

Caucasian Partners and Generational Conflicts —David Wang Louie's *Pangs of Love*

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Abstract

This paper explores the dual dilemmas of the male and female protagonists via concepts of migration, home and family in seven of the stories collected in David Wong Louie's *Pangs of Love*: "Birthday," "Pangs of Love," "The Movers," "Social Science," "Love on the Rocks," "Bottles of Beaujolais," and "Inheritance." The first dilemma lies in the Chinese American men's repeated failures to establish successful family relationships with their Caucasian partners, a situation that gives rise to further anxiety and pressure to continue the patrilineal family line. Another dilemma concerns generational conflicts between the protagonists and their parents. The present paper begins with setting out a theory of "home" for the migrant and his/her descendants. The second section explores interracial relationships by discussing the Chinese American male protagonists' failures to establish a permanent home and family with their blonde partners. Section Three examines how ethnic Chinese fail to live up to their parents' expectations as the two generations entertain diverse concepts of home or family. The final section sums up the principal concerns of the paper.

Key Words: David Wong Louie, *Pangs of Love*, interracial relationship, generational conflict, home/family