

ELEMENTAL WARRIORS

Written by

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FADE IN:

BLACK TIME CARD:
1857, JAPAN.

1 EXT. FOREST - DAWN

Two separate piles of fire: one is burning wood, and the other are the bodies of the enemies. The banner of the enemy is seen beside the fire, torn and bloodied.

The samurai-- four men in their thirties, all with top knots-- are cleaning the blood off their katanas.

TAKESHI & MASANORI: both average builds with short black hair.

KATSU & SHO: Katsu is average build, while Sho is large and heavy set.

Their faces are covered with blood and dirt, their armor stained with dry blood.

TAKESHI

(dismayed)

I can't believe we lost our entire squad...

KATSU

(shaking his head)

Unbelievable.

MASANORI

I cannot believe what my eyes had seen... have they been deceived?

SHO

Whatever they were, they're dead and being over cooked.

1 KATSU

Men.

The three SOLDIERS turn their heads to Katsu.

KATSU (CONT'D)

Warriors, this fight was my last.

MASANORI

I concur, my lord.

TAKESHI

You mean you won't be fighting?

KATSU
No, it is time for me to be a
proper Daimyō.

SHO
Not for me.

KATSU
(chuckles)
Is that so? The both of you are
begging to meet with your destiny.

TAKESHI
(laughing)
I suppose so my lord, we just can't
die.

MASANORI
(laughing slowly fades)
Where are you two brutes headed?

SHO
Not quite sure, an expedition of
some sort.

TAKESHI
There are reports we must follow.

KATSU
Reports you say?

SHO
Aye. It appears our mission may be
related to what we've just fought.

KATSU
(nods)
When will you two depart?

TAKESHI
Tomorrow.

Sho fiddles with his hands, and for once a strong-willed
warrior looks nervous as ever.

2 SUPER: 20 YEARS LATER

3 EXT. VILLAGE FIELDS - MORNING
All dialogue in Japanese.

Sounds of swords clattering, sounds of arrows flying hitting
targets.

Large grassy field, cherry blossoms drifting with the wind. Two early twenties warriors dressed in full samurai armor, **RYUU**, athletically built, 5'9, short black hair with a top-knot in scarlet red armor, and **OROCHI**, muscular build, standing at 6'5, long brown hair with a top-knot, in all black armor, are intensely sparring with each other.

OROCHI
(grunts in frustration)
Again!

RYUU
(smirks, nods head, and
charges)
Take this!

OROCHI
Tch!

In one hand wielding a katana, Orochi sprints to RYUU, hits him in the face with the butt of the katana, and palms his chest with a light wave. A form of light is being molded into a shape of blade, as Orochi smirks. RYUU wipes the blood off his mouth and breathes heavily.

RYUU
(dashes towards Orochi)
Heh, that's how you want to fight
huh, Orochi!?

Creates a ball of electricity, smashes it to his blade.

OROCHI
Yes, this is more like it! An
actual fight, sparring till the
last man standing.

RYUU struggles to keep up.

OROCHI (CONT'D)
You're no match for me... your
endurance is weak!

Orochi focuses his energy into his blades. His eyes light up, beginning to charge.

OROCHI (CONT'D)
I will show you the true meaning of
power... behold!!

RYUU
What true meaning? You can't
possibly know!

They clash, pitting the enormity of their powers against one another, generating a surge of wind that blows them back a foot apart. Orochi quickly gets back up and charges.

OROCHI
AGHHHH!!! TAKE THIS!

AKIRA, slim Japanese young adult, short black hair, with one side covering her right eye. Standing a few feet away from the group, she passionately gazes at RYUU. **YUKI**, another slim Japanese young adult, long silky black hair. Catches Akira staring at RYUU, she moves closer to him.

Noticing that Orochi is about to slash RYUU, Akira quickly fires her arrow to intercept Orochi's blade.

AKIRA
We are training, not trying to slaughter each other, Orochi!

YUKI
Akira!!! You should know not to lose the focus on your opponent.

Yuki grabs three arrows, freezes them and fires at Akira. The arrows explode into shards of snow at impact, missing her.

AKIRA
Nice try, be quicker next time Yuki!

YUKI
Hey!! No fair, that was supposed to hit you! Oh well, I guess you can just have some more!

She freezes her arrows and fires them as fast as she can, but to little avail.

AKIRA
(laughing)
On second thought, I guess your speed still can't out pace my gravity powers.

RYUU
That does it for training today, time for nourishment.

The four warriors respectfully bow towards each other.

CUT TO:

4

EXT. VILLAGE CENTER - NIGHT
All dialogue in Japanese.

The hushed sound of crickets echoes across the beautiful gardens throughout the village.

A monk exits a shrine. Houses surround the four warriors sitting around a fire enjoying a meal.

RYUU
Hey Orochi, you're getting close to besting me.

RYUU, still in his armor-- as well as Orochi-- eating a piece of bread.

OROCHI
(disinterested and grumpy)
Yeah sure, we'll see on the battlefield with number of kills.

YUKI
(teasing Ryuu)
Orochi sure is way better than you just you wait. Speed is all you got RYUU. Right, Akira?

AKIRA
(jealous, aggressively sharpens arrow heads)
Sure, he's faster but he's gotten much stronger also.

Two men enter the scene, both wearing their baggy, sky blue robes with two katana tied to their waist.

KATSU
Ah, how are our exceptional young warriors doing?

OROCHI
(furious)
Father, why do you not wear your royal robe?

KATSU
There is no need to be in my royal attire, we are all family here.

OROCHI
Tch, you're too lax father, you must show your authority and honor.

MASANORI

At ease, both of you.

(sigh)

Is it just me, or can you sense the probability of a war...?

OROCHI

I hope so, it's time we took control of the country, and gain power throughout the land.

KATSU

Son, that is not our goal. We look out for our domain, and protect it at all costs. We do not seek power.

OROCHI

Father, how can you be SO weak minded?! Power is everything! Power will make us untouchable. A man as weak as you, deserves no power with a role such as yours.

KATSU

Too much of one thing will only lead to chaos, son!

OROCHI

You're the one leading us to chaos.
(leaves, violently bumping into his father)

KATSU

(defeated, down)

I see, you may be right.

Receding into the distance, Katsu sighs and glances long towards his son's back before turning to Masanori.

KATSU (CONT'D)

Do you really think they're ready?

MASANORI

(pulling Katsu aside and whispering)

I believe their time has come my lord.

KATSU

Very well, they will be leading our people, Masanori.

MASANORI
 (nods to Katsu)
 Come now Yuki, we must retire for
 the evening. Discussions of the
 future await us!

Akira, RYUU, and Yuki rise and bow.

RYUU
 I must speak to Nobutaka, and mend
 my armor and blades.

AKIRA
 I will join you.

YUKI
 (to Ryuu)
 I'll see you at temple later.

Akira and RYUU bow to Yuki, as they depart.

Yuki leaves, using her powers she puts out the fire.

5 INT. BLACKSMITH - MINUTES LATER
 All dialogue in Japanese.

Echoes of steel clattering against another. Akira and RYUU
 enter noticing NOBUTAKA dipping a scorching hot blade into
 water, steam quickly rises.

NOBUTAKA
 (bows)
 Ryuu-san, Akira-san, welcome. How
 may I assist you?

RYUU
 (bows)
 We wish to mend our weapons.
 They've been dulled a bit.

AKIRA
 My arrowheads need more of a
 sharpening; I had done what I can
 but perhaps you can fix it.

NOBUTAKA
 For the young Captains, anything.

AKIRA AND RYUU
 (nods)
 Thank you.

RYUU

Nobutaka, I have a feeling I may require a new katana.

NOBUTAKA

How so?

RYUU

Perhaps a blade that can cut through a... skull?

NOBUTAKA

Well well, sounds a lot like what Orochi-sama would demand.

RYUU

I understand it's unorthodox for me to ask, however, it's a feeling in my gut. I must follow.

NOBUTAKA

Very well, young lord, I understand. I will forge you a black blade. It shall have your opponents cowering in fear.

RYUU

I look forward to that.
(bows)

AKIRA

In that case, may I request a pair of sharper daggers?

NOBUTAKA

Of course.
(bows)
I will aim to make them light as a feather but sharper than a tiger's fangs.

AKIRA

Many thanks, Nobutaka-san.
(bows)

Nobutaka collects their weapons and exits.

RYUU and Akira exit.

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EXT. VILLAGE INTERIOR - MOMENTS LATER

AKIRA

It is odd for you to request a deadlier weapon, RYUU.
(MORE)

AKIRA (CONT'D)
(nudges him)

RYUU
Heh, it is nothing to worry over.

AKIRA
It better not. Yuki wouldn't want
to see you as a monster.
(walks ahead)

RYUU
Tch.
(makes fist)
Aren't we already with these
abilities?

AKIRA
Not unless we cast aside those
demons.

7 EXT. CASTLE WALLS - MORNING
All dialogue in Japanese.

RYUU and Orochi walk with lower class samurai, patrolling the
castle walls.

RYUU
(sarcastic)
Isn't it much calmer without having
to fight every week.

OROCHI
Oh RYUU, such a fool.
(chuckles lightly)
You must stop believing in that
fantasy of yours.

RYUU
(both fists clenched
tightly)
It is NOT a fantasy! I believe in a
peaceful land, one of these days we
will achieve that.

OROCHI
(scoffs and speaks
mockingly)
You're so naive.

RYUU
How so? For wanting to believe in a
tranquil world?

OROCHI

RYUU, you know that can't happen.
We coexist with beings such as
ourselves. Power will always be
contested.

RYUU

Power isn't everything Orochi.

OROCHI

(stopping in his tracks
and glares at RYUU)

It is.

(resumes walking)

RYUU

I must go, your father had
mentioned he wanted to see me.

OROCHI

Later.

8 INT. IMPERIAL CASTLE - MIDDAY
All dialogue in Japanese.

A large moat wraps around the beautiful wooden and stone
built castle. Samurai guards patrolling every inch. The
guards nodding to RYUU as he enters.

9 INT. IMPERIAL CASTLE - DAIMYŌ - SECONDS LATER
All dialogue in Japanese.

A large wooden room, filled with beautifully colored
paintings all over the wooden walls. Sliding doors with a
simple tan layer.

RYUU

(bows)

You requested my presence, my lord?

KATSU

RYUU, a new era is upon us.

RYUU

Do you mean the era of samurai?

KATSU

I mean the world. Imminent war,
sovereign reconstruction, agrarian
transformation.

RYUU
I will be prepared, master.
(bows, turns around)

Orochi draws nearer, sees RYUU and his father talking. He hides behind the walls, listening.

KATSU
RYUU, these people... who have abilities such as yourself. They are incredibly strong. I have faced them before many years ago. You must not take them lightly.

RYUU
(shocked)
There are more like us, sir?!

KATSU
Yes there are. I believe **they** are the reason why our world is on the brink of falling apart.

RYUU
(lost and confused)
I will train harder, my lord.

KATSU
Aye. Oh, RYUU there is one more thing I must inform you.

RYUU
Sir?

KATSU
I have decided that you will be the next *Daimyō*.

RYUU
My lord! Orochi is the true and proper heir, not me! It breaks the Bushido Code my lord!!

KATSU
He isn't worthy. He is war-hungry and arrogant. He would keep that vicious cycle of war going!

RYUU
Orochi will be furious my lord. I can take no honor in that.

KATSU

You must RYUU, to keep the legacy going for as long as you can. You're different. You have powers, your swordsmanship is incredible.

RYUU

I must refuse... I cannot accept that. I'm sorry my lord.

KATSU

At least consider it. Please, RYUU... Your father would be proud.

RYUU

My father? Where is he?

KATSU

Right now we must focus on the other prominent families who are interested in wealth, convince them to remain with us. We must also focus on gathering the samurai ready to oppose the Shogun, not your father's whereabouts. Consider my decision... I know its not the way it should be. But he can not be trusted as lord of this domain. Have Orochi come see me.

RYUU

(hesitates to question him any further, he sounds distraught)
Yes sir.

(bows before bolting off,
passing Orochi without a
glance)

4

Orochi, walks away in the opposite direction, clenching his fists and grinding his teeth. Angrily, he creates a bright ball of light and lets it grow large before throwing it to his right side going through the wall, and turning a peasant into dust.

OROCHI

(sarcastic)

Oh... Whoops, heh.

A pair of samurai rush to see what made the sound. They see the hole in the wall and begin asking questions.

OROCHI (CONT'D)
 (talking to guards)
 My hand slipped. Be gone.

10 EXT. CITY - MIDDAY
 All dialogue in Japanese.

A peasant walks right into Orochi.

OROCHI
 Hey! How dare you!!

PEASANT
 I'm sorry your highness, forgive me!

OROCHI
 Silence peasant, bow down to me.

Peasant bows down in fear.

OROCHI (CONT'D)
 Yes, that's where you all belong.
 On your knees, bowing down to your
 true leader.
 (turns and speaks to
 himself)
 I **will** become Shogun.

RYUU walks to Orochi.

RYUU
 Orochi, your father requests your
 presence.

OROCHI
 (sarcastic)
 What does our mighty Daimyō want?

RYUU
 I am not sure. I was ordered to
 inform you of the request.

OROCHI
 Tch, sure.

11 INT. DAIMYŌ ROOM - MIDDAY
 All dialogue in Japanese.

Orochi paces, playing with a sphere of pulsating light energy with his right hand, until his father appears.

KATSU
Son.

OROCHI
Father.

The tension between father and son is palpable.

KATSU
We must talk about your future...

OROCHI
Oh, this shall be entertaining.

KATSU
Orochi, what is wrong with you? Why do you not have faith in my capability as an Daimyō??

OROCHI
Because of how soft you are!

KATSU
I'm no tyrant, nor will I ever intend to be, Orochi!

OROCHI
You have all this power at your disposal, and yet you do not conquer. Strength is key, and we have that here!

KATSU
That isn't what power is really about.

OROCHI
Yes it is father. You're just weak and cowardly. I'm the strongest here and **I** deserve to be Daimyō?!

KATSU
No! Your attitude and demeanor is that of a child! You **ARE NOT FIT** to become Daimyō?!

OROCHI
(grinds teeth)
You know that's not fair, what you're doing!
(clenches his fists)
Or honorable.
(smirking)
You're defying the Bushido Code.

KATSU

(sighs)

I'm doing what's best for the people, son! They will not be living in peace under your rule. I'm sorry Orochi, you will not become the Daimyō. That is all, you're dismissed.

OROCHI

(intensely glares at his father)

Tch, old fool.

(storms the room)

12

EXT. FIELD - MIDDAY

All dialogue in Japanese.

RYUU is training with an older samurai, until he is interrupted by the sound of horses and the sight of ten samurai riders entering the city.

RYUU stands, confused, staring, bows to his sparring partner before heading to the castle.

CUT TO:

13

EXT. IMPERIAL CASTLE - MIDDAY

All dialogue in Japanese.

The samurai walk towards the entrance of the castle.

SAMURAI

(bows)

Lord Katsu, we have urgent news.

KATSU

What is the trouble?

All of the accompanied samurai bow down.

SAMURAI

(bows)

My lord, it's the Shogun...

(pauses, quickly rises up)

He's preparing to abolish us!

Masanori enters, Akira, Orochi and Yuki stand near.

MASANORI

Ah, so the time has come my lord.

SAMURAI

We need your help, Takamori is making a final stand at Shiroyama.

(beat)

We need reinforcements.

OROCHI

Finally.

Katsu glares at his son, Orochi shoots back a cocky smirk.

KATSU

Very well, let us gather up the men and begin our preparations. We will see you there.

SAMURAI

We will be meeting on the far side of the cliffs. Past the forest we have set up a hidden camp.

The samurai bow and depart the city.

Katsu and Masanori nod at one another before turning their attention to their youthful warriors.

MASANORI

(laughing)

Ha yes, kids. It's time to show the Shogun what you're made of.

Masanori and Katsu depart; Yuki, Akira and Orochi begin to walk away, RYUU beginning to follow Orochi, Yuki and Akira.

RYUU runs to join the others, leaving Orochi.

OROCHI

(talking to himself)

Tch, our Shogun is competent, my father is tranquil. The warriors I fight with are bothersome. I must take this land and lead them the way they should be led.

14

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOPS - NIGHT

All dialogue in Japanese.

A wave of pink iwakagami flowers are full bloomed surrounding the narrow walking path.

The dense layer of fog blanketing the landscape.

The highest ranking samurai lead the formation on horseback, departing the city. The infantry follow on foot, jogging.

Eventually, the infantry stops to set up camp for the night. Everyone but Orochi is asleep. He is sitting by the fire when he hears a strange noise.

Orochi surprised at being the only one to hear these noises, he walks away from the camp.

 OROCHI
 (confused)
 Hello?
 (silence)
 Show yourself coward!

As Orochi slowly walks towards the voice, a mysterious figure appears hidden in the darkness.

 MYSTERIOUS VOICE
 Do not shine your light any
 further, young warrior.

 OROCHI
 Shine my light? You know of my
 power?!

 MYSTERIOUS VOICE
 Yes, we've been watching you. The
 time for you to rise is now.

 OROCHI
 Who is this "we"?

 MYSTERIOUS VOICE
 (scoffs)
 You'll see soon enough Orochi. You,
 who manipulates light, yet whose
 intentions are so sinister.
 (voice fades)

 OROCHI
 Wha-- who are you?

There is silence once more. Orochi paces, looking in vain for the mysterious stranger.

He quickly unsheathes his katana and swings it, only to be parried by Akira.

 AKIRA
 What's going on?

OROCHI
What are you doing here?

AKIRA
I heard voices and then I saw you here.

OROCHI
Tch, leave me be woman.

His frustration mounting, Orochi knocks Akira aside, eager to escape her.

AKIRA
What is your problem?

OROCHI
You are my problem, stay out of my affairs.

15 EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - NIGHT
All dialogue in Japanese.

The samurai begin to leave. As they exit, single file through the mountain pass, something echoes through the narrow, dark, and steep passage.

RYUU
(cautiously looking around)
There is something here. Stay vigilant.

YUKI
I sense it too, father what should we do?

MASANORI
We keep moving, whatever it is will either come at us or will vanish.

OROCHI
(grunting in frustration, clicks tongue)
Why don't we just seek and destroy it.

KATSU
Orochi, silence yourself!

Disgruntled, Orochi signals his horse to gallop faster.

KATSU (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

OROCHI

To take care of whatever is making that sound.

Angered, Katsu turns to the warrior youth.

KATSU

Yuki, Akira, RYUU. Go after him. Bring him back, he must not disobey me anymore than he's already these the last few days.

RYUU

Yes my lord.

As they accelerate, chasing Orochi, the noise echoes, growing louder, making it abundantly clear that something is greatly amiss.

KATSU

I cannot understand why he is disobeying me. He's become more defiant.

MASANORI

Surely, my lord, it is because of the decision you made.

KATSU

I haven't told him yet...

MASANORI

Ah, then he must be in his phase. He has become quite defiant as of late. But I wouldn't worry, when we must fight, he will stand with us.

KATSU

I hope so.

The mountain pass leads the three warriors to a dark, spooky forest. Still in search of Orochi, they begin to tread quietly and cautiously as the strange noises grows louder.

16

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

All dialogue in Japanese.

A dark forest, shrouded with heavy mist. The eerie echoes of crickets screaming and horses trampling small twigs.

AKIRA

I don't like the look of this at all.

RYUU

Neither do I, but we must find Orochi.

YUKI

Something has been off about him and I can't figure it out.

AKIRA

Yeah, he shoved into me and yelled at me for nothing. I had only asked if there was something wrong.

RYUU

Akira, when was this??

AKIRA

Earlier in the evening, while we were still in the mountain pass.

RYUU

Why did you wait to tell me?

A loud boom, followed by yelling, disrupts the conversation.

YUKI

Hey! Do you hear that?

AKIRA

Yes it's coming from the north!

RYUU

Orochi...
(pulls harness)
Charge!

They dash faster and discovering what was making that noise. Orochi is surrounded by fifteen SOLDIERS with guns and heavy padding around the limbs.

YUKI

Wha-- What are they?!

RYUU

I don't know Yuki, but we must aid Orochi!

17 EXT. FOREST DEPTHS - MOMENTS LATER
All dialogue in Japanese.

Struggling for once, Orochi is cornered by four SOLDIERS. Two are charging. The other two take aim with their guns. Orochi parries with his katana, warding off close attacks, as shots fired from a greater distance fizz by him. Easily disposing of his opponents.

Yuki takes out one of the SOLDIERS by firing an arrow at him from behind before running, barrel-rolling, and unleashing a wave of snow that freezes five more.

Akira sprints to another small group of SOLDIERS. Using her gravity powers to pin them to the ground, she jumps in the air, unsheathes her small dual blades, and slices through them.

RYUU heads for the last small group, sparring with two at a time, exchanging parries until he finds an opening to fatally slash one soldier and impales the other, leaving his katana in the latter's torso--

Charging towards the remaining three SOLDIERS, he electrifies two of them, and creates a lightning blade to behead the last.

Still struggling, OROCHI rolls to cut two SOLDIERS' feet. Quickly getting up, he stabs them simultaneously through their ribs with his katana and bright, sharp, light-blade. The remaining SOLDIERS find themselves surrounded and surrender.

SOLDIER 1
Please show mercy!

OROCHI
Show mercy?
(clicks tongue)
No.

RYUU
Orochi, stop it!

OROCHI
(stands between the
soldiers)
Why should I?

SOLDIER 1
P-please spare us... we will give
you information!

OROCHI
(scoffs)
I don't need your useless
information.

OROCHI grabs their heads, large pulses of light emitting from his palms.

RYUU sprints toward OROCHI and pushes him against a tree.

RYUU
What is wrong with you? We could
have used that vital information!

OROCHI
I prefer not to stand around
aimlessly when opponents can be
easily defeated.

RYUU loosens his grip enough to allow YUKI and AKIRA to pry him away.

Remounting his horse, OROCHI begins to vanish into the distance.

OROCHI (CONT'D)
We should figure out a way to
defeat them easily.

Grinding his teeth and gripping his fists, RYUU takes a step forward, but AKIRA grabs his wrist.

AKIRA
(whispering)
Save it for the battlefield.
(to Orochi)
Teamwork was our only advantage
against them.

OROCHI
What we need to learn is how to
terminate them single-handedly.

YUKI
(to Ryuu)
You can't say Orochi isn't
powerful.

RYUU silently nods.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. SHIROYAMA - AFTERNOON
All dialogue in Japanese.

Emerging from the east side of the field: an abundance of green banners arise revealing a large samurai battalion led by a high-ranking, middle-aged **SAIGO TAKAMORI**, in green armor and a distinctive Japanese Serow-Horned helmet.

Another sizable force appears from the west, bearing orange banners with a snarling tiger at the center.

Towards the south Daimyō Katsu's forces finally arrive.

The samurai leaders congregate at the center of their forces, discussing strategy, while their subordinates stand at attention.

TAKAMORI

Go! Scout the land for the enemy
and deliver them our invitation for
battle.

SAMURAI TWO

Yes, sir!

TAKAMORI

Ah, Daimyō Katsu!
(bows)
I'm grateful for your support, it's
much needed.

KATSU

(bows)
As long as our actions lead to
peace, you will always have an ally
in me.

TAKAMORI

That is our mission, my friend. And
I have heard of your spectacular
warriors well-trained to aid us in
our fight.

MASANORI

Individually, they are already
remarkably terrifying, but
together, their powers are a deadly
force.

OROCHI

(clicks tongue)
When are we going to discuss the
strategy for defeating these weak
mongrels?

TAKAMORI

(laughs)

Someone is a little eager for battle I see! Good, we can use that kind of mentality.

KATSU

Yes.

(sigh)

He is our most passionate war-boy.

TAKAMORI

(chuckles)

The plan is simple: ambush them and cage them in from all sides.

AKIRA

That would work, but what if they send out more troops?

OROCHI

Then we kill them.

TAKAMORI

(laughing)

Katsu, your son is passionate indeed!

RYUU

So we simply charge to our deaths?

OROCHI

(to Ryuu)

We're indestructible.

TAKAMORI

(smirks)

Assume your positions!

The meeting over, TAKAMORI walks towards the ledge looking down towards the SOLDIERS from atop the cliff.

TAKAMORI (CONT'D)

(inhaling and yelling)

SAMURAI: INTO POSITION. TAKE THE EAST, WEST, SOUTH AND NORTH, THEN WAIT FOR MY COMMAND.

The samurai roar, flocking in waves to take their positions behind the generals.

TAKAMORI leads his faction towards the center of the field.

Several hours of hiding out, the scout returns, cradling his bleeding arm.

SAMURAI TWO
My Lord!!! They're co--

A gun shot erupts, killing him. A blast followed by the arising of a large, charging battalion of men in light blue pants, faded red overcoats and rifles with bayonets.

TAKAMORI raising his right hand, then plummeting, signaling his archers to fire.

Swarms of arrows soar, marring the sky before following ever-faster downward slopes to skewer their targets.

Signaling the samurai to charge after their barrage. The samurai and gunmen clashing, the battlefield covered with SOLDIERS.

Eventually his forces become outnumbered and overwhelmed, Takamori has no choice but to abandon his proposed tactics.

19 EXT. ALL SIDES OF FIELD - MIDDAY
All dialogue in Japanese.

A yellow flare covers a vast swath of sky. As stampeding factions materialize, closing in from all sides of the field. Katsu's forces begin to thunderously charge.

RYUU, Masanori, Akira, Yuki, and Katsu all lag behind Orochi who leads the charge, screaming, katana in one hand, giant influx of light conjured in the other. Swords clash with bayonets. Bodies fall, one on top of another.

OROCHI
(yelling)
Die!

Leaving a trail of corpses behind him, Orochi plows through his enemies, delivering one or two strikes per kill. Quickly moving forward, he stays in the center, slashing his victims.

OROCHI (CONT'D)
(yelling, maniacally
laughing)
Yeah! How do you like that?
(flares at enemies, grips
blades, smirking)
Who's next?

20 EXT. MIDST OF BATTLE - EVENING

Back to back, RYUU and Akira slash away at their enemies, delivering death with their powers: RYUU annihilating foes with a surge of lightning, slithering midair; Akira crushing them with a gravitational tremor simulating an earthquake. Nearby, Yuki freezes, then butchers, yet more enemy insurgents.

21 EXT. FIELD - EVENING
All dialogue in Japanese.

The armed forces increasingly dwindling in numbers, a trumpet goes off distinctively signaling for reinforcements.

KATSU
We might actually win this. Let's
catch up with my son, Masanori!

Masanori nods, he and Katsu stay close, attempting to gain on Orochi.

KATSU (CONT'D)
Orochi!! Slow down!

Orochi pauses his killing spree to catch his breath, taking in the fighting and dying bodies around him. A fresh onslaught of SOLDIERS charge toward him only to be wiped away by a deadly wave of light.

OROCHI
(recalling the words of
the mysterious man with a
grin, to himself)
Of course. I want true power...

A samurai approaching Orochi.

SAMURAI
Captain Orochi! They're falling
back! Shall we pursuit?

Orochi slashes the samurai and begins to slay anyone in his way. Both factions approaching him, enjoying a spell of violence.

Katsu and Masanori rush to confront him as he proceeds to strike anyone down.

KATSU
Son! What did you do?!

OROCHI

What does it look like, Father!?
 (smirking as he sprints,
 katana targeting his
 father)
 You're next.

Jumping in front of Katsu, Masanori acts as the shield. A crowd of samurai sprint to aid they're superiors.

Eventually arriving, the samurai one-by-one begin to fall. Orochi decapitates one, slashes another from the forehead down. In a crazed state, he continues to laugh hysterically while he severs limbs from each soldier in his way.

YUKI

(from a distance,
 surveying her father in
 danger)
 Dad?
 (charges)

RYUU

(riveted to Yuki)
 Yuki? Where are you going?

Confused, his eyes tracks her to find her father and Katsu locked in battle with Orochi.

RYUU (CONT'D)

Damn... Akira! Let's go.

Small clusters of SOLDIERS with bayonets repel Yuki, RYUU and Akira each time as they push closer--

YUKI

Get out of my way!!
 (releases snow cloud over
 enemies, charges as
 katana transforms into
 icy blade)
 Die!

22

EXT. HILL - EVENING
 All dialogue in Japanese

Orochi's speed is too much, even for the combined efforts of Masanori and Katsu. He spins, parrying their blades, then shattering them with a blade of light, reserving his steel to slash their legs.

KATSU
 (on his knees like
 Masanori, exhausted,
 wheezing, pleading)
 Son... please don't do this-- I beg
 of you..

OROCHI
 (paces amidst the chaos)
 You're weak father, we need the
 kind of change only I, not you, can
 deliver. Goodbye.

Orochi swings his sword: a slash to his father's chest,
 followed by a fatal light-blade stab. A pulsating, bright,
 ragged beam is seen poking out of Katsu's back.

MASANORI
 (trying to rise)
 NO!!! You'll regret... this!

OROCHI
 Don't worry, General. You're next.
 Humph, but allow me to help you up.

Orochi approaches Masanori and, sighing, amputates his hands
 before striking him lethally.

YUKI finally arriving, in awe and absolute heart break.

YUKI
 No-- no, Father... please don't...
 Not now...

MASANORI
 (looks at Yuki with a
 broken smile)
 Yu--
 (eyes close)

OROCHI
 Aww. How sad. Time for you to go
 with your father, Yuki.

Laughing crazily, he lifts his blade and prepares to strike
 her--

Yuki gets up, freezes his blade, and begins to fight him--

RYUU
 (desperate)
 Akira! We must go. Hurry!! Yuki
 needs our help.

As they run, Akira fires arrows to clear a path through the enemy SOLDIERS. Reaching Yuki, RYUU is stunned by the sight of the slain bodies of Katsu and Masanori.

YUKI
 (to Orochi, her freezing
 powers boost accelerates)
 How could you do that to our
 fathers?! Have you lost your mind?!
 We are a family, and you betrayed
 us!!

OROCHI
 You're not thinking, that's what
 will kill you.

Orochi grabs Yuki's arm, overpowering her, breaks it, and pulls her close.

YUKI screams.

OROCHI (CONT'D)
 This is where you meet your end.
 (a beat; he scans the
 landscape for Ryuu,
 smirks)
 Ryuu!! Say goodbye to your love.

RYUU locking around, spotting YUKI, as OROCHI pushes her onto his light blade, piercing her chest. Blood gushing out from her mouth. RYUU takes in her face, bloody and tearing.

The rigid, trembling sound of the energetic light weapon protruding from her torso.

OROCHI pulls the blade from her chest, her weakened body wavering, but remaining vertical, for mere fractions of a second before collapsing. Blood dripping from her mouth.

RYUU catches YUKI as she falls, then holds her gently, face-to-face for a few minutes before putting her gently on the ground.

YUKI lifeless, AKIRA aims an arrow at OROCHI as RYUU rises to charge him, deathly lightning blades blazing.

RYUU
 (undeterred by Orochi's
 own menacing blades)
 Time for you to pay for what you
 did!

OROCHI
(charges)
You can't beat me, never have. Why
would it work this time?!

AKIRA attempts to cover RYUU, while he and OROCHI face off with everything they've got, are thwarted as enemies close in tight around her.

As she shifts gears, wielding her dual daggers and gravity power to disable her attackers, OROCHI finds an opening and fends RYUU off.

OROCHI (CONT'D)
You could have saved yourself from
certain death, if you had opened
your eyes to what truly lies before
you!

RYUU
(panting heavily)
No! You're being dishonorable:
You're one of us!!

OROCHI
True that may be, but you all
dishonored me. That he would name
you Daimyō--

RYUU
It wasn't my choice!

OROCHI
No matter, I will take things into
my own hands. Goodbye, old friend.

Two-handed grip on his lightning blade, RYUU dives to the right side and strikes OROCHI.

As OROCHI gets struck on the right shoulder, he simultaneously slashed RYUU across his chest.

Both dropping to the ground.

RYUU'S arms clutching his chest as OROCHI grabs his shoulder.

AKIRA
(to Ryuu)
Hurry, he will get up quickly.

RYUU
We can't just run away Akira!

AKIRA

This is not the time to eliminate
Orochi. That day will come, but
today, live, for Yuki.

Akira helps RYUU up and they make their escape on foot.

23 EXT. HILL - EVENING - LATER

On horseback, Akira, and injured RYUU, cross the crest of the hill.

24 EXT. FAR SIDE OF HILL - LATE NIGHT
All dialogue in Japanese

Smoke fills the air like dense fog, echoes of screams faintly fading away from the field.

As the smoke clears, the outlines of a silhouette sharpen: a figure gloating over unspeakable carnage.

At closer range, there can be no mistake. Eyes glowing bright white light. Face covered in blood, right arm badly burned, Orochi grins, expanding a monstrous sphere of light.

OROCHI

(chuckles, talks to
himself, looks at wound)
Impressive. Tell me, how can
something so bright, be so deadly?
(looks to the sky, spreads
arms out)
Because, I am a God.
(manically chuckles)

Orochi starts walking towards the nearest still-standing horse.

OROCHI (CONT'D)

My reign begins now, Japan.

TAKAMORI

(wounded, wheezing, and
bleeding)
Not if I have anything to say about
it.
(struggles to get on his
knees)

OROCHI

(looks down on Takamori)
You're still alive?

TAKAMORI
 (aims katana at Orochi,
 spits out blood, charges)
 Go to hell!

OROCHI
 (chuckles, reverse grips
 katana and slaps the
 katana off Takamori's
 hand, catches it)
 Pathetic.
 (steps to the left, plants
 katana deep into his foot
 holding him still)
 You're incredibly determined.
 Still, no challenge for me. But, do
 not worry. I'll cleanse Japan and
 finish what you started.
 (paces around his prey
 like a vulture, spears
 Takamori in the back)
 Your path ends here.
 (quickly pulls out katana,
 sheathes it)
 I need an army.

Takamori kneeling on one knee, gasping for air until his body collapses and shuts down. Orochi walks over the body, muttering to himself, and mounts a horse.

25 EXT. PORT OF YOKOHAMA - MORNING
 All dialogue in Japanese

Skirting authorities, Akira smuggles the wounded RYUU onto an outgoing ship. She leaves RYUU to rest, returning shortly, inexplicably equipped with bandages and alcohol to treat his wounds.

RYUU
 From where--?

AKIRA
 You underestimate me--
 (removing Ryuu's armor to
 reveal a deep diagonal
 laceration from left
 shoulder to right hip)
 Quiet.

CUT TO:

26

EXT. LIVERPOOL PORT - 4 MONTHS LATER - NIGHT

Akira and RYUU step out of the ship casually. RYUU, almost unrecognizable, with a medium-length, bushy beard; Akira, concealing her face with a scarf, her eyes only to be seen. The winds are cold, brutal. Cutting right through to the souls of the wandering public.

The port suddenly becomes eerie, noises of stray cats and empty glass bottles confines the two samurai. Unknown of what is lurking around them, they proceed with extreme caution. Whispers beginning to resonate, both warriors grip their blades and lean on each others' backs.

A group of six men in torn black buttoned-tops, dirty high-waisted trousers. Their bloodstained boots with extreme signs of wear and tear, three are equipped with heavy belts, and the others gripping on knives.

They charge full speed towards the Samurai. Akira unsheathes her katana and instantly two men die. RYUU, limps up and does the same to two more men. Akira spots a man approaching RYUU with a heavy belt.

As another is lurking behind her, she quickly slices his top half off his waist, then turns to her left and impales the lurker as he jumped into her katana. Suddenly, loud and rapid bangs occur and bodies fall.

AKIRA
(in Japanese, astonished,
slowly looks up)
Somebody there?!

One MAN (JACK) cloaked in darkness, slowly steps into the light, tall man with a peaked flat cap and overcoat. Eleven others follow behind the apparent leader. The man speaks in a British accent.

JACK
(in English)
No worries lass, we aren't gonna
hurt ya.
(winks, smirks)

Akira and RYUU on high alert, their blades aimed at Jack. Akira's glare intensifying and terrifying the peculiar men.

JACK (CONT'D)
(signals his men)
Lower yer bloody weapons, boys!
(sighs, double takes at
his men)
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

Great, you have all pissed yourselves.

(sighs, to Akira,
stretches hand out)

Follow us.

AKIRA

(swings blade once)

Stop!

JACK

(pondering)

Bloody hell, of course.

(hand weaves as he speaks)

You, follow us, we help.

A minute of silence.

AKIRA

(nervously looks, sheathes
blade, bows)

Yes.

CUT TO:

27 INT. JASPER'S PUB (LONDON) - NIGHT

The samurai follow Jack and his mates into the pub. Full of noise as they continue walking down to the back of the bar. Some patrons are passed out on the tables, others are playing poker. Jack opens the back door, leading them to a hidden underground entrance.

28 INT. BASEMENT

Walking down the creaky stairs, the emptiness of the basement sends out eerie vibes. Yet, surrounded by faded-tiled walls and a set of dusty glass windows with a pair of dice etched onto the center of them.

RYUU

(in Japanese)

Strange...

Akira nodding her head to RYUU, they continue to cautiously walk with their strong hands gently gripping the butt of their katanas. Jack and the men suddenly stop at this large, oval wooden table, and take seats. Jack gesturing towards the samurai to do the same.

JACK
(gesturing as he speaks)
I will teach you two English, in
return you will protect me.

Akira beginning to understand quicker, replies with a nod.

JACK (CONT'D)
(smiles)
Beautiful. Alright mates, it is
time to expand and make a name for
ourselves.

The roar of the supporters trumped the noise above them as they begin to drink and plot.

29 MONTAGE - VARIOUS

30 A) EXT. BIRMINGHAM - NIGHT

Jack accompanied by Akira and RYUU are cutting the thieves down, as they claim control, while his subordinates are retrieving money won by illegal betting.

Akira using her powers to hoist enemies into the sky and allowing gravity to do its job, whilst RYUU electrifying his victims with each swing of his lightning-infused blade.

31 B) INT. ROOM - DAY

Akira and RYUU learning how to write basic english. Jack behind the scenes as their instructor.

32 C) EXT. DUDLEY - NIGHT

Jack and the subordinates gunning down local resistance, Akira and RYUU separately guarding the front and back entrances respectively. Multiple dead bodies scattered all around the entrances.

33 D) INT. ABANDONDED LIBRARY - DAY

Akira and RYUU attempting to read, showing signs of major progress.

34 E) EXT. WOLVERHAMPTON - NIGHT

Jack is paying off Wolverhampton police and government officials, as the samurai stand on either behind him respectively.

35 F) EXT. COVENTRY - DAY

Police and local gang resistance engaging an all-out-battle against Jack and his subordinates. Akira and RYUU separated from Jack, are cornered by two strange and unknown MEN in full tailored suits, and long overcoats.

Eventually Jack and his gang make a run for it. The suited men walk towards Akira and RYUU.

MAN 1

(English accent)

My name is Henry Bowman, we realize your powers are being misused by your employers.

(looks back at the fleeing gangsters, then back at samurai)

We strongly encourage you to join us at The Seers.

RYUU

(Japanese accent, slightly broken English)

Why must we betray our master for you?

BOWMAN

I'm glad you asked that, you see we have bigger plans for unique people such as yourselves. Besides, it appears your "master" has deserted you two.

(gun fire echoing)

We have no time to waste, you must trust me for now. If we wanted you dead it would have been done by now.

The samurai nodding to each other and bows. Bowman and his lackey taking the samurai down a quieter path towards their escape.

36 END OF MONTAGE

CUT TO:

37 EXT. TRAFALGAR SQUARE - DAY (LONDON, 1881)

The street is busy, stocked with life. Horse trams are moving along, an old man standing on the side of the street holding a tray selling muffins. A young child standing next to a pile of newspapers, yelling, he hands one to a man wearing a cloak-

The woman next to him gives the boy fifty cents--

The newspaper reads "DEFEAT AT MAJUBA HILL, NICOLAAS SMIT FOUND DEAD DAYS LATER"--

The man puts the newspaper down, and begins to walk down the busy street.

AKIRA
(talking softly)
You think now the war is over?

RYUU
We've completed all the mission objectives, Akira. Time to report back to base.
(beat)
But, I hope so.

38 EXT. OXFORD STREET - DAY

The pair walk around the busy street, eventually entering an alley. Its dark and foggy creating a spooky atmosphere, stray cats meowing and running past them.

Approaching this particular wall to the end on the right. She looks around to cover him like some sort of secret, while he pushes on the wall; standing back and the wall beginning to push back a little, starting to move upwards revealing a hidden elevator.

They step in and close the gate, pulling the rope to operate it.

39 INT. SUB LEVEL FLOOR - DAY

RYUU and Akira exit the elevator, passing a mob of suits. Those not contributing to the hallway traffic sit at desks, mechanically filing papers.

Endless glass-walled rooms: some labs; others, offices and conference rooms.

They pause at a door bearing a plaque for one "H. Bowman".

40 INT. SUB LEVEL FLOOR - H. BOWMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Bowman's office is cube shaped, with one large window to the right of the door. RYUU and Akira take a seat across Bowman.

BOWMAN
My commendations on the *Majuba Hill* mission.

RYUU
(speaking fairly
proficient English)
Thank you, sir.

BOWMAN
(addressing Ryuu and
Akira's bowed heads)
I have another mission for you. You are to depart London for Wallonia and Paris at once.

RYUU
What is it that we must do there?
Who is there to silence, sir?

BOWMAN
There are murmurs and whispers of an unknown collective of assailants; remnants of some mysterious harbinger, possibly. It is rumored they dress in all black, covering their faces with an red odd-shaped cloth, leaving only their eyes visible.

AKIRA
Do you have any more for us to go on?

BOWMAN
No, however, you will be joined by four more agents: a pair at each location on the report.

AKIRA
(stands and bows)
Yes, sir.

RYUU
(stands and bows)
Yes, sir.

BOWMAN
Very well. You are dismissed.
(signaling their
dismissal)

CUT TO:

41 EXT. SMALL VILLAGE IN WALLONIA - NIGHT
All dialogue in French.

Two SOLDIERS on patrol-duty: **CARLOS** (18, innocent brown eyes, neatly-combed short-cropped hair, calm, a sword strapped to his back), and beside him, a spirited older man; his commander: **MIKE** (blue eyes, shoulder-length dirty-blond hair, dark brown mustache, white button-front shirt, black pullover vest, loose black pants, black dress shoes, dagger clipped to his right boot).

They approach *The Setting Sun*.

42 INT. THE SETTING SUN
All dialogue in French.
All dialogue in *italics* is in English.

MIKE
Let's drink!

CARLOS
Is that a good idea, sir?

MIKE
(chuckles)
Relax, princess!

The dark wooden tavern is empty, aside from the two people sitting, sharing drinks, and a man in the far corner.

SONNY, the bartender, (an older, heavysset gentleman, with gray hair, beard, and light brown eyes; dirty white apron over a long shirt and brown pants).

SONNY
Well, well, if it isn't the great
Mike Barre, himself.

MIKE
(laughs, sits down, pulls
bar stool for Carlos)
Time to see how much you can drink.
(patting Carlos on the
back)

CARLOS
Sir, I still don't believe this is
a good idea...

MIKE
You're a good, young man. I can
count on you. I appreciate that.
(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

But trust me, nothing is going to happen.

(to Sonny)

Surprised you're still up: the wife kick you out?

A small chuckle from Carlos.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Oh right, Sonny this here is Carlos.

SONNY

Pleasure to meet ya lad, make sure you watch him, he's a lightweight!

CARLOS

(now laughing in earnest)

I'll take a glass of plum wine.

MIKE

(coughing and slamming a hand down on the bar)

Nonsense! Sonny, give us two large ales!

Sonny chuckling and Carlos looks surprised.

As their verbal sparring fades to a hum, Mike comes to an awareness that they are no longer alone in the bar.

Seated opposite, **BORIS** (mid 30s, with blue eyes, short, messy brown hair, and white high-collared coat over black sweater-vest paired with black pants and black combat boots), **ANNIE** (also mid 30s, with emotionless brown eyes, dark brown hair tied back, and brown high-collared coat over a light tan hoodie) leans back, the front legs of her chair precariously rising.

Formerly conversing, Annie and Boris seem to be debating.

BORIS

(sighing before sipping)

Creepy, heh? Those monsters killin' people?

ANNIE

(grabbing her mug and chugging it)

Can't be real.

BORIS

Hate to break it to ya, but we are monsters.

Annie stares into her mug. Rises. Steers towards Sonny.

SONNY

Another round?

ANNIE

(nods head, returns to table, fresh drinks in hand)

I'll have the same.

BORIS

(chuckling)

It's your turn!

ANNIE

(belches)

If you say so.

BORIS

In that case, I'll have the same as before!

(lightly chuckles)

Annie attempting to abruptly attract Sonny's attention.

ANNIE

Anyways, if those "monsters" are off killing those people, then perhaps they deserve to perish.

Mike quietly overhearing Annie's conversation.

MIKE

How can you say that people deserve to die?

(beat; then, Annie shrugs)

HEY, I'M TALKING TO YOU.

ANNIE

(her back to Mike, hands on her mug)

Aware. Might wanna take a seat before ya hurt yourself, grandpa.

MIKE

(restrained by Carlos)

Let go of me Carlos, she's one of those... THINGS.

Giving Mike a warning glare, Boris slams Carlos to the ground. Annie suddenly grabs Mike by the collar, slamming his face to the bar.

ANNIE
Who are you, Blind Man?

Sonny stares. Boris, now sitting on Carlos' back, resumes drinking.

MIKE
(retrieving the dagger
from his boot)
DIE YOU MONSTER!

ANNIE
You don't know me.

Mike stabs her right leg. Annie punches him, extracts the blade, and holds it to his neck.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
(as Sonny looks on in
horror, powerless to aid
Mike)
Gimme one reason not to end your
old, sad life!

Annie deals Mike a strike with the butt of the knife. Drops it. Rises.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
(to Boris)
Let's go.
(dusting herself off)
We're done here.

BORIS
(freeing Carlos)
Time to go, eh?
(burping)
*Things were just getting fun! Hey
bartender--*
(sliding a wad of cash
across the table)
--Don't forget your money!

ANNIE
(to Boris)
Come ON!

Back to Sonny, Boris waves, over his shoulder, as he exits with Annie.

SONNY
(rushing to aid the fallen
SOLDIERS)
Mike? Carlos?
(MORE)

SONNY (CONT'D)

(suddenly spying a
mysterious stranger
lurking alone in the
dark)

Hey, you in the back!

The stranger wears an oversized black monk's robe, his face hidden in it's hood revealing only a shallow smile with a set of deep piercing eyes.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

(something malicious in
his tone, and in his
languorous stride)

Sure, I'll help you.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. CITY OF WAVRE - WALLONIA - NIGHT

Magnificent snow. Terribly cold. The city is quiet except for a loud and merciless wind: ghostly empty. The streets: deserted, **GÜNTHER** (early 20s; tall; stocky; wavy blonde hair, undercut, hazel eyes; black overcoat over a black suit; black dress shoes; black cane; top hat) and **ELENA** (early 20s; short; long silky brown hair; dark-brown-and-white corset; black showgirl-skirt; black boots; black fingerless gloves).

44 EXT. GOTHIC CHURCH - NIGHT

Elena and Günther stop by a Gothic style church. Large spires scattered all over the church. Gargoyle statues mounted around the church, giving it a creepy, thrilling demeanor.

GÜNTHER

(Rubs his hands warming them up)
Where are we supposed to meet them,
Elena?

ELENA

(pulls out dagger and
sharpens it)
I have no idea.

GÜNTHER

How are you not cold?

ELENA

I don't get easily chilled.
(expertly flipping her
dagger around before
concealing it)

GÜNTHER

They need to hurry, I'm freezing here.

Elena gets up and faces Günther.

ELENA

(rough tone)

Stop complaining Günther!! Just deal with it! Unless you want to drink.

Sitting down, he looks around and nods his head in agreement.

GÜNTHER

That sounds like a mission. Shall we go?

ELENA

(reading Günther's side-glance at nearby tavern)

Go. I'll guard you.

(commencing a martial arts practice session)

A seamless transition: back flip kick into barrel roll.

Günther stands up and begins to enter the nearby alley that has a back entrance to a tavern.

GÜNTHER

(as Elena again gracefully grabs her daggers)

Don't kill anyone while I'm gone!

ELENA

(pushing Günther to the ground)

I'm not making any promises.

GÜNTHER looking back with a huge smile. He eventually enters.

Exactly 10 minutes later, GÜNTHER peeks his head out the back door, giving a sad look to ELENA.

GÜNTHER

It's not as much fun drinking alone.

ELENA

You know I don't drink.

GÜNTHER

Who said I'm drinking booze!

ELENA
 (stops playing with
 daggers)
 Then what are you drinking?

GÜNTHER
 Chocolate.
 (grins widely)

ELENA
 (drops head down, shakes)
 Sometimes I wonder why we were
 assigned together.
 (gets up)

GÜNTHER
 I thought it was obvious...
 (brief moment of silence)
 You may also want to know that -
 (looks around, whispers)
We're at the wrong place.

We see ELENA just gazing through GÜNTHER.

CUT TO:

45 EXT. HMS SCORPION WARSHIP - ENGLISH CHANNEL - MIDDAY

Snow falls. A wild winter wind whistles and swirls around the heavily-armed, stem-propelled G-999.

46 INT. HMS SCORPION WARSHIP/MIDDLE LEVEL - ENGLISH CHANNEL - MIDDAY

RYUU and Akira tend to the horses, taking breaks to eat.

RYUU
 (coughing)
 I can not believe they put us on a warship.

AKIRA
 (pausing from eating a piece of bread with tomatoes to hand Ryuu some hay)
 Are you not hungry, Ryuu?

RYUU
 (feeding and petting the horses)
 No, not quite.

Akira chews deliberately, increasingly concerned.

AKIRA

You miss her don't you? I miss her too.

RYUU

(surprised; shooting Akira a look on the verge of amusement)

The two of you weren't ever fond of each other.

AKIRA

(scoffing)

It wasn't that...

RYUU

What then?

AKIRA

(taking a deep breath)

She wasn't the only one who was overly fond of you...

RYUU shoots a quick glance at Akira, then lowers his eyes, blushing.

AKIRA (CONT'D)

I still miss Yuki, regardless. We may have had our differences, but she was a close comrade and friend, and I wish she were here to fight alongside us again.

RYUU

Yes, though I'd rather be home.

AKIRA

(moving to comfort Ryuu)

There's no telling what has happened to our home.

RYUU

Do you wonder if **he's** still--

AKIRA

--sometimes.

RYUU

I saw his face.

AKIRA

You saw his face?

RYUU

A child bumped into me at the market. When he looked back, it was Orochi's face I saw.

AKIRA

(her concern mounting)
Ryuu...

RYUU

Once we complete our mission here, I have to go back home. Find him. Kill him.

AKIRA

(calmly crossing back to the horses)
He's too powerful Ryuu--

RYUU

(anger rising, interrupting Akira)
Akira!! To stand by doing nothing, while a monstrosity plagues Japan--no. How can you not stand with me?

AKIRA

(fire in her eyes)
It isn't nice to interrupt a lady, and I wasn't finished. We need time; we must be stronger; last time we faced him, he nearly killed you. You can't just rely on rage next time.

RYUU

But we have new allies at our disposal!

AKIRA

You can't possibly think they would help us! We're nothing but servants to them.

A seaman enters.

SEAMAN

(handing Ryuu a stack of papers)
Agents, we have arrived in Caen. Here are your reports and here the route to Wallonia.

AKIRA

Thank you, how long will the
journey there take us?

SEAMAN

By horse, a couple of days. Upon
your return, the last two agents
you are to meet will be ready as
well.

RYUU

(surveilling the papers
before bagging them)
You know much, my friend.

SEAMAN

(pausing before exiting)
Only what I'm supposed to, sir.

RYUU and Akira finish loading up the horses and they too
depart.

DISSOLVE TO:
CAEN, FRANCE.

47

EXT. FRENCH WILDERNESS - FRANCE - EVENING

RYUU and Akira gallop through the dense, fog-enveloped woods,
their horses blanketed to keep them warm in the cold, RYUU
and Akira in winter coats and scarves to protect their
identity.

AKIRA

(at Ryuu pulling out the
map)
How far are we?

RYUU

(squinting through the
fog, down at the map,
then up and out again)
We should reach the city any moment
now.

Spotting an opening out of the forest, they push toward a
small quaint village surrounded by a tall, sharp, imposing
fence, from which torches blaze, at intervals.

Halting, they gaze at one another, confused. Is this the
place?

48 EXT. QUIET VILLAGE - WALLONIAN TERRITORY - NIGHT

RYUU and Akira stop their horses, each unsheathe their katanas and approach with caution into the village.

AKIRA

I don't like the look of it. It's quiet.

Looking around to make sure nothing or no one comes at them with surprise.

The sound of a old wooden door is screeching, the heavy cold wind is blowing, hitting loose wooden doors.

Its too dark, their visibility is too low. The fog is doing its job of concealing what's truly here.

RYUU conjures lightning to turn a pile of wood scraps to fire. In the glow of the flames; blood-soaked earth and scattered dead bodies.

A wooden sign reading: SUN, half burnt, still burning.

RYUU and Akira unsheathe their katanas. Through the fog, a voice:

GÜNTHER

You two must be the other agents?

Still not being able to see who they're talking to.

AKIRA

(still not able to see
Günther)
Show yourself!!

ELENA

(sarcastic laugh)
Relax, we too are with The Seers.

Günther and Elena trail RYUU and Akira, attempting to spook them.

GÜNTHER

(at Ryuun dismounting and
unsheathing his katana,
Akira aiming her bow and
arrow)
Whoa, whoa, easy there!

The fog clears up, revealing the agents to each other.

RYUU
What happened here?

Günther spits and grabs his bottle.

GÜNTHER
We were attacked.

ELENA
No thanks to you two; got lost on
the way, did you?

RYUU
No. We came from London. Who
attacked you?

ELENA
Wasn't exactly like we had the
luxury to ask.

GÜNTHER
(glancing from Ryuu to
Akira)
We were told you possess powers.

RYUU and Akira look to each other, then back at Günther and
Elena.

	RYUU	AKIRA
Yes		Yes

49 EXT. CAMP - FIRESIDE - NIGHT

RYUU, Akira, Elena and Günther sit by a fire. The sounds of
crickets roaring along the bushes that occupy swarms of
fireflies surrounds them.

ELENA
(handing Ryuu a damaged,
blood-stained, set of
reports)
We were told to share what we know
about the situation in France.

GÜNTHER
(gesturing to the blood)
They seemed keen to poach these.

AKIRA
They?

ELENA

The enemy strangers we faced. If I had to guess: the targets you were to extinguish.

AKIRA

So this is high priority intelligence for them as well.

GÜNTHER

(rising and absenting himself)

Elena?

RYUU

Where are you going?

ELENA

(following Günther away from the fire)

Somewhere else.

50 EXT. FRENCH WILDERNESS - FRENCH TERRITORY - MORNING

RYUU and Akira are riding at full speed, following the map to their next destination. The air begins to feel a lot more cooler, as their stomachs rumble.

Out of provisions, they near a pack of wild deer, inexplicably unfazed by the disruption. They continue to press on.

51 EXT. PARIS - FRANCE - AFTERNOON

The streets are full of life, it is cold yet everyone seems to be doing something. RYUU and Akira pass by a long and wide three legged structure being constructed.

RYUU gets off his horse and looks at the report that the seaman gave him.

AKIRA

Where do we have to go, Ryuu?

Looking at the reports, the name of a cafe catches his attention.

RYUU

(struggling with pronunciation)

Jambon et café, or so it would appear.

Akira has the expression of bewilderment.

RYUU (CONT'D)
 (at Akira's look of
 bewilderment)
 I don't know, let's hope they have
 food.

Akira nods. Tethering the horses bearing their concealed arms to posts in a nearby alley, they head for the cafe.

52

INT. JAMBON ET CAFÉ - PARIS - AFTERNOON

A large rectangular sign: "Jambon et Café."

In spite of the cold, the outdoor seating is populated with customers sipping coffee and enjoying croissants, toast and eggs, sustenance not knowing the language will make it more challenging for them to order.

Appropriating the documents from RYUU, Akira searches for clues as to who they are to meet here and where, discovering a reference to a discrete area not shaded, but still hidden from general view.

Entering the checkerboard-floored interior, eyes peeled, they take in a slew of clients eating, drinking, playing checkers, laughing, before identifying a couple, sipping coffee, and staring steadily back.

ANNIE
 Here they come.

BORIS
 Finally.

ANNIE
 Promise me you'll behave.
 (then, at Boris' non-
 response:)
 We can't have another incident.

BORIS
 We didn't even start tha-

ANNIE
 Shush, they're getting closer.

RYUU and Akira join them at the table.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
 (extends arm to shake
 hands)
 I'm Annie. This is Boris.

Boris smiles and shakes their hands.

BORIS
 (appearing notably less
 crazed than earlier)
 Pleasure.

RYUU
 You know our names then...?

ANNIE
 Yes. And we have critical
 intelligence on your targets.

BORIS
 Can't we eat first?

Annie sighs, reclining in her chair, with her right hand
 covering her face, hailing a waitress.

ANNIE
 Fine. What would you all like?

AKIRA
 Whatever you're having. We haven't
 eaten in days.

BORIS
 (shocked)
 You should have said something.
 (then, speaking English to
 the French waitress, who
 comprehends nothing)
 Eggs, bread and coffee--

An awkward silence emerges between the waitress and Boris.
 Boris then looking around with a fading smile.

ANNIE
 (sighing, rescues Boris)
*Nous voudrions des oeufs, des
 toasts et du café, s'il vous plaît.*

The waitress takes the order and leaves.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
 (glaring at Boris)
 Now where were we?

RYUU
Your intelligence.

ANNIE
Right. We've had no direct confrontations thus far, but have clear indications the targets have been tailing us.

RYUU
How can you be so sure?

ANNIE
A string of warning attacks have been following us where ever we go, as if we're cursed.

AKIRA
Do you then expect them here?

BORIS
Ah!!! Food.

ANNIE
(shooting Boris a disgusting look)
Boris, my God, get a hold of yourself.

Turning back to RYUU and Akira, to find them inhaling their food like animals, she breaks into uncontrollable laughter.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
(regaining her composure)
We have reason to believe these assailants are tied to your past.

AKIRA
What makes you think that?

ANNIE
For starters, our evidence shows them as based in Japan.

RYUU stops eating and stares at Annie.

RYUU
Orochi...

ANNIE
I'm sorry?

RYUU
 (talking to himself)
 It makes sense..

BORIS
 What does?

ANNIE
 I'm lost. What are you trying to
 say?

AKIRA
 All this destruction and violence:
 the perception that it could be
 tied to us may well prove valid--

53 EXT. OUTSIDE CAFE - PARIS- AFTERNOON
 All dialogue in *Italics* is Japanese.

A loud explosion.

Screaming.

The four agents rush outside into the ruined city only to--
 still reeling-- be charged by an armed, black-clad militia.

ANNIE
 (walks forward, then
 nearby citizens)
 Get away from here!

BORIS
 (laughing)
 It's about to get hot over here.

Fire emerges out of his hands, he shoots, engulfing a lot of
 the enemies in flames.

ANNIE'S cold dead eyes then turn purple. Purple waves emit
 around her, as she begins to levitate.

RYUU and AKIRA standby watching, as they sense an immense
 level of power radiating from them. AKIRA doesn't fully turn
 around before realizing she may not need her weapon.

RYUU and AKIRA witness flames rage forth from BORIS' palms
 toward the advancing enemy as ANNIE'S cold irises skew
 violet, matching the weaponized spectral waves rippling from
 her core as she levitates.

RYUU
(looks to Akira, then nods
at her)
Lets go!

AKIRA activates her gravitational power; RYUU accelerates from a jog to a sprint, his hands emitting lightning blasts, firing from his palms, pairs with the gravitational torpedo exterminating all of the enemy insurgents on the field.

The agents eventually pause to surveil the 10-kilometer radius littered with dead civilians and militia insurgence.

AKIRA
(panting)
Oh my goodness...

RYUU
(breathing heavily)
This is not good. Not good at all.

BORIS
(laughing uncontrollably)
Boy, did we do some damage!!

ANNIE
(catching her breath, then
slaps Boris on the back
of the head)
You are a fool.
(scanning the horizon)
I have an idea, but it involves
more running.

RYUU
The Seers are not going to like
this: they told us to be discrete.

ANNIE
They knew exactly what they were
asking.

RYUU
Who will "they" be? There can be
nowhere safe for us now.

ANNIE
We faced a mini army. There
wouldn't have been any clean way of
fighting them without us dying!

RYUU
(irritated, paces around)
Well, we have to do something!

ANNIE

Then hurry. We have to find the other agents.

JUMP CUT TO: 2
WEEKS LATER

54 EXT. ITALY - PORT - NIGHT

RYUU, AKIRA, ANNIE and BORIS reconvene at last with GÜNTHER and ELENA, hungry, tired, dirty from their long journey.

GÜNTHER

Aye, what happened?!

ANNIE

(whispering)

We have to keep quiet, Günther...

ELENA

We are a long way from France, Annie.

ANNIE

(scanning the area to make sure no one is around)

The Seers have eyes everywhere. You know that.

RYUU

Where are we going to go?

5 seconds of utter silence: an eternity.

ELENA

My home.

BORIS

And where that might be?

ELENA

Malta.

AKIRA

But is Malta not under the control of England?

RYUU

Won't The Seers--

ELENA

Let it go, Ryuu. We won't do better than Malta. Are you coming or not?

Nods all around.

55 INT. OCEAN LINER - MORNING

The soothing sounds of waves breaking.

Dolphins chase the boat.

Drinks in hand, Elena, Annie, and Akira are playing a game of cards.

AKIRA
(taking a sip before
laying a card down)
Fascinating.

Annie appears to be winning, as Günther and Boris become increasingly engrossed in their drinking competition. Insults traded, liquor wasted, empty cups discarded to roll around the deck.

Ryuu stands alone, staring out at the open sea.

AKIRA (CONT'D)
(approaching him)
Ryuu... what is troubling you?

RYUU
(Breathing slowly)
Will we now be on the run?

AKIRA
Perhaps.

RYUU
This cannot be good for us. It will
to prove to be another obstacle.

AKIRA
Yes, another one that we will
overcome. Go with the flow as if
you're part of the sea. Things then
will fall into place...
(chuckles)
Naturally.

RYUU
I suppose you're right. But someone
has to think--

AKIRA
Do not over-think.

The sound of Boris and Günther hurling over the ledge jolts Ryuu and Akira out of their reflections.

ELENA
 (shaking her head at Boris
 and Günther as she
 passes)
 We're here.

Ryuu, Annie, and Akira stare as the island comes into focus: steep light-brown cliffs jutting upwards out of intense greens, as many shades as the myriad blues brought out by light striking the sea. Dolphins swimming to their side, squealing, leaving the agents smiling in delight.

CUT TO:

56 EXT. MELLIEHA PORT, MALTA - EARLY MORNING

The agents exit the transport ship with their horses: Akira shocked and amazed. The port is chock-full of people: Farmers selling their daily produce, people walking all over the area, stopping and greeting others. The sense of tranquility is evident.

AKIRA
 Elena, it's beautiful.

RYUU
 Spectacular. Seems as if everyone
 here knows each other.
 (gets on top of his horse)

ELENA
 (to Akira)
 Yeah, it is. It is quiet as well.
 Follow me.

The agents begin to ride out.

CUT TO:

57 EXT. MDINA, MALTA - MORNING

A fortified city. Tall stone walls. Two guards outside the gates. Within, the houses are attached, the balconies colorful, the narrow streets crowded. Ryuu, Akira, Annie, Boris, Günther follow Elena through the bustling marketplace, where vendors scramble with their goods, selling and trading, to a quieter part of the city.

RYUU

How does the news get circulated around here?

ELENA

There is a local boy that does the deliveries.

RYUU

I somehow feel that we will be easily recognized in a city as guarded as this.

ELENA

Don't worry. We won't. The Seers won't be distributing wanted posters here.

(gets off horse, walks towards vendors)

BORIS

(chuckles)

We'd make a killer bounty.

GÜNTHER

The Seers likes to be discrete. The Queen doesn't want the public to know of our existence.

ANNIE

That sounds very harsh. There are so many of our kind.

ELENA

Yeah, but our Queen and The Seers have--

(buys a handful of vegetables)

An arrangement of sorts.

AKIRA

And that is?

ELENA

In essence, she doesn't want her nation to believe that there are "good" kinds of Eximio.

RYUU

Would she not want a nation in which everyone can work together in peace?

ELENA

Yeah. Just not with Eximians. She believes they are too dangerous to be trusted.

RYUU

That is true, but there are good in all of us. There are many evil humans around.

GÜNTHER

They're nothing compared to your bad folk--

(waves hands to Ryuu)

Not that I have anything against Eximians!

RYUU

(glares at Günther)

I'd hope not.

GÜNTHER

Besides, she is under the impression that she will be assassinated, along with her kin, for the throne.

RYUU

Eximians like Orochi must be stopped and accounted for. Surely The Seers can detain them.

ANNIE

I heard The Seers has some sort of plan for any evil Eximio that is detained.

AKIRA

What kind of plan?

ANNIE

Not sure. I've only heard quiet rumors.

The agents following Elena, halt, and stand behind Elena.

58

INT. ELENA'S HOUSE, MALTA - EARLY AFTERNOON

Elena walking her horse the way, stops in front of a large, quint, stone house. Three rectangle windows on the blue-wooden enclosed balcony.

ELENA
 (ties horse reins to post)
 We're here.

RYUU
 This is a large home you have.

Ryuu, Akira, Günther, Boris and Annie, dismounts from their horses to tie their reins, and follows Elena.

CUT TO:

59 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE, MALTA - EARLY AFTERNOON

The agents enter through an imposing black door engraved with a lion.

Darkness and stone dust.

ELENA
 Excuse the mess; it's been a while since I was last home.

RYUU
 This is the perfect place to lay low.

ELENA
 Günther and I can be the only ones to go out. We can't risk you being seen.

ANNIE
 (to Elena)
 Confining us?

ELENA
 Well, it's isn't everyday that there are two armed Japanese mercenaries in these lands.

RYUU
 I'd sooner thought you now realized the fact that the Seers exposed us to your beautiful homeland.

GÜNTHER
 Well, as Elena said: we can't risk you being seen. That is the priority. The Seers doesn't expect us to be in this mess--

ELENA

We can kill enough time here before
anyone ever thinks of finding us
here.

60 INT. LONDON THE SEERS HEADQUARTERS - SUB LEVEL - AFTERNOON

An agent pushes through packed halls.

CUT TO:

61 INT. H. BOWMAN'S OFFICE

He delivers a thick report to Bowman's desk and vanishes.

Bowman skims the first several pages, his facial expression slowly changing. He rushes to retrieve his jacket and gun, and abandons the office.

CUT TO:

62 EXT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Four seated, early 30s Eximians-- three men; one woman-- occupy a room with blinds blocking out all trace of natural light.

Bowman doesn't address them by name, instead registers as the opposite of an emotionally - occasioned breach of established protocol. Rather, his delivery suggests that his omission has long been integrated into his repertoire of personal procedural automations.

BOWMAN

You lot have one mission; bring
back my agents. Alive. Be sure to
arrest them.

Nods from the Eximians, as they analyze images of their "targets" before leaving the room.

CUT TO:

63 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE, MALTA - NEXT DAY

Laughter echoes through the empty rooms.

GÜNTHER

(eyes settling on Akira)
How about you? Any stories?

Akira shoots a nervous look around the table.

AKIRA

My first battle, I was 16 years of age. One minute things were fine. The next, there was chaos: fire bombs raining down, my bodyguards gone. If Ryuu hadn't intervened--

(looks to Ryuu, then back)

He killed two SOLDIERS charging towards me. Another tried to replace them, like a phantom fighter, not taking shape in the haze until the last moment, but I handled him.

ANNIE

Those were your first as well Ryuu?

Ryuu nods.

GÜNTHER

And your abilities?

ANNIE

I learned that I had powers when I was surrounded--

BORIS

(interjects, laughing)

My mother told me.

ELENA

(to Ryuu and Akira)

And you two?

RYUU

We were four, in the beginning: Akira and I, Yuki, and Orochi. Had just been granted permission to fight--

ELENA

You needed permission?

AKIRA

It was more of passing through these trials that would later grant us access and privilege.

ELENA

That's quite interesting.

RYUU

Our customs are different from yours. There was an ambush. No aid. At the moment death seemed inevitable--

ELENA

But how does it feel?

AKIRA

There is an inexplicable surge that courses through you.

RYUU

We heal faster, age slower.

ELENA

And what of Yuki and Orochi?

AKIRA

Yuki's dead. Along with her father and our mentor, the Daimyō.

GÜNTHER

And Orochi?

RYUU

That demon betrayed us. He was seduced by the lust of power. He left me a mark to remember him by--
(takes off shirt to reveal huge scar)

AKIRA

Orochi slaughtered Yuki, her father and his father, the Daimyō.
(beat)
It was a miracle we survived.

RYUU

I now believe that we survived so that their deaths will be avenged. It is our destiny.

AKIRA

We have been getting stronger to avenge them.

RYUU

I'm sure this time I will accomplish the task.

ANNIE

So I was right--

ELENA

About?

ANNIE

Back in Paris, when we encountered each other, I had a theory on a set of sequential attacks that had been occurring at every place Boris and I had been. In essence, I believed Ryu and Akira's past encounters had been linked to the attacks. We had documents revealing who our enemies would be, they must have been after us for those documents.

GÜNTHER

But how would you perceive to believe that it would be linked to them?

ANNIE

Hearing how ruthless he was towards his own kin, the amount of enemies he had tailing us, plus the reckless civilian destruction they've caused with no worry, ties in.

ELENA

The insurgents trailing us? They could have come from almost anywhere.

RYUU

No.

(to Annie)

I believe you. There was something familiar--

AKIRA

I sensed it too.

RYUU

If Orochi is chasing us--

ELENA

We lure his forces to secluded area.

GÜNTHER

(nodding)

We must not allow him to kill any more civilians. That is the most we can do.

AKIRA

The most? We must make that our primary objective!

RYUU

Help lead him to me, and no one will be harmed.

AKIRA

I'm puzzled.

(beat)

If he's chasing us, can that possibly mean he has expanded his influence outside Japan?

RYUU

Quite possibly, but he must be stopped at all costs.

(slams fists on table)

Annie gets up, signaling Ryuu and Akira to follow.

CUT TO:

64

EXT. BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

All dialogue in *Italics* is Japanese.

Annie shuts door to preserve quietness. The sounds of birds chirping echoes the green, gorgeous garden.

ANNIE

(pulls Ryuu and Akira)

Incidentally, there is something I must inform you about.

RYUU

What is it?

ANNIE

It's about your fathers.

AKIRA

What?!

RYUU

What?!

Annie nods.

AKIRA (CONT'D)

What about them?

ANNIE

I believe that we have some information regarding their whereabouts.

(sits down)

RYUU

(to Annie)

How did you discover this?

ANNIE

The moment the two of you were picked up by The Seers, you had told them of your fathers.

(stands up and paces back and forth)

Boris and I were placed in charge of the investigation, and we came across this very... fascinating legend in one of the towns.

AKIRA

A legend?

ANNIE

Yes. A legend of two elder warriors that extinguished the lands of these so called "demons".

RYUU

Demons, you say?

ANNIE

Could be what they refer to us, Eximians.

AKIRA

So, our fathers were known for slaying our kind? Is what you're saying?

ANNIE

(sits back down)

That would appear so--

RYUU

That does not make sense. Our fathers surely must have known that we are Eximians!

ANNIE

They could have, or maybe they did not?

AKIRA

I refuse to believe that they would hunt down Eximians, notably knowing that their own flesh and blood are their prey!

ANNIE

I'm sorry. That's all I have. Their descriptions are very close to your culture.

RYUU

What do you mean?

ANNIE

Meaning that they are highly likely to be Samurai. That is, if the legends are true.

(stands up, and walks
towards door exiting)

Ryuu and Akira left standing in shock, giving each other disbelieved looks, beginning to exit the backyard.

65 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE, MALTA - NEXT DAY

Günther is out in the backyard sparring with Ryuu. Elena is meditating. Akira is firing her arrows on dummies.

Annie and Boris are sitting, watching them as they drink their coffee.

ANNIE

(quietly)

We should leave, Boris.

BORIS

When?

ANNIE

(finishing her coffee)

Soon.

CUT TO:

66 EXT. ELENA'S HOUSE, MALTA - NIGHT

The team is sitting in a room, eating the freshly cooked food. It's quiet, and the lighting is dim, and the mood is soothing.

ANNIE
(gets up)
Boris and I must be leaving.

AKIRA
Why?

ANNIE
We cannot be stuck here for a long
period of time. We have to be on
the move, or the Seers will find
us.

ELENA
(focused on her food)
They won't find you.

GÜNTHER
I'm positive they won't look here
of all places.

ANNIE
(packing her travel bag)
No. I'm talking about the people
that attacked us back in Paris.

RYUU
How are you certain that they will
find us?

BORIS
They always do.

RYUU
We are a team! We must remain
together!

BORIS
Are we not better off in teams of
two?

RYUU
Yes! We have made our decision to
run away.

ANNIE
Ryuu, we should depart... The
longer we are away, the more
trouble we will be in.

AKIRA
(to Ryuu)
We are already in trouble with
them.

RYUU

(angrily gets up)

I was not the one who chose to run away, Annie.

ANNIE

I know. But, knowing them, they must have sent some elite death squad after us. Trust me. If the two of you won't join us, then, best of luck.

(heads for the door)

Elena, thank you for your hospitality.

Elena nods her head.

RYUU

(yelling)

Who would they send without even knowing our locations?!

The room immediately eases into silence.

ANNIE

(to Boris)

Let's go.

Boris gets up and follows Annie, exiting the house.

RYUU

(to Elena)

Elena! How could you have so easily let them leave?!

ELENA

They did not want to be here Ryuu. It isn't my place to force people into something they do not desire.

RYUU

(gets up in rage)

Splitting our team up is not a good idea. Especially at a time like this.

Ryuu exits the room, Akira immediately follows.

Günther sitting quietly still eating his meal.

ELENA

(sighs)

It's almost as if we are a family.

GÜNTHER

Possibly, but these eggs are delicious.

ELENA

You- I should try that.

Günther laughing, sends a charming wink to Elena, while chewing.

CUT TO:

67

INT. TAVERN - MOMENTS LATER

The four unknown Eximians are sitting discussing the plan for the handling of their targets.

The only Eximio speaking, is abnormally tall. Bald, deep voice. Wearing an all black unique mask with tribal marks surrounding it like the rest, that covers everything but his eyes. A large scar covers his left eye.

NAMELESS PARAHUMAN

(knife in hand)

Let us show our new leader our loyalty.

They all put a knife to their palms and cut it, letting the blood to drip into a small cup.

Someone walks towards the Eximians. It is the Mysterious Man also known as **EUSTACE**. Messy orange hair, menacing look in his eyes, towering man.

EUSTACE

(smirking and clapping)

Congratulations. Welcome lads, to Crimson Shadow. The oath you all have made to me and your new master; Orochi has been sealed. Now, go kill them.

(nods to leader of elite squad)

NAMELESS PARAHUMAN

(to Elite Squad mates)

Disperse.

They all exit the tavern, then split up heading in different directions, following the scent of their targets.

68 EXT. MDINA, MALTA - MOMENTS LATER

The city streets are quiet. Vendors all closed. Guards are sitting, sleeping. The sounds of crickets, wind bustling and footsteps echo the city.

Annie and Boris are mounted on their horses, moving at a slow pace.

On a rooftop, one of the Eximio agents observing them like lion does before they leap to slaughter their prey.

Quietly jumping down to the ground, stalking his targets.

ANNIE

(groans)
Ridiculous.

BORIS

What?

ANNIE

Don't you absolutely despise it
when it's quiet as a grave?

(beat)

Boris?

(turns to her back)

Why won't you answer--

Three arrows pierced in his back, with his body still mounted on the horse. The sight enlarges Annie's pupils, stunned at what she has laid her eyes on.

A Eximio appears amongst the fog of black smoke, hissing, prepares a fist.

CUT TO:

69 EXT. COURTYARD, MDINA, MALTA - MOMENTS LATER

On the far right side of the city, Akira and Ryuu are wandering around, clearing their heads. Stone buildings surround them, large stone arch, delivering echoes of crickets and footsteps of the horses.

RYUU

(frustrated)
Does no one here grasp the value of
teamwork, Akira?

AKIRA

This world is very different than
ours.

RYUU
 (sighs)
 Maybe it is time we return to
 Japan.

AKIRA
 But what about Orochi?

RYUU
 What about him?

AKIRA
 Surely he's still alive...

RYUU
 Then we shall drive him down to the
 depths of hell, and leave him
 there.

AKIRA
 (halts her horse as Ryuu
 marches on)
 We are stronger now.
 (catches up with Ryuu)

CUT TO:

70 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE, MALTA - MOMENTS LATER

Elena is cleaning the table and Günther is cleaning the
 dishes.

Another Eximio is lurking in the shadows, creeping from the
 back of the house. Proceeding with caution slowly.

The Eximio steps on a piece of chicken bone.

ELENA
 (quickly turns back,
 stares at enemy)
 Damn. Prepare to flank him Günther!
 (sprints and yelling)

NAMELESS PARAHUMAN 2
 (growls ferociously)
 Make your move.

Günther double teams with Elena.

The Eximio is overwhelmed and is shockingly losing the battle
 to two humans.

ELENA
 (with each swing of her
 blade, she speaks)
 Get. Out. Of. My. House!!!!

The Eximio's heart has been impaled.

GÜNTHER
 (sighs)
 Where the hell did that come from?

ELENA
 Not sure.
 (pulls blade out of
 Eximia)
 But the others-- they left. We have
 to go find them, now!

CUT TO:

71 EXT. MDINA, MALTA

Echoes of supernatural abilities ache the quiet city. Annie is desperately fighting back. Over powered by the female Eximio she is facing, she looks to Boris, gaining a surge of encouragement.

ANNIE
 (constantly catching her
 breath)
 Come and stay out!! Fight me
 properly!

The female Eximia is teleporting back and forth to Annie. She teleports three feet in front of her swinging her sword around.

Annie is parrying to save her life, unable to use her ability.

Günther and Elena rush to her aid. Working together, the three of them slay the female Eximia.

GÜNTHER
 What happened to Boris?

ANNIE
 He's dead.

ELENA
 Damn.

ANNIE
Where is Ryuu and Akira...?

CUT TO:

72 EXT. MDINA, MALTA/COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER
Ryuu and Akira are sitting on church steps.
They hear footsteps, echoing in the courtyard.

EUSTACE
(sarcastic)
Well, well. If it isn't the
honorable and valiant warriors.
What are you two doing here?

Eustace is standing in the middle, to his left is the tall, bald Eximio who seemed to be the leader of his pack. To his right is another abnormally tall Eximio, curly hair, blue eyes.

RYUU
(hand on handle of katana)
Who are you?

EUSTACE
(sarcastic)
Oh, how rude of you to not stand
up. I have a message for the two of
you, from a very... old friend.

AKIRA
Quit playing games!

RYUU
Who are you speaking of?!

EUSTACE
(laughing)
Orochi. He misses you both dearly.

RYUU
(shocked)
He's still alive...?

EUSTACE
Of course he is.
(laughing)

AKIRA
 (to herself)
 Ryuu...
 (nods her head)

RYUU
 What is the message?!

EUSTACE
 He wishes to see you both in his
 base back in France. However, you
 must beat my two monstrous guards
 first.
 (laughing manically and
 walking away)

The two large Eximians step up.

EUSTACE (CONT'D)
 Good bye and good luck... Until
 next time. Maybe?
 (continues to laugh
 manically)

Ryuu conjures some lightning, and Akira generates a wave of
 gravitational force.

The Eximians have a stare-down. Waiting for someone to make
 the first move. The enemy Eximians teleport to Ryuu & Akira.

The bald Eximio grabs a hold of Akira, and teleports to some
 different area of the city. The curly Eximio does the same.

73 INT. TAVERN - MOMENTS LATER

Akira is dropped from the ceiling, the Eximio jolts to her
 only for her to freeze him midair. She charges towards him
 and slices his head off.

AKIRA
 (talks to herself out
 loud)
 That was easier than expected.

CUT TO:

74 EXT. ABOVE CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Ryuu and the Eximio appear in midair, soaring down at a high
 speed. They're holding onto each other but punching one
 another. They fall inside the church.

75 INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Dust litters the inside of the church, debris from the roof is everywhere. Ryuu landed on his back, struggling to get up, pinned by a large piece of stone. While the Eximio can't get up at all.

RYUU
(breathing heavily)
I must... get... up.

Ryuu attempts to remove the large piece of stone off his foot, but lacks the energy.

Across the room, the Eximio gets up gingerly, and walking dizzily towards you.

He punches Ryuu, removes the stone, lifts him up by the neck with one hand and continues to punch him with the other.

Unable to counter, he begins to create lightning in both the palms of his hands, grabs each side of the parahuman's head. Electrifying his brain.

The body hits the ground, the head is burnt with mists of smoke surrounding it. Ryuu falls to the ground.

RYUU (CONT'D)
(panting and talking to
himself)
Damn, he was a pain.

76 EXT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Akira, with a wounded pair of limbs, is trying to bust open the door.

CUT TO:

77 INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

The inside a mess. Smoke all around, booths torn apart, stones scattered all around the middle.

AKIRA
(falling through the doors
after ramming towards
them)
Ryuu!! Where are you?!

RYUU
Right here. By the altar.

AKIRA
 (rushing to Ryuu)
 My god, I must get you aid.

RYUU
 (wipes the blood off
 Akira's lip and head)
 You got hurt as well, don't forget
 to treat yourself.

Akira nods.

CUT TO:

78 EXT. COURTYARD - MINUTES LATER

Ryuu and Akira make their way back to Elena.

EUSTACE
 (appearing out of thin
 air, clapping as he
 confronts them)
 Well, well. You two emerged
 victorious!

RYUU
 (enraged)
 Enough of this! Relay a message.

Eustace sarcastically mimes that he's all ears.

RYUU (CONT'D)
 I'm going to kill him.

A pause.

EUSTACE
 Is that all?

RYUU nods.

EUSTACE (CONT'D)
 What a bore.

CUT TO:

79 EXT. MDINA, MALTA

Elena, Günther and Annie search around for Ryuu and Akira.

ANNIE

Where on Earth could they have gone?

ELENA

Couldn't have been far.

GÜNTHER

(pointing to two distant figures)

There!!

Günther, Elena, and Annie rush to treat their wounded comrades.

CUT TO:

80

INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Annie, Akira, Elena, Günther, and Ryuú sit in silence.

RYUU

(breaking the hush)
Akira and I must leave.

ANNIE

Why?

RYUU

I can't tell you.

ELENA

Before we were ambushed, you attacked me for allowing Annie and Boris to leave, but, just like that, you expect to leave now, yourself, no questions asked?

RYUU

(pounding the table with his fist)
Akira and I must go alone.

A different silence consumes the room once more.

RYUU (CONT'D)

(turns around)
I am sorry. Samurai do not ask for help.
(bows)

As RYUU turns, we see AKIRA glance over at the others with a look hinting for them to aid them.

RYUU and AKIRA exit.

GÜNTHER, ELENA and ANNIE sit in silence and waving them goodbye.

CUT TO:

81 EXT. SLIEMA PORT, MALTA - MORNING

The sun is bright, shining through the windows across the port. Ryuu and Akira walking towards the boat departing.

ELENA
(shouting)
Ryuu!!

RYUU
(surprised and angered)
Wha - what are you guys doing here?!

ELENA
We're a team. Remember?

ANNIE
We stick together.

GÜNTHER
Fought together... if necessary,
die together.

ANNIE
You showed us how important staying
in a team is. And that's exactly
what we are.

Akira appeals to Ryuu.

RYUU
(conceding)
Very well. But you all must be in
disguise.

ANNIE
We must also be more inconspicuous
since we're sneaking onto a ship.

AKIRA
Not just any ship. We've tracked
Eustace to this ship, we're
planning on infiltrating it and
forcing him to take us to Orochi.

ANNIE

I don't think that'd be wise.
Better off remaining stealthy until
we dock.

ELENA

Do we know where we're heading?

RYUU

Yes. Japan.

AKIRA

It'll be a longer voyage but what
if Eustace were to send us to
ambushed location?

RYUU

I see. Then we will take your
advice Annie.

The crew eventually sneak their way onto the ship, lurking in
the shadows.

CUT TO:

82

EXT. ABASHIRI, JAPAN - ONE WEEK LATER

The boat docks, and a disguised Günther, Elena, and Annie are
the first to exit.

The city is electric. People everywhere. Running, shouting,
selling.

Ryuu and Akira now emerge, scanning for clues.

As large crates are transported to boats, onlookers stare at
the magnetic duo.

They continue on their way, passing a dark alley.

EUSTACE

(startling them from the
shadows)

Hello.

RYUU

(to Akira)

Where is he?

EUSTACE

Patience.

Following Eustace blindly into the dark alley, Elena trails them.

Eustace lays his hand on a small grid and a door materializes from behind a sliver of concrete and Eustace eases it open. They enter.

SEERS AGENT
 (clocking Ryuu and Akira,
 and calling the siting in
 to Bowman)
 Mr. Bowman?

BOWMAN (O.S.)
 Yes?

SEERS AGENT
 I found them.

BOWMAN (O.S.)
 Excellent. I'll dispatch a team.

CUT TO:

83 INT. UNDERGROUND HQ - MINUTES LATER

The long, dark tunnel reeks. Rats race side to eerie side. Finally, light breaks in on Ryuu, Akira, and Eustace, announcing they have reached the end.

84 INT. UNDERGROUND ASYLUM
 All dialogue in Japanese.

Emerging in the asylum, they are dwarfed by a common area surrounded by holding cells, drowned by the shouts of the prisoners. Above the holding cells to the corner, stands a large observation tower. A familiar voice coming from a large PA system underneath the window of the observation tower.

OROCHI (O.S.)
 (cackling)
 Ryuu, Akira... It has been many
 moons. Welcome to my domain.
 However, I am afraid you caught me
 at a very bad time.

AKIRA
 And why is that?

OROCHI (O.S.)
 I am in the midst of accomplishing
 something so dastardly.
 (MORE)

OROCHI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 (clicks tongue)
 Must you meddle in my affairs?

RYUU
 Come out the shadows and fight me,
 coward!

OROCHI (O.S.)
 You've stepped foot in something
 that will keep you occupied.

AKIRA
 What are you talking about?!

RYUU
 JUST FIGHT ME!!

OROCHI (O.S.)
 After they're done with you. Enjoy
 the cage. I have an unfinished
 product to be completed.

RYUU
 (in Japanese)
 What?!

AKIRA
 (in Japanese)
 Huh?!

Eustace retreats as the ground begins to tremble, metal walls rising out of the floor. Ryu and Akira attempt an escape too late.

The cell doors open, and a swarm of black-clad katana-wielding enemy forces charge at Ryu and Akira.

Surrounded, they draw on their powers to meet the onslaught. Nodding to each other.

Crackling electricity emanates from Ryu's hands.

RYUU (CONT'D)
 (to Akira)
 Quickly, form a ball.
 (smashing his hands
 together, then slamming
 the ground with a battle
 cry)

AKIRA
 (emerging from her bubble)
 New trick?

RYUU
 (panting)
 Ha--yeah.

Orochi smoothly surfs down a falling building on top of a wave of light.

OROCHI
 (smirking)
 Missed me?
 (circling Ryuu before
 kicking him in the face)
 Ready to die, my old friend?

GÜNTHER
*What's with these evil Eximians
 being so... big.*

ANNIE
 Leave him be!

Günther and Elena back Annie.

OROCHI
 (to Annie)
 Who the hell are you to stand in my
 way?

ANNIE
 (cracks knuckles,
 stretches and rolls up
 sleeves)
 The woman that will pound some
 sense into you.
 (makes a fist)

EUSTACE
 (facing Annie but
 addressing Orochi)
*My lord, I'll handles these
 heathens.*

Orochi's smirk turns to a scowl as he turns to Ryuu--he finds his foe has vanished.

OROCHI
 (to Eustace)
Call in the reinforcements.

Eustace nods, pulls out a small firearm, and fires a shot skyward. A murmur of chanting grows to a deafening roar as Orochi's brigades rush from beneath the ground.

ANNIE
 Not this again.

GÜNTHER
 (swings weapons around)
 Time for round two.

CUT TO:

86 INT. DESTROYED BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER
 All dialogue in Japanese.

What was once a large building, now torn into debris. The sunlight peeking through the cracks of the building. Akira and Ryu crouching behind a wall. Smoke quickly filling the building, Ryu attempting to catch his breath.

AKIRA
 (hiding besides a wall
 with Ryu)
 We must go back. You understand
 that don't you?

RYUU
 Of course. Whatever happens, it was
 a pleasure to call you my partner.

AKIRA
 I'm surprised you'd say such a
 thing at a time like this.
 (lightly chuckles)

A deep breath, they look at each other nodding, before they rise up and charge.

RYUU
 (infusing his katana with
 electricity, scanning the
 torn land)
 Time to end this.

CUT TO:

87 EXT. CHISHIMA ISLANDS, JAPAN

Ryu and Akira fight their way through the enemy forces that stand guarding Orochi.

ELENA
 (smiling at the sight of
 them rounding the far
 corner)
 Annie!! Let's show this bastard
 what we got.

Annie nods, levitates, and unleashes a large weaponized orb. Dodging it, Eustace retaliates, mercilessly. Continuously exchanging blows towards each other.

Günther and Elena maneuver past the battling Eximians, launching their own assault on a mass of Orochi's minions.

GÜNTHER

That man is a monster. Are we sure
Annie can handle him alone?

ELENA

We must trust in our comrades.

Soaring skyward, pausing, then diving at lightning speed toward Eustace, Annie is met with sludges of lethal gelatin fired from Eustace's palm. Squirring past a few, she eventually gets hit.

The weight of it pulls her down--crashing hard. Eustace sprints to her, pounds the earth, causing large spires to rise up from subterranean depths, piercing her.

Eustace is there with his prized, oddly-shaped dagger, gleeful, ready and waiting to deliver the death blow.

Annie bleeding at the mouth, trying to lift herself out of the spire confining herself to the ground.

EUSTACE

(cackling)
You fought... gallantly I suppose.

ANNIE

(struggling to breath)
Yo-you will not escape.

He lifts the weapon in his dominant hand, but is suddenly halted: all limbs rendered immovable.

ELENA

(shouting to Akira)
Thank you!!

Elena dashes past Eustace, cutting right through his cloak as Günther closes in, blade poised to pierce him through the chest, instead Eustace's body transforms into sludge, gushing onto the ground.

Elena rushes on to rejoin Annie, while Günther recalibrated his defense strategy to cover Elena.

A little too late, Annie passes in Elena's arms.

GÜNTHER
 (to Elena)
 C'mon!!

Elena puts her head down gently amidst the chaos, and rejoins Günther.

CUT TO:

88 EXT. BATTLEFIELD, CHISHIMA ISLANDS, JAPAN

Orochi lies in wait for Ryu and Akira as they fight their way, back-to-back, through his minions, unsheathing his katana as they draw near.

OROCHI
 (smiling; feet planted,
 ready to annihilate them)
 Yes, do come!
 (unsheathes katana with
 left hand)

Channelling the full force of their rage, Ryu and Orochi charge at one another. Blade meets blade.

Akira rejoins the fray, but Orochi is quick to deflect her, blinding her with his palms.

Orochi ducks when Ryu strikes, punches him in the stomach, kicks Akira in the chest, pushing her away.

Günther and Elena appear and team up to push him back.

AKIRA
 (to Elena)
 Where's Annie?!

GÜNTHER
 Dead!

OROCHI
 As you will all be soon!

AKIRA
 We lost another Eximio?!

RYUU
 That can't be...

OROCHI
 Time to die!

90

EXT. BATTLEFIELD, JAPAN

Ryuu jabs the ground with his blade, attempting to get up. From a distance, a horde of minions are running towards him. He puts his hands together and releases a thunderous electric beam effectively eliminating the horde.

OROCHI
(speaking to Ryuu)
Shit - *you will meet your doom!*

RYUU
Squad, rise and fight with me!

Elena, Günther, and Akira carefully get up and regroup with Ryuu, before they begin their charge.

Orochi now dual wielding a katana and light-katana, swings blades around, charges eventually colliding with Ryuu.

Ryuu and Orochi are exchanging blows ferociously. The light-blade continuously flickering as Orochi's strength is weakening, failing to keep up with Ryuu as he sneakily blasts him away with a light-wave.

Akira and Elena aiming for his head and legs respectively, deflects them both with his light-wave again.

Günther speeds in between the flying bodies of Akira and Elena, swinging his blade down the middle, however, Orochi parries the attack, punching him to the ground.

The quickness of these warriors doesn't cease, as Ryuu dashing to Orochi, aggressively delivering strikes one after the other. Actively putting Orochi on his knees.

OROCHI
(quickly losing ground)
Yes, Ryuu. Fight like you've lost
it all!!! Give me the challenge!

Ryuu yelling, letting his anger speak for him with his attacks.

RYUU
I am determined to defeat you, once
and for all. It is you that shall
meet your end!

Ryuu and Orochi pause their attacks, backing up but still in their attacking stance ready for anything.

OROCHI

My time is far from over, my friend. After I'm done with you and your merry band of fighters, I will hunt down every single Eximio, and drain them of their abilities and life-Force.

RYUU

Then I will make sure I destroy it when I'm done with you!

OROCHI

(laughing)

Thread lightly, we are born to be powerful. I will excel and show the world the might of my true powers!

(makes a tight fist)

RYUU

I'll not allow such a nightmare to come true!

OROCHI

(laughing)

Think again! Why do you think your father extinguished our kind?! Huh?!

(a beat)

Because he feared us!

RYUU

You're lying, you monster!

OROCHI

Oh no, my father was part of it all. He just devolved more into... a coward, while your father attempted to pursue our kind only to fail!

RYUU

Stop it! You know nothing of my father!

OROCHI

Oh, but I do! I slew him myself.

RYUU

There is no way?!

OROCHI

I have, he was nothing but an old cow ready for slaughter.

Ryuu sprints to Orochi, rapidly throwing projectile electric bolts at him. Orochi deflecting them with his light-infused-katana. Orochi pierces his left shoulder with the blade, and shoves him away using his light wave, leaving the blade.

The others have finally gotten to Ryuu, joining in on the fight.

Elena lays low dashing around him, trying to distract him. Günther keeps ramming into him while attempting to not get slashed. Akira freezes his body, allowing Elena and Günther, to attack. Orochi quickly breaks free and keeps up with their strikes.

Orochi grabs Elena by the throat, kicks Akira in the face and holds her down with his foot, and keeps up his momentum of strikes towards Günther, until he eventually pierces him through the shoulder blade.

Orochi tosses Elena to the ground, leaving her temporarily immobile.

Akira grabbing her throat, catching breath.

Günther on the ground, applying pressure to his wound.

Orochi encircled by the squirming bodies of the warriors. He hovers his blade above Elena, intensely glaring at Ryuu. The blade now aimed at Akira.

As Orochi delivers his death blow, Günther manages to stand between the attack, Orochi smirking, he drills his blade further down.

Günther kneeling, with a blade stuck in his body. Orochi swiftly pulling his blade out and swings the blood off, walks inches past him.

OROCHI (CONT'D)

Pathetic.

GÜNTHER

(murmuring)

Elena-

(slowly reaches to Elena)

ELENA

No!!! - Günther!!

Akira pulls Elena and both run to Ryuu.

OROCHI
 (speaking to Ryuu)
 You all lack the required strength
 to defeat me, yet you all still
 continue. Why is that?

AKIRA
 That is because you are an evil
 that must be eradicated.

CUT TO:

91 EXT. COASTLINE, CHISHIMA ISLANDS - DAY

Giant waves pummel the coastline. Terrified seagulls flee. A pair of large "999" marked transport ships dock in.

A swarm of agents materialize and charge towards what remains of the battlefield-planted militia.

BOWMAN
 (shouting)
 Let's go aid our angsty agents!

CUT TO:

92 EXT. BATTLEFIELD, CHISHIMA ISLANDS - DAY

Ryuu scopes his surroundings.

Orochi's troops have laid waste to the once beautiful town. Ignoring his foe's admonitions, Ryuu pulls the katana from his shoulder.

Günther's body laying still, on his knees, head down, blood dripping down from his mouth to the grass.

Elena and Akira lay Günther's body on the ground.

RYUU
 (to his team)
 Ready?

ELENA
 We are a man short.

AKIRA
 Have faith in your comrades.

RYUU
 And let us honor the sacrifice
 Günther made.
 (MORE)

RYUU (CONT'D)

His and Annies' death were not in vain.

(at Elena and Akira's nods)

Let's do this.

As Orochi approaches, Ryuu and his team form a unique battle stance.

Ryuu few inches forward, with his katana in the Batto position. Akira

Elena parries Orochi's attacks as Akira and Ryuu circle him, looking for openings to deliver a decisive blow.

It ultimately fails. Eluding all their attacks.

AKIRA

(as Orochi's continuing to elude them)

What do we do?!

ELENA

I have a plan. Take over the defense?

(at Akira and Ryuu's approving nod)

I'm going to recover something.

Battle cries echo through the forsaken city as Elena hurls a final few daggers at Orochi before receding underground.

CUT TO:

93

INT. CRIMSON SHADOW UNDERGROUND HQ

Elena makes her way into the nerve center of the base, searching for Orochi's prize classified device.

The lights flicker; the halls are smelly and dark. Small enemy hordes track, taunt, and threaten her along the way.

Out of daggers, she neutralizes one of the enemy agent, stealing his weapon, and using it to fight off the rest.

ELENA

(speaking to herself)

Where is it?--

Ambushed again-- this time by a trio of larger agents. Elena struggles free with an acrobatic leap to the metal staircase.

Aerial-attacking a trio of C.S. Agents, Elena slices the napes of the first two, gauging the legs of the third, but sparing his life.

ELENA (CONT'D)
 (interrogating the latter)
 The science sector. Where is it?

C.S. AGENT
 (blood dripping from his
 mouth)
 Go to hell.

ELENA
 (chuckling)
 I could've sworn I *am* in hell.
 (at the agent's bloody
 grin)
 Have it your way.

She pierces him through the chest slowly.

C.S. AGENT
 (yelling in pain)
 Fine-- fine. You head 2 meters to
 the north and make a right...

ELENA
 (poised to dash north)
 That wasn't so hard!

CUT TO:

94 INT. SCIENCE SECTOR - MINUTES LATER

A small bright white room, unexpectedly clean and spectacular. Testing tubes on each corner, machines in a neat order. Reverb of a loud beeping every seven seconds. Elena spies a tall, slender black case.

ELENA
 (opening it with a smile)
 This has to be it.

CUT TO:

95 EXT. BATTLEFIELD, LE HAVRE

The still-warring trio appear to be running out of steam.

RYUU
 (to Akira)
 What's taking her so long?

Panting, Ryuu parries to rapid strikes.

AKIRA
 We must not lose faith in her.

Nodding, Ryuu charges Orochi, delivering heavy blows, followed by a thunderous bang.

OROCHI
 I'm impressed.

AKIRA
 (parrying)
 How so?

OROCHI
 You have both gotten stronger. It truly is a shame that I have to kill you my dear old friends.
 (then, striking rapidly)

RYUU
 We were brothers!

OROCHI
 You were all damn fools!!!

CUT TO:

96

EXT. MIDST OF BATTLE
 All dialogue in *italics* is Japanese.

Elena finds Annie's body, and kneels.

ELENA
 (to Annie)
 I am so sorry for doing this.
 (kisses her forehead)

Elena then opens the black case from the Crimson Shadow science sector, pulls out the device, and aims it at Annie. The device turns red, and begins to shake, and a purple-like mist begins to leave Annie's body, transferring itself to Elena. Screaming and trembling during the transfer, her eyes turn completely white.

The ground begins to shake, a large gust of purple waves soaring toward Orochi, splitting and evolving into purple blades as they reach him, some piercing, others deflecting off of him.

OROCHI

Nani o--?

Elena appears, floating, remade, now with a deep dark cast to her eyes.

ELENA

Prepare to die.

Elena charges towards Orochi at full speed, but he watches her every move, stepping aside, raising his right hand, and directing bright whirling lasers toward the back of her head, the force of which throws and deposits her near Ryuu and Akira.

Orochi slowly approaches, conjures a tall light blade, then sprints toward the pair, striking Ryuu's thigh and Akira's side.

OROCHI

(to Ryuu)

Get up, you weakling.

(pulling Ryuu up to his
knees by the hair)

Orochi's foot morphs to seething light. He kicks Ryuu's face hard.

As Elena struggles for mastery of her newest ability, Orochi pulls Ryuu up once more, raising his sword to deliver the killing blow-

Ryuu dives, blasting Orochi back with a ripple of supercharged electrical waves.

RYUU

Elena!! Akira!!

The trio assumes defense positions once more.

OROCHI

This again?

RYUU

Teamwork shall prevail, my foolish
friend!

Dashing past Orochi, Elena launches purple projectiles towards his legs.

Akira and Ryuu weld forces: her gravitational ability enhancing his leap.

Ryuu soars, hands clasped, generating a giant electric ball, and hurling it at Orochi.

Overpowered with electricity, Orochi is temporarily paralyzed.

Akira steps to him slowly, securing the gravitational field around him, making sure he isn't going anywhere.

OROCHI

Why don't you kill me already?

RYUU

Shall I do it slowly for the lives you've stolen from me?

OROCHI

Their lives were meaningless. They were nothing, as are you!

(spitting at Ryuu)

Pitiful: you can't even defeat me alone!

RYUU

Before you murdered the woman I once loved, she told me something of the highest value.

OROCHI

Oh really? And what may that be?!

RYUU

That you cannot succeed alone. Without synergy you will fail.

OROCHI

She was an erratic fool.

RYUU

No. She was brilliant, but more important than that, she was wise. You will never be forgiven for stealing her away from me and this world!

Behind them, enemy forces, tailed by a small legion of Eximians, are fast approaching Ryuu, their screams preceding them.

OROCHI

*Behold, my test subjects.
(laughing maniacally)
Déjà vu will soon haunt you.
Memories of a power and a familiar
face.*

Through the smoke, Boris's visage takes shape. Behind his ghostly twin: four dwarfing black-clad Eximians with gray masks.

AKIRA

No-- He's dead... But how?!

OROCHI

*(laughing)
It's magic.*

A weaponized emanation streams from Orochi's hands, facilitating his escape.

Momentarily blinded, Ryuu rubs his eyes.

RYUU

*(glancing back)
You're not going anywhere!
(enlisting Akira to help
chase Orochi down)
Elena! Handle dead Boris and his
legion! Can you take them out?*

ELENA

Working on it.

Boris launches giant fireballs which land like bombs wreaking havoc on the battlefield, explosions Ryuu and Akira manage to avoid as they continue their pursuit of Orochi.

CUT TO:

97

EXT. RIGHT SIDE OF BATTLE - DAY

Elena is struggling, exchanging blows with Boris.

BORIS

*How were you were able to locate
our power-absorbing device?!*

ELENA

*Will you cease to underestimate me
as you die?*

BORIS
 (laughing manically)
 As if, Elena.

Fashioning a crooked sword, Elena blitzes towards Boris who smirks as he launches a second wave of flame fists, this time focused directly on Elena.

BORIS (CONT'D)
 My flames shall devour you and your
 soul!

But the explosion refuses to burst, instead containing Elena untouched, in the center of a sphere of fire.

ELENA
 Incredible...

BORIS
 No!

ELENA
 Like I said: you underestimate me.

At Elena's bidding, the burning sphere rebounds back to Boris, enveloping him and forcing him back against the near, desecrated buildings.

Content and freed, Elena rushes to rejoin Ryu and Akira.

CUT TO:

98 EXT. BATTLEFIELD, LE HAVRE - DAY
 All dialogue in Japanese.

Orochi cuts his way through the remaining enemy hordes fighting off the agents to the docks.

RYUU
 (to Orochi)
 Stop running and fight!

OROCHI
 (pivoting and jolting
 toward Ryu)
 You want me to fight?! Very well!!!
 You will be eliminated!!!
 (delivering a punishing
 blow)
 All of you!! You have no place in
my world!

RYUU
 (as Elena emerges from
 hiding to again pin
 Orochi to the earth)
 Your world?

OROCHI
 (immobilized)
 Enough of this!

AKIRA AND RYUU
 (nodding their thanks to
 Elena initiating a deadly
 dual attack)
 DIEEEEE!!!!

Akira fashions a bow and arrow as Ryuu brings his palms into a sphere in front of his chest, waits for an electric orb to stabilize and absorb Akira's arrow, then blasts the lethal dual weapon at its target, piercing Orochi's chest.

Orochi falls back, then to one knee.

OROCHI
 (coughing up blood)
 This cannot be...

RYUU
 Give me one reason why I should let
 you perform seppuku.

OROCHI
 (laughing and coughing up
 more blood)
 Was I a disgrace to the code?

RYUU
 Yes you were, you monster!

OROCHI
 As were you. Or do you not remember
 accepting my father's foolish
 proposal?

RYUU
 That's a lie. I rejected the
 proposal to be Daimyō.

OROCHI
Bakayarō-
 (spitting on Ryuu)
 You are weak-minded. What my father
 saw in you is still a mystery to
 me.

AKIRA

Damare! Power isn't everything.

OROCHI

Both of you: you'll never understand.

RYUU

Understand what?

OROCHI

That in this world you require power. Power incites fear. Fear balances the world. Peace only causes chaos!

RYUU

You are a lying fool, Orochi.

OROCHI

No, my friend. You are the fool. You will soon realize that what I speak is the truth! To achieve peace, there must be war.

(scoffs)

It's the natural way of progression.

RYUU

Enough. It is time for you to die.

OROCHI

Oh, so you will behead me? Pierce my dying heart?

RYUU

No.

OROCHI

What then?!

RYUU

You'll see soon enough. Akira and I have been partners for many years: do you still underestimate us?

OROCHI

(laughing)

I'm waiting.

RYUU

A shame we couldn't remain friends.
(beginning to walk away)

(MORE)

RYUU (CONT'D)

I hope you find peace in the
afterlife, you will certainly need
it. *Jigoku ni iku!*

Ryuu swiftly turns, swinging his crackling electric-katana
cleanly through Orochi's neck.

RYUU (CONT'D)

So this must be the taste of
vengeance?

AKIRA

Their souls can rest now. Perhaps
we should have allowed himself to
perform *Seppuku*.

RYUU

(appealing to the sky)
Apologies for the delay.

(bowing)

Forgive me.

(to Akira)

No. He had no honor, and brought
shame to the Ukita name.

AKIRA

Wouldn't we now be the ones that
have brought shame and dishonor by
not allowing him to die honorably?

RYUU

Akira, we did the right thing.

AKIRA

(respectfully bows)

I'm sorry. Now we must deal with
our current superior.

RYUU

I'd rather get some rest.
(chuckles)

AKIRA

(chuckling)

And a feast.

They both glance at each other before laughing, and walking
to find their allies amongst the barren battlefield.

CUT TO:

99 EXT. ON BOARD A SHIP - DAY

Smoke engulfed horizon.

Swirling wind.

And yet, the unmarred beauty of the coast: still overriding the city's wreckage.

Masking his wound, Eustace seeks out Boris.

EUSTACE
(to himself)
And so falls the venomous Daimyō.
Time to rebuild.

Eustace fires a flare.

Boris-- catching sight of it, from across the battlefield-- smirks.

Boris smirks.

BORIS
(pausing before abandoning
Elena)
Until next time.

CUT TO:

100 EXT. BATTLEFIELD, LE HAVRE - EVENING

The screams have faded. Given way to the sound of debris falling, seagulls flying and squawking.

ELENA
(to Boris)
Traitor!!!

But he has already vanished. In his place, a wounded Ryuu and Akira take shape.

RYUU
Leave him, Elena.

AKIRA
The hour to punish him will come.

ELENA
Tch, today was his lucky day.

RYUU

No: it's ours. To walk out of this still alive?

AKIRA

Only barely.

(a beat)

And having lost two comrades.

BOWMAN

Ryuu!! You have a lot of explaining to do!!!!

RYUU

Sir?

BOWMAN

What happened in France?
Desecration of civilian districts?

AKIRA

(regarding Annie and
Günther's soulless
corpses)

We did what the enemy required us to do.

BOWMAN

(yelling)

That is no excuse! You put innocent lives in danger, escaped when we were to apprehend you, massacred our own Eximio operatives!

ELENA

Sir, they came for us. They killed Boris. Or at least it appeared so.

RYUU

They were led by a stronger enemy Eximio.

BOWMAN

This is not over!!
(frustratingly walks away)

AKIRA

(to Elena and Ryuu)
Help me bury Günther and Annie.

CUT TO:

101 EXT. GRAVEYARD BEHIND CHURCH - MINUTES LATER

Ryuu, Akira and Elena haul the bodies to a graveyard behind the quiet, empty half-ruin of a church.

RYUU

Even in all this chaos, what's still standing of this church has unconquered strength.

AKIRA

Twice, we've caused undeserving destruction. In the future, our abilities' tactical applications need to be limited.

ELENA

Not knowing how to focus mine nearly cost me my life.

Ryuu and Akira dig graves while Elena is still recovering.

RYUU

(to Elena)

Do you still have that weapon you used?

ELENA

I lost it in my fight with Boris.

AKIRA

I pray that it is broken.

ELENA

Or at least in the possession of The Seers.

RYUU

(settling his shovel down)

That should be deep enough.

Ryuu, Akira, and Elena lower Günther and Annie's bodies into the graves, cover them with dirt, and pay them respect with a moment of silence.

ELENA

(kneeling)

Annie, I will honor you with your power. I am sorry for taking it from you, but I had to make the right choice.

(moving to Günther's grave)

(MORE)

ELENA (CONT'D)

The chemistry I shared with you was like none other I've known. Rest well with Annie, I will honor you every day by staying alive.

AKIRA

(to Ryuu)

I never said how I felt about you: I didn't want to ruin what you had with Yuki.

RYUU

I have the same feelings for you. Yuki would want us to be happy.

Akira blushes and smiles, grabs a hold of him and hugs him tight.

RYUU (CONT'D)

You are dear to me. I love you, Akira.

Ryuu kisses Akira's forehead.

Elena rises from sharing some final private words with Günther and Annie's departed spirits and walks to Ryuu and Akira.

RYUU (CONT'D)

About training for the best use and synergy of our abilities. We will work together to become stronger.

ELENA

I am ready.

AKIRA

We need a mentor.

RYUU

I don't doubt your judgement, but where will we find one?

ELENA

Another journey?

RYUU

Shall that be our new objective?

AKIRA

We have much to learn.

RYUU

Not to mention the mystery
surrounding our fathers.

(sigh)

We need the truth.

AKIRA

We should search for them.

ELENA

A mentor and your fathers?

Ryuu and Akira nod.

CUT TO:

102 EXT. SHIP - MOMENTS LATER

Eustace paces the ship where scattered Eximio survivors treat
their wounds.

BORIS

(to Eustace)

Where to now?

EUSTACE

(staring out at the sea)

Someplace new. Rebuild. Recruit.

BORIS

They will rue this day.

EUSTACE

(laughing)

They might.

BORIS

Your master plan worked. A shame,
though, that we lost such a
powerful warrior.

EUSTACE

Powerful, but unstable: Orochi
would have turned on us. There is
always someone stronger. We just
have to find and recruit them. A
great battle is coming.

(a beat)

How intimately do you know The
Seers?

BORIS
Very well, sit.

EUSTACE
When we have our chance, we must
crush them all.

BORIS
If we were to raid their vaults, we
could make good use of their secret
arsenal. Impeding their artifact
relocation missions and
assassinating their top tier Eximio
operatives would fatally weaken
them.

EUSTACE
(sighing)
If you are wrong, I will have to
order you killed along with them.

BORIS
Do what you must.

CUT TO:

103 INT. HOLD BELOW LOWER DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Boris scans the hold before pulling out his communication
device.

BORIS
Sir?

BOWMAN (O.S.)
What do you have for me?

BORIS
(speaking quietly)
Eustace is keen to rebuild and
recruit stronger Eximians.
(a beat)
He heard me out about the vaults. I
think we have a chance.

BOWMAN (O.S.)
What have you told him, Boris?

A **SEAMAN** laboring below the deck, moving food storage boxes
around, interrupts Boris.

BORIS
(to the SEAMAN)
Hey.

SEAMAN
I have boxes to move.

BORIS
Can you move them later?

SEAMAN
Must do my duties.

BORIS
(exasperated)
Allow me to help!!

Boris shoves The Seaman into the boxes. Muffled voices appear but Bowman can't understand.

BOWMAN (O.S.)
What the hell is going on over there?

SEAMAN
The captain will hear about this!

BORIS
Go tell him!

As The Seaman races away, Boris retrieves his device.

BORIS (CONT'D)
Sir? Do you copy?

BOWMAN (O.S.)
Everything alright?

BORIS
I just had to move some things around.

BOWMAN (O.S.)
As you were then.

BORIS
I suggested that we obstruct your artifact missions and kill your top tier Eximians.

BOWMAN (O.S.)
Just be sure to give me a fair warning.

BORIS

Yes sir.

BOWMAN (O.S.)

And remain vigilant. He must not discover your true purpose.

BORIS

Sir.

BOWMAN (O.S.)

That's all for now.

Concealing his device once more, Boris takes a moment to gather himself before leaving the hold.

BORIS

(to himself)

Oh shit, the Captain.

(sighs)

CUT TO:

104 EXT. LE HAVRE, FRANCE - NEXT DAY

The ruined city is blanketed in smoke, an ominous silence fills the battlefield. Severely wounded, Ryu, Akira, and Elena gingerly rise and begin to drag their bodies away from the city.

ELENA

So, when does this "healing factor" kick in?

AKIRA

(lightly chuckles)

It takes a while.

RYU

(to Elena)

We will train you with the knowledge that we have.

ELENA

I want to honor Annie. Keep her soul alive.

(a beat)

But I also want to recover, my body is killing me.

AKIRA
(laughing)
She will be proud, I'm sure.

RYUU
(attempts to be serious
again)
Ladies, we are a team. We must aim
to be inseparable.

AKIRA
I miss training in a gust of cherry
blossoms.

RYUU
(laughing)
I miss it too, but who knows where
our journey will take us...

ELENA
Wherever that may be, if we don't
want to be elders by the time we
are through, shouldn't we have
horses?

Laughing and saluting one another, Ryuu, Akira, and Elena
begin their search for rides amidst the rubble.

FADE OUT.