Lowe, Eva Interview

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Cheang: She came with you? She came 2 years earlier? When did you come? What year? Do you remember?

Lowe: 1931

Cheang: 1931?

Cheang: Did you already get married?

Lowe: Yeah.

Cheang: And you got married in China?


Cheang: Oh in 1931, January so you went to [Angel] Island
Lowe: [Yes, ten days]

Cheang: Ten days? What did they do to you?

Lowe: Just [ ]

Cheang: Did they check you to see if you have germs?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language] [I was scared]

Cheang: That they wouldn't want you here?

Lowe: [Sometimes]

Cheang: Sometimes what?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: If they didn't like you they made you leave?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Did [Gung ] have to do it too? Even the second time?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: So when you came did you come together?

Lowe: Yes.

Cheang: So he waited with you?

Lowe: Yeah

Cheang: Is that why you got married? So you could come here?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: So why did you come to America?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh like just get married and just leave huh?

Lowe: Yeah. [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: So wherever he went you would go?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: Just get married and leave right?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: So that’s why you came?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh he wanted you to come? That’s right, and you were telling me. [You got] You knew him when you were a little girl?

Lowe: Mhmm.

Cheang: When he first came how old were you? When he came by himself? Didn’t he? He came here first to work? And how old were you?

Cheang: Did he come by to say goodbye to your mom or something?

Lowe: Yeah [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: He knew your mom? He knew your whole family?

Lowe: Yes.

Cheang: [Who Auntie Lettie?]

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: [Oh when Gung left, oh when you came over?]

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: When you came over?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, you didn’t write to [ ]?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Did you ever see her again? No? [But Auntie Lettie came over?] When did Auntie [Lettie] come?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Was she married too? No, huh? So after you got here did you send money back to Hong Kong?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: [Oh] You would send some every month?
Cheang: Did you have a father too? Was your father there too? No? What happened, [he died]?

Lowe: [Oh my father over there]

Cheang: Oh, he [was] here too? So did you see him when you came?

Lowe: [ ]

Cheang: Oh really?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, after my mom was born?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: He left? Oh, but you never got to see him? How come?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: So, he came over, but he never got his family? Just like, kinda like [Gordons] father?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, he went back to...

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: [Oh] somewhere else?

Lowe: Yeah [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: How old were you when he left?

Lowe: I don’t know.

Cheang: You don’t remember?

Lowe: I never seen him.

Cheang: Oh really?

Lowe: I see him when I small.

Cheang: But you don’t remember?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: When you knew that you were coming to the United States, what did you think it would be like?
Lowe: [huh]

Cheang: Did you know what the United States was like before you came? Like pretty or lots of money or…

Lowe: Just like [your] [] I come []

Cheang: To wherever?

Lowe:[ ]

Cheang: What did people used to say about the United States at home?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language] [come to the United States] My grandpa, my auntie, my grandma.

Cheang: They all came?

Lowe: They all come. That's why I like. []

Cheang: Oh really?

Lowe: Yeah.

Cheang: Oh.

Lowe: []

Cheang: Oh you always knew when you were a little kid?

Lowe: Yeah, I always [pray] like that.

Cheang: That you would come to America?

Lowe: Mhmm.

Cheang: What did you think it would be like?


Cheang: Because everybody was here?

Lowe: Always, I keep on my mind. Everybody [ ]. Somebody asked me to get married. I don’t want to marry. They just want to marry [ ]. Nobody I like.

Cheang: So you just waited for him to come back? Where were you born?

Lowe: [] China, Canton.

Cheang: Canton? What village?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: Oh he sent money to his mother?
Lowe: [All the time] Every month.
Cheang: Were you from the same village?
Lowe: No. [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: Oh, that close? How many people lived in a village?
Lowe: Lots of people.
Cheang: Just like a big city.
Lowe: Big city.
Cheang: But they call it village?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: What village was his?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: [ ]. And yours?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: [ ].
Lowe:[ ]
Cheang: You never got to go back, huh?
Lowe: No.
Cheang: Do you want to?
Lowe: Yeah, I want to someday.
Cheang: Can I go with you?
Lowe: Yeah.
Cheang: Okay.
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: Okay, then I treat you.

Lowe: [ ] go my house. [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: In the country?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, [ ]

Lowe: [ ]. [speaking in a foreign language] You can [swim].

Cheang: Were they rich? Was that why?

Lowe: [No ].[speaking in a foreign language] They build a house they finish a house, I get married.

Cheang: What was your house like?

Lowe: [ ]. Big house. We have two house [ ]. [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Really?

Lowe: Yeah,[speaking in a foreign language] [ ].

Cheang: Oh, really?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Ooh, really?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Did you go to school or did you work?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: You were too young?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Did your mom work?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: So where did the money come from? Oh, your dad sent it?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: What’s that?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: You sold land?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: Oh, was that over here?
Lowe: Yeah.
Cheang: Everybody got money?
Lowe: Everybody [ ] [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: Go to work what?
Lowe: [Oh like help]
Cheang: Oh, over here?
Lowe: Yeah.
Cheang: I know, and you didn’t have to over there, huh?
Lowe: Yeah.
Cheang: So were you sad?
Lowe: No, I not sad. I [happy all the time].
Cheang: Even though you had to work?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: [ ]
Lowe: Buy wood for [ ].
Cheang: Wood for what?
Lowe: [ ]
Cheang: Oh, uh huh.
Lowe: [She didnt let the girls hard work] [ ]
Cheang: Did all the work?
Lowe: [nice to me]
Cheang: She nice to you? She did all the work instead?

Lowe: No, she didn’t do much.

Cheang: Who did it?

Lowe: We had a [girl ].

Cheang: Maid. Oh really?

Lowe: She hired a maid.

Cheang: So when you first came here, did you have to work?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, you didn’t work until then?

Lowe: [ ]

Cheang: You had too many children, huh?

Lowe: [ ]

Cheang: [ ] makes his own? Or she makes [ ]?

Lowe: Yeah. Sometimes [ ] she make [ ]. She never let me do it [ ]. [ ]

Cheang: Then auntie...[ ]

Lowe: I’m not hungry [Mom].

Cheang: Oh, but then when auntie gets it, then he’s hungry?

Lowe: [ ]

Cheang: Oh.

Lowe: [ ] not hungry.

Cheang: He’s cute, huh?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: So she raised her children different than you did, huh?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: You made everybody wake up? Did you make everybody eat breakfast together?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: She was lazy? Like Katie?

Lowe: [ ] [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: She never wanted to go to school?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: No?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Just [tutor]?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: With the brush? She told me about that. When you do the sausage curls you hit her with the brush because she screamed. Kinda like a baby.

Lowe: [She cry the most]

Cheang: The most? She still cries a lot. Like [ ] you know. How did you learn how to cook?

Lowe: [ My mother] [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: So, then you just came here and learned?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, that’s good.

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, really? Her husband?

Lowe: [You know] [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, I call [ ].

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, I see.

Lowe: Everybody, grandma [ ] [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Because [ ] means “auntie”?
Cheang: She’s very proper, huh? She’s teaching him Chinese?
Lowe: Yeah.
Cheang: More than us, huh?
Lowe: Yes.
Cheang: Is that good?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: She does it, huh? Not like Uncle [Lou]’s kids.
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: We’re Japanese?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: Because it’s a relative?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: He got mad at [Will]?
Lowe: [ ] [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: Oh, so did she go?
Lowe: Yeah [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: Oh, he talked to you in Chinese?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: So everybody talked in Chinese first, huh?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: When you first came to California, where did you live?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: What did [ ] work? Dollar store?
Lowe: [ ]
Cheang: What was he doing?

Lowe: [ ]

Cheang: Drug store? Oh, drive through? And then Uncle [Stan] was born there, huh? And Uncle [Lou] too?

Lowe: Uncle [ ]

Cheang: How about Mom?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, in Stockton?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: What did you do in San Francisco? Drive through, too?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, it closed?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: So, then you came to Stockton? To do what, the meat market?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language] [meat market]

Cheang: Oh, the store in San Francisco closed, but you came here?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: He didn’t work?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: What about it?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: He opened the store?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Katie was born, huh? When you moved all the time? Just stayed in the same house?

Lowe: No [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: How come you moved so much?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: You didn’t like the houses? You moved to bigger ones?

Lowe: Yeah.

Cheang: Where did she live when they came?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Oh, they did? Was she married already?

Lowe: [Yeah]

Cheang: Oh, so they worked in the drive through store together? And how did they move to San Diego?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Was it crowded with all those kids there?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: A lot of the other Chinese men, what kind of jobs did they have?

Lowe: [Same thing] [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Or else laundry?

Lowe: [Dry good store] [ ]

Cheang: Who decided what to do in your family? [ ] or you? The important decisions.

Lowe: Oh

Cheang: Do you think you raised your children the same way your mom did? [You]

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: [ ]. You just did it your way?

Lowe: [My mom was strict.]

Cheang: She was? What were you most worried about your children?

Lowe: [Nothing they always] [speaking in a foreign language] [they honest with everybody nice with everybody good with everybody good children, nice to the people] [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: When you were working did everybody have to help cook and clean the house and things like that?
Lowe: [No.]

Cheang: Or did you have to come home and do that? Make dinner when you got home.

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Nobody else did it?

Lowe: Uncle [ ] sometimes [ ]

Cheang: Everybody else was too young or what?

Lowe: [Yeah.]

Cheang: Did you teach them how to cook or they just watched?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: They had to cook and all that?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Did she cook for her kids instead of making them cook for themselves?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Auntie [ ].

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: It’s okay if they cook for themselves?

Lowe: No, nobody cook themselves. [ ]. [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: But how about now with Auntie [ ]’s family, you know? The kids have to cook for themselves.

Lowe: No [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Did you like living with Auntie [Joyce]. Did you like to live with her?

Lowe: Yeah [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Would you rather live with [ ]?

Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]

Cheang: Do you like living with her? Or do you like it so that you can come back [ ] your friends?

Lowe: [ ] no [speaking in a foreign language]
Cheang: You don’t?
Lowe: No. [ ]
Cheang: You like to travel?
Lowe: [speaking in a foreign language]