**Refined Script**

**Fina:**

1. If he's a fisherman… add a fishbone in!"
2. "Ah!" (A person’s image appears)
3. (The image fades) "Hmm… I still can’t see Mr. Wald’ illusion, Mum. I’ve added every scent related to him."
4. "That’s because you still need add feelings Mr. Wald has to Mrs. Wald."
5. (Takes out a lemon) "A sweet and sour taste, like the flavor of missing someone."

**[1] Night, Interior, Main character’s shop**

The mother, who ran a shop making magical letters, left her daughter a letter before she passed.

1. A bustling spice shop with large cabinets, a group of people crowded at the counter (shown from behind).
2. **FINA**
"Letter for Mrs. Wald"
3. The girl pulls out a jar, handing it to a woman who takes it, looking at it fondly.
4. **Mrs. Wald**

"Fina, will opening it really let me see him?" asks eagerly.

1. **Fina**
"Yes, just pull that string to open it, but you can only use it once,"
2. The woman pulls it open, and smoke bursts out, forming the shape of a fisherman.
3. The woman watches in shock, then a large fish is thrown to her; she hurriedly catches it.
4. The fisherman waves at her from a boat, then the smoke fades, bringing her back to reality.
5. **Mrs. Wald**
"That smell of the seaside with him…"
6. **Villagers**
"It's a miracle!" *(Villagers cheer in awe)*

“Fina, can you let your mother make one for my children?”

Voices rising in excitement.

"I want one too! Make one for me! My son hasn't seen me in years!"

1. Villagers press forward, holding out paper requests, Fina tries to jot down everything quickly
2. "Um… my mum’s not well, so it might take a while…"
3. Her mother appears,

"It’s alright, Fina."

1. **Mother, facing forward**

"Everyone wants to be by their loved one's side."

1. Cut to mother lying on a bed at dusk, looking at her daughter with deep emotion.

**Mother**
"And so do I…"

She picks up a letter to hand to Fina.

"Open this whenever you need me, and you’ll see me again."

1. Fina reaches for the letter, but it transforms into a red string being pulled. Red smoke fills the room, and her world fades away with her mother into darkness.
2. **Fina** cries out,

"Stay with me!" she awakens from nightmare.

**[2] Daytime, Shop**

As Fina, is overwhelmed with grief, a customer arrives.

1. Fina wakes up, still shaken. She hurriedly glances at her mother's letter and tucks it away in the desk cabinet behind her. She wipes her tears and steps up to the counter to continue working. Taking out a jar and opening a bottle, she instinctively calls out, "Bring me the scales, Mum…" She raises her right hand, hoping someone will pass the scales to her.
2. Realizing her mother is no longer there to help, she quietly retrieves the scales herself, but then leans on the counter and begins to sob again. Just then, the door opens, and sunlight streams onto her face. As she looks up, she hears a thud outside—the sound of an old man collapsing at the shop’s entrance.

**[3] The Dying Old Man’s Wish**

1. An old man, blind in one eye and dressed in tattered clothing, sits with a slightly out-of-place floral scarf on his head. Fina, rushes over and kneels beside him.
2. **Fina**
“I’ll go get help.” She starts to move, but he grips her hand, shaking his head.
3. **Old Man**

“Beyond saving now”

1. He pulls out a photograph.
2. **Old Man**

“I only wish, before I go, that you’d make me the magic letter…” (camera pans to the photo) “…so I can be with my daughter.”

1. **Fina**
“But… the letter…” (camera shifts from the photo to a larger picture of her own mother) “…only lasts a few minutes.”
2. **Old Man**

“Even seconds would do.” He gazes off as if seeing his daughter in the distance.

**[4] Old Man’s Past**

1. Fina places a letter on the table
2. **Fina**
“Then let’s begin.”
3. **Old Man**

“It was all my fault…”

1. Smoke bursts upwards as Fina slips a spent bullet casing into an envelope. As the smoke fades, we see a younger version of the old man, fleeing a battlefield, wounded and leaving his helmet and weapons behind.
2. **Voice-over**
“Years ago, during the war, I deserted like a coward… let the enemy tear through our land.”
3. The scene shifts to a desolate wall where wildflowers bloom, and a young girl huddles in fear. The old man, in the past, approaches, and she gestures towards the ruins as he lowers his head.
4. **Voice-over**
“If I hadn’t run… maybe she’d still have a family.”
5. He reaches out to the girl, who extends her hand towards him (a leftward pan transition to the next scene).
6. The scene transforms to a modest home, and we see tender glimpses of their life together.
7. **Voice-over**
“So I adopted her, trying to make amends, until she could live on her own.”
8. The view zooms in on the miner’s lamp on his head. He coughs harshly, sees blood on his hand, then raises his pickaxe to continue working.
9. A spark ignites as his pick strikes a rock. The camera pulls back to reveal a steam train departing. A well-dressed woman waves goodbye
10. **Voice-over**

“Finally, I saved enough for her to live in the city.”

1. And the old man waves back.
2. **Voice-over**

“I thought I’d jus die quietly, without becoming her burden”

1. The scene match-cuts to him sitting alone at home, late at night. He’s at a simple table with a small lamp casting a dim glow.
2. **Old Man**
“But I was wrong.”
3. He opens a parcel from his daughter, revealing the scarf he now wears.
4. **Old Man**
“She cared about me the most… and yet, I kept hurting myself, thinking it was loving her.”
5. The scene match-cuts to the present, where he clutches the scarf and begins to cry. Fina slips a small piece of coal into an envelope.
6. **Old Man**

“In the end, I didn’t even let her be by my side…”

1. He hands Fina the scarf.
2. **Old Man**

“So please… with this letter, she’ll have the chance to see me again…”

1. Fina examines the scarf
2. **Fina**
“So you want her to know you…”
3. A clattering sound of a fallen cane interrupts her
4. “Sir?”
5. she realizes the old man has passed.
6. The screen fades to black

**[5] Shop in the Afternoon**

1. Fina places spices into the letter, but the old man’s image still doesn’t appear.
2. "All the scents from his memories are here, so why hasn’t the vision appeared?"
3. Unwilling to give up, she continues searching for spices and opens the cabinet holding pepper powder, accidentally spilling it on herself.
4. She coughs uncomfortably, "Cough, cough!"
5. **Flashback begins**
**Fina:**
"Ahh! I absolutely hate the smell of pepper!" says the little Fina.
6. **Mother:**
"Haha, sorry! For Fina, the smell brings hate most must be pepper."
"To make a letter truly complete, it needs not only the scents of memories, but also bring emotion to represent their feelings."
7. **Return to Reality**
**Fina:**
"But how can I understand his longing to be with his daughter?"
8. "Ah," she remembers her mother’s letter.
9. She picks up the letter, looking at it with deep emotion, then glances over at the old man’s letter and the scarf on the table. Her mother’s photo stands nearby.
10. **Fina**
“Can’t step away from the last chance to be together…”
11. She decides to open her mother’s letter. Warm, golden smoke surrounds her, revealing scenes of her mother’s companionship. Finally, the smoke takes her mother’s shape, and they embrace. As the vision fades, Fina’s own letter for the old man is complete.

**[6] Ending Scene**

Depending on the remaining time:

**Short**: The old man’s granddaughter arrives at the shop to pick up the letter.

**Long**: At the old man’s funeral, Fina gives the letter to the now-grown child from the photograph, who hesitates before opening it. Fina nods encouragingly, and the letter releases smoke tscarf drifts up towards the sky.