

McHugh

CTWR 518

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The Doll

Comic Script by

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CHARACTERS:

- LI (literally means establishment) ZHENG
 - 14, a girl with monolid hooded eyes and bunches
 - originally named YU (literally means jade) ZHENG
 - Red Guard
- XIN (literally means newness) ZHENG
 - 11, a girl with round eyes and short haircut
 - originally named XIANG (literally means fragrance) ZHENG
 - Red Guard, Li's little sister
- LIFU CHU
 - 38, male, a handsome merchant prince
 - the target of 'struggle'
- SHUMEI WANG
 - 30, female
 - the target of 'struggle', Lifu's wife
- LING CHU (literally means spirit)
 - around 6 - 7, wearing a maroon dress and a round felt hat
 - hugging a doll with a maroon suspender skirt
 - the daughter of Lifu and Shumei

NOTE:

- Don't draw all the Red Guards' eyes; cover the eye area with cross-hatching shadow.
- Don't draw the doll's pupils; leave the sclera (white of the eye) alone.

PAGE 1

PANEL 1

An Establishing Shot of the gloomy interior of a timeworn auditorium. We are facing the stage, where a giant framed photo of an elder wearing a gray Chinese tunic suit is hanging exactly on the middle point of the wall, between two flat Five-Starred Red Flags. He is the great leader of the New China, Chairman Mao, with a shallow smile. More folded scarlet flags stand on the two sides. Above the photo hangs a huge scarlet banner saying the slogan 'Long live the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution!'. Four more vertical banners space at equal interval. The letters are so large that we can also clearly recognize them at such a distance:

'Read Chairman Mao's Book'

'Listen to What Chairman Mao is talking'

'Follow Chairman Mao's instructions'

'Be Chairman Mao's Good Soldiers'

Of course there are countless other banners hanging and Big-Character Posters with slogans stuck down on the creviced walls. The most common sentences are 'Long Live Chairman Mao!', '(We) must struggle with selfishness and Revisionism' and 'Destroy the Four Olds and Establish the Four News'.

Almost everyone here is wearing greenish-yellowish or grayish military uniforms and caps (and of course, the Red Arm Bands with the characters for 'Red Guard'). However, the attires of two people (in the size of green peas in this shot) on the stage are conspicuous and different. We can also see the two extremely tall cone-shaped 'caps' on their heads. Besides, there seems to be a short figure who wears marron clothes standing in the front row of the crowd.

We are watching a venue of an intense Struggle Session. Everyone in the military uniform is our 'Revolutionary Fighter'.

They are the Red Guards.

CAPTION (Bottom Left)

1969, SHANGHAI, CHINA

PANEL 2

A Medium Shot of a female (around 15-years-old) Red Guard, who is standing on the podium talking, in her profile. Now she is extending her right arm towards the right (next) panel, with her head turning away from us and five fingers apart (which means 'you all look at this guy!'). Don't draw her eyes, leaving them covered with cross-hatching shadow.

Although we cannot see the girl's expression in this shot, we can feel her strong arm gesture and excitement.

NO DIALOGUE

PANEL 3

A Medium Long Shot of five people. Now we can clearly see the two 'heretics'. One male (middle left) in a dirty plaid suit and one female (middle right) in a plaid shirt and torn coat. They are in their thirtieth, young and awkward. We can tell their names from the planks hanging on their necks: LIFU CHU (the male) and SHUMEI WANG (the female), both of which are below the word Capitalist Roader and crossed out with huge red 'X'. The most striking things in this shot are the two extremely tall cone-shaped 'hats' on their heads. Actually Shumei's whole head is half-way inside the paper hat. She is bending forward and the tip of the hat pointing toward us. By contrast, Lifu looks straight forwards. In his eyes we can see a mix of anger, frustration and determination.

Oh, almost forget! The hat on Lifu's head is made of iron.

Two male Red Guards stands behind Lifu on each side, grabbing the bulk of his shoulders. They are trying their best to make him bend over (but cannot). One female Red Guard on Shumei's left side is pulling the victim's hair and raising her right fist up.

Cover these Red Guards' eye areas with cross-hatching shadow.

NO DIALOGUE

PANEL 4

Again, a Medium Shot of the female Red Guard's mouth in PANEL 2. In this shot we can only see the part of her face lower the nose. She is raising her right arm firmly.

PANEL 5

A Medium Shot of a front section of the crowd facing us. Oh, we can see the little figure in PANEL 1, a cute little girl LING CHU (around 6-years-old, we call her Little Ling) standing in the middle of this shot. She is wearing a marron dress and a round felt hat. The attire shows her glorious family economic background. Well, used to be glorious. Because her parents are now standing on the stage being struggled against by all the 'Proletariat Soldiers' here. She is looking straight at her father and wailing.

In her arms there is a doll with a marron suspender skirt. It is an imported, exotic doll, barely seen in China at this period.

DON'T DRAW THE DOLL'S PUPILS. LEAVE THE SCLERA ALONE.

Standing on the left, there are two female Red Guards. They are our main characters, LI ZHENG (14, a girl with monolid hooded eyes and bunches) and her little sister XIN ZHENG (11, a girl with round eyes and short haircut). Li is glancing at the doll with her head tilted. Xin is looking at us (actually at Lifu) sorrowfully.

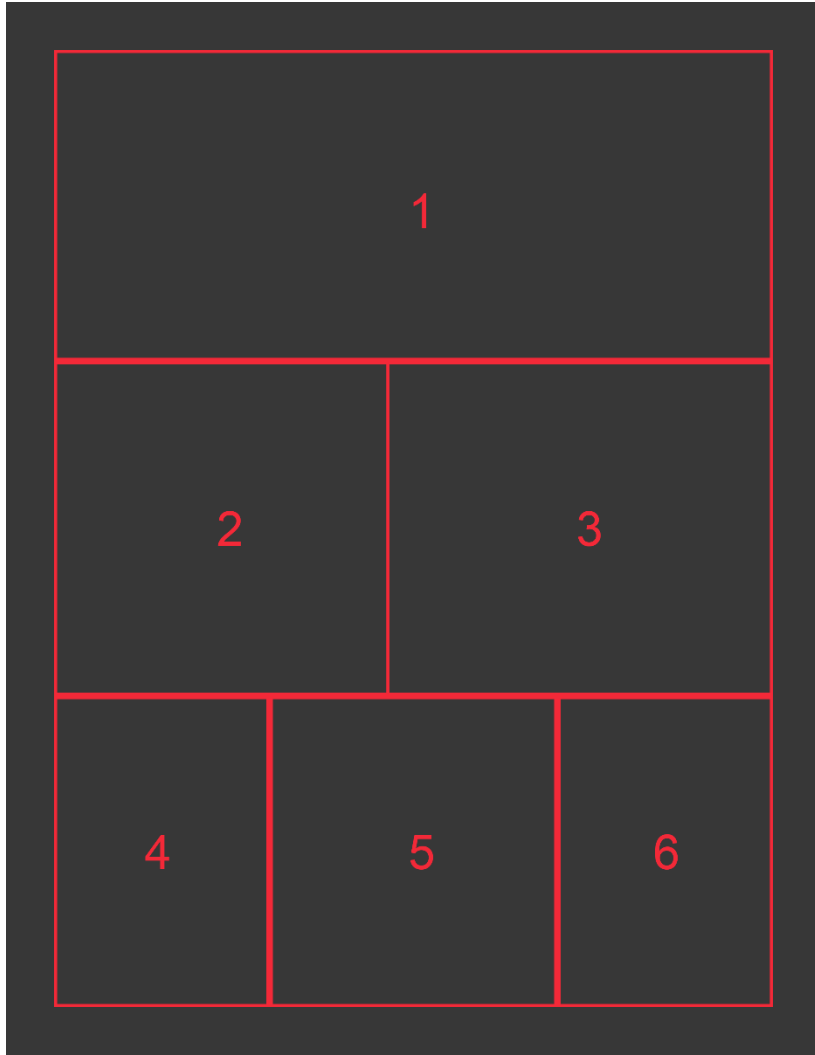
The other Red Guards in the crowd are all raising their fists and shouting.

NO DIALOGUE

PANEL 6

A Medium Shot of the girl's father, Lifu. Now he is grinding his teeth. The two male Red Guards are whipping his head by their waist belts. The Red Guard on the right-side just tossed out the belt, so we know that he is beating Lifu by the copper end.

Lifu looks hopelessly at us (in fact, at his daughter). He refuses to bend his head.



PAGE 2

PANEL 1

A Long Shot of the five people on the stage. Lifu (center) is lying on the ground with his back upward, motionlessly.

Red blood gushes out from Lifu's back side of head.

Finally, he got rid of the tall iron hat, without blending his head.

Shumei kneels beside her husband, tall hat still on her head.

The male Red Guards (left side) are bending the knees and breathing heavily. The female Red Guard (right side) is shouting towards the crowd, fist raised up.

Now we can hear the sounds and slogans.

FEMALE RED GUARD (Top Center)

Overthrow the Capitalist Roder!

Long live Chairman Mao!

PANEL 2

This panel is divided equally by a slash into two sub-panels.

Upper-left sub-panel: Long shot of Little Ling. She cries herself a river (extremely sad), with hands covering her ears. Behind her we see oval shapes of shouting mouth. Just draw red mouth shapes. We see her doll is lying at her left foot.

Lower-right sub-panel: Li is bending to grab the doll.

CROWD (Top Center)

Overthrow the Capitalist Roder!

Long live Chairman Mao!

PANEL 3

A Medium Shot of three characters. Little Ling (left side) is gripping the doll with two tiny hands, crying out loud. Li (center) is trying to drag the doll away from Little Ling with her right arm. Xin (right side) is tugging Li's left sleeve.

Li (Top Left)

Let go! This is an evil thing created by the
decadent Capitalism!

Red Guards confiscate it!

Xin (Bottom Right)

Sister! Don't do that!

PANEL 4

A Close-Up of Li's hand on Little Ling's face. Li gives her a big slap. Draw an explosion shape.

PANEL 5

The same shot of PANEL 3.

Little Ling fell down. Now she is sitting on the marble ground, crying.

Li spits towards the little girl. Her body leans backwards because Xin is dragging her away.

Li (Top Left)

BAH! Capitalist stooge!

PANEL 6

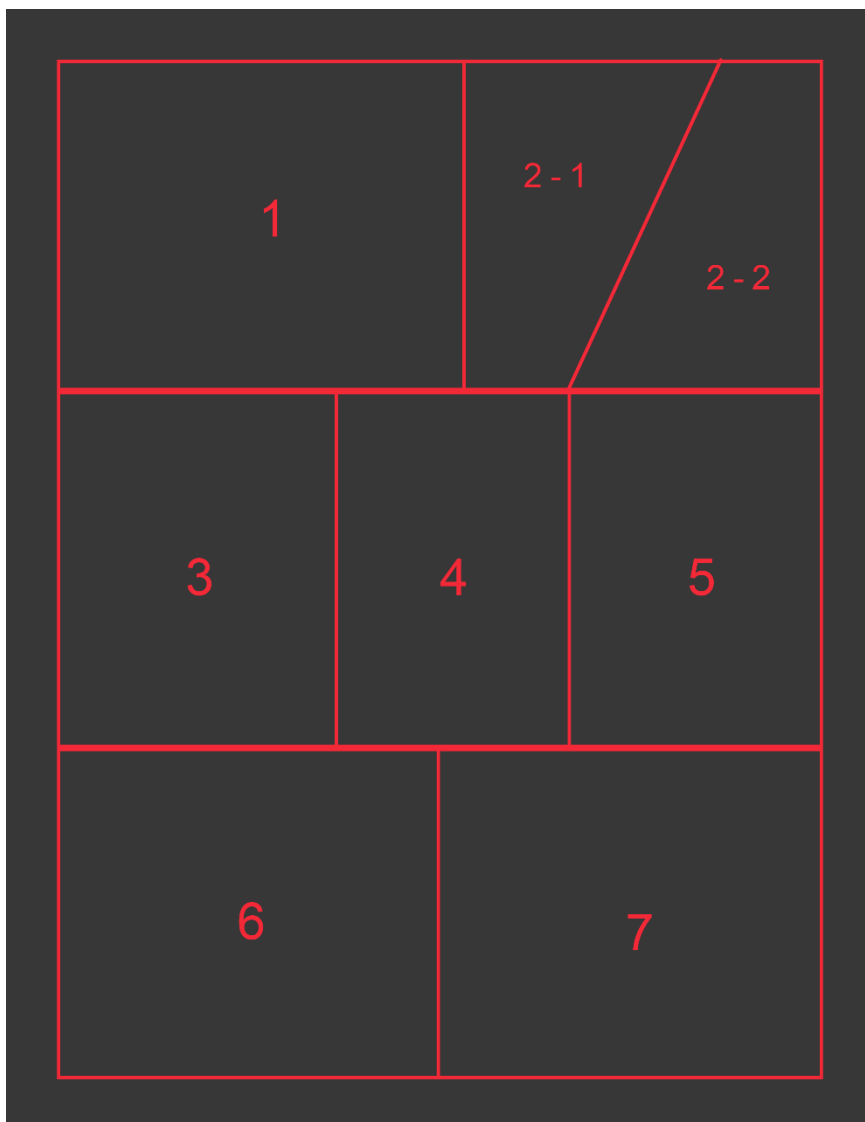
The same shot. Little Ling (lower left, in profile) is sitting there, crying, with arms around knees. Xin (center, in profile) bends forward, trying to hand her a handkerchief. Li (right side) is leaving so we can only see her back. She is striding forward with the doll in hand.

PANEL 7

A Medium Shot of Li. She is flinging her right arm (with the toy) upwards. In the right side of background, we can see Xin is hugging Little Ling.

Li (Center)

Ew!



PAGE 3**PANEL 1**

This is a pretty long panel. Xin (center) is running out from the auditorium and just stepped out the entrance. We can only see the upper part (above the waist) of her body. She is chasing Li (bottom right, whose head almost touches the boundary). Lots of Big-character Posters are stuck on both sides of walls.

Draw the entrance with intense cross-hatching shadow.

NO DIALOGUE

PANEL 2

A Medium Shot of Li and Xin (in profile, towards left side). They are in a narrow (about two adults' width) alley. Li is unlocking a maroon wooden door.

Word Balloons stick into PANEL 5 so we don't see the dialogues in this panel.

NO DIALOGUE

PANEL 3

A Long Shot of the interior of a bedroom. Xin and Li's figures are in the background. Li (center) is standing in front of a dresser. Xin (right side) is sitting towards her on a rocking chair, arms on its back.

The dresser is placed at the corner. There is a window above on the left wall, casting light beams onto the dresser.

A bed is located in the foreground. We can see a corner of it.

Xin (Bottom Left)

Why did you rob Little Ling's Doll?

Li (Bottom Center)

'Rob'? I confiscated it!

This is a doll for all of us!

Li (Bottom Right)

Ah! The doll can talk! She's electric!

PANEL 4

A shot over Xin's shoulder. We can see Li is fiddling with the doll.

Word Balloons stick into the PANEL 6 so we don't see the dialogues in this panel.

NO DIALOGUE

PANEL 5

A Medium Shot of Shumei and her daughter, Little Ling, both in profile. They are in an attic-like room, embracing each other and crying. Windows (left side) are closed, which means this is a totally enclosed room. We can see a coal stove in the background. Red and orange light is emitted outside.

Word Balloons are there at the top from PANEL 2.

Li (Center)

Humph! Chu's family members all should

meet Yama (die)! Dare to oppose Chairman Mao!

PANEL 6

The same shot of PANEL 5. But here we see that Shumei and Little Ling already passed away. Several bean-sized grayish bugs (ticks) are creeping and biting the faces. The flames in the stove burned off long time ago.

Word Balloons are there at the top from PANEL 4.

Xin (Top Left)

But...I don't want Little Ling die...

Li (Top Center)

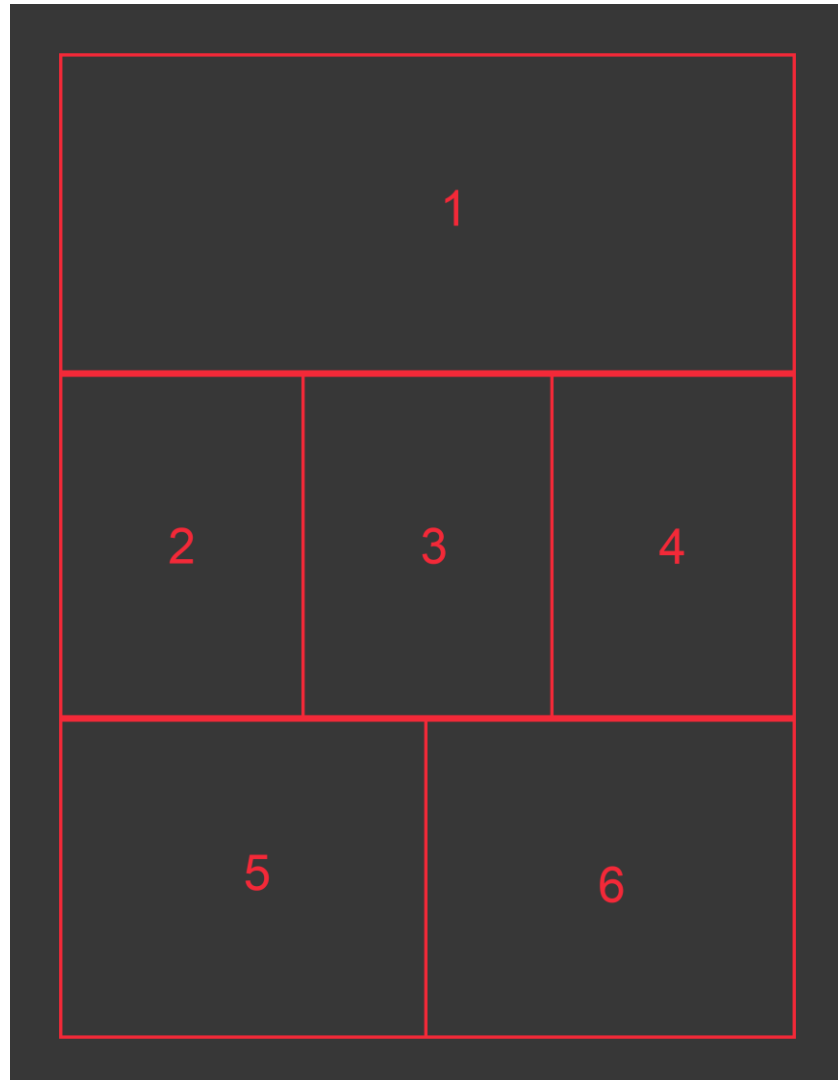
Haha! She won't! As long as we transform
her into a Proletarian Revolutionary fighter!

Li (Top Right)

She's smart! Not like adults!
Adults of the 'Four Kinds of Enemies'
are all stubborn, dumb asses!

Li (Top Right)

Like our parents!



PAGE 4

Except for the flashlight and moonlight projected from the window, there is no other light source in the bedroom. Draw all the space in dark by cross-hatching.

PANEL 1

A Close-Up of Li (left) and Xin (right), top angle. It's in the midnight. They are sleeping like logs.

But...A weeping, hoarse sound comes out.

CAPTION (Top Left)

(weeping)

PANEL 2

The same shot. Xin has been awakened. Her eyes are wide opened.

PANEL 3

The same camera angle with a medium shot. Xin is trying to shake Li up. Li seems to be pretty reluctant, with puffy eyes half-opened.

Xin (Top Right)

Wa...Wake up! Did you hear that?!

Li (Top Left)

Aw...what? I'm sleepy!

Xin (Top Right)

(whispering...) Ghost...Ghost haunting!

Li (Top Left)

(Loudly) Bullshit!

PANEL 4

A Close-Up of a hand that is grabbing...

Relax! It's Li's hand grabbing the flashlight.

PANEL 5

A Long Shot of the bedroom. Xin, in the foreground, is hiding in the quilt and shaking. We can see Li's vague dark figure behind Xin. She is lighting the base of the dresser and searching.

NO DIALOGUE

PANEL 6

A Close-Up of the doll. Only the face is lit by the flashlight. The mouth is opening slightly. Actually the doll is trying to talk...

Li (Top Left)

Eh? How did you drop here?

Why the switch is on?

PANEL 7

A Medium Long Shot of Li in profile. She stands in front of the dresser, holding up the doll and checking it. We can clearly see her upper body and the doll in the moonlight. On the top right side of the panel, silk curtain is fluttering.

Li (Bottom Left)

The battery ran out...

PANEL 8

The same shot of PANEL 5. Now Xin's head pokes out of the quilt, looking at Li. Li is walking back with the flashlight towards us. We cannot see her face.

The doll sits quietly on the dresser in the background, bathing in the moonlight. No... Not the entire doll. Half of the head remains in the shadow.

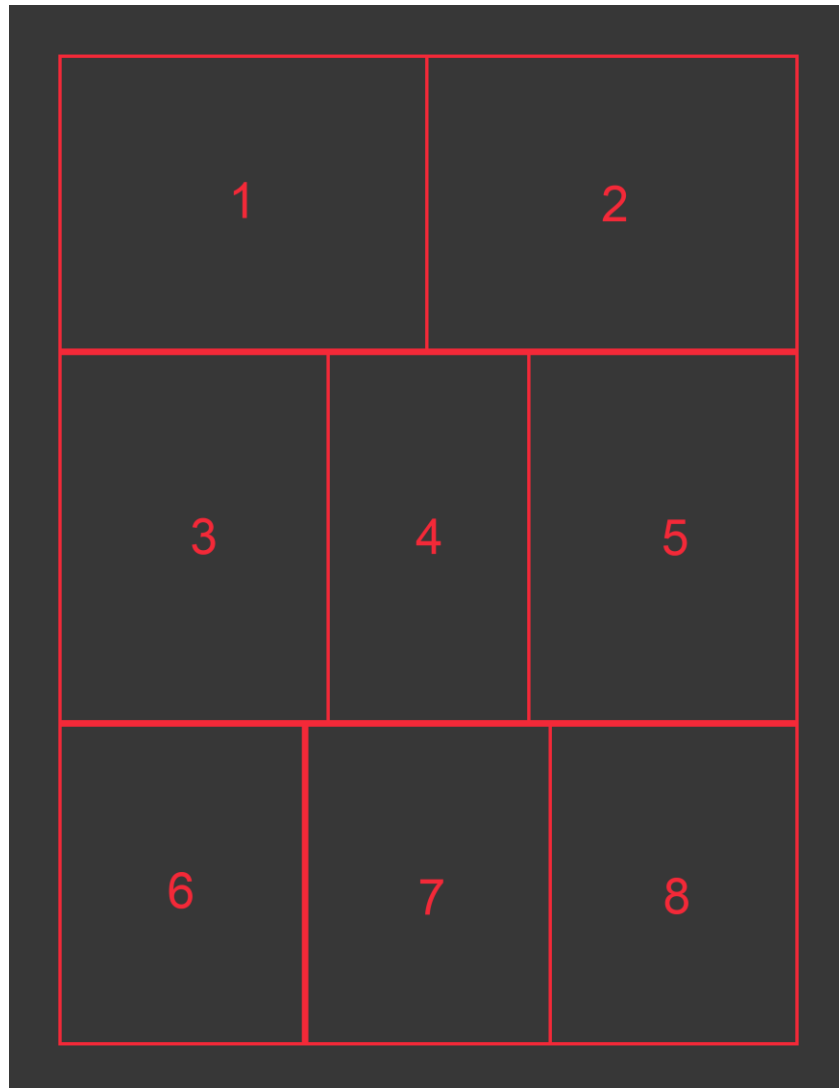
Li (Top Left)

Haha, ghost? Stop joking!

Fuck with all Monsters and Demons!

Li (Lower Right)

'We always insist on Marxism!'



PAGE 5

There is only one panel in this page.

A Medium Long Shot. The doll (upper center) leans against the mirror of the dresser. Half of its head hides in the shadow. Her mouth is opening wide. Is she shouting out slogans? No, there is no sound coming out...or anything else. Not yet.

A vertical banner hangs beside the mirror. We can only see the word 'Long Live' in this field of view. As with all the banners and Big-Character Posters, it is acting as amulet of the New China. Are they useful? Don't know.

Li and Xin's Red Arm Bands and Little Red Books also lie silently here (right side).

CAPTION (Bottom Left)

TO BE CONTINUE