

ASASHIN

written by

Tamuna Tsertsvadze

Address: Vazha-Pshavela ave. N 91. Apartment N 49. Tbilisi,  
Georgia.

Phone: +995591191823

E-mail: [tsertsvadze.tamuna6@gmail.com](mailto:tsertsvadze.tamuna6@gmail.com)

FADE IN:

EXT. THE PATH. DAY.

Three soldier brothers - DIEGO (the eldest one), MIGUEL (the middle one) and JULIO (the youngest one) are riding their horses on the way. They look tired and annoyed.

MIGUEL

I don't think we're on the right way...

DIEGO

Of course we're on the right way!  
(angrily)  
Or you think I lost my sense of orientation?  
(points on the forest before them)  
There's the forest. Once we cross it we'll arrive at the inn.

MIGUEL

(annoyed)  
You said that a hundred times now... First there was a mountain to cross, then a river... now a forest?! Give me a break!  
(to Julio)  
What do you think, Julio?

JULIO

(to Miguel)  
You're right.  
(to Diego)  
We're walking forever now. Horses need to rest too, you know...

DIEGO

(annoyed)  
Quit whining you two! And you call yourselves great soldiers? Can't even withstand a little trip?

They ride on, arguing. They enter a forest.

EXT. THE FOREST. DAY.

The soldier brothers are riding on in the forest. It gets darker. An awful, ominous silence is around.

MIGUEL

(frowns)

Man... This forest gives me  
creeps...

DIEGO

(chuckles)

Huh, and you were the one saying  
you were brave...

MIGUEL

(angrily)

It's not funny! Haven't you ever  
heard peasants talking? This forest  
is actually the home of the  
Asashins...

DIEGO

Huh? Who?

JULIO

The Asashins. They're merciless  
robbers - savage tribesmen who came  
from an unknown land long ago. They  
are known for having no remorse on  
people who pass this forest. They  
rob them and even kill them, or  
take them as hostages and do  
terrible things to them.

MIGUEL

Yeah, but they capture mostly  
women. They kill the men.

DIEGO

(chuckles)

Yeah as if I would believe those  
foolish tales of some peasants...  
There's nothing in this forest.  
Just a bunch of trees, that's all.

They continue riding. Miguel and Julio get more and more  
nervous. They look around carefully. It gets darker.

DIEGO (CONT'D)

(to both of them)

Huh, quit it you two! I said  
nothing\_

A sharp arrow shoots down from a tree and hits Diego right in  
heart!

MIGUEL AND JULIO

Diego!!

Diego falls off his horse, blooded and lifeless. The two brothers get horrified.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)  
(fearfully)  
Quick, let's get out of here!

But before they manage to run away, a savage battle cry is heard, and ten armed and muscled almond-eyed men jump down the trees, grabbing their sharp swords and stabbing them into the two brothers' hearts!

The brothers wheeze and fall off their horses, dying.

The savage robbers grab their horses and goods and disappear in the depths of the forest.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. THE VILLAGE. DAY.

In a little wooden village which is located near a forest, there are various people walking up and down - some on horses, some on donkeys and some on foot. Some are selling things in shops, some are buying things, and most of them are talking to each other.

There are several men and women talking. They seem frightened.

FIRST MAN  
Have you heard the news? Another  
assault happened in Blood Forest...

SECOND MAN  
Really?  
(fearfully)  
Who they attacked this time?

FIRST MAN  
They say it was three young  
soldiers. They were getting back  
from their last battle. They had to  
cross the Blood Forest and there  
they got assaulted.

THIRD MAN  
Oh boy!  
(frightened)  
Were there any survivors?

FIRST MAN  
None, I'm afraid.

FIRST WOMAN  
Oh my! Poor boys!

SECOND WOMAN  
Ugh it is so horrible! That is why  
no one should walk in that cursed  
forest! Those savages are  
unbearable!

THIRD WOMAN  
(thoughtfully)  
But still, they say there's a man  
who often enters that forest and  
stays unharmed...

SECOND WOMAN  
(surprised)  
Really? Who?

THIRD MAN  
Oh, I've heard about that too. It's  
Friedrich Bloom, a forester from  
our village.

SECOND WOMAN  
Wow, unbelievable...

FIRST MAN  
Truly. I'm surprised to hear  
someone doesn't get attacked in  
Blood Forest... So many savages  
roam there...

SECOND MAN  
Well, I guess Friedrich Bloom, as a  
forester, knows the forest as the  
back of his hand then...

EXT. FORESTER'S WOODEN HUT. DAY.

The wooden hut is located in the outskirts of the village,  
near the forest and near the village's police department.

There at the hut two men are standing - MR. BLOOM - the old  
forester, and his friend, NORMAN - a muscled elderly man with  
a cut scar right on his eye.

They're talking to each other.

NORMAN  
 (slightly worried)  
 Still going in that forest, eh?

MR. BLOOM  
 (smiles)  
 Well, it is my duty. And besides, I never walk too deep. I still don't want to get cut up by the swords of those savages, hehe.  
 (laughs. Then smiles)  
 After all, I have someone to care for, Norman...

Mr. Bloom looks aside, in the garden of his hut, where there is his daughter, CHERRIE, sitting - a young, over eighteen years old girl with long dark brown hair and dark brown expressive eyes.

NORMAN  
 (smiles)  
 I understand... Well, safe trip, Friedrich.

MR. BLOOM  
 Thank you.

Mr. Bloom is ready to depart. Suddenly Cherrie cries to him.

CHERRIE  
 Goodbye papa! Have a safe trip!

MR. BLOOM  
 (beams happily)  
 Goodbye dear! Take care while I'm gone!

Mr. Bloom walks off and soon enters the forest, disappearing.

Norman goes back to his hut on the opposite side of the street, and Cherrie continues watering plants in the garden.

There are three young peasant men gathered on the street, near Mr. Bloom's hut, and are watching Cherrie, being charmed.

FIRST YOUNG MAN  
 That girl's a beauty, no doubt about it.

SECOND YOUNG MAN  
 Such a pity Mr. Bloom doesn't plan on giving her in marriage just yet.

THIRD YOUNG MAN

Yeah, and that girl doesn't like anybody from our village.

(crosses arms)

Such a nuisance...

FIRST YOUNG MAN

And yet so many rivals who wish for her hand... Ugh this is unfair!

Every gorgeous girl is so hard to grab!

SECOND YOUNG MAN

You said it...

EXT. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. DAY.

Near the police department there are two young horsemen standing - MARKUS DUNEFORD, the son of the police head officer - a blond boy with captivating light blue eyes, and his friend, a police officer and a soldier, HENRY.

Markus is watching Cherrie who is pulling water out from a well.

MARKUS

You see that girl, Henry?

(points on Cherrie)

I'll get my hands on her soon...

HENRY

(smiles)

She looks really good sir... But why would you need a peasant forester's daughter?

MARKUS

(chuckles)

Who cares about that Henry? A girl is a girl. You know what they're for, don't you?

HENRY

(grins)

Oh... I understand.

Markus chuckles and continues watching Cherrie as she subtly pulls the bucket full of water out of the well and takes it to her house.

MARKUS

Even when she carries a heavy  
bucket of water she stays soft and  
gracious...

(to Henry)

She'll be divine, Henry.

HENRY

(chuckles)

On that I must agree.

Cherrie disappears into her hut. Markus has a hideous smirk.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. FORESTER'S WOODEN HUT. DAY.

Mr. Bloom is at home, chopping some wood. His daughter,  
Cherrie, is sitting on a sofa, writing a story in her  
notebook.

Then she suddenly glances outside the window and sees  
beautiful green trees and chirping birds.

CHERRIE

What a fine weather!

(smiles to Mr. Bloom)

Dad, I'll go take a walk in the  
forest.

MR. BLOOM

(smiles)

Okay dear, but don't walk too deep,  
alright?

CHERRIE

Don't worry dad, I won't!

Mr. Bloom continues chopping the wood and Cherrie takes her  
little bag, puts her notebook inside it and walks out of the  
hut.

EXT. FORESTER'S WOODEN HUT. DAY.

Cherrie walks out of her hut and heads towards the forest.  
She is smiling, feeling happy in the warm weather. She soon  
disappears inside the forest.

Suddenly Markus appears with the same hideous smile on his  
face. He silently follows the girl into the forest.



EXT. THE FOREST. DAY.

Cherrie walks in the forest, watching the green trees and the chirping birds. She is smiling, feeling happy and free.

But suddenly she hears horse steps from behind. She startles and fearfully looks back. She sees Markus before her.

MARKUS

(grins)

Hello, Cherrie. I didn't expect to see you here.

CHERRIE

(frowns)

I'd say the same.

Cherrie takes a step back out of caution, as if sensing something bad coming from Markus.

MARKUS

(chuckles. Jumps off his horse)

You know, we had never talked to each other too much before... What do you say, could we have some... alone time?

Markus slowly approaches Cherrie.

Cherrie cautiously looks around, searching for a way to escape.

CHERRIE

(thinks)

*I'm too deep in the forest... If I cry now, no one is going to hear me...*

She gulps and makes another step back. She frowns at approaching Markus.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)

Do not dare come closer, Markus.

MARKUS

(chuckles)

Or else?

He continues walking towards her.

CHERRIE

(boldly)

Or else... I'll scream.

MARKUS

(laughs)

Oh give me a break! No single soul  
will hear you here.

He walks up to her. Cherrie hastes back and leans against a tree. She is cornered. She gulps in fear and worry. Sweat pours off her forehead as she looks into Markus' sparkling eyes.

Markus is about to touch her, when Cherrie flares up and slaps him. While Markus is still confused and enraged, Cherrie slips off and runs as fast as she can!

MARKUS (CONT'D)

(angrily yells)

Ugh you little... Just you wait!

Markus jumps onto his horse and rushes after the girl. Cherrie looks back and sees him coming. She gets even more frightened. She hastens her pace. She doesn't even care where she is heading.

Soon she passes a tree which is marked by blood...

Markus, however, notices the blooded tree and instantly stops his horse. He doesn't chase the girl farther.

Cherrie, however, continues running, being frightened and agitated.

Suddenly, she hears hooves of fifteen horses, and savage cries from afar...

She widens eyes and looks back, seeing fifteen almond-eyed savage horsemen after her! She gasps and screams. She runs even faster, but out of so much worry, she trips and falls!

Instantly the horsemen surround her and point their sharp swords at her. They grin, showing their yellow teeth, and tell each other something in their language which Cherrie cannot understand.

Cherrie trembles in fear and blacks out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE VILLAGE. DAY.

Markus returns to the village, having a worried face.

Peasants gather around him, being astonished as Markus is a brave warrior and he is rarely worried.

PEASANTS

What happened?

MARKUS

(exclaims)

Cherrie! She crossed the border of  
Blood Forest! I heard her yell!

PEASANTS

(dreaded)

What?!

The peasants start whispering through each other.

Mr. Bloom who is there nearby gets shocked. He dashes at  
Markus and cries out.

MR. BLOOM

Where's Cherrie?! Where is she,  
Markus?

(worriedly)

Why didn't you chase after her? Why  
didn't you stop her?

MARKUS

(exclaims)

I tried, Mr. Bloom! I chased after  
her! I even sought the place where  
her yell came from!

(sighs)

But alas, all I found was this...

Markus takes out the little bag of Cherrie and hands it to  
Mr. Bloom, having a saddened look.

MR. BLOOM

Her bag!

Mr. Bloom grabs the bag like a madman and observes it,  
looking into its pockets. It's empty.

Mr. Bloom's hands tremble.

MR. BLOOM (CONT'D)

(whimpers)

God...

He faints and falls off. The peasants startle and rush up to  
him, grabbing him.

PEASANTS

Mr. Bloom! Mr. Bloom!

They try to wake him up, but he doesn't. The peasants take him to his house.

The peasant women are worried and stressed.

FIRST WOMAN  
Oh, poor old man!

NORMAN (O.C.)  
Poor little Cherrie, rather...

Everyone startles and looks aside, seeing Norman.

There are some young men gathered among the peasants. They whisper to each other.

FIRST YOUNG MAN  
(points on Norman)  
That's a man who has run into savages in his young years and has survived...

SECOND YOUNG MAN  
(widens eyes)  
Yeah, that's Norman...

THIRD YOUNG MAN  
(to Norman)  
What do you think they will do to Cherrie, Norman?

NORMAN  
(thoughtfully)  
They'll do what's expected of a savage man when he gets his hands on a woman.

Hearing this, everyone gets shocked.

FIRST WOMAN  
Oh, poor girl...

The peasants are distressed.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ASASHINESE TENT. DAY.

Cherrie opens eyes and finds herself in an Asashinese tent. She looks around and bewilders as she guesses she is tied.

CHERRIE  
(thinks worriedly)  
*So those savages did kidnap me!*

She wants to leap up, but feels extreme tiredness in her limbs, and falls back. She lets out a heavy breath.

Tears come to her eyes as she feels distressed and scared.

Suddenly the curtains of the tent move and three tall, almond-eyed, fur-clothed savage men rush in, grabbing her and dragging her to the exit!

Cherrie gasps, struggles and shrieks.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
(struggling)  
No! Let me go! No!

But she can't overcome the men's strength and they drag her out.

INT. ASASHINS' CAMP. DAY.

The Asashin men bring Cherrie up to a large throne made of animal fur and bones, and drop her on her knees before it. There are many savage Asashins gathered near the throne, shouting something in their incomprehensible language.

There's the chief of the Asashins, a strict almond-eyed merciless man in fur clothes and black fur cloak - sitting on the throne. He has adorned his hair with animal bones. There are five young Asashin warrior men standing next to his throne. They all look like each other, and each of them wears precious silk clothes as well as fur cloaks. Each of them has their hair adorned with animal bones just like the chief. They all have strict looks.

CHIEF  
(harshly to Cherrie)  
You stepped in our territory. Who are you?

He speaks good English, but has a bit of an East Asian accent mixed with Nordic (the Asashinese accent).

Cherrie widens eyes and trembles.

CHERRIE  
(gulps her tears)  
Mercy me... Please... I beg you...

CHIEF

(frowns)

Huh... Prove me that you are unique  
and different from all those rats  
that have run into our forest  
before, and I shall grant your  
wish.

The savage Asashins burst out laughing. The laughter sounds  
demonic to Cherrie.

More tears shed down Cherrie's cheeks.

CHERRIE

(weeping)

But I... I don't know how...

(sobs)

What... What do you want from me?

CHIEF

(strictly)

The one who doesn't know their  
worth doesn't deserve to be pitied.

The chief nods to the three Asashin warriors and they grab  
their swords, swinging them at Cherrie!

Cherrie screams and covers herself.

CRACK!

Cherrie fearfully uncovers her eyes and looks up, seeing CHAO  
LIN - a young almond-eyed Asashin man who has defended her,  
parrying the Asashin men's attacks with his sword!

Chao Lin wears blue silken kimono-like robe, black fur cloak,  
and has raven black long hair, less than half of which is  
tied in an upper tail and the rest is kept down. The right  
bang of his hair is covering his right eye. His left eye is  
deep blue, strict and expressive.

Cherrie, seeing the young man's black-handled sharp blade,  
widens eyes in terror and trembles.

Chao Lin looks down at her calmly, observing her attentively  
with his deep blue eye, and then frowns at the chief.

All of the Asashins, including the chief and the five young  
warriors next to him, are bewildered and shocked.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

(angrily to Chao Lin)

What are you doing?! You disobeyed  
my command!

They're speaking in Asashinese so Cherrie cannot understand them, but she can guess nothing good is going on.

CHAO LIN  
 (calmly to the Chief in  
 English)  
 She is unique and different from  
 all those 'rats' that have run into  
 our forest before, so she deserves  
 your mercy.

Cherrie widens eyes hearing the boy's perfect English accent.

CHIEF  
 (strictly in English)  
 Hmm... Prove her uniqueness to me  
 then...

Cherrie gets astonished and scared.

CHERRIE  
 (looks at Chao Lin.  
 Thinks)  
*How can he prove it? What is all  
 this 'uniqueness' thing about?  
 Ohh...*

Chao Lin doesn't answer, just lifts Cherrie's notebook!

Cherrie and the Asashins bewilder.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 (thinks. Dumbfounded)  
*How did he even get my notebook?!*

She then fearfully looks at the chief, anticipating his reaction.

The chief frowns and rolls eyes.

CHIEF  
 (in Asashinese)  
 So you got carried away by books  
 again, huh?

CHAO LIN  
 (calmly in Asashinese)  
 It's not just a random book. It's a  
 book *she* has written.  
 (points on Cherrie)  
 And it is interesting enough for me  
 not to let its author die.

CHIEF  
 (brightens)  
 So you finally want a slave of your own?

CHAO LIN  
 (sighs. Shrugs)  
 If that is the only option you wouldn't kill her for then fine...

Chao Lin looks discontented by the chief's proposal.

CHIEF  
 (sighs with relief)  
 Ugh, finally...  
 (smiles slightly)  
 She's yours then...  
 (puckers)  
 But you know the rules of the tribe!

CHAO LIN  
 (frowns)  
 Since she's mine I'm the one who makes the rules, father.

Chao Lin then looks at two robust Asashins standing there, and gives them a sign to take Cherrie to his tent. The warriors obey and grab the girl, dragging her off.

CHERRIE  
 (shrieks in horror)  
 Ah! Let me go! No!

She can't understand what's happening as she couldn't understand the father's and son's Asashinese conversation.

The Asashin warriors drag her into a giant black fur tent.

INT. CHAO'S BLACK FUR TENT. DAY.

The Asashin warriors drop Cherrie in the tent and exit, leaving her alone.

The tent is black and is made of various animal bones and skins.

Cherrie crawls there in a corner and begins miserably weeping.

CHERRIE  
 (whispers, crying)  
 Papa... Oh, I'm so sorry...



Chao Lin has entered and is watching her weeping, however, she hasn't noticed him yet.

Cherrie suddenly feels the foreigner's presence and startles up, gasping in fear, and crawls back until she doesn't reach the end of the tent. She is terrified, watching the lad's black-handled sword he has girt on his waist.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 (fearfully thinks)  
*Who is he? Why did he come here?*  
 (trembles)  
*Maybe he wants to kill me? Oh God!*

She is crying in fear. However, Chao Lin just watches her with pity, and then moves and sits on the animal skins, taking out her notebook!

Cherrie widens eyes.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 (thinks)  
*My notebook again! Why does he want it?*  
 (surprised)  
*How did he even get it?*

Cherrie curiously watches the boy's movements.

Chao Lin sits comfortably and opens the notebook, calmly running through the lines. He seems amused, a slight smile appearing on his face.

Cherrie astonishedly watches him.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 (thinks in surprise)  
*Can he actually **read** in my language?!*  
 (watches him curiously)  
*I can't believe he finds my stories fun!*

Chao Lin does seem to have fun with her stories, as he is laughing amusedly, and is running through the lines even faster and more eagerly, wanting to know what will happen next.

Cherrie watches him surprisedly and curiously.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 (thinks)  
*He seems rather... gentle... Will that kind of guy really... kill me?*

Suddenly Chao Lin stops laughing. He widens eyes in astonishment, and turns the pages, as if searching for the continuation, and then closes the notebook, sighing with sadness.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)

(widens eyes. Thinks)

*Of course! My last story's not finished! He was apparently reading that one!*

(gets embarrassed)

**That** one?! About luckless knight Rodrigo who tries to gain beautiful Princess Dahlia's hand?!

(her cheeks radden)

*What haven't I written there! All that romance! Oh goodness...*

She is looking down at the floor, being abashed and embarrassed, when she suddenly hears quiet steps!

Cherrie startles and looks up, seeing how Chao Lin approaches her! She gets frightened and crawls back, starting to tremble again, being afraid of the boy.

Chao Lin comes up to her, bends both of his knees, sitting in oriental manner, and stretches out the notebook to her, holding it with both of his hands.

Cherrie watches him with her mouth open from astonishment.

CHAO LIN

(politely. Timidly)

Please... Shall you continue?

Cherrie stares at him dumbfoundedly.

CHERRIE

(mumbles)

Co... Continue?

She blinks in stupefaction.

CHAO LIN

(shyly smiles)

Um... Yes...

Cherrie's still astonished.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)

I know it may be hard... You know, all those muses and writing... stuff...

(chuckles. Shyly smiles)

(MORE)

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)

But whenever you have time, and the  
inspiration comes, please write...

Cherrie gets confused. She looks right into the boy's ocean  
blue eye, getting dazzled. She slowly raises her hand and  
touches the notebook, wanting to take it.

Seeing her one hand, Chao Lin winches and saddens.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)

Ouch...

(looks at Cherrie)

You know... Since you're going to  
be here... let's say, for a  
while... Our custom is - you take  
something they hand out to you,  
with both of your hands. One hand  
means you disrespect them. And just  
between us,

(lowers his voice)

My tribesmen hate disrespectful  
foreigners.

CHERRIE

(worriedly exclaims)

Ah! I'm so sorry... sir...

She quickly adds her second hand and takes the book with both  
hands.

CHAO LIN

(chuckles)

No problem. You're new to our  
culture, so it's fine.

CHERRIE

Anyway... What are they going to do  
with me here?

CHAO LIN

Oh...

(scratches his head, being  
hesitant)

Let's say - I decide whatever  
happens to you now... Since I'm the  
chief's son...

CHERRIE

(gasps)

You're the chief's son?!

CHAO LIN  
(looks away in shyness)  
Yeah... More like the sixth son.  
Not a big deal...

CHERRIE  
(amazed)  
Still... You did have a strong word  
against him... To make him mercy a  
foreigner...  
(looks down, smiling)  
Thanks, by the way... for saving  
me...

CHAO LIN  
You're welcome.  
(chuckles)  
Thanks for writing awesome stories.

Cherrie giggles.

CHERRIE  
(blushes)  
I didn't expect anyone to tell me  
that... No one has ever liked my  
stories before... No one has ever  
read them even...

CHAO LIN  
Oh...  
(chuckles)  
Well then, I guess they have missed  
a great amusement.

Cherrie giggles again at his compliment.

CHERRIE  
(looks up at him)  
Thank you.

CHAO LIN  
(smiles)  
You're welcome.  
(sits beside her)  
Anyway... You do not fear... No  
one's going to harm you here... Not  
anymore.

CHERRIE  
(looks down)  
It's a relief to hear that.  
(saddens. Thinks)  
Dad...

CHAO LIN  
What's your name, by the way?

CHERRIE  
(awakes from thoughts)  
It's Cherrie... Cherrie Bloom. And yours?

CHAO LIN  
Chao Lin.

CHERRIE  
Oh, so Lin's your surname?

CHAO LIN  
Oh.  
(chuckles)  
We Asashins don't call that a 'surname'. Here, it's more like a 'clan name'.  
(smiles)  
However, in our culture you say the clan name first, so my name goes as 'Lin Chao'.

CHERRIE  
(widens eyes)  
Wow, interesting!  
(giggles)  
So I would be Bloom Cherrie?

CHAO LIN  
(chuckles)  
Seems so.  
(laughs)  
Though your name spelled that way resembles more of a cherry blossom tree.

CHERRIE  
(laughs)  
Yeah, I guess!  
(smiles)  
And what does your name mean then?

CHAO LIN  
(laughs)  
Well, 'Lin' in our language means 'Forest', and 'Chao' means 'Tide', though together they don't really seem to match.

CHERRIE  
 (giggles)  
 Haha, yeah...

CHAO LIN  
 Well then, I shall leave you alone  
 now, for some time... Maybe you can  
 grasp some inspiration for your  
 story. I'm really eager to read it.  
 (smiles. Stands up)  
 And also, I got some things to take  
 care of...

Chao Lin puts his hand to the handle of his sword and walks out, returning his serious and strict expression. He leaves the tent.

Cherrie surprisedly watches him.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CHERRIE)  
 That day, I met Chao Lin for the  
 first time... He left me quite  
 surprised... At one point, he  
 seemed a playful young man, but the  
 next second, he resembled a cruel  
 swordsman...

Cherrie looks down at her notebook.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CHERRIE) (CONT'D)  
 But one thing I realised - if I  
 wanted that chief's son to stay  
 benevolent towards me, my notebook  
 was the key...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE VILLAGE. MR. BLOOM'S HUT. DAY.

Mr. Bloom is lying in his bed in his wooden room. He suddenly slowly raises eyelids, looking around.

He looks aside and spots Norman sitting on a wooden chair next to his bed.

Mr. Bloom widens eyes when he notices Cherrie really hasn't returned.

MR. BLOOM  
 (weakly mumbles)  
 Cherrie... Didn't she return?

Tears come to his eyes as he watches Norman.

Norman sighs, looking at him with pity.

NORMAN

I know how you feel, Friedrich...  
 (casts his eyes down)  
 My poor sister shared the same  
 fate, long ago...  
 (a tiny tear comes to his  
 eye)  
 I don't want to frighten you so  
 much, Friedrich,  
 (looks at Mr. Bloom with  
 sad eyes)  
 But... when they first kidnapped my  
 little sister, Lily, and I failed  
 to retrieve her, she never  
 returned, ever since...

Hearing this, Mr. Bloom's eyes widen from shock, and tears gush from them.

MR. BLOOM

(cries)  
 No!  
 (laments)  
 No! Ah, Cherrie...  
 (weeps miserably)  
 Oh, my dear daughter...

Norman watches him with pity.

LILY (NORMAN'S SISTER) (O.S.)

(faint, horrified yell)  
 Help! Help!

CUT SCENE:

INT. BLOOD FOREST. DAY.

Young Norman is sitting on his horse, his eyes full of tears, galloping madly after ten young almond-eyed Asashin savages, one of them, the Asashin chief in his young years, carrying Lily, Norman's sister - a blond, deep blue-eyed beautiful girl - on his horse, riding off into the depth of the forest...

CRACK!

Norman and one of the young Asashins are fighting with swords, while the young Asashin chief (still a prince) carries his sister away...

LILY (NORMAN'S SISTER)  
 (yells in agony)  
 Help! Norman!

NORMAN  
 (desperate)  
 Lily!!

The Asashin's sword suddenly cuts his right eye!

NORMAN (CONT'D)  
 (in pain)  
 Ah!!!

Touches his blooded eye. Bends down, feeling pain. Lily's desperate yell rings in his ears...

LILY (NORMAN'S SISTER)  
 (shrieks)  
 Norman! Help! Norman!

The cry slowly fades away...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE VILLAGE. MR. BLOOM'S HUT. DAY.

Norman is sitting on the wooden chair, fallen in his remembrances. He touches his scar on his right eye, sadness and anguish expressed on his face. He closes eyes and sighs.

MR. BLOOM  
 (sobs)  
 Cherrie... Daughter...

NORMAN  
 (pitifully watches Mr. Bloom. Thinks)  
 Sorry Friedrich... Cherrie won't come back... Not anymore...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. ASASHINS' CAMP. DAY.

It's evening. It's slowly getting dusky.

Little Asashinese boys are gathered in the field, training with their sharp Asashinese swords, hitting wooden dummies and yelling.



Chao Lin walks through their rows, watches them and gives them reprimands.

CHAO LIN

(cries ferociously)

Wu Ying! Raise your hand a little more! Add some force, boy!  
You, Lee Yang, more agility! You don't guide the sword, sword guides you! Move!

CHILDREN

(shout with enthusiasm)

Yes, Lin Chao Sensei!

The children try to maximally improve their movements as the master has advised. They are agitated.

Cherrie watches how Chao Lin walks through the children's rows and gives them reprimands and pieces of advice to improve their skills.

CHERRIE

(thinks)

He's so fierce when it comes to swordsmanship...

Suddenly the children quickly bow and make way for another young man, JIN LIN, (one of those five boys who stood at the chief's throne before) who is slightly older than Chao, wears a pitch black kimono-like robe and black fur cloak. He has girt a black-handled sword on his waist just like Chao. He has long black hair, half of which is tied in an upper bun and adorned with animal bones. His eyes are pitch black, arrogant, merciless, and sarcastic.

Chao slightly frowns, seeing him.

JIN LIN

(sarcastically)

Still educating children, eh, Chao?

CHAO LIN

(calmly replies, frowning)

New generation must know how to battle.

JIN LIN

(chuckles)

I see...

He begins walking around. He takes out his sharp sword and starts contemplating it.

JIN LIN (CONT'D)  
 (hideously gazes upon  
 Chao)  
 How's your little slave?

Cherrie widens eyes. She can already understand a bit of Asashinese as she's already learned a lot from Chao Lin during her time in Asashins' camp.

CHERRIE  
 (thinks)  
*He's asking about me...*  
 (watches Jin)  
*Who is he?*

CHAO LIN  
 (puckers)  
 It doesn't concern you, Jin. Please don't interrupt me.  
 (points on the children)  
 Boys have training to do.

JIN LIN  
 (chuckles)  
 So busy you can't even take time for the eldest prince's visit?

Cherrie widens eyes.

CHERRIE  
 (thinks)  
*The eldest prince?*  
 (stares at Jin)  
*So he's the eldest son of the chief?*

Chao clutches the handle of his sword, already being annoyed and irritated.

CHAO LIN  
 (calmly declares)  
 Yes, I'm busy enough not to have time for senseless chitchat.

JIN LIN  
 Then, dear little bastard brother, let's show your children how a *real* swordsman fights.  
 (grins)  
 You versus me.  
 (looks at his glittering sword)  
 A little educational duel... What do you say?

Cherrie gasps.

CHERRIE

(thinks)

*Bastard? What does he mean by that?*

Cherrie stupefiedly looks at Chao now.

Chao flares up. Now his eyes sparkle like the ones of a savage, and his internal rage can be clearly seen, shining out of them.

The young Asashinese children elatedly watch both princes, being excited to see the duel that's going to occur.

FIRST ASASHIN CHILD

(whispers)

So cool... The princes gonna fight...

SECOND ASASHIN CHILD

(whispers back)

I bet Lin Chao Sensei will win...

THIRD ASASHIN CHILD

(cuts in, whispering)

Lin Jin Sama is strong too...

CHAO LIN

(declares to Jin in a strict tone)

Accepted.

Chao takes his glittering sword out, taking a fighter's special pose.

Jin takes the same pose and the young men stand oppositely to each other, being prepared to spar.

One of the children brings a small gong, being excited.

Jin and Chao are ready, both of them clutching their swords and being concentrated.

BOOM!

The child beats the gong.

The young princes bellow, giving a battle cry, and rush towards each other in an immense speed!

CRACK!

The fighters clash!

The children are watching the duel elatedly, being excited and amazed, having encircled the opponents.

Cherrie also curiously watches the duel - it is her first time seeing one.

Chao and Jin are swinging swords with all their might, trying to knock each other down, but both of them are good so their swords rather crack upon each other than actually hit the adversary.

Soon the crowd gathers around them, interested in the princes' duel. Even the four other princes come to watch their brothers fight.

ASASHINS

Go Jin! Beat him up!

The crowd is encouraging Jin. Jin, motivated by the crowd, fights even more excitedly, with a proud grin.

Cherrie gains a surprised face noticing that no one's cheering for Chao.

CHERRIE

(thinks stupefiedly,  
watching the crowd)

*What's wrong with them? Chao's an  
Asashin like them, and a prince!  
Why aren't they cheering for him?*

The people seem rather hateful towards Chao. Cherrie gets angry that no one roots for their fellow tribesman, and stands up from the grass she was sitting on. She firmly shouts in Asashinese:

CHERRIE (CONT'D)

Ike, Chao!

Everyone hears her voice and gasps.

FIRST ASASHIN

How she dares interfere in our  
duel?

SECOND ASASHIN

Who does she think she is?!

They're complaining.

But Chao, hearing Cherrie's voice, widens eyes and as if a whole new force gushes through his veins, he instantly swings his sword in a perfect way and knocks Jin down in one swing!

The people gasp in astonishment.

ASASHINS

The eldest prince fell! He fell!

They start fussing.

Chao puts his sword to his fallen eldest brother's neck.

CHAO LIN

(strictly declares)

You lost.

He then stretches his hand out to Jin.

But Jin, angry that he lost, gnashes his teeth and doesn't take the hand, instead stands up himself and puts his sword back in scabbard. He doesn't bow to the adversary after battle as Asashinese rule demands, instead just dusts off his clothes and walks off, without uttering a word to Chao.

Chao watches him as he disappears through the crowd, and then sighs.

The people leave the place, disappointed that Chao won.

However, the children look at Chao amazedly, being proud of him as their master.

Chao kindly smiles at them and bows to them instead. The children kindly and happily grin back and bow too. Then they too put swords back in scabbards and go to their tents.

Chao looks down in sadness, but then as if he feels someone is looking at him, and looks up, spotting Cherrie watching him with slightly surprised eyes. Then she kindly beams to him, and walks off to her favourite cherry blossom tree there near the river.

Chao smiles and walks into his tent.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. UNDER THE CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE. NIGHT.

Cherrie is still sitting under the cherry blossom tree, and is writing something in her notebook. The moonlight is shed on her notebook, helping her to see what she's writing.

She suddenly looks up at the moon.

CHERRIE

(thinks)

*Papa... I wonder... How are you out there?*

(tiny tear appears in her eye)

*I hope everything's okay by you... I miss you so much, yet I can't return...*

(softly wipes her tear away)

*But I promise papa, someday I'll come back to you... and hug you tightly... Please brace yourself... please...*

She looks up at the night sky, contemplating the twinkling stars. She mumbles to herself.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)

So many beautiful stars tonight...

CHAO LIN (O.C.)

You like the stars?

Cherrie startles and looks aside, spotting Chao next to her. She gets relieved when she sees him - she perceives him as her only protector in these savage lands.

She then casts her eyes down again, staring at her notebook.

CHERRIE

Yeah, I always loved the stars... Even now when I look at them, they fill me with hope...

She glances up at the twinkling stars again.

Hearing this, Chao beams and sits beside her.

CHAO LIN

Hope, huh?

(looks up at the stars too)

You know, when I look up at the stars, I can see myself.

CHERRIE

Yourself? How that?

CHAO LIN

It's simple.

(chuckles)

Look up there.

(MORE)

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)

Each star twinkles with its own energy it holds within. Human's energy is hidden deep in their soul. My ancestors said that when your soul burns bright, you twinkle just like the star... your eyes twinkle just like the stars...

CHERRIE

Eyes twinkle like stars?  
(giggles)  
I can't understand...

CHAO LIN

Haha!  
(laughs)  
I know, it may sound a little weird for you. But let me explain: In human's eyes can be expressed everything they hold within. The soul finds the door to the outer world through one's eyes. That is why, when you look in someone's eyes, you can immediately guess if their soul matches with yours or not.

CHERRIE

Really?  
(beams and looks down,  
blushing)  
And what... what do you see in my eyes?

Chao kindly smiles and gazes upon her.

CHAO LIN

In your eyes, I see the other half of my own soul.

Hearing this, Cherrie widens eyes and blushes. She casts her eyes down and grows red. Chao, seeing her blush, laughs kindly.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)

Yes, I mean what you think, Cherrie.  
(smiles)  
I really like your personality.

Cherrie looks up at him, and notices his ocean blue eye, which is indeed twinkling like those stars above...

And there, her notebook slowly slips off her hands, and she falls upon Chao's shoulder, softly touching his neck, and closes her eyes in delight.

She feels the touch of a soft, manly palm of her cheek... A sweet beam covers her face.

A sweet, melodic manly voices whispers in her ear.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
Do not fear... I shall always  
protect you, Sakura...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHAO'S BLACK FUR TENT. DAY.

It is morning. Cherrie moans, wakes up and gets dressed in her kimono-like green dress. She combs her hair and then steps out of the little corner of Chao Lin's big tent which specifically serves as her 'room'.

However, once she goes out in the big tent, Chao is not there. Yet his sword is lying there on the animal skins.

CHERRIE  
(surprised. Thinks)  
*How come an Asashin prince left his  
sword behind?*

But then she stares at the sword. It looks so dazzling and glittering...

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
(thinks with regret)  
*If I just had a sword back then,  
I'd never be kidnapped so easily...*

She feels sad. Then she frowns and clenches her fist.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
(thinks angrily)  
*Ugh, it's all these men's laws - as  
if a girl has no right to use a  
weapon! We need weapons the most!*

She frowningly walks up to the sword and takes it.

But it is so heavy she can barely hold it and she lowers it back down! She sighs with disappointment.



CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 (thinks sadly)  
*I can never learn how to use it if  
 I can't even hold it...*

ASASHIN QUEEN (O.C.)  
 (strictly)  
 Your master won't forgive you if  
 anything happens to that sword.

Cherrie startles and looks aside, spotting a slim, beautiful, long soft-haired woman - the ASASHIN QUEEN - walk in. She wears a red kimono-like dress and a silver collar on neck.

CHERRIE  
 (thinks)  
*Silver collar... Asashin generals'  
 wives wear iron collars... Silver  
 collar must mean she's the queen...  
 the wife of the chief himself...*

She gets angry.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 (thinks angrily)  
*How she dares call Chao my  
 'master'?! Does she think she's  
 anything better than me, only  
 because I'm a captive?!*  
 (speaks up to the Queen,  
 frowning)  
 Chao is a kind man. I doubt he  
 shall punish me for this piece of  
 steel.

ASASHIN QUEEN  
 You do realise you're nothing more  
 but a slave to him, don't you?  
 (chuckles)  
 You don't know Chao, so do not make  
 false assumptions, I tell you.

Now Cherrie flares up with rage.

CHERRIE  
 I'm not anyone's slave!  
 (raises her voice)  
 And I'll never be! I'm free!

ASASHIN QUEEN  
 (chuckles)  
 That can be seen dear, as you're  
 trapped in here and can't even roam  
 free...

(MORE)

## ASASHIN QUEEN (CONT'D)

If Chao was such a kind man as you say, and you were more than a slave to him, why wouldn't he already let you go?

Hearing this, Cherrie widens eyes, guessing the queen speaks truth. Tear appears in her eye. Bitterness fills her heart. She clutches the sword and swings it in the air in anger!

## CHERRIE

(yells)  
I'm not a slave!  
(murmurs bitterly)  
I... I'm not...

She falls to her knees and begins crying.

The sword itself flies in the air and falls upon the earth. The loud crack is heard all over the tent.

Both the queen and Cherrie look aside with fear and widen eyes - the sword has broken!

Cherrie covers her mouth with her hands - she broke Chao's sword!

She trembles.

## CHERRIE (CONT'D)

(thinks fearfully)  
*If I am truly considered a slave to Chao, he will surely kill me for this...*  
(whimpers. Thinks)  
*Who am I lying to?! Of course he'll kill me! He's a savage!*

She is fallen to her knees and begins sobbing bitterly.

## CHERRIE (CONT'D)

(whimpers aloud)  
Oh God... What will he do to me now?

The queen chuckles and is about to walk out, turning back, but there she freezes in fright - Chao Lin has arrived!

The queen widens eyes in fear and makes a step back.

Cherrie looks up and gasps in fright seeing Chao. She shivers in dread.

Chao wears a light blue silken bath-robe. He seems to have just soaked up in a hot spring.

He surprisedly looks at both of the women, and then at the broken sword. He instantly widens eyes, being bewildered.

The queen walks out of the tent slowly, carefully watching him.

Chao glances at crying Cherrie, who is fallen to her knees, and then gazes at the queen. Instantly a slight frown covers his face.

CHAO LIN  
(strictly to the Asashin  
Queen)  
You're not supposed to be here.

The queen puckers too.

ASASHIN QUEEN  
But your concubine\_

CHAO LIN  
(shouts angrily)  
Leave!

The queen gets frightened and quickly leaves the place without uttering any more word.

After the queen disappears between the tents, Chao turns back to Cherrie and strictly gazes upon her. Cherrie notices his stern gaze and shudders, tears pouring down her cheeks.

CHERRIE  
(trembles. Murmurs)  
I... I'm sorry...

Chao Lin slowly approaches her.

CHAO LIN  
(strictly, but calmly)  
What did she tell you?

Hearing this severe tone, even more tears gush from the frightened girl's eyes.

CHERRIE  
(sobs out)  
I... It was an accident...  
Please...

Suddenly she feels a warm touch on her cheek. She startles and looks up, just to see Chao sitting before her, rubbing her cheek with his soft manly palm.

He grabs Cherrie and slowly presses her to his chest, caressing her hair. Cherrie widens eyes in astonishment.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 (sobs out)  
 You...  
 (glances up at Chao)  
 You're not mad at me?

CHAO LIN  
 (strictly)  
 I'm not my father.

It makes Cherrie even more surprised.

CHERRIE  
 (thinks)  
*He's not his father? What does he mean?*  
 (asks Chao)  
 What\_

CHAO LIN  
 (harshly)  
 It doesn't concern you.

Cherrie gulps in fear and prefers to hush up not to irritate him more.

They sit like this for some minutes. Cherrie slowly calms down and stops crying.

CHAO LIN (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
 What did you want with my sword anyway?

Chao Lin's voice is calm as well.

CHERRIE  
 (looks up at Chao with pleading eyes)  
 Teach me swordsmanship.

CHAO LIN  
 (gets stupefied)  
 You want to be a sword-user?

CHERRIE  
 Yes.

CHAO LIN  
 (blinks in confusion)  
 Why in all of a sudden?

CHERRIE  
 (with a determined tone)  
 I want to be able to protect  
 myself.

Now Chao widens eyes, being even more astonished.

But then, he recalls his childhood...

CUT SCENE:

INT. ASASHIN CHIEF'S TENT. DAY.

A blond, curly, foreigner woman with ocean blue eyes - Chao's mother - is protecting herself from a merciless, savage robust Asashin with black hair and dark eyes - Chao's father, the chief. The woman is using a broken sword.

However, soon the savage chief yells and takes out his own sword, cutting the woman's throat out of bitter rage!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHAO'S BLACK FUR TENT. DAY.

The scene gets back to Chao and Cherrie in Chao's tent. A tiny tear appears in Chao's eye remembering this bitter and fatal quarrel of his parents...

CHAO LIN  
 (thinks with bitterness)  
*If she knew how to use a sword back  
 then, she wouldn't...*

He gulps a tiny tear inside, subduing his emotions.

Cherrie surprisedly watches his watery eyes.

CHERRIE  
 (astonishedly thinks)  
*Is he... crying?!*  
 (sighs)  
*He's so mysterious... So strange  
 and yet... he dazzles me more and  
 more... day by day...*

Cherrie casts her eyes down.

CHAO LIN (O.C.)  
 We'll start this evening.

Cherrie widens eyes and glances up at him. He is looking down at her with sad, yet kind eyes.

CHERRIE

So... You shall grant my wish?

Chao Lin soundlessly nods. Cherrie beams.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)

Thank you...

CHAO LIN

You're welcome.

Then Cherrie cuddles with Chao's muscled chest and falls in her thoughts. She can feel how Chao's soft manly palm is caressing her hair.

CHERRIE

(wonders)

*What is it that he hides? Something about his past doesn't seem right... I got to find out...*

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BLOOD FOREST. NEAR THE ASASHINS' CAMP. DAY.

Two swordsmen are fighting at the riverside in the forest. They're Cherrie and Chao Lin.

Cherrie is dressed in a green kimono-like dress.

CHERRIE

Ha!

She swings her thin, long and swift blade, and hits it upon Chao's strong and heavy sword. Chao easily parries the attack.

CHAO LIN

(strictly)

Not enough agility.  
Your opponents will mostly be men,  
thus their physical strength shall  
always overcome yours.

With these words, he cold-bloodedly hits his sword upon Cherrie's one and makes her drop it, and then puts the tip of his sharp blade unto her neck.

Cherrie gulps and frightfully looks up at him.

Chao has a stern gaze.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
(strictly orders)  
Pick up your sword.

He puts his own blade away.

Cherrie sighs in relief and takes her sword up from the ground.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
Let's continue.

He attacks. Cherrie parries the attack this time.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
Good. You're getting there. Now add precision.

He starts swiftly moving around Cherrie, making her confused. Soon Cherrie indeed gets dizzy and Chao easily puts her to the ground, tip of his sword unto her neck again.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
(strictly frowns)  
You lack concentration and precision.

He then stretches out his hand again and helps Cherrie stand up.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
You are a woman. You must deal with it. You will never be stronger than men.

Hearing this, Cherrie sighs and looks down in sadness.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
But...  
(strictly continues)  
You can always be more agile and smarter than them.

Cherrie widens eyes and looks up at him. Chao is smiling at her. Cherrie beams and takes her sword again, taking her battle pose once more.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
Well then, use all the agility you have, and find every possible means to bring down your opponent.  
(MORE)

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
 (winks)  
 Try to outsmart him.

Cherrie giggles and continues sparring with him.

This time she tries to be as fast as she can. She is swiftly avoiding the boy's attacks.

Chao then hides behind a bunch of bamboo trees and then suddenly appears behind Cherrie!

But Cherrie notices him in time and quickly turns back, parrying his attack with her own blade!

CRACK!

The swords collide!

Cherrie smirks with satisfaction.

Seeing her swiftness and her smirk, Chao chuckles and beams, withdrawing his sword.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
 Let's call it a day.  
 (slightly bows to his  
 adversary)  
 Good job. Thank you.

CHERRIE  
 My thanks to you, Lin Chao Sensei.

She giggles playfully and bows back.

The youths laugh and walk towards the camp again, putting swords in their scabbards on their waists.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 (happily)  
 Haha! Say it! I finally made  
 progress this time!

CHAO LIN  
 You surely did.  
 (beams)  
 But don't get too carried away. You  
 still have a lot to learn.

CHERRIE  
 Well, I will soon. I have the best  
 teacher in the world!

She giggles and blushes. Chao blushes as well, smiling modestly.



The youths are walking through the forest, towards the Asashins' camp, being amused and joyful, but there between the bushes, someone is spying on them...

It is Jin Lin - Chao's eldest brother. He is wearing a black kimono-robe, and has adorned his long black hair with various animal bones. He carefully spies on the joyful youths, and then, when they disappear through the tents, he frowns and quickly slips through the bushes, running off in an immense speed.

EXT. BLOOD FOREST. ASASHIN HOT SPRING. DAY.

Four young princes - YAO LIN, CHENG LIN, WEI LIN and SHIN LIN - are in the water, having a bath, and are talking and laughing.

CHENG LIN

(grins)

My concubine was prettier than yours, Wei.

WEI LIN

(chuckles sarcastically)

Until you beheaded her?

CHENG LIN

(shrugs)

Well, yeah.

(smiles and dives deeper into the spring, only his head out now)

That's what all concubines are for, right?

WEI LIN

(shrugs)

Yeah, but I guess I'll keep mine for some more time, until I get bored.

YAO LIN

But don't make it too long like dad did, or you might get to have a son with her.

Yao laughs.

CHENG LIN

(grimly)

Yeah, just like dad did.

SHIN LIN  
 (frowns)  
 Good that mom made him get rid of  
 that whore.

JIN LIN (O.C.)  
 But she didn't get rid of their  
 bastard, which is a bigger problem.

All of the four princes surprisedly look up and see their  
 eldest brother - Jin - on the shore, his arms crossed.

They all frown hearing his words.

SHIN LIN  
 That's true. I can't even believe  
 that bastard is dad's favourite...

WEI LIN  
 Yeah, and the best swordsman too.

Wei crosses arms with envy.

JIN LIN  
 (worked up)  
 He's not the best, and will never  
 be!  
 (shouts in anger)  
 He's just a Hafu! The son of a  
 foreigner concubine! A bastard -  
 nothing more!

SHIN LIN  
 So what would you advise to do?  
 (frowns)  
 Dad still loves *him* the most.

JIN LIN  
 (hideously grins)  
 Then we will have to overthrow dad  
 first...

Hearing this, all the brothers gasp.

WEI LIN  
 (bewilders, not believing  
 his ears)  
 What? Seriously?

YAO LIN  
 How is that possible? I mean, he's  
 our father!

JIN LIN

(irritated)

Ugh, come on guys! Father chose a bastard over us! He threw us in the dust!

(frowns, his eyes sparkling with anger and the will of revenge)

I say we eliminate them both!

He shouts with rage and clenches his fist.

The brothers widen eyes, but then they look at each other with grim faces - all of them agree with Jin deep in their hearts. So they nod to each other, having determined expressions.

They then turn back to Jin.

ASASHIN PRINCES

Deal.

Jin grins in satisfaction.

CUT TO:

EXT. BLOOD FOREST. ANOTHER ASASHIN HOT SPRING. DAY.

A hot water boils under the stony crater, above which the beautiful blue sky can be seen.

CHERRIE

Wow, I've never been in a hot spring before!

She giggles and carefully approaches the hot water together with Chao who is leading her.

CHAO LIN

Well, you get the chance now!

He smiles and lets her in. Then he points on the water.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)

Please, go in.

CHERRIE

Okay.

Cherrie takes off her light green silken bath-robe and slowly steps into the water, taking a delightful breath as she feels the hot water touch her soft skin.

She dives and hides her bare chest underwater, and then looks back at Chao.

She sees how Chao Lin loosens his hair tail and takes the tie off. His long black hair falls upon his back and shoulders, making him look amazingly beautiful in Cherrie's eyes. Then he smilingly takes off his light blue bath-robe and joins Cherrie in the hot spring.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 (beams, soaking up)  
 It is so soothing...

CHAO LIN  
 Well, I told you.  
 (grins)  
 But you know what can be even more  
 soothing and delightful?

Cherrie giggles, being curious.

CHERRIE  
 What?

Chao Lin smiles and swims up to her, softly touching her chin.

CHAO LIN  
 (whispers)  
 I think you can already guess what.

Seeing his sparkling eyes, Cherrie startles, and remembrances come up to her...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DEEP INTO THE BLOOD FOREST. DAY.

It is the day when Markus chased Cherrie out in the woods. His eyes are sparkling with vile thirst for Cherrie...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BLOOD FOREST. ANOTHER ASASHIN HOT SPRING. DAY.

The scene returns to Cherrie and Chao in the hot spring. These evil memories embrace Cherrie and she fearfully swims back, wrapping hands around her chest, and looks down.

CHERRIE  
 (quivers)  
 I... I can't...

CHAO LIN

What?

(raises eyebrow and swims  
towards her)

Why?

CHERRIE

Please...

Cherrie swims back again and leans against a stony cliff.

It is a dead end. She pales out, and sweat streams down her forehead.

Chao Lin is astonished - how come a woman would refuse the man she loves?

CHAO LIN

Is anything wrong?

He swims up to her again and now traps her in a corner.

CHERRIE

I... I'm scared...

(shivers and leans against  
the cliff)

It's my first time... And I don't  
have good remembrances of men  
wanting me before...

She casts her eyes down.

Hearing this, Chao first widens eyes in stupor, but then he beams and touches her chin again, raising her head and gazing through her eyes.

CHAO LIN

(whispers)

Don't worry... Just trust me... I  
won't let you feel any pain...

CHERRIE

(murmurs with uncertainty)

Is... Is that possible?

Chao chuckles.

CHAO LIN

Everything is possible, if one  
wants...

He touches her, instantly tasting her lips and closing eyes in affection. Cherrie gets dazzled by his sweet kiss and delightfully closes eyes too. She soon becomes a woman.

The couple giggles to each other, being delighted.

CHERRIE  
(beams)  
You were right.

CHAO LIN  
About pain?

Chao laughs.

CHERRIE  
About that too and... that we're  
soul mates...  
(blushes)  
I feel some different connection  
with you... A special one...

Chao chuckles, and then smiles at her.

CHAO LIN  
That's because we indeed are each  
other's halves.

They want to kiss each other again, when a young horseman  
Asashin - YU KIRA, Chao Lin's main servant - rushes in and  
shouts.

YU KIRA  
Lin Chao Sama!

Chao Lin surprisedly looks at the shores and gasps - Yu Kira  
is wounded and is sitting on an exhausted horse!

Chao Lin bewilders.

CHAO LIN  
What happened?

He rushes out of the hot spring and also takes Cherrie, both  
of them anxiously putting on their bath robes.

Suddenly they hear whoops of wild Asashins and neighs of  
their horses coming from afar!

YU KIRA  
(worriedly)  
They're here!  
Lin Chao Sama, it's a revolt! Your  
brothers have rebelled! Your father  
is killed! You are the next target!  
You have to flee!

Chao Lin widens eyes in shock and dread. He stands motionlessly for some minutes, bewildered.

Then he quickly regains his senses and rushes up to startled Cherrie, grabbing her up in his arms and putting her on his pitch black horse.

CHERRIE  
(astonished and scared)  
What are you doing?!

CHAO LIN  
(hastily replies)  
No time to lose.

He puts her sword in a scabbard attached to the horse. Then turns back to her.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
They will kill you. You must go.  
You are free.

Cherrie widens eyes in bewilderment.

CHERRIE  
(shouts)  
I won't leave you!

The neighs of horses and shouts of men are heard nearer.

CHAO LIN  
(frowns at her)  
No time for that. I must fight them  
off. You have nothing to do with  
this. Return home!

He shouts and hits the horse!

The horse neighs and runs forward in a high speed!

Cherrie shrieks.

CHERRIE  
Ah!

She clings with the horse tighter not to fall off.

She looks back, tears in her eyes. But soon the springs disappear out of the view, and only the forest can be seen around...

CHAO LIN (O.S.)  
Ahh!!!

He shrills in agony!

CHERRIE

Chao!!!

She frightfully yells.

But no one responds.

Cherrie gets dreaded. An ominous feeling seizes her. She stops the horse and looks back.

Abruptly she hears a horse neighing from the behind, through the forest.

She brightens, hope coming back in her heart.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)

(mumbles)

Chao?

But suddenly she hears even more horses, and savage cries in Asashinese come through!

SAVAGE ASASHINS

She wouldn't get too far! Find her!

Cherrie gasps in dread and quickly hits her horse, galloping off again. Her heart is heavily beating.

SAVAGE ASASHIN

There she is!

Cherrie widens eyes in horror and hastily looks back, seeing a savage, ugly warrior after her, holding a sharp, blooded sword!

Cherrie screams.

CHERRIE

Ah!

She hits her horse more and rushes forward.

The savage Asashin laughs.

SAVAGE ASASHIN

Goodbye!

He aims an arrow at her!

Cherrie gasps in horror of death!



The arrow is about to shoot, when suddenly the savage Asashin gets hit by an arrow in his back, yells and falls off his horse, lifeless!

Cherrie widens eyes in astonishment and horror, and looks behind - there is another horseman!

She wants to scream, but then she bewilders - he has blond hair and grassy green eyes... of her own villager, JAKE, the best hunter and Markus' only rival in fights!

Jake, seeing long lost Cherrie appeared so out of the blue, blinks in stupefaction.

JAKE  
(exclaims in stupor)  
Cherrie?!

CHERRIE  
(exclaims)  
Jake, it's me!  
(tears gather in her eyes)  
Please! They're chasing me! We have  
to get to the village!

Jake can hear the savages' cries now too. He puckers, being determined.

JAKE  
(to Cherrie)  
Follow me!

He leads the girl away. Cherrie quickly goes after him, sighing with relief as she is finally in good hands.

Soon they indeed get out of the forest.

EXT. THE VILLAGE BORDER. DAY.

Cherrie and Jake enter the village border. Jake looks at Cherrie, slight smile covering his face.

Near the woods, Cherrie spots a tiny wooden hut - her father's and her home.

Tears come to her eyes.

CHERRIE  
(whispers)  
Papa...

She wipes her tears away, and bitterly smiles, as she is finally home.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAKE THORNTON'S HOUSE. DAY.

There's a party in Jake's house. Jake and Cherrie just got married. Friedrich Bloom, Cherrie's father, is extremely happy. Many villagers attend the party. Three young men are talking.

FIRST YOUNG MAN

Such a great party? Don't you agree?

He grins and pours some wine to his two other friends.

SECOND YOUNG MAN

Truly! Jake did so well that he found and saved Cherrie Bloom! The whole village was worried about her! She is Friedrich Bloom's only daughter, so it was quite a loss for the poor old man.

THIRD YOUNG MAN

Yes, you're right.

(smiles)

So good that finally everything is behind. Imagine what a heart attack the poor old Friedrich would have all this time. After all, it was none other but the Asashins who had kidnapped his daughter...

The young men look at each other significantly.

SECOND YOUNG MAN

Yeah... Friedrich Bloom made a truly wise choice now when he married his daughter to Jake. He is the best fighter in our village. Rumours say he's even better than...

(whispers)

Markus...

FIRST YOUNG MAN

(widens eyes)

Shh! Don't let Markus hear that!

(chuckles)

He's already jealous enough, you know?

SECOND YOUNG MAN

(laughs)

Don't you worry man. I know.

THIRD YOUNG MAN

But jokes aside, Jake is truly a hero, to have returned Cherrie safe and sound... Do you remember what happened to Norman Gardner's sister?

Here the other two men widen eyes and then gain a grim look.

SECOND YOUNG MAN

Yeah... You're right. We all thought same would happen to Cherrie... That she would disappear...

THIRD YOUNG MAN

That is why it was indeed a wise choice for Friedrich to marry his daughter to Thornton. He will protect her for sure.

They all get silent for a moment, but then the first young man breaks the silence.

FIRST YOUNG MAN

(smiles)

Well then, cheers to the newly married!

SECOND YOUNG MAN

Cheers!

THIRD YOUNG MAN

Cheers.

They all clink their glasses and then drink the wine.

Music is playing and Cherrie and Jake are dancing as a newly married couple. Cherrie is smiling at Jake, however, it is only a smile of gratitude, as deep in heart, she is sad she has lost her freedom forever this time.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CEMETERY. DAY. ONE YEAR LATER.

Jake and Cherrie are standing before a tomb. There are letters on the stone: "Friedrich Bloom".

Cherrie has tears in her eyes. She is holding KYLE - a tiny blond one year old child with beautiful green eyes, her son with Jake.

CHERRIE

(weeps. Whispers)

Papa... I miss you already...  
Please... Rest in peace... I am  
fine... I live a happy life... I  
have Kyle and Jake... You don't  
need to worry anymore... Sorry I  
made you worry so much in past...

Tears pour from her cheeks. Jake is sad. He embraces Cherrie in a comforting way.

Cherrie is weeping. She presses the baby to her chest and leans to Jake's chest herself.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)

(thinks, crying)

*And still, I feel my heart is torn  
apart...*

She remembers her old days with Chao Lin, and his comforting embrace. She is unable to forget him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAKE THORNTON'S HOUSE. DAY. NINE YEARS LATER.

On the second floor of Jake Thornton's house, KYLE - ten years old blond boy with green eyes - is lying in bed, listening to his mother, Cherrie, narrating the story. He suddenly interrupts her.

KYLE

(saddens)

Wait mom, you say Cherrie didn't  
love Jake?

CHERRIE

Of course she did, Kyle.

(kindly smiles)

In time, she got to completely  
embrace her family... after her  
son's birth... She loved Jake with  
her whole heart...

Sadness appears on her face as she says this, but Kyle doesn't notice it.

Kyle falls in thoughts for some minutes, but then he breaks the silence again.

KYLE

What happened to Chao Lin anyway?

Hearing this, Cherrie startles, and then sighs.

CHERRIE

No one knows...

KYLE

(disappointed)

Oh...

(brightens up again)

And what about Cherrie's writing notebook?

At this, Cherrie softly giggles.

CHERRIE

(exclaims)

I can't believe you remembered that small detail!

(beams)

Well, as Cherrie was so hastily sent away by Chao Lin and returned to her village, the notebook was left with Chao, as his only item to keep memories of his vanished love...

She bitterly smiles.

Kyle carefully listens to her, and then sighs.

KYLE

(murmurs)

I still hoped to know how Rodrigo's tale ended in that notebook...

Cherrie giggles again.

CHERRIE

Now that dear, is another story.

She kisses Kyle on the forehead and extinguishes the candle.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)

(smiles)

Good night, sweetheart.

She leaves the room.

KYLE  
 (murmurs)  
 Good night, mom.

He falls asleep and dreams of fighting in wars with the savage Asashins side by side his father, Jake Thornton.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JAKE THORNTON'S HOUSE. DAY. TWO YEARS LATER.

Twelve years old Kyle and Cherrie are practising swordsmanship in the yard of their house. They have wooden swords so they won't harm each other. Cherrie fights in Asashinese style, and teaches same maneuvers to Kyle.

CHERRIE  
 (swings her wooden sword)  
 Now dock there... Hold your feet tight to the ground. You will easily fall that way... Bend now! That's good...

KYLE  
 (giggles)  
 Mom, what a weird style you have! Dad never taught me these moves.

CHERRIE  
 (grins)  
 Dad doesn't know those moves. Now let's do it once again!

MANLY VOICE (O.C.)  
 Mrs. Thornton! Notice from the battlefield!

Cherrie and Kyle startle and look aside, spotting some warriors stopped by Jake Thornton's house. Cherrie drops her wooden sword, grabs Kyle's hand and runs up to the threshold, looking at the warriors. The warriors sadly look at her and Kyle.

FIRST WARRIOR  
 Mrs. Thornton, we have a notice from the battlefield for you as well as other families of the village.  
 (sighs)  
 Unfortunately, we lost the current battle.

CHERRIE  
 (frightened)  
 W... What?! W... Where's Jake?

SECOND WARRIOR  
 We are sorry, Mrs. Thornton...  
 General Jake Thornton fell in  
 battle...

Hearing this, Cherrie widens eyes and covers her mouth with her hands, getting terrified.

CHERRIE  
 No... Can't be true...  
 (tears gather in her eyes)  
 No!!

She begins crying. Kyle is even more frustrated and tearful. He begins sobbing.

KYLE  
 You're lying! My dad will return!  
 He must! He promised!

He is sobbing heavily. Cherrie presses him to her chest, crying herself.

SECOND WARRIOR  
 We are truly sorry...

The warriors hang their heads, feeling pity towards the family left without a man to look after them.

KYLE  
 (sobs. Thinks)  
*I... I shall avenge you father... I shall become big and strong and kill those Asashins! I will definitely avenge you! Just you wait...*

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JAKE THORNTON'S HOUSE. DAY. EIGHT YEARS LATER.

Thirty-eight years old Cherrie and twenty years old Kyle are standing at the threshold of Thornton house. Kyle is dressed in armour and his white horse is waiting for him outside. Kyle is facing Cherrie, apparently bidding goodbye to her.

Cherrie is bitterly saddened, and Kyle has a determined expression.

CHERRIE

(sadly)

Well, you're going, huh?

She sorrowfully casts her eyes down.

KYLE

Mother, it's for the best. You know it.

He sighs and wipes Cherrie's tear away with his finger.

KYLE (CONT'D)

(frowns)

Asashins need to know to back down. There's no place for such savages here.

Hearing this, Cherrie sighs. She looks up at Kyle, tears in her eyes.

CHERRIE

(murmurs)

I don't want to lose you...

KYLE

(smiles. Pets her on the cheek)

I will return mother. I promise.

Kyle is going to turn around, when Cherrie grabs him by arm and clutches it. Kyle surprisedly looks back at her. Cherrie is firmly scowling.

CHERRIE

I can't afford to lose you too, Kyle. I've already lost a lot of precious men in my life... My father, your father, and...

(tear comes to her eye)

And *him* too...

(wipes the tear off and frowns again)

You're the only one I have now, and I won't lose you.

So hear me: If you ever, God forbid, fall into the Asashins' custody, remember to cry 'Ketto' and then fight with whoever your opponent might be with the swordsmanship skills I taught you. Don't use your father's skills, use my teachings.



Cherrie strictly gazes upon Kyle, with a worried face.

Kyle first gets stupefied, but then chuckles.

KYLE

Come on mom!

(grins)

No one fights with the skills  
you've taught me! It was just for  
fun! And what's more,

(frowns)

I won't be captured by the  
Asashins.

(clenches his fist)

Never.

CHERRIE

You never know what might happen  
Kyle.

(frowns)

When you go to battle you must be  
prepared for the worst. My  
teachings will greatly help you, as  
they're in fact Asashinese battle  
skills I learned when I was their  
captive...

(sadly looks down, but  
then raises her head and  
continues)

If you use those skills properly,  
no Asashin will be able to beat  
you, safe for one.

(puts hand on his shoulder  
and looks into his eyes)

And if by any chance they still  
beat you, tell them you know Lin  
Chao Sama.

Kyle rolls eyes.

KYLE

But I don't even know that guy  
mom...

Cherrie squeezes his palm.

CHERRIE

Just trust me.

Kyle chuckles and shakes her head, looking down at Cherrie  
with a loving smile.

KYLE

Okay mom. I'll remember. See you.

He kisses her on the forehead, walks off and jumps onto his cloudy white horse, galloping away.

Cherrie watches him as he gallops towards the horizon and disappears into the Blood Forest.

Tear comes to her eye again.

CHERRIE  
(whispers)  
Be safe, Kyle...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BATTLEFIELD. THE VILLAGERS' CAMP. DAY.

A new group of warriors arrives in the villagers' battle camp.

The newcomers meet Markus, the commander of the armies. Markus greets them with a sarcastic smile and gives out orders, disposing them to their tents.

But then he spots Kyle and instantly whispers to his right hand-man, Henry.

MARKUS  
(to Henry)  
I know that brat. He's Jake  
Thornton's son from our village.  
The son of Cherrie...

He clenches his fist in rage.

HENRY  
Ah, that Asashin's whore's son?  
(chuckles)  
I wonder what he's doing here?  
Avenging his mother's lost dignity  
she gave away of her own free will?

Markus feels slightly nervous when watching Kyle, but at Henry's words he bursts out laughing and hits him softly on the shoulder.

MARKUS  
(laughs)  
You nailed it, Henry!  
(hideously grins)  
But for me it is indeed time to  
avenge Cherrie for refusing me...  
(puckers again)  
(MORE)

MARKUS (CONT'D)  
I'll let her taste the bitterness  
she deserves.

Markus' eyes sparkle with incense. He hides between the warriors' crowd.

MARKUS (CONT'D)  
(nervously thinks to  
himself)  
*I won't let that brat find out  
about my secret...*

INT. KYLE'S BATTLE TENT. NIGHT.

Kyle is in his tent when two warriors come in and report.

FIRST WARRIOR  
Mr. Kyle Thornton, you are called  
to the tent of Commander Markus.

KYLE  
Oh... What's the matter?

SECOND WARRIOR  
He has a special mission for you.

Kyle widens eyes and turns joyful. He gladly follows the warriors out of the tent.

INT. MARKUS' BATTLE TENT. NIGHT.

Markus and Henry are sitting in Markus' tent. The two warriors bring Kyle in. Markus viciously smiles and refers to him in a friendly tone.

MARKUS  
(to Kyle)  
Kyle Thornton, I heard you've been  
a great warrior so far. I have a  
job for you.

KYLE  
What is it, sir?

Kyle feels proud to be called on a special mission.

MARKUS  
I need you to penetrate into the  
Asashins' camp and secretly kill  
the chief while he's sleeping.  
(MORE)

MARKUS (CONT'D)

The scouts informed us that there are no guards and so the tent can be easily penetrated.

At this, Kyle widens eyes.

Markus grins, having a friendly face.

MARKUS (CONT'D)

Will you do it for us Mr. Thornton?

KYLE

Oh, sure sir! You can count on me!  
(brightens up)  
I'll go right now!

He slightly bows and rushes out of the tent.

Markus chuckles.

MARKUS

Fish is already on the bait...

Henry chuckles too.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE ASASHINS' BATTLE CAMP. NIGHT.

The moon is shining above the battle camps. Near the Asashins' camp, there is Kyle hiding in bushes.

Kyle is carefully watching a giant black fur tent in the Asashins' camp he's in. It is the tent of Asashin chief.

KYLE

(thinks)  
*I'll kill him for sure... By my  
father's name...*

Rage and grief are sparkling in his eyes.

He slowly crawls up to the chief's tent and wants to sneak in there, when he suddenly hears a ferocious cry in broken accent!

ASASHIN GUARD (O.C.)

Freeze!

He pales as he sees ten robust Asashin guards have gathered around him, pointing sharp swords at him!

KYLE  
 (nervously thinks)  
*But Commander Markus said there  
 were no guards!*

He gulps and raises his hands, surrendering. He drops his sword. The robust Asashin men instantly seize him and tie him up. They then drag Kyle off and drop him inside one of the tents.

A nobly dressed Asashin, grown-up Yu Kira, walks in and talks in the same strange Asashinese accent.

YU KIRA  
 We know the enemies would send an  
 assassin, so we took the measures.  
 (clutches the handle of  
 his sword he has girt on  
 his waist)  
 You wanted to kill our chief. We  
 shall pass our severe judgment upon  
 you. So be prepared for your doom.

Yu Kira walks out.

Kyle watches him as he disappears behind the curtains, and then sighs, falling in thoughts.

KYLE  
 (thinks with sadness)  
*Mother was right... I must've  
 prepared for the worst... And I've  
 forgotten the name she told me to  
 remember...*  
 (frowns. Tries to  
 recollect)  
*Was it Shao Rin? Or...*  
 (sighs)  
*Nah, no use...*

He deeply sighs and hangs his head.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
 (thinks)  
*Sorry, mother... Looks like I won't  
 return... I'll die serving my  
 village...*  
 (tears appear in his eyes)  
*God, please care for my mother...  
 She has only you now...*

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JAKE THORNTON'S HOUSE. DAY. TWO MONTHS LATER.

The village troops return defeated from the battle. Two warriors walk up to Thornton house and knock on it. Cherrie opens and widens eyes.

CHERRIE

Yes?

FIRST WARRIOR

We have a notice from the battlefield, Mrs. Thornton. The current battle is lost. And your son...

He stops, sighing. Cherrie gasps in dread.

CHERRIE

What of my son?

SECOND WARRIOR

He fell into the custody of the Asashins, Mrs. Thornton... No one knows what happened to him after... We are sorry...

They hang their heads. Cherrie breathes heavily, her eyes widened from dread and terror. Tears fall off her eyes and she weeps and cries, falling to her knees.

The warriors have a pity on her, but from the opposite side of the street, in a large house, there are two evil eyes twinkling with joy as they see her misery. It is Markus, laughing quietly, watching her from his closed window.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ASASHINESE CAMP. NIGHT.

There is a feast in the Asashinese camp. They drink alcohol and sing on the rhythm of flutes and drums around the bonfires.

The chief is not attending the party. His throne adorned with animal bones and skins is empty. His right hand-man, Yu Kira, is the head of the party.

Yu Kira chuckles in satisfaction seeing his tribesmen's amused faces.

YU KIRA  
 (thunderously shouts)  
 People! It is time to execute the  
 prisoners!

The Asashins savagely whoop and yell, raising their bamboo glasses full of rice wine.

The robust Asashins drag out the eighteen prisoners. The last one is Kyle. They put them in line and make them kneel. The Asashin executioner points with his sharp sword on each of the prisoner, and people yell.

ASASHINS  
 Korose!

After hearing this cry, the executioner raises his sword and chops the prisoner's head off, blood pouring down. The Asashins yell and whoop, raising glasses in joy.

Each time as this happens, Kyle shudders in horror.

KYLE  
 (stares at the ground.  
 Thinks)  
*Sorry mother...*

But then he widens eyes.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
 (thinks)  
*Wait, that's right! Mother knew how  
 to act if I fell in captivity!*

Kyle grimaces and strains his brain, trying to remember what his mother advised him.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
 (frowns. Thinks)  
*Come on! What was it?*

Suddenly he sees how they point a tip of a sword at him! And then the dreadful cry of the savages comes.

ASASHINS  
 Korose!

He gasps - it is his turn!

The executioner raises his sword.

Kyle frowns and strains his nerves. Suddenly the image pops up in his mind!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JAKE THORNTON'S HOUSE. DAY.

The scene shows Cherrie and Kyle at the threshold of the house. Cherrie talks to Kyle in his remembrance.

CHERRIE

If you ever, God forbid, fall into the Asashins' custody, remember to cry 'Ketto' and then fight with whoever your opponent might be with the swordsmanship skills I taught you.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ASASHINESE CAMP. NIGHT.

The scene returns to Kyle in custody. He widens eyes as he remembers what his mother advised him!

Meanwhile, the executioner's sword flies down in the air...

KYLE

(sweats. Yells)

Ketto!

The sword freezes in mid air. The executioner surprisedly looks down at Kyle.

EXECUTIONER

Eh?

The Asashins are astonished as well. They completely quiet down.

Yu Kira is no less astounded.

Kyle looks stupefiedly at all of the Asashins, blinking.

KYLE

(thinks)

*I think it was definitely it...*

He anxiously waits for the next events.

Suddenly Yu Kira and the Asashins start a heated discussion in their language which Kyle can't understand. The word 'Ketto' is frequently used and everyone points on Kyle time to time. Yu Kira then says the final word in a strict tone, and then orders something to the executioner.



This latter swings his sword and cuts the rope he's tied with. Kyle widens eyes in surprise.

The executioner gives Kyle a sword. Sworded Asashin guards gather around Kyle and Yu Kira.

Kyle confusedly looks around.

YU KIRA  
(strictly to Kyle)  
You will Ketto with me.

He stands in a battle pose Cherrie used to take when sparring with Kyle in his childhood!

Kyle gasps, recognizing Cherrie's battle pose.

KYLE  
(thinks)  
*So mom was right... Looks like indeed a duel will occur... Well then, better follow mom's guidance and fight like she taught me...*

He clutches the handle of his sword in determination.

Some Asashins bring a small gong.

Kyle and Yu prepare themselves, clutching the blades.

The gong rings. The fighters rush towards each other.

CRACK!

The swords collide!

A terrible duel begins. Kyle is strongly swinging his sword at Yu, but Yu is moving swiftly, avoiding the attacks and confusing Kyle!

KYLE (CONT'D)  
(thinks)  
*He fights with the same style as mom...*

Remembrances of Cherrie pop up in his mind, of how she swings her sword and bends around and avoids his attacks. His heart aches as he desperately misses his mother, but just then he hears a cry, and the remembrances fade away, and the cry of the Asashins becomes distinct.

ASASHINS  
(excitedly)  
Ike, Yu!

Yu gets even more energetic hearing such encouragements and goes on direct offensive, while Kyle feels confused, rousing up from his remembrances in such a sudden, so he stumbles and falls!

Instantly Yu puts the tip of his blade unto Kyle's neck.

YU KIRA  
 (strictly)  
 You lost.  
 (frowns)  
 So you die.

Kyle widens eyes. He hears the savages' cries and whoops as they congratulate their tribesman.

The robust Asashins grab him again, tie him and put him to his knees. The executioner comes up to him again, and raises his sword.

Kyle is dreaded. He sweats.

KYLE  
 (thinks with despair)  
*Sorry, mother...*

He prepares for the fatal hit.

The sword flies down...

YOUNG ASASHIN (O.C.)  
 Matte!

Surprised Yu Kira and the Asashins, as well as the executioner and Kyle, look aside and see a young bald Asashin rush in. The executioner stops his sword in mid air again. Yu Kira angrily asks something in Asashinese to the youngster, but once he hears an answer, his eyes turn from angry to stupefied. Then he nods to the young Asashin.

The young Asashin now tells something to the guards and they grab Kyle and take him out of the crowd!

Kyle astonishedly and confusedly looks around, not able to understand what's happening.

The Asashins lead him in a giant black fur tent adorned with animal bones. The bald young Asashin follows them in too.

INT. THE BLACK FUR TENT. NIGHT.

There is a little dark in the tent. There are candles lit, and there is a robust man sitting on a pillow in the midst of those candles, in a special meditative pose.

Kyle fearfully looks up at him, an ominous feeling embracing him.

It is Chief Chao Lin, over forty-two years old. He has long raven black hair, half of which is tied in an upper tail and the hair tie is adorned with animal bones, and the other half of the hair is thrown over his back and shoulders. The right bang of his hair is covering his right eye, and his left eye is deep ocean blue, and deeply scarred as if a sword has cut it.

He wears a dark blue to black kimono-like robe, torn at his left chest, where he has a deep scar right at heart, as if a blade has pierced it. He wears a black fur cloak too.

He has girt a long, black-handled, black-scabbarded sword on his waist.

His hands are scarred as well. His eye is wise, cold and strict.

Kyle trembles once sees such a frightful man. He instantly looks down, afraid to look him in the eye.

The Asashins tell something to the Chao Lin. He silently nods. Kyle gulps at all this tension. Sweat pours off his forehead.

The robust Asashins leave the tent. Only the bald young Asashin stays in.

Silence falls for some minutes, tormenting Kyle. He clenches his fists nervously, trembling.

CHAO LIN (O.C.)  
(deep, sullen voice)  
You fought well.

Kyle trembles and slowly looks up. He sees Chao Lin pouring some tea in his little bamboo cup, which then he slowly and calmly sips.

Kyle can't dare reply. He nervously clutches hands instead, looking down again. He gulps and sweats.

Chao Lin notices Kyle's uneasiness. A slight chuckle passes through his lips.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
 (quietly)  
 Calm yourself...

Kyle glances up at him in fear. He clenches fists in nervousness.

KYLE  
 (nervously)  
 What... What are you going to do with me?

Chao Lin slightly chuckles again and calmly takes another sip of hot tea.

CHAO LIN  
 (calmly)  
 You wanted to kill me. How would you act on my place?

Hearing this, Kyle trembles and looks down, gulping in worry.

KYLE  
 (thinks)  
*What a stupid question... Of course, I'd kill anyone who intended to kill me! But if I answer that, they'll surely chop my head off this time...*

Sweat pours off his forehead once he thinks about this. He grows worried at all this tension. And Chao Lin calmly sipping his tea adds even more tension to it.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
 (nervously mumbles)  
 Please, don't kill me...

At this, Chao Lin slightly beams.

CHAO LIN  
 (calmly)  
 I'm not you.

He slowly takes another sip.

Kyle widens eyes and looks up at him in a stupor. He can't believe his ears.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
 There are few foreigners whose battle skills I like...  
 (sighs sadly)  
 Actually, there was only one...  
 (MORE)

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
 (calms himself again)  
 For amusing me that much, I shall  
 grant you life.

Kyle is stupefied, relieved and overjoyed all at the same  
 time. His heart fills with hopes again.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
 But only if you defeat me in duel.

At this, Kyle gets dreaded again.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
 I shall give you seven days to  
 prepare yourself.

He orders something to the Asashin guards who drag Kyle out  
 and throw him in one of the empty tents.

Sadness and sorrow embrace Kyle.

KYLE  
 (thinks)  
*Mother, you're probably so  
 frightened right now... I am so  
 sorry... I made you worry...*

Tear falls off his eye.

CUT TO:

INT. JAKE THORNTON'S HOUSE. DAY.

Cherrie is in her room, packing up provisions, deep frown  
 covering her face. There is Norman sitting in her room too.

NORMAN  
 (looks at Cherrie  
 stupefied)  
 Cherrie, what are you doing?

CHERRIE  
 (firm tone)  
 I'm going to retrieve Kyle.

She closes up her bag.

NORMAN  
 What?!  
 (dreaded)  
 Cherrie! Please reconsider! How  
 could you ever think of it?!  
 (MORE)

NORMAN (CONT'D)  
 Asashins are savages! They will  
 tear you up to pieces!

He shudders.

CHERRIE  
 Don't worry Norman, I have enough  
 experience of living with the  
 Asashins.

She looks at him with eyes reddened from tears, the eyes of a fierce mother lioness who is willing to protect her cub at any cost.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 I know how to deal with them.

She opens a large case and takes her long, sharp, dusted Asashinese sword out of there. Its handle is blue and adorned with withered cherry blossoms.

NORMAN  
 Please Cherrie!  
 (worriedly)  
 Asashins have taken everyone  
 precious to me... I cannot lose you  
 too...  
 (sighs)  
 You are my late friend's  
 daughter... I swore to Friedrich I  
 would protect you...

Norman's voice turns sorrowful.

CHERRIE  
 Sorry Norman, nothing can stop me  
 now.  
 (sighs. Looks down)  
 Kyle is my son.  
 (frowns)  
 He's the only one I have left. I  
 cannot lose him.

She puts her sword in an Asashinese scabbard.

Norman sighs. He remembers how his little, blond, blue-eyed lovely sister was kidnapped by the Asashins in his far-off youth. Cherrie reminds him of his sister and so he doesn't want to let her go. Tears fill his eyes.

Cherrie once beams to him, and then takes her bag full of provisions, goes out in the yard, mounts her pitch black horse and gallops off into the Blood Forest.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ASASHINESE CAMP. DAY. SEVEN DAYS LATER.

It is seven days since Kyle fell into the Asashins' custody. He is sitting at the river shore, gloomy and saddened. He is staring at his own reflection in the water.

Remembrances float back to him, of how he, ten years old, trains at the riverside with his father, Jake Thornton, back home...

KYLE

(thinks)

*Dad... Such a pity you're away and shall never return...*

*(a tiny tear appears in his eye)*

*Mom and I felt so lonely without you...*

He remembers the time when he was just twelve and the news came about his father's death. His mother cried and wept all nights, but tried to brace herself when with him, not to worry him much. But mother acted always strange... She respected and cared for Jake, but her heart was closed.

He then remembers mother's tales about that mysterious Asashin she loved...

CHERRIE (V.O.)

*(Cherrie's voice in Kyle's remembrances)*

*He was strong, and bold... He always defended the weak ones, and respected everyone as his equal, no matter he was a prince... He was a courageous warrior, the best of all the existing... And he loved me truly... He cared for me like no other man ever did... It was he who saved me from certain death back in our youth... I can never repay him his kindness...*

Kyle thinks.

KYLE

(thinks)

*What happened to that mysterious Asashin guy anyway? Where is he now?*

Suddenly he hears Yu Kira's strict voice.

YU KIRA (O.C.)  
Hey, the chief is calling you!

Kyle wakes from his thoughts. He looks aside and notices Yu.

KYLE  
(gasps)  
Ah!

Only now he remembers the seven days have already passed. He gulps in fear, but still braces himself and stands up. He follows Yu.

EXT. ASASHINESE CAMP. CHIEF'S BLACK FUR TENT. DAY.

Kyle and Yu Kira arrive at the chief's giant black fur tent. The guards let them enter.

INT. CHIEF'S BLACK FUR TENT. DAY.

Kyle and Yu enter the chief's tent. Chao Lin is sitting on the pillows on the ground as before, and is calmly sipping his tea. His expression is stern and cold as before.

Kyle gets dead nervous once sees him.

Silence falls for some minutes. Chao still calmly sips his tea. This silence irritates and torments Kyle.

CHAO LIN  
(calmly)  
Are you ready?

Kyle widens eyes and shudders.

KYLE  
(thinks)  
*No, I'm not ready...*

Chao Lin takes another sip.

CHAO LIN  
(coldly)  
Know that if you refuse you'll be executed.

Kyle trembles hearing this.



KYLE  
 (mumbles)  
 I... I'm ready...

Chao Lin puts the bamboo cup aside and stands up. He frowningly walks up to Kyle and takes his sharp sword out of his scabbard.

CHAO LIN  
 Let's start the battle then. If you win, I shall let you go. But if you lose,  
 (his eyes sparkle with  
 mercilessness)  
 I shall kill you.

Hearing this, Kyle widens eyes and shudders. But then he frowns and braces himself.

KYLE  
 (boldly)  
 I accept.

Chao Lin clutches the black handle of his sword and puckers. Kyle grabs his own blade.

CHAO LIN  
 (strictly)  
 Let's start.

He goes outside. Kyle braces himself and follows him.

EXT. ASASHINESE CAMP. FIELD OF DUEL. DAY.

The opponents - Kyle and Chief Chao Lin - are standing before each other in their battle poses, swords ready in their hands. Chao Lin's eyes are sparkling, and Kyle is frowning in determination. He is nervous though.

Curious Asashins are gathered around the duelists, including Yu Kira. The bald young Asashin of before has brought a small gong. He rings it.

The battlers rush towards each other.

CRACK!

The swords clash!

Chao Lin strongly swings his sword and Kyle barely manages to parry it, almost losing his balance.

KYLE

(thinks)

*The Asashins were right - this man's really strong... I will have to use all the wits I've got...*

He strongly swings his blade, but the chief easily dodges.

CHAO LIN

(strictly)

You're good.

(frowns)

But not good enough!

He springs up and swings his blade from above! Kyle widens eyes and quickly jumps aside. Chao Lin's sword hits the ground and makes a deep cut!

Everyone gasps at such force.

KYLE

(sweats in nervousness.

Thinks)

*He will surely kill me like that...*

Chief Chao Lin is swinging his sword both swiftly and strongly. He is a lot harder opponent than Yu. He has no openings while Kyle has plenty.

Kyle swings his sword at Chao Lin's head, but the chief docks, swings his blade and cuts Kyle on foot!

KYLE (CONT'D)

(shrieks)

Ah!

He falls off and the sword drops off his hand.

Chao Lin frowningly walks up to him, holding his blooded sword. He strictly looks down at Kyle, whose heart is heavily beating as he fearfully gazes at him. He is winching from pain.

CHAO LIN

(strictly)

You lost.

He raises his sword. Kyle widens eyes and bitterly braces himself, preparing for the end.

The sword flies down...

CHERRIE (O.C.)  
 (furiously)  
 Yamete!

Cherrie sitting on the pitch black horse rushes in and jumps off right in between Kyle and Chao Lin. She doesn't recognize Chao and likewise, Chao doesn't recognize her. Cherrie parries Chao's started hit with her own Asashinese sword.

The Asashins, including Chief Chao Lin and Yu Kira, get stupefied, not able to understand who this strange woman is.

However, once Kyle sees Cherrie, he widens eyes.

KYLE  
 (exclaims in stupor)  
 Mother?!

Hearing this, the Asashins gasp. They can't believe this woman is Kyle's mother.

Chao Lin frowns seeing a stranger woman oppose him.

CHAO LIN  
 (strictly to Cherrie)  
 Move.

CHERRIE  
 (snarls)  
 Don't you dare hurt my son, beast!

Her eyes are reddened from rage.

CHAO LIN  
 (strictly)  
 He insulted my pride. He shall be executed, and you cannot stop me.

He gives a sign to his men, and they instantly rush towards Cherrie!

CHERRIE  
 (ferociously yells)  
 I call for Ketto!

Hearing this, Kyle gasps.

KYLE  
 No, mother, don't! He's too strong!

CHERRIE  
 (smiles at Kyle)  
 A raged mother is always stronger,  
 Kyle.

(MORE)

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 (frowns back at Chief Chao  
 Lin)  
 Well?

Her tearful eyes are full of boldness and determination.

Chao Lin frowns and clutches his sword.

CHAO LIN  
 I accept.

The battlefield renews, now with different opponents -  
 Cherrie and Chao, who still don't recognize each other.

Kyle gets worried.

KYLE  
 (exclaims)  
 What's happening?! My mother  
 shouldn't battle! Stop this!

He tries to get up, but winches in pain and falls back.

YU KIRA  
 (coldly)  
 The woman whom you called your  
 mother stood for you. By our rules,  
 when a swordsman stands for one of  
 the duelists and calls for Ketto,  
 the defeated duelist is released  
 and the whole burden falls upon the  
 defender. In other words, you're  
 free, but if your mother loses,  
 she'll die.

KYLE  
 (dreaded)  
 What?!

CRACK!

They hear the swords collide! The opponents have already  
 clashed!

Kyle yells in terror.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
 No!!!

He wants to get up once more, but he winches and falls off  
 again - his wounded foot hurts.

YU KIRA  
 (strictly)  
 You're in no shape to battle now.

KYLE  
 (frowns)  
 But I must! My mother's battling  
 there!

YU KIRA  
 (coldly frowns)  
 There's nothing you can do. A rule  
 is a rule.

While Kyle is worried and frightened, Cherrie and Chief Chao are selflessly battling, their swords clashing and cracking upon each other. Both of the opponents are raged, but Chao maintains his external calmness.

CHAO LIN  
 (to Cherrie)  
 You fight unusually well for a  
 foreigner.

Chao parries her blow.

CHERRIE  
 (yells)  
 That's because I was educated by a  
 sword genius!

She puckers and swings her blade.

Chao avoids her hit again, and the blue handle of Cherrie's Asashinese sword catches his eye - it has dry cherry blossoms attached to it.

He widens eyes in stupor, as he recognizes the sword from back in his youth. He quickly ducks and avoids Cherrie's hit, and then glances into her eyes, which take him back to the past when these brown eyes were still cheerful and lively, but now have turned sad and wiser, having experienced the bitterness of life. But they look as flammable as before.

Chao gets shocked - he recognizes Cherrie.

CHAO LIN  
 (thinks)  
*It... It is her! She... didn't  
 recognize me...*

He dodges another blow and obliquely glances at Kyle, then back at Cherrie.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)

(thinks)

*She has a son now... and apparently  
another man she deeply cares  
about...*

He swings his sword again.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)

(thinks)

*But that sword and those cherry  
blossoms... They have long dried  
out, why does she keep them?*

(looks at Cherrie)

*No... she hasn't forgotten me...  
She just can't recognize me...  
That's all...*

His eyes turn sad for a moment, but then he frowns and attacks again, now more ferociously. He dodges a swift blow of Cherrie and swings his sword fast and strongly. Cherrie quickly jumps back, but stumbles and falls!

She winches. The sword falls off her hand.

Kyle gasps.

KYLE

(exclaims in horror)

Mother!

Chief Chao Lin frowningly walks up to downed Cherrie. She looks up at him, her heart heavily beating.

CHERRIE

(boldly)

A deal is a deal. Take me and let  
my son go.

She puckers, tiny tears appearing in her eyes.

KYLE

(cries in agony)

Mother! No!

He clenches his fists with desperation, and tries to stand up, but falls back on the ground, winching from pain.

The Asashins eagerly watch the events.

Chao Lin frowns and raises his sword.

Kyle shrieks in horror.

KYLE (CONT'D)

No!!!

Cherrie prepares for the blow. One more tear falls off her eye.

The sword slides down...

And hits the ground!

The Asashins gasp - the chief has deliberately missed!

Kyle is stupefied too, as well as Cherrie. She astonishedly looks up at the chief.

The chief suddenly gifts her a kind beam, leaning onto his sword.

CHAO LIN

Nice fight, Sakura.

Cherrie gasps - she recognizes Chao.

Her eyes fill with tears as she gazes at him.

CHERRIE

(lips trembling)

Is that you... Chao?

Chao grins.

CHAO LIN

Welcome back, Cherrie.

Kyle gets stupefied.

Cherrie's eyes are full of tears. She slowly stands up and looks into Chao's ocean blue eye.

CHERRIE

(whispers)

Chao...

She raises her soft palm to touch his cheek, as if wanting to know it is all indeed real.

Chao beams.

Cherrie suddenly slaps him!

CHERRIE (CONT'D)

(shouts)

You idiot!

(frowns)

(MORE)

CHERRIE (CONT'D)

Do you even know how you frightened  
me?!

The Asashins widen eyes in indignation as she dares do this  
to their chief.

Chao laughs instead.

CHAO LIN

Ouch!  
(chuckles)  
Hey! It hurts!

CHERRIE

(sulks. Crosses arms)  
You deserve even worse. I'm just  
being mild now.

Chao laughs kindly.

Kyle stupefiedly watches them.

KYLE

(thinks)  
*What are they doing?*

Suddenly Chao and cherrie hug each other tightly.

Kyle widens eyes as he guesses it all, and recollects the  
name. He looks at Chao.

KYLE (CONT'D)

So it is him... Mom's lost love...  
Chao Lin the Asashin...

Cherrie looks at Chao, being in tears.

CHERRIE

I missed you Chao...

CHAO LIN

(beams)  
I missed you too.

Then Cherrie rushes up to Kyle and hugs him tightly too,  
shedding tears.

CHERRIE

Chao! You're alright! I'm so happy!



INT. CHIEF'S BLACK FUR TENT. DAY.

Kyle is lying in a fur bedding. Cherrie and Chao are sitting beside him. Servants pour some tea in bamboo cups for Cherrie and Chao.

Chao and Cherrie are extremely joyful to see each other after so many years.

CHERRIE

(beams to Chao)

You changed...

(caresses him on hair)

I didn't even recognize you...

(sorrowfully strokes his  
scars)

Are these from... back then?

CHAO LIN

Yeah... I defeated my rebellious  
brothers and became the chief.

CHERRIE

Oh...

(looks down)

Looks like each of us had their own  
path to follow...

CHAO LIN

(sighs)

Yeah...

(then smiles)

But that couldn't stop me from  
remembering you...

He takes out a little faded and torn, yellowish notebook and shows it to Cherrie, smiling. Cherrie widens eyes.

CHERRIE

My notebook! You kept it!

She happily grins at Chao, touching the notebook.

CHAO LIN

(smiles)

Just like you kept my sword and  
cherry blossoms...

They are happy.

Kyle watches them, and seems saddened. Cherrie looks at him now. Her gaze turns sorrowful.

CHERRIE

Kyle, dear, how are you?

She lovingly caresses him on hair.

KYLE

(sighs)

I'm fine mother... Thanks for  
saving me...

Chao sighs and stands up.

CHAO LIN

(to Cherrie)

I'll leave you two for some time...  
I think you need some peace now...  
Especially your boy. The wound's  
not deep but it still needs proper  
treatment.

Chao walks out of the corner, disappearing behind the  
curtains.

CHERRIE

(smiles at him)

Thank you Chao.

Cherrie looks back at Kyle.

Kyle seems upset.

KYLE

(frowns)

You loved this guy more than dad,  
didn't you?

Cherrie's heart sinks.

CHERRIE

Kyle, how can you say such things?

KYLE

(puckers)

You never talked to dad so  
passionately like you did to this  
savage!

Cherrie frowns now.

CHERRIE

He's no savage!  
(softly adds)  
(MORE)

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 And I loved Jake as my husband and  
 the father of my only child, while  
 I love Chao as my true friend and  
 companion of far-off youth.

Cherrie smiles. But Kyle sighs, frowning. Cherrie gets sad.

CHERRIE (CONT'D)  
 Kyle, please...

KYLE  
 (looks away)  
 It's fine...

Cherrie sorrowfully casts her eyes down.

CHERRIE  
 (thinks)  
*I wish Kyle and Chao could get  
 along someday...*

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHIEF'S BLACK FUR TENT. DAY. WEEKS LATER.

Cherrie is out of the room. Kyle is still in the bedding. He then manages to get up and winches a little. He grabs his wooden mace and leans on it, as his foot still hurts a little. Kyle walks out of his corner and appears in the chief's large tent.

KYLE  
 (thinks)  
*I guess I'll take a little walk  
 before mom returns with the  
 medicine...*

He heads towards the exit, but suddenly hears some manly voices coming out of one of the curtains, talking in Asashinese. He gets curious and listens carefully. He can already understand Asashinese as he has spent much time in their camp.

FIRST MAN (O.S.)  
 These foreigners still want to call  
 for another battle...

YU KIRA (O.S.)  
 (irritated)  
 Ugh... When will they learn to back  
 down?

THIRD MAN (O.S.)  
 I wish that brave commander from  
 eight years ago stayed alive... He  
 was the only foreigner who  
 negotiated with us for peace...

FIRST MAN (O.S.)  
 You're talking about Jake Thornton?

THIRD MAN (O.S.)  
 Yes.

CHAO LIN (O.S.)  
 He was the best foreigner soldier I  
 had ever met...

Hearing this, Kyle widens eyes.

KYLE  
 (thinks)  
*How do they know my father?*

He listens to the conversation more carefully.

FIFTH MAN (O.S.)  
 So what to do now?

CHAO LIN (O.S.)  
 We will not leave this forest.  
 That's for sure. It is our home\_

ASASHIN GUARD (O.C.)  
 (to Kyle)  
 Hey, what are you doing here?!

Kyle startles and looks back, spotting a robust Asashin guard!

He gets pale from fear.

ASASHIN GUARD (CONT'D)  
 (sneers)  
 You were listening to the elders'  
 private conversation, huh?! How you  
 dare insult our elders?!

The Asashin guard grabs Kyle!

KYLE  
 Hey! Get off me!

Kyle struggles to get free, but his foot hurts and he winches in pain, getting weaker.

The guard calls two other robust guards and they subdue him together, and take him into the council room!

INT. CHIEF'S BLACK FUR TENT. COUNCIL ROOM. DAY.

There are five elder Asashins sitting, among which there are Yu Kira and Chief Chao Lin himself. They all are sitting on the pillows and bamboo cups full of tea are put in front of them.

The three guards bring struggling Kyle in. All of the five elders look at Kyle astonishedly.

ASASHIN GUARD  
(to the elders)  
Great lords, this pest was secretly  
listening to your conversation!

Hearing this, the elders get incensed. However, Chao Lin stays calm.

The fifth elder, who looks quite old, shouts.

FIFTH MAN  
Behead him!

Kyle gets dreaded hearing this.

CHAO LIN  
(calmly to the fifth man)  
Shu Wang Sama, this boy is under my  
protection, and I won't tolerate  
anyone punishing him safe for  
myself.

He strictly frowns.

Wang Shu startles and bows to Chief Chao Lin.

WANG SHU (FIFTH MAN)  
I'm sorry, Lin Chao Sama.

Chao Lin now turns to Kyle.

CHAO LIN  
Kyle, I'll talk with you privately!  
(to guards)  
Take him out!

Kyle gulps in fear and follows the guards out, limping.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHIEF'S BLACK FUR TENT. KYLE'S ROOM. DAY. HOURS LATER.

Cherrie is already in Kyle's room together with Kyle. An Asashin guard enters.

ASASHIN GUARD  
(to Kyle)  
The chief calls you.

Cherrie startles.

CHERRIE  
(to Kyle)  
What is it about?

KYLE  
(puckers and looks away)  
Nothing...

ASASHIN GUARD  
(to Cherrie)  
Your son was detained for listening to the elders' private conversation without permission.

CHERRIE  
(worriedly)  
What?!  
(springs up and dashes at the guard)  
Please, let me talk to the chief!

ASASHIN GUARD  
I'm sorry, but the chief ordered to have a private discussion with your son. Third parties are prohibited to enter.

CHERRIE  
Oh my...

Kyle frowns and stands up.

KYLE  
(to Cherrie)  
Do not fear mother. I need to talk with the chief in private. I'll be fine. I promise.

He follows the guard out, limping, leaning on his wooden mace. Cherrie stares at him worriedly as he disappears behind the curtains.

INT. CHIEF'S BLACK FUR TENT. CHAO LIN'S ROOM. DAY.

The guard leads Kyle into Chief Chao Lin's room. Chao is sitting on a pillow as always, and sipping hot tea from his bamboo cup as before. Once he sees Kyle and the guard, he nods to the guard and gives him a sign to exit. The Asashin guard bows and leaves the place.

CHAO LIN  
Please, Kyle, take a sit.

He points Kyle with eyes on a pillow beside himself. Kyle gulps and quietly sits down on the pillow, casting eyes down. He clenches fists nervously.

Chao Lin takes another bamboo cup and pour some tea in it, placing it in front of Kyle. He then looks up at him.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
Kyle, I need to know what concerns you.

Kyle widens eyes in a stupor, and then frowns and looks away.

KYLE  
Nothing...

Chao Lin gets silent.

Kyle glances at the tea cup put before him. Remembrances come back...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAKE THORNTON'S HOUSE. DAY.

Kyle is still small, over eleven years old. Jake has returned from the battle and gives Cherrie some tea he has cultivated from his garden.

CHERRIE  
(smiles)  
Oh... Are these from the tea seeds the Asashins gave you?

JAKE  
Yes.  
(grins)  
They said it was in terms of future peace. So let's see how the peace tastes!

Cherrie and Kyle giggle. Cherrie prepares the tea and pours it in Jake's and Kyle's cups. Kyle drinks it and brightens with delight.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHIEF'S BLACK FUR TENT. CHAO LIN'S ROOM. DAY.

The scene gets back to Kyle and Chao Lin. Kyle takes the cup and sips the tea.

KYLE

(thinks)

*The same taste as my father's tea had... Yeah... I guess it's the same tea...*

CHAO LIN (O.C.)

Do you like it?

Kyle awakes from thoughts and looks at Chao Lin. Chao is sipping his tea too.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)

I remember one of your village army's commanders liked it a lot when we were having peaceful negotiations in my tent...

(beams)

So I gifted some seeds to him, as a sign of peace... He was extremely joyful...

(chuckles and then sighs)

Good old memories...

But Kyle carefully listens to him and then clutches his bamboo cup, filled with doubts. He hastily asks.

KYLE

What was that commander's name?

CHAO LIN

Jake Thornton...

(sighs again)

A fine man and a worthy adversary...

Kyle widens eyes in shock.

KYLE

(thinks)

*A worthy adversary? So...*

(MORE)



KYLE (CONT'D)  
 (glances at Chao. Thinks)  
*He killed him?!*

Bitter anger fills his heart. But he hesitates from making early conclusions and calms himself as he can.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
 If you talked about peace, why did you Asashins kill him afterwards?

CHAO LIN  
 We didn't kill him. His own villager did. On the battlefield. I witnessed it with my own eyes.

Chao calmly takes another sip of hot tea.

But Kyle, hearing his words, trembles, and the cup falls off his hand, the tea pouring down.

Chao Lin gets concerned.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
 Are you alright?

KYLE  
 (utters in pure shock)  
 My father... was killed by his own villager?

He is terrorized. Chao Lin widens eyes.

CHAO LIN  
 (exclaims)  
 Your father?!

KYLE  
 (whispers)  
 Can't be...

Kyle's heart aches from internal pain, and he blacks out.

INT. CHIEF'S BLACK FUR TENT. KYLE'S ROOM. DAY.

Kyle opens his eyes. He is in his room, lying in fur bedding again. Cherrie is sitting on the floor beside him. She watches him worriedly. She widens eyes when sees he woke up.

CHERRIE  
 (exclaims)  
 You woke up!  
 (hugs Kyle)  
 Thank goodness, I was so worried!

KYLE  
 (weakly)  
 Mother...

CHERRIE  
 Shh, rest now, Kyle, dear...

Cherrie caresses Kyle on the forehead, giving him loving beam.

KYLE  
 Father... He... He was murdered...

Tears gather in his eyes.

CHERRIE  
 I know.  
 (sighs with sadness)  
 Chao told me everything about your discussion...

Kyle frowns, getting raged.

KYLE  
 I'd kill that betrayer who dared murder him!  
 (clenches fists in anger.  
 Begins sobbing)  
 I'd kill him!

Cherrie watches him with sorrow.

CHERRIE  
 Kyle...

KYLE  
 (wipes off his tears)  
 That bastard...

Suddenly the curtains of the entrance moves and Chao Lin walks in.

CHAO LIN  
 I just got a word from my scouts.  
 The man who killed Jake Thornton is the current commander, Markus Duneford.

Hearing this, Kyle's eyes flash in anger.

KYLE  
 (exclaims)  
 That idiot! Now I get it! He wanted to kill me too!  
 (MORE)

KYLE (CONT'D)  
 (clenches his fists)  
 He tricked me and sent me to the  
 Asashins' battle camp to be  
 captured and die!

Cherrie widens eyes in a stupor at first, but then gets  
 incensed as well.

CHERRIE  
 (whispers)  
 He made me suffer...  
 (raises her voice)  
 He wanted to insult me in our  
 youth. Then he killed my husband...  
 Now you're saying he wanted to  
 treacherously kill my son too?!  
 (clutches the handle of  
 her Asashinese sword)  
 He shall pay...

KYLE  
 (puckers)  
 Let me battle him mother.

CHAO LIN  
 Yeah, one more thing - your village  
 declared a war again. Markus is the  
 commander as before.

KYLE  
 (sneers)  
 Then there we shall meet, on the  
 battlefield.

EXT. THE BATTLEFIELD. NIGHT.

The villagers' and Asashins' camps are situated oppositely to  
 each other. The battle is going to start at dawn.

Norman is hiding in the bushes in Asashins' camp, scouting  
 them. He is a professional scout.

NORMAN  
 (thinks)  
*These bloodthirsty beasts...*  
 (watches Asashins)  
*First they took away my sister,*  
*then Kyle, and now Cherrie too!*  
*Ugh, I shall not sit still anymore!*  
*It is time to act!*

He clenches his fist and silently advances towards the giant  
 black fur tent of the Asashinese chief.

Suddenly, he hears voices from there, but he can't recognize them.

CHAO LIN (O.C.)

At dawn Commander Markus will be on the battlefield. We shall capture him.

MARKUS (O.C.)

I'll kill him!

At this, Norman widens eyes.

NORMAN

(thinks)

*Oh, goodness, they want to kill the commander!*

He hastily moves back and wants to return to his own camp, when he suddenly hears the cries of Asashin guards:

GUARDS (O.C.)

Hey! An intruder!

Norman goes pale. He springs up and wants to dart off, but robust Asashin guards catch him and subdue him, tying him up!

They take him into the black fur tent of the chief.

INT. ASASHINS' CAMP. CHIEF'S TENT. NIGHT.

The guards take Norman into the tent.

GUARDS

Lin Chao Sama, we found a spy from the enemies' camp!

They throw Norman to his knees before the chief.

Norman winches and looks up, and instantly gasps in shock - there are Cherrie and Kyle in the tent together with the chief!

NORMAN

Cherrie?!

CHERRIE

(stupefied)

Norman?!

CHAO LIN  
 (to Cherrie. Raises an  
 eyebrow)  
 You know him?

CHERRIE  
 Yes! It's Norman Gardner from our  
 village. He's my late father's  
 friend, and a very good man!

Chao Lin suddenly startles. He then frowns and looks down at  
 frightened Norman.

CHAO LIN  
 (to Norman)  
 Do you perchance know Lily Gardner?

Norman gasps in a stupor.

NORMAN  
 How do you know my sister's name?!

Chao Lin now widens eyes in shock.

CHAO LIN  
 Your sister's?!

Cherrie and Kyle watch them stupefied. They can't understand  
 what's going on.

Tear comes to Norman's eye.

NORMAN  
 Lily Gardner was my sister, but she  
 got kidnapped by an Asashinese  
 prince, and never returned...

Chao Lin sighs.

CHAO LIN  
 She was kidnapped by my father in  
 their youth... She was my mother...

Now everyone widens eyes in shock!

NORMAN  
 W... What?!  
 (dumbfounded)  
 Your mother?!

But then he gazes into Chao's ocean blue eye, and instantly  
 Lily's image pops up in his mind, with the same ocean blue  
 eyes and a kind smile...

NORMAN (CONT'D)  
 (utters)  
 You indeed have Lily's eyes...  
 (tear streams down his  
 cheek)  
 Oh God...  
 (wipes the tear off)  
 Is she... Is she alive?

Chao Lin deeply sighs.

CHAO LIN  
 No.

Norman widens eyes, and then whimpers. He starts crying.

NORMAN  
 Oh, Lily...

Chao watches him with pity. He puts hand on his shoulder.

CHAO LIN  
 I never thought I would have an  
 uncle...

Norman looks up at him in a stupor. Chao Lin gifts him kind  
 beam.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
 I shall welcome you with open  
 hands...

Norman first widens eyes, but then smiles with gratitude.

NORMAN  
 Thank you...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ASASHINS' CAMP. CHIEF'S TENT. DAWN.

Chao, Cherrie, Kyle and Norman are sitting in Chao's tent,  
 discussing their plans. Norman already knows everything  
 Markus has done. He is dreading.

CHAO LIN  
 ...So that's basically all that  
 scum did.

NORMAN  
 (exclaims with  
 indignation)  
 That's horrid!

KYLE  
I won't forgive him...

NORMAN  
Kyle, vengeance is a terrible  
thing...  
(sighs)  
You won't find peace in your heart  
even after you kill your enemy...

KYLE  
(raged)  
So what do you advise me Norman,  
suck it up?!

CHERRIE  
(puts a hand on Kyle's  
shoulder)  
Dear, Norman's just saying that you  
must calm down a little, and think  
more thoroughly of how to act...

KYLE  
How can I be calm mother? He killed  
my father!  
(puckers)  
You should be angry too! Or I guess  
you didn't love father enough?

He angrily walks out of the tent.

Cherrie's eyes widen and her heart sinks with sadness. Tear  
streams down her cheek.

She then feels how Chao wipes off her tear with his finger.  
She sadly looks up at him.

CHAO LIN  
Do not worry... I shall talk with  
him.

Chao walks out of the tent too.

EXT. ASASHINS' CAMP. RIVERSIDE. DAWN.

Kyle is standing at the river shore. He notices Chao Lin  
behind him, but doesn't look back. He just frowns and harshly  
asks.

KYLE  
What do you want?

CHAO LIN  
 (calmly)  
 It is natural that you're angry...  
 (stands beside him.  
 Frowns)  
 But you must learn to subdue your  
 feelings.

Kyle puckers and raises his voice.

KYLE  
 You know nothing of how it feels to  
 learn your father has been  
 treacherously murdered!

CHAO LIN  
 I know exactly how that feels.  
 (chuckles)  
 But I doubt you know how that  
 feeling grows when you find out  
 your father was treacherously  
 killed by your own brothers' hands.

Kyle gasps and astonishedly looks at him.

KYLE  
 What?!

CHAO LIN  
 (frowns)  
 Do not make early assumptions and  
 conclusions about other people.

Kyle sighs and looks down.

KYLE  
 (murmurs)  
 Then... Then what did you do?

CHAO LIN  
 I selflessly fought with them.  
 Since then I got these eternal  
 marks..."

He strokes his scars on left eye and left chest.

CHAO LIN (CONT'D)  
 The whole confrontation was a  
 burden... Just like you, I was  
 filled with resentment and bitter  
 rage...  
 (sighs )  
 (MORE)



CHAO LIN (CONT'D)

But bloodshed bears only more  
bloodshed, so vengeance is never  
the key...

However, third parties almost  
always make the right judgment in  
conflicts, when they're not engaged  
in it, but have witnessed and  
analyzed all the events...

Kyle surprisedly raises an eyebrow. He is confused.

KYLE

What do you mean?

CHAO LIN

After the people, our tribesmen,  
saw what my brothers and the queen  
had done against my father, their  
chief, they got raged at such  
injustice and shamefulness, so they  
themselves executed my five  
brothers and the queen, and chose  
me, my father's staunchest and the  
most honest son, as their chief, no  
matter I was Hafu, thus not a pure-  
blooded Asashin.

KYLE

So what does that have to do with  
my concern?

CHAO LIN

Take my uncle and return to your  
villagers' camp, and tell them we  
Asashins call for peace. Don't  
inform them of Markus' actions.  
When Markus refuses to form peace  
and an argument starts in the camp,  
he will show his true face very  
soon.

KYLE

How are you so sure?

Chao smiles.

CHAO LIN

Because I know well my adversaries.

KYLE

What will happen even if he shows  
his true face?

CHAO LIN  
Your villagers will judge him  
themselves.

KYLE  
(looks down)  
But people not always are just...

CHAO LIN  
(smiles)  
When it is about unjust  
authorities, they always are.

Kyle falls in his thoughts, and then smiles.

KYLE  
Thanks for everything.

He goes back in the tent. Chao watches him as he disappears  
behind the curtains.

INT. VILLAGERS' CAMP. VILLAGE ELDERS' TENT. NIGHT.

The next night after the clash, Kyle and Norman are in the  
village elders' tent, acting as ambassadors of the Asashins.

KYLE  
(to the villagers)  
They say they want peace. They sent  
a Sakura flower, which is the  
symbol of peace in their tribe.

MR. DINKINS, the elder of the village, attentively listens to  
Kyle and then speaks.

MR. DINKINS  
Hmm... What do they offer as a  
compensation for the losses they  
have caused to us?

KYLE  
They promise to send troops to aid  
us in each battle against other  
villages, and pay us ten thousand  
silver pieces as a tribute for  
terrorizing our villagers before.  
(MORE)

KYLE (CONT'D)

Instead they demand that their borders of Blood Forest wouldn't be trespassed without their permission, or they shall have the absolute freedom of actions on their territory, including the proper punishment of trespassers. That is how they said.

MR. DINKINS

Hmm...

(strokes his small white beard)

That's actually how our late commander, Jake Thornton, had envisioned...

(looks at Kyle)

We were ready to finish our negotiations with a contract of truce, but then Jake Thornton was killed by the Asashins on the battlefield...

Kyle notices how Markus grows nervous. He feels inner rage.

KYLE

(thinks)

*That bastard... So it was really his doing...*

But he suddenly feels Norman's touch on shoulder - it is a sign to calm himself down.

So he takes a deep breath and calmly looks up at Mr. Dinkins.

MR. DINKINS

Well, we shall accept the truce then...

MARKUS

That can't be!

He leaps up, sweating.

MARKUS (CONT'D)

Jake Thornton was treacherously killed by them! We can't trust them!

Kyle feels inner rage again.

KYLE

(thinks)

*How does that scum dare talk of my  
father so shamelessly?!*

But he feels Norman's hand on the shoulder again. He understands the sign and takes a deep breath again, calming himself down.

KYLE (CONT'D)

By the way, the chief of the Asashins, Lord Chao Lin, sent this sword to you, as the first sign of repayment. It was found in the heart of deceased Jake Thornton, and still has his blood on.

He takes out a golden-handled sword and gives it to Mr. Dinkins.

But the villagers gasp, as it is not an Asashinese sword, but their village's one! One of the young warriors, MR. SMITH, speaks.

MR. SMITH

It's a sword like the ones my father makes, the village blacksmith! It couldn't belong to the Asashins!

A second youth, a professional swordsman, speaks up.

SECOND YOUTH

And the Asashins never pick swords from the battlefield. They consider their swords their sacred companions and only wield Asashinese style blades.

OTHERS

Then why did they take this sword?

SECOND YOUTH

Dillan, you have lived with Asashins for long. Can you explain it?

DILLAN - a trader who has lived with Asashins for long - speaks.

DILLAN

Only when their adversary is treacherously killed the Asashins take the sword he was killed with, to let him rest in peace, and leave the blood on the killer sword as a remembrance of one's unjust death. They have that kind of a custom and that is considered an honour by them.

OTHERS

(get incensed)  
But does that mean Jake Thornton was treacherously killed?!

MR. DINKINS

(frowns)  
It turns out so.

Suddenly Henry enters the tent and surprisedly remarks once sees the golden sword.

HENRY

(to Markus)  
Hey, Markus, isn't that the sword you said you lost?

Markus grows pale. Everyone looks at him. His lips start trembling.

OTHERS

No way...

MR. DINKINS

(strictly)  
Markus, is that really your sword?

But Markus can't answer, so speechless he is, trembling. Then he faints and falls off.

The warriors start a heated discussion, but Kyle can't hear them, as his thoughts are flying elsewhere...

KYLE

(thinks with a smile on his face)  
*Thank you, Chao Lin...*

He finally feels peace within.

EXT. ASASHINESE VILLAGE. DAY.

NARRATOR (O.S.)  
 After that day, the villagers  
 looked into the case, and Markus  
 was deemed guilty and got  
 apprehended.

Markus is shown in a dungeon.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Cherrie, Kyle and Norman began  
 living with the Asashins.

Cherrie, Kyle and Norman are shown in the Asashinese camp.  
 Cherrie and Chao are spending time together, smiling. Norman  
 talks with young Asashinese kids with a bright smile on his  
 face, while Kyle walks in front of the warrior lines,  
 armoured.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Kyle became the leader of the  
 Asashinese armies and established  
 peace with the villagers. He was  
 elected as a new commander of  
 village troops too, and thus,  
 village and Asashin armies united.

Kyle is sitting on his horse, commanding the joint armies of  
 villagers and the Asashins.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Kyle married an Asashinese woman, a  
 Lin representative, and had a happy  
 life with the Asashins...

A beautiful almond-eyed woman and Kyle get married in  
 Asashinese style - dressed in kimonos, under a tree. Chao,  
 Cherrie and Norman are smiling. The villagers attend the  
 feast too.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 And then, was born Shao Lin - a  
 hafu just like his foster  
 grandfather Chao Lin...

The little baby with green almond eyes and black hair - Shao  
 Lin - Kyle's and the Asashin woman's son - is shown, eyeing  
 everyone curiously.

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 A boy who would prove to be a  
 legend, and a sign of peace between  
 the villagers and the Asashins...  
 (MORE)

NARRATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
But that, my friends, is another  
story.

THE END.