

## APPENDIX 1: FULL TRANSCRIPTS

### First interview: Hank

Alice Hello, Hank?

Hank Mmm.

Alice Let me introduce myself ... I am not a professional researcher; I have a full-time job.

Hank Mmm.

Alice I am studying...

Hank Mmm.

Alice By the way, I graduated from The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Hank Mmm.

Alice But I am doing a PhD degree.

Hank Essex, right?

Alice Yes, it's related to psychoanalysis.

Hank Mmm... mmm...

Alice It's psychoanalysis. I am interested in the experience of smoking. Today's interview will be around one hour.

Hank Mmm.

Alice A week later I would also like to...

Hank Mmm.

Alice Follow up with another hour of interview. So, this interview... Have you participated in any focus group discussions before? This interview is different from focus group.

Hank Mmm.

Alice In the next hour, I will try to talk as little as possible, because I hope to listen to you.

Hank That's ok.

Alice I am interested in your story.

Hank Mmm.

Alice So... err... I want to know your story.

Hank Mmm.

Alice You can tell me whatever that comes to your mind.

Hank Mmm.

Alice It's ok even if it's something you believe is totally random and yet loosely related. Just say whatever you want to.

Hank Mmm.

Alice So, do you have any questions before we start?

Hank What degree did you study in CUHK?

Alice Oh, I studied for a BBA, and then my family didn't really need me to work. I have graduated for many years, and then I didn't want to work after I got my BBA, so I went on to study for an MBA.

Hank Which subject in MBA?

Alice Also, marketing and international business.

Hank Oh, and then you studied psychology afterwards?

Alice And then I started to work, because...

Hank Ok.

Alice My family didn't have enough money to...

Hank Mmm.

Alice So, I started working, and studied psychology part-time, due to an immense personal interest. I went to CUHK from a Chinese high school.

Hank Yes, I am also from a Chinese high school.

Alice I am from Pui Ching, you?

Hank I am from Pui Ching too!

Alice Oh, you are from Pui Ching too? So, you are my junior in the school!

Hank Really?

Alice But I am a lot older than you. I am from Tek House ... I'm much older than you. Because I was from a Chinese high school, I couldn't catch up with the English at CUHK. I wanted to study psychology as a minor subject, but...

Hank Are you really from Pui Ching?

Alice Yes.

Hank I am also from Pui Ching!

Alice Both of us are. So... OK, does Pui Ching still have the highest number of students who get accepted to CUHK?

Hank Err... in my year, twenty got into HKU, and forty into CU.

Alice That's not bad, 60 odd every year.

Hank I'm studying at the Polytechnic University ... doing surveying.

Alice Mmm... so you didn't go to ...

Hank I will share more about that later.

Alice Great. I should be talking less and let you talk more. Do you have any questions relating to...

Hank Not really.

Alice Ok, now, let me start first. I am interested in smoking...

Hank Mmm.

Alice Related experiences.

Hank Mmm.

Alice Smoking experiences. Hank, can you tell me about your smoking experiences, I mean...

Hank When did I start?

Alice Yes, when did you start ... in what context ... how did you feel etc. Just tell me your story.

Hank For me, it was when I went from primary school to high school. I started smoking very early. When I was about to get into high school, I went out with my friends. I lived in Shatin, and most of my friends lived in the neighbourhood. They had cousins who smoked, so we just smoked together. I smoked my first cigarette when I went to high school after primary school, and then... and then I didn't... didn't smoke frequently. I smoked one cigarette very occasionally. I only smoked a few when I met them once a week, and then I stopped for a while, until Form four... Form Four. I mean I... in fact, I didn't play much with people from Pui Ching ... very rarely. I had a group of friends from Pui Ching, but not many. I was closer to friends outside of school, who studied at Kowloon Wah Yan. You know that

Kowloon Wah Yan is very close to Pui Ching.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I was very close to them in Form four. Sometimes I went out to smoke with them at lunch time.

Alice Mmm.

Hank And then I was kicked out from Pui Ching in Form four.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Because ... I skipped school.

Alice Oh?

Hank And then I was smoking ... and then I got kicked out.

Alice Someone found out about your smoking, right?

Hank Nobody found out. I was kicked out because I often skipped school. I didn't go to assembly. You know they had that every week.

Alice Ah, did you still have to move your own chair there?

Hank Yes.

Alice Really?

Hank So that's why I was kicked out. Actually, I wasn't kicked out, but I was asked to leave. So I left. I didn't study for a while, and then ... I started smoking. After a while... I suddenly wanted to go back to school because I had a girlfriend at that time, and then I felt that studying was very important. I mean, I felt I needed to study. And then I asked my dad to help me find a school, and I also looked for one myself. We found an international school, but it was very expensive.

Alice Mmm.

Hank And then I studied there for two years and went into a programme called IB (International Baccalaureate Diploma programme). It was impressive! I don't know if you've heard of IB?

Alice IB? Oh, I am really out of touch. I graduated many years ago...

Hank It's kind of like A levels.

Alice Like A levels, Form Seven?

Hank But it's international. That means it's internationally recognized.

Alice Mmm... I see.

Hank So, I studied for two years, and then... yeah... I got into university. Lucky!

Alice And you are studying surveying.

Hank Yes, surveying at the Polytechnic University.

Alice What do you study in this subject?

Hank Surveying, value assessment, things like that. C Y Leung (Chief Executive of Hong Kong) also graduated from there.

Alice Oh! CY Leung also graduated there?

Hank Topics like value assessment and investment ... and there are many different types. Topics like buying and selling land by the government, and then you help to assess the value. We learn to evaluate how much a place is worth ... what is the value per square foot ... things like that.

Alice Mmm.

Hank One needs to get a surveyor's license, and I think the Polytechnic University is the best place to study this subject.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Back that... My university application was non-JUPAS (Joint University Programmes Admissions System). That means I can choose whichever university I liked. I applied for some in England, but I didn't manage to get in. I also applied for HKU and CUHK, but I chose Polytechnic University in the end.

Alice Mmm.

Hank If I went to HKU, then I would have entered the Arts department.

Alice Oh, CUHK doesn't seem to offer that programme.

Hank CUHK? No. What did I apply to study in CUHK? Something like BBA.

Alice Oh, BBA, in fact CUHK is only good for their BBA programmes.

Hank But I... because CUHK... because I live in Shatin ... it's too close to my home. That's why I didn't choose it.

Alice Oh, you were afraid that there would be no dormitory allocation?

Hank No... I don't know... I didn't want to be in that environment for too long. I mean, I've been living in Shatin since birth.

Alice Mmm, I also lived in Tai Wai when I was studying at CUHK. I lived with my parents at Hin Keng Estate, yeah. It was very convenient to go to university. But CUHK was very good. They have a one-year dormitory guarantee programme no matter where you live. So I managed to have some dormitory experiences. Mmm... You started smoking regularly from Form one onwards?

Hank Err... I first smoked in the summer holidays before Form 1. During Form 1, I only smoked occasionally. I stopped in Forms 2 and 3.

Alice Mmm, how did you feel?

Hank At the very beginning... there was nothing at the very beginning. I smoked just purely because some of my friends smoked. I could have done without cigarettes.

Alice Mmm.

Hank But later, especially during the exams ... I started to smoke during the open exams, and then I realised I was dependent on it.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Yeah, I mean I started to smoke a lot more.

Alice Mmm.

Hank But before that I could smoke, or I could just do without cigarettes entirely.

Alice Mmm.

Hank And then... At the very beginning, only a few of my friends smoked, and gradually most of them smoked, so...

Alice Mmm.

Hank Naturally.

Alice Which brand did you smoke?

Hank Err... I smoked the stronger one ... I smoked Marlboro Medium. It's that red one, those that are only smoked by old uncles.

Alice That is the higher tar one.

Hank Higher tar ones ... and my classmates... my childhood friends would normally smoke Marlboro Ice Blast, i.e., menthol cigarettes.

Alice Menthol, mmm... all of them are Marlboro, right?

Hank Yes, my first cigarette was Salem.

Alice Salem? Which one?  
Hank It was in pink and blue, pink colour...  
Alice Was there a pink colour one?  
Hank Baby blue, baby blue.  
Alice Oh, the baby blue Salem?  
Hank It's called Art Salem  
Alice Oh, ok.  
Hank Because there wasn't Marlboro Ice Blast at that time.  
Alice Mmm... and then you changed from menthol to non-menthol.  
Hank Slowly changed to non-menthol.  
Alice Oh, that's interesting. Not a lot of people start off with menthol... very few of them....  
Hank Mmm, because it was my friends who gave those cigarettes to me. They gave me menthol cigarettes, so I smoked menthol, and then later on I found them to be very bland, with no taste, and then... yeah.  
Alice So, you were saying? There is indeed a story behind everyone. You were saying mmm... the school asked you to leave at Form four?  
Hank Yes.  
Alice How did you spend your days back then? What did it feel like?  
Hank Back then... back then I was young, so I was very immature. In fact... because... because I worked part-time, I had some money to spend. Yeah, I mean... I wouldn't starve to death... and then all of my friends... I met them after school, and then all of us went to the video game arcades after school... like that...  
Alice Mmm.  
Hank I mean... yeah...  
Alice So, it could be a relief to you.  
Hank Yes.  
Alice No need to... temporarily.  
Hank I mean ... in fact, I didn't regret being kicked out from school. I experienced a lot of things in that year, I mean... I spent a lot of time thinking about what I wanted, because... in the past, I always... I was in Pui Ching in kindergarten, primary school and high school...  
Alice Oh...  
Hank I mean, I let people... I mean, I felt that I'd been caged by others. It was difficult... difficult to think of something new... I don't know how to say it ... I couldn't think of things that I liked. I felt that Pui Ching was not suitable for me.  
Alice You didn't like the school culture or what?  
Hank They... I think their thinking was very suffocating ...  
Alice Oh? That means they haven't changed much, I mean... there were no extracurricular activities, right? And then they only asked you to study for the HKCEE open exams!  
Hank Right!  
Alice Are there still HKCEE open exams? They're gone, right?  
Hank Not anymore.  
Alice Very outdated.

Hank We do DSE (Diploma of Secondary Education) exams now.

Alice DSE...

Hank The exams are hard ... I mean, coming from Pui Ching. There, the director of students' affairs always picked on me. Back then, I liked to wear Bermuda shorts to school, and he said students were not allowed to wear colourful underwear... and...

Alice Oh, how did he know?

Hank We wore white pants as part of the school uniform.

Alice Oh, summer!

Hank And then I had to go to the students' affairs department every day to show him (I wasn't wearing colourful underwear). I mean... it was really hard and exhausting for me, and therefore... I felt very happy when I left. It wasn't wrong (to leave).

Alice So, you still continued to wear them despite the director of students' affairs' disapproval because it was your right.

Hank And then later on... I mean... we argued for a long time, and then... I just... left. My form teacher liked me a lot. He had been my form teacher for four years, from form one to four, and then he felt that something was not right, and then he suggested that I leave. Mmm... I am still in contact with him.

Alice Did you participate in any extracurricular activities?

Hank In some things like football.

Alice Pui Ching football team?

Hank Shatin district football team. I also smoked... I mean... yeah... I couldn't play.

Alice Err... you couldn't play because you smoked?

Hank Correct.

Alice Because they didn't allow you to smoke while you played football, or they think smoking affects your health?

Hank In fact, I didn't give the impression that I smoked. It was because I would meet up with friends, maybe went out for some drinks late at night, and then I couldn't wake up in time for practice.

Alice I see.

Hank And then... I didn't... I didn't play football afterwards.

Alice Do you have any siblings?

Hank I have a younger brother.

Alice He is also from Pui Ching?

Hank Yes.

Alice Is he still there?

Hank He's in form six, doing his DSE (Diploma of Secondary Education) exams. He is one year younger than me.

Alice One year younger than you.

Hank Mmm.

Alice But he doesn't know your friends.

Hank Yes, he does.

Alice So, he does? Do you hang out together?

Hank Nowadays... more these days... now it's more.

Alice How many years is your brother younger than you, did you say?

Hank One year.

Alice One year.

Hank One year and one month, one year and two months.

Alice Mmm... does he go out to smoke and drink with you and your friends?

Hank He also smokes but he rarely smokes with my friends, because he also has two classmates who smoke... yeah.

Alice Mmm... is he....

Hank I have a lot of influence on him, I guess.

Alice Are you close with him?

Hank Recently... recently we're good. In the past... in the past... my brother was a really good boy. Before Form six, he was really good. I always felt that... he really disliked it when I got home with the smell of cigarettes, but gradually... he also smokes now.

Alice Mmm... does your brother regard you as his hero?

Hank No.

Alice No.

Hank Because my brother is... he has really good grades at school. He's always been good at school, so... he doesn't... mmm... he's very hard working, very smart. Even when he smokes, it is because he studies too hard and he just wants to de-stress, that's how he feels...

Alice Did you consider going abroad to study? Your family should be able to support you?

Hank Not really ... I went for a while, for half a year. I went to Australia for half a year, but then I didn't like it, so I came back to Hong Kong.

Alice So, your parents paid for that?

Hank Yeah, and then... it was too much of a burden on my family. I didn't want them to have so much financial burden. No... I mean unless it's absolutely necessary. And then, I used the credits and grades there to apply for high school in Hong Kong. I mean... no school would ever accept me if I used my scores at Pui Ching to apply. My dad suggested that I wiped my record clean by going somewhere to study for a while... and then come back to Hong Kong and continue. I studied in Aberdeen at that time.

Alice That's quite good. And now, you're in the Polytechnic University, right?

Hank Yes.

Alice That's not bad.

Hank It's quite good ... lucky.

Alice You also had to work hard.

Hank I remember I studied really hard this time last year; the same time last year.

Alice And you had multiple open exams ... HKCEE in Form five, and then one more in Form Six and one more in Form Seven?

Hank Not really, just one in Form six.

Alice How many years do you study in university? Three or four years?

Hank Four years.

Alice All of them are now four years?

Hank Three years in junior high school, three years in senior high school, four years in university.

Alice Oh, OK, I am really out of touch. Mmm... I graduated a long time ago. I have

another question ... in your life, well you are still very young, only twenty years old, do you remember any unhappy moments in your life? What are those moments and what did you do to overcome those days?

Hank Mmm... this time last year.

Alice April last year?

Hank That was during the open exams, and then why? Why? I mean... I felt that I was working very hard because I didn't want to leave Hong Kong. My girlfriend was in Hong Kong ... my girlfriend at that time. Then, when I was doing the open exams, it was a while ago, I discovered that she had something going with my friend. She was always with my friend. They were good friends, and then I asked if she went out with him. I mean, whether she... went out with that guy, but she said no, because she was afraid that I wouldn't like it. And then, I saw them going out in the Apple Daily online newspaper. They were captured by the Apple Daily (in an article), and some friends screen captured the photo to show me. It was the most difficult, unhappiest moment in my life, and I also had to take the open exams.

Alice Were your open exams in May? And then you got the results in July, and then you found out which university would accept you afterwards?

Hank Mmm, we already knew which universities accepted us in April. They would give you an offer, and then it's up to you to meet the offer's requirements. If you meet the requirements, they would accept you.

Alice How did you spend your days at that time, do you remember?

Hank I... I... smoked by myself. I mean, smoking cigarettes is one method... but... I played the guitar ... I love playing the guitar, singing, playing the guitar and singing made me very relaxed.

Alice Do you have your own band?

Hank Yes... yes. We went to Tsimshatsui ferry pier to sing.

Alice Oh, like many young people singing on the streets.

Hank Yes.

Alice How long have you been doing that?

Hank Two years.

Alice Did you learn to play the guitar by yourself or did you find a...

Hank My dad taught me.

Alice Oh, so your dad... was also in the band?

Hank Yes.

Alice Wow, that's impressive. Is your brother also in your band?

Hank My brother plays the drums.

Alice Oh, your brother plays the drums. Wow, your family seems to have... does your mum play the piano?

Hank Sometimes ... mum is not very good at that. She doesn't know how to play too well.

Alice Ok, so you played music when you were unhappy.

Hank Yes.

Alice And you smoked too.

Hank Yes.

Alice And then...

Hank I feel that smoking is an enjoyment.

Alice Tell me more about it. Why is it an enjoyment?

Hank I mean, it's like today I had lunch by myself, in Tsimshatsui East, I ate in an outdoor environment. I had a cigarette and some drinks by myself, I felt very comfortable, I don't know how to express that feeling... I mean, I was very free, very... I mean the sun... the sun was beaming down on me... I mean, when I smoked this cigarette, I felt really enjoyable.

Alice Can you tell me more about that comfortable feeling?

Hank I don't know how to say it, I am not sure if it's my own problem, I mean I normally wouldn't tell others about my unhappiness.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I mean... I... very rarely, because I feel that ... especially for guys, and I don't want my parents or my friends to worry about me.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Smoking a cigarette makes me feel that nothing has happened.

Alice Mm.

Hank I mean it's like swallowing an 'air' of anger.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I smoke immediately whenever I am wronged, I mean I smoke whenever I get angry.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Yeah.

Alice Do you normally smoke alone or with your friends?

Hank Mostly with my friends; I rarely smoke by myself. If I am alone, I rarely smoke... Sometimes I would do that. I would also do that by myself, but more often with friends, really.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I smoke when I am eating or drinking with friends. When we go out to drink alcohol, I can smoke a whole pack in one day.

Alice Mmm.

Hank But if I smoke by myself... I smoke less.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Yeah.

Alice Can you smoke at school?

Hank Inside the campus?

Alice Mmm.

Hank It's not allowed.

Alice Not allowed.

Hank We have to smoke outside, around that bridge.

Alice Oh.

Hank That train bridge.

Alice Wow! Would it be difficult when you have to go to classes for the whole day?

Hank I... I... don't think I have a serious addiction.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I mean, I don't have a strong addiction, and also, I am unable to smoke when I am hungry.

Alice Mmm, that's interesting.

Hank Yeah, this hungry thing is very interesting. I mean, it's like that for me. I can't smoke when I am hungry or thirsty. I mean, I wouldn't smoke. It's strenuous, and I feel that.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Mostly after meals....

Alice Ah, that's interesting. I have some friends, I know quite a few friends who smoke. They smoke first thing in the morning when they wake up.

Hank For me, I am not like that.

Alice You are not like that. Do you smoke before you sleep?

Hank Not before I sleep. I would smoke if I can't fall asleep though.

Alice Oh, so you would just get up and go out for a smoke?

Hank Yes, to ponder over life.

Alice Does that work?

Hank Not really, it's purely... a feeling.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I mean, that feeling is just wonderful... I don't know how to say it, I... I... it's purely a feeling. It's not useful in a practical sense ... I feel that it's not useful.

Alice Mmm, so smoking is a feeling.

Hank Yes.

Alice Some people have a certain ritual such as tapping the cigarette...

Hank Tapping the cigarette ...?

Alice Yes, that kind of ritual....

Hank Some friends would turn the cigarette upside down... the first cigarette in the pack.

Alice Yeah.

Hank Not for me.

Alice Nothing like that.

Hank Right, nothing like that. But a lot of my friends do that, yeah, I mean turning the first cigarette upside down.

Alice Mmm. Is it a superstition, or what?

Hank Something like that ... some people feel that.

Alice Mmm.

Hank But not for me.

Alice Mmm.

Hank But some of my friends do that.

Alice Do you remember when you smoked your cigarettes yesterday, or a few days back ...

Hank Mmm.

Alice Perhaps there were one or two that felt more satisfying than others. Do you remember those moments?

Hank Just now, at lunch.

Alice Yes? Can you tell me more about that experience?

Hank Right... How do I say that... I mean the sun... the sun was beaming down on me, hee hee... when I smoked that cigarette, it felt really enjoyable.

Alice Yes.

Hank I don't like to smoke in a hurry. I mean, I don't like to smoke because I have

to.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I like to sit down and have a drink ... chit chat for a bit, and smoke a cigarette with my friends. I don't know why I have to smoke when I chat with my friends.

Alice Were you alone or with a group of friends at that special moment today?

Hank Alone, I was alone today.

Alice Mmm...

Hank I mean, I feel really relaxed by myself, especially after I got into university. I don't get along well with my classmates. I am always by myself. I smoke alone, and then I take some photos. Photography is my hobby; so is playing the guitar.

Alice Photography is a very good hobby. So, it's playing the guitar and photography that you enjoy.

Hank Mmm.

Alice And you would really carry your camera to take pictures by yourself?

Hank Ha, yes!

Alice So, you didn't get along with your high school classmates at Pui Ching, now when you are at Polytechnic University, you don't really get along well with your classmates.

Hank Because most of my best friends are already working. For myself I feel I have already experienced things that a nineteen-year-old would experience when I was only fifteen.

Alice Mmm.

Hank So maybe I am regressing back to the basics ... I don't know, I mean I feel that living an ordinary life, doing things like taking a few photos, smoking a cigarette by myself ... very comfortable, yeah.

Alice Mmm, what was the role of your family when you were very unhappy?

Hank Yeah... I don't... I don't... My family members feel that I can handle a lot of things by myself. They have confidence in me. And I wouldn't tell them too many things. I mean, they wouldn't know what's happening to me and they wouldn't ask me about it ... especially about my love life ... especially topics related to dating girls ... dad and mum have never asked me.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Yeah... because they feel that I can take care of many things by myself. And I don't like to be dependent on others. Ever since I was small, I've always dealt with things by myself... that's why I rarely talk to dad and mum about too many things.

Alice You don't like to be dependent on other people, including your dad and mum?

Hank Yeah. As adults, dad and mum have already got enough problems to deal with, so I don't want to give them more problems. I mean my "problems" are so trivial compared to theirs... they're really insignificant ... so ... I wouldn't... wouldn't mention them specifically.

Alice How did your dad and mum feel when you left Pui Ching?

Hank Dad was quite supportive, yeah... he mainly told me to stay out of trouble ... not to do anything wrong .... yeah.

Alice Mum didn't care about that too much?

Hank Mum didn't know too much.

Alice And you didn't tell her?

Hank No. My mum is a housewife, so she cooks, and she reads the Apple Daily online newspaper sometimes. She's really simple. She wakes up very early in the morning, and then sleeps at around 10 at night. Early to bed, early to rise! She doesn't know too much ... there are many things she just doesn't know. She thinks it's OK as long as I'm OK.

Alice So, she has been a housewife since your birth and has never worked before?

Hank No, she worked before. But I had meningitis when I was a baby...

Alice Meningitis ... brain fever? High fever?

Hank Yes, yes.

Alice How old were you?

Hank Two months old.

Alice Wow!

Hank And then my mum quit her job, as she wanted to take care of me. She told me I had a 90% chance of becoming paralysed, and that meant I wouldn't be able to walk. So, she quit her job to take care of me. And then I recovered well. I was really lucky!

Alice Wow! That was really very scary, her first son, and such a devastating thing for her first son!

Hank Yeah, I was two months old.

Alice So, you went to the hospital when you had a high fever. Was surgery required?

Hank Yes. This skull of mine isn't mine. This part of my skull was from my cousin, here ... it was his rib.

Alice So, you had a transplant?

Hank Yes, because the pressure was very high in the skull, so they had to remove the skull... like that.

Alice Wow! How old was your cousin back then?

Hank Similar to my current age, around fifteen to sixteen years old.

Alice That means when you were two months old he was... like your age. When you say cousin, he's ...

Hank My dad's older brother's son. My dad adores him. My cousin is just like me. He started going out to have fun at a very young age, and he started smoking, and fighting with others, and then he was sent to the UK. Then he had problems in the UK ... I mean, he didn't go to school, and he worked in a garage in China town. And then... yeah... my cousin's personality... my personality is like his.

Alice Are you close with your cousin?

Hank We were OK, and we are still OK. Now, he has a proper job, driving his own car, doing quite well.

Alice How old are you?

Hank I am nineteen.

Alice Nineteen is still very young.

Hank I am ok.

Alice So, is your cousin in Hong Kong now?

Hank In Hong Kong... and then my other cousins also smoke, and we would smoke together.

Alice Your other cousins are from your mum's side?

Hank No, my dad's sister's son.

Alice Oh.

Hank But they don't always smoke. Sometimes when we gather, we would smoke together.

Alice Were you close with all these cousins when you were little?

Hank When we were little, yes, but not so much now, yeah. We were quite close... in the past, and also, they are all much older than me. They were born in 80, 88 and 89, and I was born in 95, that means all of them are at least six to seven years older than me. I am the youngest, yeah.

Alice So, all of them are working now?

Hank Yes.

Alice Mmm.

Hank They are all very smart. That cousin who asked me to smoke with him, he also studied in the UK, at King's College. He studied law. He got 28 points at the open exam when he was at La Salle College. Then he studied Law at King's College and came back to Hong Kong to be a solicitor.

Alice Wow, he is really smart. Are there many Chinese people at King's College? Because I have a....

Hank There are many Hong Kong people!

Alice Really. I have a... I know two people, one of them studied Medicine, but she didn't become a doctor when she got back to Hong Kong. She is helping her dad with their family business. That girl is much younger than me. And another one is studying... she is my friend's niece. She's in Anatomy, also at King's College. Seems that there are many people there. One is at Imperial College.

Hank Imperial College is good for studying Science and things like that ... like Engineering, for example.

Alice Yes, I heard that it's very boring.

Hank I think so too. Most of my friends have gone there to study. All of them come from rich families, so they have gone to places like the UK, Australia and Switzerland. I feel that it's very royal! All of them are very rich!

Alice Yeah! Imperial College seems to charge double the tuition compared to other universities.

Hank They are smart and rich. Well, I'm not sure if they are really very smart, but they are definitely rich! I know you've recently been to the UK. I will also go to the UK in May.

Alice You are going there for a holiday?

Hank For a holiday and also to visit some universities.

Alice Oh! So, you plan to go to the UK to study?

Hank Yeah! Just have a look around. I don't know, I want to go abroad to see, because my friend is there, right? So I don't have to pay for hotel accommodation. That already will save me a lot of money.

Alice Yeah! Hotels are very expensive there. Which subject are you interested in?

Or you want to change faculty?

Hank In fact, I wanted to go to the APA, the Academy of Performing Arts.

Alice The Academy of Performing Arts.

Hank I wanted to study movie and media communication at APA. Then I felt that I may not need to attend university to study this kind of subject. I can do that on a part-time basis in my leisure time. I have so much time at university. Lots of days off. I can apply for courses myself! But it's different for surveying. I have to get a license after finishing university! So, I decided to study surveying.

Alice You are a really mature thinker. Would you study surveying if you go to the UK?

Hank I will study law in the UK!

Alice So, you want to be a solicitor?

Hank That's so cool and stylish!

Alice Ah!

Hank I like to study law purely because lawyers look cool and stylish! I don't like the subject itself!

Alice Medical doctors are also cool and stylish!

Hank I didn't study science subjects so I can't do medicine.

Alice Mmm.

Hank It's so cool to tell others that you study law, but I don't....

Alice Being a pilot is also very cool!

Hank I have a cousin who works as a pilot at Cathay Pacific. After finishing law school, he decided to become a pilot.

Alice He didn't even want to be a lawyer! Similar to ... in that TV series!

Hank Ah, I didn't watch that.

Alice I haven't watched TV for many years. I have no time. Okay, you want to go to law school because lawyers are cool and stylish. The subject is boring though!

Hank In fact, I feel that... when people ask you what and where you are studying ... you just say law in the London University ... wow! That is super cool!

Alice Right ... it's good for kids to have vanity.

Hank It's purely because of this ... I don't really have any other reasons (for wanting to study law).

Alice And then you can get a job when you come back to Hong Kong?

Hank No, you need to get a PCLL license. You need to take a transfer exam and the pass rate is only 10% each year.

Alice So troublesome. But you still want to do it?

Hank I want to!

Alice So, you would go there if there is an offer from a university?

Hank I got an offer before! It's valid for two years, but I want to finish my first year in Hong Kong first.

Alice Ah, OK! So, your family has no financial issues supporting you?

Hank I don't know... I don't know, should be OK ... they've got their families to help out.

Alice And then you pay them back when you start working. OK! Do you remember the most disappointing cigarette you've ever had? Do you have that

experience?

Hank One time, after a few alcoholic drinks, I didn't really remember how many cigarettes I had smoked. Then I wanted to vomit when I got to one particular cigarette. I already wanted to throw it away when I got to one third or half of the stick. I feel that those were the worst cigarettes.

Alice It was bad even when you were smoking your own brand?

Hank Right, very painful. It was like I smoked for the sake of smoking. I don't like that!

Alice Did you normally get drunk, or get just a bit tipsy?

Hank I wouldn't get drunk but I would drink a lot. I don't know why my mouth... I just can't stop smoking and drinking. Then I get to a certain point, I'd want to vomit.

Alice Mmm, and then you just stopped.

Hank But... and those snacks, those green peas, make you really want to smoke. Then I'd vomit.

Alice Have you ever experienced the most disappointing cigarette when you were sober?

Hank Not really. Unless I smoked it really quickly. Yeah, there was a time I really wanted to pee, and then my friends asked me to have a smoke with them.

Alice But you didn't say you wanted to go to the toilet first?

Hank I couldn't do that. They asked me to join them for a smoke to keep them company, otherwise they wouldn't smoke. But rarely... rarely... I mean... I mean usually it's the external environmental factors causing the cigarette to taste bad, rather than the cigarette tastes bad by itself. Or when I smoke brands other than my regular brand, like those... what's the name? Marlboro Menthol Lights.

Alice Mmm! Menthol cigarettes.

Hank Menthol plus lights; they really taste bad.

Alice The menthol taste is too overwhelming?

Hank No, it's the combination of menthol and lights cigarettes ... I don't like them. I'd rather throw them away!

Alice Mmm! Back then, people put eucalyptus oil in the filter and then it becomes a menthol cigarette!

Hank I didn't know that.

Alice I saw some old men smoke like that.

Hank I didn't know.

Alice Have you switched brands since your first brand Salem?

Hank In fact, I am not that stable. The brand I smoke is not that stable. Recently I smoked this brand, and then sometimes I smoke blue Lucky Strike.

Alice Oh, Lucky Strike!

Hank Blue colour, sometimes I smoke Salem, sometimes Blue Menthol ... Marlboro Blue Menthol.

Alice Marlboro, with a capsule?

Hank No, it's that silver and blue pack.

Alice It's menthol.

Hank Yes, and then sometimes I smoke Marlboro Red.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Not very stable, I smoke everything. I know what I will never smoke. Everything else is ok.

Alice So, you went to convenient stores to buy different brands to try?

Hank I've been buying this one mostly lately. I am more stable now. I smoked different brands during different periods. Maybe I smoked Salem for a month, and one month another brand ... something like that.

Alice That's interesting.

Hank Yeah, I mean I am not that stable ... and I collect cigarette packs!

Alice Collect cigarette packs? How? You mean empty packs?

Hank Yes, I collect empty cigarette packs! Yes, empty packs, I arranged them all in the room, in the cabinet, they are very beautiful!

Alice Wow! That's a lot of packs. You smoke ten to twenty cigarettes per day.

Hank I only started doing that in the past six months.

Alice You just put them in the cabinet or you would rearrange them in a particular way?

Hank Just put them there, in an orderly way.

Alice Do you need a lot of space for that?

Hank One cabinet ...

Alice So, it's like lining up the packs on the shelves. How many packs have you collected?

Hank I don't know; I don't even know.

Alice Did anyone object to this? Did your family stop you from collecting cigarette packs?

Hank No, I live in the dorm.

Alice Ah! So, you live in the dorm now. Did they guarantee how many years you can live in the dorm?

Hank Not really.

Alice What are the dorms like now? Do you have a single room?

Hank No, ... two people share a room. The room is really small ... one bed here and one bed there.

Alice And then a desk here and a desk there ... a cabinet here and a cabinet there. The cabinet is where you put most of your things. Are you close with your roommate?

Hank Yes, and he also smokes.

Alice Good, good.

Hank Not as close as the previous one.

Alice How come you changed roommates so quickly?

Hank Yes ... just changed. It's been a while. I'd been wanting to live with this roommate for a long time. But I was lazy and didn't bother to change. But it was changed recently.

Alice I've only heard about cigarette pack collection for the first time.

Hank The first time?

Alice The first time. I haven't heard about that from my friends.

Hank So beautiful, I think... they all lined up together in a row, very beautiful!

Alice And there many different brands, not just one brand.

Hank Yeah... and then I would take a look when I go to Japan for a holiday... if there are any special cigarettes to get for my friends, like those grape

flavoured ones ... I'd get them. It's just like that.

Alice Do they taste good?

Hank They don't taste good.

Alice Don't taste good but somehow special.

Hank Girls like them. I think a cigarette is a cigarette ... there is no need to mess with it and have menthol and other things added. Cigarettes should just be cigarettes.

Alice Mmm, does your girlfriend smoke?

Hank My ex did.

Alice Yes.

Hank Yes.

Alice The same brand as you or a different brand?

Hank No, she smoked other brands, but she... she didn't smoke before, she... only started smoking when she was with me.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Yeah, but... I myself... in fact, I don't like girls smoking, but then I feel that since I myself smoke, who am I to ask her not to smoke? Unless I quit myself, otherwise I wouldn't...

Alice Would people know that you've smoked after you've smoked? Or would you chew gum so people wouldn't know?

Hank They will definitely know!

Alice Definitely, no matter what you do?

Hank My dad and mum know, but I won't smoke in front of them.

Alice But then they wouldn't object to that, right?

Hank They would say, "Don't smoke so much..." Dad doesn't like that, because he used to smoke. He always feels that I get addicted easily. Dad thinks that I am very dependent on cigarettes ... I mean, it's true.

Alice What does smoking give you?

Hank A comfortable feeling... And sometimes ... I don't know ... sometimes I get really grumpy when I don't smoke. Since recently anyway. I didn't feel like that in the past. In the past, I felt that I would definitely be able to control it. Now, I feel that... but then I am not as bad as my friends, who would have runny noses if they couldn't smoke. It's really quite dramatic. They are only around the same age as me and they are already like that. But I... I'm not at that stage. If you ask me not to smoke, I think I can stop, because I definitely wouldn't smoke when I travel with my dad and mum. I can do without cigarettes.

Alice That means you can go a few days without smoking?

Hank Mmm.

Alice But you're OK and won't get grumpy?

Hank Probably not. I would get grumpy for one ... perhaps five minutes... five to ten minutes, and I'd really want to smoke. But I would be fine as long as I pass that stage, yeah. I think I am OK; I mean I am not very addicted.

Alice Have you ever considered the fact that smoking is hazardous to health?

Hank Yes, I did, but then... The reason why my dad doesn't want me to smoke is because my grandma had cancer, and she died after smoking for a long time. But I... I myself feel that this seems like an enjoyment. I feel that

smoking is an enjoyment. If there are so many inhibitions in life, then I'd rather become a monk ... which is really healthy, and they don't eat meat... but... what's the point? I mean... you know how to live long, but you don't live happily. I'd rather live happily, yeah.

Alice Mmm, to a non-smoker like me, cigarettes have a very distinctive smell.

Hank Very smelly!

Alice Not pleasant. It's not like the smell of stir-fried food or chicken being roasted. In fact, it's quite difficult to get used to. But how does a smoker feel about that smell?

Hank This thing...

Alice Yeah.

Hank Everyone says cigarette smoke is not smelly if you smoke yourself, but it's smelly when other people smoke.

Alice Smokers don't feel it.

Hank Correct. It's quite smelly indeed, but I am used to it. In the past I would use a lot of liquid soap to wash my hands and when I shower. But even after that, I still felt the smell was very strong, but I slowly got used to it.

Alice How many years have you been smoking?

Hank Four, five years, if you include Form one... I mean excluding Form one, it's four five years, four years ... four years.

Alice Mmm, have you seen any tobacco advertising? Were they still around in your generation?

Hank Macau! I saw them when I went to Macau! The pictures are so ugly. I mean those pictures on the cigarette packs.

Alice Ah, those pictures.

Hank Yeah, those pictures.

Alice They also have that in Hong Kong, a bunch of them.

Hank But ours are not so ugly ... they are still acceptable. But those in Macau are very ugly.

Alice Have you seen any TV advertising?

Hank Not really... I rarely watch TV.

Alice Not really? What about those on the Internet or print advertising?

Hank On buses! Those anti-smoking advertising... that kind of advertising are not convincing at all.

Alice Mmm. So, you don't really know about those Marlboro cowboy advertisements in the 90s.

Hank Not really. I've seen them before ... those ancient advertising ... I mean those versions that were released a long time ago. Those that were shot in the UK, like those that make people feel that smoking is very prestigious.

Alice What's your view?

Hank I don't really feel that it's prestigious. I mean, it's like my friends really like to drink wine, but I don't like to drink wine, so they can't force me to drink wine, right? And they say drinking wine is very prestigious and I should try it, but if I don't think so. Then they wouldn't force me. I mean I wouldn't tell them that smoking is really good. It makes you really happy and comfortable. Do you understand? I mean people have their own favourite things to do, so I feel that's ok.

Alice Is smoking stylish?

Hank Not stylish. Some people smoke in a very stylish way ... some of my friends do, some...

Alice How do you differentiate that?

Hank I don't know. Those people in the movies are really stylish. I think it really depends on whether the person who's smoking the cigarette is stylish or not. If that person is stylish, then he would be stylish no matter what he does, yeah. So, some of my friends are quite... cool and unrestrained when they smoke. I mean, like Tony Leung, I don't know how to say it but it's a feeling (that he's stylish when smoking). But then I don't think I smoke because I want to look cool. It's purely due to my peers. I think they were the most influential factor. In fact, I've known since my childhood how bad smoking is. It's carcinogenic and un-cool. It's smelly and it stains your fingernails and your gums and teeth. Everybody knew that since they were kids, and I didn't think that I would ever smoke. I had wanted to try since I was little ... I really wanted to try smoking, I don't know why. But I feel that friends are most important after you've grown up. Sometimes just one word from your friends could make you change your mind about what's good or what's bad.

Alice Why did you want to smoke back then... was it because you saw someone smoking on TV?

Hank Not really. I'd always wanted to try different things since I was little. I wanted to understand why people smoke. I didn't understand why, and I wanted to try. When I advanced from Primary six to junior high, I was with my friends and cousins, and when we went out they said we should try it, so I did.

Alice Did you mostly hang out with your cousins or your neighbours?

Hank Some of them were my neighbours. Some were from elite schools like Le Salle, Kowloon Wah Yun, Pui Ching, Diocesan Boys' School, but we hung out together. I mean those who hung out with me were the naughtier ones, and they would also smoke and drink, and I met them when I was in Form three.

Alice Oh? How did you know them? From joint school activities or what?

Hank From things like Facebook.

Alice Ah, Facebook! I forgot there is such a thing, so that means your friends' friends.

Hank Yes.

Alice Yeah, I remember I was like a hermit when I was in Pui Ching. We didn't have any joint school activities, unlike other schools.

Hank That's why the teachers didn't really like me back then. My friends... all of them were from elite schools like La Salle. They would meet me after school, but you know all of them looked naughty. Maybe when the teachers saw them, they went, "Wow! What kind of people do you hang out with?"

Alice So, they were in La Salle uniforms?

Hank Yes, but their appearances were bad. All my La Salle friends had their hair coloured.

Alice Was that allowed?

Hank Their school authorities wouldn't make a fuss about that. And also, they could have their hair really long too!

Alice That means their rules were less strict than Pui Ching's.

Hank A lot more lax.

Alice They used a ruler to measure the length of our skirts in Pui Ching to ensure that the length was below our knees!

Hank Pui Ching rules were really strict! Maybe the teachers didn't like it. But I was quite happy to have met this group of friends. I didn't regret knowing them, because they made me... made me see many things, but most of them are no longer in Hong Kong.

Alice Oh? So, they've all gone abroad to study?

Hank Mmm... yeah, nine out of ten are abroad. Dad and mum don't smoke. Dad used to, but mum never did.

Alice Mmm... this is a very interesting story.

Hank I mean as far as I know, most people most started smoking in Form six. Like my brother, he started smoking during the open exams.

Alice So, you start smoking when there is pressure. Does that help? Does smoking help you stay awake?

Hank Not really! I think it's unrelated.

Alice Was it nicotine?

Hank Not really. I really don't think they are related! Yeah!

Alice Would smoking make your throat sore? Or maybe it's only those full flavoured cigarettes...

Hank It makes your voice coarse. Your voice changes because of smoking.

Alice Mmm...

Hank Your voice will become coarse.

Alice But it wouldn't cause sore throats when you smoke?

Hank No.

Alice I heard from my friends that you would only go down in terms of the tar level rather than up. Is that true in your case?

Hank Not for me; I've gone higher and higher.

Alice Oh! You went higher and higher. So that means you smoke richer tasting cigarettes.

Hank Yes! I like full flavoured cigarettes. I mean smoking is smoking. I'd rather not smoke if I can only smoke low tar cigarettes!

Alice Do you normally finish the whole cigarette, or just smoke two puffs and throw it away?

Hank I wouldn't finish the entire stick. I only smoke half a stick or slightly more.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I didn't feel it myself, but I have a habit of biting the (cigarette) filter.

Alice Oh.

Hank Which means my cigarette filter will be all wet after I smoke it, and I would bite it and hold it in my mouth after I finish smoking it.

Alice Do you bite the filter while you are smoking the cigarette?

Hank I mean, I just bite it while I smoke.

Alice Mmm... do most people smoke like that?

Hank Not really. I am the only one who's like that.

Alice Filter biting, so that means you don't need to use your hand when you are biting it? Or...

Hank I don't know, I mean, I just bite it.

Alice I see...

Hank Yeah...

Alice Oh... so you wouldn't be able to filter the smoke after you've bitten it right?

Hank No, I don't feel that...

Alice It's more difficult to inhale...

Hank It's easier to suck if you bite it.

Alice That means inhaling while you are biting the filter?

Hank Yes, correct.

Alice Oh... ok.

Hank I mean, there are always tooth marks left on the filter then.

Alice **(I suddenly want to vomit)** Mmm... do you prefer to buy those cigarettes with hard filters?

Hank I have no such preference. And I also didn't know about them! I don't seem to have seen any cigarette with hard filters.

Alice Yes.

Hank There is?

Alice I've seen them.

Hank Really?

Alice There is a cigarette brand ... but I am not sure if it's available in Hong Kong... mmm... I used to work in South Korea.

Hank Really? Can you speak Korean?

Alice No, not really. The company gave us ten language lessons, but I only managed to attend five, and I only learnt how to say 'hello', and then I gave up. There is a very famous brand called Parliament. Is it available in Hong Kong?

Hank No, I don't think so.

Alice They have it in Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. I think only Hong Kong doesn't have it. They have a recessed filter with thick filter paper for people to bite, because back then...

Hank They have it in Marlboro too!

Alice Oh really?

Hank But they taste really bad. They have a protruded filter paper and the filter is inside.

Alice Yes! It's meant to be more convenient for people to bite.

Hank It tastes really bad.

Alice So, it tastes really bad and you don't really like it.

Hank Deep blue Marlboro, right? Marlboro has launched it.

Alice But then you can bite the filter happily.

Hank I don't think it's any more special, and it's also easy to bite the filter out.

Alice Oh, that is bad. You could swallow it!

Hank You can't smoke the cigarette anymore!

Alice Can't smoke it anymore. It's interesting why you wouldn't finish a whole cigarette. Why would you leave half a stick?

Hank I don't know. Some of my friends asked me the same thing. I didn't notice it myself. Maybe I just leave it when I have had enough. I would stop when I have had enough, yeah. I wouldn't drag too heavily ... In fact, I... mmm... I don't do it intentionally, but I have such a habit. I don't even know why. Do all your friends smoke?

Alice Many of them smoke.

Hank But you don't?

Alice I don't.

Hank Why are you interested in researching cigarettes?

Alice I think I am interested in addiction, and you can study many different things about addiction and addictive behaviours. Things people get addicted to may not be tangible, but I am interested in tangible things. Amongst the many things I've come across, I think the cigarette is the most unusual, because everybody knows it's not good and it's hazardous to health.

Hank What about drugs?

Alice Mmm... drugs are simply harmful, and drugs are illegal. But cigarette are legal and you can buy them.

Hank But I think alcohol addiction is more horrifying.

Alice So you think alcohol addiction is more horrifying? Why is that?

Hank I heard about it before, but not from my friends. There is a case of domestic violence where the father would hit the mother when he is drunk. You wouldn't do that when you smoke.

Alice Mmm...

Hank So, you won't be like that when you smoke. I mean, alcoholics would lose their sanity and it's even more horrifying. It's not very different from taking drugs.

Alice Mmm...

Hank I feel that it's very terrifying! You won't be very lost after smoking, and you probably wouldn't want to vomit. But sometimes you really don't know what you are doing after you drink, and that's the horrifying part.

Alice Do you like drinking? Do you prefer drinking to smoking?

Hank Smoking!

Alice You love smoking!

Hank Drinking for me... I work in a bar in Knutsford Terrace... in fact, I don't like to drink. I feel very sick after drinking, but sometimes I just can't stop drinking. Like when I am playing dice with my friends, they would want me to drink with them, and it's impossible for me to stop. In that situation it's very easy to drink too much, and I feel sick when I do that.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I mean, I feel comfortable as long as I don't over drink, but only drink to a point when I get high. But once I drink too much, I would want to vomit and then I would lose consciousness too.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I haven't truly lost consciousness but most of my friends have that problem. I feel that it's very scary; scarier than smoking.

Alice Apart from cigarettes, have you tried smoking pipe tobacco or cigars or marijuana before?

Hank Yes.

Alice All of them?

Hank Yes.

Alice And you decided to smoke cigarettes.

Hank I only smoked a cigar when I wanted to pretend to be stylish. Marijuana's problem is it's illegal, but... some of my friends would smoke that at times. I don't know... marijuana is very popular these days; it's a global phenomenon. Or was it popular before?

Alice It's always been popular.

Hank It's cyclical. Maybe people tried before but it was not that popular, but it's more popular now. Like in Hong Kong, but in fact, marijuana is less addictive. I feel that it's not addictive at all.

Alice Oh really? I didn't know that.

Hank I have also watched out for things like these. Cigarette addiction is similar to drug addiction. I mean heroin is of course the strongest! There is zero possibility for people to get addicted to marijuana. That's why... and that's why you can buy cigarettes everywhere but not marijuana.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Yeah, not the other stuff.

Alice Oh, I forgot to ask you about this just now. Some children have a stuffed animal in their childhood and they had to bring this stuffed animal with them no matter where they went. Did you have such a stuffed toy in your childhood?

Hank Yes, I have that!

Alice Do you remember?

Hank Yes! I even gave it a name and it's still on my bed!

Alice Really?

Hank Yes!

Alice It's got a name?

Hank Yes! There is one I've been keeping since my dad and mum's marriage. I keep it in my bedroom.

Alice What is it?

Hank Monkey! It's cute.

Alice This small?

Hank This size...

Alice You've been playing with that monkey since childhood?

Hank Yes! And then there was one more stuffed animal, one each for me and my brother.

Alice Oh! Did you exchange them?

Hank I used to have many stuffed animals.

Alice It's rare for guys to have many stuffed animals.

Hank I have lots! It's as tall as a chair when you stack them up, and I even bought a tent and put it in the living room for them to sleep in.

Alice Wow.

Hank I was like... I went to IKEA to buy a crib for them to sleep in.

Alice So that monkey is your favourite and you've been playing with it since childhood?

Hank No, I also have a polar bear.

Alice Polar bear? So, it was the one since your parents' marriage?

Hank My mum's boss gave it to me when I was born.

Alice How big is that?

Hank This big...

Alice So, you also remember that! Does it have a name?

Hank It's still here, and all of them have names!

Alice You named them? Did you name them when you were older or smaller?

Hank I don't remember that! I don't know if it was my mum who named them, and back then I always brought it with me during meal times.

Alice Ha, really?

Hank Yes! It was very cute ... I had many stuffed animals, and I was quite happy.

Alice When you were little?

Hank Yes.

Alice Do you drive? Do you have a driver's license?

Hank I am planning to get one.

Alice Planning to get one. I thought most boys would like to play with toy cars.

Hank Yes, I do. All of my friends drive now.

Alice You mean those friends who played with you back then?

Hank Many of them are very smart. Even though they are not doing "normal" business, they are still smart.

Alice You mean they are not working in the corporate world but have their own business?

Hank Yes, I mean they don't do office work. They don't have a conventional profession, but they're not doing anything illegal.

Alice You mean like hair stylists?

Hank Yes, something like that.

Alice Hair stylists or chefs?

Hank Yes.

Alice Or mechanics?

Hank Yes, and all of them are very smart.

Alice All of them are not in Hong Kong?

Hank They are in Hong Kong. There is one group I knew back in Primary six, and they are more 'MK' like.

Alice 'MK' like?

Hank 'MK' kid ... I mean those with long hair ... all of them are in Hong Kong, because their families are not rich. But those friends from elite schools are all gone.

Alice Do they come back to Hong Kong?

Hank Yes, they come back often ... five times a year.

Alice But they are already working overseas, right?

Hank No.

Alice Or are they still studying?

Hank Studying ... they are studying in universities. I mean those really rich ones. I used to like Hong Kong a lot, but after staying here for a year, I feel that it's just not that fun anymore.

Alice Because your friends are no longer here with you?

- Hank Maybe, that could be one of the reasons. And Hong Kong is also boring. After all, I've been living here for so long. I feel that people who live here are very closed minded.
- Alice For example?
- Hank Such as... their view on smoking ... that it is something unacceptable. But I'm not forcing you to smoke! I know that it's really not a good thing, and it would really affect other people if I smoke. That's why I don't like to smoke on the street, because while I'm walking, the smoke would really get blown to the others. But then, everybody smokes in a bar.
- Alice Can you smoke in a bar? Really? In Hong Kong? Perhaps only in an outdoor area? Not in an indoor area, surely?
- Hank It's allowed, yes. I mean, I rarely smoke in places where nobody smokes. I feel that I would affect other people, especially when you are on the streets ... maybe on a street in Mongkok... around those kids who are holding their parents' hands ... I am really afraid of burning them with my cigarette. So I wouldn't. If I want to smoke, I would prefer to go to a back alley and smoke with a couple of my friends. I wouldn't stand on the street ... smoking on the street, just like that. It looks disgraceful!
- Alice Hee hee...
- Hank I mean smoking on the streets is disgraceful. So I wouldn't.
- Alice Mmm, do you smoke at home?
- Hank At home?
- Alice Mmm.
- Hank Sometimes when I shower, but I try not to ... I don't want to do that. But I would do that in the dormitory, because my roommate also smokes.
- Alice I guess smoking is not allowed in the dormitory, but nobody knows, so it's ok right?
- Hank That's why my room ... I believe many people smoke in my dormitory, and all of them smoke inside the room. So the entire room is infused with cigarette smell. Oh, are you studying in the UK or Hong Kong now?
- Alice The UK, a part-time degree in the UK. It's a six-year programme and there is one more year for me to finalise my thesis, and then there is a (very scary) presentation to do. External panel members are brought in to assess us.
- Hank So now you are...
- Alice I am in my fourth year now, going into my fifth year, but I plan to speak to my professor and apply for a one-year extension because I've spent too much time on finalising my research methodology.
- Hank Would you go back to the UK? Or stay in Hong Kong?
- Alice If I want a psychoanalyst license after getting my degree, I will need to live in London.
- Hank Which place do you prefer?
- Alice Mmm... I think I won't do that in the short term, because it means I have to resign and move to London. I don't want to do that now because the opportunity cost is too high.
- Hank Essex is in London?
- Alice Two hours away from London.
- Hank That's quite close. On the east? Probably.

Alice It seems like it's closer to the airport, right? Mmm... I think I wouldn't move there in the short term. I think I will just get my degree. In fact, it's just vanity, a little like when you said being a lawyer is very cool. For me, I like the PhD bonnet! I think it's really beautiful, so I have to wear it! But I guess after this degree, I may consider studying neuroscience because I think it's really an interesting subject. I studied science in Pui Ching... but then my biology, physics and chemistry were all very bad.

Hank Do you know Vice Principal Leung? Leung Kar Wing?

Alice I know Leung Kar Wing! He is the Vice Principal now?

Hank No, he just retired.

Alice Ah? Retired? He used to be my maths teacher!

Hank And then he became the Vice Principal. Now he's retired, so I think most teachers in Pui Ching have been teaching for more than forty years.

Alice Leung Kar Wing was a funny teacher. I remember there was one time in his class, you know he stuttered, and then the heel of his shoe came off on the platform, but he just continued to walk, and all of us who sat in the front row just laughed at him!

Hank But Pui Ching students have always behaved well, right?

Alice The students?

Hank I think they have.

Alice Yes, very well-behaved. You too; you studied there for four years.

Hank I studied there for more than ten years!

Alice Oh really? Kindergarten and primary school?

Hank That's why it's very strange. I grew up with my brother in the same family, and we went to the same school, but I don't know why our personalities are so different.

Alice Mmm...

Hank I mean... how do I say it ... I mean my personality is the complete opposite of those in Pui Ching!

Alice Did your meningitis have an impact on you?

Hank I was only two months old, it's unrelated! (dismissive) I don't know why ... I don't know why it's like that ... but I am happy, maybe because I've noticed that Pui Ching students are too boring. I don't know...

Alice They are too preoccupied about getting into universities.

Hank I don't want my life to be like that. I want to try many different things, and have a lot of fun.

Alice Then I think probably an international school would suit you better. But you are right in saying that Pui Ching is really boring. They don't have ... their extracurricular activities suck, and there are no joint-school activities. You just study exam papers every day you go to school.

Hank That's why when I started going to school, I smoked after school. And I went to play snooker after smoking, and then after that, I went to Internet cafés to play video games.

Alice So, you didn't study?

Hank At first, I didn't go to school, and then I left.

Alice I think I've taken up a lot of your time today, it's almost been an hour. I don't have any more questions for now. What I will do is I will review the

recording of this interview, and then I will have some follow-up questions in the next interview, and I think Miss Cheung will contact you afterwards.

Hank Sure.

Alice I think she will make an appointment with you for another follow-up interview. It should be around this time next week, after I get off work. But if you can't make it at night, I will take half a day off for the follow-up interview.

Hank I should be ok at night. It's quite easy to get here anyway.

Alice Do you live on the island side?

Hank I live in Hung Hom.

Alice Is there an MTR station there?

Hank I take the tunnel bus, No.101 or 104.

Alice How's the traffic?

Hank Not too bad. The roads weren't jammed when I came here, but I'm not sure about going back.

Alice Ok, where's the bus stop? Causeway Bay? Wanchai?

Hank From Hung Hom to Wanchai Police Station

Alice Ok, I see. Thank you for helping me with this research, and I look forward to seeing you again next week for our follow-up interview. If you have any questions relating to this research, you can ask me next week. Thank you, Hank.

## Second interview: Hank

Alice Thank you for helping me with this second interview. I've reviewed the recording after our last interview and have some follow-up questions for you. I may need you to use your imagination on some questions ... just say whatever that comes to your mind; it doesn't matter; there is no right or wrong. Last time we talked about your most disappointing cigarette, and you mentioned those smoking moments after you drank too much alcohol or when you wanted to pee urgently, which were all triggered by environmental factors. Do you remember your most disappointing cigarette that was not caused by any environmental factors?

Hank Yes, those that tasted really bad. I bought a deep blue Marlboro pack before, and they tasted disgusting. They were those cigarettes with recessed filters that you mentioned before, and they tasted really disgusting!

Alice Oh, the recessed filter!

Hank Cigarette paper....

Alice Those with half the cigarette paper protruding outside the filter ... a deep blue Marlboro pack.

Hank It was newly launched. Well, not that new, around half a year, one year ago. Maybe slightly more than half a year ago.

Alice Is it a normal cigarette?

Hank A normal cigarette ... a lights cigarette, Marlboro.

Alice Marlboro Lights, so it's not menthol. Did you not like it because it has a protruding / recessed filter, or for other reasons?

Hank That's one reason, but also the cigarette itself tasted bad. That's how I feel.

Alice So you don't like the filter...

Hank No, not at all! Even though I like to bite the filter, I don't like that filter.

Alice Do you think it's fragile or what?

Hank I don't know. It just didn't feel comfortable, or more likely the cigarette itself tastes bad.

Alice Right, can you remember how it felt to smoke that very bad tasting and disappointing cigarette?

Hank I threw it away after only smoking half a stick! I mean, I didn't buy it myself; I was given it, yeah, and then I just threw it away. And then the friend who bought them also threw the cigarettes away after smoking half a pack, ha.

Alice Because it really did taste bad, even though the tar level was right?

Hank I really don't know why it tasted so bad.

Alice In what context did you smoke that cigarette? Was it during the day or at night?

Hank At night, in the bar.

Alice After dinner?

Hank Yeah, I went for a drink with friends. I remember it was a new launch at that time, so someone bought a new pack to try out. After trying it out, we felt that it tasted really bad, and then we threw it away after only smoking half a pack.

Alice Did he quickly get another pack after that?

Hank Him? Yes, he did, yeah.

Alice Ok, last time when I asked you about your ideal cigarette, you mentioned the cigarette you smoked in Tsimshatsui, and you felt very comfortable under the warm sun. Can you describe that world to me?

Hank (When I smoked my ideal cigarette earlier today) I felt like I was the only one who existed in this entire world... I didn't need to worry about what others were doing, it was when I listened to music through headphones, and then I ate lunch by myself, so that world... at that time it completely belonged to me. It was also a very quiet world, I was the only one left in this world... (the cigarette) didn't really have a specific role in that world, it was a pure enjoyment, like when you are holding a wine glass... or when I play the guitar... you feel like you are the only one left in this world.

Alice What role does the cigarette play in that world?

Hank I don't know, let me think... I don't know, not much of a role, but it's purely something that I can indulge in and enjoy. It's like you drink a glass of wine, yeah, it's an enjoyment. It's not so much about having a role; it's something that offers enjoyment ... a tool that gives you the ability to enjoy... yeah.

Alice Mmm... that means it doesn't really matter if the cigarette is there or not, but it just feels that you are alone in that world.

Hank That's not true. I feel that I must have a cigarette with me!

Alice So it must be there... mmm...

Hank Yes!

Alice Is it similar to the world when you play the guitar?

Hank A little bit.

Alice Or the world of taking photos? Playing the guitar and singing by yourself, or taking photos by yourself?

Hank I mean, it's very much similar to playing the guitar, but not so much about taking photos. In fact, playing the guitar feels like you are the only one who exists in this world.

Alice Would you feel bored?

Hank No, ha, not at all. It's like being alone and feeling happy at the same time.

Alice Do you prefer to be alone or to spend time with your friends?

Hank I used to love spending time and hanging out with my friends. I am very extreme. I mean, I either love to be alone, or to be with my friends. I don't know how to say it, but nowadays I prefer to be alone.

Alice When do you prefer to be alone?

Hank When I'm eating, and having a stroll.

Alice Mmm...

Hank Or it may not be like that. Perhaps most of my like-minded friends have gone abroad, maybe, but then I also feel quite good when I am alone. I mean, I feel quite comfortable to be alone because I don't have to worry about other people. It's very annoying to try to accommodate everybody's schedule if I go out with my friends at times, yeah. So being alone is quite good ... I get to ponder more about things when I am alone, like my future, and things like that. I mean it's better to have my own time. The older I get, the more I feel that way.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Yeah.

Alice What about watching movies?

Hank I would watch movies by myself.

Alice I see.

Hank It's a bit strange, but I would do that.

Alice Ok, I remember you also told me last time that you like to smoke when you are unhappy, because smoking feels like swallowing all the frustrations in your body. Can you tell me more about this feeling?

Hank Because I... I mean I don't like telling other people how unhappy I am or how hard life is, I mean... I don't know, maybe it's my family education and training, I don't normally tell others about my problems and difficulties, so I feel that... how to say it... it's like maybe I have become dependent on cigarettes... maybe when you exhale the smoke... it's like... I don't know how to say it, it's a feeling... it's like when you exhale and blow out the smoke, it feels like you just get everything you want to say off your chest in one go.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Mmm... it's like you feel completely relieved after you finish the cigarette, and you feel that maybe you've overthought things... it feels like the smoke takes away everything in one go, things like pressure.

Alice So you never talk to others about unhappy things, and they continue to accumulate in your heart.

Hank No, I wouldn't talk to others because I don't like to do that.

Alice What about talking to those friends who have left?

Hank Not really, those people ... It's my personality. I feel that, I mean... I mean... sigh, all of us have our own problems. Telling others would only add more burden onto them, and that's not very nice. Also, I don't like to be dependent on others, so... yeah... maybe that's why I became dependent on cigarettes.

Alice Ah, that's interesting. So the smoke seems to have taken away your problems when you blow it out of your chest. You wouldn't talk to the cigarette, right?

Hank Mmm... It's like you suddenly feel relieved from the pressure of a big rock! I mean when you finish smoking the cigarette, sigh, maybe I think too much, those feelings...

Alice Mmm, or does the smoke absorb all those bad things like a sponge?

Hank No, not really. But it feels like, yeah, you blow everything out after you inhale, and then nothing had ever happened, it's all gone, like magic!

Alice When you are unhappy, would you blow out the smoke harder?

Hank No, not really. But I would usually smoke alone, yeah, it's like that.

Alice How many cigarettes does it take to blow out all the sadness? Do you remember the saddest moment you've experienced?

Hank When I had my open exams back then, when I was still with my ex-girlfriend, well, I just kept on smoking.

Alice Chain smoke?

Hank Not chain smoking. I smoked a lot every day; I would just smoke whenever I thought of smoking.

Alice Ok, Hank, last time you also mentioned that you like to bite the filter when you smoke. Does that make the cigarette taste better? Did it occur to you

that you would totally damage the filter or it will become deformed?

Hank Sometimes the filter would fall off.

Alice What would you do when that happens?

Hank Just throw the cigarette away!

Alice Throw it away...

Hank Can't smoke it anymore, I mean the filter becomes very soft and wet after I have bitten it... and then I just throw the cigarette away!

Alice So it falls off...

Hank Yes, sometimes, and then I just throw the cigarette away.

Alice Mmm... has the filter been bitten off when you smoked your regular brand?

Hank Not my regular brand, I don't think. I don't remember the filters of which brands would fall off, but some would.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Yeah, right.

Alice When that happened, would you normally think it was the cigarette's fault or your fault?

Hank It should be because I bit it too hard.

Alice So you wouldn't blame the bad quality of the cigarette?

Hank Sometimes after I smoke my cigarette, my friends would bum a smoke from me. When my friends ask me to share my cigarette with them, they would immediately know that the cigarette is mine because my filter would always be flat and wet, yeah, I only realised that I have this filter biting habit when my friends told me about it, I didn't know everybody else did not bite the filter!

Alice Oh.

Hank Do you understand what I am talking about?

Alice I understand.

Hank Yes.

Alice So you thought everybody bites the filters?

Hank Yes, yes.

Alice And you weren't aware of that for a long time?

Hank Right, right. Because I feel that there is no taste if you just smoke the cigarette without biting the filter, the filter will become firmer when you bite it, and you can inhale more, such a wonderful experience!

Alice So the smoke would taste better if you bite the filter when you smoke?

Hank Perhaps it's stronger. There's more kick.

Alice Would you go and buy stronger cigarettes?

Hank Ah, in fact, the cigarettes I smoke are already very strong! Compared to those smoked by others, yeah.

Alice Mmm... would you buy stronger cigarettes if they were available?

Hank I need to take a look and try them out first.

Alice Mmm... this is interesting. You are smoking Marlboro Medium, right? I don't remember the tar level...

Hank I think it's 16mg.

Alice That high?

Hank Seems to be 16mg.

Alice What about the tar level of Red Marlboro?

Hank The same with Marlboro Medium, very similar.

Alice Ah... I thought there was Marlboro Red with a full bodied red colour, and then there was one with a lighter shade of red...

Hank Marlboro Lights.

Alice Oh, Marlboro Lights, it's Marlboro Lights, and then there is this middle one Marlboro Medium...

Hank It should be similar to Marlboro Red.

Alice Mmm...

Hank But I don't like Marlboro Red. They're very spicy... I mean they burn my mouth.

Alice Mmm.

Hank That's why I don't smoke them, but sometimes I would smoke mainland Chinese brands like Zhongnanhai ... something like that.

Alice Are those good?

Hank Quite good, quite OK.

Alice Mmm.

Hank But I don't smoke them now ... I am smoking Salem now.

Alice Can I take a look at it? Oh, this one...

Hank This is my first smoke ... I mean the first brand that I smoked.

Alice Ah, is there a capsule in it?

Hank No.

Alice No...

Hank But it's a menthol cigarette.

Alice Your first smoke ... why have you gone back to smoking it, after so long?

Hank I don't know, ha... this one has a menthol thread.

Alice Yeah, I can see that, mmm...

Hank I would smoke both, either this one or Marlboro Medium.

Alice When do you normally smoke menthol cigarettes? Would you smoke them when you have a cough?

Hank No, I smoke Lights when I have a cough.

Alice Oh, Lights ... so it depends on your mood.

Hank Mmm... I've only been doing this kind of alternate smoking recently.

Alice Half and half.

Hank Yes.

Alice Mmm ... how long have you been smoking these cigarettes?

Hank You mean this pack?

Alice No, I mean this brand, called Salem, right?

Hank Must have been six, seven years...

Alice Six, seven years... did you notice any change in taste during these six, seven years?

Hank I feel that the taste is getting lighter and lighter.

Alice Oh, you feel that it is lighter and lighter...

Hank In fact, it could be me who wants to smoke stronger and stronger cigarettes, so I feel that their taste is lighter and lighter.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Yeah, it's got nothing to do with the cigarettes.

Alice Mmm, do you hate it?

Hank No.

Alice Because you feel that it's you who has a stronger and stronger taste preference?

Hank Yes, and also, I don't know, when I get a stronger and stronger taste preference, sometimes, all of a sudden, I would swing to the complete opposite and want to smoke something lighter.

Alice What causes the swing? Is it because you suddenly realise that you shouldn't be smoking such strong cigarettes?

Hank No, it's purely because I don't want to smoke such strong cigarettes.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Sometimes I get really sleepy after smoking lights cigarettes.

Alice Ah, I haven't heard about that. But this (Salem) won't be like that, right?

Hank Not so much with this one (Salem). Those (points) make me feel dizzy after smoking them.

Alice Apart from getting lighter and lighter, what other changes have you noticed?

Hank Packaging! They used to be in a soft pack.

Alice Oh, really? So they come in a hard box now?

Hank Yes, a hard box! It wasn't like that before. I don't remember it was like that before, but I feel that this packaging is very beautiful.

Alice More beautiful than the old one?

Hank Not really. I mean this packaging is more beautiful than other brands.

Alice Oh, what do you think of this change? I mean a change from a soft pack to a hard box, without getting your permission?

Hank It doesn't... doesn't really matter, this one...

Alice It doesn't matter.

Hank No, it doesn't matter.

Alice They change when they like to change right? But you just feel that the taste is getting lighter and lighter.

Hank Yes.

Alice But you believe that it's because of your stronger taste preference that the cigarette is becoming lighter and lighter. Would you not smoke this brand now that you feel it's getting lighter?

Hank No, not really, I don't know why, I really don't know why. But I won't. Maybe because it's a habit... habit... maybe it's really a habit.

Alice Mmm.

Hank At least, I don't feel that there is much difference between different brands of cigarettes. It's purely a habit, unless there are some really disgusting ones, I mean like the Deep Blue Marlboro I mentioned before. In fact I don't think they differ much. That Ice Blast is different, I mean those capsule ones. I really hate smoking those cigarettes.

Alice Do you not like the capsule concept, or you...

Hank I just hate them. It's like inhaling some cold air into your body!

Alice And it's different from this (Salem)?

Hank Different ... this one is not like that.

Alice So you mean this one has more tobacco flavour. Those with capsules, the menthol taste is too strong...

Hank Those have too much menthol taste! Once you inhale, your throat seems to

be frozen. I don't like that feeling, but many people do. Most girls smoke this kind of cigarettes.

Alice Many people smoke menthol cigarettes because they reduce the smell in the breath. That's why they like them.

Hank You should expect to have smoker's breath when you smoke a lot.

Alice Haha, maybe the fingers also get smelly when you smoke like that.

Hank Oh, that's true.

Alice Sure, right?

Hank I smoke those really heavy cigarettes. I get really smelly, even after I get home!

Alice Do your fingers smell too?

Hank Yes!

Alice Really? Ok, let's go back to Marlboro Medium. How long have you been smoking that brand?

Hank Not that long ... three years, two, three years. I only started smoking this brand in the last two, three years.

Alice Have you noticed any changes since you started smoking them two, three years ago?

Hank It seems the taste is getting lighter...

Alice Also lighter...

Hank In that past, I would feel that they're really strong, and maybe I would want to throw it away after smoking half a stick. But now... now I can smoke two sticks in one go, yeah.

Alice So you feel that it's getting lighter... mmm...

Hank I mean it's not really lighter in that sense. It's just lost the strong taste it used to have.

Alice Do you feel OK about it?

Hank Actually, I like it more and more. I mean, I might have disliked it a bit in the past because I felt that it was too strong, but not anymore.

Alice Apart from the taste of the cigarette, are there any other changes you've noticed such as the cigarette design and the packaging?

Hank No, I think Marlboro seldom changes its packaging, and... let me think... yeah, I've rarely seen pack changes for other cigarettes.

Alice Rarely?

Hank I mean, despite the many variants of Marlboro cigarettes, they rarely change the packaging. The packaging designs seem very similar, yeah. It seems like they haven't changed in all these years!

Alice How do you feel about these changes? I mean do you like it, or you think it's just stupid?

Hank I don't mind, since I only smoke the cigarette inside. I don't care about the packaging changes.

Alice Mmm, do you also look at the cigarette design?

Hank Mmm... I would look at it, yes. Marlboro Medium has red tipping paper. Well, I mean it's orange, and then some are white, but I don't know the real differences.

Alice But you feel that most cigarette brands like Marlboro normally wouldn't change their packaging much.

Hank The designs have become less classic, I guess.

Alice So there is no need to change. I remember in the 80's, during my Dad's smoking days, Kent was very popular in Hong Kong.

Hank Kent!

Alice Yes, the old Kent, not the current one with the rounded corner packaging. The old Kent was a square box, with a dark colour. Marlboro wasn't popular at that time; it was Kent that sold better, and then ... there were...

Hank Many old men smoke Kent.

Alice Old men... they like the grassy taste, that's what they said. I heard that Kent changed the filter tipping design slightly, and then everybody felt that its taste changed after the change in tipping design, despite the fact that there was no change in the ingredients of the product, and then the market share of Kent just collapsed. So this is something quite interesting to note. Consumers tend to believe that the taste of cigarette has changed after a design change! That's why I...

Hank I didn't know that! Maybe it isn't the taste specifically anymore... in fact I'll smoke any cigarettes.

Alice I think I mentioned this question before... when you smoke a cigarette, do you think the cigarette is an inanimate object? Or do you think it has a life?

Hank No.

Alice You think it's an inanimate object with no life.

Hank I think it's like... an accessory. I don't know how to say it ... I mean, it's like an accessory, yeah. I mean it's like... I don't know ... I feel that it's really beautiful! Some people look really cool when they smoke!

Alice Like who?

Hank Leslie Cheung (a very popular Hong Kong singer who committed suicide by jumping from the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, aged 49 in 2003)!

Alice Did he smoke?

Hank There is a photo of him smoking!

Alice Oh, is it an album cover or what?

Hank It's a photo, ah, let me see if I have it ... he looked super cool!

Alice Is that really cool?

Hank Quite cool ... I don't know ... Leslie Cheung is super cool, I think...

Alice He's dead unfortunately. Has it been ten years?

Hank Yes, yes, should be!

Alice He jumped off from the Grand Hyatt. I was there on that day.

Hank Really?

Alice Yes, I had lunch with my colleagues. It was probably a Friday or something, and then after lunch, I heard the news saying that Leslie Cheung jumped off from either the Grand Hyatt or Mandarin Oriental.

Hank Grand Hyatt.

Alice It was a shock to me!

Hank And then?

Alice We left the hotel after lunch. I heard the news when I got home. I thought people were joking! I don't remember what date that was. It was some kind of celebration, maybe close to Christmas. That was why I got off work early that day.

Hank It was April Fools' day!

Alice Oh, April Fools' day! But why did we go out for lunch? First of April ... you really have a good memory. Was Leslie Cheung your idol?

Hank No, but lately, I found him to be super cool. Many of his photos are super cool! (Started showing me Leslie Cheung's photos on his mobile phone browser)

Alice Yeah, there are photos of him smoking. So you feel that he is super cool...

Hank So cool!

Alice I didn't really pay attention to that ... but that's how you feel.

Hank Some people, but only some people only.

Alice Smoking makes some people look cool?

Hank Yes.

Alice And it's an accessory.

Hank Yes, and it is also a social tool. It can make you... how do I say that? I told my friends about this interview, and they also said that they've met a lot of true friends after smoking.

Alice Oh, interesting. Can you tell me more about it?

Hank "Meet friends through cigarettes!" After I started smoking, most of the friends I met are smokers. For some reason, it's really difficult for you to make friends with non-smokers.

Alice Mmm.

Hank And also when you smoke, you really have a lot of time... to chit chat, because after you smoke ... I don't know how to say it. I feel that if it wasn't for smoking, I wouldn't have met these friends. But then I don't know why ... maybe when we smoke, we gather together, yeah, like back then it was after school. We always wondered where to hang out or what to do, and nobody had any idea. So we went to a park to chill out. But you can't just chill out in a park without doing anything else, right? So we would normally go and have a smoke. It's through such things that everybody would gather and smoke together.

Alice Normally, how many people are in your smoking group?

Hank Many! Six to seven. I used to study in Pui Ching and my friends studied in Kowloon Wah Yan. Some of them were from La Salle, and we went to Mongkok after school, and then we smoked in an alley.

Alice So you didn't go to the park? Isn't the Waterloo Park near Pui Ching?

Hank Not really. Sometimes we would go to some back alley in Mongkok to smoke.

Alice Ah, that's quite interesting. So six to seven people smoking together! There must be lots and lots of smoke.

Hank Yes, yes!

Alice Would the smoke be so thick that you couldn't see each other?

Hank Mmm, yes if it's indoors. If it's outdoors, then it shouldn't happen.

Alice Mmm.

Hank We were very happy smoking! I mean, right after school, ah, you can smoke again! At the end of school, there would be a group of us discussing where to go for a smoke, yeah. I don't know how to say it ... but you wouldn't do that if you didn't smoke. There wouldn't gather for no reason. Or should I say,

there is a reason to congregate because we all smoke.

Alice Each cigarette would only last for a few minutes, right?

Hank And afterwards, well, we played video games!

Alice Mmm.

Hank Yeah, it was like that.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Some of my friends played snooker, but normally, I wouldn't join. I would have gone home for dinner instead. But they would always ask me to go up (to the snooker area) to join them for a smoke, and I would. My intention was to just go and have a smoke, but then I'd end up staying there and not going home for dinner.

Alice Oh I see.

Hank I mean, these were really happy moments ... the feeling of stealing a smoke surreptitiously after school. We were in our school uniforms, and we tried to be discreet. It was really awful to be with my friends!

Alice Mmm.

Hank And nowadays when I smoke, there isn't really anything special. In those days when we were in school uniform, when we were still young ... and the more people didn't want us to do something, the more we wanted to do it. It was the feeling of being defiant that made me jubilant and happy back then.

Alice Mmm.

Hank And also, I had friends who lived near my home. I had known them since my childhood and they also smoked. We weren't so close for three four years, but it was because we had all become smokers, we would naturally go down to the streets to smoke together, and then we got close again!

Alice Ah, that's very interesting.

Hank Later, I discovered more things, like some of them also played the guitar, yeah. How do I say that ... we used smoking as a reason to gather together. I mean, if I didn't smoke, maybe we wouldn't have been friends. Sometimes I would ask them to accompany me to smoke, and they would, even if they didn't want to smoke.

Alice And then you get yourself all smelly.

Hank Yes, I mean, that's why smoking is...

Alice Ha, would it be possible that when you smoke ... during the seven to eight puffs of each cigarette, you would be led into a strange or special world?

Hank Definitely!

Alice So, it's not like drinking where you would say silly things when you get drunk. Smoking would lead you to ...

Hank Happiness!

Alice A state of happiness.

Hank I don't know how to say it. Smoking, especially with a group of friends, makes me very happy. I don't know how else to express it, but I'll be really happy.

Alice Mmm... so this state would give you an opportunity to make true friends. It is very interesting when you told me that smoking provided a platform for you to get to know true friends... and then I thought it could really be

difficult for non-smokers to make friends. For me, since graduation and after I started working, it was really difficult to make friends.

Hank Yes, it's really true. I mean... smokers... how can I say it? I don't know... I just keep making more and more friends. Maybe non-smokers would find it boring, and they couldn't be bothered to go out without a specific purpose. But when we went out to smoke, time passed really quickly that and before we knew it, two or three hours had already gone by. Things like that would be unimaginable for non-smokers, but after I became a smoker, most of the friends I made were not from school. That's true.

Alice Would you talk more when you smoke?

Hank It's got nothing to do with it, but we would definitely smoke when we chat.

Alice Mmm...

Hank The main thing is we want to chat, so we smoke. It's not because we wanted to smoke, so we also chatted.

Alice Mmm... so when you chatted, you would normally smoke too.

Hank Yes.

Alice That's really interesting. So when the six to seven of you smoke together, the smoke you exhale will be mixed together, and maybe that would give you a feeling that your lives are intertwined together or ...

Hank Linkage ... linking together.

Alice Is there such a feeling at all?

Hank To a certain extent. I remember something really funny when I started smoking again. I met a group of friends from elite schools through Facebook. One of them asked me to study with them. All of them were boys from Kowloon Wah Yan. So we played and studied for the exams together around April, May. Then we started to talk about what we would do during the summer holidays. I told them that I have applied for an exchange program and I would go to Beijing. It so happened that the other three Kowloon Wah Yan friends were also going to Beijing that summer for the exchange program!

Alice Mmm.

Hank And then, when we were in Beijing, there was one night with heavy rain.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Two boys had gone out to meet girls.

Alice Mmm.

Hank And then there was only me and another boy left behind, and we started to wonder what we could do together as we were getting bored. We decided to wander around for an adventure. We walked up to the top floor, and it started to rain heavily.

Alice Where was it again?

Hank In Beijing.

Alice Which university in Beijing?

Hank It wasn't a university. We were at Yu Cai Middle School. I don't remember where it was in Beijing.

Alice Yu Cai Middle School...

Hank It was a bit like a dormitory. We went to the top floor which had a glass ceiling, kind of like a transparent box. The rain was pouring, and I could hear

the pitter-patter on the roof top. I could see the beautiful water drops. And then my friend took out a cigarette as asked me if I would like to smoke, and I said yes, and then we started talking, and then...

Alice Mmm.

Hank And at that time, I was very happy. Then we quietly sneaked out. I quietly sneaked out with him, with that boy from the exchange program, and we went to Wang Fu Jing!

Alice Mmm.

Hank But we were spotted by the tour leader, but then we just disappeared.

Alice Oh, you weren't allowed to leave the dorm?

Hank No!

Alice Oh, because you were too young!

Hank Yes, Form three, four.

Alice You were still quite young.

Hank We sneaked out to Wang Fu Jing! My friend's family members called him and asked him where he was! We quickly found those vehicles in mainland China ... something called the rickshaw, right? You use your legs to peddle the vehicle, that kind?

Alice Mmm, they still had that? Haha.

Hank It was thrilling! We peddled furiously back, and it was awesome!

Alice Mmm.

Hank But the most disappointing thing is that this boy used to be very close to me.

Alice Mmm.

Hank But later I found out that he was going out with my girlfriend.

Alice Oh, that one?

Hank Yes, the way they did that was really quite disappointing. I mean, that boy used to be my good friend. Now ...

Alice Mmm... how long had you known him at that time?

Hank It was only at an early stage of our friendship ... two or three months into our friendship.

Alice Mmm.

Hank And that was almost four years ago, yeah.

Alice Did you confront him when you found out he was seeing your girlfriend?

Hank No, I didn't. No.

Alice No? So you just wanted to let it go and not see them anymore?

Hank Yes, that's right...

Alice And he felt guilty so he didn't talk to you anymore?

Hank Yes, he knew I was disappointed, yes. He is doing an internship with another friend of mine at the Peninsula Hotel. He did hotel management.

Alice He studied hotel management in Hong Kong?

Hank No, they studied overseas.

Alice Oh.

Hank And sometimes I would go to the hotel to meet my friend. Then he would see me, and I would see him too, yeah...

Alice Do you greet each other?

Hank No, we won't.

Alice Is he still with your ex?

Hank They are still in touch with each other, but I don't know if they are together. They are still in touch; I heard that from my friend.

Alice Mmm... how does that feel? Was it be painful when your girlfriend cheated on you, especially when you were working hard for your open exams?

Hank Yes, absolutely.

Alice Mmm... was he your best friend at that time?

Hank Not the best, not really, but definitely a good friend.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Mmm... it's nothing special, I guess. I feel that I wouldn't have minded if they had been honest with me. The fact that he lied to me; I didn't like that. I really wouldn't have minded if the girl really liked him ...

Alice Mmm.

Hank It wasn't like I could control anything. If they had been honest, I wouldn't say "I won't let go, I won't let go", right?

Alice Mmm.

Hank I mean, I remember it clearly, because I was really angry at that time. I remember.

Alice How angry were you?

Hank I was at school at that time.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I left the school after lunch. I was so angry I just pushed open the main gate and left!

Alice What year were you in?

Hank Form Six.

Alice Form Six ... you left via the main school gate. Did the teachers try to stop you?

Hank They asked where I was going. I ignored them and left.

Alice So you were very angry?

Hank Yes, at that time. I must have been very angry. In fact, we were quite free in Form Six.

Alice Mmm.

Hank And then I went to the carpark next to my school to smoke a cigarette.

Alice Mmm.

Hank The first thing I did was definitely to smoke!

Alice Did it help you?

Hank Yes it did!

Alice Mmm.

Hank And then... yeah.

Alice And then what happened? Did you go home after the smoke?

Hank No, I went to Mongkok to look for my other friends. They called me immediately and asked me what happened.

Alice Mmm, was it lunch time for them at school too?

Hank School had just finished for them.

Alice School had just finished.

Hank Yes.

Alice So you went out with other friends to smoke and hang out?

Hank Yes.

Alice You hoped to forget about it.

Hank Yes. And then my girlfriend came to look for me afterwards.

Alice Mmm, on the same day?

Hank Yes!

Alice And then you just talked to her to clear things up?

Hank Yes, something like that. It was complicated.

Alice Wow, it must have hurt.

Hank So dramatic, just like in movies.

Alice It must have hurt a lot when all these things happened together.

Hank I was OK.

Alice I have two more questions, but before that, let me divert a bit. You mentioned before ... doing something surreptitiously, something that is forbidden, makes you happy...

Hank Mmm.

Alice And smoking is one example. Others didn't allow you to smoke, but you enjoyed smoking secretly in school uniform. But now since you are no longer as restricted as you were in a school uniform, is smoking less of a pleasure compared to before?

Hank I still smoke, but I'm less happy, less excited. Sigh, it's quite interesting that we talked about quitting, and that we should all quit smoking together. And then there was a chubby friend who smoked a lot. It was so funny. There was once when we said we would quit smoking right after school. And when we met up after school, the chubby friend had already started to have a runny nose!

Alice The one who smoked a lot?

Hank Yes. And then all of us started teasing him, saying things like, "Hey! He asked us to stop joking!" and "Hey! He's asking us not to tease him!" Of course, we all started smoking again; it was really funny. I was really happy too.

Alice Are they still in Hong Kong?

Hank Studying in Australia, England ... yeah, in Australia and England mostly. All of them are from rich families, so they can afford to study abroad.

Alice Last time you mentioned that you felt strangled and suffocated because you went to Pui Ching from kindergarten to primary, and all the way to high school. Can you tell me more about that feeling?

Hank I really hate it. I mean it's the thinking (of the school). I mean there is only one answer to everything in Pui Ching. There is no room for other possibilities.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I mean you are not even allowed to ask (if there are alternatives)!

Alice Mmm.

Hank Yeah, I don't know how to say it ... the school system and policies are very rigid. So I felt that it was not suitable for me.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I like to ask why for many things. I don't know ...

Alice It's a good thing to ask why.

Hank I have been like that since I was a kid, but so many teachers thought that I

liked to talk back.

Alice Mmm.

Hank They didn't like it, and then... yeah.

Alice Mmm.

Hank But Pui Ching is quite good in some ways. After all, it's a good school, but I just felt that it was not suitable for me.

Alice Mmm, what about your family? Do you feel suffocated at home?

Hank Not really. I am very free at home, really free. They don't hassle me.

Alice Mmm, can you ask "Why?" at home?

Hank Yes I can.

Alice Are there any answers from anyone?

Hank From Dad. Dad has changed my thinking quite a bit. He has a powerful influence on me. I didn't feel it at first, but I can feel it now.

Alice In what area?

Hank The thinking, like what I think about life, I mean... I don't know, the way I think, yeah.

Alice Do you think you are a good boy at home? And at school?

Hank Yes or no? It should be yes.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I don't know what it means to be a good boy, I mean now ... my dad and mum wouldn't discipline me much.

Alice Mmm.

Hank But... when she asks me to drink soup, I will just drink soup. I don't know, they wouldn't request me to be home by midnight. They wouldn't; not since I was a kid.

Alice So they wouldn't ban you from going out.

Hank No. But then, I would always show up when we have family meals with my grandparents on Sunday. I don't know if that counts.

Alice Oh, that's very sweet of you.

Hank Things like that... I mean I would always show up, right, so I am not sure if I am a good boy, maybe not very good.

Alice So your dad and mum don't discipline you and your brother much, and they let you have our own freedom and development paths?

Hank Right. They don't mind.

Alice Do you remember the most memorable and unhappy moments you had with your parents?

Hank Nothing special really. It is a dull life with my family. I mean there wasn't anything too unhappy.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I mean... no, not really.

Alice So it was a simple and dull life since childhood, nothing really too special.

Hank My dad is very simple, yeah ... he is not especially good or especially bad.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I mean, not really very good, not very bad, nothing especially happy, and we normally just watched TV after dinner.

Alice Mmm.

Hank It is usually like that. I often ate at home. A lot of the times, my dad is not in

Hong Kong.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Then Mum would say, "Dad is back!" and I will go home for dinner, and watch TV after dinner. He would ask, "How are you lately?" and I would say, "Not too bad," and he would say, "That's quite good."

Alice Mmm.

Hank And then I would watch TV with him, and then go back to my own room. And then after a while, I would tell them that I was going downstairs. Then I would go downstairs to smoke, or find my friends and then they would be asleep when I get home.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Therefore, this kind of pattern... lasted for how many years? Since I was in Form two, three it had been like this ... or was it from Form three, four.

Alice Has your dad been working until now?

Hank He has been working all this time, and it would be eight, nine o'clock when he gets off from work. It would be ten or eleven o'clock after we finish dinner. Then I would go down for a smoke, and it would be around one or two am when I got back. By then he was asleep already.

Alice Mmm, it took that long to chill with your friends? Haha.

Hank Yes! I walked the dog with my friends. One of them adopted a dog.

Alice Mmm.

Hank We walked the dog, played the guitar a bit, sat downstairs for a bit ... and he would be asleep when I returned home.

Alice Mmm.

Hank And he would still be asleep when I got up for school, sometimes.

Alice When he came home late, did he come back from work in Hong Kong or he had left Hong Kong for work?

Hank He left Hong Kong.

Alice Ah, left Hong Kong!

Hank Yes!

Alice But your mum wouldn't leave Hong Kong, right?

Hank Yes, she would.

Alice She would.

Hank She would.

Alice But your mum doesn't work, right?

Hank She would be with dad, going together...

Alice There was only you after they left?

Hank Me and my brother.

Alice Who cooked?

Hank We got take-outs, or we went downstairs to eat.

Alice Was that frequent?

Hank Very frequent.

Alice Do you mind telling me what your dad's profession is?

Hank I also don't know!

Alice You don't know?

Hank Don't know, running some kind of business, I guess.

Alice Doing business...

Hank Probably, I don't know, I didn't ask.

Alice Mmm! You didn't ask what your dad did.

Hank Right.

Alice Wouldn't you be curious? Did you not ask him where he went, what he did or when he would be back?

Hank Maybe I sensed it somehow when I got older. He was doing business.

Alice When your mum wasn't around because she was helping your dad with his business, you and your brother also wouldn't ask about that?

Hank Right.

Alice Your dad and mum would suddenly disappear, or would they inform you that they wouldn't be around because they needed to go away for business?

Hank They would tell us.

Alice They would tell you.

Hank Right.

Alice And also when they would come back?

Hank They'd tell us they're going to a certain place, like South Korea, and if there was anything we wanted ... something like that.

Alice Mmm.

Hank So I didn't really ask them what they do.

Alice So it has been like that since your childhood?

Hank Yes, but more so recently. It happened less back then, yeah.

Alice So your dad did the same kind of business since you were little?

Hank Probably.

Alice Haha, so you didn't ask?

Hank Right.

Alice Ok.

Hank *(Impersonating his dad) "I do everything" I would ask them when I was still little and nosy, "Well, I do everything".*

Alice Oh, I see.

Hank Yes.

Alice Mmm, so they went away less frequently when you were little, and they stayed mostly in Hong Kong. But they started going away more frequently since you were in Form two three. Sometimes your mum would also go away with your dad. Mmm, did your mum go away frequently when you were little? Who took care of you when she was away?

Hank She didn't go away much at that time.

Alice Mmm.

Hank My mum used to be a manager at Chanel.

Alice Oh, so she was the shop manager at Chanel cosmetics?

Hank Yes.

Alice Before you were born?

Hank Right!

Alice She had to take care of you after you were born so she quit her job.

Hank Yes. I don't know what happened afterwards ... I don't remember ... I don't really know. I rarely asked my family about things like that.

Alice Mmm, that's quite interesting, your story, I mean. Do you talk to your dad and mum much?

Hank Quite a lot. I mean they may ask me if I have a girlfriend, and I'd tell them, "No!" And when it comes to girlfriends, my dad would tell me to take precautions and not to make mistakes ... don't do this and don't do that. He would normally say things like that, yeah.

Alice So, are you influenced by your dad's easy going personality and taking things calmly kind of attitude?

Hank There is one thing about my dad. When I tell him my problems, like things about my girlfriends etc, he would say that I would have a lot more problems when I grow up!

Alice So these are only small matters...

Hank I guess I'm influenced by him in this way ... that I would look at things and feel that they are really small matters.

Alice Mmm.

Hank He has to face a lot of bigger problems. So I shouldn't feel too sorry for myself or get too upset about things.

Alice Mmm, this is your dad's influence on you.

Hank Mmm.

Alice What about playing the guitar with your dad?

Hank Mmm.

Alice A rather uneventful life. You can't think of anything happy in your life?

Hank Not really... travelling, probably travelling.

Alice The whole family travelling including your brother?

Hank Yes, we went to Beijing to meet dad.

Alice So you and your brother and your mum went to Beijing to meet dad?

Hank Yes.

Alice Went to Beijing to meet your dad...

Hank But I was really little, and I'd also been to England to meet my dad.

Alice Mmm, to England as well?

Hank And then we went to Europe, but it was round 2003, 2004.

Alice 2003, 2004, wow! It was almost twelve years ago!

Hank Nothing afterwards.

Alice How long did you stay there?

Hank We went there for two months, during the summer holidays.

Alice Oh! You went to Beijing and Europe to meet your dad during the summer holiday. Two months is a long time.

Hank Yes, one or two months.

Alice What did you do there during those two months?

Hank Not much. We just chilled and travelled around.

Alice Travelling around ... so you are quite experienced with Europe?

Hank Not really ... I am going there soon, but I will go by myself.

Alice By yourself?

Hank Yes.

Alice When? In May, after your exams?

Hank May 4th next week.

Alice May 4th. Will you be on holiday by then?

Hank I'll be on holiday.

Alice So soon!

Hank I have exams next Tuesday, and I will be on holiday after I finish the last subject next Tuesday.

Alice On holiday! And you will visit your friends in England, right?

Hank Visit my friends and also chill there.

Alice Mmm.

Hank I saved some money before, when I worked, and then I can save a lot of money by living at my friend's place.

Alice Yeah, it's very expensive in England. An average hotel room would cost your over £100!

Hank Yes.

Alice B&B is also quite expensive these days.

Hank I will live at my friend's place, and I can save lots of money. I mean maybe HK\$20,000 would be enough to stay there for a month.

Alice So you will go there for a month?

Hank Yes.

Alice Should be enough. Sterling is quite cheap lately, and you only need to spend on food. It's not like you will eat a lot every day. So that's the Kowloon Wah Yan friend you mentioned before?

Hank One of them is, and there is another one who went to an International school. It's funny because I had another Kowloon Wah Yan friend who got expelled from the school, and then he went to study in an International school. Just like me, yeah.

Alice Oh, so he got expelled too.

Hank Yes.

Alice Because of smoking, or playing truant?

Hank Yes.

Alice You kids!

Hank We were really naughty back then, we were... quite naughty. And then he went to an International school, so I went there too.

Alice Oh, so he got in first, and you followed. How many friends are you going to meet up in England on this trip?

Hank I have four, five friends ... quite a few of them! In fact, all of them know that I would be going over, and they booked an apartment in Holland, and then six or seven of us would be there on the 6th or 7th, and there are around ten of us altogether.

Alice Wow, it's a big party!

Hank Yeah, all boys yeah, and then my best friend is flying over there from Canada.

Alice Wow!

Hank It's really good! I didn't know he would join us. I really didn't know he would go, but he is my closest friend, that one.

Alice Mmm.

Hank And I only knew he was going there at the same time after I'd booked the tickets, so we booked those dates around May 7th, for an apartment in Amsterdam.

Alice How many days will you stay there?

Hank Four to five days.

Alice So it's London first, followed by Amsterdam, and back to London?

Hank Yes, London is like a base.

Alice Are your friends still studying in university?

Hank In university, yes.

Alice So some of them are at King's college?

Hank Yes, some of them are at King's, some at Brighton, Sussex, Surrey.

Alice Oh, those ones.

Hank Yes.

Alice Wow, that'll be fun!

Hank Yes, quite fun, I am quite happy about that.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Originally I thought of staying there by myself.

Alice Alone? Not going to meet up with friends?

Hank At first, I thought of meeting up with one friend only, and then they all found out I am going.

Alice So you are happy.

Hank Yes.

Alice Will your brother go with you?

Hank My brother will go to the States.

Alice Also to meet up with friends?

Hank I don't know.

Alice Ah, you both are very lucky to be so widely-travelled. The most interesting trip was to go and meet dad with your brother and mum?

Hank Yes.

Alice And then you spent your two-month summer holiday there. Those are the happy moments.

Hank I don't remember if I was happy, but I guess travelling should have made me happy. I don't remember it anymore. I haven't gone on holiday with dad and mum together.

Alice Mmm, not with your dad, except the times when you travelled to meet him abroad.

Hank Not anymore afterwards.

Alice Not really. Did he take you to amusement parks? Or something like that?

Hank Ah, I used to play football with my dad. My dad used to live in Cheung Sha Wan Estate, and he would take me to the football field there to play football.

Alice Just the two of you?

Hank With other kids. He took me there.

Alice Was your dad good at football?

Hank He used to be very good, so I was happy back then when I played football with my dad when I was a kid ... when I was in my Primary two or three.

Alice Did your brother go with you?

Hank Yes.

Alice So the three of you?

Hank My brother didn't know how to play football, so he just sat on a bench.

Alice Primary two, Primary three ... that means you were around six or seven years old.

Hank I used to be a very good boy. I used to call dad all the time. When I didn't see

him, I would call him at night, but I don't do that anymore since I started going out with my friends after high school.

Alice What did you say to him? Is it, "Dad, where are you?" or something like that?

Hank Yes, you know kids!

Alice But when he was not around, it would become a roaming call, right?

Hank Mum would tell me that, and she would say, "Aiya, he's not in Hong Kong ... he's working. What kind of work? He's just doing business!"

Alice He would just do all sorts of business, right?

Hank Yes.

Alice But you didn't care, and you just called your dad every night?

Hank Sometimes, yes.

Alice How often was your dad away from Hong Kong?

Hank Not a lot, I think around once a month.

Alice Once a month.

Hank Around one week every month (in Hong Kong). Nowadays he's probably in Hong Kong two, three weeks each month.

Alice So he was only in Hong Kong one week per month? That was quite frequent travelling, as he wasn't here for three weeks in a month.

Hank Yeah, mostly in China.

Alice Mmm.

Hank My mum... perhaps we've grown up now. Sometimes my mum would go with him.

Alice Mmm, no need to take care of you, and you don't have a Filipino maid because your mum did everything.

Hank And also maybe because we've never had a Filipino maid before.

Alice Mmm... ok, my last question, how do you feel about an unlit and a lit cigarette?

Hank Mmm... mmm... an unlit cigarette...

Alice Just one cigarette, one lit...

Hank Nothing... nothing, not much feeling. Perhaps an unlit cigarette... I don't know ... it will finish after being lit up. Don't light it if you don't want to smoke it. I mean, that will be the end of the cigarette after you've lit it.

Alice Mmm.

Hank Perhaps it would make me think of many things ... how shall I put it? I guess ... if there is a beginning, there is an end.

Alice Mmm.

Hank But if you don't begin, then there will never be an end.

Alice Do you want to begin?

Hank You mean a cigarette?

Alice Mmm.

Hank I mean there are many things... mmm... I want to.

Alice You want to begin, even though you know it will end, but it doesn't matter.

Hank Yes.

Alice How do you feel when it's ended?

Hank When it's ended... nothing, nothing special. I mean it's quite good. Nothing really bothers me, yeah. But I think this is more like a metaphor, smoking a

cigarette is like knowing a person... there is an end to it, this relationship will end. Yeah, I don't know how to say it ... I don't know how to say it ... it's suddenly getting philosophical ... with this kind of questions...

Alice Mmm, it's ok, it's ok. Every one of us has this kind of moment. I like to listen to these things ... I mean, there is an unspoken feeling...

Hank Like when you know someone, that means it will end... the relationship will eventually end... I'd rather not know that person at all...

Alice You don't want to know that person at all ... that means you don't even want to light the cigarette, right?

Hank Yeah, I don't even need to light the cigarette...

Alice What's your view on fire?

Hank Fire? Nothing, nothing special, maybe... it's like burning life. Smokers said one cigarette would reduce one year of your life.

Alice That serious?

Hank That's what some say, but then I think life is more about enjoyment. I mean we will die one day anyway. There is no need to be scared...

Alice Mmm... good.