WAR BORN

by

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A high pitched scream vibrates.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

An intense flame ravages multiple huts scattered within a humble campsite. Disorientated villagers flee from the billowing smoke with iron weapons in hand. Children CRY, longing for their absent parents.

INT. HUT - NIGHT

YOUNG CROW sleeps on the floor. He wears fur and animal hide. He is twelve, blonde and blue-eyed.

YOUNG CLAY
CROW! CROW!

YOUNG CLAY steps through the hut's opening. Blonde and blue-eyed as well, he wears a hat made from raccoon hide. The raccoon's face blankets Young Clay's scalp. Young Clay is twenty.

Young Clay rushes to his younger brother. He shakes him.

YOUNG CROW
Clay, what?

Young Clay rises to his feet then sprints to the hut's door. He grabs a large Claymore near the hut's exit before he bolts out.

Young Crow rubs his eyes. He slowly stands up as he adjusts himself. Young Crow stumbles to the hut's exit. Light shines through the cracks in the door.

PIERCE
(muffled)
East Town is gone.

YOUNG CLAY
Where are they now?

Young Crow opens the hut's door. The firelight blinds him.

INT. NINJA HOUSE - NIGHT

Shadows hide a meek house made entirely from wood. A girl's shrouded figure shakes within the shadows. She is twelve.

YOUNG MIKASA
No!

She holds her father. Blood shines on Young Mikasa's hand in the moon light.

YOUNG MIKASA
Daddy!
Tear drops trickle onto the father's cold face.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

PIERCE is large, a head taller than Young Clay despite being the same age. He holds a giant sledgehammer with one hand.

To the side of Pierce is YOUNG RAGNAROCK, his younger brother. Young Ragnarock is the same age as Young Crow, but could be mistaken for a fifteen year-old. Young Ragnarock shelters himself behind Pierce.

PIERCE
We have to move!

Young Clay nods confidently, while Young Crow and Ragnarock tremble. The four sprint into the forest with weapons drawn. Young Crow and Ragnarock clutch their knives. They trail behind their older brothers.

PIERCE
Ragnarock, keep up!

A horn sounds off. Pierce panics. He searches frantically.

YOUNG CLAY
Ninjas? Here already!

PIERCE
Stay close!

Young Ragnarock trails further behind. Fire burns around them. Pierce spots the glint of metal. Someone hides in this bush feet away from Young Ragnarock.

Pierce dashes to Ragnarock. A Ninja leaps from the bush. The Ninja's small katana thrusts toward Young Ragnarock. Everyone else tries to grasp the suddenness of this attack.

Young Ragnarock's fear paralyzes his body.

PIERCE
Down!

Pierce slams his massive hammer against the Ninja's back. CRACK! His hammer forces the Ninja to the dirt.

Young Ragnarock gazes at his brother. Pierce smiles to Ragnarock with relief.

YOUNG CLAY
Pierce!

A second Ninja stayed hidden in the bush. The Ninja shoots thin needles from her mouth. The tips of the needles are covered in white sap.

Every needle strikes Pierce. Some puncture his chest while others stick out from his neck. Pierce topples over with a
thud. Ragnarock's eyes broaden.

Young Clay pursues Pierce's attacker through the thick woods.

Young Ragnarock hugs his brother. Pierce fights to keep conscious while blood oozes from his wounds.

YOUNG RAGNAROCK

Pierce!

Tears fall onto Pierce's pale face. Young Ragnarock screams out recklessly. Pierce forces part of his bloody hand into Ragnarock's mouth.

PIERCE

You have to be quiet.

Pierce's eyes water, his head falls back.

Crow watches Ragnarock shake his dead brother. Young Ragnarock's mouth is open wide but he fights the urge to yelp.

YOUNG CLAY

Bastards!

Young Clay traps the Ninja against a tree. He thrusts his blade through the Ninja's stomach. The Claymore pins the Ninja to the tree. Clay rips the Ninja's mask off.

YOUNG CLAY

Why break the treaty!

The Ninja coughs up blood.

NINJA

I should ask you that.

The Ninja's head falls, lifeless.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Young Clay bursts through the forest. He hurries to YOUNG CROW.

YOUNG CROW

Brother, Pierce...

YOUNG CLAY

...Come here.

Young Clay wraps his arm around Young Crow's shoulder.

Young Ragnarock buries has head into his brother's bloody chest.
4.

YOUNG CROW
I will end this war Ragnarock. I won't let anyone else die! For Pierce, I'll.

Young Crow cries, he can't finish his sentence.

Young Ragnarock addresses CROW, his face blood soaked.

YOUNG RAGNAROCK
Finish them all.

The blood on Ragnarock's face takes the shape of the map of EVERSHERE.

GRAPHIC - THE MAP OF EVERSHERE
The withered map depicts three main areas, all evenly cut from a rough circle.

On this map there is a coast to the east and more unnamed land to the west. The map has Japanese characters written on it with holes burned from fire.

PIERCE (V.O.)
One hundred years of bloodshed, that's how long it took for a treaty to be established.

CLASH and CLING sounds of metal ring as roughly outlined warriors fight over the map in a stop motion style. These outlines are bold drawn in black calligraphy.

PIERCE (V.O.)
Determined to avenge their fallen, each side broke the treaty. Hate has a way of taking over the heart.

Warriors are stabbed, they SCREAM and MOAN.

PIERCE (V.O.)
A pissing contest. Samurai against Ninja. Killing for revenge and pride. Children fighting a war their grandparents began.

The west part has "Dounine" clearly labeled in English and Japanese characters. A group of the Samurai clan is drawn in the same outline style. The outlined Samurai face the east; all stand tall by each other's side.

The Samurai are reimagined. They are European style swordsmen who wear a combination of Japanese Samurai and skin/fur styled clothing.

All carry heavy weapons, mostly large swords, but some wield shields, axes, spears, and clubs. The Samurai have their weapons sheathed.
PIERCE (V.O.)
Dounine, Oneumi. Their differences are apparent at first.

To the east of Dounine is Oneumi. The Ninjas hang from trees and hide behind bushes. They face the west.

These Ninja are wrapped in cloth. Thin metal plating worn on the outside of the cloth rests over their chests and forearms. The Ninjas are Asian and carry metal needles, Ninja stars, throwing knives, and small katana blades.

PIERCE (V.O.)
But they fight for the same thing.

The border of Dounine and Oneumi stretches vertically.

The outlines break their stances, they charge at each other. The Samurai run while they shout war cries. The Ninjas jump and dash from spot to spot, they make SWISH and TSU sounds.

PIERCE (V.O.)
The Love they lost.

Each side attacks at close quarters. Bodies fall. WAILS, SCREAMS, and CRIES echo as the outlines show the aftermath of a battlefield.

PIERCE (V.O.)
Children of these clans hold on to their pain forever.

The outlines change to children. They mourn their lost family members.

On the right over Dounine a boy on his knees cries, his head rests against a tombstone.

To the left a girl grasps her father's cold hand while his body is lowered into a grave.

PIERCE (V.O.)
Ready to pass it on.

The outlines of the boy and girl grow into a young man and young woman. They are armed and face each other.

PIERCE (V.O.)
Eventually, war broke both nations. Pride insisted on a third party.

North of Dounine and Oneumi lies Triceles. The border between Dounine and Oneumi fork where Triceles begins.

PIERCE (V.O.)
Triceles, who stayed neutral as a merchant class country, wrote the treaty.
The black outlines form into men of business and trade. They hold coins, gems and wares. They face forward lined up side by side. The ones furthest left and furthest right pass down weapons to Dounine and Oneumi.

PIERCE (V.O.)
Supplying both clans with weapons enabled them to write a treaty each side could agree to.

Evershore encompasses the three lands. The black outlines animate leaders from all three groups as they argue.

PIERCE (V.O.)
Anyone who commits an act of war is hung by the court houses of Triceles.

The table dissipates into a merchant leader who stands in the upper middle of the map. His right hand points up.

PIERCE (V.O.)
Only two are legally allowed to fight.

The black outlines morph into pregnant women. They stand in rows as they face the merchant leader. There are two rows of pregnant women, one row aligned to the right and one aligned on the left.

PIERCE (V.O.)
One hapless unborn from each clan.

All but one woman from each side disappears.

PIERCE (V.O.)
Would decide the war.

The pregnant women and merchant leader disappear. The outlines form into a male Samurai who resembles CROW over Dounine. A female Ninja who resembles Mikasa is over Oneumi.

Both outlines stare at each other. CROW grips a sheathed sword behind his back. Mikasa's left hand tightens around the throwing knife strapped to her left leg.

PIERCE (V.O.)
Two children forced to kill each other, the War Borns.

They assault each other, there is a CLASH of metal.

EXT. CITY OF HAVEN-DAY

Pagoda buildings reach six stories high casting shadows over the city of Haven. These unkept buildings resemble classic Asian themed architecture. The massive pagodas are perfectly square, about one-sixth of a mile on each side.
Each level has its own roof that reaches out just enough to shelter from the rain. The city is a metropolis for this time period, but Haven is now abandoned. Nothing is in sight except buildings and old signs.

The city is held together by random objects. Certain pillars have rope tied around it with chopsticks and pencils shoved into broken parts. Pieces of metal have been added to reinforce pillars.

CROW and TIGO explore the abandoned streets.

Crow, now twenty has developed a very defined jaw line. He is well built and wears a tight fitted vest that exposes his toned biceps. He has wooden sandals and this friendly smile on his face. The large Claymore is sheathed on his back.

CROW
Think we can find her here?

As Crow investigates the hallow buildings, Tigo, a talking hamster, pops out from under Crow's right sleeve.

Tigo has white and orange fur and appears to be an average hamster. Tigo wears a metal device, the bulky contraption wraps around his waist.

TIGO
An empty city like this has plenty of hiding spots.

CROW
I can't believe anyone ever abandoned it.

Crow squats, he plays with a chopstick that has been shoved into a wooden pillar.

CROW
They used strange building methods.

TIGO
Don't mess with that!

Tigo relaxes when Crow lets go of the chopstick.

TIGO
You wouldn't want the whole building to fall.

CROW
A chopstick, Tigo.

TIGO
It could be bearing weight!

CROW
Chopsticks don't bear weight.
Crow stands. He gazes high at the massive buildings.

CROW
Imagine living here.

TIGO
We used to share it with the Ninja before the war. Haven was the capital of Evershore.

The two stroll through the empty streets of Haven.

TIGO
But when the war started, the people of Haven turned against each other. No one could decide who should control the city. It was abandoned.

CROW
They almost destroyed the city fighting for it.

Crow KNOCKS on a pillar. He emphasizes the random objects.

TIGO
Wasn't from the fighting. A couple of weeks before the war started, a large earthquake struck the city. Ninja and Samurai came together doing whatever they could to keep the buildings from falling.

CROW
Like using chopsticks?

TIGO
Chopsticks and all.

Tigo whirls his head. He spots something shining around the corner.

TIGO
Hey, stop.

Crow halts, then glances at Tigo.

CROW
What?

TIGO
Over there, 'round the bend.

Crow focuses. He spots a metal string tied above the ground.
Crow

Trip wire. Our lead was right. Tigo, run around on foot. I'm going to get some high ground.

Crow points to an adjacent building. Tigo and Crow nod, then split up.

CUT TO

INT. CITY OF HAVEN-DAY

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN'S face is barely visible, hidden in the shadow of a building. She wears a cloth mask that covers her mouth and cheeks. She peers out of a window. Her black hair is braided back.

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN

There you are.

EXT. CITY OF HAVEN-DAY

Crow is high up on a large pagoda. He scans the city from the fifth story balcony. The pagoda is six stories tall and seems to be the center of the deserted city.

The air is unbelievably clear. White clouds roll through the sky. The wind blows gently at his height.

Crow scouts the streets of Haven

CROW

Where are you hiding?

Crow squints at the distance; an ocean comes into view.

CROW

The ocean?

This ocean boasts crystal blue water, light waves brush against the sand. Sea gulls soar through the air. The sand has an inviting warmth to it.

Crow holds out his arms to the paradise. He makes a rectangle with his hands that he peers through.

Through Crow's looking glass he imagines himself lounging in the sand. He digs his feet into the warmth. A RUSTLE sounds in the sand. The Crow on the beach stares at a woman.

The woman is light skinned and has dark chestnut eyes. Her hair flows from under a sun hat. She is Crow's age. Her baby blue sun hat spans past her shoulders.

She gives a faint smile, but her eyes gaze at Crow.

TIGO

Crow! Crow!
Crow's imagination is cut. He grabs the railing, then leans over.

TIGO

Over here!  Hurry!

Tigo runs on the roof of a smaller pagoda. The pagoda is to the left of Crow. Crow has to run around the corner of the pagoda to face Tigo.

TIGO

Look out!

Glass breaks on the street level. Crow spots three Ninja stars, they head up to him.

As the stars glide they twist and turn; its impossible to track where they will land. Crow quickly runs to his left, toward Tigo.

The Ninja stars crash into the pagoda's walls.

Another volley of Ninja stars tries to cut off Crow. Crow jumps from his sprint. He slides feet first.

The Ninja stars land above his head. One star shatters a window at the corner of the pagoda, glass showers the balcony.

Crow's slide ends at the corner; he jumps up to run along the balcony. He trips slightly, almost loses his balance. Tigo runs along the smaller pagoda at Crow's pace. Crow eyeballs Tigo.

CROW

Get over here!

Tigo looks at the metal contraption that wraps around his stomach.

TIGO

You're too far, I'll crash!

CROW

I'll catch you!

TIGO

You can't even catch me when we practice!

CROW

I'm in the heat of battle. My senses are heightened!

Tigo reluctantly stops. He aims his body at Crow. Crow smiles. He holds his hand out high, makes a catching gesture. Tigo groans, he slaps his chest.
The metal contraption SPRINGS out violently. Tigo launches wildly through the air. The roof where the contraption sprung off SHATTERS. Tigo maintains his balance as he soars to Crow.

Crow lifts up his hand to catch Tigo. He is too slow. Tigo crashes into the wooden wall in front of Crow, dust shoots out.

Crow halts, his feet slide against the floor. His arm is still stretched out ready to catch Tigo. Crow smiles dumbly.

Crow
You didn't say go or anything!

A moment goes by as the dust clears. Tigo jumps from the dust cloud, lands on Crow's shoulder then fiercely bites his ear lobe.

Crow
AHH! Dammit Tigo!

Tigo lets go of his ear, he comically wipes blood from his mouth. Crow runs on, Tigo rides his shoulder.

Tigo
Do you think that's funny?

Crow
It was the heat of battle. Catching you is not my main concern!

Tigo
Then it's none of my concern to tell you about the trap!

Crow whips his head. He spots the trap that Tigo points to. A bunch of metal wires hold up a giant log. The log faces the pagoda's pillars.

Tigo
Another log is on the other side. If they are set they will bring the whole building down!

Crow
This one?

Tigo
Obviously!

Crow
Come on!

The wires SNAP, they fling wildly. Crow and Tigo watch the giant log crash into a pillar of the pagoda.
The second trap goes off. Another log crashes into the adjacent pillar. The giant pagoda leans toward the side of the broken pillars.

**TIGO**

It was nice knowing you!

Tigo jumps onto the wooden railing. He slaps his chest. The metal contraption springs out. The force breaks the rails. Tigo makes no momentum forward, he starts to fall. Crow grabs Tigo.

**CROW**

There are those heightened senses!

The Pagoda's lean scares Tigo.

Crow frantically searches for a way out. The pagoda falls apart while it leans to the sea.

**TIGO**

Crow! Crow! Crow!

**CROW**

(mocking)

Tigo! Tigo! Tigo!

The pagoda's lean is at a forty-five-degree angle. Debris shoots up from the bottom of the pagoda. Crow spots the roof that Tigo jumped from.

**CROW**

Got it!

Tigo looks around. He tries to reveal Crow's plan. Crow turns around. He runs with the downward lean of the pagoda.

**TIGO**

Got what?

Crow jumps onto the railing. His body faces the small pagoda. Tigo's face enters panic.

**TIGO**

An excellent way to kill ourselves!

**CROW**

Feel free to suggest ideas.

**TIGO**

At this angle we won't land on the roof!

**CROW**

Sounds more like a complaint.

The pagoda's destruction is imminent. It rapidly leans past forty-five degrees. It hangs diagonally in the air. Debris falls and crash all around. Dust flies up from the bottom.
Visibility becomes harsh.

As the pagoda rushes to the ground, Crow hangs on to the railing. The pagoda leans further. For an instant, Crow is in perfect position to hurdle onto the other roof.

CROW

Now!

Crow leaps from the rails which are so far bent they are almost perpendicular to the ground. Crow flies through the dust and lands on the adjacent roof.

He lands with a roll. As his roll finishes, he bounces up to his feet. He sprints across the roof. Behind him the pagoda crashes into the ground. Debris shoots out.

Within the debris chopsticks and the other "makeshift" material fling about. A cloud of dust emerges from the destruction. Crow and Tigo are engulfed in the cloud.

CUT TO

EXT. SUMANA BEACH - DAY

Mysterious woman is at the top of a palm tree, held up by wire that wraps around the tree. She peers through this small spyglass. Behind her is the same beach that Crow saw.

Mysterious woman peers through the spyglass. A giant dust cloud covers her visibility as the spy glass pans. The spyglass focuses on the edge of the dust cloud. Crow emerges from the cloud covered in dust.

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN

It's never that easy.

The Mysterious woman cuts the wire. She descends the tree nimbly.

CUT TO

EXT. BORDER FOREST- AFTER NOON

Crow and Tigo wash the dirt off in a small lake. The forest they are in is not thick, but instead resembles a plain with trees scattered about. Bright grass covers the rolling hills.

CROW

You tried to ditch me.

Tigo shakes his body to dry his wet fur. Water sprays about.

TIGO

With all the trouble we get in I should have left a long time ago.
Crow has that dumb smile.

CROW
You could have it worse.

Crow laughs to himself.

CROW
Beats being in a cage running around on a wheel.

Tigo rolls his eyes. A branch breaks!

Tigo and Crow scans the forest, Crow grips his sheathed sword.

CROW
No break?

TIGO
Take a break when she is dead.

An arrow flies from behind a tree, it lands a few feet from Crow. Crow watches the tree. Another arrow is shot off. It lands a few yards on the opposite side of Crow.

Crow eases his stance and lets go of his sword. A little girl holds a bow, she is nine and dressed in a ragtag Ninja outfit. She prepares another arrow.

CROW
The War Born is a lot smaller than I imagined.

Crow takes the small wooden rectangle from his pocket, he holds it out to the GIRL. The wooden panel reads "War Born".

CROW
Of course you have one of these. It would be a war crime to kill me if you didn't.

GIRL
I don't care!

The Girl aims her bow, but a BOY comes from behind her and pushes her bow down. He is thirteen. He wears farming clothes that are covered in soil.

BOY
Let's go.

GIRL
We could win the war!

BOY
Not if we break the treaty.
GIRL
How would anyone know!

BOY
Triceles is always watching.
Erica, I'm not going to say it again.

ERICA
Make me!

ERICA raises her bow.

Crow approaches them. The two face Crow. Crow towers over them. The Boy shields his sister; he holds out his fists. Crow leans over to pat the Boy's shoulder.

Crow smiles kindly.

CROW
I'm Crow. This is Tigo.

Tigo pops out from Crow's shoulder.

TIGO
Hello!

Tigo waves with a warm smile.

ERICA
What is that!

Tigo tilts his head.

BOY
It's just a spell.

ERICA
Spell?

CROW
From a witch. They used to be more common.

ERICA
I wasn't talking to you!

The Boy is cautious, Erica has anger in her eyes. Crow walks to Erica then leans behind her. He falls to his knees then lifts her bow.

CROW
Keep your bow aligned with your body. As you aim, hold your breath.

Crow helps Erica steady the bow.
CROW
See the tree? Hold your breath, aim.

Erica does as Crow says, she releases the bow's string. The arrow races through the air then pierces the center of a tree. Erica's face lights up. She turns to Crow with a serious look.

ERICA
Lets go.

The Boy and Erica walk off.

TIGO
Bye! Be safe!

Tigo waves his tiny arm.

CUT TO

EXT. BORDER FOREST- SUN SETTING

The Mysterious woman hides behind a bush not far off from Crow. She peers through the spy glass.

The Mysterious woman lowers her spy glass.

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN
There goes my chance.

CUT TO

INT. SMALL FARM HOUSE- NIGHT

The dark house is lit by a dim candle. MIDAN and MWIFE stand across a small wooden table with the candle at the center. Wax drips to the table.

Mysterious woman stands across the table. Her mask is off, but the low light cloaks her face.

MWIFE
Erica could have been killed!

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN
I was watching the whole time. He wasn't going to hurt them.

Erica leans her ear against an ajar door that connects her room to the kitchen.

MIDAN
Why didn't you try to stop him!
He's the damn War Born!

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN
If I had rushed in they could have been killed in the crossfire!
Midan slams his hands on the table. The candle knocks over, the light in the room changes. Mysterious woman's face comes into light. Her face has a sharp confidence to it. The candle brightens her light complexion.

**MIDAN**
Damn it MIKASA! Twenty years is more then enough time. He should be dead! A man would have taken care of this!

Mikasa steps back, she hides herself in darkness.

**MIKASA**
I'll bring his scalp tomorrow.

Mikasa starts to give a bow, Erica bursts through the door.

**ERICA**
Don't kill Mr. Crow!

**MIDAN**
What are you doing up!

Erica turns to FATHER with her head down.

**ERICA**
He is nice, and he has a cute hamster.

Midan stands.

Erica puts the candle upright. She exits quietly, but before she leaves she turns to Mikasa. Erica's eyes plead with Mikasa.

**MIDAN**
You better finish things tomorrow.

Mikasa gives a nod. She turns, takes a few steps to the door. Mikasa fights herself, but asks.

**MIKASA**
Have you heard anything?

**MIDAN**
You know the answer.

**MIKASA**
Nothing?

**MIDAN**
I have been doing everything I can to find TAO and your mother.

Mikasa exists silently.

CUT TO
EXT. NOON PLAIN - MORNING

Crow walks through a lush plain, a few large trees are scattered about. Tigo rides on his shoulder. The grass reaches past Crow's knees.

As Crow walks, off in the distance, a Ninja star shoots out from under the grass. The star cuts the grass as it spins wildly. Crow side steps to dodge, he unsheathes his sword in the process.

CROW
You ready!

Crow searches for Mikasa. Tigo leans against Crow's neck, Tigo concentrates on their surroundings. Wind blows lightly against the tall grass.

Suddenly a large Ninja star, about a yard and a half wide, flies towards Crow from the same spot. The large star is launched ankle high, it shortens the grass as it approaches Crow.

Since the star levels the grass Crow can see the origin of the star. A metal wire trap sits where the Ninja star launched from.

TIGO
Trip wire!

Crow jumps into the air to fly over the star. Behind Crow, Mikasa emerges from the tall grass.

Mikasa has her two small katana out and is in a blue Ninja outfit that covers her face.

She spins counterclockwise and strikes with the katana in her right hand. Crow, still airborne from his jump, is trapped.

In a last second effort, Crow stabs his large sword into the ground. He pushes himself up above the sword. He holds his body in place.

Mikasa's first katana lands high on the Claymore, CLING!

While Mikasa continues her spin, she spots Crow's acrobatic move. She finishes her spin with a second strike. Her blade heads high toward Crow.

Crow turns his body in air to land onto the grass leveled by the star. Away from Mikasa. Mikasa's katana cuts his forearm as he lands, but it is only a graze.

Mikasa disappears into the grass. The wind makes a blowing sound as it moves the grass in one direction. Crow searches for Mikasa.
CROW
(To Tigo)
Lost her.

Tigo scans intensely. He spots grass that moves against the wind.

TIGO
The grass is moving against the wind!

Crow nods.

CROW
Right!

Crow dashes to the spot. He swings his Claymore. The grass is cut short. A wooden bamboo stick with multiple wires tied around it is revealed.

The bamboo stick moves back and forth. It made the grass move against the wind.

CROW
Crap!

Mikasa's head pops out a good distance away from Crow. As her head lifts above the grass, the flap of her mask that covers her face rises. Multiple needles are in her mouth.

She shoots the needles from her mouth. Mikasa immediately ducks back into the grass. Crow looks over his shoulder. He sees the needles rush toward him.

He blindly puts his Claymore behind his back. The needles zoom towards Crow, one of them heads straight to Crow's undefended neck.

Tigo spots this needle. He jumps from Crow's back and successful catches the needle in his mouth. The rest of the needles TING against the Claymore, then spin off target. Crow pivots to Mikasa's last location.

CROW
Nice save! Look for her on foot, okay?

Tigo nods his head with the needle still in his mouth. He scampers off in the grass. Mikasa crawls stealthily.

MIKASA
Dumb rat.

Crow spins while he swings his Claymore around him. His Claymore cuts a circle of shortened grass.

CROW
Waiting on you Tigo!
Crow stands guard in the center of the cleared grass. He holds his sword close to his chest. Tigo runs through the thick grass in his search for Mikasa.

Mikasa peeks up high enough to get a visual. She leans back down.

**MIKASA**
Don't get comfortable.

EXT. RAGNAROCKS YARD - DAY

The sledge hammer crushes a stone.

Sweat beads off Ragnarock's brow. He pants heavily as he sets another stone on a boulder.

He stands tall like Pierce did. His sharp brown eyes match his chestnut hair. Pierce's sledge hammer is in his hands.

He crushes the stone. He hustles to a large pile of stones to retrieve another.

Clay appears behind the stones. Clay looks identical to Crow; when they stand side by side, it is hard to tell them apart.

**CLAY**
You've been out here all day.

**RAGNAROCK**
Hey Clay.

Ragnarock picks a stone from the pile.

**CLAY**
Come have lunch with us.

**RAGNAROCK**
I'll eat later.

**CLAY**
(mocking)
Are you getting paid per stone?

**RAGNAROCK**
Crow needs a challenge.

Ragnarock marches to the boulder.

**CLAY**
He is capable.

**RAGNAROCK**
No.

**CLAY**
He took you down.
Ragnarock grins.  

RAGNAROCK  
I let him.  He hesitated.  

CLAY  
How?  

RAGNAROCK  
When I fell, he stopped.  He is soft.  

Ragnarock places the stone on the boulder.  

CLAY  
Too soft to fight?  

RAGNAROCK  
He can't kill.  

Ragnarock shatters the stone.  

EXT. NOONS PLAIN - DAY  

Crow pans his surroundings.  Mikasa darts up a tree not far from Crow. Crow spots her in the act.  

A barrage of Ninja stars fire from the tree. They curve and twist through the air.  Crow dodges with a swift dunk.  

TIGO  
In the tree!  

CROW  
Already on it!  

Crow continues to dodge Mikasa's stars and knives. He moves side to side while he blocks the stars and knives that he can't dodge.  

TIGO  
You can't keep that up forever!  

Crow rushes to the tree.  

TIGO  
Don't be careless!  

Crow proceeds. More Ninja stars jet toward him.  Crow barely steps out their way. Some of them cut his clothes as they pass.  He closes in on the tree.  

CROW  
You can't win without guts, Tigo!  

Crow dashes with mad speed as he avoids Ninja stars.  

MIKASA  
Show me.
Mikasa throws her Ninja stars at a more furious rate.

Crow continues his assault. He dodges the stars. Tigo spots one star that will hit Crow.

    TIGO
    Get back!

Crow's eyes are intense.

    CROW
    I got her!

A Ninja star gashes Crow's shoulder. Crow yells out in agony. Crow moves faster to the tree. He ignores the pain. Mikasa's head jolts back.

    MIKASA
    What? How!

Crow reaches the tree.

    CROW
    AAAAAHHHHH!

Crow swings his Claymore. In one swoop he cuts through the tree. Mikasa stumbles back from the branch she stands on. Crow has a sharp stare fixated on her.

Crow runs up the tree as it falls. His wooden sandals make loud CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK sounds as he bolts to Mikasa. Mikasa's eyes open wide.

    MIKASA V.0.
    (Her thoughts)
    This is it!

Mikasa leaps back from the tree in an effort to widen the distance between them, but Crow is already too close. He jumps from the trunk in her direction. Crow forces the trunk to SLAM to the ground.

With both of them in midair, Crow swings his Claymore in a wild uppercut motion, but hesitates before his blade lands. His sword slices the side of her face. It cuts her mask off.

Mikasa lands, then leaps back to flee from Crow. Crow makes no attempt to pursue her. Instead, he gazes up at her.

Crow's face is soft. Mikasa resembles the woman on the beach from Crow's imagination.

Mikasa's eyes are large and her skin is fair. She is small in stature, but in no way fragile.

Crow imagines the beach behind her. Crow's vision swiftly fades back into reality when Mikasa lands far from Crow.
Mikasa studies Crow. She grips her katana.

MIKASA
What was that!

Crow is dazed, she glares back at him.

CROW
I missed.

MIKASA
I won't.

Mikasa reaches for a Ninja star, the pouch strapped to her upper leg is empty.

Crow examines her for a moment. He is in disbelief.

CROW
Then?

Mikasa squinches her eyebrows. She regains her assertiveness.

MIKASA
Don't just stand there!

CROW
Do it. End the war.

MIKASA
Why aren't you fighting back!

Crow pauses.

CROW
It will be the first kill in eight years.

MIKASA
What are you getting at?

CROW
Eight years of peace because of the treaty. Do you want to end that?

MIKASA
The treaty is a game! As soon as I win, the war will be over. The Samurai will have to obey the laws set by Oneumi!

CROW
Sounds likely. I die and the Samurai just roll over.
Mikasa ponders.

MIKASA
The Ninja would never listen.

CROW
My point.

Crow grins, he puts his hand on his head.

CROW
We could never kill each other.

Crow chuckles, but Mikasa is unamused. Tigo jumps from the grass onto Crow.

CROW
Crow, this is Tigo.

MIKASA
Mikasa.

Crow walks away.

MIKASA
Where are you going!

CROW
Think about it Mikasa, do you want to start a war or end it?

MIKASA
I can't trust you.

Mikasa's words surprise Crow.

CROW
I'll be back in a week.

MIKASA
Don't run from me coward!

Mikasa dashes a few feet forward. Crow turns swiftly, he raises his sword.

CROW
I don't trust you either.

Mikasa pauses, she stares Crow up and down.

MIKASA
You don't scare me.

Crow lowers his sword. Mikasa puts her katana down. Crow begins to walk away.
MIKASA
One week is more than enough time
to have this whole place booby
trapped.

CROW
Knock yourself out.

MIKASA
Going to let me have the advantage?

CROW
You always have traps.

MIKASA
Coward.

Crow ignores Mikasa.

MIKASA
One week.

Mikasa maintains a dominating glare.

CUT TO

INT. PALACE OF TRICELES- DAY

GARRISON rests on his lavish throne, he has this idle
expression. His palace resembles a Roman palace, beautiful
art work with marble architecture.

Garrison rests his elbow against the throne. His face leans
against his fist.

Garrison is a large forty year-old man with an impressive
amount of dark scruff that covers his jaw line. Garrison
wears fancy light leather armor, with fine pants.

Advisors and towns people bicker back and forth. They argue
about a recession. Towns people SHOUT that eight years is
too long for the economy to be crippled.

PATTON appears behind the throne. His clothes are trimmed in
gold. He is a skinny man, fragile even. Sixty four years
old, he still has a Boyish look to him.

Patton whispers into Garrison's ear. Garrison is
immediately interested. He rearranges himself in the chair
to lean in closer.

GARRISON
Still? Get the carriage ready.

PATTON
You can't possibly go yourself King
Garrison.
GARRISON
You can't possibly be giving me an order.

PATTON
There is a need for you in the palace.

GARRISON
Tedious. Real entertainment is about to start.

PATTON
I'll take your place.

GARRISON
Playing king for a week? No, you would enjoy it too much. Those days have long passed Patton.

Garrison grins to himself.

GARRISON
I want you to take the Girl in your carriage. We leave tomorrow.

PATTON
It wouldn't be proper to start a show without you.

Garrison chuckles.

GARRISON
It wouldn't be a show.

Garrison playfully smacks Patton's cheek.

GARRISON
Prepare clothes, food and the Girl.

Garrison doesn't look at Patton. Patton gives a bow.

PATTON
Yes, my lord.

Patton exists quickly.

GARRISON
Let's see if she was worth the trouble.

CUT TO

EXT. CROW'S VILLAGE– DAY

Crow walks in a forest full of bushes and small plants. The trees have massive trunks, their branches stretch to the sky.
There is plenty of walking room between the trees, their large roots surface the ground. Dirt and pine needles cover the floor.

Crow has white gauze wrapped around his shoulder. He approaches a humble village, much like a small campsite. Tents made from leather are scattered about. Fire pits blaze as meat skewers.

Children dressed in worn leather run amok. Few wear animal hats. The women and men work together to prepare food. Some skin animals. Everyone in the village has a smile.

A child sees Crow approach the village. The child glows with excitement. He sprints to Crow. Other children follow.

CHILDREN
Crow is back!

The children bombard Crow.

BOY 1
Did you do it yet!

BOY 2
Is the Ninja dead?

GIRL 1
Were you scared?

BOY 1
Crow is never scared!

Ragnarock watches with a sour expression.

GIRL 2
You're hurt!

The children admire Crow's shoulder. They collectively let out a GASP as they lean closer. Crow walks forward into the village as the children pester him. Crow gives them his attention.

CROW
It's nothing!

Ragnarock enters the group.

RAGNAROCK
Hey! Crow needs his rest. Go on! He isn't here for leisure.

The children "AWWHH" together, then scatter.

CROW
I'll fill you in later!

Ragnarock closes in on Crow.
RAGNAROCK
What happened?

CROW
Back to visit. It's been a couple months.

RAGNAROCK
You haven't found her? What about the lead I got?

CROW
I found her. In a couple days we end it.

They march through the village.

RAGNAROCK
Why drag it out? You should be following her now! Kill her in her sleep.

Crow tries to reply but is cut off by Ragnarock's rant.

RAGNAROCK
Finish it already!

CROW
...A couple days, Ragnarock. Patience.

RAGNAROCK
It's been eight years since...

CROW
...What's a few days then?

Ragnarock blows hot air from his nose.

RAGNAROCK
You're scared.

Crow turns violently to Ragnarock.

CROW
Say it again.

They stare each other in the eyes. A slight wind rolls by. SUSAN walks to the two with a plate of meat in her hands.

Susan has long blondish-red hair. She is a youthful twenty-eight year-old. She is petite next to the large men.

SUSAN
Crow! You are back! Eat some before it's gone.

Crow and Ragnarock greet Susan.
CROW

Susan!

Susan hands the plate to Ragnarock. He picks at the meat. Susan embraces Crow warmly.

SUSAN
Ragnarock, could you pass this out? We have food inside.

RAGNAROCK
No problem.

SUSAN
Thank you!

Susan turns to the tent behind her. A fire blazes in front of it.

SUSAN
Clay! Guess who!

Clay emerges from the tent.

CLAY
Hey!

Clay has a wide grin. He jogs to Crow. Clay hugs his brother tightly.

CLAY
What are you doing back?

Clay notices Crow's injured shoulder.

CLAY
Playing with your sword?

CROW
This, is actually from battle.

CLAY
(Sarcastically)
Of course.

CLAY
Hop in the tent. I'll grab some wrappings.

Crow enters the tent. Crow peers out the tent at Clay and Susan. Clay grabs her playfully. Susan laughs. They share a quick kiss, then walk to get supplies.

As they walk side by side, their happiness flows from them. Crow watches with envy.

CUT TO
EXT. NOONS PLAIN - DAY

Mikasa paces through the tall grass.

Mikasa picks up wire and Ninja stars. She bends down and ties a star to a wire. The aftermath of the fight is present. Grass is cut short. A tree lies on the ground.

The wind blows peacefully: it moves the grass gently. Mikasa SIGHs. Her mask is off. She relaxes.

MIKASA
Done, three days to spare.

Mikasa walks to the broken trunk. She sits on the grass with her back against the trunk. She takes the knife strapped to her leg. She grabs a stone, then sharpens the knife. A SHEE sound is made.

EXT. CROW'S WOODS - DAY

Crow sits on a small boulder, his feet press against pine needles.

His sword sits across his lap, he sharpens the blade. SHEE sounds as he loses himself in thought.

EXT. NOONS PLAIN - DAY

Mikasa slides a paper from her inner chest pocket. She rests it on the grass in between her lap, it is an old letter.

A slight SHEE sound as Mikasa runs the blade across the stone. She reads aloud, to herself

MIKASA
Dear Mikasa, when you read this I will only be an idea. Your imagination will paint my image.

Mikasa has an empty stare. Her head wanders up from the letter. She recites words that are not hers. The SHEE sound of the blade rings faintly.

MIKASA
Do not paint a sweet picture. I am the reason you are fighting.

CUT TO

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP- NIGHT PAST

Ten Ninja elders stand around a campfire. KATSUMI waits, she stands outside it's light. The elders murmur to each other. One says "she is our best chance".

KATSUMI V.0.
We all knew they would choose me.
A light SHEE of the blade is heard.

Katsumi steps forward, her face enters light. She is twenty. A scar runs below her left eye, a thin knife cut that curves down her cheek. Her belly is plump, fat with a child.


KATSUMI V.0.
No Ninja or Samurai measured up.
As a woman, they were infuriated.

Katsumi walks to MFATHER. Her strut has power.

KATSUMI V.0.
Samurai conspired I was a witch, our own swear I was a fluke. It didn't stop them from depending on me.

Mfather hovers his hand over Katsumi's plump belly.

KATSUMI V.0.
I was phenomenon. A miracle their pride denied.

Mfather leans in to kiss her check. She walks past him.

A light SHEE of the blade is heard.

INT. WOODEN HOUSE - NIGHT PAST

A small Ninja house, wood covers the home top to bottom. Ninja women rush about. Katsumi grits her teeth, sweat runs across her skin.

KATSUMI V.0.
When I was chosen your fate was sealed. My success titled you as the War Born Ninja.

Katsumi holds an infant. Mfather grins at the child with water in his eyes.

TAO stands on his toes. He is small for a eleven year old. His head is buzzed bald. Tao clenches a toy ship in his hand, its mast passes between his fingers.

Midan, Tao's father, watches beside him.

KATSUMI V.0.
The Ninja hated you, a Girl.

Ninjas leave the house with their heads low. One shouts "WE ARE DAMNED". Tao swings his fist at the Ninja.

KATSUMI V.0.
Your cousin Tao and your father believed in you. Midan did his best.
Midan grabs Tao, then smacks his cheek.

EXT. FIREFLY FOREST N - LATE DAY PAST

OVER BLACK:

KATSUMI V.0.
I left after you clung to me for the first time. My skin folded under your fragile fingers. Your mother, Katsumi UMI. The demon of the east.

FADE IN:

A light SHEE of the blade is heard.

The sun is low. The trees stretch to the sky. The forest feels spacious, branches only spread out at the tops of the tall trees.

CHILD MIKASA is five. Her eyes are large. child Mikasa stands in front of Mfather.

KATSUMI V.0.
Take care of your father. Love him for me.

Her hair stretches past her chest. Its dark shade compliments her white face, like her mother's.

Tao watches with Midan. Tao, now sixteen, is still short and bald.

A Ninja ELDER eases himself closer to YOUNG GARRISON. He is the only other Ninja there. Young Garrison kneels to child Mikasa's level.

YOUNG GARRISON
The War Born Ninja, Mikasa.

Young Garrison grins.

YOUNG GARRISON
My bets on you.

The Ninja elder stomps to Young Garrison

NINJA ELDER
Don't mock us!

YOUNG GARRISON
I'm mocking?

NINJA ELDER
We are doomed with her! The Samurai have a healthy Boy and we...
TAO

...shut up!

The Ninja elder storms off.

YOUNG GARRISON

Do the Samurai act this way?

Child Mikasa hides tears. Tao clenches his fist.

MFAATHER

Worse.

Young Garrison stops listening. He walks past Mfather.

MFAATHER

At least we still believe in Mikasa.

Mfather gestures to Midan and Tao.

Young Garrison walks toward the north. A group of Samurai wait in the distance.

The three watch Young Garrison march away.

MIDAN

How dare you talk to an elder that way!

TAO

I hate the Ninja! They're making MIKA cry!

MIDAN

Tao!

TAO

I don't want to be a damn Ninja!

MIDAN

Wish what you want, this is who you are.

Child Mikasa cries, her tears sink into the dirt.

The sun fades, darkness spreads.

TAO

Everyone is obsessed with war! I won't be apart of it!

MIDAN

This is a treaty.

TAO

Treaties don't force little Girls to slaughter! You're all too wrapped up in revenge to see it!
MIDAN
Tao! You know what the Samurai did...

TAO
...to my mother! But whose mother died first? What father dug a hole six feet deep first?

child Mikasa runs into the forest unnoticed. A light SHEE of the blade is heard.

Midan attempts to cut Tao off from his rant.

MIDAN
Tao.

TAO
Which brother laid flowers over their sister first?

MIDAN
Tao!

Midan grabs Tao by his shoulders, jolts him.

TAO
Who did what first! A hundred years and it's hard to remember!

Tao's words affect Midan's father more than he thought a Young Boy could. Midan grips Tao's shoulders tight.

MIDAN
Do not disrespect us!

Midan smacks Tao. Tao breaks away, he hurries from his father.

MIDAN
Where are you going!

Tao forces words through his sobs.

TAO
I'm not coming back, not until I can end this!

MIDAN
See you at the house.

TAO
Don't! I mean it!

MIDAN
Where would you go?

TAO
The sea!
Midan waves his hands outward.

**MIDAN**

Go, no vessel will take you. Not even a pirate's

Tao stomps his foot.

**TAO**

I'll do the taking!

Tao turns his back, he runs far.

**MIDAN**

He'll be back.

**MFATHER**

Mikasa is going to be a challenge at that age.

Mfather glances over his shoulder. He can't find Mikasa.

A light SHEEL of the blade is heard.

**MFATHER**

Mikasa?

**MIDAN**

Where'd she go?

Mfather jogs between trees, he scans around their trunks.

**MIDAN**

I'll look over here.

**MFATHER**

What about Tao?

**MIDAN**

Don't worry about him.

**EXT. CROW'S WOODS - DAY**

Crow continues to sharpen his blade. He gazes at nothing in particular.

**EXT. FIREFLY FOREST S - LATE DAY PAST**

The sun's last light cuts through the nearby mountains.

child Crow clings to MCrow's hip. Only five, this blonde and blue eyed Boy is not ready for his fate.

Young Garrison stares at child Crow. Young Garrison bends his knees, falls to his eye level.

child Crow tucks behind his mother's dress. MCrow pushes him forward.
YOUNG GARRISON
You are the War Born Samurai.

CHILD CROW
What is that?

YOUNG GARRISON
You're the only Samurai who matters. Born to end a war.

CHILD CROW
How?

YOUNG GARRISON
You'll figure it out.

A Crowd of Samurai cheer on their hero.
A light SHEE of the blade is heard.

child Crow sprints to TEEN CLAY.

CHILD CROW
War Born!

TEEN CLAY
Training starts now!

TEEN PIERCE and CHILD RAGNAROCK wait behind TEEN Clay.

TEEN CLAY
Grab your sword.

child Crow nods, he runs to MCrow.

MCROW
I don't know where you left it.

child Crow peers into the forest. He sees his wooden sword. It rests against a tree. He jogs to it.

child Crow scrambles through the dark forest. A light appears, a firefly. child Crow watches it curve through the air. He follows it.

More lights appear; each second another firefly glows. child Crow beholds the light. The fireflies illuminate the forest.

child Crow stares at this one firefly. It flies to a tree. It lands on the dark figure beside a tree.

The figure twitches, fireflies hover above her.

The fireflies illuminate child Mikasa. She studies child Crow, her eyes red, her cheeks damp.

child Crow gazes at her, mesmerized.
37.

MCROW
Crow!

MCrow grabs child Crow's hand. child Crow points to child Mikasa.

CHILD CROW
Who is that?
The fireflies dim, MCrow scans the forest.

MCROW
Where?

CHILD CROW
There was an angel.

EXT. NOONS PLAIN - DAY
Mikasa slices her hand.

MIKASA
AHG!
Blood runs. She sucks on the wound.

CUT TO

EXT. CROW'S WOODS - DUSK
Clay interrupts Crow's meditation.

CLAY
Crow, it's late.

INT. CLAY'S TENT - NIGHT
Clay, Crow, Tigo, and Susan are inside the tent. Susan is fast asleep to the side. Tigo sleeps beside her. His hind legs kick occasionally. Clay and Crow rest near a dim fire.
The fire makes light CRACKING sounds. Tigo snores.

CROW
I had the chance.

CLAY
Why did you stall? Second thoughts?
CROW looks away.

CLAY
Nothing harder than killing someone.

CROW
How'd you manage it?
CLAY
I was protecting you, Just like
you're protecting us.

CROW
You sure?

Clay tilts his head.

CROW
If I died, you would try to avenge
me.

Clay nods.

CROW
There are Ninja who would do the
same thing if I killed the War
Born. The fighting won't stop.

CLAY
That's not your fault.

CROW
The treaty has kept us safe for
eight years. If I end the
treaty...

CLAY
... No one will be safe.

CROW
This cycle will repeat. No one
else should have to die.

CLAY
She wants you dead. You gave her a
week to prepare.

CROW
I know.

CLAY
She won't hesitate.

CROW
Got it.

CLAY
You are awfully depressing.

The two chuckle. Crow returns to a serious demeanor.

A twig SNAPs outside. Crow reacts quickly. He snatches his
sword.

CLAY
Just a twig.
Crow sits back.

CLAY
This fighting has you on edge.

Crow SIGHS.

CUT TO

EXT. OUTSIDE CLAY'S TENT - NIGHT

Ragnarock leans close to the tent. He eavesdrops on Crow's and Clay's conversation. He is on Clay's side of the tent. He can only hear Clay.

CUT TO

INT. CLAY'S TENT - NIGHT

CROW
I got attacked by other Ninja.

Clay jolts.

CUT TO

EXT. OUTSIDE CLAY'S TENT - NIGHT

Ragnarock gapes at the tent. The fire inside creates shadows of Clay and Crow.

Ragnarock listens to Clay.

CLAY
Other Ninja attacked you?

Ragnarock clenches his teeth.

CUT TO

INT. CLAY'S TENT - NIGHT

CROW
Only children. By Border Forest, hunting. Her heart was set on killing me.

CUT TO

EXT. OUTSIDE CLAY'S TENT - NIGHT

CLAY
Border Forest? Ninja are settling that close?
INT. CLAY'S TENT - NIGHT

CROW
Nice kids though. Hard to see them hate you.

Crow yawns.

CROW
I'm up too late. Night, brother.

CLAY
Here.

Clay takes off his raccoon hat, he holds it out to Crow.

CROW
Huh?

CLAY
Take it.

CROW
Your stupid hat? Keep it.

CLAY
It's good luck.

CROW
I need sleep, not luck.

Clay's eyebrows harden, his eyes demand.

CROW
I'll take it as a trophy for winning the war, then immediately burn it.

The two laugh.

Clay smiles, puts his hat back on.

CLAY
As long as I'm not throwing it in your casket.

CROW
Deal.

CUT TO

EXT. OUTSIDE CLAY'S TENT - NIGHT

Ragnarock is gone. Clay's voice sounds from the tent.

CLAY
Night.

Clay puts out the fire. The forest sleeps.
EXT. NOONS PLAIN - EARLY MORNING

Crow strides through tall, damp grass. Tigo rides his shoulder as he scans the area with passion. A light fog covers the plains.

TIGO

Ready?

CROW

I was born ready.

TIGO

Okay tough guy!

Crow glances at Tigo.

CROW

Things might take an unexpected turn, just go with it.

TIGO

Unexpected? No, they better not, Crow!

Crow stares ahead.

Mikasa's figure appears deep in the fog. She stands on the fallen tree trunk. Her katana sticks out from the trunk.

MIKASA

Early. Eager to die?

CROW

The early bird catches the worm.

Mikasa smirks. She yanks her katana from the bark of the tree. She raises it to her forehead, the katana runs between her eyes.

MIKASA

You don't know the difference between a worm and a cobra.


The wind carries the fog away. Smoke rises from the nearby forest.

TIGO

A fire?

Mikasa turns her head sharply. Crow squints in the direction.
Mikasa investigates the smoke. She sniffs. Her eyes go wide.

MIKASA

Erica!

Mikasa jumps from the log. She dashes toward the forest.

CROW

Erica? That's...

TIGO

...The Girl with the bow!

Crow runs after Mikasa. Mikasa pivots with a Ninja star in hand.

Crow shoots his unarmed hands up.

CROW

Truce! I'm worried about her too.

She maintains eye contact as she runs.

CROW

I'll keep my distance.

MIKASA

That's a good Boy.

Crow slows. Twenty yards stand between them. Mikasa looks forward, Ninja star still in hand.

MIKASA

Get close and I won't think twice.

The two sprint to the forest. They run from the clear sky into the hellish fire and smoke.

CUT TO

EXT. BORDER VILLAGE - DAY

Border Village sits in a cleared patch of forest. The trees are wide and stand tall. The trees shade the forest floor to a dim light.

The trees on the immediate perimeter of the village lean in to the village center. They fight for sunlight. When the sun is directly above the village, sunlight bathes the village.

The wooden houses in the village are humble. They match traditional Japanese style. The village has four to five houses, all spread within walking distance.

Crow and Mikasa burst into the village from the surrounding forest. Crow keeps his distance.
Weapons are trashed about. Two houses are ablaze. Lifeless bodies lie in chaos, trails of blood trace their last movements. The fires provide the main source of bright light.

MIKASA
Crow!

Mikasa turns with hate. The villages destruction baffles Crow. Mikasa grits her teeth.

Crow remembers images from Pierce'S death. The fires that roared that night. The pain in Ragnarock's eyes.

TIGO
What is this?

CROW
A battlefield.

Mikasa unsheathes her large katana. She darts to the village's center. Crow follows Mikasa into the village. He spots a body on the ground in Samurai attire.

CROW
THORTAN?

TIGO
Don't tell me.

Mikasa squats over a bloody Ninja. She checks for vitals. Anger takes hold of Crow. He rushes to the village center.

At the village center, Crow finds Ragnarock. Ragnarock stands to the side of a house engulfed in flames.

He holds Midan's face up by the chin. He inspects the face with distaste. Crow stares at Ragnarock. Blood covers Ragnarock's hands.

CROW
Ragnarock! What are you doing?

Ragnarock pivots his head to Crow. He drops the Ninja's head disrespectfully. Ragnarock walks with a strut to Crow. Ragnarock's sledge hammer drags through the grass behind him.

RAGNAROCK
I did it. I got them back.

Crow's face twitches with rage. Mikasa holds out her katana, ready to attack.

RAGNAROCK
I overheard your brother.

CROW
Kids! They were kids Ragnarock!
Crow unsheathes his Claymore with one hand.

RAGNAROCK
They attacked you! What if their parents ordered...

CROW
...You weren't there!

RAGNAROCK
If you die, war will break out again!

CROW
You ended eight years of peace!

RAGNAROCK
I am trying to protect you!

Crow swings his sword through the air. He leans his face forward.

CROW
You did this for yourself!

Mikasa is taken aback. Ragnarock stares down at Crow as if to lecture a child.

RAGNAROCK
Crow this is about you. You're not strong enough to finish the war!

CROW
It's not your job to fight for the Samurai!

RAGNAROCK
If it was this war would be over! Everyone has waited too long!

CROW
Pierce would hate this! He had honor! Attacking a village by surprise!

RAGNAROCK
Don't speak for him. You haven't lost anything!

Mikasa bursts from the side. She sprints at Ragnarock. She grasps her large katana in her right hand and a small katana in her left. Tears run down her cheeks.

MIKASA
You're dead!

Ragnarock smirks at Mikasa.
RAGNAROCK
AWH, the War Born Ninja.

Ragnarock has a sly look in his eye.

RAGNAROCK
Crow, I know you can't kill her.
I'll do it.

CROW
Triceles will see...

RAGNAROCK
...I made sure they won't.

Mikasa reaches Ragnarock. She sidesteps to the left, then thrusts her right katana at Ragnarock.

Ragnarock, who still has the head of his hammer on the ground while the tip of its handle is in his right hand, leans swiftly to his left while he extends his hammer's hilt out to the right.

Mikasa's katana goes through the space between Ragnarock and the hilt of his hammer.

Mikasa is in disbelief.

MIKASA
Fast!

Ragnarock smiles at this comment. He swiftly pulls the hilt of his hammer to him. At the same time he moves his left hand to the hilt.

Mikasa's forearm is between the hilt and his left arm. Ragnarock smashes the hilt and his arm against Mikasa's forearm. He traps her there.

Mikasa's face turns to agony.

MIKASA
ARGHH!

Mikasa's fingers open. Her katana drops to the ground. She swings her other katana at Ragnarock, but Ragnarock stomps his right foot against Mikasa's left leg, inches above her knee.

A loud THOWMP sound echoes, Mikasa's motion halts as her left hand winds back. Her body arches forward to compensate for her leg being forced back.

Ragnarock lets go of the hilt of the hammer, then catches it with his left hand. His right palm opens as he sweeps his arm down then up in an uppercut motion. He grabs Mikasa's bent over neck with a loud SMACK sound.
Mikasa drops her sword after the impact. Ragnarock lifts Mikasa by the neck. Her feet kick in the air. Her hands try to pry Ragnarock's hand from her neck.

Ragnarock wastes no time. He crushes his left forearm into Mikasa's stomach. A SQUASH and CRACK sound ring out simultaneously, Ragnarock drives his forearm deeper into her stomach.

Ragnarock lets go of her neck, then swings his left arm up and over his shoulder. Mikasa flies through the air from the force of his arm. Ragnarock brings his arm to an outstretched position.

Mikasa's body bows over his massive forearm, then slams to the ground. As Mikasa lands on her back her body bounces back up for a moment. She SHOUTS in pain. She coughs and a small amount of blood flies into the air.

Ragnarock snatches his sledge hammer with his right hand, its hilt faces up. He lifts it quickly then slams the head of the hammer onto a katana. The katana SNAPS like a twig.

He paces to Mikasa. She tries to stand but falls. The head of the hammer drags through the grass.

He lifts the massive hammer up with his right hand. He arches it over his body to bring it down on Mikasa. She struggles to move. The hammer plunges to Mikasa.

A loud TING sound rings. Crow stands above Mikasa. His sword pushes against the head of the hammer and it's wooden shaft. Crow uses his free hand to push the flat part of his blade into the hammer.

Crow struggles to force the hammer back. Mikasa looks up bewildered. Ragnarock's head snaps back in surprise.

CROW
Don't you dare!

Mikasa is in shock. Crow immediately follows with a kick to Ragnarock's stomach, but Ragnarock jumps back to avoid the kick.

RAGNAROCK
Turned on your own?

Ragnarock's lips quiver.

RAGNAROCK
For the bloody one you're supposed to kill?

CROW
I decide who I am to kill.

RAGNAROCK
I should have been the War Born.
Ragnarock raises his hammer.

RAGNAROCK
You don't deserve it. I'll rip the title from you.

Ragnarock is about to rush Crow. But Crow rushes first.

TIGO
Wait, Crow! Think!

Tigo doesn't finish his sentence because Crow thrashes his shoulder back. Tigo falls from his shoulder.

CROW
You want my title!

Crow unleashes a wild swing at Ragnarock. Ragnarock hops back to avoid it. He lifts his hammer to his chest to defend himself from Crow's onslaught.

CROW
Take it!

Crow makes haste, He closes in and delivers an upward slice with his sword. Ragnarock is barely able to turn his hammer, he blocks the strike. Crow isn't phased. He winds back his sword to thrust it at Ragnarock's chest.

Ragnarock is stunned for a moment. He retreats from Crow's thrust. The thrust barely Pierces Ragnarock's vest before he is able to clear enough room. The sword leaves a slit on his chest.

Ragnarock's cocky demeanor is gone. He studies Crow with caution.

CROW
Weak! I'll show you I can kill!

RAGNAROCK
Stop bluffing!

Crow assaults Ragnarock. Ragnarock is preemptive and swings his massive hammer down at Crow. Crow spins to his side. Ragnarock's hammer crashes inches away from Crow's feet.

Crow swings his sword high at Ragnarock's neck. Ragnarock ducks to avoid the high swing, but Crow spins with the motion of his sword to rotate again.

As the spin finishes, Crow delivers a brutal kick to Ragnarock's face.

Ragnarock flies into the air as Crow's foot lands. Ragnarock hits the ground then rolls back to his feet. He kept his hammer despite the blow. Blood pours from Ragnarock's nose.
CROW
Revenge has made you sick.

Crow closes the distance on Ragnarock, Crow leaps at Ragnarock. Ragnarock flees to the side, but for once is too slow. Crow swings, blood sprays.

Crow's sword makes a loud slash sound as it gashes Ragnarock's upper biceps. Ragnarock's eyes shut. Mikasa watches with her head turned, still on the ground. She is flabbergasted.

RAGNAROCK
ARGHH!

Ragnarock puts pressure on his gash. Crow lands from his leap. Crow faces Ragnarock. Crow is calm. Blood pours down Ragnarock's arm, it curves around his defined biceps and forearm.

RAGNAROCK
You're dead, Crow!

Ragnarock panics at the sight of his wound.

RAGNAROCK
Lucky shot!

Ragnarock lifts his hammer, but after a short struggle to hold it, he drops it. Crow stands tall.

CROW
It's over Ragnarock.

Crow takes a deep breath.

CROW
I'm taking you to the court house. If they deal with you, hopefully, the violence will stop here.

RAGNAROCK
Don't be stupid! That won't be enough! The Ninja will want more!

CROW
Whose fault is that!

RAGNAROCK
You can fix this! Just finish it!

Ragnarock leans his head at Mikasa. Mikasa is on all fours. Blood drips from her lip.

RAGNAROCK
It's easy. She's right there, ready. This war will be over. One person has to die, then everyone can live in peace.
Crow examines Mikasa. His sword still in hand.

**RAGNAROCK**
I'll go with you to the court house. I'll do anything. Please, finish her.

Crow paces to Mikasa. Mikasa stares, her hair covers parts of her sharp eyes. She reaches to her leg, thin needles are strapped to her thigh. Ragnarock has a vision of Pierce being stuck with those same needles.

**RAGNAROCK**
If you were on the ground, and she stood above you, would she think twice? The promise you made me that night, it's here.

Mikasa forces her head up to Crow. Her heads twitches, she fights to stay conscious. She hears laughs, her eyes fog. She shuts her eyes.

**EXT. MIKASA'S PAST - DAY**
A group of Young children enjoy a cliff's view. Trees are scattered about to the left and right, but none too high to block the view of the sky. Young Mikasa has her hair tied in a bun. She is seven. Her eyes are large.

The other children are the same age. Boy 3 points to the sky.

**BOY 3**
No one will be able to beat me! I will be the strongest Ninja ever!

**GIRL 3**
I'm gonna see the Grand Palace in Triceles.

**GIRL 4**
Me too! And have a castle on the beach!

**BOY 3**
You can't have a castle on the beach!

**BOY 4**
I want two castles on the beach!

The children exclaim back and forth. They demand each other's attention. Young Mikasa observes them as they go back and forth.

Boy 3 turns to Young Mikasa.

**BOY 3**
Mikasa, what about you?
Young Mikasa blushes, she looks around nervously.

GIRL 4
Tell us!

All of the children focus on Young Mikasa. Young Mikasa stares at her feet. With a burst of courage she lifts her head.

YOUNG MIKASA
I'm going to find my mother!

All of the children are quiet.

BOY 4
Your mom?

Some of the children begin to laugh.

GIRL 3
Isn't she dead?

Young Mikasa's face drops immediately. Her eyes water.

BOY 3
That's dumber than having a castle on the beach!

The children laugh.

Young Mikasa's head falls. She holds in her tears, then looks up assertively.

YOUNG MIKASA
My dad said she is lost! My mom will come back or I will find her myself!

The children go quiet. Some chuckle.

BOY 4
Have you tried using a shovel?

The children laugh. Young Mikasa squats. She can't hold her tears anymore.

The children make harsh comments. Some about Mikasa's mom, others about how sand couldn't hold the weight of a castle. Their voices mix together and drown out. Young Mikasa cries to herself.

CUT TO

INT. MIKASA'S HOUSE - DAY PAST

Young Mikasa squats while she cries, she is inside a small wooden house. The house has large windows that let in plenty of light.
Young Mikasa leans on the wooden legs of a table. Mfather enters and sees his daughter. Mfather has a warm expression.

**MFATHER**

*What's the matter, angel?*

Young Mikasa tries to dry up her tears.

**YOUNG MIKASA**

*Nothing.*

Young Mikasa turns her head from Mfather in an attempt to shut him out. Mfather walks to her slowly, he holds her tight.

**MFATHER**

*Little angel, you can't keep secrets from me.*

Young Mikasa begs Mfather.

**YOUNG MIKASA**

*I want mom to come back so everyone in training will know she is still alive.*

Mfather is taken back for a second.

**MFATHER**

*Those kids have no idea. Your mom is still out there, she was the best Ninja in the entire clan, beat out the men too. But she needs time to come back.*

Young Mikasa's face regains some color.

**YOUNG MIKASA**

*We can go rescue her!*

Mfather smiles, he lets go of Young Mikasa. He pours water into dry rice. A plant sits near the window.

**YOUNG MIKASA**

*Daddy?*

Mfather responds while he works on the rice.

**MFATHER**

*Yes, angel?*

**YOUNG MIKASA**

*What was your mom like? Did she love you?*

Mfather stops. The room is quiet. Mfather turns with a calm tone.
My mom wasn't always around either.

Young Mikasa's eyes fall.

But.

Young Mikasa's eyes lift.

Love, no matter where it comes from, is the only thing you need to be happy. Does daddy love you?

Very much so!

That's right! That's all you need angel.

Young Mikasa smiles, she ponders.

Daddy, what is love?

Love is made up of many parts. It's a complicated thing.

What is one part?

What is one of the parts of love?

Yea.

The first part of love is trust.

Trust?

Yes, but not just trusting someone to keep a secret. It's more than that. It's like.

Mfather searches the kitchen. He spots the small potted plant near the window.

Like this.
Mfather picks up the potted plant. He brings it to Young Mikasa. Young Mikasa inspects the plant.

YOUNG MIKASA
Like a plant?

Mfather chuckles.

MFATHER
This is my favorite plant. It is important that it gets water and some sun everyday. Take care of it now.

YOUNG MIKASA
You trust me?

MFATHER
Smart Girl.

Young Mikasa slowly takes the small potted plant from her father.

MFATHER
Trusting someone with what is important to you, that is a part of love.

Young Mikasa gives her father a smile. The plant rests in her hands.

YOUNG MIKASA
Did mom trust you with anything?

Mfather smiles with love.

MFATHER
She trusted me with you.

Young Mikasa's eyes gaze at Mfather.

MFATHER
Trusts me with this little angel!

Mfather picks up Young Mikasa. He spins her around as her feet dangle.

CUT TO

EXT. BORDER VILLAGE - DAY

Fire ROARS. Mikasa forces her eyes open. Crow still stands above her, not a second passed.

CROW
You're right.

RAGNAROCK
I'm proud of you Crow.
Crow lifts his sword, he glances back at Ragnarock.

CROW
I was bluffing.

Mikasa smirks. Fury fills Ragnarock.

RAGNAROCK
I won't let you condemn the Samurai!

Ragnarock snatches his hammer with his left arm. Blood pours from the open wound. Ragnarock lets the blood cloak him.

CROW
You're finished! Accept it. Salvage your honor!

Ragnarock charges Crow. Crow glares confidently at Ragnarock. Crow brings his sword back, he takes a stance.

RAGNAROCK
You haven't won yet, Crow!

In mid-run Ragnarock launches his hammer at Crow. Crow's face is thrown into shock, he barely gets his Claymore up in time to block the hammer.

The force of the hammer knocks Crow's sword from his hands. Crow's sword crashes to the ground. Ragnarock slams his open palm against Crow's neck. Ragnarock hits Crow hard, Ragnarock winds his hand back swiftly.

Crow's head snaps back from the impact. Crow CHOKES. He forces his head forward. As Crow's head moves forward, Ragnarock's fist collides with Crow's face.

Crow flies back, then rolls on the ground. Crow lays on his side. He gasps for air. Ragnarock retrieves his hammer.

Ragnarock stalks, he lets his hammer's head drag. Mikasa struggles to crawl to them, still badly injured. Ragnarock stands above Crow.

A house blazes behind Ragnarock. Crow sees his dark silhouette approach.

Tigo dashes up a nearby tree with a broken katana shard in his mouth. Tigo slaps his chest halfway up the trunk.

The boost machine makes a loud THUD as it springs against the tree. Tigo soars to Ragnarock as he positions the broken blade. Ragnarock veers his head to Tigo.

He mutters.

RAGNAROCK
Filthy rodent.
Ragnarock, with one fell swoop backhands Tigo from the air. Tigo's limp body rolls to the center of the village.

Crow tries to yell out but is voiceless. Crow crawls away, like this injured animal in an attempt to flee from the hunter. Ragnarock stomps Crow's lower back.

RAGNAROCK
Salvage some honor, worm!

Ragnarock lifts his hammer. Crow is helpless.

CROW
(Whisper)
Clay.

Ragnarock lets out a brutal war CRY then swings his hammer down. As the hammer falls, a CHEE sound is heard. The hammer lands above Crow's head.

Crow glares up to see Ragnarock in pain. An arrow sticks out of his knee. CHEE! Another arrow Pierces Ragnarock's knee, he HOWLS violently.

Not far off, hidden within the forest, stands Erica. Erica fires a third arrow at Ragnarock. It lands above the last. Ragnarock falls to his knees.

Ragnarock's eyes are wide open in despair. Crow is on his hands and knees, he raises his head.

RAGNAROCK
I, I can't move my legs.

CROW
Must be hard for you to lose to a little girl.

Ragnarock smiles.

RAGNAROCK
Better than losing to you.

Ragnarock falls to the ground. He passes out from blood loss.

Crow picks himself up, he waves to Erica. Erica gives a nod back. Her brother and mother appear behind her.

Crow struggles to stand. He stumbles to Tigo. He kneels to shake Tigo.

CROW
Tigo! Tigo can you hear me?

Tigo's lifeless body wags back and forth.

CROW
Tigo! Come on Tigo!
Crow's face drops. There is a short pause. Nothing can be heard other then the nearby fires.

Tigo pops up to his feet in a chipper motion. Crow's face shows instant relief.

    TIGO
    That's what you get for knocking me down!

    CROW
    You think faking dead is good pay back for a little shoulder bump!

    TIGO
    How many times do I save you!
    That's how you repay me?

    CROW
    You have never saved me.

    TIGO
    You never catch me!

    CROW
    You're not important.

    TIGO
    I must be!

Tigo grabs a blade of grass. He shakes it back and forth.

    TIGO
    (mocking)
    Tigo! No don't die!

    CROW
    Some of my acting.

Crow COUGHS in pain. His body leans forward. Tigo examines him in disbelief.

    TIGO
    Your acting is terrible.

Crow falls to his hands and knees.

    ERICA
    Mom! Why! Not Mr. Crow!

Behind Crow is Mwife. She holds a needle that sticks from Crow's side.

    MWIFE
    Look at our village! They killed your father!

    ERICA
    Crow didn't!
MWIFE
He is one of them!

ERICA
He's different!

MWIFE
He is the War Born! Mikasa can say she killed him! The war will be over!

ERICA
No mom, that's a lie!

Mwife bursts into tears. She picks up Erica who scrambles to break free. Mwife hurries away, Erica calls over her mom's shoulder.

ERICA
I'm sorry MR. Crow! I know you're different! MR. Crow I'm sorry!

MOM)
(In tears)
Hurry up TADE!

The Boy, TADE, studies Crow for a moment then hurries to Mwife. They exit into the forest.

Tigo runs around Crow to inspect the wound. The needle is covered in white sap.

TIGO
Crow! They're poisoned!

CROW
Feels like it.

TIGO
Crow!

Mikasa runs to them. She slides down, then sits crisscross next to Crow. She fetches a pouch from her hip, her fingers rummage through it.

TIGO
What are you doing?

Mikasa doesn't look at Tigo. She pours out a few dried leaves from the pouch. She mashes them up in her hand. She removes the needle, then shoves the crushed leaves into Crow's wound.

CROW
ARGGHH!

TIGO
What is that?
Mikasa focuses on the wound.

MIKASA
An antidote.

Mikasa rubs the leaves around the wound. She presses forcefully. Crow WAILS.

TIGO
Why are you helping?

Mikasa gives Tigo a sharp look.

MIKASA
Would you rather me not?

TIGO
No! It's great but you're supposed to kill him.

MIKASA
Don't tell me what I am supposed to do.

Mikasa returns to the wound. Crow CRIES out.

MIKASA
Baby!

Mikasa presses against the wound. She faces Tigo.

MIKASA
He saved me.

Mikasa tends to the wound, then pauses.

MIKASA
I owe him.

Mikasa inspects the wound.

MIKASA
Then, back to killing him.

Tigo wants to protest, but can't find the words.

MIKASA
All done.

Mikasa begins to stand up, but Crow falls onto her lap. Mikasa is stunned.

CROW
What is this?

Mikasa peers down at him as his head is in her lap.
MIKASA
  It's a side effect of the antidote.
  And you have lost blood.

Crow has an intoxicated smile.

CROW
  Really! Is Tigo bothering you? He bothers me constantly.

Mikasa laughs slightly. She hides it.

CROW
  You know.

MIKASA
  What?

CROW
  You remind me.

Tigo gazes at Crow with his mouth ajar.

CROW
  You look just like it.

Crow's words fade in and out. He fights to keep conscious. The noon sun shines strongly, it fills the village with warm light.

CROW
  Mikasa.

The sun gives Mikasa a heavenly glow.

MIKASA
  Yes?

CROW
  An angel.

Mikasa's mouth hangs. Crow passes out. Crow lays motionless in Mikasa's lap. The warmth engulfs them.

CUT TO

EXT. WALL OF TRICELES - DAY

A stone wall separates an open field from the crowded city. A line of over thirty carriages wait to exit the city. People yell and holler at the line. The carriages are at a dead stop.

A KNIGHT argues with a SAMURAI outside the gate. Carriages wait for the Knight's permission to exit.

KNIGHT
  Samurai and Ninja are prohibited by the treaty.
SAMURAI
Please, there is no village nearby,
I need food.

Garrison leans his head out of his carriage. Patton's
carriage is behind Garrison's. It is jet black and has
three horses tied to it. Garrison WHISTLES.

DEADLY WOMAN steps out from Patton's carriage. She wears
loose fabric, a tan hood covers her face.

Patton looks out the carriage.

GARRISON
Stay there Patton.

Garrison hops out of the carriage. He strolls confidently to
the Knight and Samurai.

KNIGHT
Maybe I can get you some bread.

SAMURAI
Thank you! Bless you!

Garrison is close. The Knight notices his presence. The
Knight immediately bows.

KNIGHT
LORD Garrison! How may I assist
you?

While the Knight bows, Garrison makes a signal with his
hand. Deadly Woman snatches the Knight's sword from his
sheath. She slides it into the Knight's stomach.

GARRISON
Stop wasting my time.

Deadly Woman removes the blade from the Knight's limp body.
Garrison glides to the Samurai. The Samurai quivers, he
watches blood drip off the sword.

GARRISON
This is, over your head. In
Triceles we work as a business.
Ever hear that time is money?

Samurai stares at the sword. Garrison's presence petrifies
the Samurai.

GARRISON
Time is money, have you heard of
that!

Samurai nods spastically.

GARRISON
You're wasting my time.
Garrison waits for Samurai to respond. Nothing.

GARRISON
So you're wasting my money. What does a business need to survive?

Knight's leg twitches behind Garrison. Samurai is in shock.

GARRISON
I can't do this.

Garrison eases in.

GARRISON
Hungry?

The Samurai nods cautiously.

GARRISON
Steel goes down smooth.

Garrison signals again, Deadly Woman slides the sword into the Samurai's stomach. Blood spurts out, some of it lands on Garrison's hand. Samurai falls to his knees. Garrison crouches to Samurai's level, pats him on the shoulder.

GARRISON
Don't be afraid to ask for seconds.

Garrison stands. Samurai falls back, the sword sticks from his stomach. Two new Knights enter from the wall. They bow to Garrison.

Garrison walks to one. Knight 2 wears a longsleeved cloth shirt with metal padding. Garrison wipes his bloody hand off on the sleeve.

GARRISON
I trust you will perform in a timely manner.

KNIGHT 2
Yes, Lord!

Garrison walks past Knight 2 to his carriage. Knight 2 quickly proceeds to let the carts through without inspection. Garrison calmly enters his closed carriage.

Garrison grabs a bowl of bread from the center of the cart. He leans out to Deadly Woman. She walks to Patton's carriage.

GARRISON
Do you want any of this?

DEADLY WOMAN
No.
GARRISON
I'm sick of it too.

Garrison blindly tosses the basket from the carriage.

CUT TO

EXT. NOONS PLAIN - DAY

Crow stands next to a large wooden wagon. Ragnarock is restrained in the wagon. A gag immobilizes his mouth. Mikasa is a few yards from Crow, her weapons sheathed. Tigo sits on Crow's shoulder.

MIKASA
How long?

CROW
I'm taking him north, about four days.

MIKASA
I have to wait again.

CROW
(sarcasm)
Did you want to come along?

Mikasa raises her eyebrows, she lets them set on Crow.

MIKASA
I'm tired of you delaying.

CROW
What's stopping you?

MIKASA
I don't want you to hold back.

CROW
Killing each other won't solve anything!

MIKASA
Neither will running away. You should do what you were born to do.

CROW
I won't cause anymore death. Samurai or Ninja.

Mikasa wants Crow to convince her.

CROW
We can end the war by working together.

MIKASA
Nonsense.
CROW
Force our people to work alongside each other, like they did in Haven!

MIKASA
Haven is history.

CROW
It happened once, it could happen again! Peace is possible, it starts with us!

Mikasa starts to give a little. Crow picks up on this.

CROW
These eight years could be extended. We could keep the treaty in play.

MIKASA
Only for so long. What will that do?

CROW
children will grow up, have their own families. Those kids will have no reason for war.

Mikasa ponders.

MIKASA
I can't trust you.

CROW
I can prove myself.

MIKASA
Bring back his trail record.

CROW
Proof of death.

MIKASA
And leave the talking rat with me.

CROW
Tigo?

MIKASA
Trust goes both ways.

TIGO
Huh!

Crow snatches Tigo up from his back.
CROW  
(To Tigo)  
I told you we might have an  
unexpected turn.

TIGO  
This is more than a turn!

Tigo is cut off when Crow hurls him at Mikasa. Tigo flies  
through the air as he struggles. Mikasa catches Tigo.

TIGO  
Crow, did you see that!

Crow tilts his head.

TIGO  
(sarcasm)  
She caught me! You should ask her  
what her secret is!

Mikasa holds Tigo up by the scruff of his neck.

MIKASA  
Quiet, rat.

Mikasa playfully flicks Tigo on his head.

TIGO  
OWW! Watch those tubby fingers!

Mikasa's glare frightens Tigo.

Tigo rubs his head with his paws.

CROW  
I am trusting you. That rat is  
important to me.

TIGO  
Told you!

Crow lifts the wagon.

CROW  
Don't be annoying.

The wooden wheels of the wagon turn roughly through the  
grass. Ragnarock sits motionless.

CUT TO

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Garrison reads through a ledger book. His tent is fire-lit  
and is as large as a small house. He is absorbed in his  
work. A shadow appears outside the tent.
PATTON
Garrison?

GARRISON
Lord Garrison.


PATTON
Lord Garrison?

Garrison shuts his book.

GARRISON
AHH, yes please come in.

PATTON
The War Borns are a problem.

GARRISON
Elaborate.

PATTON
Our spies were killed. A Ninja village has been decimated. Our reports say that the two worked together to stop the attack.

Garrison looks up from his book.

GARRISON
They are a liability.

PATTON
We have their locations, at the moment they are split up.

Garrison returns to his book.

GARRISON
It's obvious they will meet again. That will do.

CUT TO

EXT. ROCKY PATH - NIGHT

A campfire blazes under a full moon. Ragnarock sits in the wagon, his gag is off. Ragnarock's somber eyes gaze into the distance. Crow takes meat from the fire. He salts it. Ragnarock is tied down at the waist.

RAGNAROCK
Venison?

Crow jolts slightly. He fights the urge to ignore Ragnarock.
CROW
Slow cooked.

RAGNAROCK
My favorite.

Crow puts the meat on a flat stone. He takes a small knife from his side. He cuts the meat in half.

RAGNAROCK
I know you don't owe me anything.

Crow slides the stone with the meat on it to Ragnarock. Ragnarock plays with the meat. Crow sits a few feet away on a rock. He eats.

RAGNAROCK
Tomorrow, my last name is Pierce.

Crow shakes his head.

RAGNAROCK
Please.

Ragnarock waits for Crow to respond. After a pause Ragnarock nibbles at the meat.

CROW
I have lost a lot in this war.

Ragnarock swallows.

CROW
I lost your brother, I also lost you.

Ragnarock stares at Crow.

CROW
After that day you changed. You became full of hate.

Ragnarock's head falls.

CROW
You were my friend.

Ragnarock drops the meat. His eyes water.

CUT TO

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

The courthouse isn't actually a house; instead it is a lifted wooden stage in a cleared forest. The noose hangs in the middle of the stage. Stairs lead to the noose.

On the left of the stage is an elderly Samurai man, easily recognized as the JUDGE. Two large Samurai stand at the
back of the stage. They wear black masks.

A small audience sits on wooden benches. Crow is in the middle of the rows, mixed in with the Crowd.

Ragnarock is on his knees behind the stage. The executioners lift Ragnarock, they place him under the noose. Ragnarock is motionless. The executioners manipulate his body like a doll.

**JUDGE**
Ragnarock Pierce, You have failed to provide a defense. The court accepts the accusations against you.

Ragnarock's head is cast down.

**JUDGE**
For your war crimes, you are sentenced to hang from the neck until dead.

The Judge signals the executioners.

**JUDGE**
Prepare the noose. Ragnarock Pierce, now is the time for last words.

Before the executioners are able to approach Ragnarock, he turns to them.

**RAGNAROCK**
I got it.

Ragnarock grabs the noose. He puts it over his neck, then tightens it.

**JUDGE**
This is your only chance.

Ragnarock raises his head. His eyes burn into Crow. Crow stares back at Ragnarock with sympathy. Ragnarock's eyes brim with emotion; they hold rage on the verge of tears.

**RAGNAROCK**
I would choose this again Crow! You will feel the pain I feel! We are no different! If your brother fell,

Ragnarock grits his teeth. He doesn't want to cry, but does.

**RAGNAROCK**
Our only difference would be the names we hold!
A second goes by, the executioner pulls a lever. The rope is pulled tight.

Ragnarock is not shown hanged. Crow watches the stage. He can't look away. He fights to turn. He can't.

CUT TO

EXT. NOONS PLAIN—DAY

Mikasa sits against a tree with Tigo in front of her. Mikasa sharpens a knife.

TIGO
Every day you sharpen knives and set traps? That's it?

MIKASA
I can find you a running wheel.

TIGO
You're worse than Crow!

MIKASA
Ninja are more methodical than Samurai. We take time to prepare.

Mikasa taps her forehead a few times with her index finger.

MIKASA
We use our brains.

Tigo lies down, he studies the sky.

TIGO
Do you ever visit family?

MIKASA
No family.

TIGO
Friends?

MIKASA
None.

TIGO
You never had anyone you cared about?

MIKASA
My father.

TIGO
What was he like?

MIKASA
Nice.
TIGO
This is a compelling conversation.

Mikasa leans over Tigo. She lifts her hand.

MIKASA
Rats shouldn't have conversations.

Mikasa flicks him on his head.

TIGO
AHH!

Mikasa has a mischievous smile.

TIGO
Did your father teach you to be cruel?

MIKASA
I taught myself. He focused on other things.

TIGO
Like what?

Mikasa ponders.

CUT TO

INT. MIKASA'S HOUSE FLASH BACK - DAY

Young Mikasa cries in the corner. She grips a potted plant. The plant is withered. Mfather enters the house.

MFATHER
What is it? Training?

YOUNG MIKASA
No.

MFATHER
Let me see.

Mfather walks to Young Mikasa. Young Mikasa hides the plant with her body.

Mikasa falls to her knees. She holds the plant out. Mfather shows relief.

YOUNG MIKASA
I watered it every day!

MFATHER
It's okay...

YOUNG MIKASA
...You really cared about it!
MFATHER
Mikasa, It's...

YOUNG MIKASA
...I broke your trust! Do you still love me?

MFATHER
That's a silly...

YOUNG MIKASA
...are you going to leave like mom?

Mfather becomes stern.

MFATHER
Mikasa.

Young Mikasa snaps out of her tantrum. She stares at Mfather, her cheeks are red.

MFATHER
Remember, love has more than one part.

Young Mikasa nods.

MFATHER
The other part doesn't have a name.

Young Mikasa wipes her cheek.

MFATHER
When you are sad, I feel sad too. Even though something I liked is gone, I'm more worried about you.

YOUNG MIKASA
Why are you sad?

MFATHER
If you are sad, I am sad. When you are happy, I am happy. You control my heart.

YOUNG MIKASA
What about mom's heart?

Mfather is infected with a large smile. Young Mikasa catches the virus. Mfather sweeps Young Mikasa up into his arms.

MFATHER
She was under your spell angel!

Mfather swings Young Mikasa around. The two laugh.

TIGO V.0.

Hello!
EXT. NOONS PLAIN - DAY

Mikasa is thrown back into reality.

    TIGO
    How was your trip!

Mikasa threatens Tigo with her finger.

    TIGO
    Sorry!  Sorry!

Mikasa slowly brings her hand back to her side.

    TIGO
    What did your father teach you?

    MIKASA
    Love.

Tigo is surprised, he gives a chipper smile.

CUT TO

EXT. ROCKY PATH - DAY

A dirt path weaves through hilly terrain. Boulders protrude from the hills that hug the path. Crow hikes down the rough trail. He has a solemn look. Shrubbery lines the path.

Crow turns the corner of a large stone, he sees Mikasa. Crow jogs to her.

    CROW
    What are you doing here?

Mikasa waits till Crow reaches her.

    MIKASA
    I could not stand this rat.

Mikasa tosses Tigo, he waves about. Crow reaches out to catch him, but fails. Mikasa laughs.

    TIGO
    Are you serious! She is two feet away!

    CROW
    I wasn't ready!

Tigo climbs up Crow's shoulder. A silence sets in.

A shrub moves unnaturally, it is to the side of a large boulder. Mikasa spots the movement, she keeps an eye fixated on the boulder.
A carriage kicks up dirt as the wooden wheels fight the rocky terrain. Crow watches the carriage speed toward him.

Garrison's carriage halts about a dozen yards from them. Garrison waits for the dirt to settle, he emerges from the wagon's cloth walls.

GARRISON
How precious.

Crow stares blankly at Garrison. Mikasa keeps an eye on the boulder, but addresses Garrison. He hops from the carriage, dirt covers his fancy boots.

GARRISON
Both War Borns having an afternoon chat. A cute little tale.

Crow senses Garrison's vile nature.

CROW
Who are you?

GARRISON
You don't know?

CROW
Should I?

MIKASA
He's Garrison, King of Triceles.

CROW
King?

GARRISON
Pleasure to meet you. Though I have already meet you.

Garrison holds his hand out to measure Crow's height as a child.

GARRISON
This tall, but hell, I thought you would turn out smarter.

CROW
What do you want?

Garrison grins.

GARRISON
Good, straight to the point. I'm going to count to ten. If one of you isn't watching your life flash before yours eyes, then I'll make it happen.
Garrison makes "air quotations" when he says "watching your life flash before your eyes".

Mikasa grips her katana, Crow tilts his head. He strains to understand Garrison's wit.

CROW
What?

Garrison is shocked by Crow's stupidity.

GARRISON
You have ten seconds to kill each other.

Crow unsheathes his blade, points it at Garrison.

CROW
Why do you care?

Mikasa stays silent, she looks back at the boulder.

GARRISON
You're bothering me kid. Ten seconds.

Garrison studies the two, he SIGHS.

GARRISON
One.

Crow watches Mikasa, she doesn't move.

GARRISON
Two.

Crow smiles.

GARRISON
Three.

Crow faces Garrison, his broad smile angers Garrison.

GARRISON
Ten.

Garrison places a foot on his carriage, he WHISTLES.

CROW
I thought you were going to kill us.

GARRISON
I misspoke. The False Born will have the pleasure.

A man whips the horses. The carriage wheels away.
GARRISON
Enjoy yourselves.

Garrison waves sarcastically. He swings himself into the carriage as it races off.

Crow looks to Mikasa.

CROW
Do you have any idea?

Mikasa readies her blades. A short spear flies above the boulder. It cannonballs toward Crow.

MIKASA
Get down Crow!

A wooden sheath slams into Mikasa's jaw. She fumbles to the side. Crow rolls under the spear. The three stand in a triangle formation, evenly spaced from each other.

FALSE BORN stands before them. She wears light Ninja robes, fur patches decorate the robes. A large hood covers her face. She has two katana, each sheathed on the sides of her hip.

The katana measure up to Crow's Claymore, but are thinner. Their sheathes are plain wood. Their brown shade matches her skin. They are loosely tied to her hip with thick rope.

Mikasa wipes blood from her lip. Her small katana hangs in her hand.

MIKASA
That was a mistake!

CROW
The False Born.

FALSE BORN
What a dumb name.

The False Born removes her hood. Her hair is chestnut brown. She is the same age as Mikasa and Crow. She has light freckles that fade into her brown complexion.

CROW
Why the name?

FALSE BORN
My mother is a Samurai and father is a Ninja. Opposite of you pure breeds.

The False Born yawns.

FALSE BORN
I'm his trump card or something.
Mikasa sneaks her hand down to snatch three Ninja stars from her side.

**CROW**
Why would you follow Garrison?

**FALSE BORN**
Not my choice.

The False Born dashes to Crow.

**CROW**
Wait!

Crow raises his sword. He charges the False Born, he plans to plow her to the dirt. Mikasa takes advantage of the moment. She releases three Ninja stars.

The False Born leaps upward. Two Ninja stars pass under her. One star curves upward. The False Born flips in the air while she catches the star. Crow is under the False Born, she sends the star at his open back.

**MIKASA**
Run!

Crow runs forward. He barely evades the star. When he hears the star hit the ground he spins to face the False Born.

**FALSE BORN**
You're clever, but cowards usually are.

Crow swings his sword wildly through the air. He rushes at the False Born. She smiles tactfully.

**MIKASA**
She is egging you on!

Crow ignores Mikasa. Mikasa bites her lip, her body fights the urge to stop Crow. She springs forward. Crow reaches the False Born. He delivers a wild horizontal swing.

The False Born slides under his swing. She stands behind Crow. She mule kicks Crow's back. Crow fights to maintain his balance as he stumbles forward.

The False Born has positioned herself a few feet from Mikasa.

**FALSE BORN**
I was egging you on.

Crow pivots sharply. He charges at the False Born's back. Mikasa draws her katanas in panic; she guards herself from the False Born.

The False Born grabs one of her sheathed katanas, Mikasa watches the False Born's hands.
Crow closes in on the False Born; Mikasa is inches away. The False Born eases part of her blade from its sheath. Mikasa crosses her blades downward; she expects the False Born to strike upward.

Instead the False Born squats below Crow's attack. Crow swings horizontally at Mikasa. Crow's eyes pop; he can't stop his sword.

Mikasa reacts quickly; she repositions her blades.

A TING sounds off as Mikasa blocks Crow's swing, but she loses her small katana in the process. The False Born hops up, still between them.

With each hand on one of her large katanas the False Born rotates. Her sheathed katanas rise up with the spin. Each katana smacks Crow and Mikasa across their heads.

Mikasa and Crow stumble back; they flee a safe distance from the False Born. The False Born is fine with this; she inspects her hand, as if to find something new.

CROW
(To Tigo)
She's playing us!

TIGO
You two are gonna kill each other!

MIKASA
She hasn't even drawn her swords!

Mikasa pants. She stands on the other side of the False Born.

MIKASA
(To herself)
Think of something.

Tigo spots a black carriage in the distance. It is Patton's.

EXT. DAMP CAMPSITE - DAY

Garrison marches through the grass, each step lets water out like a sponge. His boots quickly muddy and dampen. Knights wait for Garrison's orders.

Garrison foot slips in the mud.

GARRISON
Who picked this bloody campsite?

The Knights look about, they try their best not to convey any guilt.
Garrison digs up a handful of mud. He smears the mud across a Knight's face and eyes.

**GARRISON**

Pick up the bodies in half an hour. You are all off for now, I'm not going to pay you to watch them die.

**KNIGHTS**

Yes, Lord

**GARRISON**

We leave tomorrow morning.

**EXT. ROCKY PATH - DAY**

Mikasa and Crow pant. A slight pause, the False Born grows bored of her hand.

**FALSE BORN**

My turn?

Mikasa and Crow clench; anxiety contorts their faces. Tigo whispers to Crow.

The False Born reveals four sharpened metal boomerangs from under her robes. She throws two at Crow, with the intention to miss. Crow readies his stance but the two boomerangs veer to his right by a few feet.

**MIKASA**

Crow! They are coming back!

Crow turns to face the boomerangs that head back for him, then steps to the side to avoid them. The two boomerangs rush toward the False Born.

The False Born catches the boomerangs despite the way they spin wildly. She uses her thumb and index finger to pinch their flat sides. She rotates to redirect their motion. When the False Born lets go they target Mikasa.

Mikasa is thrown off guard. She sidesteps from them.

**MIKASA**

(To herself)

How?

Mikasa turns to watch the boomerangs which turn back, but because of the curve of the boomerang they do not head directly to Mikasa.

The False Born throws her other two boomerangs at Crow, but off to the side as before. Crow turns to track the boomerang behind him.

The two boomerangs that were thrown at Mikasa rush back to the False Born. The False Born is ready to catch the boomerangs.
Seconds before the boomerangs reach her, the False Born sidesteps.

The boomerangs rush Crow's back, while the other two fly toward Crow's front.

MIKASA
Crow!

Mikasa dashes forward in an attempt to save Crow. She throws Ninja stars at the boomerangs. The False Born strikes two of the stars from the air as they pass. One star reaches a boomerang, but bounces off ineffectively.

The False Born rushes Mikasa. Crow falls to his stomach, a clumsy way to dodge the four boomerangs. The False Born leaps over Mikasa to land behind her. The boomerangs fly over Crow.

Two boomerangs that Crow dodged head towards Mikasa. Mikasa is trapped between the False Born and two boomerangs that rush her front.

Mikasa angles her body to try to dodge the boomerangs. As she does this, she notices one of the boomerangs has a metal wire tied to it.

MIKASA
(to herself)
A wire!

The boomerangs make contact as they fly by Mikasa. One slices her tricep; the other cuts her hair and a piece of her ear.

The False Born lets the two boomerangs pass her. Crow rises then charges past Mikasa at the False Born.

CROW
Got you!

MIKASA
Crow! No!

The False Born pulls the hidden wire, she spins it back. The boomerang is forced to Crow. He is unable to react in time. The boomerang gashes Crow. The wound runs diagonally over his upper body.

MIKASA
Dammit Crow!

Crow falls to his knees, then to the ground motionless. The False Born studies his body.

FALSE BORN
It's that easy?
Mikasa unleashes a barrage of Ninja stars and needles at the False Born. The False Born squats. She spins her two sheaths around her body to deflect the barrage.

Mikasa keeps up the assault. She forces the False Born to take cover behind a large boulder.

Tigo quietly pops out of Mikasa's hood.

TIGO
(To Mikasa)
Mikasa, use your smoke bombs!

MIKASA
How'd you get here?

TIGO
Throw the bombs, trust me!

Mikasa begrudgingly obeys Tigo. She throws her smoke bombs at the rock where the False Born takes cover.

FALSE BORN
(to herself)
Smoke? Buying time?

The False Born has her back to the rock. She waits for the smoke to dissipate.

The smoke finally clears. The False Born scales the rock. She pans the field. Mikasa is gone.

FALSE BORN
Coward!

The False Born runs off in the direction where Mikasa last was. After the False Born is gone, Crow rises.

CROW
It's never that easy.

Crow runs to the black carriage.

CUT TO

INT. PATTON'S CARRIAGE - DAY

Crow bursts into the dark carriage. Patton jumps up, he reaches for his umbrella. Crow catches his neck, then slams his forehead into Patton's.

CROW
Who the hell are you!

Crow grips his neck.

PATTON
Calm down.
CROW
Tell me everything. Why does Garrison want to kill us? Who is the False Born?

Patton glances at his umbrella. Crow headbutts him again.

CROW
I'm not playing!

PATTON
Unhand me, I'll tell you.

Crow shoves Patton forcing him to sit, Crow sits across from him.

PATTON
On one condition, you use the information to stop Garrison.

CROW
Not a fan?

PATTON
Before you were born the War Born treaty was already in place.

INT. CASTLE DEN - DAY PAST

The den is decorated with gold and silver trim. The tile floor keeps the room cool, while the paintings that hang from the wall capture attention.

One painting is a Young women dressed in black. She stands in a field of daises holding a withered one close to her face.

Another painting is a gold scale. One end of the scale holds skulls. The skulls raise the other end of the scale, which holds gold coins.

PATTON
The Samurai mother?

MCrow steps out form a small group of Samurai. Her child is a month from being born.

PATTON
The Ninja...

KATSUMI
...Yes.

Katsumi strides to Patton. A group of elder Ninja wait behind.

Young Garrison watches across the room. He is eighteen and knows everything. Soon to be king his clothes shame everyone in the room.
Patton addresses Katsumi.

**PATTON**
The Ninja mother. Why you?

**KATSUMI**
Who else?

**PATTON**
Charming.

Patton swerves to MCrow.

**PATTON**
And?

**MCROW**
My son, Clay. Proved himself as a Samurai.

**PATTON**
I'll take your word for it.

Patton chews on the inside of his mouth.

**PATTON**
At birth, our medic checks for defects. Again at the age of five. If both children are suitable,

Patton scans the room, Ninja and Samurai listen to each word.

**PATTON**
They will hunt the other. Other acts of war are forbidden, punished by death.

Young Garrison silently makes his way to Patton.

**PATTON**
You can go home now.

MCrow glances at Katsumi. Katsumi strides to the Ninja elders. Young Garrison pulls Patton to the side.

**YOUNG GARRISON**
What's next?

**PATTON**
Two years until you are king. Ask yourself.

**YOUNG GARRISON**
We need a trump card.

**PATTON**
Explain.
YOUNG GARRISON
Worst case, both nations turn on us. With their art of war, we fall in a month.

PATTON
A week.

YOUNG GARRISON
One of their warriors, one from each. We need to learn their methods.

PATTON
Force them.

YOUNG GARRISON
Figure it out.

PATTON
A Ninja women and a Samurai ran off together. In love. We agreed to turn them over if they enter Triceles.

YOUNG GARRISON
Our spies know their location?

PATTON
Obviously.

YOUNG GARRISON
Perfect.

EXT. RAINY PATH - DAY PAST
A dirt path weaves through a forest.

Rain pours. A horse struggles to pull a carriage, mud weighs down the horses feet. Water rushes alongside the trail.

JOHN steers the horse. He wears his Samurai gear. The sky lights up, CRACK! CRACK, another lighting bolt cuts the sky. John peers up. He squints as rain strikes his eyes.

Lightning strikes a tree along the path, CRACK! The horse stands on its hind legs, it thrashes its front feet in the air. NEIGH!

The tree lights on fire. It CREAKS, then falls to the path. The tree crushes the horse, the wagon falls to its side.

John is flung to the mud.

JOHN
AKIA! ELIZABETH!
The horse WHINES under the tree. John stumbles through the mud to the carriage. He pets the horse.

    JOHN
    Sorry pal.

AKAI  
(From inside the covered wagon)
We are fine!

John unties the ropes that cover the wagon.

SYDON
Turn around John!

SYDON aims an arrow at John's back. John's hands rise slowly.

Sydon's Ninja outfit covers everything but his eyes.

    JOHN
    Sydon, walk away.

SYDON
Give me that traitor, and her filthy cross breed. I'll walk far away.

    JOHN
    You have a death wish.

John tries to turn to Sydon. Sydon lets his arrow fly into John's lower back.

    JOHN
    ARGH!

AKAI  
John!

A throwing knife flies through the white tarp of the wagon. It cuts deep into Sydon's shoulder. He falls to his back.

AKAI cuts through the tarp. She steps out. She is twenty, a Young Ninja woman. A baby CRIES from the tent. Akai drops to her knees to examine John.

    JOHN
    I'm fine, get ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH is a newborn. She is wrapped in a blanket set safely on the wagons side. Akai lifts her from the wagon. She holds Elizabeth close.

John feels for the arrow in his back. He CRACKS the arrow's wooden shaft, throws it to the side. He lifts one leg, then collapses to his knees.
Sydon's shaky hand clutches a thin whistle. He forces it to his mouth. The whistle screeches!

Akai whips her head to Sydon.

A group of Ninja search through a forest. The WHEE sound reaches them.

SEARCH NINJA 1
Over there!

The Ninja rush to the sound.

AKAI
John!

JOHN
Go! Run! I can't!

Akai's face is inches from John's.

AKAI
I can't without you!

PATTON
Trouble?

John and Akai jolt, Patton stands behind them.

His umbrella keeps him dry. The umbrella is dark black, with thin gold lines that run down the middle to the umbrella's end.

A lavish carriage waits behind Patton. Three horses are tied to it.

JOHN
You from Triceles?

PATTON
Correct.

JOHN
Please!

AKAI
John we don't know...

JOHN
...We have no other options!

PATTON
Hurry in.

Akai helps John stand while she holds Elizabeth in her other arm.

PATTON
We will talk about payment later.
JOHN
Bless you.

The deserters hobble into the carriage. Patton lets the rain trickle off his umbrella for a moment. He enters the carriage. A servant drives the horses; the carriage races off.

The Ninja search team arrives to find Sydon buried in mud and rain.

INT. STONE BASEMENT - DAY PAST

PATTON
Again.

Dim candles light the cobblestone walls. The roof and floor share the same cobblestone structure.

Patton sits on a wooden chair, his umbrella lays across his lap. Young Garrison stands beside him.

Young Elizabeth's mouth hangs open. She pants as sweat flows down from her hairline. Young Elizabeth is eight. Her hair is brown and she is tall with light freckles under her eyes. Her skin glows with a natural tan.

Young Elizabeth holds a knife; wooden dummies around her have multiple stab wounds.

YOUNG ELIZABETH
Please, I'm tired.

PATTON
Again.

Young Elizabeth feet buckle. She crashes to the ground. Her face is pale.

PATTON
Again!

John sits on a wooden bench along the wall. Akai stands beside him.

JOHN
That's enough!

PATTON
This is what we agreed on.

AKAI
You said she would have to work as Garrison's body guard. That you would observe both our teaching methods in order to train your own army.
JOHN
You are working her to death! We are done!

Young Garrison leans into Patton's ear.

YOUNG GARRISON
(whisper)
Do it now.

Patton nods, then stands. He approaches John and Akai with his umbrella. He waves a hand through the air, he creates small circles. A Guard notices. He makes his way to the stairs and signals upward.

PATTON
When making an agreement, leverage is key.

Knights hurry down the stairs.

PATTON
Without leverage, you lack insurance.

Akai grabs her knife. Four Knights rush her.

JOHN
Our insurance is killing you.

PATTON
You're making my legs tremble. Oh, you must not remember the feeling.

Akai flicks her wrist; her knife enters a Knight's throat.

YOUNG ELIZABETH
Mom!

Young Garrison kneels beside Elizabeth.

YOUNG GARRISON
Today is a special day, the day you become a warrior.

Young Garrison hugs her tight; she fights to break free.

JOHN
Akia will kill all of you. Or get close, I'll strangle you myself.

Akia dashes up the wall, she sprints across it. She leaps from the wall, her palm catches the chin of a Knight. As she whips her body around his back, his neck CRACKS.
YOUNG GARRISON
(In Young Elizabeth's ear)
You'll look back at this as a learning experience.

Patton raises the end of his umbrella. He points it at John.

PATTON
No, I won't need to.

Patton presses a hidden button on his umbrella's handle. A needle covered in yellow sap SPRINGS out. It burrows into John's bicep.

Two Knights circle Akia. Akia stands relaxed, she fiddles with her hair. Both Knights charge, one on each side of Akia. They bring their swords back, each one swings it at Akia's neck.

Akia ducks. She pivots on her toes with her fall. Her arms fly up; she presses against each sword's underside. She forces the blades higher.

The Knights swords pushed higher, cut into each other's jugular vein.

John COUGHS.

PATTON
You're familiar with this, a sedative used by Ninja. More common before the war, now it's been replaced with the deadly white sap.

Young Garrison sits; he restrains Young Elizabeth in his lap.

YOUNG GARRISON
Your mother's and father's safety is in my hands.

Young Elizabeth SCREAMs. Young Garrison forces his hand over her mouth.

Akia runs to John.

JOHN
Akia, his umbre.

John can't finish his words.

Akia faces Patton, his umbrella SPRINGS out a needle covered in yellow sap.

The needle Pierces deep, just above Akia's knee. She falls to one knee.
88.

AKIA
Elizabeth, stay strong.

Akia collapses. John topples over her.

Blood spreads from the Knight's bodies. One of them is still alive; he crawls from the pool of blood.

Young Garrison stands. He leaves Young Elizabeth to gape at her parents.

YOUNG GARRISON
Only napping.

Young Garrison tilts his head at Patton, Patton makes his way up stairs.

YOUNG GARRISON
In Triceles we operate as a complex business. Today you become a part of this.

Young Garrison smiles, happy to welcome her into the business.

YOUNG GARRISON
Our most valuable asset, you will kill the War Borns if they fail to kill each other. That is your job.

Young Garrison grabs the Knight who struggles to breath. He drags him over to Young Elizabeth.

YOUNG GARRISON
My job is to ensure Triceles is prosperous.

Young Garrison drops the Knight's body next to Elizabeth.

YOUNG GARRISON
Feeding workers is expensive.

Garrison slides a knife across the floor, it stops at Elizabeth's knee.

YOUNG GARRISON
Only so much money.

Garrison sits on the bench above her parents. He takes a knife from his side.

YOUNG GARRISON
I have been working the numbers all day. There's no choice, I have to make some cuts.

Garrison runs his hands through Akia's hair. He grasps the bulk of her hair, lifts her head up. His knife rests across her neck.
YOUNG GARRISON
You choose. We can cut him.

The Knight vomits blood.

YOUNG GARRISON
Or I'll.

Garrison shakes her mother's head. He grins.

Elizabeth cries uncontrollably. She convolves. The Knight moans, blood oozes out of his neck.

YOUNG GARRISON
Focus, focus.

Elizabeth glares at Garrison.

He smiles at Elizabeth, confident in her.

Elizabeth grabs the knife.

INT. CASTLE OFFICE - DAY PAST

An oak desk dominates the room. Garrison shuffles through papers scattered about the desk. Patton observes near the room's corner. The room has plenty of windows to let light in.

GARRISON
How old are they?

PATTON
Twelve.

GARRISON
It's been too peaceful.

PATTON
They will break the treaty. Sales will rise again.

GARRISON
No, the Ninja are signing out.

PATTON
Our spies report underground movements, preparations for battle.

GARRISON
Twelve years they have prepared. They need a nudge.

Garrison grabs a map of Evershore. He lays the map across his desk. Trading routes cover the map, it is practically illegible. Garrison marks the map; he draws circles and dashes lines.
PATTON
Lord, interfering increases risk.

GARRISON
No you won't lecture me.

Garrison addresses Patton with his pen.

GARRISON
They will see what they want to. Unfortunately a hundred years of war has created an urge for peace.

KNOCK. Patton opens the door.

Stern Knight bows to Garrison.

GARRISON
What's the story.

STERN KNIGHT
John and Akai aren't speaking.

PATTON
A protest.

GARRISON
They must know how strong their daughter is.

PATTON
Don't want to reveal more than they have to. Think she can defend herself.

GARRISON
She can, okay. We have to make their imagination run.

Garrison studies the Stern Knight, looks him up and down.

STERN Knight nods. Garrison eases close to the Knights face.

GARRISON
I want you to go to them, really lean in close. So they can feel your breath on their face.

Garrison leans close to the Knight, like he describes.
GARRISON
Look em in the eye, hate them.
Then say, as if they are a child
and you're teaching a lesson.

INT. CASTLE DUNGEON - NIGHT PAST

Akai and John are chained to the cold stone walls, their ribs poke against their sides.

Stern Knight leans in. He hovers over John's nose.

STERN KNIGHT
Talk, open your mouths. Or we will open your daughter's.

John's eyes pop; his face burns red.

INT. CASTLE OFFICE - DAY PAST

The Stern Knight concentrates on Garrison's words.

GARRISON
Let it sink in, give him some time to digest how vulnerable their daughter is.

Garrison's hands dance with his words; they narrate to the deaf.

GARRISON
Then prance on over to his wife, take a little off the top.

Garrison pats the top of his head.

GARRISON
I know someone who would appreciate it.

INT. CASTLE DUNGEON 2 - NIGHT PAST

A twelve year old Elizabeth is locked in a dark cell.

Stern Knight paces to the cell. He throws a bundle of dark hair through the bars. Elizabeth's stomach turns at the sight of her mother's hair, with a thin layer of skin still attached.

Elizabeth crashes against the cage bars. Blood drips from the detached scalp.

ELIZABETH
I'll kill you!

STERN KNIGHT
Everyone needs a little encouragement.
ELIZABETH
Please let me talk to them! I'll tell them!

Stern Knight paces away, his figure disappears in the dark.

ELIZABETH
Garrison!

INT. CASTLE OFFICE - DAY PAST

GARRISON
Off you go.

Stern Knight nods. He leaves the room. Garrison returns to his desk.

GARRISON
The War Borns need to see death.

PATTON
How? They aren't in a cage like her, it's impossible.

GARRISON
The treaty is their cage. We just have to paint the bars red.

PATTON
Fake a child's death?

GARRISON
It's desperate to tell the same joke twice. I'd be copying my great grandfather. He did that to start the war. We need to be subtle. The Ninja are on edge. Ship a few weapons to the Samurai.

PATTON
I don't follow.

GARRISON
Use the large crates. It will appear like a shipment fit for war.

PATTON
Suspicious, at most.

GARRISON
When the Ninja order weapons as a counter measure, we are sold out.

PATTON
They will be scared, irrational.

Garrison smiles.
GARRISON
Our economy suffers when our weapons aren't needed. This will create demand.

Garrison jots notes on the map.

PATTON
Of course, my Lord.

Garrison leans back in his chair.

GARRISON
I can already hear the

CUT TO:

INT. PATTON'S CARRIAGE - DAY

A high pitched scream rings out, the same one the night Pierce died.

Crow fights the urge to tear apart the carriage.

Patton studies Crow, satisfied with his reaction.

CROW
That night, the whole time, everything!

Patton nods, raises an eyebrow.

CROW
Ragnarock died for this lie! So many have died! I will stop this!

EXT. FIREFLY FOREST- NIGHTFALL

Mikasa's leg trembles. She scans the forest.

TIGO
He should be here.

Mikasa runs her fingers through her hair with a force that pulls at the root.

Mikasa jumps forward, peeks around the tall trees.

MIKASA
If night falls we won't be able to find him.

The forest grows dark.

TIGO
Speak of the devil.

Mikasa bits her lip. She makes tense movements.
Mikasa looks down sharply. Something has landed on her finger.

A light, a firefly eases through the space between her fingers. It flies up into the air, hovers through the trees. Mikasa stalks it, follows every move with her eyes.

She walks where the firefly leads her. More lights appear, but Mikasa focuses on the single firefly.

Mikasa chases the firefly around a tree, Crow stands there.

CROW
You alright?

Mikasa hides her excitement.

MIKASA
I didn't try to kill myself.

Crow laughs slightly.

CROW
There was a carriage nearby, I broke in. One of Garrison's advisors was there.

Crow's emotions run. He grabs Mikasa's hand.

CROW
Garrison has been using both clans the whole time!

Mikasa lets Crow grip tighter.

CROW
The whole war was set up by Triceles so they could profit off us!

Crow leans in close.

CROW
All the blood for nothing! We can use this to end everything!

MIKASA
Slow down! How are you even alive?

Crow catches his breath and moves back. Mikasa regrets saying anything. Fireflies float around them, their light warms Mikasa's and Crow's face.

TIGO
I spotted the wire on the boomerang.
CROW
Tigo and I decided early on that we needed to retreat. I saw the carriage and thought we could find out what was going on.

MIKASA
You coward.

Crow ignores Mikasa

CROW
When I rushed past you Tigo jumped to you.

TIGO
It was the only way for us to communicate without her knowing.

A short flashback begins with Crow running past Mikasa to attack the False Born. Tigo jumps from Crow onto Mikasa in a stealthy manner.

MIKASA
You two thought of that?

CROW
We aren't as dumb as we look.

TIGO
I'm not as dumb as I look.

Mikasa chuckles.

MIKASA
I have been keeping a look out. Knights of Triceles are everywhere.

CROW
Searching for us?

MIKASA
Yes, also been stationed on the main roads.

TIGO
We are smarter than that.

CROW
We can sneak into my village. I can tell Clay everything. He will believe us.

MIKASA
Garrison will have Knights there.

CROW
I'm counting on it.
CUT TO

INT. GARRISON'S TENT - NIGHT

A small fire blazes in Garrison's tent.

    GARRISON
    How could you be so careless!

    FALSE BORN
    I wasn't expecting them to run.

The MESSENGER is outside the tent.

    GARRISON
    Get in here!

The Messenger enters.

    GARRISON
    Shut down all shipping and mail! Put a guard at every stop! They cannot get the chance to spread word!

The Messenger nods then exits.

    FALSE BORN
    Wait! I get to send a letter this month!

The False Born takes out a letter from her robes. She holds it out.

    GARRISON
    Not my problem.

In rage, the False Born grabs Garrison's neck. She chokes him. Garrison forces his words out.

    GARRISON
    Go ahead, do it. If I die, so will they.

The False Born squeezes for a moment more, then lets go. Garrison wipes drool from his mouth. Garrison snatches the letter from her hand and throws it into the fire.

    GARRISON
    That outburst is going to cost you.

Garrison punches the False Born across the face. She falls face first.

    GARRISON
    Your mother would be ashamed.

Garrison stomps the False Born's cheek.
GARRISON
Treat others how you want to be treated. Let's treat Mommy the way you treat me.

FALSE BORN
No, I'm sorry!

Garrison kicks her in the gut while she is on her hands and knees. Blood gushes from her nose.

GARRISON
She's not important. There is still dear Daddy!

Garrison unleashes another brutal kick, this time to her face. The False Born tumbles to her side.

FALSE BORN
Please, no. I'm sorry.

The False Born cries, blood is smeared across her face.

GARRISON
You're a mess. Clean yourself up. Tomorrow you hunt them down.

Garrison exits the tent.

CUT TO

EXT. GARRISON'S CAMP - NIGHT

Garrison steps out to the small camp. Patton waits for him, he holds his umbrella. They walk away from the camp.

PATTON
Explain to me the rational behind beating your horse before race day.

GARRISON
You can join her, plenty of room.

PATTON
Threats. A past time of yours.

Garrison whips his body. He slams his chest against Patton. Patton is thrown off balance, he scuffles in the dirt to sit up right.

GARRISON
You're past your time. You're at fault here too!

Patton positions his umbrella. He fires a needle oozed in a yellow sap. Garrison flinches, the needle sticks from his shin.
GARRISON
Treason doesn't suit you.

PATTON
I told that Boy everything.

Garrison pleads through his confusion. His eyes twitch, Garrison restrains the side effects of the poison.

PATTON
Your reign will be over.

Garrison falls to a knee.

PATTON
Crow will expose Triceles.

GARRISON
I don't understand.

PATTON
I could care less about them, but I couldn't care less about you.

Garrison bursts with uncontrollable laughter. He rolls to his side and wheezes. Patton stands.

GARRISON
I hope.

Garrison pushes his words through his maniac laughter.

GARRISON
Oh I pray, I am witness. I need to see the outcome of your scheme.

Patton struts from the fallen king.

PATTON
Good bye, Lord.

Garrison chuckles till he falls asleep.

CUT TO

EXT. CROWS HOME VILLAGE— EARLY MORNING

A thick fog fills the air. Crow and Mikasa creep towards the village.

CROW
Keep your eyes open.

Mikasa nods.

CROW
He has to have guards here.

Mikasa pans intently, she notices dry blood on a tree.
CROW
Why can't I hear the village?

The two step into the village. Crow sees blood, bodies, and weapons scattered across the village.

A pit forms in Crow's stomach. He runs ahead, shifts around frantically.

CROW
Clay! Clay!

Mikasa trails Crow. Dead Ninja share the blood-soaked grass with the samurai.

CROW
Clay! Susan!

Crow dashes into the fog out of Mikasa's sight. Mikasa follows.

She finds Crow on his knees. He grips a stained raccoon hat. Crow's tears run down his face onto the hat.

CROW
Clay.

Mikasa's lips quiver. Tears well up.

Crow snaps his head at Mikasa, his eyes full of hate. His eyes resemble Ragnarock's.

CROW
You!

Mikasa grips her katana. Her arms shake.

CROW
I should have killed you that day!

Mikasa is petrified at Crow's rage. Crow's eyes pierce Mikasa for a while longer. Mikasa starts to unsheathe her katana. Crow's head falls.

CROW
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Crow lets tears flow. Mikasa releases her katana.

CROW
He was right. I'm the same.

Mikasa can't take her eyes off the defeated Crow. Crow wails in pain.

CROW
I'm no better!
Crow curls into a ball, as if he had the wind knocked from him.

Tears trickle down Mikasa's cheek.

MIKASA V.0.
(Her thoughts)
Why am I crying? I can't stomach this.

Mikasa has a vision of her father where Crow is. Father leans over; he speaks softly.

MFATHER
If you are sad I am sad. When you are happy I am happy. You control my heart.

Mikasa places one foot at a time as she walks to Crow.

MIKASA
How?

She trembles.

Mikasa is above Crow; she falls to her knees with him.

Mikasa puts her hand on his hand. The two embrace each other, Mikasa holds Crow under her. Crow buries his face into her chest, then digs his fingers into her back.

CROW
I'm sorry, Mikasa.

Suddenly Mikasa's eyes open wide. She draws her blade. The screen goes dark.

CUT TO

EXT. WALL OF TRICELES - DAY

It is a quiet day outside the city walls, a soft breeze brushes the earth. A Ninja approaches the city tugging a wooden wagon behind her. The Ninja is covered by a hood.

Knight 2 prepares his spear. He cuts off the Ninja.

KNIGHT 2
Halt!

The Ninja woman eases to a stop.

KNIGHT 2
No Ninja or Samurai are allowed into Triceles. You have to turn around.

The Ninja's eyes are cast down.
NINJA WOMAN
Give this to Garrison.

The Ninja woman gestures at the wagon. Knight 2 moves cautiously to inspect its contents. Something lays in the wagon, wrapped in cloth. It's a body bag.

KNIGHT 2
This some kind of stunt?

NINJA WOMEN
Open it.

Knight 2 leans over the wagon near the top of the bag. He takes out a knife, cuts a small slice through the top.

KNIGHT 2
My god!

Crow is in the body bag, dead.

CUT TO

EXT. WALL OF TRICELES - SUNSET

A carriage races to the stone walls as the sun sets. Red light shines onto the city walls.

The carriage reaches the entrance to Triceles. Knight 2 bows. Garrison steps out.

GARRISON
The body?

KNIGHT 2
Over there lord.

Garrison marches along the wall. Knight 2 follows. He approaches the wagon, then peers inside. Crow's dead face stares back.

GARRISON
Take it out.

Knight 2 mounts the wagon with another nearby Knight. They remove the body from the bag, then place it on the grass.

Garrison kneels over, he checks for a pulse.

GARRISON
Nothing.

Garrison runs his finger along a wound that runs diagonally across Crow's upper body.

GARRISON
This wound fits with what the False Born reported.
Garrison looks towards Knight 2. He gestures for a knife. Knight 2 hands his over. Garrison plunges the knife into Crow's heart.

GARRISON
Dead. No Ninja tricks about it.

Garrison stands.

GARRISON
Where is the Ninja Girl?

KNIGHT 2
Around the corner.

Garrison strolls to the corner. The light fades; a dim red shade hits the wall.

Garrison turns the corner to see the Ninja Girl tied to the wall. She is on her knees. Garrison walks to her. He bends down to her level.

GARRISON
Why the change of heart?

The Ninja Girl looks away from Garrison. Garrison pulls down on the Ninja's mask.

GARRISON
Mikasa?

Mikasa stares past Garrison.

MIKASA
A Samurai from his village attacked the Ninja. They retaliated, killing his whole village.

Her cheeks are pale.

MIKASA
He turned on me.

Garrison can't help but smile.

GARRISON
All that fuss for nothing. It worked itself out.

Garrison walks to his carriage as the sun disappears. He turns back to Mikasa.

GARRISON
This must be hard for you. I want you be as comfortable as possible. You will be staying with me, and I won't take no for an answer.

CUT TO:
INT. GARRISON'S DUNGEON - NIGHT.

A room is barred off from a stone hallway. The only sources of light are dim torches. A small window rests high in the cell, out of reach.

Two Knights enter the hallway. They carry Mikasa to the cell. She is bruised and beaten. The Knights toss her into the cell.

Mikasa hits the floor hard, she lies still. The Knights lock up the cell, then leave. Garrison enters with the False Born.

GARRISON
You two remember each other. Hell, you two will never forget each other.

Garrison sarcastically gestures at them. Neither Mikasa or the False Born pay it mind.

GARRISON
(To False Born)
Last playdate, Mikasa got away. I had these bars installed because I know you need the help.

The False Born holds her tongue as her temperature boils.

GARRISON
(To False Born)
Do you think you can handle it? I could tie her down.

Garrison's hands talk with him.

GARRISON
(to False Born)
Put in a moat with alligators?

Garrison glares.

GARRISON
Do you need me to put in a moat with alligators?

FALSE BORN
No.

GARRISON
Lord. Handle this.

FALSE BORN
Yes my Lord.

The False Born hates her words. Garrison smiles.
GARRISON

Peachy.

Garrison struts down the hallway, he exits. Mikasa lies with her back to the False Born. Silence fills the room.

MIKASA

How long?

FALSE BORN

What?

MIKASA

Till I'm out.

FALSE BORN

The ceremony is in a month. Garrison won't let you run free after, with all you know.

Mikasa curls her body into a fetal position.

FALSE BORN

You lost your will. You could have gotten away. Those Knights are nothing compared to Ninja.

Mikasa doesn't react.

CUT TO

INT. CASTLE ROOM - NIGHT

Elizabeth sits on her cot. The room resembles a prisoners cell, with only cell bars absent. A small window is cut from the stone wall.

Elizabeth tip toes to the window. She crouches in the window space. The wind howls against the high walls. Elizabeth studies the height.

A tree rattles from the wind. She ponders its distance.

ELIZABETH

Three. Two.

Elizabeth crouches; she prepares to spring out.

KNOCK. The door swings open. Elizabeth stumbles, she turns quickly.

GARRISON

Making the jump wouldn't be impossible.

Elizabeth trembles. Garrison glides so close to her that she can feel his breath.
GARRISON
It would be the rescue. Spies
watch your every move. The journey
to Lake Taka, plus the small army
that guards your parents.

ELIZABETH
I wasn't.

GARRISON
Don't insult me.

Garrison brushes her hair behind her ear.

GARRISON
You could kill all those Knights by
yourself. But all it takes is one
to kill your parents. All he has
to do is press a button.

Garrison playfully pushes an imaginary button.

GARRISON
Click.

Elizabeth looks down.

GARRISON
The cell floor falls from under
their feet. They plunge into a bed
of spikes. Not even you are fast
enough.

Garrison SIGHS. He puts his arm across her back.

GARRISON
Juvenile, I know. Yet still. I
don't blame you for entertaining
the idea.

Garrison stands, Elizabeth stands with him. He leads her to
the cot.

GARRISON
You don't deserve the cruelty. But
I need you. When this is over,
when everything is behind us.

Garrison smiles.

GARRISON
It would be favorable to have a
family reunion.

Garrison pats her back.

GARRISON
Get some sleep.
He closes the door behind him. Garrison strolls past the dim torches that light the narrow hallway.

Elizabeth sits on her cot, she clenches her fist.

A messenger approaches Garrison.

GARRISON
Tell Smith he is off for the night. She isn't going anywhere.

MESSANGER
Yes Lord. King Garrison?

GARRISON
I'm listening.

MESSANGER
We haven't got any letters back from Lake Taka.

GARRISON
Oh I forgot, Patton usually does it. Tell Smith to write another letter.

MESSANGER
Smith writes the letters?

Garrison SIGHS.

GARRISON
What is more cost effective? Maintaining the safety of her mother and father or paying a halfway decent writer?

INT. PALACE OF TRICELES- DAY

Garrison lounges on his throne with the False Born behind him. The palace is empty. Garrison reads through letters.

GARRISON
All is in order. The ceremony will be a breeze.

Garrison addresses the False Born.

GARRISON
The Ninja Girl?

FALSE BORN
Silent, not eating.

GARRISON
A tragedy for her, isn't it?

Garrison has a wicked smile.
GARRISON
Give me a letter.

The False Born brims with emotion.

FALSE BORN
Thank you, Lord. Please excuse me.

GARRISON
Sure, sure. Check on her first.

The False Born bows. She exits behind the throne.

CUT TO

INT. GARRISON'S DUNGEON - DAY

The False Born paces the hallway. The False Born halts abruptly. She focuses her ears. Hushed words come from Mikasa's cell. The False Born dashes to the cell.

FALSE BORN
Who's there!

A rat is heard as it scurries away. Mikasa sits with her back against the wall, the window above her. Mikasa is starved, her checks are sunken, her hair matted.

FALSE BORN
Talking to the rats?

The False Born smirks. She throws a bag to Mikasa.

FALSE BORN
Eat, or I'll make you. Understand?

The False Born scans the cell. Her face drops when she studies Mikasa. The False Born turns.

MIKASA
Wait.

The False Born listens.

MIKASA
Please stay. A little.

The False Born studies Mikasa. She sighs.

FALSE BORN
More interesting than rodents?

Mikasa nods.

FALSE BORN
I have to write. But then I'm gone.
MIKASA
Thank you.

CUT TO

INT. GARRISON'S DUNGEON - AFTERNOON

Mikasa hasn't moved. The False Born sits outside the cell, with a small wooden desk in front of her. She toils with her letter. A small candle illuminates the desk.

The False Born writes in silence.

MIKASA
Who are you writing to?

The False Born takes her time to answer Mikasa.

FALSE BORN
My parents.

MIKASA
Do you get to see them?

FALSE BORN
No. But I write.

MIKASA
Do they write back?

FALSE BORN
They live in a small town south of the eastern gate of Triceles. Near Lake Taka, takes them a week.

MIKASA
I have a letter from my mother. She can't write back. You miss them?

FALSE BORN
Yes.

MIKASA
Will you ever see them?

FALSE BORN
After the war starts again, I hope Garrison allows me.

A pause, then Mikasa continues.

MIKASA
What is your name?

FALSE BORN
Elizabeth.
MIKASA
Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH
Only my parents call me that.

Elizabeth stands up. She folds her letter, nods to Mikasa.

MIKASA
Thank you, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth is taken aback for a moment. She hides it from Mikasa.

CUT TO

EXT. CEREMONY GROUNDS - LATE AFTERNOON

Outside Garrison's grand palace are the ceremony grounds. The area is laid with marble. A raised stage addresses the grounds. Massive stone pillars hold up the stage's roof.

The stage is white, but has gold designs that outline the stage.

Garrison's palace sits across a grass lot from the stage. The palace balcony overlooks the grounds.

The grounds themselves are separated down the middle, split into two sections. On the right are the Samurai, and the left the Ninja.

There are a hundred people on each side. Elite members of each clan stand to the front of the stage. Knights stand guard.

Garrison is in the middle of the stage, he faces the crowd. Garrison begins his speech.

GARRISON
Twenty-one years ago the elites of Oneumi, Dounine, and Triceles met with the intention of ending the war. A treaty was created that would award a victor.

Garrison gestures to the crowd as his words boom.

GARRISON
It's my pleasure to announce that the conditions of the treaty have been met. We have a victor.

Garrison raises his hand to the palace balcony. The crowd turns.

GARRISON
From the land of Oneumi.
Mikasa stands on the balcony. Mikasa is sickly, but is too far from the crowd for any of them to notice.

Behind her, hidden from the crowd is Elizabeth. She holds her sword out to Mikasa threateningly.

ELIZABETH
Wave.

Mikasa waves to the crowd.

GARRISON
Mikasa Umi!

Mikasa hears the roars from the crowd. Garrison listens to the split reactions from the crowd, half protest and half celebrate.

ELIZABETH
Back in.

Mikasa steps back from the crowd's view. Elizabeth ties her to the inner part of the balcony. Elizabeth observes the crowd from the balcony.

The crowd quiets; faces turn to the stage.

GARRISON
I ask the leaders of Dounine and Oneumi to the stage. Please accept Steerforth and Takeshi.

STEERFORTH and TAKESHI climb the steps to the stage.

Steerforth is a brawny-sized man. Because of his good shape he looks younger than a sixty-four year-old.

Takeshi is older, seventy-seven. He wears noble cloth. Wrinkles sag his skin.

GARRISON
As stipulated, the winning country establishes laws that the losing clan must obey. If they fail to obey these mandates, war will break out, with Triceles aiding the winning clan.

Garrison pauses for effect, then gestures at Takeshi.

GARRISON
Takeshi, the first law against Dounine?

Takeshi is calm. He rubs his chin in thought. Garrison is anxious.

Takeshi steps forward.
TAKESHI
I have heard that the Samurai have a secret way of cooking venison. A way that gives a succulent taste to the deer.

Garrison stands confused.

TAKESHI
In Oneumi, we fish. But every once in a while I would like to have some venison.

Garrison steps back.

TAKESHI
The mandate we enforce upon Dounine is that they have to hand over their recipe for cooking venison.

Garrison's mouth hangs open.

TAKESHI
Is that allowed Garrison?

Garrison nods.

The crowd cheers. Garrison steps forward, he escapes from shock.

GARRISON
Why are you squandering your chance!

STEERFORTH
It will be hard to rebuild the bond between Samurai and Ninja. Over time we will eradicate the hate.

Garrison looks blankly at them.

TAKESHI
There was no way for us to set aside our hate until someone's courage forced us.

Garrison boils.

GARRISON
Who? Who was it?

? Garrison!

Garrison turns to the voice. Amongst the crowd of Samurai is a man wearing a raccoon hat.

GARRISON
How?
The crowd clears a circle around Crow. He glares at Garrison with eyes sharper than steel.

GARRISON
You're dead! I burned your body!

CROW
You burned my brother's body.

Garrison's eyes open wide. He signals to the balcony, Elizabeth uses a metal wire to swiftly propel down the palace wall.

Crow steps out to face Elizabeth. Once Elizabeth reaches the ground, she draws both of her swords then charges Crow.

Knights move forward to apprehend Crow. The Ninja and Samurai draw their weapons; they threaten the Knights. The Knights cower back.

ELIZABETH
You're dead!

CROW
Elizabeth!

Elizabeth stops in her tracks. Crow holds out a pile of old, worn letters. Elizabeth inspects the letters.

ELIZABETH
Those are my letters! How did you get those?

Crow throws the letters to Elizabeth which she catches.

CROW
I paid a visit to your family near Lake Taka.

Elizabeth glares with the eyes of a predator.

ELIZABETH
What did you do to them!

CROW
I paid my respects.

ELIZABETH
What!

CROW
All your letters have been sent to an address that doesn't exist. Your parents are dead, I'm sorry.

ELIZABETH
How do you know this!
CROW
Mikasa saw the address on your letter.

Tears flow from Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH
Wait! No! How do you know my name? How did you know to go to Taka?

CROW
The rats Mikasa talks to are actually pretty helpful.

Tigo pops out from under Crow's vest.

Tigo gives a playful wave to Elizabeth.

CROW
Mikasa thought of the whole plan when she saw my brother's body.

Elizabeth takes a few seconds to process this. Her face turns from denial to hate.

ELIZABETH
Garrison!

Elizabeth and the crowd turn to the stage. Garrison is gone.

ELIZABETH
Hide from me all you want!

Elizabeth leaps to the stage, then runs off.

Crow squints at the balcony. He rushes into the palace.

CUT TO

INT. PALACE OF TRICELES- SUNSET

Crow rushes into the empty palace. He scales the stairs, then dashes through rooms at a frantic rate.

Mikasa is on the balcony. She bites at the rope that binds her.

Crow sprints up another flight of stairs.

Mikasa chews on the rope, it loosens.

CROW
Mikasa!

MIKASA
Crow!
Crow hears her voice as he turns a corner. He spots her tied to the balcony. Mikasa frees herself from the rope, she runs to Crow.

Crow enters so fast that he can't slow down. Mikasa jumps up into his arms. She wraps her legs around his hips. Crow stops at the edge of the balcony.

Mikasa and Crow share a powerful kiss. The crowd below gazes up.

As the two kiss on the balcony, cheers can be heard. The two separate for a moment to smile, then kiss again.

CUT TO

INT. SECRET PATH - NIGHT

Garrison hurries through a secret path dimly lit by his torch. He is alone.

Garrison reaches a wooden door. He opens it to enter a small circular room. Elizabeth sits at a table dimly lit by two candles.

She reads through books on the table, Garrison's books.

Garrison stops in shock with the door ajar. He stares at Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH

Been working the numbers for hours.
There's no choice. I have to make some cuts.

Elizabeth shuts the book. She slowly unsheathes her sword.

CUT TO

EXT. SUMANA BEACH - DAY

Crow sits in the sand of the warm beach, bright from the sun's light. His sandals rest beside him. He digs his feet into the warm sand.

CROW

AHHH.

Tigo lounges under a tiny umbrella.

Crow turns to Mikasa.

Mikasa is restored to her former beauty. She glides to Crow, her feet are gentle against the sand. She has a blue sunhat.

Crow smiles with his heart; Mikasa returns the favor.

CREDITS ROLL.
EXT. SNOW TOP - DAY

Snow blankets the mountain. Clouds hide the sky. All is white.

A Ninja stands in the snow. She wears a dark blue jacket. Her black scarf wraps around her neck three times over.

Forty years have barely touched her soft skin.

She rustles through her jacket. Her mask falls slightly, it's Katsumi. She pulls out three pieces of paper. She stares at them.

CUT TO:

EXT. DEAD SHIP - DAY

A tall ship fights choppy water. The crew hurries to control the ship.

A pirate is behind the wheel. The pirate is an ex-Ninja. Tribal tattoos claw their way up his shaved head. The twenty-seven year-old is short, five-five

He takes three pieces of paper from his coat pocket. He holds them against the wheel.

TAO
Coming for ya Mika!

CUT TO:

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

The tavern has many open seats. Men drink in silence. Their heads turn to a women dressed in black.

This twenty-three year old stomps to the bar. Her clothes reveal her luscious body. She snatches three pieces of paper from her bra.

She holds them to the bartender.

WITCH
I'm terribly lost. Could you point me in their direction?

The bartender studies the papers.

Each paper is a sketch, a portrait.

Crow is on the left paper, Tigo in the middle, and Mikasa on the right.

WITCH
This one in particular.

The WITCH'S finger hovers over Tigo's sketch.