

## **Over the Rainbow** – the comparison of two lesbian-themed movies *Imagine Me & You* and *Butterfly*

研究學生：林芸安 林恬慈 指導老師：鄭惠文

### **I. Introduction**

Recently, there are some homosexual movies turning up in Taiwan, such as *Eternal Summer*, *Blue Gate Crossing*, and *Spider Lilies*. Never acquainted with much about the aspect of homosexual movies, we want to know if there are other homosexual movies in other places, especially the Western countries. It's because the Western culture differs so much from ours.

Out of curiosity, we want to find the contrasts between the homosexual movies founded on two varied culture. The films people like might reflect some concepts in their society.

Also, the homosexual issues come up with the movies currently released in Taiwan. As a result, we start to wonder what LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) think about these movies. How they regard these movies may give us a different kind of viewpoint.

Based on this consideration, we decide to look into what gay-themed movies the LGBTs like, and try to find out what the differences between the two movies chosen by the people in dissimilar cultures. And we infer why they choose these two movies as their favorites.

Rainbow flag is the best known symbol of LGBT. As the result, “Over the rainbow” means we are going to look at gay-themed movies from our point of view. That's why we chose “Over the Rainbow” as our topic.

### **II. Thesis**

#### **1. Approach**

First, we designed an online survey which has both English and Chinese versions. Then, to look for participants, we advertised it on some homosexual forums and discussion boards on line. In the end, we got about 100 responses in both languages respectively.

Statistics show that most of the participants of the English version are from English-speaking countries, especially the U.S. On the other hand, participants of the Chinese version mainly come from China, Taiwan and HK (the Chinese-speaking region) According to the result, more participants of the English version choose *Imagine Me & You* as their favorite homosexual movie than any others, while in the Chinese version, more participants chose *Butterfly*.

We choose these two films as our subjects. We watch the movies first, and then try to find the difference between them.

## 2. Text

### i. The result of the surveys

The participants of the Chinese survey mainly come from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan; those of the English version mainly come from the U.S. and England, and most participants are from English spoken countries

And about the question of their favorite movie, which is a fill-in-blank question, there are multiple kinds of answers. In the English survey's results, there are two movies which got more than 20 votes: *Imagine Me & You* (28 votes) and D.E.B.S. (22 votes). In the Chinese version's result, *Butterfly* got 15 votes while none of the other movies' votes are above 10. The apparent difference in the votes between two versions results from the lower answering rate in the Chinese version. Our following research is going to focus mainly on these two movies, *Imagine Me & You* and *Butterfly*, which are representative of two different language-spoken cultures.

More than two thirds of the participants are females in both surveys. This may be the reason why the favorite movies they choose are both lesbian-themed films.

### ii. The summaries and backgrounds of the two movies

#### A. Summaries

##### *Imagine Me & You*

Rachel was going to get married with her boyfriend Heck, who had been with her for years. However, on her wedding day she met Luce, a lesbian and a flower shop owner, and at the same time Rachel found herself in a mixed emotion because she seemed to fall for Luce little by little. She began to consider about her affection toward her husband and Luce, wondering whether she herself was a lesbian or not. When Rachel became more and more sure the one she loved was a woman, she had to learn to face Luce, Heck, her family and most important of all, herself.

##### *Butterfly*

Flavia thought everything would always be like the present situation. Despite the sad

memory about her lover in high school, a girl named Jin, she had recovered and enjoyed her life as a teacher and as Ming's wife. However, things changed when she met a young girl Yip. Flavia couldn't help falling in love with her. At the same time, she gradually realized that she hadn't really made herself a "normal" person but repressed her inner feelings. Facing the choice between her family and her lover, Flavia finally determined to live with Yip and left her husband and daughter.

## B. Backgrounds

### *Imagine Me & You*

The director, Ol Parker, is also the writer of this film. Initially, he planned to make a film about a woman who meets a man on her wedding day and falls for the man. The original title of this film is "Click", which is a French term for love at first sight, but a change is required later because another film had used this title. However, this idea is actually not new thing, so he changed the man's character into a woman while working on the script. He thought that a lesbian angle would put a dramatic new effect on this age-old love triangle. To sum up, the director focused on the "love at first sight" more rather than the lesbian love. It's not made mainly for lesbian movie-goers.

### *Butterfly*

The director of *Butterfly*, Yan Yan Mak, is the independent cinema maker (indie). She created the skeleton of the story for her thirty-year birthday gift. At first, the director only planned to film a movie about women. Then she found a short of lesbians written by Taiwanese novelist. Out of interest, she talked to her and combined these two stories together. Why the plot appeals to Yan is the moderation, differing from other lesbian stories, which are almost extreme.

The director is Cantonese. She changed the setting from Taipei to the 80's to 90's of Hong Kong. She also modified some values of the characters. In the fiction, the characters have strong emotions because of the public injustice toward gay. But in the movie, this kind of sentiment is much milder. What she wants the most is to present the women's attitudes toward the difficult situations, not to focus on the lesbian issue merely.

This movie is about two hours long, which is longer than *Imagine Me & You*.

## iii. Comparison

In the following section, we try to point out the resemblance and differences between these two movies. We divided our comparison into seven parts: Marriage, Accident, Feelings & Struggles, Parents, Husbands, People around, and Ending. After that, we chose several meaningful scenes of both movies, hoping to seek out something interesting.

#### A. Marriage

*Imagine Me & You* starts on Rachel's wedding day. Rachel's groom, Heck, has been with her for years. They're friends then lovers, and their love has been smooth all the way.

In *Butterfly*, Flavia had a gentle husband, a one-year-old daughter, and a blest family. So, in the beginning the main character in both films has a satisfactory marriage. In both movies, the main character is a married woman, and she encounters a girl who seems attractive, causing the struggles between her husband and the girl she loves.

#### B. Accident

At Rachel's wedding ceremony, Rachel sees Luce and has a different feeling at the first sight. At first she visits Luce often because she hopes to bring Luce and Cooper, one of Heck's friends, together. But actually Rachel and Luce became more and more intimate.

Flavia meets Yip in a supermarket. Yip is appealing to Flavia, and makes Flavia recalls her memories about Jin.

#### C. Feelings & Struggles

##### *Imagine Me & You*

Rachel has a special impression on Luce when they first met. She seems to be appealed by Luce. She starts to consider whether it's true about "love at first sight".

(While Rachel's working, she asks her colleagues)

R: Do you believe in love at first sight?

C1: Well, it saves time.

R: Really, that you could meet someone, or just across a room. And with that one glance you could look in their eyes and see their soul. Do you believe that

could happen?

C2: No.

C1: Absolutely not.

R: (stopped for a while) ...No, me, neither.

However, Rachel clearly shows her sexual appetite to girls when she rents a lesbian pornographic film home. In spite of the fact that Rachel doesn't admit her sexual preference to girls, she presents it through her acts.

Rachel struggles with herself. She didn't want to let her husband know she may be a lesbian. But on the other hand, she really does fell in love with Luce. When she realizes that, she knows it might be totally harmful to her relation with Heck. Not to hurt Heck's feelings, Rachel decides to conceal her strong emotion toward Luce, but in vain.

In Luce's own room, Rachel rejects Luce and is ready to leave at first. Driven by her heart's desire, she returns and kisses Luce passionately.

R: No, no, you're not happy to see... you can't. I don't want you to be happy to see me. I'm here because I don't know what's going on. You make me feel something, something I absolutely cannot feel. I'm married, for God's sake, I have a husband. This man that I... this lovely guy. He's done nothing wrong. (An old man comes in asking to buy some herbs, and Rachel walked quickly walked into Luce's room. Luce gives some plants to him on the house and closed the door.)

R: Okay, so do you see? You have to see. I can't do this. I can't actually do this. So whatever it is or was, it's got to stop, and it's got to stop now. Do you understand? It's over.

(Rachel leaves impetuously. But she returned right after, and kissed Luce.)

Luce has a conflicting emotion on Rachel, too. One day when Rachel tries to tell Luce something about her feelings. Luce avoids the subject and leaves on the excuse of works.

(After the presentation)

R: You have to go, right?

L: Um, but I don't. I'm okay.

R: Luce, I... I think we should talk about something that... it's just, I don't know. When I'm with...

L: Yeah, I do have to go. Actually, I've just realized I've got a delivery.

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R: Oh, yeah, right. (Luce leaves) (speaking to herself) You go.

They're both at a loss. Rachel doesn't want to mess up her marriage; however her heart has given to Luce already. Luce hopes to be with Rachel, but Rachel has taken her marriage serious. She thinks of herself as the other woman between Rachel and Heck.

(After Heck leaves Luce's shop, Rachel ran out and Luce was running after her.)

L: Rachel! Rachel wait!

R: Luce, please!

L: Just talk to me.

R: What do you want me to say? I heard him, Jesus, I'm lying there, and I heard him, and he's blaming himself!

L: You can put an end to this.

R: How?

L: Tell me to go. Tell me that's what you want and I will walk away and you will never see me again.

R: Is that what you want?

L: I want you.

R: Luce...

L: I know.

R: I can't...

L: I know. (silence for a while) we'll be okay. (they hug each other) Don't forget me.

R: I won't remember anything else.

(They walk away separately)

### *Butterfly*

Yip's eyes are so attractive that make Flavia recall her past. Her enthusiasm is woken again. She finds out she's still a lesbian even though her love with Jin had died out for so many years.

Flavia is willing to deny the fact. She has made an effort to enjoy her family life instead of missing Yip.

(M is working in front of the computer. F comes and hugs him on his back.)

M: What?

(F just keeps smiling.)

M: You've been acting strange lately. Is it because I was always working and neglected you?

(Without saying another word, they kiss.)

But she can't inhibit her love to Yip totally. When she is invited to Yip's house for dinner, she can't help but kiss Yip.

Yet, there's something bothers Flavia. She considers her feeling to Yip guilty because she has a husband and daughter already. The thought comes out so often that causes Flavia attempt to break up with Yip. She doesn't be in contact with Yip for a period of time. Yip is unhappy and feels unfair. Flavia even attempted to ignore Yip while seeing her at her sister's wedding banquet.

F: I...I've never been so afraid.

F: I've married and I have a kid. But I keep...keep thinking about you.

Y: It's ok. I won't force you.

(In Yip's home, F's daughter cries loudly. Y comes and wants to help F.)

F: (stops Y .) She's fine.

(On the glasses F looks at the reflection of her, her daughter and Y. She pauses for a little while.)

F: (turns away from Y) Find a job and forget about me. I don't know what I was doing just now. Just pretend that we never met. (pushes Y, takes her belongings and runs to the door.)

Y: We've met and that's a fact. I won't pretend. (tells loudly to F)

Still, she failed. She misses Yip day and night. And she starts to dodge her husband.

She has two students who are lesbian and love each other. One day when they come to Flavia and beg for help, Flavia doesn't support them. She wants to help them indeed. Still, she doesn't know what she should do to help them or even face her situation.

Flavia is afraid that if she keeps being indecisive like this, she might hurt lots of people, such as Yip and her husband or even her parents. She is completely helpless.

F: I don't know why I always fell for girls. I can't help my students. I always give up when I'm half way through doing something.

F: If I go on like this, I'll hurt a lot of people.

Yip is sure about her love to Flavia. She always waits for her until she makes up her decision.

Y: You just do what you want when you are with me. No one will laugh at you.

One of the reasons that make Flavia so confused is her ex-girlfriend Jin. After Flavia broke up with Jin, Jin became a nun. Flavia thinks it was all her fault. She is afraid that her indecision will harm more people, just like what she did to Jin. Jin knows her helplessness. She tells Flavia that the problem can only be solved by Flavia herself. Exactly, what Flavia has to do is to follow her true heart, not others' values.

F: You don't blame me?

J: Only you can untied your own knot. Go back. Don't come here again.

From above, we can see that in the two movies, the married women, Rachel and Flavia, seem to have more things to be taken into account and be more ambivalent when they find themselves attracted to girls. Both of them try to forget this thought by being more intimate to their husbands. However, it's in vain, eventually causing many struggles.

On the other hand, the girls who are single, Luce and Yip, acts differently when facing their feelings. Luce hesitates for a period of time before making up her mind that she loves Rachel, but even after this she's still struggling to herself because she does not want to ruin Rachel and Heck's marriage. While also considerate to the other one with family, Yip is relatively active. From beginning she knows clearly she loves Flavia. She hopes and is confident that Rachel will leave her husband, so she waits for Flavia, not wanting to push her too much.

At first, we thought Westerners tend to show their feelings and pursue what they want more than Easterners. But in these two movies, Yip is much more positive than Luce.

Rachel and Flavia both struggle for a while before they decide to follow their hearts. That may result from their hope of being like others instead of being a lesbian. Maybe we can infer that in their hearts there are still concepts such as being homosexual is abnormal.

#### D. Parents

##### *Imagine Me & You*

Luce's mother knows Luce is a lesbian and accepts this completely. Her mother hopes Luce can find her true love and be happy.

L's mom: Oh, sweet shit in a bucket, what's wrong with you? Blow your nose, then explain.

L: I met this girl. But she's with someone else.

M: And does she love you?

L: I don't know. No...yes. But that doesn't matter.

M: Oh, it's all that matters.

L: She's with someone else. She can't. When Dad left you, he broke your heart.

M: It mends again.

When Rachel's parents know she falls for a girl, her mother seems a bit shocked. But Rachel's father shows a great support to her and tells her just to follow her heart. At last, when Rachel decides to go and find Luce, both of her parents accompany her.

(Rachel told her parents about Luce, her mother first seems a bit shocked.)

N: Whatever you choose to do from here, we'll support you. We always will. But please, my darling, follow your heart.

### *Butterfly*

In senior high school, Flavia and Jin's affair was found by Flavia's mother. Flavia's mother threatened not to see her anymore if Flavia hadn't come home with her and left Jin. Flavia's father gave a slap on Flavia's face after he knew Flavia was attracted to a girl.

FM: Can anyone tell me what's happening here?

(F hastened for a while.)

J: We're together.

F: Mom, it's not like this.

FM: Flavia, it's that true?

J: Now what can you say? We've been together for three years.

FM: Flavia, go home with me.

J: Flavia can't live with out me. Flavia...tell her we are serious.

FM: I can't live without her either. (to F)Come with me.

J: If you want to leave, leave alone. This is my home. (toF)Flavia, stay.

FM: Flavia...you'll never see me again.

F: (run to her mother) Mom! Jin doesn't mean it.

J: This is just between us. Can't you stop pushing her?

(FM glanced at them, and then walked out the house.)

F: Jin, I'll be back. Wait for me. (ran after her mother)

(J grabbed F's wrist, but F got rid of her.)

We can infer that the parents in the two movies hold totally different attitudes about their daughters being lesbians. In *Imagine Me & You*, Rachel and Luce's parents encourage their daughter to choose what they really want.

In *Butterfly*, Flavia's parents are another story. They force Flavia to be their "idealistic daughter". They don't allow her to pursue her happiness even if that's what she yearns for. Not to disappoint her parents, Flavia just follows her parents' expectation.

The reactions of parents cater to what we have expected. For one thing, Rachel and Luce's parents respect their children's choice very much. For another, Flavia's parents seem to be more conservative and disapprove their children when they become "different".

#### E. Husband

##### *Imagine Me & You*

Heck felt something weird between Rachel and him soon after they married. However, he did not tell Rachel his suspicion, somehow because he was afraid that there may really be something wrong. When Rachel tells Heck she had fallen for someone else, though busted, he doesn't express his anger or sorrow to Rachel at all.

Although Rachel tells Heck she isn't leaving, Heck still decides to let her go. He hopes Rachel to be happy more than anything else.

R: I'm not gonna leave you.

H: If you respect me at all, that's exactly what you will do.

H: It's not you leaving that's gonna kill me. It's you loving someone more.

R: No, you're not walking away. Don't walk away from me.

H: Yeah, keep saying that. Let me pretend this is my choice.

R: What do you mean?

H: Oh, come on, Rach, we both know you'd have left me in the end anyway.

R: That's not true.

H: Yes it is!

H: You know, I want you to be happy more than anything else. I wanted to be the cause of happiness in you. But if not, then...I can't stand in the way.

H: Cause what you're feeling now, Rachel, is an unstoppable force... which means that I've got to move.

( He kisses Rachel on the forehead and walks away.)

### Butterfly

When Ming finds Flavia and he is becoming a bit embarrassed, he looked into Flavia's past and found she has been lesbian in high school. Ming considers homosexual a kind of disease. He tries to convince Flavia that she is "alright" now and there isn't any problem left. After Flavia thinks everything through and tells Ming it would be better for both if they divorce, Ming became furious. He rejects the word "divorce" so much that he promises to let Flavia do anything she wants as long as she doesn't mention this word.

(When Flavia comes home, Ming opened the fridge to take the cake and doesn't want to hear what Flavia is trying to say.)

F: You are a good man. I don't want to lie to you. You shouldn't lie to yourself either. Let's...Let's get a div...

(M closed the fridge violently.)

M: I won't let you mention that word! Never!

F: It won't do either of us any good.

M: Who am I? What do you take me for? I can't compare to a woman?

(M sat down and took several breaths to calm him down.)

M: As long as you didn't mention divorce...you can do whatever you want. I won't interfere.

When he realizes Flavia has made up her mind, Ming says she must choose between divorcing and keeping her daughter. Flavia says she wants both.

F: I know you'll never do anything to hurt me.

M: I'm giving you one last chance. Do you want to divorce? Or do you want Ting Ting(their daughter)?

F: I want both.

M: Okay. Divorce! But I'll never give up Ting Ting.

F: Me too.

M: You've got that woman. Isn't that enough?

Both Heck and Ming is not very direct people. When they first feel something wrong they try to fix the problem unnoticeably instead of talking straight to their wives. However, after their wives tell them the truth, their reaction is quite different.

Heck, though not feeling good, doesn't vent any of his anger to Rachel. He doesn't think Rachel does anything wrong. He knows well that Rachel's feeling is almost irresistible. Even though Rachel loves a woman more than him, he also lets her pursuit her happiness and blesses her.

On the other hand, Ming feels mad because he thinks "he can't compare to a woman." He hopes to keep Flavia from divorcing despite that Flavia loves someone more, especially a woman. Ming has a very strong bias against gays. However, it's all because that he loves Flavia so much. In his marriage, he wants to be a controller. Ming cares much about the "marriage" word more than its real meaning. He just wants to maintain their marriage; despite that he knows clearly Flavia doesn't love him anymore. He is more self-centered comparing to Heck.

From above we can also see that, although both Rachel and Flavia care about their husbands, they act differently. Rachel thinks she can't leave Heck for some kind of duty, and she decides to stay with Heck. To Flavia, staying with Ming will only cause more harms, so letting her leave should be the best solution. Maybe we can say that to Rachel, responsibilities are more important while to Flavia, freedom comes first.

#### F. People Around

##### *Imagine Me & You*

Rachel once asked her colleagues if they had thought of loving a woman. Her colleagues thought it was quite impossible to happen to them, but they do not have biases or negative attitudes toward being lesbian.

R: Did you ever, fancy, or think you might have briefly before you realized you hadn't another woman?

C1: Why?

R: I'm trying to find someone for Beth, and I thought I'd double my chances.

C2: Already tried it. It didn't happen for me. I like men. I mean, I hate men, but, you know.

C1: I always hoped to do a woman before I died. But it's kind of like... I want to go to Norway sometime; do you know what I mean? Probably never gonna

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### Butterfly

In *Butterfly*, Flavia's two students were lesbian and ran away together. They begged Flavia for help. Flavia told them to go back home, but their parents are strongly against them.

“They scolded us, but a lot of people are like us actually,”

Not before long, one of the two girls were sent abroad by her family, causing great pain to the other girl, which attempted to suicide.

At the same time, Ming blamed Flavia for letting her students stay at Flavia's place. To Ming, it was an immature behavior and shouldn't be allowed. Ming thinks homosexual is just a kind of mental disease. He thinks Flavia was once “had a problem” and should be alright now.

In *Imagine Me & You*, the issue of gay doesn't seem to be abnormal in most people's opinion. It's okay to talk about it freely. On the contrary, in *Butterfly*, except the lesbians themselves almost everybody thinks being lesbian is a severe problem that should be treated and lesbian couples should be separated immediately.

## G. Ending

Rachel and Luce accompany each other at the end. Heck flies abroad, recovering from the sadness of losing Rachel. Flavia decides to leave her husband and daughter to live with Yip. Ming, though being steeped in soreness, let Flavia go finally.

In the end, Rachel and Flavia accept themselves as lesbians and be with the ones they love. However, there isn't more description about what happens after that: whether they get married, the reaction of their parents and people around them, etc. The directors just toned down and gave a vague ending, giving us much space of imagination. As a consequence, we aren't able to see the further problems the lesbians face in reality. In our opinion, maybe it's because the issue “homosexual” is still, to some extent, sensitive, so the directors didn't express too much on this topic.

## H. Scenes

### a The Beginning

Heck is asked to give a speech on the wedding, but he can't say a word. Rachel stands up and said something for Heck. After a while, she asks if Heck wants to continue, but Heck refused. So Rachel goes on saying.

In the following minute, there are two scenes taking turn every 1~2 sentences Rachel says. Rachel's sound continues while the image switches frequently. One scene is in the wedding banquet, and the other is Luce going home alone (The sentences of this scene are underlined)

R: Okay, so this is me now. I've been looking forward to this day all my life.

When Rachel says this, the scene changes and we see Luce walk out of the banquet. At the same time, the background music begins, so the following sounds more like Rachel's monologue.

The scene in the wedding is bright, just like Rachel's delight to marry to Heck at that moment. On the other hand, Luce is alone at the time, so the scene of her is darker, especially after she walks away from the wedding hall.



And I'm glad to share it with so many people I love,  
And a few people I've never met before. But I'm sure you're all great, too.

The scene is pictured from a distance. We see the sight of Luce's back becomes smaller and smaller.

I feel like I've known Heck all my life, and I know I'll know him for the rest of it. He's my best friend.

They say fairytales have happy endings, even though the process can be rough. But Heck and I were mates and then lovers, and it's been smooth all the way.

At first, we see her walking farther and farther away. It's possible that Luce and Rachel will never meet again. Just like that Luce is becoming smaller on the

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screen; she may be just a guest Rachel meets by coincidence on her wedding. However, after Rachel saying a few words, we see Luce on the screen again. This time, the lens zooms in. We can see her from a nearer distance. Apparently, Luce is not going to simply fade out from Rachel’s life.



Maybe that’s the best kind of fairytale.



The lens taking Rachel also keeps zooming in. When she first starts her speech, we see half of her body just like seeing her from the audience. Now it’s taking only Rachel’s face.

We can see the close-up shot of both Rachel and Luce in this minute; maybe it’s a hint of that the following story is going to be closely related to the two people.

Sort of, toast-schmoast won’t do all that, but if you could all just wish us luck, Heck and I would appreciate very much.

All ready? One, two, three.

Everyone: Good luck!



When we hear everyone saying “Good luck” to Rachel and Heck, we can’t see the scene because on the screen is Luce switching off the bed lamp. Rachel and Heck is receiving everyone’s blessing while Luce is at home alone. At that

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moment, the three people are all on their original life track; they have no idea about what is going to happen. Still, with the scene changing repeatedly, there's a feeling that some story is going to happen between the three people.

b The Struggle

Rachel rejects Luce at the back room of the flower shop. At this scene, she leaves and closes the door. The lens keeps focus on the door because Rachel soon comes back to the room and kisses Luce. It's just a matter of seconds.



After that, the romantic music begins. They lie down and hug each other, keeping rolling on the floor paved with flowers, which are almost roses. The sunlight and the roses give an atmosphere of bright happiness and the joy of love.

Some scenes zoom in and the light illuminates behind them, creating a dreamy aura.



Then Luce's backside is stabbed by the thorns of the roses. They look at each other and both laugh mischievously. At the same time, the background music fades away. They keep giggling until Heck's voice appears at the entrance. The lens zooms in to capture Rachel and Luce's fine expression when noticing that Heck is coming.

Luce: Ow!

Rachel: What? What?

Luce: Thorns in my bum. (Rachel grunting)

Rachel: I'm sorry. (Laughing.)

(The door of the entrance opens.)

Luce: (Stops for a while.) It's another customer.

(They are both giggling.)

Heck: (In the front of the flower shop, searching for Luce.)Hello?

The roses here are symbolic of love. When Luce is stabbed by the thorns, it may also means their love is merely a fantasy. It is vulnerable and easy to be disturbed. The music totally stops when Heck's sound comes out. Rachel and Luce's delightful happiness just lasts a minute or so. What they have to face is the reality.



To greet Heck, Luce goes to the front of the shop and leaves Rachel in the room in case Rachel is seen by Heck. Heck doesn't know Rachel is in the shop, either. So he asks Luce something about Rachel.

The frames are divided in two parts. One is about Heck and Luce, who is talking in the shop. The other is Rachel in the room. While Heck is talking something sentimental, the scene switches to Rachel's gloomy face.

(Heck is going to buy some flowers.)

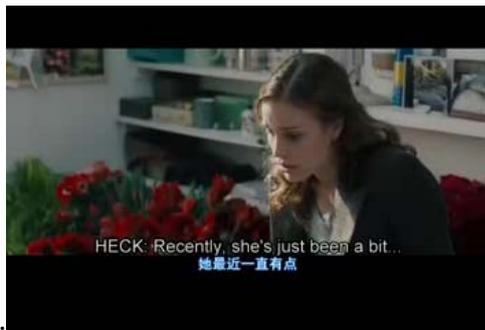
Heck: Not for me, for my wife, Rachel.

Heck: Recently, she's just been a bit.....I don't know. But you know what say.....there's nothing quite so cheering as a well-timed bloom.

(It comes back to the scene of Heck and Luce.)

Heck: So, I thought one of your finest arrangements.

The flowers in the background show the different situations. In the room, the roses are still vivid. They are fancy but not that real. At the flower shop, the flowers are as usual as they are often seen. The different kinds of flowers here present the different situation. One is romantic but dreamy, while another is real-life and troubled.



Heck: And if she said what it is.....that I 'm doing, or not doing, then I can stop it.



After hearing what Heck say, Rachel jumps out of the window and escapes. We don't really see Rachel jumps out of the window, but we can infer it by Luce's view.



Rachel chases to the park and Luce runs after her. In the park, they both don't know what to do next. Finally, they embrace each other and go home. The gentle melody is playing. The frame zooms out, which makes the people becomes small, and give us a sense of uncertainty.



c The Ending



Heck boards on a plane. Besides him is a seat not taken, and next to it sits a girl.

H: Hey.

G: Hi.

Cooper is singing (the same as the background music) “so happy together...”

H: Can I just...um... (Hoping to put something on the unoccupied seat)

G: Okay.

H: Thanks.

They look at each other at the same time, and both quickly look away.

The little girl H is playing in the park with a boy.

H: Just making some notes for this book that I’m writing.

G: Oh, you’re writing a book? Great, because I can read.

Rachel sits alone on a bench in the park. Luce walks up to her from the back of the bench, with two drinks in her hand.

The lens pictures from far away and back of Rachel. Maybe it’s similar to what Luce sees while walking toward Rachel.

Luce hands Rachel a cup and sits down besides her.

The picturing angle changes at this moment. Now we see the front of them and it's also picturing a lot closer. In this scene, there are no other people but Rachel and Luce, which looks like that they now can be together without being interrupted.

R: It's cold.

L: It's good. It's nice. (After a short while) It's cold.

They both chuckle.

Heck is on the flight.

H: How long is the flight anyway, do you know?

G: About 24 hours. Plenty of time.

Heck smiles.



Different from the montage in the beginning, instead of having interlude during one scene, in the ending every part is separated. For example, there is only the frame of Rachel and Luce when we hear their voice. We see them in this half minute, and we see Heck in another half minute. This may mean an ending of the complex affections and struggles between the three people. Plus, the background music is the song “Happy Together”, which may indicates that every character have found the most suitable life for himself.

### 3. Conclusion

From the comparison above, we believe that English spoken cultures seem to accept more on this issue. In the movie *Imagine Me & You*, few people are strongly against homosexual, but people who disapprove homosexual are relatively more in *Butterfly*, such as the parents. We can infer that English spoken culture is comparatively open-minded.

Lesbians in different films may face pressures from different sources. Lesbians in *Butterfly*

Over the Rainbow – the comparison of two lesbian-themed movies *Imagine Me & you* and *Butterfly*

may be confronted with more stress, such as their parents and the society. But all of them have to deal with pressures from themselves. Before identifying themselves, it seems that being a homosexual is still, to some degrees, abnormal and unacceptable to them, even if it has already been accepted in some places. So there may be some established biases against gay people in both cultures.

Through the comparison, we try to find out the reason these movies are chosen by the survey's participants. Maybe it results from the gay fantasies in LGBT's hearts: they may long for having enough courage to accept themselves and being accepted. These things are usually opposed in reality, and these are what they hope to see while watching a gay-themed movie.

#### **4. Limits**

Due to the time and economy factors, we are unable to go abroad to meet participants face to face. The Internet is a substitute because it's a tool which helps us overcome this barrier. However, a problem coming with it is that we can never be sure about the real identity of our participants, not to mention whether their answers are credible.

Another limit is that the languages we are acquainted with, Chinese and English are not commonly used in every country in the world. So, we inevitably get only the result from English or Chinese-spoken countries.

Besides, among the responses we received, about three fourth of participants are female. Plus, though we have about 200 participants already, it still hasn't reached our expected shares.

All above may result to inaccuracy about choosing these two films.