

EDGE OF TOKYO

V003

Written by

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FADE IN:

CREDITS OVER the FAINT SOUND of a FIRE BURNING.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - NIGHT

A traditional Japanese village sits at the bottom of a mountain, scarred by the unstoppable power of nature. Above this landscape, high in the mountains, a growing fire can be seen in the distance.

EXT. JAPANESE SHRINE - MAIN SANCTUARY - NIGHT

A light snow falls as the growing fire licks its way through the main hall of a Japanese shrine.

ONI -the MASKED SAMURAI, large, fierce, dominant and clad in an ARMOUR OF BLOOD RED STEEL- watches patiently as the fire burns before him.

EXT. JAPANESE SHRINE - MAIN GATE - NIGHT

The silhouette of a SHINOBI is seen quickly landing on the MAIN GATE and then leaping off, disappearing into the soaring mountains, towards the direction of the soaring fire.

EXT. JAPANESE SHRINE - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The SHINOBI runs from one clay-tiled rooftop to the next, swiftly, quietly...

EXT. JAPANESE SHRINE - MAIN SANCTUARY - NIGHT

...before taking a giant leap off the edge of the rooftop. The SHINOBI hangs in flight, somersaults backwards as the MOONS shines bright behind her before hitting the ground hard with a three point landing in the MAIN SANTUARY. ONI, with his back turned and the burning shrine stands before the SHINOBI.

The SHINOBI , YUKI -young, determined, fierce- looks up, angry, confused and in shock as she sees the bodies of her clan laid dead before her.

A beat and...

...ONI turns slowly, revealing his eyes, his burning purple eyes. He keeps one hand close to his blade, his KATANA. The fire continues to rage behind him, the main hall now nearing collapse.

A beat and...

YUKI lowers her face mask to reveal her face. A look of confusion covers her face. The masked Samurai wears the same mark of her clan on his armour.

YUKI
(in Japanese, subtitled)
Who are you?

A long beat as we see ONI stare down at YUKI. His eyes fixed, his expression emotionless. The difference in size between them is now apparent. YUKI stands at 5.7ft, her enemy over 6.4ft.

The samurai grips his hand tight to the handle of his blade. With a push of his thumb, a slither of the metal is revealed. A beat and he begins to move towards YUKI.

ONI starts to move faster, his weight heavy but his focus direct.

A beat as we see YUKI calmly hold her ground.

The MASKED SAMURAI continues to pace towards YUKI. His movement direct, controlled and menacing.

ONI, just yards away now, leaps into the air heading at speed towards YUKI.

ONI still flying through the air finally draws his KATANA - the lethal long sword- from his sheath, ready to strike, to kill.

A beat and YUKI pulls out both of her short swords from her back. Just as she does, ONI's sword cuts through the air -- the metal sings -- and with a CLASH their swords meet.

Where ONI is strong and vicious, YUKI is swift, elegant and graceful in her actions as she evades and counter strikes. ONI's armour seems impenetrable, with each strike from YUKI having no impact.

ONI's SWORD FLASHES and YUKI continues to parry blow after blow. As ONI's strike continues, YUKI twists her body to somersault, and with a flick of her sword, she manages a good clean strike, cracking ONI's MASK in half.

Slowly, ONI with eyes still blazing, peels his CRACKED MASK off his face and throws it to the floor, revealing his true identity.

YUKI looks up, confused, stunned and shocked. Her eyes widen in surprise as she whispers to herself...

YUKI (CONT'D)
(in Japanese, subtitled)
Father?

ONI comes back full of force and fury as he propels himself towards YUKI. YUKI is once again on the defensive. Knowing this SAMURAI is her FATHER, she hesitates to strike again.

She continues her defensive manoeuvres and as ONI strikes, YUKI twist her blades around his sword and flips it out from his hands. The Katana strikes the TRUNK of a JAPANESE TREE, cracking the tree in half.

However, YUKI has been left wide open and before she knows it, ONI has her by the throat and choke slams her down in to the concrete grounds of the shrine. Her body cracking the tiles below her.

YUKI struggles to breathe but with all the air she has left, she shouts as loud as she can...

YUKI (CONT'D)
(in Japanese, subtitled)
Fa... Fa...FATHER!

A beat and ONI's grip loosens, he looks at YUKI and shakes his head. Confused, the purple fire in his eyes dies down. He steps back and drops to one knee. His tortured mind gains some control. His true eyes are revealed.

ONI
(in Japanese, subtitled)
Yu...Yuki?

He sits on both knees, his hands out in front of him. He studies them, the blood on them. The blood he has spilled.

ONI (CONT'D)
(in Japanese, subtitled)
What have I done?

He looks up at YUKI as she looks back at him from the shattered floor. And then his eyes begin to burn once more, the fire returns. He is losing his mind to a powerful force. But before he is lost, he begins to pull the metal plates of armour from his chest, revealing his torso. A torso ravaged with scars, each with its own story. He battles for his mind and while he can, he shouts...

ONI (CONT'D)
(in Japanese, subtitled)
Yuki. Finish me!

ONI turns away from YUKI as she stares back at him in silence. A beat and ONI punches the floor as he fights for control of his mind. He slowly turns, his eyes burning with purple fire once more. His mind is lost. He pulls his secondary sword from its sheath. His focus set to YUKI once more who pulls herself off from the broken tiles with a backwards somersault.

YUKI pushes out her hands to her sides to collect her swords. She sees her father running towards her, his sword drawn to strike. She hesitates before gripping her swords tight.

ONI leaps into the air once more, his arms raised, his tortured torso bare, his sword ready to come down upon YUKI. She has no choice, she must act fast. She jumps to meet him, pushing herself from the ground and cracking the tiles as she does. A CLASH of steel and the sound of metal CUTTING through SKIN as they meet mid air. They both land strong, both facing away from each other.

A beat and...

YUKI falls hard onto her knees, her swords hit the ground with a CLINK. She continues to look forward, never looking back. Her hands covered in blood. Her face covered with pain, sorrow, regret.

A beat and behind her and in the distance, we see ONI drop his sword, his body goes limp, a beat and his body **crumples to the floor.**

As the building continues to burn, illuminating YUKI, a heavier snow now begins to fall as a tear rolls down YUKI's face. Her face paint falling with each tear.

Suddenly, YUKI catches a FIGURE in the distance, standing high atop a FIVE-STOREY PAGODA.

EXT. JAPANESE SHRINE - PAGODA - NIGHT

The mysterious figure being lit from the fire below. In his hands he holds a weapon illuminated by the same purple fiery glow as seen in her father's eyes.

EXT. JAPANESE SHRINE - MAIN SANCTUARY - NIGHT

YUKI has no time to remorse, she wipes her tears, pulls up her face mask and swiftly disappears into the night in pursuit of this unknown enemy.

FADE OUT.