

Samurai Hitchhiker

by

Joe Allen Barniak

DAY-HIGHWAY

RYU walks along a desolate highway. He carries a pool stick case along his back.

It's a two lane highway. Cars respectfully pass on the opposite lane. The road is moderately busy.

Sweat drips down his face. He looks as if he's been walking for miles.

A GREEN car zoom passed him on his left. Centimeters from hitting his arm.

The driver extends his arm from the window, giving a middle finger for RYU to see.

RYU stops in his tracks. Staring GREEN CAR as it zooms away.

The GREEN CAR approaches a stop light.

RYU's eyes dim with anger.

He darts towards the car.

The stop light turns RED. The green car stops.

RYU runs along the side as 4 cars pass and stop behind the Green car.

RYU jumps onto the trunk of CAR 1.

Pauses. As the car rocks up and down.

And steps onto the roof.

INT. CAR 2

MOTHER, FATHER and DAUGHTER sit in the car, waiting impatiently for the light to change.

Through the back window, we can see a pair of feet jump onto the trunk.

The DAUGHTER shrieks as MOTHER and FATHER look back at window.

The feet lift out of view, and onto the roof.

MOTHER and FATHER follow the sound of the footsteps as it travels along the roof.

INT. GREEN CAR

From the reflection of the SIDE VIEW MIRROR we can see RYU run up and down CAR 3. He runs up car 4 and back down the front windshield just as smooth.

We PULL BACK, and see KEN with his sun visor down, adjusting his eyebrows in the mirror. KEN is an older guy, wears a suit, and has the look of a snobby terrible salesman.

A beat.

A thud on the back of the car.

Squeaks emanate from the shocks as the car rocks up and down.

KEN closes the visor up slowly. Wary of what lurks behind him.

A beat.

The REAR VIEW mirror shows terror in his eyes. Cautiously, he reaches for it.

He grabs it, and adjusts it ever so slightly. It centers on the back window. A figure of man with two feet stand evenly apart.

The figure slowly leans down, displaying a grim face staring right at the eyes of KEN. He looks like a hunter ready to kill.

EXT. GREEN CAR

KEN jumps out the car grabbing his HAT off the DASHBOARD.

The light turns GREEN.

EXT. WOODS

KEN clings his hat to his head as trees swings by at a blistering pace.

RYU is not far behind.

RYU unhooks the lid to his POOL STICK bag and pulls a handle. Light streams off the blade as we reveal a samurai sword.

He runs through the woods like a samurai with his sword in hand.

KEN runs at the opposite side, mimicking RYU with his HAT in hand.

The sword shines in the light as the two men run mirroring each other. Trees dividing them from any attacks.

The row of trees come to an end and RYU swings the sword, the swing is so swift and fast that leaves fly through the air. KEN jumps and the blade cuts into a tree.

KEN soars high into the air, ten feet above the ground.

He flings his hat at RYU, like a ninja throwing a star.

The hat soars through the air, spinning, cuts into a tree and sticks. RYU'S eyes widen, his head is only inches away.

KEN lands down to earth, in a three point stance.

RYU'S eyes dim, and his mouth opens wide. A WAR CRY exuberates from his mouth as he darts straight at KEN.

KEN'S eyes widen as RYU gets closer.

CAMERA PULLS BACK from RYU'S angry eyes, as the background spins. He rears the sword over his head and strikes down, slicking the CAMERA.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS

RYU slides the sword in his POOL STICK BAG.

He walks to the distance, vanishing in the sunset.

KEN'S body drops to its knees. It lands on its face, dead, eyes open, looking directly at the camera.

FADE TO BLACK.