

The Butterfly



Within

In 1966, Fyvush moved his family and his bookstore to Long Island. After the death of his beloved wife, Fyvush, returns to the playground of his youth: the rooftop of a rundown tenement on the Lower East Side of New York City. There he finds, among the many changes in his old neighborhood, Mitzi, an 18-year-old Korean college student with red hair, sunglasses, hooked up to a cd player, painting sunsets, and demanding that he leave her 'playground'. They eventually grow to tolerate each other's company and Fyvush shares stories of his roof-top experiences. They soon discover that they have a great deal in common: each has something to hide. Fyvush despondent over his wife's suicide, also contemplates suicide and Mitzi's apparent rejection of all things Korean, finds inner peace secretly dancing traditional Korean mask dances, while on the streets below she struggle to find her place in American society.

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