When we were little, dad used to set up a tripod and take family portraits.
My two older sisters and I are at the airport before or after dad flew somewhere. Whenever he left, we couldn't wait for him to return. He always brought back a surprise.

When dad first arrived in the United States, he had to translate his name into English. He choose a spelling he had never seen before.

His dad is twenty-five; his mom, twenty-one.

His dad looks like a Mexican version of himself.

Mom had seven sisters and me with her parents and grandparents. What they call me? everytime I see the picture I am Taiwan.
The day of my graduation.
I have an enormous smile. Mom and dad are frowning.
My boyfriend took the picture.
He's wearing a chartruese jacket.

I made a Miss America sash, wore a wig, and walked around town.
My boyfriend videotaped the walk.

Before dad left Taiwan for the States.
His two brothers, three sisters, and parents took this commemorative photo. Once he left,
he didn't return for over twenty years.
My parents moved back to Taiwan in 1990.

My boyfriend's dad cooked breakfast.
He wasn't pleased about my taking a picture.

He brother. They are sitting there
who had bound feet.
Imagine her hobbling around on two stilts.

I asked mom what they said.
I'm not Chinese, I'm Taiwan.
1972 State College, PA
From the time I was ten
the time I was ten
mom cut my hair short
with bangs. Just like all
the Taiwanese girls,
mom said. So color.
As soon as I could,
I grew my hair out.

1974 Erie, CO
My friends asked me, Are you Chinese or American?
I said, I'm American. They said, Yeah. Then I said,

1975 State College, PA
My 7th birthday party

1978 Champaign, IL

1990 Taichung, Taiwan
Sister saw grandma
playing a tea rose.
Grandmother having
a social life in Taiwan,
though I only knew her
as quiet and withdrawn
in the United States.

2001 Seattle, WA

1991 Boulder, CO
Mom on a hike

I listened to mom and her sisters talking
about the children in Taiwan.
The other sister spoke in Mandarin. During WWII
most only spoke Japanese. She couldn't talk with her mom
who only spoke Taiwanese.

1998 Taichung, Taiwan
I'm not Chinese. I'm Taiwanese.
You're Chinese.
I'm Taiwanese. They said, What's that?

1971 Florida
I said, We watched the Miss America pageant every year. He put on my wig and sash and drowned.

1973 Florida
Mom and dad on a tour

1991 Guilin, China
He asked, Why Miss America? Why not Miss Taiwan? I said, It's the same thing.

1993 Seattle, WA
Mom said not to take another step down the pool. I did and almost drowned. This was immediately after sister had done the same thing.

2000 Seattle, WA
Nobody was at my parent's but me. I lived up the whole street and brought back a self-portrait. My favorite job is the one in Holland with wooden shoes.

2001 Seattle, WA
The last time my family was together was when my older sister got married. I don't have a picture of the family from that day. Just this one of us sisters.

2002 Seattle, WA
My boyfriend, his younger sister, and his grandparents.
After friends helped me pack up and clean, we went to the bar.
Everyone went crazy. It felt like we were celebrating Mardi Gras.

We all got together for Christmas. It was three sisters, two boyfriends,
one husband, one daughter, three sons, and three dogs.

The birth of her first son

2005 Oakland, CA
My boyfriend, me, and the dog

We are family photos taken in a studio.

Day by day we watch my belly grow like a strange and beautiful planet.
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