

The Peale, Baltimore

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



Daniel Kamenetz ([00:05](#)):

We met online. I don't usually tell people that.

Tsan Zhung ([00:05](#)):

Yeah, but we're going to be honest here. We met through OkCupid, online.

Daniel Kamenetz ([00:09](#)):

Right.

Tsan Zhung ([00:09](#)):

Tsan Zhung.

Daniel Kamenetz ([00:10](#)):

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Daniel Kamenetz.

Tsan Zhung ([00:11](#)):

609 Deepdene Road. We just got married in China three weeks ago.

Daniel Kamenetz ([00:18](#)):

Tsan's from China. So we... My parents, and my aunt and uncle, and my brother flew out there. I'm Jewish, my family's Jewish. We got married at the Jewish museum in Shanghai. And then, afterwards, we went to her hometown in Shenyang, which is just a small rural town in the middle of China.

Aaron Henkin ([00:38](#)):

Do you have a photo album from your wedding?

Tsan Zhung ([00:40](#)):

The wedding-

Daniel Kamenetz ([00:41](#)):

Oh no, we have one from when we applied for the green card-

Tsan Zhung ([00:44](#)):

The green card. I had to put together all these pictures to prove that we're actually a couple for the US government.

Daniel Kamenetz ([00:50](#)):

And this is what the packet looks like. Tell me what you're about to open.

Tsan Zhung ([00:53](#)):

First, I have a photo album. I try to paint a whole picture of our life. We're not just posing for a picture, we're actually doing things. Here we are in China. Here we are in somewhere in Virginia, different seasons, where it snows, where it's summer. I was paranoid because I read too much online. And there are people, who even though they're already married and the government wouldn't believe in them. Somehow they don't have enough documents. So I was just trying to put together everything I could think of. This is the first letter Daniel wrote me, and he wrote... He called me Píngguǒ, which is apple in Chinese. "Píngguǒ, this Valentine's Day is our six-month anniversary. Before I met you, I had not yet found my way. You have made me a better person. I'm so grateful for you. [Chinese 00:01:47] Truly, madly, deeply, Daniel."

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Speaker 3 ([01:54](#)):

So you sat down when it came time to have this meeting, right? How did that go?

Tsan Zhung ([02:01](#)):

The person started to ask me questions to confirm all the basic information, and then she asked to see the photo album. I think once she saw that, she didn't feel like she needed more documents, and it was just me pushing documents at her. So it went really easy for us.

Daniel Kamenetz ([02:17](#)):

Yeah, we were in and out of there in like 10 minutes, tops. There's an expression in Chinese, I forget how to say it, but do you remember?

Tsan Zhung ([02:27](#)):

[foreign language 00:02:27]

Daniel Kamenetz ([02:27](#)):

It means between two people, a thousand miles away, there is a red ribbon that connects them. It's like, no matter how far apart you are, if you're going to come together, then there's something that brings you together.