

THE MISSING SWORD(KATANA)

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. HILL TOP - DAY (JAPAN)

A lite rain wets the ground as two young men circle each other; they both slowly draw out there KATANA'S.

Moving to his left is AKYO MURAKAMI (15), he puts his katana high in front of him. Circling too right side is CHIHARU MURAKAMI(14). Putting his katana down too his side, they both nod and charge in.

THERE KATANA'S CLINCH

Pushing forward, Akyo tries to slide his sword up. Chiharu moves back, sliding his sword down. Breaking the hold, they both stand back. Staring at each, they raise there KATANA'S and Akyo circle too Chiharu left.

Chiharu raises his KATANA and stands ready.

Slowly, Akyo moves in. They CLASH there KATANA'S. They encircle each and continue striking. Pushing back Akyo puts his KATANA down to his left side waits. Swinging high, Chiharu charges in.

Akyo moves too his left, hitting Chiharu's KATANA twice, he trips Chiharu. As he is falling, Akyo slices a DEEP GASH into Chiharu back, tearing his kimono.

Chiharu SCREAMS in agony. He falls to his knees.

(PLEASE NOTE: ALL DIALOGUE WILL BE IN JAPANESE. SUBTITLES WILL BE USED.)

                  CHIHARU  
                  (angrily)  
                  What the HELL!

Akyo RUSHES to his side. Slowly he helps Chiharu stand.

                  AKYO  
                  Sorry. I just got so into the  
                  fight.

                  CHIHARU  
                  (sarcastically)  
                  You think?

                  AKYO  
                  (worried look)  
                  Father is going to kill us.

CHIHARU

Why? Because you cut my kimono.

AKYO

No.

(short beat)

Your bleeding. And yes, there is  
large slice down your kimono.

Chiharu starts to take off his kimono.

AKYO

Don't do that. Listen we have to  
come up a story. Something that  
father will believe.

(beat)

Something that we both can  
remember.

CHIHARU

You want to lie to Father?

AKYO

It's not really lying, its just a  
story so we don't get KILLED and  
our KATANA'S taken away.

(beat)

Again.

Chiharu puts his arm around Akyo shoulder.

They head for home as the rain stops.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

Three horses come too a sudden stop near a tall GRASS FIELD.  
All three riders dismount and send there horses off in  
another direction.

Running, they stop a few feet away from the road side.

They lay; waiting.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Three more horses come charging around the same bend. They  
come to a halt. They are all wearing KATANA'S and are dressed  
in traditional SAMURAI attire.

Slowly dismounting, is DOHO NEJIME (40). Seeing DUST still  
lingering in the air, he knows that the they must be close.  
He starts into the tall grass.

Pulling back several BLADES of the grass, he turns when he hears his name. He faces AKIYUKI NEJIME (35).

DOHO

Brother, you should look at this.

Akiyuki POINTS off too a near by horse standing eating grass. Slowly, he walks toward the horse awhile the others ride on horse back.

TALL GRASS

Moving, the THREE crawl back deeper into the grass; careful not to make noise.

Reaching the end, they stand and run.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY - SAME

Coming back, Akiyuki starts to pull back some blade's of GRASS. Noticing FOOTPRINTS, he signals to the other's. Mounting his horse, they ride into the TALL GRASS.

INT. MURAKAMI CASTLE - DINNING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sitting at the head of the table is DOAMI MURAKAMI(55). He's reading a letter.

INSERT - LETTER

"Dear Lord Doami,

We have received word that the TWO Mochi brother's have escaped from prison. They know that you have IT. They will do anything too take IT. I've have sent out THREE highly skilled Samurai. I'll keep you informed. Please be careful.

Signed,

The Captain."

BACK TO SCENE

Hearing the DOOR SLIDE OPEN he looks up; his two sons standing before him.

There wet, bruised, dried blood stains there kimonos.

He rushes too there sides.

DOAMI  
 (alarmed)  
 What..the...?

Looking up with tears streaming down Akyo tells his father the story.

AKYO  
 We had started back, when on the trail two men and what I think was a woman approaches us. They asked us for money. We give them what we could and started to move on. With out warning the drew there KATANA'S and attacked.

DOAMI  
 (angrily)  
They attacked you!?

CHIHARU  
 Father, we did everything we could.  
 (crying)  
 They cut me.

Doami carefully examines the WOUND. He starts to remove Akyo's kimono.

DOAMI  
 (yelling)  
AMIDA! COME QUICKLY!

RUSHING into the room is AMIDA MURAKAMI(45) seeing her boys wet, bruised, with blood stained clothes, she rushes to hold them.

AMIDA  
 Boys tell me what happened?

CHIHARU  
 Mother, we were coming home when...

DOAMI  
 (interrupting, angrily)  
 ...They were attacked!

She looks at Chiharu and Akyo. They just nod in agreement. Taking Doami's arm, they move into the HALLWAY.

HALLWAY

Standing with her back toward the boys, Amida start to ask Doami questions.

AMIDA

What are we going to do?

(beat)

There hurt.

DOAMI

I see that. And yes I'm going to do something. First thing is getting the Doctor, then...

AMIDA

(scared voice)

Then what? I know, your going to show how much POWER you have. Aren't you?

DOAMI

You don't want to know the answer to that question. So don't ask.

He breaks the HOLD and walks out too the GARDEN. He slides the door behind him.

Turning, she looks at her boys with concerned eyes. She steps back into the dinning room.

DINNING ROOM

Slowly, she takes there hands and they head toward the stairs.

STAIRS

Stopping on the first STEP, she hears a FAINT SCREAM from out in the garden. She just shakes her head and continues up with her son's.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

RUNNING FRANTICLY, the three stop in an open field. Hearing horses, they turn; seeing three riders coming behind them, they break off in different directions.

Spirting to his left is AKIYOSHI MOCHI(45). Taking shelter in some deep BUSHES he waits.

Diving in a MUDDY DITCH is JOJI TAWARA(26). Covering herself with mud, leaving just area for her mouth to breath; she lays still.

Climbing the closet TREE near him is GOKOMATSA MOCHI(36). He stops close to the top; he SITS and waits.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

Hearing movement, all three Samurai make their horses gallop. They come to a halt in a large OPEN FIELD.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- Dismounting, they all draw their KATANAS, they begin to look around.

- Walking closely along the ditch, Doho stabs deep into the muddy area.

- Looking along the tree line, KOTA stares up into the trees. Moving under each one; he throws rocks up as high as he can.

- Making his way to some under brush Akiyuki pulls back tree branch after tree branch; looking closely he sees something that looks like a foot.

AKIYUKI  
(yelling)  
THINK I FOUND SOMETHING!

Rushing from where the other two stand they quickly arrive at his side.

DOHO  
What is it?

AKIYUKI  
Well I think it's a foot.

KOTA  
That's what it looks like to me.

AKIYUKI  
You think?

KOTA  
I don't know what to think. If that is one of the men we were after, then great. If not, well that is a different story altogether.

DOHO  
Your right.

AKIYUKI

How is he right? Listen lets pull  
the body out and look and see.

PULLING hard, nothing but a leg is seen. He stumbles back,  
almost falling, he drops the leg.

DOHO

That can't be good. Were's the rest  
of the body?

AKIYUKI

Wish I knew. Why are we still hear.  
I don't think they would have  
stayed. So let's be moving on.

KOTA

Your right, since we all know where  
there headed anyway. They can't  
give us the slip for long. When we  
reach the next town, well inform  
them of the body part.

They all nod in agreement. Turning, they walk back to there  
horses and GALLOP off.

Hearing the horses leave, Gokomatsa comes out from under the  
under brush and WHISTLES.

They all THREE meet in the center of the FIELD and head off  
in another direction.

INT. CHIHARU'S ROOM - NIGHT

Laying on his side, Chiharu watches the moonlight stream  
threw to the floor. Without warning Doami enters the room.

Sitting next to his son, he begins to speak.

DOAMI

I'm sorry about this afternoon.

CHIHARU

Sorry about what?

DOAMI

(beat)  
...getting angry. I just never saw  
this coming.

CHIHARU

What...the day that we would get  
attacked?



DOAMI

No, the day that I couldn't protect my family.

He stands and PACES the room.

DOAMI

Those people who attacked you, do you remember what they looked like?

Chiharu curls up into a ball.

CHIHARU

They were all wearing torn clothes. There was one thing that was strange...

DOAMI

That would be?

Chiharu sets up.

CHIHARU

They were really dirty.

DOAMI

Dirty?

CHIHARU

(angrily)

I don't know. They were just dirty!

DOAMI

Listen, I'm sorry that your getting upset, but in order for my men to protect us we have to know there description's as best as possible. So please try and remember.

CHIHARU

Father I'm just to tired. I'll do my best in the morning.

DOAMI

That's fine. Sleep well my son.

Doami exits the room. Waiting a few moments Chiharu, throws the covers off.

Walking too the center of the room the looks at his reflection. He slowly touches the large bandage.

CHIHARU

(to self)

Why do I always get myself in these messes? Strike another on up for dumb ass.

Climbing back into bed, he throws the covers his head.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Coming out of the a small tree line, Akiyoshi, Joji, Gokomatsa make there way toward a lone cabin.

Reaching an old wooden door, Akiyoshi KNOCKS.

The door opens slowly. An old man stands before them.

AKIYOSHI

Is every thing ready?

The old man nods, standing aside, they all ENTER.

EXT. HILLSIDE - NIGHT - SAME

Seeing movement, Kota nudge's the others; they make there way toward the cabin.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Closing the door, the old man leaves the main room. Akiyoshi, Joji sit at a small wood table. Gokomatsa stare's out of a small window, watching.

Pulling out a large damp paper, Akiyoshi lays it out.

AKIYOSHI

(turning)

Gokomatsa will you stop, there's on one out there.

GOKOMATSA

Are you sure about that? Those samurai are trained.

AKIYOSHI

Yes, I'm sure. We covered our tracks well. So get over here and take a seat, we have more important things to discuss.

Reluctantly, he makes his way over to the others and takes a seat. He knows someone is watching.

AKIYOSHI

Your sure these are the right lay  
outs of the castel, Joji?

JOJI

Yes. I took them myself from my  
sister.

Turning when they hear FOOTSTEPS, the old man enters the room with supplies. Laying them down by the door, he stops.

Standing slowly, he points to the door.

GOKOMATSA

(whispering)

I told you. They followed us.

Akiyoshi motions for silence. Kneeling down, he crawls toward the door. Grabbing a katana, he makes his way toward the trap door and leaves the room.

EXT. YARD - MORNING

Several TALL WOODEN POLES line both sides of the BRICK WALL. The center of the yard is OPEN. Clearly, this a TRAINING AREA.

Off too the far left side of the WALL, Chiharu is practicing his moves on one of the POLES. Sweat beams from his forehead.

HEARING FOOTSTEPS, he turns and sees Akyo coming.

CHIHARU

What do you want?

AKYO

I came to talk too you about our  
story.

CHIHARU

Is that so?

He swings harder at the pole.

AKYO

Why are you so angry with me? I  
said that I was sorry about cutting  
you.

CHIHARU

Well father was asking question's.

AKYO

What kind of question's?

CHIHARU

What does it matter.

(sotto voce; mumbling to  
self)

I lied to father.

AKYO

What?

Dropping the WOODEN KATANA, Chiharu pushes past Akyo and heads toward the LIBRARY.

AKYO

(turning; shouting)

What?!

Chiharu doesn't stop walking. Sliding open the door, he slides it shut.

Reaching down Akyo picks up the WOODEN KATANA.

He begins to swing at the large pole. He moves in a circular motion, hitting harder with every swing. Hearing VOICES Akyo looks up.

He sees Doami talking too several GUARDS on the WALL. He pays no attention and begins hitting the pole again.

EXT. CASTEL WALL - MORNING - SAME

Three guards stand around and listen as Doami tells them about there assignments.

DOAMI

Men; just too let you know, my boys were attacked yesterday morning. We don't have a full description yet. Hopefully soon.

(short beat)

Your orders, make sure to tighten guard shifts this evening and for the next three days.

He makes his way toward the other end of the castel wall. Looking down, he notices Akyo practicing.

DOAMI

(sotto voce; to self)

I pray that you never have to use  
what I taught you.

He moves down the stairwell.

EXT. CASTEL - NIGHT

With there backs against the WEST WALL of the CASTEL, Joji, Gokomatsa and Akiyoshi split up. There KATANA'S gleam in the moonlight.

EXT. WALL - NIGHT

Reaching the TOP of the WALL, Gokomatsa and Akiyushi make there way toward the TWO guards. Taking out there short KATANA'S, they move like cats.

Slowly, Gokomatsa moves in behind one of the guards, he sits in the SHADOWS.

Coming up from the other side, Akiyushi moves and settles down close to the wall.

WHISTLING, both GUARDS look one way and...

FROM THE SHADOWS

STANDING, both Akiyoshi and Gokomatsa thrust there KATANA'S into them. Covering there SCREAM'S, they slowly lay them down.

They move DOWN the ladder inside the CASTLE GROUNDS.

EXT. MAIN GATE - LATER

Joji makes her way toward the east side of the MAIN GATE. Throwing a long rope over the wall, she secures it. She pulls herself up; slowly.

Reaching the TOP, Joji lays down. Carefully, she pulls up the rope and puts it back in her black bag.

She makes her way down a near by ladder and to the SOUTH side of the CASTEL.

INT. LIBRARY - 2 AM

Sitting, Doami stares at the letter.

DOAMI

(to self)

You need to be honest with  
yourself; hell, you need to be  
honest with your FAMILY.

(beat)

No time like the present.

He makes his way toward the DOOR.

HALLWAY

Sliding the door closed behind him, Doami heads toward the  
WEST side of the CASTLE.

His mind wonder's back too what his FATHER had told him when  
he was younger.

FLASH BACK - INT. FAMILY ROOM - MORNING (YEARS EARLIER)

Listen intently to his Father's words, Doami sits calmly.

FATHER

Son, one day your going to have  
answer for something that I did.

DOAMI

What are you saying?

FATHER

What I'm saying?

(nervously)

Well your old enough now, when I  
was younger, I did things that I  
thought were right. But now I know  
that it was wrong. I took something  
I didn't need too take.

DOAMI

Father? You took something?

FATHER

Yes.

(shaking his head)

A very old KATANA.

DOAMI

Don't you have a large collention?

FATHER

Yes. But this one was SPECIAL.

(beat)

So I was told. So I took it.

Unfortunately, it was just a well made KATANA, nothing more.

DOAMI

So just give it back.

FATHER

It's not easy. The people that we took it from...

(standing)

There all dead.

DOAMI

WHAT!

His father starts to PACE threw the room.

FATHER

Son, you have to understand something. They were bad people; people that were doing wrong. They paid with there lives.

DOAMI

Father I don't understand. You killed them?

FATHER

Yes.

He paces back to the far wall. Laying in a holder over a picture is the KATANA. Reaching up he takes it down.

FATHER

This is it.

A long blade with stunning design's of DRAGON'S is laid on the table before Doami.

DOAMI

What? You kept it? Why?

FATHER

One day you'll understand. That sometimes when you rule, you have to make good and bad decisions.

He turns and walks out of the room. Doami stands and stares down at the KATANA.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER (BACK TO PRESENT)

Standing between Akyo and Chiharu ROOMS; Doami listens for any kind of movement. Hoping that at least one of his son's would still be awake.

Silence.

DOAMI  
(nervously; to self)  
Here it goes.

He knocks on Chiharu door.

No response.

He KNOCKS HARDER.

Still nothing.

Leaning close to the door.

DOAMI  
(loud voice)  
SON! YOU IN THERE!?

Nothing.

He slides the DOOR open and enter's.

INT. CHIHARU'S ROOM - NIGHT

The bed sheets are laying on the floor.

No one is there. He rushes from the ROOM.

INT. AKYO ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

SLIDING the DOOR open, Akyo is gone.

He steps back, he stumbles and falls.

A long box that holds the KATANA lays there.

Tools used to clean; repair are scattered along the floor.

DOAMI  
(to self)  
There here.  
(thinking)  
How? My guards were ready.  
Unless...



He stands and rushes from the ROOM.

INT. SWORD ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Rushing in, he grabs a short KATANA blade.

DOAMI  
(to self; anxiously)  
There not going to kill my family

He RUSHES out.

INT. MAIN DOOR - LATER

Two guards lay dead.

Two figures stand behind Akyo and Chiharu holding blades close to there necks. With a word, they would both lose there heads.

Slowly, Doami walks toward them.

DOAMI  
(playing dumb)  
What do you want?

Nothing is said, they both don't move.

DOAMI  
I say again, WHAT DO YOU WANT!?

He steps closer.

DOAMI  
Listen, you know who I am? All I have to do is SHOUT and there will be more Samurai here than you have ever seen. So just let them go.

Slowly he reaches inside his robe.

SUDDENLY, his head is pulled back.

A blade is touched too his neck. A hand reaches threw and pulls out the small KATANA and throws it too the floor.

A MAN'S VOICE is heard from behind him.

MAN  
(deep tone)  
I have waited all my life too get close to you; your family;

things that mean so much to you. It looks like my patients has paid off.

DOAMI

What are you talking about?

Doami head is pulled back harder.

MAN

You see this wasn't all your fault. But your father is dead and what your father can't pay for you will.

DOAMI

What are you talking about?

MAN

Sometime ago, my village was destroyed and all the people were; how can I say this:

(angrily)

MURDER, RAPED, then BURNED ALIVE. Your father killed my people. Then he just walked away. Like he had did something good or meaningful...

DOAMI

Meaningful?

MAN

You know DAMN well what I'm talking about.

DOAMI

Lets say I do. What happens to my family?

The Man slowly moves in front of Doami, keeping the blade out in front.

MAN

That all depends on YOU.

Doami looks over the MAN'S shoulder at his boys.

DOAMI

Let me at say something to my boys. There scared out of there minds.

MAN

You have 5 seconds.

Lowering his BLADE, Doami walks over to Akyo and Chiharu.

DOAMI  
 (neverously)  
 Boys listen to me. Your going to be  
 fine. I'm going to get this all  
 worked out.  
 (looking over his  
 shoulder)  
 Do what ever they say.  
 (looking back)  
 Understand.

They both nod in agreement. Doami walks back toward the Man.

DOAMI  
 Don't kill them, I know what your  
 after.

MAN  
 Very good. I knew with a little  
 help, you would remember.

DOAMI  
 My father called it THE BLACK  
 KATANA.

MAN  
 That's new.  
 (beat)  
 As long as it has DRAGON'S on the  
 blade, no one will be harmed. I'll  
 know if its a fake.

DOAMI  
 It's not.

MAN  
 Good. Now lead the way.

Pushing Doami, he nearly falls. Regaining his composure, they  
 head for the SWORD ROOM.

SWORD ROOM DOOR

The Man holds his KATANA only inches from Doami back.

Doami fumbles with the lock.

DOAMI  
 So why, did you wait this long? If  
 the KATANA means that much to you  
 and your people, why not send  
 someone to break in and take it  
 back?

MAN

We did.

Doami stands and faces the Man.

DOAMI

(shocked look)

You did?

MAN

Don't act surprised. She worked for you for so long and learned the lay out of the CASTEL. How do you think we got in so easy.

Turning back to the lock, Doami finishes unlocking it.

DOAMI

So who was this person?

(angrily)

And who are you? Because my father told me that he killed everyone.

MAN

There was six of us that got away. Me and my brother are the last one's alive.

(short beat)

Are you done yet?

DOAMI

Yes.

PULLING the lock from the latch, Doami SLIDES the door open.

INT. KATANA ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Moonlight seam threw a near by window, illuminating the KATANA'S. They make there way to the back of the ROOM, stopping Doami lights a candle.

Turning, Doami faces the Man and doesn't move.

MAN

Eye's forward.

DOAMI

What's your name?

MAN

After all this, you still want to know my name?

DOAMI

Yes.

The Man steps back. The KATANA only inches from Doami's chest.

MAN

Like it makes a difference to me.  
Your going to die anyway.

(long beat)

My name is Akiyoshi. Now get the  
katana.

TURNING back around, Doami reaches up and pulls down a long scabbard. A black handle shows at the end.

Akiyoshi pulls on the black handle, the scabbard falls to the floor; empty.

Akiyoshi thrust his KATANA threw Doami shoulder.

Doami FALLS too the floor.

DOAMI

(gasping for air)

I gave you what you wanted. How  
could have I known that it was  
empty?

AKIYOSHI

Well, lets ask someone who knows  
you very well.

(shouting)

Amida, come here!

Amida enters the ROOM. She walks over and takes Akiyoshi's hand.

AMIDA

I took out the blade and hide it in  
one of the boy's rooms.

Reaching in her LONG ROBE, he clearly sees the blade.

AMIDA

You remember that young lady we  
hired?

DOAMI

(gasping for air)

Yes. She is the one that sold us  
out and helped these people.

AMIDA

Your right. But she didn't have too  
sell anything to anyone, she's my  
sister. So when she told me this  
story about your father and how he  
murdered and killed Akiyoshi family  
I was more willing to help.

DOAMI

Why?

AMIDA

Your family is evil. Now it's your  
turn to feel pain.  
(long beat; kneeling  
closer)  
At one time I think I loved you.  
But now...

She stands.

AMIDA

...you must pay for what your  
father did. It's only right. Just  
know that our sons will be fine.

Walking by Akiyoshi, she WHISPERS in his ear.

She leaves.

Akiyoshi raises his KATANA.

Doami starts to stand.

AKIYOSHI

All things come too an end.

The BLADE strikes...

BLACKNESS

We enter...

INT. APARTMENT #45 - NIGHT

A body twists and turns.

A hand moves toward a face whipping away SWEAT.

An ALARM CLOCK beeps next to a large wooden framed bed.

Rolling over the hand presses the snooze button. The ALARM GOES SILENT.

THOMAS DRAKE(34). Unshaven, he places his feet on the cold wooden tiles.

He stands.

THOMAS  
(sotto voce)  
I have to quite watch those damn  
Samurai movies.

Taking several steps, he hears his son start to CRY.

THOMAS  
(sotto voce)  
Well I see my son is up.

A WOMAN'S VOICE is heard in the b.g.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)  
Honey, can you get him this time. I  
need my sleep, I have a long day.

THOMAS DRAKE  
Yes. I was on my way there.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)  
Thanks. Love you.

Thomas makes his way out of the room.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END