

Samurai Future

written by

Mitchell Cooper

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH- SUMMER- AFTERNOON

A MAN and a WOMAN are hiking up a mountain path. They are both around 20 years old. The man is wearing tan pants and a blue loose-fitting shirt. He carries a backpack as well. The female is wearing a blue kimono.

MAN 1

Not much further now! We should be near the summit soon.

WOMAN 1

Why did you drag me all the way out here? We could have had a picnic in the village like always.

MAN 1

What about the demons? My grandmother always told me to avoid this mountain because of the demons who live here. I found a special place up here last week and I just had to show it to you.

The couple continue walking up the path, holding hands and smiling.

WOMAN 1

We shouldn't be up here. My grandmother used to tell me stories of demons roaming this mountain. Stories of people coming up here and never returning.

MAN 1

We have been walking this path for awhile now. I haven't seen any signs of these demons you talk about. They are just a myth to scare young children. Look, there are birds and deer all over. If there really were demons, the animals wouldn't live here.

Birds can be heard chirping and a deer is standing nearby grazing.

WOMAN 1

I suppose you are right. It really is beautiful up here.

MAN 1  
Not as beautiful as you.

The couple arrives at a meadow.

MAN 1 (CONT'D)  
We are almost to the place.

Man 1 walks over to a small cave.

WOMAN 1  
I wonder if anything lives in  
there. Do you think there are bears  
on this mountain?

MAN 1  
Possibly. It seems that not many  
people come up here so who knows  
what animals call the area home. It  
would also explain the tales your  
grandmother tells. Probably just  
exaggerated stories of animal  
attacks.

Man 1 enters the mouth of the cave.

MAN 1 (CONT'D)  
Don't worry though. I inspected  
this entire cave and there were no  
signs of bears, or demons.

Woman 1 enters the mouth of the cave too. As she lays out a  
blanket for their picnic, Man 1 pulls out a small box.

MAN 1 (CONT'D)  
We have been dating for a few years  
now, ever since we were in school.  
There is nobody I would rather be  
with than you. I have already  
received the blessing from your  
father. Will you marry me?

Woman 1 turns and starts nodding her head. Before she answers  
his proposal, she notices something.

WOMAN 1  
Wait. Do you hear that?

MAN 1  
No. I don't hear anything. What  
does it sound like to you?

WOMAN 1

That's just it. I don't hear  
anything anymore. The birds have  
stopped chirping.

All around the couple, the area is completely silent.

MAN 1

I'm sure we just spooked them with  
our presence.

From deeper inside of the cave, a voice can be heard.

DOJI

(echoing/deep)

Ha ha ha ha ha. How sweet. The  
trespassers are going to get  
married.

MAN 1

Who's there? Show yourself!

DOJI-A Demon, Large, Red, with many horns protruding from his  
head, emerges from the darkness of the cave.

DOJI

I was wondering if you would return  
here, trespasser. I did not imagine  
you would bring such a fine meal  
along with you.

MAN 1

What do you mean trespasser? And  
how did you know I had been here  
before?

Two lesser demons approach the couple from behind while they  
are talking to Doji.

DOJI

Because I am Doji, King of the  
Demons, and this is my mountain!

WOMAN 1

We need to run, now!

Woman 1 turns and runs. She is grabbed by one of the lesser  
demons. The lesser demon snaps her neck and she dies  
instantly.

MAN 1

No! Please no! I'll do anything! I  
don't want to die!

DOJI

This is what happens to trespassers  
I'm afraid.

As the screen fades out, Man 1 can be heard screaming in terror.

FADE TO:

EXT. VILLAGE HUT- FALL- DUSK

There are children playing. People walking around tending to different tasks. Just outside of the village, Doji approaches.

DOJI

It seems it is time to reteach this  
village what happens when you  
trespass upon the mountain.

Doji is with a large group of demons. The demons enter the village. Everyone begins to panic and scream.

DOJI (CONT'D)

Eat up! Leave only one survivor.  
They will spread our tale to remind  
people we exist.

The village is ransacked by the demons. Sounds of people being attacked can be heard.

CUT TO:

INT. PALACE- THRONE ROOM

A SURVIVOR is telling his story to EMPEROR REIZEI-50. The Emperor is dressed in a purple robe and has a long, black beard. Emperor Reizei is Emperor Reizei sits on his throne. Off to the side of the room, YORI MINAMOTO-30. Yori is a samurai and the head of the Minamoto Clan. With him there are four other samurai from the Minamoto Clan.

SURVIVOR

Your majesty, they came out of  
nowhere! Dozens of them! Demons of  
all shapes and sizes! They  
slaughtered everyone in the village  
but me!

EMPEROR REIZEI

And how did you survive?

SURVIVOR

The leader of the group, a demon who calls himself Doji, ordered the others to leave me alive so that I may spread their tale.

EMPEROR REIZEI

Do you know where these demons came from?

SURVIVOR

Yes, your majesty. The demons live inside of the mountain near my village.

EMPEROR REIZEI

Can you describe this, Doji, to me?

SURVIVOR

He claimed he was the King of Demons. He was large and red, with many rows of teeth and sharp horns.

EMPEROR REIZEI

That will be all. Thank you for bringing this information to my attention. I will see to it that you are taken care of.

(to Yori)

Are you up for this mission?

YORI MINAMOTO

Yes, your majesty. My men and I will hunt down this Doji and put a stop to his reign of terror.

EMPEROR REIZEI

Then depart at once. Take this with you. It has been blessed to kill demons.

Emperor Reizei gives Yori a flask containing a magical liquid. Yori and his men exit the throne room.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH- MIDDAY

Yori Minamoto and 4 other samurai from the Minamoto clan make their way up the mountain path in search of Doji's lair. Yori hands out priest robes. The group pulls them on over their samurai armor and katanas.

YORI MINAMOTO

Do you hear that? There is a stream nearby. Someone is humming.

The group make their way to the stream. They discover an OLD WOMAN washing clothes. Most of the clothes are stained with blood.

OLD WOMAN

Who's there? I can't see very well but I know you are there!

YORI MINAMOTO

My name is Yori Minamoto. We are priests visiting a nearby temple. We heard there may be demons in the area and would like to cleanse the mountain.

OLD WOMAN

Well you are certainly in the right place. Not too far from here, demons are kidnapping young women from nearby villages. They bring them up here to their king. He calls himself Doji. They kidnapped me when I was young. I was the lucky one of my group. The others were slaughtered shortly after we were captured. The demons like to eat the flesh of the young girls and drink their blood.

YORI MINAMOTO

Can you tell us how to enter Doji's lair. Maybe we can convince him to move to a more secluded location.

OLD WOMAN

I can do better than that. I will take you to him.

The old woman leads Yori and his men into Doji's lair. She brings them before Doji.

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE

Doji is sitting in a throne in the middle of a large cavern inside of the mountain. All around are lesser demons and human bones.

DOJI

Who do you bring before me, hag?

OLD WOMAN

Your highness, I bring before you some priests. They wanted to speak to you.

DOJI

Very well. Leave us.

The old woman bows low and exits the room.

DOJI (CONT'D)

So then, why do you wish to speak to me, Doji, King of the Demons?

YORI MINAMOTO

Great Doji, we are priests from a nearby temple. We had heard of your great and terrible deeds. We simply wish to hear your tales straight from you so that we can record them in the scrolls.

DOJI

Very well! I would be more than happy to tell you of my deeds firsthand. It will take some time. I will have sleeping rooms arraigned for you. Let us eat and drink!

Doji motions to a pair of young women standing off to the side of the room. They begin to bring out plates of boar and pitchers of wine.

YORI MINAMOTO

You are a most gracious host!

Doji, Yori, and Yori's men feast on the boar and wine.

DOJI

Do you know why they call me Doji? It is because I drink so much alcohol! Ha ha ha ha! For I am Doji, The Drunken Lad! King of Demons!

Yori reaches into his backpack and pulls out the flask. He gives the flask to Doji.

YORI MINAMOTO

For you, your highness. A flask of our finest ale from the temple.

Doji drinks the contents of the flask.

DOJI

Ha ha ha. I haven't felt this good in a long time. I am beginning to grow sleepy. If you will excuse me, I shall retire. Tomorrow I can tell you all the tales you wish.

Doji exits the throne room. All of the demons also leave. Yori and his men wait several minutes to make sure nobody is coming back. Yori Minamoto and his men remove the priest robes they were wearing. Now everyone is standing in samurai armor with their katanas accessible. The group head to where Doji exited.

INT. SMALLER MOUNTAIN CAVE

Yori and his men approach the sleeping Doji.

YORI MINAMOTO

Grab his limbs! Hold him still!

Each man grabs a limb. Doji struggles but cannot break free.

DOJI

Why you imposters! You tricked me!  
Now you will die!

Yori raises his sword up high. The words "Demon's Bane" can be made out on the blade.

YORI MINAMOTO

It is you who shall die. No longer will you terrorize these lands!

Yori brings down *Demon's Bane* on the back of Doji's neck. The blade slices through, completely severing Doji's head.

YORI MINAMOTO (CONT'D)

It is done. The demon has been slain. Let us depart this evil place.

Yori and his men turn to leave.

DOJI

You fool! I cannot be killed by simply cutting off my head! Die!

Doji's head bounces off of the ground and heads straight for Yori's neck.

At the last moment, Yori raises *Demon's Bane* and blocks the attack. The head bites onto the sword and falls into a deep abyss clutching the sword in its jaws.

FADE TO:

EXT. HOUSE-FRONT PORCH-LATE AFTERNOON-WINTER

MAISA-40, short, graying hair, samurai, head of the Minamoto Clan; and TOMO-38, black hair, short beard, samurai, younger brother of Maisa; are standing on the porch watching MIRAI-18, black hair tied back into a short pony tail, samurai; and PRINCE NOCHI-18, wearing a purple broach. Mirai and Prince Nochi spar with training swords.

MAISA

We must find it soon. The new season will bring about many changes.

TOMO

He is not ready! He is still very young and unproven. Let him train more or send one of our more senior samurai.

MAISA

Mirai has yet to be tested. The location is just a rumor for now. This will be a good mission for him. As your brother, I understand not wanting to send your son on his first mission. But as the head of the clan, I must.

Mirai strikes at Prince Nochi. Prince Nochi deflects the blow causing Mirai to lose control of the sword. The sword lands in the snow.

PRINCE NOCHI

Looks like you let the presence of the future Emperor get to you again. You swing as if you are in a hurry.

MIRAI

Just trying to ensure the future of Japan is intact. Wouldn't want to hurt his highness or anything. You move to slow.

TOMO

(to Mirai)

A warrior must be patient and wait for his opponent to provide an opening. If you act too soon, you act without thinking.

Mirai picks up his sword. Prince Nochi and Mirai resume sparing.

MAISA

He has until the cherry blossoms bloom. He is a samurai now and has a duty to his clan.

TOMO

I know. I fear this age of peace is coming to a close. The winds from the South smell of smoke. I have spoken to the monks at the temple. They seem to know where the shrine is located.

MAISA

Good. The Taira Clan grows bolder with every passing moment. I do not think it will be long before they make their move. There are rumblings that Mori Taira has returned from crushing the rebellions in Nobor.

TOMO

I will speak with him tonight.

Prince Nochi swings at Mirai. Mirai parries the strike and disarms Prince Nochi. Prince Nochi yields. Both bow to each other then turn to Maisa and Tomo and bow to the older men. Maisa and Tomo return their bow.

MAISA

(to Prince Nochi)

Prince Nochi, I believe it is time I escorted you back to the palace. The sun will be setting soon. We would not want to worry the Emperor.

PRINCE NOCHI

(to Mirai)

We shall call it a draw! Next time you will not be so lucky! Farewell!

MIRAI

Farwell Prince Nochi! I will be by tomorrow so we can train more!

Maisa and Prince Nochi walk down the path and out of the Minamoto Estate. Mirai stores the training equipment. Mirai and Tomo enter a house nearby.

INT. HOUSE- EVENING

Mirai prepares a meal for Tomo and himself. Inside the house there is a short table with two kneeling mats next to it. The walls are decorated with various paintings. Tomo is kneeling on one of the mats.

TOMO

You and Prince Nochi are improving very rapidly. Soon you will be sworn in as his guard. Then you shall be the one to accompany him home at night.

MIRAI

I am not improving as fast as I would like. All this time and I am still making stupid mistakes. How can I be expected to guard the Prince when he still gets the better of me.

TOMO

Be patient Mirai. Remember, the deepest rivers flow slowly. The time might soon come where you will be tested. You must be ready. Believe in yourself and your clan.

Mirai turns and looks at Tomo.

MIRAI

What are you talking about father?

Tomo stands and walks over to a chest, then removes a scroll. He hands the scroll to Mirai.

TOMO

Do you remember the story of our ancestor, Yori Minamoto?

MIRAI

Yes. Yori was a great samurai long ago. He battled the Demon King inside of Mount Ash.

(MORE)

MIRAI (CONT'D)

Using his legendary sword *Demon's Bane*, he was able to defeat the Demon King and bring about the age of peace we enjoy.

TOMO

Do you recall what happened to *Demon's Bane*?

MIRAI

It was destroyed after the fatal blow was dealt to the Demon King.

Mirai unrolls the scroll. On it is a drawing of a katana with the words *Demon's Bane* written underneath.

TOMO

That is only partially true. After the fatal blow was dealt, Yori lost the sword inside the mountain. The exact location of the sword still remains a mystery today.

MIRAI

Why are you bringing this up now?

TOMO

To give you inspiration. *Demon's Bane* became a legendary sword due to the feats of Yori. Yori was known for his patience and composure. Now, take the scroll and go reflect on the story of Yori. Tomorrow we will focus your training on patience. Remember Mirai, strength is found in family.

MIRAI

While having more swords in a fight is always good, strength is in one's abilities. These abilities are honed through hard work and training.

Mirai exits through a door that leads to a bedroom.

TOMO

(to himself)

Ah, Hanata. I wish you were still alive.

(MORE)

TOMO (CONT'D)

Soon our son will be tested and I  
fear he will not be ready in time.  
You always knew what to tell him to  
motivate him.

FADE OUT.

EXT. WALKING PATH- EVENING

Maisa and Prince Nochi are walking back to the palace after  
leaving the Minomoto Estate.

PRINCE NOCHI

Maisa, when will Mirai be able to  
be the one to escort me home?

MAISA

You don't enjoy my company, your  
highness?

PRINCE NOCHI

(laughs)

You know I enjoy spending every  
waking moment with you, sworn  
protector. I just think maybe you  
would like a break every now and  
then.

MAISA

He will be ready sooner than he  
thinks.

PRINCE NOCHI

What do you mean by that?

MAISA

I am sure you are aware of the  
legend of Yori Minamoto and his  
legendary sword, *Demon's Bane*? The  
elder members of the Minamoto Clan  
believe *Demon's Bane* was not  
destroyed.

PRINCE NOCHI

Wow. I had no idea that *Demon's  
Bane* could still exist. When we get  
back, I will tell my father to send  
out groups to all of the mountains  
of Japan! We must find this sword  
of legend!

MAISA

I appreciate the offer, your majesty, but if *Demon's Bane* is to be found, it must be by a member of the Minamoto Clan. In fact, I plan to send Mirai on his first mission in the Spring to track down a lead on the location of *Demon's Bane*.

PRINCE NOCHI

You must let me accompany him on his first mission! I want to be there when the sword is found!

MAISA

That will be between you and the Emperor. I am not so sure he will look kindly on you traveling the countryside with one lone samurai as your guard. Since it is his first mission as a fully fledged samurai, it is best he make the journey alone.

PRINCE NOCHI

As always, you are right. I guess I will have to wait to accompany him on his second mission, whatever it may be. I just hope he doesn't get lost in the wilderness while he is gone. I would hate to have to send out a search party for him.

As the pair are walking, they cross a bridge. On the other side of the bridge, there is a man standing in the path. Maisa notices the man first.

MAISA

(to the man)

Ah, if it isn't Mori Taira. I see the rumors of your victorious campaign in the South were true. Glad to see you returned unharmed.

The man is MORI TAIRA- 35 year old samurai, leader of the Taira Clan, the rival clan of the Minamoto Clan.

MORI

Well hello Prince Nochi.

Mori bows to the Prince.

MORI (CONT'D)

And I see the Prince's loyal pet is  
with him. I come from the palace  
after reporting my victorious  
campaign to the Emperor. I was  
hoping to meet you on the road  
Maisa so I might pass on a message.

Mori squares himself in the middle of the road and faces  
Maisa. His hand rests on the hilt of his katana.

MAISA

(to Prince Nochi)

Your majesty, it is no longer safe  
here. Please return back to the  
Minamoto Estate. Tell Tomo it is  
time.

Maisa stands opposite of Mori. He now has his hand resting on  
the hilt of his katana as well. Both stare into the other's  
eyes. Prince Nochi begins to run back to the Minamoto Estate.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE-FRONT PORCH-NIGHT-WINTER

Tomo stands on the front porch of the house. A strong wind is  
blowing. Mirai is sitting on the edge of the porch.

MIRAI

Shouldn't Maisa have returned by  
now? The sun went down over an hour  
ago.

TOMO

Patience my son. That seems to be a  
lesson you have still failed to  
learn. My brother is more than  
capable of protecting himself and  
the Prince. He probably stopped off  
at a tea shop before he returned.

Smoke begins to rise from the direction of the palace.

TOMO (CONT'D)

Mirai. Go get your katana. There is  
smoke on the wind.

Mirai races into the house and comes back with his katana.

MIRAI

Should we alert the rest of the  
clan?

TOMO

I fear there is no time to gather everyone. I will sound the bell to wake them. You go on ahead and scout the situation. I will join you once the bell sounds.

Tomo rushes deeper into the Minamoto Estate. Mirai runs out of the Estate up the path.

EXT. WALKING PATH- NIGHT

Prince Nochi is running down the path. Sounds of swords clashing can be heard in the near distance.

PRINCE NOCHI

Help! Help! Somebody! Guards!

Chasing Prince Nochi are 3 samurai from the Taira Clan.

TAIRA SAMUARI 1

Don't let him get away! Mori hand picked all of us because he knows we can accomplish the mission.

TAIRA SAMURAI 2

Yes sir!

TAIRA SAMURAI 3

Yes sir!

The 3 samurai continue to run after the Prince. From the other way, Mirai is running towards the Prince and the samurai.

MIRAI

Prince Nochi! I'm coming! Hold on!

TAIRA SAMUARI 1

Hurry! He has help coming!

Mirai rounds a bend in the path and can see Prince Nochi being chased by the 3 Taira Samurai.

MIRAI

Prince Nochi, this way. My father should be just down the path!

PRINCE NOCHI

Okay! Maisa is fighting with Mori up ahead as well!

Mirai squares off with the 3 samurai from the Taira Clan as Prince Nochi runs by.

As the Prince passes Mirai, an arrow flies from the direction of the samurai. The arrow strikes Prince Nochi in the back of the neck. He is killed instantly.

MIRAI

No!

From behind the 3 samurai, Mori can be seen holding a bow. He has blood on him but does not appear to be wounded.

MORI

(to the samurai)

You idiots almost lost him! If I hadn't gotten here when I had, the entire plan would have failed. Finish this brat off then join me back at the palace.

Mori turns and returns back up the path. The 3 samurai start to surround Mirai.

MIRAI

You will not get away with this!

Enraged, Mirai swings at Taira Samurai 1. The samurai blocks the blow but Mirai spins and is able to slice the samurai across the neck. Samurai 1 falls to the ground.

Taira Samurai 2 attacks. Mirai is able to deflect the blow. Mirai thrusts his blade towards Samurai 2. Samurai 2 is too slow and is stabbed by the sword.

As Mirai pulls his sword from Samurai 2, Taira Samurai 3 slashes at him. The blow connects, cutting into Mirai's shoulder. This causes him to drop his sword.

TAIRA SAMURAI 3

Now you will die, brat.

Taira Samurai 3 raises his sword and Mirai braces for the blow. The sound of a sword slicing through flesh can be heard but Mirai feels no pain. Samurai 3 falls to the ground, killed by Tomo's attack.

TOMO

I feared I was too late.

Mirai rushes over to the body of Prince Nochi.

MIRAI

No! Nochi! No!

Prince Nochi is clearly dead. Mirai holds him in his arms.

MIRAI (CONT'D)

I couldn't protect him! I tried  
father but I wasn't fast enough!

TOMO

It is not your fault, son. You did  
what you could. It is the fault of  
the treacherous Taira Clan. Where  
is Maisa?

Mirai shakes his head.

MIRAI

I do not know. Only Prince Nochi  
was here when I got here.

TOMO

We must find him. Let's go. Prince  
Nochi would want us to make sure  
Maisa is okay.

Tomo runs up the path with Mirai following, carrying Prince  
Nochi. Once they reach the bridge, they see something on the  
other side laying on the ground.

TOMO (CONT'D)

No. It can't be.

They approach the figure. They discover it is Maisa's body.  
Tomo drops to his knees.

TOMO (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I wasn't here brother. I  
swear I will avenge you. The Taira  
Clan will not get away with this.

EXT. GARDEN-MORNING- WINTER

Snow is blowing outside of the Minamoto Estate. Several  
members of the Minamoto clan are gathered around a grave  
marker. Tomo and Mirai are standing close to it.

TOMO

(to the crowd)

As you all know, Clan Taira has  
seized control of the palace and  
the Emperor is missing. Not only  
that, but Mori Taira killed our  
leader, Maisa, and the future of  
Japan, Prince Nochi. We must not  
let this stand.

(To Mirai)

(MORE)

TOMO (CONT'D)

You must embark on the mission Maisa intended for you. Without delay.

MIRAI

Father, I am needed here. I need to be here to protect the clan and to avenge Prince Nochi.

TOMO

We have discussed this Mirai. You are to carry out Maisa's final order to you. That is why you are going now. He believed you were ready for this two months ago.

MIRAI

But I am not ready! I couldn't even keep Prince Nochi safe!

TOMO

Mirai, you defeated two Taira Clan Samurai alone. You are as ready as you can be. The only way to grow stronger is through experience. You leave today for the Shrine of Jikan. That is an order from me as both your father and as the head of your clan.

EXT. HOUSE- FRONT PORCH- MORNING

Mirai and Tomo are standing on the front porch. Mirai has a large pack on his back. It has stopped snowing.

TOMO

Be careful, my son. You are the future of Clan Minamoto. I wish you good fortune on your journey. Remember, it will take you ten days to reach the Shrine.

MIRAI

I shall father. I will not let down you or the clan. I will return soon.

Mirai turns and leaves the Minamoto Estate.

TOMO  
 (to himself)  
 Hanata, Maisa, Prince Nochi, please  
 watch over Mirai as he makes this  
 journey. He will need all of the  
 help he can get.

EXT. WALKING PATH-AFTERNOON

It is the second day of Mirai's journey. He is walking down  
 the path and approaches a small house.

MIRAI  
 Hello? Is anyone there?

Mirai hears a stranger, YUMA, coming to the door.

YUMA  
 Who is there?

MIRAI  
 My name is Mirai. I am from clan  
 Minamoto. I am journeying to the  
 Shrine of Jikan. Would you have a  
 spare room for the night?

YUMA  
 You are from Clan Minamoto? Come  
 in, come in. My name is Yuma.

Yuma-30, female, lets Mirai into the home.

INT. HOUSE

Inside the home, there is a small stove heating the one room  
 house. Yuma walks over to a closet and pulls out a bedroll.

YUMA  
 Here, you can use these for  
 tonight. Are you hungry?

MIRAI  
 Thank you very much! I have my own  
 food.

Mirai begins to dig through his pack.

YUMA  
 Nonsense. Save your food for when  
 you do not have a house to sleep in  
 and food being offered. I will be  
 right back.

Yuma walks over to the kitchen area of the house. She returns carrying a large bowl of ramen. She places the ramen in front of Mirai.

MIRAI

If you insist! This smells amazing!  
How do you know Clan Minamoto?

YUMA

My family has served Clan Minamoto as cooks for generations. In fact, that is where my mother is right now. She lives at the Minamoto Estate and prepares meals for them. I am sorry to hear of the passing of Lord Maisa. I am sure Lord Tomo will do a fine job though.

MIRAI

Lord Tomo is my father. I was the nephew of Lord Maisa. He fought and died a warrior's death.

Mirai eats the ramen. After clearing the bowl, he lays out the bedroll and goes to sleep.

EXT. HOUSE- MORNING

Mirai prepares to leave Yuma's house. Yuma is standing on the porch with a large pack and a bow.

YUMA

I am coming with you. What happened to Lord Maisa is unforgivable. I will not let the same happen to you.

Yuma gives Mirai a necklace with a fox talisman in the center.

YUMA (CONT'D)

This will help ward off bad spirits.

MIRAI

I couldn't ask for you to make this journey. It will be very dangerous.

Mirai heads down the walking path. Yuma follows behind.

## EXT. CLIFFSIDE PATH-AFTERNOON

It is day 4 of Mirai's journey. Mirai is walking along a narrow path that has a sharp drop on the right side. The path is made up of gravel and loose stones. Mirai makes his way on the path, careful to not lose his footing. He reaches a wide outcropping of rocks and takes off his pack. He digs out something to eat for lunch. As he is bent over digging through his pack, he loses his balance and lurches forward. This causes him and his pack to fall over the edge of the outcropping.

MIRAI

Ahhhhhhhh!

Yuma grabs Mirai before he is out of reach. She pulls him up to safety. His pack plummets several hundred feet to the valley below.

MIRAI (CONT'D)

No! That was all of my food! What will we eat?

Mirai sits down on the outcropping.

YUMA

Do not get discouraged my samurai friend. I have been hunting ever since I was old enough to hold a bow. We will be fine.

CUT TO:

## EXT. FOREST- PATH- MIDDAY

Yuma is shown hunting. She sneaks up on a boar and kills it with her bow.

Mirai and Yuma roast the boar that evening on a fire.

## EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH- MIDDAY

It is day 8 of Mirai's journey. Mirai is walking a path that cuts around a small mountain. There are several small caves along the path. It is very cold.

MIRAI

It is getting very windy and cold. I hope it doesn't snow. It is only midday.

Suddenly, it begins to snow heavily.

YUMA

You just had to mention snow! I  
can't see anything now!

Mirai and Yuma slowly walk along the path before coming  
across a small cave entrance.

MIRAI

I hope nothing else lives in here.

Mirai enters the cave with his sword drawn and inspects the  
inside. There are small animal bones on one side and a  
drawing on the other. Mirai walks up to the drawing. It is a  
drawing of a demon. It has a red face and a long, straight  
nose with two horns coming out of its forehead.

YUMA

Let's just hope whatever is leaving  
these bones doesn't come for ours.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH

It is day 10 of Mirai's journey. He is walking along a path  
to the mountain. He sees an archway off to the left side of  
the path.

MIRAI

Finally! I was afraid I missed the  
path to the Shrine!

Mirai and Yuma follow the path from the archway.

EXT. SHRINE

They arrive at the Shrine of Jikan. Before them is a large  
stone structure.

MIRAI

Well this is the place. Hopefully  
there are some clues as to the  
location of *Demon's Bane* inside.

Mirai and Yuma enter the shrine.

INT. SHRINE

Inside the shrine is a large room with many pillars. In the  
center of the pillars is a small stone idol with the word  
"Justice" underneath. The room is lit up by torch light.

MIRAI

Hello? Is anyone here? I wonder who lit these torches.

Mirai walks around the room looking for anyone. Yuma approaches the stone idol in the center.

YUMA

Justice? What could this mean? I don't see anything else here.

Mirai walks over picks up the idol and turns it over in his hands.

MIRAI

There is something about this idol. It seems very ancient-

Mirai accidently drops the idol and it shatters on the floor.

YUMA

Such grace has never before been displayed by the samurai.

In the debris, the hilt of a sword is visible. Mirai picks it up.

Mirai looks around the room again. He inspects the pedestal the idol was sitting on. He sees a place where the hilt would fit on the top. Mirai inserts the hilt into the top of the pedestal. A "click" can be heard.

MIRAI

Well that did something. But I don't see anything different in here.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHRINE

Mori Taira has also arrived at the Shrine of Jikan. Mori stands outside of the shrine.

MORI

It has to be here. My spies told me of the information the Minamoto Clan had gathered. I checked all of the other shrines when I was in the South with no luck.

Mori hears the sound of the idol breaking inside.

MORI (CONT'D)

What? Someone else is already in the shrine? I must hurry.

Mori sneaks into the shrine.

INT. SHRINE

Mori makes his way into the large room with pillars and then hides in a shadowy corner of the room. Mirai is inspecting the hilt that he just placed on the top of the pedestal.

MORI

(to himself)

It's that Minamoto brat who almost ruined my plans. Tomo must have sent him here early. He wasn't supposed to leave until Spring. No bother. I will just kill him now and then I can search for the sword.

Mirai pulls up on the hilt. It pulls out of the top of the pedestal. Now attached to it is a katana blade. Mirai inspects the side of the blade and the words "Demon's Bane" can be seen.

YUMA

Is that, *Demon's Bane*! We must get it back to the Minamoto Estate quickly!

Mori shoves Yuma. She falls to the floor. Mori raises his katana above Mirai's head.

MORI

Die! Minamoto Brat! Join Maisa in hell!

YUMA

No!

Mori swings his sword down toward the back of Mirai's neck. Before it can connect, there is a bright flash of white light from *Demon's Bane*. Mirai and Mori are both enveloped by this light.

FADE TO:

## INT. MUSEUM- NIGHT

The light begins to fade. The torches have gone out. It is now night inside of the shrine. A strange, flashing light is coming from outside of the shrine entrance. Mirai is laying unconscious on the floor, still clutching *Demon's Bane* in his hand. Mori had been thrown back into the wall. Mori stands up.

Mori stands up and walks over to Mirai. He again raises his katana to stab the unconscious Mirai. Before he can bring the sword down, a beam of light comes from the entrance of the shrine. The beam hits Mori in the face. This causes him to stop his attack and look towards the beam. Mori sees a strangely dressed man, YORI-65, wearing a blue button-up t-shirt with patches that read "Security." Mori's eyes focus on the nametag that reads "Y. Minamoto."

MORI

Impossible! You are supposed to be dead!

Yori enters the shrine carrying a flashlight. Mori pushes past him and exits.

YORI

What in the- Well I guess I know who set off the silent alarm. But how did they get here? Hey kid, are you alright?

Yori tries to wake Mirai but cannot get him to stir. He sees that Mirai is holding a katana.

YORI (CONT'D)

*Demon's Bane*? My grandfather told me the ancient story of this sword. I mean, it is my namesake. But it couldn't be- It was lost over one thousand years ago!

Yori picks up Mirai and the katana and exits the shrine.