

THE PRODIGAL

FADE IN

Aerial shot of downtown Japan that moves towards the hospital and into the hospital room.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

The year, Nineteen Eighty Nine. The day is gray. The rain, relentless. ANNA KOBAYASHI holds her new born baby daughter SAKURA clutched close to her bosom. Tears well in her eyes her family stands around her bed. Then the room is cleared except for her husband HARUTO. They share a private moment together.

Anna  
(soft gentle voice)  
Haruto please take care of Sakura I  
sense that she will be very  
powerful in life.

Haruto smiles through his tears.

Haruto  
I will mother.

ANNA  
Good, I can rest easy now.

Anna closes her eyes to rest. They would never open again.

Grave yard scene. Final respects to Anna.

Present day

INT. HOME - NIGHT

The huge fire place snaps and crackles a warm fire. The Kobayashi's sit and talk. They celebrate the closing of another big business deal. Besides Haruto and Sakura, TAKUMI and YAMATO the oldest brothers and SHOTA the youngest who is adopted grace the table.

HARUTO  
Sakura you haven't spoken two words  
all night. I commend your work on  
this business deal it was  
exquisite.

SAKURA  
(grim faced)  
Thank you father, I receive those  
kind words.

Sakura retreats into her silence gazing towards the fire place.

TAKUMI

(sarcastic)

Father you know our sisters intentions, she wants out, she wants to be on her own.

SAKURA

(angry)

Father I am twenty seven years old its time for me to be on my own. I don't want to sit here like these two oldest brat sons of yours.

Haruto raises both hands quieting the uprising between the siblings.

HARUTO

Sakura what would you know about living on your own?

Sakura sighs.

SAKURA

Father you treat me with such contempt.

She rises from the table excusing herself. Shota tosses olives in the air catching them in his mouth.

SHOTA

(snide)

Father, if I may speak ---

YAMATO

--- When you stop tossing those damn olives.

Shota sits up straight.

SHOTA

I apologize my most honorable bro, but father Sakura is right she is strong enough to be on her own. And I with her.

Haruto's thick eyebrows lifts his forehead to a frown.

HARUTO

You don't obey the rules in this house. What makes you think I would release you to the care of Sakura?

Shota rises from the table grabbing a handful of olives.

SHOTA  
Think about it father.

Shota heads to his room. The brothers stare as he exits.

TAKUMI  
Why do you put up with that ...  
that Hood Rat father?

Yamato sips his cognac.

YAMATO  
Why would you want to adopt such a  
headache? He's caused you nothing  
but trouble.

Haruto sighs.

HARUTO  
It was your mother's wish.

The three sit in silence.

A few weeks  
later

INT. KOBAYASHI BUILDING - DAY

Haruto and his close friend and business partner HIROSHI  
KAGAWA meet for lunch.

HIROSHI  
Something is troubling you my good  
friend.

Haruto sighs deeply.

HARUTO  
It's Sakura Hiroshi she wants to  
leave home and live on her own.

Hiroshi shrugs.

HIROSHI  
And why is that a problem  
Kobayashi?

Haruto stands pacing.

HARUTO

She knows nothing of living by herself. There's a very cruel world out there Hiroshi, parts of which she is totally unaware of.

Hiroshi smiles.

HIROSHI

There is something we can't take away from her?

Haruto stares out the massive picture window into the downtown crowd.

HARUTO

And what might that be?

HIROSHI

She is a grown woman. She's at the age where her decisions belong to her. She could easily leave, but she wants your approval, she wants your blessing.

Hiroshi surgically works the noodles from his bowl to his mouth. Wiping his mouth he continues.

HIROSHI (CONT'D)

She is a very bright woman. Your wife Anna said Sakura would be powerful in life. She deserves that chance.

Haruto continues his long stare out the window. Short silence.

HARUTO

(looking at the mass of people)

Look at them Hiroshi their like bugs crawling and gnawing over each other. How will my baby make it through all of that?

Hiroshi rises from his seat walking towards Haruto putting his arm around his shoulders guiding him back to his lunch.

HIROSHI

We will let God deal with that.

INT. PRIVATE OFFICE - DAY

Sakura sits across from her father. He slides a check in her direction.

HARUTO

Here you are Sakura one third of your inheritance. Spend it wisely my child.

Sakura reaches to shake her father's hand. He stares at her in dismay.

HARUTO (CONT'D)

A hand shake? At least a hug would be more appropriate.

Sakura smiles she stands giving her father a big hug and kiss on the cheek.

SAKURA

This is important to me father I am grateful for your trust.

Haruto, with hands in his coat pockets sits on the edge of his desk. He motions for Sakura to sit down.

HARUTO

There is a wise tale in the King James version of the bible that speaks of a young man who wanted his inheritance because he wanted to live in the world. His father granted that wish and the boy left the comforts of home to explore the unknown. He lived extravagantly, wild parties, with loose women. Then, one day, he realizes that he is broke. And his friends, well they were no more.

Sakura smiles.

SAKURA

I know the story father, The Prodigal son. Son father, not prodigal daughter. I think I will have a bit more sense than that.

He pats her on the back approvingly.

HARUTO

I'm sure that you will. Oh, and by the way I added a few more dollars for you, Shota is coming with you. Maybe you will have better luck with him.

Sakura exits her fathers office.

One month later.

INT. CONDO - DAY

Shota and Sakura sit on the balcony of their expensive condo irritated, bored, almost lifeless.

SHOTA

(frustrated)

This is crazy! We live in the heart of downtown and we've been stuck in this condo doing nothing.

Phone rings. Shota hustles to answer his phone. He returns to the balcony excited.

SHOTA (CONT'D)

Sakura there's a big party at the WOMB tonight.

Sakura is shocked.

SAKURA

THE WHO?! Shota what kind of name is that?

Shota races to his room pulling clothes from the closet.

SHOTA

We're goin to the club Sakura it's time to get out this house.

Sakura's excitement drives her to the closet. She carefully selects her outfit for the club.

EXT. THE WOMB - NIGHT

Bright lights, big crowd. The lines to get in the club are long.

INSIDE THE CLUB.

The club is rockin. Shota gets lost in the crowd, Sakura is on her own. The crowd is massive this is not her idea of a good time. An hour later she finds her brother to let him know it's time to go. Shota is in his element. He tells Sakura he will be home later.

INT. CONDO - MORNING

Sakura pops straight up in the bed startled from a dream. She jumps out of bed heading to Shota's room, he's not in his bed, but passed out on the floor behind his bed. Sakura breathes a sigh of relief. She helps him in the bed.

INT. CONDO - AFTERNOON

Shota crawls from his room hung over.

SHOTA  
(gruff voice)  
Sakura what time is it?

Shota stumbles out the room. She assist him to a chair before he falls. She hands him a cup of tea.

SAKURA  
(smiling)  
Here, drink this.

Shota takes slow careful sips of the hot tea.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
(facetious)  
Mister party dude. Looks as if you had a good time.

Shota drains the cup of tea. He shakes the cob webs.

SHOTA  
It was cool. Man, I met some wild people at that party.

Sakura returns to the stove doctoring her food.

SAKURA  
That hard party life will get ya lil brother.

Shota stretches.



SHOTA

Yeah but it has it's benefits. I met me a nice chick last night. We got a date tonight.

Sakura shakes her head in discuss.

SAKURA

You're moving to fast Shota slow down, you need to rest, recover and take a shower. You smell of whiskey.

Shota laughs out loud. He walks over to his sister hugging, leaning on her.

SHOTA

(playful)

The smell of a good party.

Sakura pushes him away pointing towards the shower room.

EXT. KOBAYASHI BUILDING - DAY

Takumi and Yamato head inside the building to meet with their father.

INSIDE THE OFFICE.

Hiroshi Kagawa exits Haruto's office. The brothers brush pass him without speaking.

HARUTO

(somewhat agitated)

Did you not see Hiroshi when you came in?

Neither brother responds.

HARUTO (CONT'D)

(forceful)

He is a respected business partner and close family friend. You will treat him with the highest honor. Is that understood?

The brothers agree.

YAMATO

Father if I may say so, why do you continue to deal with this old fossil and his ancient ways of doing business?

Crunch! Yamato bites into an apple. Haruto chuckles at the comment. He invites his sons to sit.

HARUTO

(focusing in on his sons)  
Young minds, Sharpe, but not yet wise. How many times have I advised you to surround yourself with wisdom, yet you do not listen. The lack of wisdom will cost you one day.

Crunch! Yamato takes another bite of apple. Haruto smiles shaking his head.

TAKUMI

Father you are all the wisdom we need. You have taught us well.

Haruto stands pacing the floor.

HARUTO

I've called you here because this "old fossil" as you have defined him has informed me of a huge real-estate deal that is forth coming. I want you and Yamato to handle it for me.

Silence. The brothers stare at each other nervously. Haruto stands at his familiar spot staring out the massive picture window into the day. Silence.

HARUTO (CONT'D)

Are my sons still in the room?

The brothers stumble out of their silence.

TAKUMI

Ah, Yes father, we are still here.

HARUTO

So my young, Sharpe minded, whip-a-snappers what's the answer or do I call Sakura?

YAMATO

Father please, you insult us with such a suggestion. She abandoned the family, a prodigal. Her name should not be mentioned.

Haruto spins quickly away from the window marching towards his sons.

HARUTO

(pointing at them)

She is my daughter, she is your sister, she is our blood. You have angered me twice today with your foolish talk. You will protect her at all cost. Nothing comes before family.

They bow respectfully before their father. Haruto returns to his place of comfort.

HARUTO (CONT'D)

Now the conditions to successfully landing this deal is that you must work with Kagawa.

Takumi rolls his eyes in discuss.

TAKUMI

Father please, my brother and I do not see eye to eye with Kagawa when it comes to doing business. These are progressive times. Trust us with this one. We will not fail you.

Haruto stares silently out the window. He sighs deeply, turning slowly towards his sons.

HARUTO

I feel in my heart that I will regret this decision but, I will give you this opportunity.

The brothers leap from their seats hugging their father joyously.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS - DAY

Sakura walks the streets peeping in and out of hotels and brothels looking for Shota. He has not been home for three days.

INT. DOCTORS OFFICE - DAY

Haruto breathes deep as the stethoscope Journeys from his back to his chest area.

Doctor  
I need for you to come in for an  
extensive work up of test and X-  
rays Mr. Kobayashi.

Haruto flips his undershirt over his head then works into his shirt.

HARUTO  
Problems Isha? (Doctor)

The doctor shrugs.

DOCTOR  
Not for sure but it doesn't hurt to  
have everything checked out. When  
was the last time you took some  
time off Haruto?

Haruto sighs, shrugs.

HARUTO  
Ya know I really can't remember  
when I've had some quality time  
off.

The doctor grabs Haruto's coat helping him into it. Pats him on the back.

DOCTOR  
Take some time off my friend, you  
need it.

Haruto hugs his doctor. He exits the office.

EXT. CONDO - NIGHT

A taxi pulls up in front of the condo. Shota exits with three of his loafer friends. Their all high and drunk.

INT. CONDO - SAME

Shota quietly slips his key into the door lock. Sakura suddenly jerks the door open pulling Shota to the ground, laughter. Sakura goes to her room. Shota and his friends party half the night.

INT. CONDO - MORNING

Sakura wakes to see people sprawled over the living room floor. She maneuvers around them getting to Shota.

SAKURA  
(angry, shouting)  
SHOTA GET THESE PEOPLE OUT OF MY  
HOUSE .... NOW!

Shota groans, Sakura grabs Shota power lifting him to his feet. He stumbles almost falling but gathers himself.

SHOTA  
(loud voice)  
HEY, PEOPLE, MY SISTER WANTS YOU  
OUT OF THE HOUSE ... NOW!

The loafers scramble to their feet heading out the door.

LOAFER 1  
(at Shota)  
See you later at The club dude.  
Don't forget about Jenny.

Sakura pushes them out the door slamming it behind them. Shota slumps into a chair half sleep.

SAKURA  
(angered)  
What has happened to you Shota? You  
have no morals, no decency. Now  
you're running with drug dealers  
and scum and you bring them into  
our home. Maybe you need to go  
back home to father's.

Shota jumps to attention waving off Sakura's suggestion.

SHOTA  
NO! Sakura please! Wait, don't send  
me back to that, that hell hole.  
I'll do right.

The tea pot whistles.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

The brother's Kobayashi leave the office with their dates for the night. They enter the black BENTLEY headed to a party.

## GIRL DATE ONE

So Takumi this real-estate deal  
could net your company in the  
billions of dollars?

Takumi wraps his arm around his date kissing her  
aggressively. He smiles facetiously.

## TAKUMI

You like diamonds don't you?

She smiles approvingly. They arrive at the party.

Some two weeks  
later.

## INT. DOCTORS OFFICE - DAY

The Doctor sits with Haruto in his office.

## HARUTO

You are not smiling Isha. (Doctor)

The Doctor slowly leans back into his chair. Sighs deeply.

## DOCTOR

I don't know how to say this  
Haruto.

Haruto leans forward on the desk.

## HARUTO

Let me hear it honestly Isha.

## DOCTOR

It's cancer Kobayashi.

Haruto slumps back in his chair.

## HARUTO

How much time?

The Doctor shrugs.

## DOCTOR

Medically speaking I would say six  
months, maybe a year if you slow  
down. It seems to be moving  
aggressively through your body.

Haruto runs his fingers through his hair nervously.

HARUTO  
Can we slow it down?

DOCTOR  
Yes, there are ways of slowing it  
but it can be quite painful.

HARUTO  
I'll have to take my chances.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Sakura makes her way up the dingy gray steps of the police station to bail Shota out of jail for drug possession. Shota walks pass Sakura without saying anything. The ride home is silent.

INT. CONDO - NIGHT

Sakura calls her father in desperation.

HARUTO  
Hello.

Silence.

HARUTO (CONT'D)  
Hello, Sakura why aren't you  
speaking, is everything OK?

She sighs.

SAKURA  
(emotional)  
Father, I can't handle Shota any  
longer he is like ... Totally out  
of control.

Haruto is silent.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
(desperate)  
FATHER ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, I  
need help with Shota.

Suddenly the phone call goes dead. She re-dials her father's phone but no answer. Sakura weeps angrily.

INT. MEETING ROOM - MORNING

The brother's Kobayashi along with four other business associates meet with the Executive Chairman of the real-estate holdings.

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

I am looking forward to working with the company that wins the bid for this contract.

The competitors sit around the huge marble, oval shaped table staring nervously at the Chairman. Five female associates of the chairman bring out one binder each with the competitors names on them.

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)

There are private offices throughout this floor, each with a letter on the door. You will open your binders which has a letter in it, proceed to that office to complete your bid. An overview of the project is in your binder. Please read carefully. You have one hour, at which time my associates will collect your binders. Good luck ladies and gentleman.

The Chairman leaves the meeting room. The brother's anxiously smile as they carefully tear the paper strap off the binder then head to the private office marked K.

One hour later

INT. MEETING ROOM - SAME

Knock on door. The associate enters without the brother's invite. Straight faced she takes the binder, bows to the brother's then exits the room.

TAKUMI

Man, that was some intense stuff.

YAMATO

(smiling)

Yeah but for a billion dollar contract, it was worth it.

The brother's exit the building.



EXT. CAR - DAY

The rain is pouring down. Sakura rushes through the city traffic barely paying attention to the stop signals. Tears stream down her cheeks.

SAKURA  
 (talking to herself)  
 What is happening to me, what have I done to myself to deserve this. Now my brother is a dope addict. He shoots drugs.

EXT. MANSION - SAME

Sakura hustles out her car. She knocks loudly on the door.

SAKURA  
 (screaming)  
 FATHER, PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR. IT'S SAKURA, OPEN THE DOOR PLEASE!

A security guard comes to the door. Sakura tries pushing her way pass the bulky guard into the house. He forces her back.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
 (frantically shouting)  
 WHERE'S MY FATHER, I NEED TO SPEAK TO MY FATHER!

The guard steps out the house closing the door behind him.

GUARD  
 (mild mannered)  
 Ms. Sakura for your own sake please, you must calm down.

SAKURA  
 (livid)  
 FATHER, SHOTA IS SHOOTING DRUGS UP HIS ARM.(Subdued, crying) Father I don't know what to do.

Haruto along with his two sons watch from partially opened blinds. Tears pour down Haruto's face. He turns to rush to his daughter's rescue but Takumi and Yamato stop him.

YAMATO  
 Father, please, this is what she wanted. You released her and that crazy kid with her.

Haruto drops in a chair near the window.

TAKUMI

You told us about wisdom being our  
most blessed asset. Was it wise  
for her to take on such a  
challenge?

Haruto stares aimlessly at the floor. Then he rises slowly to his feet. Sakura's cries echo through the rain. He turns slowly peeping out the blinds at his daughter as she slumps to the ground in the pouring rain. A incisive pain bends Haruto over.

TAKUMI (CONT'D)

Come and lie down father.

They usher him to his bedroom. The guard helps Sakura to her feet walking her to her car.

INT. CONDO - MORNING

Sakura lies staring at the ceiling. Shota comes standing in her doorway.

SHOTA

(innocent voice)

Sakura?

She slowly looks in Shota's direction.

SAKURA

(non concerning)

Yes.

SHOTA

(polite, careful)

May I enter your room?

Sakura looks away from his direction.

SAKURA

(sighs)

Yes.

Shota strolls carefully towards a chair sitting next to her bed.

SHOTA

(pointing at the chair)

May I?

Sakura sighs.

SAKURA  
Sit down Shota.

He eases down in the chair. Silence.

SHOTA  
(uncomfortable)  
I guess I've caused you much  
trouble Sakura.

Sakura smirks. Staring opposite Shota.

SAKURA  
(sarcastic)  
You guess you've caused me much  
trouble. Well, yes, you have  
Shota.

Shota is lost for words. She turns facing Shota.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
Now you are shooting drugs up your  
arm that will kill you.

A sudden hard knock at the door alarms them both.

PERSON AT DOOR  
SHOTA ANSWER THE DOOR, SHOTA!

Sakura braves herself answering the door. The oversized aggressor pushes pass Sakura looking for Shota who is hiding under his bed. The man grabs Sakura by the neck.

MAN  
Shota I will snap her neck if you  
do not appear in 5-4-3-2 ...

Shota comes from under the bed to face the man. He releases Sakura's neck.

MAN (CONT'D)  
Where is my money Shota?

Sakura stares at Shota angrily.

SAKURA  
(confused, surprised)  
Money! What money Shota?

Silence. The man looks at Shota wanting an answer.

MAN  
OK lady he don't want to talk I'll  
tell you. It's ...

SHOTA  
 (interrupts)  
 TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS.

Sakura is shocked. The man pulls a gun from his coat pocket pressing it against Shota's head. Sakura raises both hands in surrender.

SAKURA  
 Wait, hold on. Give me an hour and  
 I'll have your money.

The man sits.

MAN  
 I'll be right here and so will  
 Shota and please lady no police  
 Cause I will shoot him and you too.

ONE HOUR LATER

Sakura returns with a large manila envelope. She tosses it at the man. He inspects the inside of the package.

SAKURA  
 It's all there.

The man exits quickly out the door. Sakura retires to her room shutting the door behind her. Click. She locks the door.

INT. MANSION - DAY

Haruto is bedridden. He fades in and out of consciousness. His sons sit by his bed side.

HARUTO  
 (opens his eyes just  
 slightly, scratchy voice)  
 I must see Sakura and Shota.

The brother's look at each other, one gesturing at the other to answer their father.

TAKUMI  
 (slightly lifting his  
 father's head)  
 Here father drink some juice.

Haruto refuses turning his head away. Takumi signals Yamato to say something.

YAMATO

Father please, we have been calling Sakura but she won't answer her phone.

Haruto struggles to face his sons.

HARUTO

Liars! Why would you lie to me as the hours of my life slip away.

He closes his eyes, tears run down his cheeks.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAR - DAY

Hiroshi exits his car to meet privately with Haruto.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME

HIROSHI

You are looking much better Haruto.

Haruto forces himself to sit up in the bed.

HARUTO

(smiling)

Ah, thank you my friend. I would love to feel as good as you say I look.

Hiroshi pulls paper work from his leather briefcase.

HARUTO (CONT'D)

Is everything in order Watashi no yujin? (My friend)

Hiroshi hands the paper work to Haruto to examine.

HIROSHI

Sore wa anata no shomei o matte.  
(It awaits your signature)

Haruto bows slightly towards Hiroshi.

HARUTO

Hai! (Yes)

Haruto signatures the documents handing them back to Hiroshi. He slides down beneath the covers. Haruto sighs.

HARUTO (CONT'D)

Life has so many twist and turns  
Hiroshi. You cannot see one from  
the other.

Hiroshi smiles.

HIROSHI

The Lords ways are not our own, nor  
can we think on his level. He can  
be very tough to figure out.

Haruto grabs Hiroshi's hand squeezing it tightly. Tears flow  
down both mens faces. No words just true emotions. Hiroshi  
rises slowly.

HIROSHI (CONT'D)

Live long my friend.

Haruto winks at him. He exits the room passing the brothers  
as they enter.

HIROSHI (CONT'D)

(to the brothers)  
Gentlemen.

They stop and stare as Hiroshi disappears down the hallway.

YAMATO

Father what was the ancient ones  
advice today?

Haruto smiles, closes his eyes and sleeps.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - MORNING

Sakura and Shota stand outside the stations main entrance.

SAKURA

This resort will help you Shota  
it's the only way brother. That  
last withdrawal episode was a bit  
to much for me.

Shota hugs his sister leaning on her shoulder.

SHOTA

I will do well Sakura, I will be  
back ...

Sakura crosses her fingers. She hugs her brother.

SAKURA  
 (whispers to Shota)  
 I love you Shota.

Sakura turns and walks away. Shota watches her disappear in the crowd.

INT. MEETING ROOM - MORNING

The Executive Chairman of the Real-Estate Holdings meet with his staff to begin the elimination process of the bids. The team combs through the five competitors bid packages.

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN  
 (lighting his cigar)  
 I have chosen the two finalist.  
 The Kobayashi's and TOMA WATANABE.  
 Contact them, I will meet with them  
 one more time.

TOMA WATANABE, twenty eight years old, ruggedly handsome. A businessman and close friend of Sakura. The meeting adjourns.

INT. MANSION - AFTERNOON

The Doctor exams Haruto as he struggles to breath. Takumi, Yamato, Hiroshi, and some of the house staff are in the room.

DOCTOR  
 Has anyone tried to contact his  
 daughter and youngest son?

Silence.

HARUTO  
 (out loud, crying)  
 SAKURA, WHERE IS SAKURA? Please let  
 me see my daughter before I leave  
 this world. PLEASE!

Yamato's emotions get the best of him. He quickly exits the room. The rain beats harder. A lightening strike flashes by the window followed suddenly by a loud crack of thunder.

HARUTO (CONT'D)  
 (delirious)  
 SAKURA, she is here, yes?

Silence. Haruto musters a bit of strength lifting himself up. The Doctor eases him back down.

HARUTO (CONT'D)

I will not die until I see my baby.

A sharp pain rips through his body. He cries out loud. The Doctor runs the stethoscope across his chest. He slowly removes it stepping backwards shaking his head. The Doctor exits the room. One by one the room empties. Hiroshi remains with Haruto. He grabs Haruto's hand.

HARUTO (CONT'D)

(struggling voice)

Promise me you will take care of her.

Hiroshi nods his approval.

HARUTO (CONT'D)

(smiling)

Good I can rest now.

Haruto closes his eyes inhales a deep breath then slowly exhales his last.

EXT. PRIVATE BURIAL GROUNDS - DAY

The gray sky cast a low somber affect on the day. Black umbrella's tent the grounds as Haruto Kobayashi is laid to rest next to his wife Anna. Sakura, draped in an all black pants suit stands closest to her fathers casket. The rain taps lightly on her umbrella.

SAKURA

(talking softly to herself)

Why father. Is this how it ends between you and I? Why didn't I know that you were sick? Why didn't anyone tell me that you were dying?

Hiroshi walks softly standing next to Sakura. He secures his arm around her waist signifying that she's not alone. He grabs her umbrella allowing her to softly blow her nose.

HIROSHI

Your brothers say they tried to contact you about your father's illness.

Sakura stares angrily at Hiroshi.



SAKURA

When? I never received a called from neither one of them. They are both hateful liars! I needed my father's help with Shota and they kept my father away from me.

Sakura cries in her handkerchief. A priest hits the gong seven times, it echoes through the silence. The ceremony ends. The people pay condolences to Sakura and her brothers. The crowd dwindles to only a few. Sakura speaks to her brothers.

SAKURA (CONT'D)

(respectful)

Brothers why is it that you did not contact me about our father?

Takumi stands facing Sakura.

TAKUMI

Father wanted nothing else to do with you.

Sakura sighs deeply.

SAKURA

Father was not like that you kept him away from me on purpose Takumi.

Yamato stands with his brother.

YAMATO

Your choice was to leave the family and do things on your own. Shota was not a wise decision.

SAKURA

Maybe Shota was not a wise choice to make but now our brother needs help. We need to come back home.

The brothers are cold and callous.

TAKUMI

NO!

They walk away. Security escorts Sakura off the burial grounds. Hiroshi walks with Sakura.

Two weeks later.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

The Executive Chairman meets with the Kobayashi's and a representative of Toma Watanabe. The representative is late. Upon entering the room the brother's are shocked to see Hiroshi Kagawa.

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Kagawa I thank you for being here this morning.

The brother's rise to their feet in disgust.

TAKUMI

(outraged)

THIS CANNOT BE. YOU REPRESENT MY FATHER. How ...

Hiroshi remains straight faced.

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

... Gentleman Please sit down!

The brother's ease back in their seats glaring at Hiroshi. The chairman stands, he begins his speech.

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)

Let me say to the Kobayashi's that I am sadden by the lost of your father. He was a true friend.

The brother's bow respectfully.

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)

This was a tough decision but I feel I have chosen the right person for this contract. Mr. Kagawa would please inform Mr. TOMA WATANABE that he has won the bid.

Hiroshi bows smiling.

HIROSHI

Thank you sir I shall inform him right away.

Hiroshi hustles out the room as the brother's sit stunned. Takumi storms out the room.

YAMATO

Sir, Mr. Chairman, I don't think you understand, Mr. Hiroshi works with my father.

(MORE)

YAMATO (CONT'D)

I mean when did he become a representative for Watanabe?

The chairman shrugs.

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

I think your father was aware of the arrangement between Kagawa and Watanabe.

The chairman gathers his briefcase and leaves the room. A look of betrayal marks Yamato's face.

INT. CAR - SAME

The brother's stare aimlessly out opposite windows.

YAMATO

(angry)

We should have listen to father and worked with the old man.

Takumi sighs.

TAKUMI

(flustered)

We were set up, doubled crossed, our own father punked us.

Yamato focuses his glare towards his brother.

YAMATO

What are you saying, why would father do such a thing? You're talking crazy. We blew it!

Silence.

EXT. RECOVERY RESORT - DAY

Shota walks the grounds of the resort. The gentle winds blow mildly through the colossal palm trees that envelops the beautifully manicure lawns and precisely cut hedges.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME

Shota wanders around his bedroom. Knock on the door. JOEY CHUNG, caretaker at the resort.

SHOTA  
It's open Chung.

Joey slowly opens the door peering in.

JOEY  
Shota, Shota! What's up wit you  
dude?

Shota shrugs.

SHOTA  
(irritated)  
I'm bored man. What's there to do  
around here? Nowhere to go,  
there's nothing around for miles.  
I'm not use to this.

Joey creeps in the room closing the door.

JOEY  
Yeah man it can get ghostly around  
here. But there are ways to get  
some relief.

Shota throws up both hands.

SHOTA  
Please bro I need something,  
anything to break this boredom.

Joey dangles a set of keys in Shota's view.

SHOTA (CONT'D)  
What is it with the keys Chung?

Joey walks towards Shota, keys still dangling.

JOEY  
It's a way out Shota.

Shota frowns, shrugging.

SHOTA  
A way out of where, here?

Joey drops the keys in Shota's lap.

JOEY  
A way out to wherever you want to  
go.

Shota shakes his head confused.

SHOTA  
 (frustrated)  
 You're losing me Joey.

JOEY  
 Keys to the dispensary dummy, the  
 drug box dude.

Shota lifts the keys staring at them. Joey heads towards the door. As he exits he looks back over his shoulder towards Shota.

JOEY (CONT'D)  
 Enjoy yourself Shota. I'll retrieve  
 my keys in the morning.

Joey leaves. Shota sits, then stands pacing the floor keys in hand. He slams the keys on the table.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Knock on the door.

JOEY  
 Shota its Joey open the door.

Joey turns the knob, the door is locked.

JOEY (CONT'D)  
 (worried)  
 Shota open the door dude.

Joey retrieves a janitor to open the door. They enter, Shota is on the floor, eyes rolled back in his head unresponsive to Joey's call. A pill bottle lay empty on the floor. Paramedics are called in.

INT. HOSPITAL - SAME

The doctor emerges out of the trauma room peeling off his protective gloves. Sakura is his only recipient.

EMERGENCY ROOM DOCTOR  
 Are you related to the young man?

Sakura anxious, nervous.

SAKURA  
 Hai (Yes) Ishi (Doctor) how is he,  
 can I see him?

The doctor secures Sakura's hands in his own.

EMERGENCY ROOM DOCTOR  
 He didn't make it, he's dead.  
 Yakubutsu chudoku. (Drug overdose)

Sakura closes her eyes, tears stream down her cheeks the  
 Doctor leads her to a chair to sit. He hands her a tissue.  
 Sakura gently blows her nose.

SAKURA  
 (shocked)  
 A drug overdose?! How could that  
 be when he was in drug rehab?

DOCTOR  
 These things happen all the time.  
 He was very aggressive with his  
 drug use.

EXT. RECOVERY RESORT - DAY

Sakura meets with Joey Chung outside the facility.

SAKURA  
 I just need to know how he  
 overdosed on drugs?

Joey Shrugs.

JOEY  
 I think he stole a set of keys and  
 got into the dispensary.

Sakura shakes her head in disbelief.

SAKURA  
 That doesn't sound like my brother.

JOEY  
 I don't know Ms. Sakura he was  
 sounding real desperate.

Sakura hugs Joey, enters her car and leaves.

EXT. PRIVATE BURIAL GROUNDS - DAY

Sakura and only two of Shota's friends attend his burial  
 service. Sakura sits in a chair next to her brother's casket  
 after the two friends are gone. The priest reads the final  
 words, hits the gong, and Shota is lowered in the ground.

SAKURA  
 (talking to herself,  
 somber)  
 I'll miss you brother.

She stands, drops a rose on top his casket. She walks away not looking back.

INT. MANSION - AFTERNOON

Contentions between Takumi and Yamato escalate. Their inability to cope puts a strain on the family business. Yamato moves out the mansion.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS - NIGHT

Despondent and sick at heart Sakura walks the busy streets of the downtown club district. She ventures into "THE LOCAL" a quaint little jazz club just to ease her mind. She sips on a glass of wine as The ENTERTAINER, KEN is performing. His swag and smooth demeanor along with his silky singing voice draws her attention. She works her way back stage to meet him. Ken notices Sakura and makes his way towards her. He gently takes her hand kissing it.

KEN  
 (smiling)  
 And who might you be?

SAKURA  
 (blushed)  
 Sakura. I really enjoyed your singing. You're very good.

KEN  
 Thank you.

Silence.

SAKURA  
 So, do you perform here every night?

Ken flip flops his hand.

KEN  
 Three nights a week if I'm lucky.  
 So do you hang out here a lot?

Sakura blushing, smiling.

SAKURA  
No, it's my first time.

BACK STAGE WORKER  
Ken you got five minutes before  
your next set bro.

Sakura is mesmerized by his coolness.

KEN  
So you staying?

SAKURA  
Ah, no I've got to go but I'd love  
to come and see you ... I mean hear  
your sing again.

Ken walks closer giving Sakura a hug. She hugs him firmly.

KEN  
I'll be here tomorrow waiting to  
see you.

Sakura backs away slowly never taking her eyes off him. She waves, he responds with a wave.

Some weeks  
later.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS - DAY

The cold blustery wind sweeps between Ken and Sakura squeezing them closer together.

SAKURA  
(smiling)  
Now that you know about my family,  
tell me of yours.

Ken sighs.

KEN  
Uh-Oh! Are you sure you want to  
know about my family?

Sakura shakes her head approvingly.



KEN (CONT'D)

Well lets see, my family is from the United States, not rich but comfortable, I'm black, (Sakura chuckles, punching him playfully) I have two sisters, two brothers, a mom, a dad, and some other folks I won't mention.

Suddenly a BLACK ARNAGE BENTLEY pulls up, momentarily surprising the couple. Takumi springs from the back door of the car angry.

TAKUMI

What are you doing with this ... this person? (Points towards the car) Get into the car, NOW!

Sakura, shocked and angered.

SAKURA

(fed up)  
Who are you talking to Takumi?

Takumi advances towards Sakura.

TAKUMI

I will not tell you again, get into the car.

Takumi grabs Sakura by the arm forcing her towards the car. Ken aggressively intercedes pushing Takumi away from Sakura, standing in front of her to protect her. Takumi stares at Ken with eyes that pierce like knives.

TAKUMI (CONT'D)

(at his sister, enraged)  
Anata wa watashitachi no kazoku o haji to shite imasu. (You have disgraced our family)

Sakura eases from behind Ken walking into her brothers face. Screaming.

SAKURA

(incensed)  
DONO YONA KAZOKU? (What family)  
Father is dead, Shota is dead and when I needed my brothers help you turned your back on me. And you call that family?

Takumi points his finger at Sakura and then at Ken as a silent warning. He marches to his car and is driven away. Sakura cries profusely. Ken consoles her.

INT. CONDO - NIGHT

Ken and Sakura lay atop the bed silently looking upward.

KEN  
Penny for every thought.

Sakura turns facing Ken.

SAKURA  
Come live with me.

Kisses him softly on the lips. Ken pulls a penny from the night stand.

KEN  
Hold out your hand.

Sakura obliges. Ken drops the penny in her hand.

KEN (CONT'D)  
I like that thought.

Sakura grins.

SAKURA  
So I take that as a yes?

KEN  
Yes, as long as there's no trouble  
with your brother.

They kiss passionately.

EXT. MANSION - DAY

Hiroshi walks to the patio to meet with Takumi.

TAKUMI  
Please sit down Mr. Kagawa. Would  
you like some tea?

Hiroshi agrees.

TAKUMI (CONT'D)

(pacing)

Hiroshi you have been a faithful and true friend of my father's for many years. He trusted you regarding his business affairs. And I must admit my brother and I are not great fans of your business prowess, but I am confused about something Hiroshi, why would you associate yourself with a business rival betraying my father?

Hiroshi sips his tea, then carefully places his tea cup on the table coaster. He takes his napkin wiping his mouth. Clearing his throat.

HIROSHI

First of all Takumi understand that I would never betray your father. Your father needed to teach you and Yamato a lesson in obedience. Your instructions were to work with me, you and your brother refused.

TAKUMI

So are you saying my father betrayed us?

Hiroshi laughs, taking a sip of his tea.

HIROSHI

You see as a man who cannot see at all. Your blind wisdom took you and Yamato in the wrong direction. One of your father's greatest assets was being able to work with those he never saw eye to eye with. He's wealthy today because of it. You call your father wise but you do not follow in his foot steps. It has cost you greatly.

Hiroshi drinks the rest of his tea. He stands to leave.

TAKUMI

So, are you still working with my father?

HIROSHI

Your father is no longer with us.

He bows then exits.

INT. THE LOCAL - NIGHT

Toma Watanabe comes into the club with some of his female friends. Sakura ventures to his table. Toma is drinking and feeling good. He hugs Sakura passionately. He introduces her to his friends.

TOMA

(smiling)

Sakura Kobayashi how are you? You are as beautiful as the first time I met you.

Sakura sighs.

SAKURA.

You met me in elementary school Toma. Anyway I want to congratulate you on your new business deal.

Toma throws back a shot of cognac. He turns his attention to the entertainer.

TOMA

Who is this guy singing, he's good!

Sakura smiles. Ken finishes his set. Sakura brings him over to meet Toma.

SAKURA

Everyone I'd like you to meet my friend, Ken, Ken this is my childhood friend Toma and his friends.

Toma acts surprised. Ken reaches to shake Toma hand, but is not obliged. Toma excuses him self going to the bar.

One week later.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Ken and Sakura sit on the park bench talking.

KEN

(staring towards the pond,  
frustrated)

I'm tired of the club Sakura. It just doesn't move me anymore. I'm thinking about leaving the country.

Sakura grabs Kens face spinning it towards hers.

SAKURA

(shocked)

What do you mean leave the country,  
for what?!

Ken leans forward, elbows on knees resting his hands under his chin.

KEN

I want my own joint, my own club.  
I would do things different.

Sakura kneels in front of Ken.

SAKURA

Let me help you. I still have some  
inheritance money.

Ken kisses her on the forehead.

KEN

I appreciate your help Sakura but  
... No, your going through enough  
with your brothers.

Sakura steps away grabbing her cell phone. She calls Takumi.

SAKURA

Hello brother I want to come and  
speak with you. It's time that we  
end this bad blood between us.

Silence. He sighs deeply.

TAKUMI

Yes Sakura it is time.

The phone call ends. Ken gives Sakura a thumbs up.

INT. MANSION - DAY

Sakura walks through the house opening the huge french style drapes allowing the sun to pour in its warming rays.

SAKURA

Father and mother both are turning  
in their graves. What have you  
been doing in this house brother  
where are the house keepers and  
where's Yamato?

Takumi sits in his big chair not paying attention.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
Takumi are you listening to me?

She sprays air freshner throughout the house.

TAKUMI  
(dismissive)  
Yamato no longer lives here and I  
fired the house help.

Sakura sits in her father's chair. Takumi looks over at her smiling.

TAKUMI (CONT'D)  
You remind me of mother sitting  
there. She would always sit in that  
chair when she gave me and Yamato  
spankings.

Sakura picks up a family portrait staring at it grinning.

SAKURA  
Everyone looks so happy and content  
in this picture.

She views a picture of her mother holding her just after she was born.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
Mother is so beautiful.

Takumi glances her way.

TAKUMI  
You speak the truth lil sister.

Takumi rises slowly from his chair pacing.

TAKUMI (CONT'D)  
So, Sakura, who is this new friend  
of yours?

She grins, then sighs.

SAKURA  
My friend. Besides I'm not here to  
speak on my private life. We're  
here to fix what's broken between  
us.

Takumi returns to his chair.

TAKUMI  
Well for now we will let it rest.

Sakura shakes her head in disbelief.

SAKURA  
Letting it rest will not change it.

TAKUMI  
Yosu o miyou. (We will see)

ONE WEEK LATER.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Toma walks with Sakura.

SAKURA  
You were extremely rude the other  
night at the club.

Toma shrugs.

TOMA  
So now you have befriend a Kokujin.  
(Black man)

Sakura stops in her tracks.

SAKURA  
(slight attitude)  
Yes, and so what, is there a  
problem with that?

Toma walks slightly ahead of Sakura.

TOMA  
No problem.

INT. RESTAURANT - SAME

SAKURA  
So how much help do you need on  
this real-estate deal?

Toma leans back in his seat.

TOMA  
Which one of your brothers put you  
up to this?

Waiter comes to take their order.

SAKURA  
Cup of tea please.

TOMA

Saki.

SAKURA

My brothers are clueless they know nothing.

Waiter returns with their orders. Toma slings back his saki before the waiter can leave. He orders another.

TOMA

I want you to oversee the real-estate project. Can't give you all the details right now.

Sakura shrugs.

SAKURA

I understand.

TOMA

(facetious grin)  
Sooooo, Sakura what can I expect for this generous act of kindness?

Silence. Sakura finishes her tea. Toma walks Sakura to her car.

SAKURA

This is business Toma, I owe you nothing. Dinner ... Maybe. But, I'll let you know.

They shake hands. Sakura drives away.

INT. CONDO - NIGHT

Ken and Sakura at home.

KEN

(bothered)  
I don't like it Sakura, you having to go out with him?

Sakura paces the floor.

SAKURA

I'm doing it for you Ken. I want you to have your club baby.

Ken sighs.



KEN

(stern)

No ... Not like this, I'm not  
feeling this Sakura.

Sakura hugs Ken kissing him on the cheek.

SAKURA

Please just trust me.

EXT. OUTDOOR RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Sakura throws both hands in the air.

SAKURA

(shocked, livid)

MARRY YOU! ARE YOU CRAZY TOMA?

Toma slings back his drink.

TOMA

(calm, collected)

Exactly, that's the only way this  
deal between us can be made.

Sakura shakes her head in disbelief.

SAKURA

Toma I'm not marrying you for any  
reason. How dare you even ask me  
that question.

Toma gawks at Sakura.

TOMA

Is it about your black friend?

Sakura storms away from the table. Toma quickly nabs her.

TOMA (CONT'D)

Sakura wait, I didn't mean it.  
Listen, I'm giving you control over  
this entire project. Think about it  
Sakura, a billion dollars.

Toma leaves. Sakura stares as he fades into the distance.

INT. CONDO - MORNING

Ken packing his clothes. Sakura follows him through the  
house.

KEN

(angry)

MARRY HIM?! This has gone from bad to worse. I don't need no club that bad Sakura.

Sakura stops chasing Ken through the house.

SAKURA

(frustrated)

If you would slow down and listen.

Ken continues throwing clothes in his bag.

KEN

Listen to what, I'm out!

Door slamming! Sakura stands stunned. Ken jumps on his scooter and vanishes.

SOME TWO WEEKS  
LATER.

EXT. THE LOCAL - EVENING

From outside the club a velvet smooth voice blurts out the bars of a popular song. Sakura rushes in the club zeroed in on the stage where the entertainer Ken performs thinking that the voice she hears is his, it's not. Sakura searches for the owner confronting him.

SAKURA

(anxiety)

Has the entertainer Ken been here?!

THE CLUB OWNER

No, we have not seen him for going on a week now. No call, no show.

She jams her business card into his hand.

SAKURA

If he shows up please call me.

He shakes his head affirming. Sakura weaves her way through the crowd and out the door.

INT. MANSION - AFTERNOON

Takumi, Yamato and Toma meet together. Toma paces the floor as the brother's watch him.

TOMA

Look, I've been in love with Sakura since we were kids. I gave her the ultimatum, marry me and you all get a piece of the pie.

Silence. Takumi takes a sip of his cognac.

TAKUMI

She is in love with her Kokujin (Black man) friend.

Toma's outraged.

TOMA

That goes against everything our culture stands for.

Yamato sighs.

YAMATO

You seem to forget Toma this is a new day and time that we live in my friend.

TOMA

Yeah but your sister dealing with a black. I bet your parents are flipping in their graves.

Toma strolls to the bar pouring himself a drink. Yamato chuckles.

YAMATO

My father, maybe, but our mother would love it. She never saw the color of a persons skin. It was simply "God has His reasons."

Toma shrugs off the comment. He grabs his phone to call Sakura. No answer.

TOMA

If you see her before I do, let her know I'm running out of patience.

Toma leaves.

A few days  
later.

INT. CONDO - DAY

Door bell rings. Sakura hustles to answer it. Swinging it open, there stands Toma. Her smile quickly dwindles. She walks away from the door, Toma enters. He isn't brash and demanding. He follows Sakura to the den. She offers him a seat. He sits carefully.

SAKURA  
Are you well Toma?

Toma, momentarily lost for words.

TOMA  
(antsy)  
Sakura, let me be honest with you.  
I'm not here to argue or to  
disagree with you. And yes, I am  
well.

Silence. Toma, somewhat uneasy. Sakura moves to the kitchen.

SAKURA  
Something to drink Toma?

He shrugs.

TOMA  
Sure, why not.

SAKURA  
Tea, juice, water?

Toma frowns off those suggestions.

TOMA  
You wouldn't by chance have  
something a wee bit stronger would  
you?

Sakura reaches in the frig and flashes a bottle of wine in his direction of sight.

SAKURA  
Got some wine?

He smiles approvingly.

TOMA  
I'll have some ... Please.

Toma takes a couple of courageous gulps that shifts him into conversation.

Sakura watches him intently as he stands pacing the floor, carefully exhaling each word out of his mouth.

TOMA (CONT'D)

Sakura, please see this reasonably.  
I love you.

He goes silent for a few paces then returns to his speech.

TOMA (CONT'D)

And I want you to be my bride. I believe you and your family will benefit greatly.

He rushes back to his seat awaiting Sakura's response. Silence. Sakura is straight faced keeping Toma in full sight.

SAKURA

For all the wrong reasons Toma. I ...

TOMA

... I love you Sakura and that's the best reason of all. And ... I will not leave until you say yes!

Sakura, head in hands sighs deeply. She slowly looks up at Toma.

SAKURA

This will probably be the most regretful thing I'll ever do but ... Ok Toma ... I'll marry you.

Toma walks calmly towards Sakura. A tear escapes from her eye. Toma wipes it away with his finger.

TOMA

You won't regret this Sakura. I'll make you very happy.

He kisses her on the cheek, then leaves. Sakura cries profusely. The thought of Ken ponds hard in her heart. She slumps on the sofa.

SAKURA

(screaming)  
KENNY! DOKO NI IMASU KA? (Where are you)

One month later.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Wedding guest arrive to the church.

INT. PRIVATE ROOM - SAME

Sakura sits alone in her private suite peering aimlessly in the mirror. Tears try to escape but she brushes them back as not to upset her beautifully made-up face. Knock on the door.

SAKURA  
somber)  
It's open come in!

The door swings inward very slow. Takumi and Yamato.

TAKUMI  
Lil sister may we enter?

Sakura takes a deep breathe.

SAKURA  
Can you give me one minute.

She breathes rapidly almost out of control, hyperventilating breaths. She catches herself bringing her breathing under control.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
(talking to herself)  
God why am I doing this? (Deep breathe) Ok, Sakura get yourself together.

Another knock on the door.

YAMATO  
Sakura lets go it's time.

She rises slowly from her chair. Knees shaking like leaves on a tree on a windy day. She attaches an unbelievable gorgeous smile that's as fake as her feelings about the whole ordeal. She swings open the double doors. Her brothers greet her on either side and begin the escort ceremony across the plush red carpet to the altar. Toma waits, anxious to greet his bride to be. Sakura reaches the altar, Toma steps to engage her arm-n-arm a split second to soon bumping into Takumi. The crowd chuckles. Sakura smiles at Toma but the thought of Ken sends cold chills through her body. The priest begins his speech welcoming everyone. Everything about her body is turning cold.

SAKURA  
 (suddenly, loud)  
 I CAN'T DO THIS!

She bolts from the altar. The guest are shocked. Toma and Takumi reach her suite first.

TOMA  
 (livid)  
 HOW DARE YOU EMBARRASS ME IN FRONT  
 OF MY GUEST AND MY FAMILY!

Sakura remains silent.

TAKUMI  
 Lil sister you have caused great  
 embarrassment upon our family name.

Yamato enters the room. He defends his sister.

YAMATO  
 HEY! Leave her alone.

He hugs his sister.

TOMA  
 You'll pay for this Sakura. You all  
 will pay for this.

Toma storms out the suite. Sakura removes the engagement ring from her finger handing it to Takumi.

SAKURA  
 Please give this back to Toma when  
 you see him. I would like to be  
 alone now my brothers.

Takumi leaves in haste, Yamato walks out slowly. A knock on Sakura's door.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
 (upset)  
 Who is it?!

The door opens slowly. A soft voice echo's into the room. HANAKO, seventy years old, Toma's grandmother, a very wise woman. Sakura greets her.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
 May I help you?

Hanako bows respectfully.

HANAKO

Hello Sakura I am Hanako, Toma's grandmother are you OK?

Sakura hustles Hanako a chair to sit.

SAKURA

Hai. (Yes) Watashi wa daijobudesuyo. (I'm okay)

Sakura offers her some tea. Hanako refuses.

HANAKO

I will not take much of your time but I just want to congratulate you for not marrying my grandson.

Sakura is wide eyed. Not quite knowing how to respond.

SAKURA

Yes, well, thank you.

HANAKO

He does not deserve such a beautiful woman. He is not ready for marriage.

Sakura bows. Hanako stands to leave. She kisses Sakura on the cheek.

HANAKO (CONT'D)

Live your life, be with who you love and let no one change your mind.

Sakura escorts her to the door.

SAKURA

Thank you mother Hanako.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Sakura embarks upon all her resources to find The entertainer Ken. MARIA, twenty five years old, beautiful, and close friend to Sakura. Phone rings.

SAKURA

(anxious)  
Hello?

MARIA

Sakura I think we have found the entertainer Ken.



Sakura straightens to attention.

SAKURA  
(excited)  
Where Maria?

MARIA  
He is occupying a little room in  
the rear of the Christian church  
downtown.

SAKURA  
Thanks Maria!

Sakura grabs her coat running out the door.

INT. HOME - AFTERNOON

Toma sits with his MOTHER and grandmother seething from the  
embarrassment that Sakura caused him.

HANAKO  
You must move on Toma, the girl is  
not interested in marrying you.  
Susumu! (move on)

Toma rises from his chair, eyes filled with revenge pacing  
back and forward.

TOMA  
She will pay for what she has done  
to me.

Toma's mother rebukes his thoughts.

THE MOTHER  
How dare you threaten her in that  
tone of voice. She did what she  
felt was right. You are so much  
like your father was Toma,  
everything has always been about  
you. (Loud) SELFISH SPIRIT!

Silence. Toma slumps in his seat.

TOMA  
Apologies mother.

Toma leaves the house.

HANAKO  
I am afraid for that boy. I pray he  
doesn't end up like his father.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Knock on door. Ken squints through the peep hole. He opens the door as far as the door chain allows.

KEN  
 (surprised, shocked)  
 Sakura? What are you doing here.  
 Shouldn't you be at home with your  
 husband?

Sakura shakes her head grinning.

SAKURA  
 Unless you are that man, I have no  
 husband.

Chains rattled off the door. Sakura enters, she stares at Ken as if she's seeing him for the first time.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
 I need to talk with you.

Ken shrugs.

KEN  
 Sure, but not here.

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - SAME

Sakura is shocked as she stands in the middle of the sanctuary.

SAKURA  
 Why here?

KEN  
 There's none better. This has  
 become my sanctuary. Come, sit.

He directs her to a pew, she sits down. She shrugs.

SAKURA  
 I'm not understanding?

KEN  
 Well whatever it is that you are  
 about to tell me, I figure you  
 won't lie or render excuses.

They both grin at the comment.

SAKURA

I have no reason to lie or render  
excuses. What I say is from my  
heart.

Ken flips his ears.

KEN

I'm all ears!

Sakura smiles.

SAKURA

I hurt you baby.

She puts her hand gently on his face, he pulls away. She  
looks downward, deep sigh.

SAKURA (CONT'D)

Ok, I can understand that.

Re-positioning her hands in her lap.

SAKURA (CONT'D)

(apologetic)

All I can do is ask you to forgive  
me and to give me another chance.

Ken sighs looking away from Sakura.

KEN

Another chance. What's that mean  
Sakura?

SAKURA

(sincere)

I don't know Ken ... It means we  
start our relationship over again.  
We let the past be the past and  
move on from here.

Ken looks at Sakura with passion in his heart.

KEN

I've come to love you Sakura, I  
mean a lot. From the first time I  
saw you, that innocence that  
brought all that beauty out of you.  
I haven't been able to shake you.

Sakura smiles, she moves in for a hug but catches herself  
throwing both hands up as not to touch Ken. He laughs,  
reaching over and gives her a big hug.

KEN (CONT'D)

No more Toma Wata ... whatever his name is. Deal?

Sakura smooches him across the lips.

SAKURA

Deal!

INT. MANSION - DAY

Takumi, Yamato and Toma meet.

TOMA

I shall not make this offer to you again but Sakura must cooperate. I am in hopes that she will listen to her brothers.

Takumi puffs life into his cigar handing one to Toma.

TAKUMI

She can be stubborn but there are ways to convince her.

Yamato pours himself a drink.

YAMATO

Would you care to wager my brother? She is more than stubborn. She is determined. Like our mother, once her mind is made up she can't be moved.

Toma lights his cigar.

TOMA

I want her as my wife and I am counting on you to make that happen.

Toma throws back his shot of whiskey then heads out the door.

INT. MANSION - AFTERNOON

Sakura visits her brothers. Takumi grabs her by the arm demanding her attention.

TAKUMI

Sit down!

Sakura remains silent obeying her brother's command. She stares in Yamato's direction for help. Yamato shrugs.

TAKUMI (CONT'D)

Sister you have a very large amount of inheritance left and father put me in charge of all financial affairs concerning us.

Sakura agrees silently.

TAKUMI (CONT'D)

Toma has promised our family a very nice share of the real-estate deal if we cooperate with him.

Sakura chuckles.

SAKURA

OK brother you can stop there because I know where you're going with this and my answer is NO!

Takumi riled.

TAKUMI

Then you leave me no other choice than to freeze your inheritance.

Sakura shakes her head disgusted.

SAKURA

What kind of man are you big brother when loyalty to family is betrayed by greed?

TAKUMI

This is about our family name, our empire.

Sakura stands to leave.

SAKURA

So you would betray your family for thirty pieces of silver. JUDAS! I will not be your sacrificial lamb.

Sakura exits the room and out the house. Yamato grins facetiously.

YAMATO

Now what brother?

INT. CHURCH SANCUTARY - DAY

Ken and Sakura sit inside the church, alone. Sakura is spooked by all the statues that line the sancutary.

SAKURA  
(looking around)  
These statues are so life like,  
it's spooky.

Ken grins.

KEN  
I take it that your not a believer.

Sakura frowns.

SAKURA  
A believer?

KEN  
In God.

SAKURA  
Oh, well, I'm not sure what to believe in. My mom, she really believed in God, I mean that's what my dad and brothers told me.

Silence.

KEN  
What about your dad, and your brothers?

Sakura chuckles.

SAKURA  
My dad kinda went along with my mom, not really sure about him. My brothers, well they believe in money and power.

Sakura turns facing Ken.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
So, what about your family. Do they believe in God.

Ken pushes out a cheesy grin.

KEN  
Huh! Yeah my family truly believe in God.

(MORE)

KEN (CONT'D)

They taught me that when things get rough, and they will from time to time, Look to God.

Silence.

KEN (CONT'D)

When I left your house I had no direction I was angry, and hurt. Then I could hear my parents voice clear, "trust God." So I came here talked to the pastor, he gave me the room in the back of the church and here I sat everyday talking to God.

Tears roll down Sakura cheeks. Ken gently wipes them away.

KEN (CONT'D)

I brought you here because I want to show you something.

Sakura reaches inside her hand bag pulling out a tissue blowing her nose. Ken delves into his coat pocket pulling out a small leather case handing it to Sakura. She stares at it momentarily. Then slowly extends her hand receiving the case. She looks at Ken mysteriously.

SAKURA

What's this?

Ken smiles.

KEN

Open it girl!

Sakura flips open the case, a beautiful diamond engagement ring. Sakura's hand covers her mouth.

SAKURA

(joyous shock)

Is this real. I mean, you're not just playing with me are you?

Ken shakes his head grinning.

KEN

That bad boy cost to much money to be playin around.

Sakura carefully pulls the ring out of the case admiring its every curve and shape. She goes to put it on her finger then stops, handing the ring to Ken.

SAKURA  
(on cloud nine)  
No, you put it on baby.

She extends her finger in his direction. Ken, not taking his eyes off Sakura slowly slips the ring on her finger.

KEN  
(cautious)  
Are you sure this is what you want?

SAKURA  
(soft, sexy)  
With all my heart. So are we engaged to say "I do?"

Ken smiles. They kiss passionately.

INT. KAGAWA'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Door bell rings. Kagawa looks through the peep hole.

HIROSHI  
(excited)  
Sakura!

He welcomes Sakura and Ken.

SAKURA  
Hiroshi this is my friend Ken, Ken please meet Hiroshi Kagawa.

Kagawa customarily bows then shakes Kens hand.

HIROSHI  
(smiling)  
Come and sit.

He directs them to the sofa then pours three cups of tea.

HIROSHI (CONT'D)  
So, to what do I owe this wonderful visit?

Sakura stares at Ken, Ken does not engage her. She extends her ring finger out towards Hiroshi. Hiroshi walks closer to get a better look.

HIROSHI (CONT'D)  
Wow! What a beautiful specimen of jewelry, and on your ring finger no doubt.



Hiroshi pulls up a chair sitting directly in front of the couple. Silence. Hiroshi stares at Sakura, then at Ken waiting for one of them to speak.

HIROSHI (CONT'D)

Ok, so I guess I will have to start this conversation. Congratulations!

Both Sakura and Ken are surprised at Kagawa's response. Sakura leans forward.

SAKURA

Are you sure Hiroshi?

Kagawa chuckles.

HIROSHI

Well what would you expect me to say. Some long Kobayashi speech.

Sakura lunges from the sofa hugging Hiroshi.

SAKURA

(overjoyed)

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

She settles back on the sofa. Ken is silent.

HIROSHI

Honorable Ken I am very happy for you. You have made a wise choice.

Ken relaxes a bit, but still a little nerved.

KEN

Oh yes sir, thank you sir.

SAKURA

Hiroshi you know I could not go to my brothers for their blessing. So, we have come to you. My father would have it no other way.

Hiroshi grins.

HIROSHI

Hai. (Yes) I believe you are right Sakura.

Silence. Ken nudges Sakura to continue.

SAKURA

Oh, and we would be honored if you would give me away.

Hiroshi shows a bit of emotions. He excuses himself momentarily. Walks a few steps away removing his handkerchief to blow his nose. He returns to the conversation.

HIROSHI

Please forgive me. (Clears his throat) I would be more than honored to walk with you on your wedding day, and you both have my blessing for a long and prosperous life. Oh, oh, oh, wait and with many babies.

Laughter.

SAKURA

Hiroshi I have one other issue that needs dealing with. My brother Takumi has threaten to freeze my remaining inheritance.

Kagawa shakes his head.

HIROSHI

Those brothers of yours, you need not worry. Your father and I got together and he made some changes. Takumi no longer controls your fortune.

Hiroshi goes to a big cabinet pulling out neatly folded documents for Sakura to read over and sign.

HIROSHI (CONT'D)

Read over and sign these documents. I will take a copy to the bank in the morning. Your father informed the bank that these changes would be made and that you would oversee your own finances.

Sakura signatures the documents.

HIROSHI (CONT'D)

Haruto wanted your brothers to control the real-estate contract but with one small twist. They were to work with me. When they decided to go off on their own your father and I set it up for them to learn a lesson in wisdom and humility. The contract was ours from the start.

(MORE)

HIROSHI (CONT'D)

We know the executive chairman of the real-estate holdings. So we pulled in Toma Watanabe to win the bid.

Sakura laughs out loud.

SAKURA

I do not mean to sound vindictive but that's what they deserved. The nerve of them threatening me to marry Toma to attain something that was theirs to begin with.

HIROSHI

There is one more thing I must share with you.

Hiroshi walks back to the cabinet retrieving more paper work. He hands it to Sakura.

HIROSHI (CONT'D)

From your father.

Sakura reads the information intently. She looks at Hiroshi frowning.

SAKURA

What is this Hiroshi? There's a lot of money connected to this deal.

Hiroshi smiles.

HIROSHI

Hai! (Yes) This is his blessing to you.

Sakura hands the paper work to Ken to read.

KEN

WHOA! This is a sweet deal.

Sakura cuddles Kens face in both hands.

SAKURA

(grinning)  
Can you say "My own Club?"

She kisses Ken on both cheeks.

EXT. BUSINESS BUILDING - DAY

Sakura exits the building, excited, overjoyed, briefcase firmly tucked under her arm. She hails a taxi.

SAKURA  
(talking to herself)  
We have got to celebrate.

She grabs her cell phone dialing Ken, no answer. She leaves a message.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
Hey baby I just left the meeting.  
Oh my goodness this so surreal. Hey  
I want to celebrate. I'm stopping  
by the gift shop to pick up some  
things. See you at home.

Sakura alerts the cab driver as to her destination. Lurking in the distance and not known to Sakura is Toma. She races into the gift shop, purchases a few items, and upon leaving the shop she is suddenly apprehended and rushed into an alley. A dark blue MERCEDES BENZ pulls up, Sakura is hustled into the back seat. Sakura puts up a short struggle, then relinquishes. The car speeds away. Sakura looking down, slowly lifts her eyes to the site of Toma. His look is ghostly, an image of desperation. He glares at Sakura.

TOMA  
(monotone voice)  
Hello Sakura.

Sakura, inexpressive, rips back at Toma.

SAKURA  
Stop this car and let me out ...  
RIGHT NOW!

TOMA  
Now why would I let the woman that  
I'm about to marry out of my sight?

Toma is incensed with her. Sakura's phone rings, it's Ken, Toma quickly disconnects the call. He recognizes the ring on her finger. He grabs her hand eyeballing the ring.

TOMA (CONT'D)  
WHAT'S THIS?

Ripping the ring off her finger he digs into his coat pocket putting his ring back on her finger stuffing her ring into his pocket.

TOMA (CONT'D)

Now, that's better. You will marry me Sakura!

Silence, momentarily. Then She speaks.

SAKURA

(deliberate)

Toma (she sighs) you must get control of yourself. Please, understand, I do not love you to marry you.

Toma is infuriated. He clenches his fist raising it as if to hit Sakura. Then lowers it slowly.

TOMA

So its all about your Kokujin?  
(Black man)

Sakura closes her eyes, sighs.

SAKURA

Yes, it is.

Toma gently clutches her shoulders.

TOMA

Sakura are you not aware of the embarrassment you are bringing on your family?

She shakes her head smiling.

SAKURA

Toma, please try to understand I do not live my life to please my family. That's why I wanted out in the first place. I want to think on my own, make my own mistakes without someone looking over my shoulder telling me what to do and how to do it. I ...

TOMA

... But your brothers do not approve of this choice you have made.

Sakura grabs Toma by the face gearing his attention.

SAKURA

(frustrated)

This is not about my brothers and who they feel their choice of men are for my life. Listen, I am in love with this man, he makes me smile, he ... He makes me happy, he loves to love me. And, it's not about his color, it's about his heart.

Silence, Toma shrugs.

TOMA

(to his driver)

Koruna o tushie shimasu! (Stop the car)

Toma leans back in the seat. Scratching his head.

TOMA (CONT'D)

This is not easy for me to understand.

Sakura takes Toma's ring off her finger. He stares at it, then slowly removes it from her hand. Her hand stays extended, Toma gives her ring back.

TOMA (CONT'D)

(slightly angered)

You left me at the alter of our wedding, why Sakura?

SAKURA

That was wrong of me Toma please accept my most humbled apology, but I knew I couldn't stand there and do something that wasn't in my heart.

Toma chuckles staring ahead.

TOMA

My grandmother told me the same thing.

Sakura smiles. He alerts his driver.

TOMA (CONT'D)

Watashitachi wa kanojo no ie ni Sakura o unten shite imasu. (we're driving Sakura to her home)

DRIVER

Hai! (yes)

EXT. STREETS - AFTERNOON

The clouds split in respect of the sunshine that brightens the day. Ken and Sakura wedding shop.

ONE MONTH LATER.

INT. CHURCH SANCUTARY - DAY

Hiroshi proudly escorts Sakura down the aisle to the altar. Ken waits, nervously, watching his bride to be, trimmed beautifully in her white jewel stubbed gown. The standing room only crowd echo's their approval as she moves past each pew. She reaches the altar, turning towards Hiroshi, he kisses her on the brow. Ken steps towards Sakura, his smile warms her heart. She cuddles up to Ken clutching his arm tightly. They stare momentarily into each others eyes. The gongman strikes his gong five times. The ceremony begins.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CHURCH - SAME

Ken and Sakura exit the church as a hail of rice, applause and cheers from the people greet them. They are ushered into a limousine and driven away. Sakura snuggles under her husband.

KEN

So, where to from here?

Sakura smiles. She pulls a black scarf from behind her.

SAKURA

Turn around.

Ken frowns but obliges. Sakura ties the scarf securely around his eyes

SAKURA (CONT'D)

There, can you see?

Ken chuckles.

KEN

This better be good.

SAKURA

Oh, you won't be disappointed.

EXT. THE PRODIGAL - SAME

They arrive at the destination. Sakura springs from the limo, she escorts Ken out the car. Silence. She walks him a few guided steps then stops.

SAKURA

Ok, take off the scarf.

He slips off the scarf. A huge crowd greets them with humongous cheers.

THE CROWD

ODOROKI! (Surprise)

Ken is shocked to see his club with a jumbo neon sign flashing "THE PRODIGAL"

SAKURA

(smiling, sincere)

Happy wedding day my darling.

Ken is overwhelmed with emotions, speechless. He grabs Sakura hugging her passionately. Music blares from inside the club. The crowd file inside. Ken and Sakura remain outside. Sakura hugs Ken around the waist as they stand staring at the building. Takumi and Yamato come out to meet them.

TAKUMI

(bowing, humbled)

Honorable brother-n-law. I am Takumi, Sakura's oldest brother and this is her brother Yamato. I hope you are pleased with your wedding gift to you and Sakura.

Ken and Sakura stare at each other, shrugging.

KEN

Very!

TAKUMI

Good! We will escort you and Sakura inside, the party awaits your presence.

Takumi and Yamato position themselves in front of the newly weds leading the procession into the club. The crowd erupts into joyous cheers. Ken and Sakura work their way to the gigantic dance floor. Ken pirouettes in amazement. A song written and sung by The entertainer Ken is played. Ken smiles as he embraces his wife to enjoy their first dance together.



KEN  
(amazed)  
Your brothers did this for us?

SAKURA  
(smiling)  
Yeap they most certainly did.

Ken spins Sakura then dips her to the delight of the crowd.

KEN  
How did you pull that off?

SAKURA  
Uh-huh! I can't tell you all my secrets.

INT. MANSION - FLASHBACK - DAY

Sakura with her brothers.

SAKURA  
(livid)  
I have just been dropped off by Toma who kidnapped me forcing me to marry him and I have the sneaking distrust that my brother's had something to do with it. Let me give you my ultimatum. My man wants his own club and you are going to make that happen. If not I will press kidnap charges against Toma and against the both of you as accessories.

Sakura exits the mansion.

INT. THE PRODIGAL - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

The party crowd is gone. Ken and Sakura remain admiring their new establishment. Sakura sits removing her white pearl pumps. She lays her feet on Kens lap.

SAKURA  
Massage please!

Ken hand massages Sakura's feet. Sakura closes her eyes enjoying every stroke over her tired feet.

SAKURA (CONT'D)  
WHOO! ... That feels so good.

Ken looks around still in astonishment. He eases Sakura's feet to the floor, stands turning in a slow circle.

KEN  
(excited, smiling)  
This is our club Sakura, OURS!

Sakura stands hugging Ken.

SAKURA  
This is your dream come true Ken.  
God has made my dream a reality in  
you.

They kiss passionately.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - AFTERNOON

Toma storms out the building talking on his cell phone.

TOMA  
(angry)  
I WAS ABSOLUTELY HUMILIATED IN THAT  
MEETING, on top of losing ten  
million of my hard earned dollars  
based on your ill-advised  
information!

He abruptly cuts the conversation. His driver stands at attention as he enters the rear of his car.

TOMA (CONT'D)  
(vexed, frustrated)  
Drive me to the bar!

DRIVER  
Kashikomarimashita! (Yes sir)

INT. THE LOCAL - SAME

Toma sits by his lonesome sipping his cognac. A very BEAUTIFUL, SHAPELY YOUNG WOMAN enters his space wanting to make his acquaintance.

BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY  
(smiling)  
Is this seat taken?

Toma gazes over at the chair, then turns his attention to his drink.

TOMA  
 (sarcastic)  
 Not unless someone just took it.

BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY  
 May I?

TOMA  
 Help yourself.

She snuggles into the seat not losing her smile to Toma's sarcasm.

BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY  
 So whatcha drinkin. Can I buy you  
 another drink?

Toma shrugs.

TOMA  
 Be my guest.

Toma holds up his glass getting the bartenders attention. He brings over another cognac.

TOMA (CONT'D)  
 (looking at the woman)  
 How bout I buy your drink. Barkeep  
 bring the lady whatever she wants.

The barkeep takes her order. She slides her chair closer to Toma.

BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY  
 Looks like your day hasn't gone so  
 well.

TOMA  
 I've had better.

The barkeep returns with her drink.

BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY  
 Girlfriend problems?

Toma glances her way then looks away.

TOMA  
 Amongst others.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Toma and the girl lie in the bed staring at the ceiling.

BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY  
Tell me about this girlfriend of  
yours.

Toma spins out the bed throwing on his robe. He paces to the picture window staring out.

TOMA  
She's not my girlfriend. She  
married another man. A Kokujin.  
(Black man)

BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY  
(smiling)  
A Kokujin! She likes flavor.

Toma stares back at her angrily.

BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY (CONT'D)  
Just joking! So this girl, she left  
you for this man. He must have been  
very special.

TOMA  
Huh! Worst than that, she left me  
at the altar of our wedding.

The girl sits up in the bed covering her body.

BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY  
SHE WHAT?!

Toma heads to the shower. Sound of shower water running. The girl comes to the bathroom door.

BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY (CONT'D)  
She left you at the altar. You  
mean you were that close to  
marrying her and she dis you for  
another man, a Kokujin? I mean  
there's nothing wrong with being  
with a black man, that being your  
choice but she left the altar?  
That's dramatic!

Shower water stops. Toma exits wrapping in his towel robe. They cross paths, the girl to the shower, Toma to his dress closet. Shower water runs. Toma dresses quickly. The girl exits the shower drying off.

TOMA  
By the way what's your name?

## BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY

MOMOKO!

Toma runs the comb through his hair one last time checking the mirror for any small flaws.

TOMA

Momoko, thanks for the date last night. Hey make sure the door is closed when you leave.

Door closes.

MOMOKO

(shocked, puzzled)  
What. Where you goin?!

Two weeks later.

EXT. THE PRODIGAL - NIGHT

The GRAND OPENING. The crowd lines go from the entrance of the club to the streets. Ken and Sakura greet the people as they enter.

INSIDE THE CLUB.

The D-JAY rocks the music that maneuvers the dance crowd to the hard wood square. Toma and Momoko grace the club. Toma introduces Momoko to Sakura.

TOMA

Well Sakura this is a beautiful establishment you have here. Momoko this is Sakura, Sakura my girlfriend Momoko.

Momoko looks surprised at Toma's introduction. The girls shake hands. Momoko introduces herself to Ken.

MOMOKO

Hello my name is Momoko, its a pleasure meeting you ...

KEN

... Ken, the pleasure is all mine. I hope you and Mr. Wanna-be ah excuse me, Watanabe enjoy yourselves.

Sakura smirks. Toma pulls Momoko away as they blend into the crowd.

KEN (CONT'D)  
The dude is whack!

Sakura laughs. Mr. Kagawa is the honored guest seated in the VIP section. Ken and Sakura join him.

HIROSHI  
(smiling)  
This is a beautiful establishment,  
a little too fast for me but very  
nice.

Hiroshi sips his tea.

SAKURA  
We are honored that you are here  
with us Hiroshi.

Hiroshi smiles.

HIROSHI  
Hai! (Yes)

A FEW DAYS  
LATER.

INT. CONDO - MORNING

Ken sits at the computer working on music. Sakura reads the news paper.

SAKURA  
(shocked)  
Oh my goodness!

She strolls over to Ken showing him the news article.

KEN  
(grinning)  
Baby you know I can't read  
Japanese.

Sakura smiles.

SAKURA  
Toma has blown another major  
business deal.

Ken shrugs, places his earphones back on getting back to his music. Sakura makes her way back to the sofa.

INT. HOME - NIGHT

Toma sits in his office going over business paper work. Phone ringing.

TOMA  
Momoko I'll call you later.

Abruptly hangs up the phone. Phone ringing. He doesn't answer. Toma continues to read through his business ventures. Disgusted he slams the papers on his desk. Running his fingers through his hair.

TOMA (CONT'D)  
(talking to himself,  
frustrated)  
Where have I gone wrong.

He reaches in the drawer pulling out a black folder marked Real-Estate Project. He browses through the pages. Phone rings.

TOMA (CONT'D)  
WHAT!

Silence.

TOMA (CONT'D)  
Hello?

SAKURA  
(timid)  
Toma? It's Sakura calling to check  
on you.

Toma lightens his mood.

TOMA  
Sakura? Well this is a pleasant  
surprise. To what do I owe this  
phone call?

SAKURA  
I was reading in the newspaper  
about your business misfortunes, I  
am very sorry.

Silence.

TOMA  
Yeah, well business can take some  
crazy turns but I appreciate your  
concern.

Silence

SAKURA

Well ... I know you will be ok.  
Don't give up.

TOMA

Thanks for the advice ... Hey  
Sakura I ... Well anyway thanks.

Phone call ends. Toma momentarily stares into the distance.  
He re-directs his attention to the contract.

TOMA (CONT'D)

(talking to himself,  
smiling)

If I don't do this now I'll be  
sorry.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Hiroshi hustles into the tea shop for his daily fix. Phone  
rings.

HIROSHI

Hello, Hiroshi speaking.

TOMA

Mr. Kagawa, Mr. Watanabe here.

HIROSHI

Toma, are you ok, sounds as if you  
have been drinking.

Laughter.

TOMA

Yes sir, I've had a few drinks.

HIROSHI

It seems to be considerably early  
for that don't you think?

Hiroshi grabs his tea and exits the store.

TOMA

Nawh, not for me Kagawa.

HIROSHI

Where are you Toma? I will come and  
we will talk.

Toma laughs uncontrollably.



TOMA

No need Kagawa I've taken care of everything. I called to thank you and Mr. Kobayashi, God rest his soul for trusting me with the real-estate contract. I am leaving it in good hands.

HIROSHI

TOMA WAIT!

Phone call goes dead.

INT. CONDO - EARLY MORNING

Door bell rings. Ken feels for his watch to check the time.

KEN

(groggy)

Five thirty in the morning. Sakura!  
Someone's ringing the door bell.

Sakura turns away from her husband not answering.

KEN (CONT'D)

SAKURA!

He shakes her lightly, a soft snore exits her nose. Ken smiles. He shuffles to the door looking through the peep hole, sees no one. Opening the door a large manila envelope falls from the crack in the door. Walks back to the bedroom.

KEN (CONT'D)

Baby wake up ... Sakura here's a  
envelope with your name on it.

Sakura slips on her reading glasses removing the contents inside the envelope.

Silence.

SAKURA

Wow! You won't believe this,  
listen. Dear Sakura, I know things  
haven't been right between us and I  
apologize for any mishaps. This is  
the contract for the real-estate  
deal. I have signed it over to your  
care, a wedding present to you.  
Happy life Sakura.

Silence. Ken slowly works his way sitting on the edge of the bed.

KEN  
Sakura, he's ...

SAKURA  
(staring aimlessly)  
... I know, he's going to end his  
life.

Silence.

EXT. SUICIDE FOREST - EARLY MORNING

Toma slowly exits his car, standing at the edge of the  
AOKIGAHARA. (Suicide forest in Japan)

TOMA  
(smiling, talking to  
himself)  
This is where you coward out of  
life father and now your son has  
come to join you.

Toma begins his walk into the dark shadows of the suicide  
forest. He disappears in the fog.

Two weeks later.

EXT. PRIVATE BURIAL GROUNDS - DAY

Ken, Sakura, her brothers and Hiroshi attend Toma's  
transition service.

HIROSHI  
(blowing his nose)  
When he called me he was very  
intoxicated. I knew then that  
something was terribly wrong.

TAKUMI  
He died like his father.

YAMATO  
He was a good person.

The gong is struck seven times indicating the end of the  
service. Toma's body is lowered into the ground. Sakura  
consoles His mother and grandmother.

Several days  
later.

INT. MANSION - AFTERNOON

Ken and Sakura come to the mansion. Everyone gathers in the family meeting room. Door bell rings. Mr. Kagawa enters.

TAKUMI

So what is this gathering all about?

Kagawa smiles as he lays his leather briefcase on the table. He pulls paper work from the case pushing it towards Sakura.

SAKURA

Brother's, we have had our differences in the past and there were times when I didn't want to even identify with either of you. But things have changed and all for the better. Before Toma died he did something that we all will be grateful for, for a long time.

Sakura hands the paper work over to Takumi.

SAKURA (CONT'D)

Read this.

Takumi eyes the paper work carefully. He shakes his head in amazement.

TAKUMI

Is this not the contract for the billion dollar real-estate deal signed over to you Sakura?

Sakura smiles.

SAKURA

This is true big brother. And so, My husband and I decided that with our business being so taxing we thought that you and Yamato would be delighted to oversee the entire contract.

Takumi and Yamato hug each other.

SAKURA (CONT'D)

Ah but wait my over excited brothers, there is one condition to this deal.

Silence. Then she points in Hiroshi's direction.

SAKURA (CONT'D)

That this deal is done right this  
time as father ordained it to be.

The brothers rush to Hiroshi hugging him anxiously.

TAKUMI

We shall never leave your side  
Hiroshi.

Laughter.

The next night.

EXT. THE PRODIGAL - NIGHT

The entertainer Ken brings the crowd to their feet as he  
sings a medley of hits. Sakura peers over her shoulder at  
the standing room only crowd as they applaud for her husband.  
She blows him a kiss, he returns the gesture.

FADE OUT.

THE END.