

13th February, 2009 – 6:30pm / **AMY SCHREI**

Amy Schrei had called earlier to make an appointment. I wondered if she was Linda's friend.

Two women who sat on separate tables looked up when I entered the tea room. One gave me a big smile. The other, blond, slim and dressed in black, was more reserved. But something about her made me walk towards her. I was hoping she would be Amy.

Amy came from the East Coast, from Philadelphia. Now that I had seen her, I did not think she was Linda's friend. Curiously, she carried two handbags. One large black leather bag and one smaller bag with an oriental pattern. She could not be Ann's friend either. Ann would not have friends that carry two handbags.

Amy was pensive when she came down from the stairs, having finished watching the videos. The women were all of Linda's age, she said. Although they are different people, and there are different places. That was how you would remember things, in stills and then in flashes.

We were perhaps the first generation of women who are free to choose whether to have kids or not. I thought this world had too many people already.

It took me a while to figure out who Linda was. No, she was not sad, just accepting the situation in life. But Linda was a compassionate woman, it was clear that she cared about the people she filmed and all those people in her life. She loved them.

You said Linda was a feminist artist. Well, I would say I was a feminist too. And I am not afraid to admit that I am one. I have my own career all the time when I was married for more than twelve years. Even though I followed my husband to Hong Kong a year and a half ago, I did not want to become a tai tai because I still wanted something which was my own. I wanted to have my own friends, my own colleagues, my own routine during the day when I was in the office.

Yes, I did vote. This Obama inauguration newspaper that you put up made me think of Michelle Obama. I liked Obama but I would be equally happy if Michelle was elected. I went to vote last November in the American Consulate; there were so many people.

I do not need to be surrounded by people. I have 5-6 good friends and for me, that was enough but my husband knows everyone. If we organize a party, he would ask at least 30 people to come and I would have my 5 friends.

One time, I have a colleague who is a very westernized Chinese woman. She is smart and has a great career. I did not know her well. But I ran into her at lunch time and so we decided to have lunch together. She started to ask me about being married. It was strange. She asked me how best she could serve her husband. Then, she was worried that he was a neat person but she was a messy person. I would have thought that she would ask how to be happy with her husband but no, she wanted to know how best to serve her husband. I was really surprised.”

It was not everyday that you meet a woman whom you want to keep as a friend. Today, I met one. But since Amy only invite 5 friends to her parties, I better work hard at it.

(Gina Wong / LiTA)