOMAN

Darling, since we are always absolutely honest with each other, I must tell you

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here and now that I don't like this. Are you saying that your appearance is more important to you than our relationship? Are you saying that your appearance is more important to you than spending time with my friends? Have you forgotten how lucky you are that I married you in spite of your fatness?

VIRGIN B

No, no, no, Darling. That's not true. Of course our relationship is important and I want to spend time with your friends. And I will never forget how lucky I am to have married you!

WOMAN

Darling, I'm glad that you have come to your senses. Now, let's go out to celebrate.

VIRGIN B

Yes, Darling.

VIRGIN C

Sometimes I think that the only things my husband and I enjoy doing together are eating and sex. And I'm not even sure I enjoy sex, so that only leaves eating.

VIRGIN B

Since I got fat, my husband doesn't want to have sex with me so much, so he makes up for it by taking me out to eat more. But that only makes me more fat, so that doesn't really solve my problem at all.

VIRGIN A

From watching my parents together, I didn't realise that married people were supposed to do anything together except eat! They were either eating together alone or eating together with friends or getting ready to go out to eat together or shopping for food to bring home to cook to eat together... can I offer you more tea? More of these little cakes? I got them specially, you know.

VIRGIN C

Thank you, they're very good.

VIRGIN B

Yes they're really very good. I know I shouldn't, but—

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VIRGIN A

Go on! Help me finish them off...

VIRGIN B

—well, maybe just one—

VIRGIN A

... so I don't have to keep them. No more room in the fridge! You can start on your diet tomorrow.

VIRGIN B

[sings]

Tomorrow, tomorrow, I'll diet tomorrow

Tonight we will celebrate

VIRGIN A

[sings]

Tomorrow, tomorrow, I'll diet tomorrow

Aerobics will have to wait

WOMAN

Of course, some women are driven to more drastic measures.

Let us tell you the story of the woman who murdered her husband:

VIRGIN A

I cannot live with this man any longer.

VIRGIN B

But I cannot leave this man.

VIRGIN C

But I will die if things go on like this.

WOMAN

Better him than you!

[WOMAN takes a pistol and shoots. The other three collapse]

OTHERS

OOOOooooohhhhhh.

WOMAN

Oh no! I never meant— not you— and not you... oh, what have I done!

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The problem with violent solutions is that they can spiral out of our control

VIRGIN A

This is why virgins frequently don't act violently.

VIRGIN B

This is why virgins frequently don't act at all.

VIRGIN C

This is why virgins frequently take things lying down.

WOMAN

Didn't any of your mothers tell you that it's wrong to lie?

ALL

Bo-iiii-ng!

WOMAN

For a woman to be a fat virgin, it is not necessary for her to be fat.

Neither is it necessary for her to be a virgin.

It is only necessary for her to be a woman.

To the young, Indian security guard who watches Fort Canning between seven at night and seven in the morning, every woman who is loitering alone in the vicinity during those hours is a fat virgin.

[VIRGIN A SITS ON CURB]

WOMAN

I am a man. I am a thin, twenty-eight year old man who expected nothing from life but who has been disappointed anyway. I am the security guard that watches Fort Canning between seven at night and seven in the morning. To me, every woman who is loitering in the vicinity is a fat virgin.

Hello, you waiting for somebody?

VIRGIN A

Uhhh.

WOMAN

Waiting for somebody is it?

VIRGIN A

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Uhm-Hmm

WOMAN

Just now looking from there I don't know whether you are boy or girl.

VIRGIN A

Hmmm

WOMAN

I thought at first, boy. Then come closer I see you are girl.

VIRGIN A

Umm

WOMAN

So late already now.

VIRGIN A

Ummm

WOMAN

You married already?

VIRGIN A

Uh-Uh

WOMAN

No ah. How come?

VIRGIN A

Hmmm?

WOMAN

How come you never marry?

VIRGIN A

Are you married?

WOMAN

No.

VIRGIN A

How come you never marry?

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WOMAN

Slowly slowly lah.

VIRGIN A

Then I also slowly slowly lah.

WOMAN

Slowly slowly ah?

VIRGIN A

Yah.

WOMAN

This place very big know. The other side, go all the way down to Hill Street...

VIRGIN A

Uhhh

WOMAN

You want to go for walk?

[WOMAN MOVES IN A LITTLE. VIRGIN A
STANDS UP AND THROWS WOMAN OVER
ONTO HER BACK]

VIRGIN A

At times it is good to realise that you still have your judo throws under your belt.

But then you wonder... was that really necessary?

Maybe not.

Maybe I was over-reacting.

Maybe I was venting frustration on him that really should have been vented on someone else.

Like my boss.

Virgins are allowed to over-react. Virgins are expected to be tense, neurotic and paranoid. That is because people expect us to be frustrated.

Unmarried sisters who live with the families, including children, of their married sisters, are not allowed to over-react. They are supposed to be aunts. It is easier to be a virgin than to be an unmarried sister. If you are an unmarried sister you have to earn a lot of money at work before you get any respect from

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any body.

VIRGIN B

[SINGS]

I am twenty, I am thirty, I am thirty-five years old
I am charming, I am pretty, I am witty so I'm told
My friends can't do without me,
I'm their greatest confidant
So run this by me; tell me, why me
Born to be a maiden aunt!

If I'm so wonderful
You say I'm wonderful
There's none so wonderful
As I.
Why am I single still
Am I a spinster still
Will I be single till
I die.

VIRGIN A

I am not a spinster aunt
I earn a lot of money.
I promised myself that I would be a CEO before I was thirty years old.
Now I am thirty-five years old and I am not a CEO but I am a marketing manager
and that's pretty good. I know my life is full of compromises. I have a company
car and it is a BMW. But I still don't like it when my mother phones me from K.L.
and asks me

VIRGIN B

Mui ah, why you still never get married ah?

VIRGIN A

My mother is a very respectable woman. My mother is a retired school teacher
who devoted her whole life to the nurturing of young minds.

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VIRGIN B

I am a school teacher.

I always wanted to be a school teacher since I was a school girl. I was always good at English and composition. I sang in the choir.

Now I am a school teacher.

I hate being a school teacher.

Deep down inside me I have a secret yearning to be a striptease artist and to pose naked for girlie magazines so that hundreds of men will lust after my soft young body. But I will turn them all down and instead marry a rich old man who never knew the meaning of true love and devotion until I surrendered up my virginity to him.

However, in Singapore this is not really a viable career option.

So I became a school teacher.

I am also a Sunday School teacher.

But I have literary aspirations.

I think that I have it in me to express myself in poetry. Or perhaps I will write a book. It is not difficult to write a book. But first I think I will try something else.

I will try drama.

I am too shy to act, so I will offer my services backstage.

WOMAN

I am a man.

I am a director of plays.

I am very successful at my other career at a major bank, so this is just an expression of some of my many many talents. I like to express myself in bold images.

But I am also generous.

I understand that women are intimidated by me.

I am generous because I understand that and I allow women to be intimidated by me.

You!

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VIRGIN B

Yes, Drama Director

WOMAN

Why haven't you called up all hundred and eighty-five people on the list that I asked you to call last night?

VIRGIN B

But I did call them, Drama Director, even though I have to work a full day at school and a full day marking books and I am having menstrual cramps and I am doing this only because I thought it would be a fun and relaxing was to explore new horizons in the Arts.

WOMAN

I am not interested in your menstrual cramps and your interest in the Arts. Now you are working for me you have to work according to my standards!

Well, if you called all hundred and eighty-five people on the list that I asked you to call, why haven't they turned up for my auditions? Tell me that?

VIRGIN B

Some said that they would come and didn't come. Some said that they wouldn't come and didn't come. And some just weren't home.

But I called all hundred and eighty-five of them.

WOMAN

How incompetent of you! How inept of you! How ignorant of you! Can't you do anything right? Did you even try to leave messages with those who weren't home?

VIRGIN B

I did. But most of these people didn't come for your auditions because they've worked with you before and they don't want to work with you again.

WOMAN

That's such a stupid reason. Why did you accept such a stupid reason? Why did you let them give you such a stupid reason? Why did you call people who have worked with me before? You should have known better than that. You are

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such a stupid incompetent fat virgin. I don't know why I ask you to do things when you just make a mess of them and I have to go and do them over again myself and I am such a busy important man in my full-time job!

[VIRGIN B GETS UP AND GOES OVER TO SIT
WITH VIRGIN A AND VIRGIN C.]

VIRGIN A

Why do you let him treat you like that? And he's not even your boss. That would be different.

VIRGIN C

He doesn't show you any respect as a person. And he's not even your husband. That would be different.

VIRGIN A

Walk out on the production.

VIRGIN C

Walk out on the production.

VIRGIN B

I can't walk out in the middle of a production.

VIRGIN A

I can't walk out on a career but of course you can walk out on a production.

VIRGIN C

I can't walk out on a marriage but of course you can walk out on a production.

VIRGIN B

No I can't.

VIRGIN A

Look, I'll be you.

You be me.

[THEY CHANGE PLACES]

VIRGIN A

I quit!

VIRGIN B

Damn you!

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VIRGIN A

That doesn't change anything.

[VIRGIN A STALKS OFF THEN RETURNS]

VIRGIN A

See? Wasn't that easy?

VIRGIN B

I suppose so...

VIRGIN C

No look, I'll be you.

You be me.

[THEY CHANGE PLACES]

VIRGIN C

I'm sorry I just can't go on.

VIRGIN B

But I'll try to change. Things will be different.

VIRGIN C

Sorry I just can't go on.

[VIRGIN C WALKS OFF THEN RETURNS]

VIRGIN C

See? Wasn't that easy?

VIRGIN B

I suppose.

VIRGIN A

Try it!

VIRGIN C

Try it!

[VIRGIN B GOES BACK TO WOMAN]

VIRGIN B

I'm sorry... I want to...

WOMAN

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Here. This is for you.

[WOMAN HANDS BIG BOUQUET OF UGLY
PLASTIC FLOWERS TO VIRGIN B.]

VIRGIN B

Oh...

WOMAN

Call up the one hundred and eighty-five people again. I'll try to be more understanding because I realise that you are slow and not very bright. But please try harder.

VIRGIN B

Yes. I will.

[WOMAN GOES OFF]

VIRGIN B

Look at my beautiful flowers.

VIRGIN A

Are you having fun? I thought you were doing this for fun?

VIRGIN C

Are you broadening your horizons? I thought you were doing this to broaden your horizons?

VIRGIN B

Well I've learnt more about myself...

I've learnt that I am slow and not very bright.

Isn't it so good that the Drama Director is patient and willing to give me another chance?

VIRGIN A

But these are plastic flowers.

VIRGIN B

But these are plastic flowers.

WOMAN

Plastic flowers will last longer. Plastic flowers will last forever.

VIRGIN B

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But I don't want something that will last forever. I want something that will be truly beautiful and what is truly beautiful lasts for just for a moment...

WOMAN

The pure young virgin of seventeen.
The unwanted fat virgin of twenty-seven.
It's the same condition.
Why do we see it so differently?

VIRGIN C

Ma, I want to be a nun.

WOMAN

But Girl, we're not even Catholic. Why do you want to become a nun?

VIRGIN C

Because of Julie Andrews in The Sound of Music.
The songs she has sung for a thousand years.

WOMAN

You can't be too careful of the influences on young minds.

VIRGIN A

I saw the Sound of Music five times.

VIRGIN B

I saw the Sound of Music seven times.

VIRGIN C

I saw the Sound of Music twelve times.

And I wanted to become a nun.

VIRGIN B

I wanted to become a singer.

VIRGIN A

I fell in love with Julie Andrews.

VIRGIN B

As a mother, you can't be too careful of the influences on your child.
A virgin nun who plays a guitar, for instance.

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A virgin mother who may lead your dear child away from the path of true motherhood.

VIRGIN C

I was a mother for five years and for three years when I woke up one morning and I realised somewhat to my surprise that I had become a virgin again. I had become a virgin mother.

VIRGIN A

Being a virgin is a state of mind.

VIRGIN C

Maybe it was because I was putting on weight.

VIRGIN B

Being a virgin is a condition that you get used to.

VIRGIN C

I looked at myself in the mirror and I realised that I was beginning to look like a virgin again. In Singapore, many women are virgins.

VIRGIN B

I think it's catching.

VIRGIN A

I think it's comfortable.

VIRGIN B

No, that's not true. You look around you when you're out. The virgin is always the one in uncomfortable shoes and bright uncomfortable earrings.

VIRGIN C

But it's easy to mistake them for the unhappy wives. Except that unhappy wives wear shoes that are more expensive and less uncomfortable. And unhappy wives tend to wear minimalist artistic earrings instead of bright artistic earrings.

VIRGIN A

Successful career women wear discreet stud earrings. It is necessary, if you want to be a successful career woman, to wear discreet stud earrings, especially if you don't have long nails with nail polish. If you don't, the men in your office

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will think that you are gay and feel threatened by you.

VIRGIN C

Don't worry if you feel threatened by them. That is expected.

VIRGIN A

Feeling threatened all the time keeps women on their toes.

VIRGIN C

Or on their backs.

VIRGIN A

I am a fat, fair virgin dyke who is in love with a happily married and pregnant woman who is a high flier at NPB.

She doesn't know that I am in love with her.

She comes in to meetings in the morning looking tired and it almost breaks my heart to look at her.

But she is always patient and concerned and asks me if I'm working too hard.

We sit and talk in her office.

[VIRGIN C SITS IN HER OFFICE AND VIRGIN A
GOES IN AND SITS FACING HER ACROSS A
TABLE]

VIRGIN C

I have this idea for a survey to be carried out among our workers. The results will help us improve their efficiency and teamwork and in so doing raise the levels of their productivity.

VIRGIN A

That is a brilliant idea. What are we going to study in this survey?

VIRGIN C

The integration of social minorities... a social and psychological minority that under scrutiny might reveal itself to be a silent majority.

VIRGIN A

I see...

VIRGIN C

We are going to survey the absentee rates, income brackets and racial

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prejudices of virgins.

VIRGIN A

But... why study virgins?

WOMAN

Why? Because it is dangerous having virgins in our midst without understanding them.

Because they are all around us and they are insidious.

Because you can define a virgin as you cannot define a Christian or a cat lover or a drunk driver.

Virginity is not a transient state.

A virgin is like an asthmatic. The condition is not always evident, but the condition is always present.

It is not a condition that can be cured, but it is a condition that you need not always suffer from.

Therefore if virgins continue to suffer from virginity they must do it on purpose and enjoy it.

VIRGIN A

This is why I am a fat, fair virgin dyke. As long as I am fat, people may not notice that I am also virgin.

WOMAN

Fat is embarrassing because eating is a sign of lack of self-control in our society.

Any lack of self-control is embarrassing in our society. How can you subject yourself gracefully to group control if you do not understand self-control?

VIRGIN C

My problem is that I am too easily controlled.

I was a controlled child and then a controlled wife and then a controlled mother.

I was an unloved child and then an unloved wife and then an unloved mother.

I had children too early.

I got married too early.

I was born too early.

VIRGIN B

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Did you hear the one about the wise virgins and the foolish virgins?

VIRGIN C

Yes, too many times. I was ready and waiting when I was very young. I took the first bridegroom that came along and was available.

And now look where I am.

VIRGIN B

You have a beautiful house and two beautiful children and a beautiful husband and a beautiful mother-in-law and a beautiful BMW and many many beautiful clothes.

These are what you get for being a wise virgin.

VIRGIN C

I have been swallowed up by beautiful habits. If I had stayed with one beautiful habit I could have become a nun.

Nuns are virgins and you can't tell if they are fat because of their habits.

Most non-nun virgins are fat because of their habits.

If you are a virgin nun, Christ is your bridegroom.

VIRGIN A

Who wants to wait for the bridegroom anyway? I always wanted to Be the bridegroom.

Anyway, do you really want to end up with a man who dumps on you because you don't have enough oil in your lamp?

VIRGIN B

[SINGS]

Give me oil in my lamp keep me burning

A & C [burning burning]

Give me oil in my lamp I pray

A & C [I pray]

Give me oil in my lamp keep me burning

A & C [burning burning]

Keep me burning till the break of day

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WOMAN

In India, we call it suttee.

WOMAN

Some women are born to be unhappy. If that is the case, whether or not they are virgins and whether or not they are fat makes no difference at all.

[B BECOMES MICHELLE]

VIRGIN A

I work in the same office as Michelle

Michelle has just walked in.

Michelle's unhappiness is palpable.

It is not a wild sort of unhappiness.

It is a heavy sort of despair.

You can reach out and stir it with a stick.

It is thick and gooey like melted chocolate

Michelle left her ang mo husband after six years of marriage

Now Michelle is alone with her three year old daughter

Michelle is worried about what happens when her daughter grows up and asks her what happened to her father.

Michelle will tell her that her father was a good person but not as good a person as her mother.

[A BECOMES MICHELLE'S DAUGHTER]

VIRGIN A

Ma ma, what happened to my Ba ba?

VIRGIN B

You mention your Ba ba again I slap your face!

VIRGIN A

Ma ma, what happened to my Ba ba?

VIRGIN B

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Your Ba ba was a good man, and he loved us both very much, but he died young. You must always be obedient to his memory.

VIRGIN A

Ma ma, what happened to my Ba ba?

VIRGIN B

Your Ba ba told your Ma ma that she was frigid and he left her. You must always be on the watch out for handsome men. One of them may be your Ba ba. One of them may be your brother. If you marry your Ba ba or your brother you may end up like your Ma ma.

VIRGIN A

No no no no no... don't want!

WOMAN

One way for fat virgin women to make good has always been through education. That is why mothers and fathers always encourage their little daughters to work hard in school, especially if they wear spectacles and have pimples. You see, the chances of these little girls growing up to be professional virgins is very high.

VIRGIN C

The Science Project of Melissa Chee. Chapter One.

My daughter's science teacher set them an experiment in school.

VIRGIN B

You will take these green beans and grow them in these little glass bottles on cotton wool. You are to grow them: 1) with water 2) without water 3) with too much water.

VIRGIN A

Chapter Two: Melissa Chee and the Magic Beans.

Melissa Chee, aged seven and a half, embarks on an exciting career as a budding research scientist.

VIRGIN C

My daughter Melissa Chee comes home and grows seedlings:

- 1) with water
- 2) without water
- 3) with too much water
- 4) with coca-cola
- 5) with milk
- 6) with skim milk
- 7) with royal blue fountain pen

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ink 8) with cooking oil 9) with 100% natural no-sugar added orange juice 10) with tou hwey chue 11) with barley water 12) with tea 13) with coffee 14) with salt water 15) with dark soya sauce 16) with oyster sauce 17) with 100 Plus 18) with washing up detergent 19) with Uhu glue and 20) with Saliva.

I don't know what goes into (21). From the way it smells, I don't want to know.

I came home and I found these bottles and cups and jars full of cotton wool and green beans and strange substances.

I called my daughter to me and I asked her, Melissa, what do you think you are doing?

VIRGIN A

My science experiment for school.

VIRGIN C

What science experiment. Let me see your book.

[THE SCIENCE BOOK IS HANDED OVER]

VIRGIN C

Where, where in the book does it say that you have to grow seedlings in coca-cola and Saliva... where? Are you playing the fool?

VIRGIN A

But Mum, it's an experiment for science, I just wanted to see...

VIRGIN C

I am an understanding mother. I wasn't even angry any more. I wanted to get to the bottom of this strange behaviour in my daughter. So I went to see my daughter's teacher. The teacher is usually responsible. The teacher is often to blame.

WOMAN

The Mother as Anthropologist.

VIRGIN C

Tell me, why is my daughter, who up till now has been quiet and well-behaved and neat and tidy like a girl should be, filling my house with bottles and cups and jars of dying plants that smell bad? She says that it is an experiment that you

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asked them to do.

VIRGIN B

No, I did not.

You can see it quite clearly here in the text book.

They were supposed to grow seedlings 1) with water 2) without water 3) with too much water.

And the seedling that is supposed to do best is the one that is grown 1) with water.

It's all here in the text book. If your daughter read her text book she wouldn't even have had to do the experiment.

I would not have given them an experiment to do unless the result was to be found in the text book.

We have to stay within the syllabus.

[VIRGIN B LEAVES IN SOME EXASPERATION]

VIRGIN B

Parents!

VIRGIN C

Teachers!

VIRGIN A

But Mum, I just wanted to find out what would happen, Ma.

VIRGIN C

Look, if it's not in the syllabus you don't have to know.

It can't come out in the exam.

If it won't come out in the exam you don't have to know.

And anyway you don't have so much time to waste. What about your homework, your Chinese tuition, your Maths tuition, your ballet lessons, your piano practice...

Come here darling.

I'm doing this all for you, you know.

I want you to grow up to do lots of interesting things in life.

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And if you asked me first I could have told you that plants don't grow in coca cola.

VIRGIN A

Ma, have you ever tried growing plants in coca-cola?

VIRGIN C

Don't talk back to me. Are you trying to be funny?

VIRGIN A

All my plants died.

Except the one that got 1) some water.

All the others of my plants died.

I didn't mean to kill them

I thought I could discover a secret formula that could make them grow better.

VIRGIN C

I am so sorry, baby.

I am sorry I was right.

I am so sorry that all your plants died.

But as your mother it is my duty to teach you what to expect from life.

WOMAN

If little girls don't learn about life from their mothers, where can they learn about it?

For seven years now I have been the Agony Aunty for Well Known Singapore Women's Magazine. Well Known Singapore Women's Magazine is read by more fat virgins than any other women's magazine in Singapore.

VIRGIN A

Dear Agony Aunty, there is this boy in my class who is always looking at me. Do you think he likes me? Yours Sincerely, Shy Schoolgirl.

WOMAN

Dear Shy Schoolgirl, you should not be noticing boys in class. You should be concentrating on your teacher.

VIRGIN B

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Dear Agony Aunty, I think I am falling in love with my History teacher. How can I make him notice me? Yours Desperately, Sagittarius.

WOMAN

Dear Sagittarius, falling in love with History teachers is a phase that all teenagers in the Arts Stream go through. You should concentrate on your studies.

VIRGIN C

Dear Agony Aunty, I am very troubled because I have just saw a boy who I had a crush on in Secondary Three holding hands with a teacher who I had a crush on in Secondary Four. I can't decide which one of them I am jealous of. Is there something wrong with me? Yours Desperately, Torn Between Two Lovers.

WOMAN

Dear Torn Between Two Lovers, don't worry. You are only experiencing what is very common to many fat virgins in Singapore today. You are a fag hag.

If you have something to get off your chest, or if you need a friendly tongue in your ear, write to Dear Agony Aunty, Well-known Singapore Women's Magazine, Singapore 0923.

Do you think that it is the duty of a mother to teach her daughter to be embarrassed about how she looks and afraid of losing her virginity?

VIRGIN B

I suppose so. Don't you think it's important to be embarrassed about how you look and afraid of losing your virginity?

VIRGIN A

Well—

VIRGIN C

Well, I want my daughter to grow up normal and not become a social misfit or an unmarried intellectual or a lesbian.

WOMAN

Do you think that lesbians are so dangerous?

VIRGIN A

Well—

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VIRGIN C

Not dangerous... just... different.

VIRGIN B

They are not comfortable to be with. They're always *doing* something. They make me feel fat.

VIRGIN A

Lesbians can be fat...

VIRGIN C

But they don't have the decency to be embarrassed about it!

VIRGIN B

And they can't be virgins!

WOMAN

They certainly aren't your average fat virgin.

VIRGIN A

Average is mediocrity.

VIRGIN C

Average is safe.

Clean up all this mess! Why are you leaving all your rubbish all over the house! I told you your experiment was a waste of time! Clear away all these bottles and things before your father comes home!

My precious little baby daughter. Some day you will realise why I am doing this and see that it is your duty to protect your daughter from dangerous influences too.

VIRGIN A

Nope.

VIRGIN C

No?

VIRGIN A

Nope. Uh-uh. No way. No.

I love you, Ma. That's why I'm telling you to

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A, B, C

Let go.

WOMAN

You have to let things and people get lost sometimes. Then cracks open up and you can catch a glimpse of reality. If you hang on too tightly, you are just collecting layer over layer of assurances and reassurances...

VIRGIN B

But the world is a cruel place

VIRGIN C

But the world is an uncertain place

VIRGIN A

[sings]

But everything is beautiful at the buffet
Lobster Bisque and Laksa side by side
Now everything is beautiful at the buffet

VIRGIN B

With my sisters

VIRGIN C

With my daughters

VIRGIN A

We're all eaters

ALL

At the buffet.

VIRGIN A

There is no rule.

VIRGIN B

There is no principle.

VIRGIN C

There is no example.

WOMAN

But if there is no rule, and there is no principle, and there is no example, how am

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I going to know how I should live in the world?

VIRGIN A

Perhaps as a woman

VIRGIN B

Perhaps as a person

VIRGIN C

Perhaps as yourself

WOMAN

Hello World. I am _____.

Pleased to meet you.

THE END

rehearsed reading by Theatreworks in 1991 directed by Ong Keng Sen.

WOMAN: Claire Wong, VIRGIN A: Jacinatha Abisheganaden, VIRGIN B: Nora Nordin, VIRGIN C: Valerie d'Costa

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