

Instants
Chi Laughlin

PAGE 1 (SIX PANELS)

TITLE: INSTANTS

Page 1, Panel 1.

A group of PEOPLE stand in line at a rather busy deli or 7-11. It's in New York City, so it's a fairly good mix of races and cultures. Behind the counter, a CLERK rings them up. CHI stands about four people back in line, holding an energy drink. Directly in front of him is a Caribbean WOMAN, probably in her 50s, on her phone. Most of the action here will focus on these two--the woman on her phone and Chi, just over her shoulder, clearly eavesdropping. Without being too over-the-top, Chi should react to what the woman is saying, expressing his amusement or endearment on his face.

Page 1, Panel 2.

Close on the woman, with Chi just behind her. She's speaking into her phone, and he's not really listening at this point.

WOMAN 1:

Hello, Darleen. I'm thinking of picking up some scratchoffs.

Page 1, Panel 3.

Wider on the woman, talking on her phone, with Chi behind her, smirking. We can now see the edge of another customer being waited on just in front of her.

WOMAN 2:

Why don't I come over?

Page 1, Panel 4.

From a wider, reverse angle: We're behind Chi, looking past his shoulder at the woman, who is now at the front of the line. She holds the phone to her ear with one hand and points to the instant lottery tickets with the other. Behind the counter, the clerk reaches toward the rolls of instant tickets.

WOMAN 3:

I'll get some scratchoffs for you and then I'll come over.

Page 1, Panel 5.

We're back around to a medium on the woman's face, with Chi behind her. In the foreground, the clerk is handing the woman a thick accordion stack of scratchoff tickets. The woman has a look of earnest concern. Chi is listening intently, but with zero amusement now.

WOMAN 4:

Honey, why do you sound so sad?

WOMAN 5:

I'm coming over.

Page 1, Panel 6.

In a wider shot, Chi now stands at the counter, holding his energy drink. The clerk reaches for it expectantly, but Chi's head is turned towards the front window of the store, through which he sees the woman, out on the sidewalk, still on her phone, shuffling away.

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PAGE 2 (EIGHT PANELS)

Page 2, Panel 1.

This frame is identical to Page 1, Panel 6, but the woman is gone, and Chi now looks at the clerk, still holding his hand out expectantly for the energy drink.

Page 2, Panel 2.

A wide frame, out on the street. Chi is walking outside the deli, holding his phone out in front of him, working it with his thumb.

Page 2, Panel 3.

A medium shot of Chi with the phone to his ear, standing on some street corner in New York City.

CHI 1:
Hey.

Page 2, Panel 4.

Close on Chi on his phone, isolated in the frame. The city is no longer visible anywhere in the background.

CHI 2:
I know you won't call me back. That's alright. I just wanted to say hi. I hope you're okay.

Page 2, Panel 5.

Wide of Chi on an empty street, small in the frame. The city is huge behind him, a busy grid of lit up skyscrapers, office buildings and apartments. It's enormous, but lifeless; we don't see any other people anywhere.

CHI 3:
I miss my friend.

Page 2, Panel 6.

Medium on Chi as he hangs up his phone and stares at it pensively.

SFX 4:
Beep.

Page 2, Panel 7.

Chi puts the phone in his pocket and forces a half-hearted smile. He tried.

Page 2, Panel 8.

Wide on Chi, walking down the city sidewalk, scratching that gray dusty crap off an instant lotto ticket.