

Patriotism
Adapted from Patriotism by Yukio Mishima
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ON SCREEN

On February 26th, 1936 a large group of soldiers began a coup that would last only three days. The soldiers believed that through murdering certain advisors to the emperor they could return him to absolute power which they believed had been slowly etched away by the people whom they considered traitors. The rebels had warned everyone about their plans, of whom they would assassinate, and when. In the end the leader of the coup would be executed, and the emperor would lose even more power. Many would sacrifice their lives in vain. They would die without honor.

FADE IN:

INT. SHINJI AND REIKO'S BEDROOM. IT IS THE EARLY MORNING HOURS AND SMOKE LINGERS IN THE AIR FROM INCENSE THAT HAS RECENTLY BEEN EXTINGUISHED. THE SUNLIGHT CREEPS THROUGH THE HALF SHUTTERED WINDOWS CREATING A "GODS LIGHT" ON THE FLOOR LAY THE TWO BODIES OF OUR MAIN CHARACTERS. THE DEATH SCENE IS NOT DISTURBING AND AS WE PAN AROUND THE ROOM THE FINAL THING WE SEE IS THE SUNLIGHT HIT AND REFLECT BRIGHTLY OFF A SWORD

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AUGUST 12, 1935 A WARM DAY AT AN OUTSIDE WEDDING CEREMONY

GENERAL OZEKI
(shaking Shinji's hand)
Congratulations Lieutenant.

SHINJI
(smiling)
Thank you Sir.

GENERAL OZEKI
Your wife is very beautiful.

SHINJI
(seeming proud but
embarrassed)
She is more than I could have ever
hoped for.

GENERAL OZEKI
Don't sell yourself short. You are
a fine young man. Not to mention a
decorated soldier. More and more
every day you grow to be like your
father.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI

(sadness in his voice)

I wish that he could be here to share this with me.

GENERAL OZEKI

Your father would approve, that I am sure of. I miss him as well Shinji.

SHINJI

I was so young...I am glad that you are here today to take his place. Your guidance has been important to me.

GENERAL OZEKI

(wanting to change the subject)

Have you found a home for the two of you yet?

SHINJI

No, not yet. It has been difficult to find the time with all the training and extra drills we have been doing.

GENERAL OZEKI

You and your new bride can stay in my guest house for as long as you need it. You will need your privacy.

SHINJI

Thank you sir.

GENERAL OZEKI

Think nothing of it. I will have some of my men gather your belongings and deliver them there. As of now you also have two days leave.

SHINJI

(surprised)

But with everything that is going on I don't think that I should leave...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GENERAL OZEKI
 (interrupting)
 You will take the time off
 Lieutenant that is an order if it
 has to be.

SHINJI
 Yes sir. Thank you sir.

GENERAL OZEKI
 Think nothing of it, consider it my
 wedding gift to you. Now go find
 your bride. I have to get back to
 the base. We can talk when you
 return.

SHINJI
 Yes sir. Thank you sir.

They part

CUT TO:

REIKO AND HER MOTHER THEY STRAND AWAY FROM THE CROWD TALKING.
 REIKO WEARS A BEAUTIFUL KIMONO, WHITE AS SNOW.

REIKO'S MOTHER
 I wanted to give this gift in
 private Reiko

Reiko's mother produces a red velvet bag from inside of her
 kimono.

REIKO
 What is it?

REIKO'S MOTHER
 It is something that every wife of
 a soldier should not be without.

Reiko's mother produces a dagger from the bag.

REIKO
 It's elegant

REIKO'S MOTHER
 And very old. It was my mothers and
 her mothers before that and back
 for I don't know how long.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REIKO
(taking the dagger and
examining it)
Thank you, oh thank you.

REIKO'S MOTHER
Careful it is very sharp, it has
never been used it has its original
edge.

REIKO
I will cherish it.

REIKO'S MOTHER
Do. Keep it safe and close by but
out of sight. You know how to use
it if you must

REIKO
Yes.

REIKO'S MOTHER
I am so very proud of you. Your
husband is a good man from a good
family. Keep him happy Reiko.

REIKO
I will try.

REIKO'S MOTHER
Make him trust you Reiko. Do not be
like other wives.

REIKO
He will, do not worry mother.

FADE IN:

EXT. IT IS DUSK OUTSIDE THE GUEST HOUSE. IT IS A SMALL TWO
LEVEL HOME. IT IS CLOSE TO THE STREET BUT HAS A LARGE BACK
YARD WITH A GARDEN.

CUT TO:

INT. THE LARGE BEDROOM OF SHINJI AND REIKO'S NEW HOME. THEY ARE PREPARING FOR ABED AND ARE REMOVING THEIR WEDDING ATTIRE. THEY ARE QUITE AND RESERVED THEY MOVE TIREDLY.

REIKO

It was nice of the general to let us use his guest home.

SHINJI

He has always been very kind to me. Since my father died he has watched over me in his place.

REIKO

I'm so glad to have you all to myself for the next two days. Should we go see the flowers. I'll pack us a picnic.

SHINJI

If you wish.

REIKO

I hear concern in your voice Shinji.

SHINJI

I need to discuss something important with you.

Shinji takes his sword from the stand and sits cross legged on the floor with the sword on his lap. He motions for Reiko to come and sit across from him. She sits mirroring his position.

SHINJI

(in a serious voice)
Reiko it is important that you come to an understanding about something.

REIKO

Yes?

SHINJI

You have chosen for your husband a soldier. As a soldier my death may come at any moment.

REIKO

I know this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI

But you need to understand what
that means.

REIKO

I believe I do.

SHINJI

Are you steadfast in your resolve
to accept my death wether it be
tomorrow or the next day or years
from now

REIKO

I am your wife.

SHINJI

Good.

REIKO

I understand my place.

SHINJI

I need to know this more then
anything else. That I can trust in
you and.....

Reiko rises to her feet and walks to a set of drawers and
takes the velvet bag her mother gave her from one of them.
She walks back to take her place and takes the dagger from
the bag and places it on her lap.

REIKO

I am your wife.

SHINJI

Thank you.

Reiko places the dagger bag in the bag gets up places it back
into a drawer, you hear the drawer click shut.

REIKO

I will start us a bath.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM SHINJI SITS ON A SMALL FOOT STOOL IN A TOWEL REIKO RUNS THE BATH PUTTING OIL IN AS WELL AS SLATS. THE COUPLE LOOK SEXY?. THEY GET INTO THE BATH TOGETHER. THEY ARE SILENT. ITS ALL EYE CONTACT

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM THE PAIR MAKE LOVE STRONGLY AND PASSIONATELY. SHINJI IS DEFINITELY THE AGGRESSOR, REIKO IS SOMEWHAT PASSIVE BUT SHE CAN ALSO GO ON THE ATTACK. THIS NEEDS TO BE A MONTAGE OF SHOTS.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. WE SEE SHINJI AND REIKO IS A PARK LOOKING AT FLOWERS. THEY HOLD HANDS KISS, LAUGH AND WALK AND WHISPER TO ONE ANOTHER. THEY SEEM VERY MUCH IN LOVE. THIS NEED NOT BE CHEESY. SHINJI WEARS HIS UNIFORM AS DO MANY OTHER MEN IN THE PARK. MANY OF THE YOUNG SOLDIERS SALUTE SHINJI AND OFFER CONGRATULATIONS.

CUT TO:

INT. THE FRONT HALLWAY OF THE HOUSE. THE DOOR OPENS BEFORE THEY CAN EVEN GET INSIDE REIKO BEGINS TO TEAR AT SHINJI'S UNIFORM. SHE FORCES HIM TO THE FLOOR THEY MAKE LOVE MORE OF FUCK THOUGH REALLY.

DISSOLVE TO:

I/E. A MONTAGE SHOT OF THE DAILY LIFE OF REIKO AND SHINJI AT HOME THEY MAKE LOVE A LOT AND ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY TO NO END. THE SEASON BEGINS TO CHANGE TO WINTER. SHINJI NOW COMES HOME WHEN IT IS DARK AT NIGHT. REIKO KEEPS THE FIRE BURNING IN THE OVEN. SHE TENDS THE HOUSE.

CUT TO:

INT. THE KITCHEN OF THE HOUSE NIGHT

Reiko is making and serving tea to Shinji.

REIKO

Is there anything I can prepare for you especially for tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI

Why?

REIKO

It's your birthday remember?

SHINJI

Oh yes right, don't make a fuss for me. Just a few friends and some drink will make me happy.

REIKO

Still pretending to be the simple man.

SHINJI

Yes I guess I am. It is the way of my life never questioning orders, always following always passing them down.

REIKO

You will be promoted soon enough. You said so yourself.

SHINJI

Yes so General OZEKI promised. But..

REIKO

(interrupting)

But what?

SHINJI

There is talk of a coup. To put the emperor back in power. Everyone is worried. We do nothing but drill every day.

REIKO

I have heard nothing about any coup.

SHINJI

Well its not the type of thing the army wants the people to know. No one takes it seriously. Just some old leftovers from times past.

REIKO

Secrets always secrets.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI

It is the way of the world.

REIKO

(hesitantly)

Your not involved are you?

SHINJI

No. No one has approached me about it.

REIKO

And if they do?

SHINJI

And nothing. I swore the same oath to the emperor and to follow his commands and those that relay them for him. It is my job to follow them never to second guess them.

REIKO

No, its not is it. But I understand their position.

SHINJI

Who's?!?

REIKO

The Rebels if there are any.

SHINJI

Oh do you now care to enlighten me.

REIKO

Throughout our proud history we have always revered the emperor. Your father and mine and their's served him, to ensure his power. And now these politicians are slowly taking his power away.

SHINJI

That may be true. But the emperor is the leader, even though he himself may be misled from time to time.

REIKO

Of course your right, what would a wife know of politics.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI
Apparently too much.

REIKO
Go to bed ill be up soon. Tomorrow
is your birthday party.

SHINJI
I'm too old for parties.

REIKO
I'm not.

Shinji leaves the room and goes upstairs. Reiko cleans up the kitchen. Puts out the lamps.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM

Shinji lies on the bed waiting for Reiko he hears her foot on the stars, as they creek.

SHINJI
Come to bed.

REIKO
First a bath then bed.

SHINJI
But I am tired.

REIKO
Try to stay up if you can
(she smiles)

He cannot and falls asleep.

FADE IN:

INT. NIGHT THE GUEST HOUSE LIVING ROOM

There is a gathering of people who are having an obviously good time. The men sit together drinking, and the women sit in the kitchen talking.

The men laugh making jokes. The men are familiar from the wedding.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI

So what do you know about the rumors?

The men slowly grow silent.

KANO

Rumors Shinji what rumors?
(he's being sarcastic)

SHINJI

Don't play dumb, we all know what I'm talking about.

HOMMA

I think Shinji means about the coup Kano.

SHINJI

Very good captain Homma.

YAMAGUCHI

Why doesn't Shinji tell us what he knows.

SHINJI

I know only rumors of a coup about killing some politicians.

KANO

A return to the old ways perhaps. Who would want that Shinji?

HOMMA

Doesn't sound to bad to me.

SHINJI

(to Homma)

Please tell me that you are joking. Times change we must move forward. Keep up with the rest of the world.

YAMAGUCHI

What of the emperor Shinji?

SHINJI

What of him. He has made his decisions. He chose to put a prime minister into power. He has his reasons and we must obey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOMMA

And what if there should be an uprising Shinji? What would you do then?

SHINJI

Whatever was required of me.

KANO

What if such a coup was successful?

SHINJI

To rebel would be suicide. It would never succeed.

KANO

Your probably right.

YAMAGUCHI

But would you take up arms against your brothers, your fellow soldiers?

SHINJI

To protect the empire I would.

HOMMA

I don't believe you Shinji.

SHINJI

I am not sure what I would do to tell you the truth.

YAMAGUCHI

Well I doubt it would come to that.

HOMMA

But what if it did? What then? I surely would not want to be involved.

KANO

Nor would any of use.

SHINJI

We all know what we would have to do if faced with a choice like that.

HOMMA

Be careful Shinji you have a beautiful wife.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI

Yes. But unlike you Homma I can trust mine.

They all laugh.

HOMMA

Stop Shinji you know that only a widower can trust his wife.

Again they all laugh except for Shinji who make eye contact with his wife in the other room.

SHINJI

No. There is something that passes between us. She was her fathers only child. He instilled his values into her.

They grow silent.

YAMAGUCHI

He was a great warrior Reiko's father. He died in the war didn't he?

KANO

Yes he did.

HOMMA

Let us drink to our fallen brothers.

They all toast and drink.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM EARLY MORNING

Shinji and Reiko are sleeping in each others arms. In the distance outside are the sounds of gunshots, a bugle plays.

ON SCREEN: FEBRUARY 26TH, 1936

REIKO

(panicked)

Shinji wake up...there is something going on in the street.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She goes to the window.

SHINJI
(he sits up)
What?

REIKO
Outside, in the streets fighting.

SHINJI
Go downstairs, get my jacket, turn
on the radio.

Shinji rises and begins to put on his uniform he is very hurried. Reiko puts on her robe and leaves the room she can be heard going down the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT HALLWAY

Reiko is holding Shinji's jacket and sword. The door is open a cold breeze blows in the snow can be seen in the street the windows are frosted. Shinji slips into his jacket and takes his sword. The radio is on. The fighting can be heard in the street.

REIKO
The radio said that everyone is to
remain in their homes.

Shinji leaves without a word to his wife. She closes the door behind him and bolts the lock. She turns sideways and bows her head.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM SAME DAY BUT IT IS DARKER OUTSIDE

The radio can be heard in the background. There is a man's voice on it. Gun shots can be heard outside in the distance. Reiko is cleaning shelves, adjusting items. She looks out the window once in a while. The fighting is sporadic.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE KITCHEN SAME DAY DARK OUTSIDE NOW

Reiko is having tea in the kitchen. The radio is on in the room we can hear the voice and the news reports of the battle are coming through the radio. The Battle still echoes from the outside and the radio on the inside. Reiko rises slowly but purposefully and walks (camera follows) through the hall and up the stairs. We hear the stairs creek as she ascends. She removes the velvet case from the drawer, she moves with purpose. She places the dagger on the bed still in the case. She goes into the bathroom and runs a bath. She sits on the side of the bathtub and lets the water run over her hand. She turns and stares at herself in the mirror. The gaze is intent she touches her face as if she does not recognize it. The bathroom begins to steam up and the mirror steams. She wipes away the for from the mirror.

CUT TO:

INT. GENERAL OZEKI'S OFFICE SAME NIGHT

Close up of Shinji's hand wiping the fog from the office window. The general smokes at his desk. Shinji has a glazed look in his eye. He turns to face the general.

SHINJI

(a serious tone)

So what is it we are supposed to do?

GENERAL OZEKI

We are to attack the day after tomorrow. The politicians have given us that much time to try and bring this to a peaceful end.

SHINJI

The officers are to blame, the men are only following orders.

GENERAL OZEKI

Yes, and therein lies the problem.

SHINJI

How is that?

GENERAL OZEKI

They will follow their captains orders without question.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI

So why not attack them now today
before it goes any further?

GENERAL OZEKI

You are you fathers son, a good
warrior but not a politician. These
men told our superiors what they
were going to do we all knew it was
coming even you.

SHINJI

Yes but I heard rumors.

GENERAL OZEKI

That was for a reason. We will
attack and stop the revolt. And the
assassinated ministers will be
replaced.

SHINJI

But will the men attack their
fellow soldiers.

GENERAL OZEKI

If they are ordered to. By you and
the others in command. The emperor
himself has ordered this course of
action.

SHINJI

But it is the Emperor these so
called rebels are fighting for.

GENERAL OZEKI

Yes they are mistaken in their
placement of loyalty.

SHINJI

(again looking out the
window)

How can I lead an attack against me
who are my friends? Who have been
to my house?

GENERAL OZEKI

How can you think that you would
not.

SHINJI

Yes. Duty.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GENERAL OZEKI

Good. Now go home tonight perhaps
it will be over by the morning.

SHINJI

Yes sir.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM OF THE GUEST HOUSE NIGHT

Reiko comes out of the bathroom hair wet she is rapped only in a towel she is brushing her hair. She leave the room (camera follows or cuts to follow) goes downstairs, we hear the creek of the stairs. She puts wood into the stove and turns out the lamps. She walks to the front hallway and looks out the door. She turns and walks back up the stairs. Back to the bedroom. She gets into bed and holds the velvet bag to her chest. She falls asleep.

FADE OUT.

CUT TO:

EXT. NIGHT ARMY BARRACKS GATE.

There are guards posted with weapons they smoke and chat. There is much movement. Everywhere there are soldiers. We see Shinji enter a tent and follow him. He takes from his pocket a small metal case and opens it. Inside there is a picture of Reiko. He pauses and and stares at it for a moment. He closes it and puts it back in his breast pocket.

SHINJI

(to some officers standing
near by)

You men come here.

OFFICER ONE

Yes. Sir.

They all fall in line.

SHINJI

We will be taking shifts on watch.
Tell your men. Five hour watch
periods each.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OFFICER TWO

Lieutenant could you tell us what is going on.

SHINJI

The morning after tomorrow we will attack the rebels in their positions.

OFFICER ONE

Lieutenant?

SHINJI

There are the wishes of the emperor. The rebels are traitors to the empire and they will be dealt with accordingly.

BOTH OFFICERS

Yes sir.

SHINJI

Tomorrow night I will be gone home for the night. Captain Yukio will be in charge.

BOTH OFFICERS

Yes sir.

SHINJI

Dismissed.

The officers leave. Shinji lights a cigarette and turns to walk toward the street.

ON SCREEN FEBRUARY 27TH

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM MORNING

Reiko awakens alone it is once again morning. She listens and hears nothing in the house but the sounds of gunshots from time to time break the silence outside. They are far away in the distance. A voice can be heard on a loudspeaker. Reiko goes downstairs (camera follows) there is a creaking on the stairs as she walks. She stops to look out the window and turns to walk to the kitchen. She lights the stove. Then runs some water to fill a kettle and puts it on the stove.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She the walks to the god shelf and lights some incense and says a prayer. She pauses and picks up the picture form her wedding and touches it with her fingers. She returns to the kitchen where the water is now boiling and prepares some tea. She turns on the radio Music plays. She sits to drink her tea. Listens to the radio. A mans voice come on.

RADIO

The government asks that all private citizens please remain indoors until further notice. If you have elderly relative you may travel to their home only during daylight hours.

Reiko rises to pen the curtains.

RADIO

There had been a coup attempt led by an unknown small group of men. This attempt was quashed immediately.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GUEST HOUSE - LATER

Reiko walks around the house collecting items. Robes, small collectibles. She places them on the table in the living room. She also takes her and Shinji's wedding pictures to the table. She takes from a shelf writing materials and paper. She sits at the table.

She will leave these items as keepsakes to close friends and relatives. She wraps each of the robes in a stiff brown paper. And writes a name on each package. He look is on of remembrance and she stops to think about each item. Sometimes a smile will cross her face. She stops to look out the window.

CUT TO:

INT BARRACKS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Shinji sits at a desk by the window he can look over the barracks. He smokes. His eyes turn to the sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SUMMER DAY

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PAN DOWN FROM SKY TO SEE A HILL WITH A SINGLE TREE

A man and a small boy are practicing kendo. They fight until the boy receives a blow and falls.

SHINJI'S FATHER

Get up. There is no shame in defeat only in acquiescing.

SHINJI

I'm trying, but you always defeat me.

SHINJI'S FATHER

You think too much.

SHINJI

I do.

SHINJI'S FATHER

You must defeat your own mind. Your own fears. Your disbelief in yourself. You must know.

SHINJI

I think I can beat you.

SHINJI'S FATHER

You must know it.

SHINJI

I understand.

SHINJI'S FATHER

Good. Now take your spot.

They fight for a few minutes. Shinji gets the advantage his father fall and Shinji stops short of delivering a fatal blow. Shinji helps his father up. His father delivers a blow to Shinji.

Shinji falls in pain.

SHINJI'S FATHER

(angry)

You did not finish.

SHINJI

I could not. You are my father, nor could I if you were a friend or brother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI'S FATHER

These things are fleeting. You have only your honor.

SHINJI

I understand.

SHINJI'S FATHER

Your honor is all you have. The same amount is given to every man, what we do with it is our toad to travel.

SHINJI

Sometimes I fear the path I will take.

SHINJI'S FATHER

It is not easy for any man to know what to do from moment to moment. No matter how great that man may seem. It is the struggle to take the right path that separates men.

SHINJI

Even the emperor.

SHINJI'S FATHER

For a leader the choices are that much harder. He has so many others to think of. Remember this Dishonor is like a scar on a tree. Which instead of being healed by time only grows larger and uglier.

SHINJI

Pearls of wisdom. Anything else you would like to share.

Shinji's mother calls for them from the distance.

SHINJI'S FATHER

(smiling)

Yes when your wife calls you home return quickly.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BARRACKS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Shinji turns and smiles puts on his had belts on his sword and walks out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. THE GUEST HOUSE LIVING ROOM - LATER

Reiko is writing a letter she finishes and places it on one of the packages. She stands looks out the window. Then climbs the stairs to the bedroom. She lies on the bed, it's sheets are white and the red velvet bag sits on the sheets. She lies down and falls asleep where she is.

FADE TO BLACK.

SOUND

We hear a loud pounding on a door. The camera is focused on Reiko's face her eyes open suddenly.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT HALLWAY OF THE GUEST HOUSE

The glass of the door is frosted. We see a silhouette whenever a vehicles light pass.

ON SCREEN February 28th, 1936

Reiko appears at the front door the knocking continues. Reiko struggles with the bolt lock. A vehicle with lights passes and she can see the outline of a soldier. When the bolt finally gives way the door opens and it is Shinji. He steps in quickly and closes the door behind him.

He is covered in snow, he has a look on his face that disturbs Reiko.

REIKO

I was afraid it would be someone to
tell me you were dead.

Reiko moves to assist her husband in removing his cost. He sits on the stairs and she pull on his boot, it is a struggle for Reiko Shinji stands and enters the living room and sits obviously exhausted.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Reiko follows.

REIKO

I will make you some hot tea and
food.

Shinji does not respond. His head remains bowed in his hands
a look of deep thought. After a moment he speaks.

SHINJI

(distressed)

I knew nothing. They never asked me
to join.

(pause)

Perhaps because I was newly
married.

REIKO

(softly)

I heard their names on the radio.

SHINJI

Kano, Homma and Yamaguchi.

REIKO

You never suspected.

SHINJI

They hinted the night of my
birthday. I should have seen it
then.

REIKO

What will happen now.

SHINJI

There will be an imperial order
sent out tomorrow. They will be
named as traitors. To be executed.

REIKO

How can this be happening?

SHINJI

I will be in charge of a unit with
orders to arrest them.

REIKO

They will fight?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI

They will. I would if I believed
what they believed.

REIKO

How....

SHINJI

(interrupting)

I can't do it. I cannot attack my
brothers, my friends...

Reiko says nothing sits down beside Shinji and puts her arm
around him.

SHINJI

They have taken me off duty for the
night. General OZEKI sent me home,
but in the morning I must attack
without question
(long pause)
I cannot do it.

REIKO

No.

Shinji puts his head in Reiko's lap she puts her hand on his
head the other hand on his face. They sit like that for a few
minutes a tear rolls down his face. Reiko stares off into the
distance she is lost in thought.

Reiko gets up goes to the kitchen she begins to prepare some
tea. The camera pans from Shinji to the doorway where we see
Reiko pass the doorway while in the kitchen she returns to
the room with some tea.

Shinji has regained his composure. He looks at peace.

REIKO

(handing Shinji a cup)

Here drink this. You must still be
cold.

Shinji look up at her with his eyes now clear no tears.

SHINJI

Thank you.

Shinji takes the cup, wraps both hands around it, takes a
long drink.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REIKO
Your welcome.

SHINJI
(said almost matter of
factually)
I will not do it.

He sets the cup on the tray and stands up. Reiko stands in front of him.

REIKO
Yes I understand.

SHINJI
Reiko?

He looks her straight in the eyes.

REIKO
Yes.

SHINJI
I need to...

REIKO
I will prepare.

SHINJI
You don't...

REIKO
I am your wife.

SHINJI
You are my witness.

REIKO
I will run us a bath.

SHINJI
Yes.

REIKO
And some supper?

SHINJI
I don't think so. Would you warm
some saki for us.

REIKO
Us?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI
Yes tonight we both drink.

REIKO
Yes.

Shinji goes up the stairs, Reiko's eyes follow hi. His step can be heard on the stairs. We follow Shinji he steps into the bedroom and sees the prepared gifts. Again a tear forms in his eye. He dresses in a robe, and returns downstairs. He embraces Reiko from behind.

SHINJI
(whispering in her ear)
You are truly my wife.

Reiko rises on her toes and Shinji kisses the back of her neck.

REIKO
Some saki?

SHINJI
First my bath.

REIKO
I will be up in a moment.

Shinji goes up to the bathroom.

CUT TO:

BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Shinji is shaving his face like he is carving a statue each movement precise. He is sitting in the bath. Reiko can be heard coming up the stairs and moving around in the bedroom. Reiko looks into the bathroom.

REIKO
How is the water.

SHINJI
Warm.

REIKO
I can heat some more.

SHINJI
No it's fine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Shinji does not look away from the mirror as he shaves.

REIKO
What are you doing.

SHINJI
Preparing my face as it is now it
shall be forever.

REIKO
It will look as it always
has...strong, honorable and
beautiful.

Shinji almost smiles.

REIKO
I brought the saki up with me.
Shall I bring some in for you.

SHINJI
Yes please.

REIKO
Can I ask you something?

SHINJI
Anything.

REIKO
Why are you letting me be your
witness. Is it because there is no
one else?

SHINJI
I trust you that is the only
reason.

REIKO
You do.

SHINJI
Yes.

Reiko exits and returns downstairs. Shinji goes back to shaving when he is satisfied he cleans the razor and puts a lotion on his face. He puts everything back in its proper place. He puts on a robe and enters the bedroom.

CUT TO:

BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Shinji enters from the bathroom and lies on the bed. His face has a look of concentration. He is listening to the sounds of Reiko downstairs in the kitchen. He stands quite still for a moment. Reiko can be heard climbing the stairs. He turns to face the door.

Reiko enters. Shinji is smiling.

REIKO
 (somewhat surprised to
 find him just standing in
 the middle of the room)
 What is this smile on your face?

SHINJI
 I remember so many times hearing
 that creek on the stairs.

REIKO
 And I remember every time that I
 walked them to come to you. I could
 never find the strength if I had
 nothing but a cold empty bed to
 climb them for.

Shinji pulls her close.

REIKO
 I have to bathe don't fall asleep
 this time.

SHINJI
 (smiling)
 No.

REIKO
 (returning his smile)
 Good.

SHINJI
 I'm going to warm some more saki.

The camera follows Reiko into the bath and hear Shinji go down the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

It is still steamy in the bathroom, there is frost on the window. Reiko gets into the bath. She bathes, washes her hair, and slips under the water. She reemerges her hair is slicked back on her head from the way she comes out of the water. She moves to the end of the tub and sits in front of the mirror examining her face. We hear Shinji come back into the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Shinji lights candles and incense. He does to the bed where the tray with the saki sits and pours one for himself and one for Reiko. Reiko enters and Shinji offers her the glass. She takes it and drinks quickly. The same way people who don't drink tend to drink.

SHINJI
 (taking the glass from
 Reiko)
 Careful.

REIKO
 There is something you should know.

SHINJI
 What's that.

REIKO
 My father and I drank together many
 times since I was a young girl. He
 never had a boy remember

SHINJI
 Really!?!

REIKO
 Really Shinji.

SHINJI
 Something new every day.

REIKO
 Yes my last secret.

They both drink again and move towards the bed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHINJI

Come here, let me look at you.

Reiko looks down she is being shy. She lies down. Shinji runs the tip of his finger down her neck her robe falls to her sides. Where he puts his finger his eyes follow. He kisses her stomach. Reiko grabs the back of his head with both hands gently and moves his head so there eyes meet.

REIKO

Show me..... Let me look at you

She examines his body, kissing his chest and shoulders. She climbs on top of him and kisses him. She initiates slow passionate love. She rides him slowly. They are entwined together you can see the sweat bead on Reiko's back, we pan to burning candles and shadows on the wall.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Shinji is holding Reiko closely. She has her eyes closed.

SHINJI

(his voice tender)

It is time.

They both get up and begin to tidy the room. Shinji stows the bed in the closet. The heater in the room is extinguished. It is as if they are preparing for a trip. It is all done so casually. When the room is cleaned they both go downstairs.

CUT TO:

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS THE MOON LIGHT IS BRIGHT THROUGH THE SHADES

Reiko straightens up the downstairs. Shinji takes some paper and ink and his stamp from a drawer they continue to clean the room and prepare as if for a journey.

They extinguish all the lamps and go back upstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Reiko goes into the bathroom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REIKO
I need to touch up my face.

SHINJI
All right.

While Reiko is in the bathroom Shinji writes a letter. It states simply "Long live the imperial forces, Army, Lieutenant Takeyama Shinji."

Reiko returns from the bathroom. She sits at the table and begins to write, well she does so Shinji puts on his dress uniform.

Reiko's letter

"I make apologies for preceding my parents to the grave, and the rest of my elder relatives. I am sure that my mother will understand. I have left gifts for everyone, they are all labeled with a note for each. Cherish them as I did. The day which, for a soldier's wife, had to come, has come....."

Reiko is dressed in a beautiful white Kimono. The same one she wore on her wedding day.

SHINJI
You look perfect.

REIKO
As do you.

Shinji sits in the middle of the room with his sword across his lap. He motions for Reiko to join him.

Reiko sits and places her red velvet bag on her lap, mirroring Shinji.

SHINJI
As I have no second to finish me I shall cut deep. It may look unpleasant, but please do not panic.

REIKO
I will not.

SHINJI
I need your strength. Death of any sort is a fearful thing to witness. You must not be discouraged by what you see.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REIKO

I am resolved in my decision.

SHINJI

I am blessed by your presence. I
will be born unto death on a gentle
breeze. To fade away in your eyes.

They lock eyes for a moment.

SHINJI (cont'd)

It is time to go.

REIKO

I am ready.

Reiko bows deeply to her husband touching her head to the floor. She has tears in her eyes and does not want Shinji to see them. After a moment she sits back up. The tears streak her makeup. Shinji is preparing.

Shinji removes his sword from its sheath it shines. He wraps all but six inches of his sword in white linen. He sets his sword on the ground before him. He stands and seats himself on his knees. He undoes his uniform buttons slowly button by button.

To be sure of the sharpness of his blade he makes a cut on his forearm. The blood flows instantly.

Reiko has never seen her husband's blood and the sight of it seems to take her aback. It is now real for her. She knows the violence she is about to see. Her eyes open widely.

Shinji sets himself grasps the blade by the linen.

Shinji drives the blade into his left side.

Shinji's face is awakened by the pain his eyes open widely. He seems unsure of what has happened. He quickly returns to a steady state. The pain is evident on his face.

Sweat begins to bead on Shinji's forehead.

Reiko is beside herself it is everything she can do to keep from going to her husband's aid. The blood is flowing quickly from the wound and it begins to spread to the mat on the floor.

With only his right hand on the sword Shinji begins to make a sideways cut to the right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IT is a battle that is played out on Shinji's face. He struggles to keep the blade pushed in he begins to use his other hand.

The blood flows fiercely now.

When we look to Reiko we see a drop of blood has landed on her kimono.

Shinji begins to vomit from the pain and in so doing pushes he entrails through the cut he has made which is now a gaping wound.

His face is white and death is in his eyes.

Reiko is in tears but remains seated.

Shinji stifles a scream.

He struggles to remove the sword. He places the handle between his knees and puts the point to his neck. He looks to Shinji. She smiles lovingly. He falls on his sword.

The blade runs halfway through. His body falls forward and to the side. He is dead.

Reiko rises there is blood on the bottom of the dress. She goes to the bathroom and fixes her makeup and hair.

She goes downstairs to extinguish the stove and the way back upstairs she stops at the door she hesitates then unlock the door and leaves it slightly ajar. She stops and hesitates at the bottom of the stairs.

Cold air blows through the open door. There is only silence in the street.

She returns to the bedroom. The dawn air is beginning to come through the blinds and it creates a god light in the room.

Reiko kneels beside her husband and kisses his forehead. She reaches and grasps the velvet bag that is sitting on the floor beside her. She does not look at it. She removes the dagger from the bag and holds it in her hand in her lap.

She looks at the morning light breaking.

Quickly and suddenly she removes the dagger from the sheath and places it against her neck. She hesitates for a brief second. She closes her eyes and tear flows.

She plunges the dagger into her neck and quickly to the side. The dagger is sharp and this is easily accomplished.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Blood flows and she falls to her side and is eye to eye with Shinji's body.

Her arms go limp we see her pupils go large.

Reiko is dead.

The camera pulls back slowly and we have returned to the scene we had in the beginning.

FADE TO BLACK.

ON SCREEN: THE END