

ROYAL MAGICIAN

Episode 01:  
"Into the Demon Realm!"

A half-hour Shonen-style Animated TV Show!

Written by

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INT. THE GYM - SUNGUN MAGICAL ACADEMY - DAY

Sneakers SQUEAK as a foot steps back across the hardwood floor.

Two hands come together--like a Dragon Ball Super Saiyan Attack pose, palms facing outward, wrists together, positioned against a chest.

A smile forms on a young man's face. This is KATSUYA KOYAMA (17).

KATSUYA  
(war cry)  
AH-RAH!

A ball of yellow light forms in Katsuya's hands.

Across from him, TAKESHI MIYAMOTO (17), unflinching, silent, and calm, watches Katsuya with a steely gaze.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)  
TAKE THIS TAKESHI!

Katsuya thrusts his hands forward, launching the ball of light at Takeshi.

Takeshi waves his hand, and a gust of wind knocks the ball of light off track. It sails over his head, dispersing as it hits the wall into many tiny light particles.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)  
And now this! And THIS! AND THIS!

Katsuya launches three more blasts of light in quick succession. Takeshi easily disperses them all. He looks just as calm as before.

TAKESHI  
It does not matter how powerful your light magic is, Katsuya. You are careless. Remember what Mr. Kato taught us? The best offense comes from learning your enemy, not brute strength.

Katsuya charges at Takeshi.

KATSUYA  
Well, let's see how you like my close range moves, then!

Katsuya reaches a hand into the air.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)

That's right, I know your weakness!  
You have no muscle.

A sword of light materializes in Katsuya's hands. Takeshi raises a hand.

TAKESHI

And your weakness is stupidity.

He releases a full blast of wind straight into Katsuya's chest, throwing Katsuya all the way across the room where he crumples to the floor.

Katsuya lies there a moment. Takeshi trudges over.

TAKESHI (CONT'D)

This is over. Why don't you practice the basics? Which you should have learned last year, by the way. I need to do homework for Mr. Kato's class, so I will see you later.

He walks off.

Katsuya gets up.

KATSUYA

Not. So. Fast. TAKESHI!

Katsuya has renewed ferocity in his eyes.

Takeshi stops, flicks a finger, and a strong gust of wind knocks Katsuya back down.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)

Hmph. I could beat you if I wanted to!

Takeshi LAUGHS, then proceeds to walk off out of the gym.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)

I'm going to prove it tomorrow!

The door SLAMS shut.

Katsuya punches the floor, looking frustrated.

INT. KATSUYA'S HOUSE - DAY

Katsuya SLURPS down ramen. He's seated on the couch, in front of the TV.

TV REPORTER

(on-screen)

Today, three teams of magicians were dispatched from Tokyo's division of the Japanese Magical Army to combat the demons who appeared in the north.

On-screen, a huge demon with fiery red skin and sharp claws marches down the street, causing destruction.

It is joined by two others, a flying demon that resembles a pterodactyl with a man's head, and a smaller demon that carries a staff with a skull on it.

TV REPORTER (CONT'D)

It's the third time they've spawned in the area in the last three days.

Three magicians appear on-screen. Katsuya watches with awe. One of the magicians raises a hand, palm facing the largest of the demons. A beam of light pierces the demon's chest, leaving a gaping, bloody hole in it. The demon crumples to the ground.

TV REPORTER (CONT'D)

It's been 19 years since the first demons spawned outside of Tokyo, and the army has become adept at handling them. However, most want more than that--

Katsuya's sister, AI (12), jumps up behind him and latches onto his shoulders.

AI

I'm done eating!

Katsuya leaps forward in surprise, spilling his ramen all over the carpet.

KATSUYA

Ai! I told you never to sneak up on me like that.

Katsuya spins around, glaring at his sister.

AI

Uh, s-sorry!

He gets up and chases her. She races around the couch.

KATSUYA

Come here you little--!

AI  
S-sorry big brother, please don't  
be mad at me, I forgot.

INT. KATSUYA'S HOUSE - LATER

Katsuya sits on the couch. Ai sits on the floor next to him.  
They watch TV.

Their father, BANRI (40), enters drunk. He has huge bags  
under his eyes and unkempt hair. He wears a wrinkled button  
down shirt and greasy slacks.

BANRI  
Oy! I'm hungry.

KATSUYA  
(without bothering to look  
at Banri)  
There's ramen on the stove, dad.

BANRI  
What about my booze?

KATSUYA  
I don't know, you told me not to  
touch that stuff.

BANRI  
Ugh, I have to do everything around  
here!

Banri marches into the kitchen.

Katsuya SIGHS, slouching.

AI  
Hey Katsuya, do you remember what  
mom was like?

KATSUYA  
(wary)  
Why?

AI  
Nobody ever tells me anything about  
her.

Katsuya frowns, deep in thought.

INT. KATSUYA'S HOUSE - FLASHBACK

ZEHIRA (30) stands in the doorway. She wears a white dress and has glowing long hair.

Light surrounds her like an aura.

A younger version of Banri, only 28, stands opposite her and CRIES.

Zehira places a hand on his shoulder. She leans close to him, whispering soothing words. He falls into her arms. She embraces him.

They stand like that for a few moments. A YOUNG KATSUYA (5) approaches them. He holds a piece of paper with a drawing of the three of them on it, holding hands, and the word "Family."

Katsuya offers the drawing to his mother. She releases Banri, who sinks to the floor, unable to stop the tears.

Zehira smiles as she studies the drawing. She places it in her pocket.

ZEHIRA

Thank you, Katsuya. I love you.

YOUNG KATSUYA

Mommy, how long are you going away for?

Zehira gets choked up. She looks away.

ZEHIRA

Your father will explain that to you.

She leans down next to Banri.

He SHOVES her away.

Zehira falls on her butt. She looks at Banri, shocked and hurt.

Banri buries his face in his hands, embarrassed.

Zehira gets up and hurriedly leaves the house, sad and tired of everything.

In another corner of the house, YOUNG AI (3 months old) CRIES in her crib.

Katsuya's eyes widen; he looks lost and overwhelmed.

INT. KATSUYA'S HOUSE - BACK TO PRESENT

Katsuya frowns, upset, looking at Ai.

KATSUYA

She destroyed our family. That's  
all you need to know.

Banri stumbles back into the room, holding a beer in one hand and ramen noodles in the other. The noodles aren't even in a bowl. He SLURPS them up, dropping several on the ground.

Then he collapses onto the floor, SNORING.

His beer spills, staining the carpet.

Katsuya gets up, GROANS, and he picks up the beer bottle, going into the kitchen.

A moment later, he emerges with a steam cleaner and starts cleaning the carpet.

EXT. COURTYARD - SUNGUN MAGICAL ACADEMY - DAY

Katsuya and Takeshi stroll through the courtyard, towards one of three school buildings.

KATSUYA

Well, I can't speak for you  
Takeshi, but I'm gonna be the top  
of our class come graduation, and  
then, I'll be on the front lines  
battling the demons.

TAKESHI

I intend to do the same.  
(beat)  
Katsuya, why do you think the  
demons keep coming here?

KATSUYA

To kill us, obviously.

TAKESHI

But we keep defeating them. What is  
their end goal?

KATSUYA

I dunno. Maybe they're just stupid  
mindless beasts.

TAKESHI

Hm.

KATSUYA  
You think too much.

Katsuya and Takeshi pass by another student, KURO SEKI (14).

KURO  
H-hey guys, can you help me?

KATSUYA  
Sure kid, what's up?

KURO  
Um, I have class in the Platinum Room. Do you know where that is?

TAKESHI  
The Platinum Room is right next door to our class.

KATSUYA  
Yeah, come along with us, we'll show you the way!

KURO  
Oh really? Oh, that would be awesome. Thank you so much. By the way, my name is Kuro.

They walk off.

KATSUYA  
The door is platinum, so you can't really miss it. By the way, did you know I'm the most powerful magician in the school?

Takeshi rolls his eyes. Katsuya grins. They enter the school building.

INT. KATO'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Katsuya and Takeshi sit next to each other in the back of class.

Katsuya and a girl, ERIKA (17) make googley eyes at each other.

TAKESHI  
You know, you should really try paying attention for once, Katsuya. If you don't learn this stuff now, you're liable to get killed in the field.

Katsuya briefly glances at Takeshi.

KATSUYA

Nah.

He continues making googley eyes at Erika.

MISAKO (17), who sits in front of Erika, tries to make googley eyes at Takeshi, but he pays attention to the teacher instead.

MR. KATO (37) paces at the front of the class.

MR. KATO

(very serious, lecturing)  
 --but that is a crude technique that gives you little control. It's also an easy way to exhaust your magic faster than necessary. Instead, I advise you all to let your magic flow freely out of you, trusting it to do your bidding as you focus on controlling it in fine detail.

Takeshi writes notes.

INT. AI'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Ai sits next to her friend, KAORI NAGATA (12) in the back of the classroom. She holds her palm out facing upwards. She takes several deep breaths.

KAORI

I don't see anything.

AI

(frustrated)  
 Ugh, I don't get it. This is how my brother does it!

KAORI

Maybe you've got a different magic type than him.

AI

That's impossible. We're family.

KAORI

Well, that doesn't mean you have the same magic types. My dad and I have different types; he's wind and I'm sound.

AI  
Sound?

KAORI  
Yeah. Watch this.

Kaori faces the teacher, who is lecturing.

TEACHER  
And then, when you solve the  
equation...

Kaori SUCKS IN a big breath.

She faces Ai and releases the big breath.

The teacher's voice comes out.

TEACHER'S VOICE  
And then, when you solve the  
equation...

Ai stares in awe at Kaori's sound abilities.

TEACHER  
Kaori! Pay attention.

Kaori quickly turns to face the teacher, looking flustered.

TEACHER (CONT'D)  
You too, Ai. You both can do magic  
on your own time, this is Algebra  
class. Now, let's try an example.

Teacher turns around, begins writing on the whiteboard.

Kaori leans close to Ai.

KAORI  
(whispering)  
You've gotta learn your magic, not  
your brother's.

Ai nods.

AI  
(whispering)  
Thanks.

KAORI  
(whispering, smiling)  
Course. That's what best friends  
are for.

INT. HALLWAY - SUNGUN MAGICAL ACADEMY - DAY

Katsuya is at his locker with Erika. As he puts his books away, she speaks.

ERIKA

And then, I'm thinking that after we pick up the shoes, we can head to your place for dinner, pick up Ai, and then all three go to see the 8:15 movie.

KATSUYA

(scratching his head)  
Oh boy Erika, you never fail to plan everything out in the most crystal clear fashion!

ERIKA

(laughing)  
Well, I love you and I want to spend lots of time with you.

Katsuya shuts his locker.

She grabs his arm, rests her head against his shoulder as they walk off.

ERIKA (CONT'D)

Say, did you know Misako likes Takeshi?

KATSUYA

No way. A girl would be good for Takeshi, he's always so uptight.

ERIKA

Right? Do you think you can find out if he likes her?

KATSUYA

Only if you say you owe me one.

ERIKA

I owe you one.

They share a smile.

INT. THE GYM - SUNGUN MAGICAL ACADEMY - DAY

Takeshi stands a few feet away from a punching bag. Like a boxer, he jogs in place while throwing punches at the bag.

With each punch, he releases a gust of wind, blowing the punching bag back, then waiting for it to reset before throwing the next punch.

He grits his teeth. Sweat collects on his brow. He concentrates, looking determined.

The gym door swings open with a BANG, revealing Katsuya.

KATSUYA

TAKESHI!

Takeshi goes still, turns to see Katsuya striding towards him.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)

I told you yesterday I'd be back for a rematch. You ready?

Takeshi SHRUGS.

TAKESHI

Just make it fast. I was in the middle of practicing my spells.

KATSUYA

Great. Practice on me.

TAKESHI

You don't want that.

KATSUYA

Try me. I'll take whatever you've got, and dish out double.

Takeshi SHAKES his head, LAUGHS quietly.

Katsuya GRINS.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)

Oh, and before I forget, you know that Misako likes you, right?

TAKESHI

(beat)

What do you mean, she likes me?

KATSUYA

She has a crush on you, bozo! She probably wants you to ask her to the mid year ball, or something like that.

TAKESHI  
(rolling his eyes)  
I do not have time for dances and  
crushes.

Katsuya LAUGHS.

KATSUYA  
I thought you'd say that. Oh well,  
I tried. I'll tell Erika.

TAKESHI  
Erika? How is she involved?

KATSUYA  
Oh, you know girls. They're always  
involved in everything, making  
plans for every minute of every day  
and color coding those plans and  
before you know it you're swimming  
in plans and it's just like you're  
a hamster on a wheel just doing  
plans, plans, plans.

TAKESHI  
What?

KATSUYA  
(sighs)  
Ah, nevermind, it's too complicated  
for your perfect brain to  
understand. So, you ready to fight?

TAKESHI  
(hesitant)  
Alright. But are you sure that you  
want me to go all out?

KATSUYA  
Yeah. I can take it.

Takeshi looks reluctant.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)  
I'll dish out double. Now come at  
me!

Takeshi raises one hand above his head. Opens his palm.

Wind flows. The winds build up, immersing the room in a  
WHIRRING tempest.

Takeshi lowers his hand, and the tempest shoots towards  
Katsuya.

Katsuya's eyes go wide. He lifts his hands to block the gale.  
A shimmer of light forms in his palm.

Then, the room EXPLODES in a blast of light, so bright that  
everything is consumed entirely.

EXT. SUNGUN MAGICAL ACADEMY - DAY

The entire academy, including the grounds, bursts into a  
bright white light and disappears.

IT IS GONE.

Leaving only a giant crater.

INT. KATSUYA'S HOUSE - DAY

Ai sits in front of the TV.

The front door OPENS and Banri stumbles into the room,  
disheveled and annoyed at the world.

He looks at Ai, squints.

BANRI  
Oy, did you make dinner?

AI  
No.

Banri GROANS.

AI (CONT'D)  
(upset)  
Katsuya is missing.

Banri looks confused.

AI (CONT'D)  
It's all over the news. His school  
is gone.

BANRI  
Haven't seen the news, been busy  
working.  
(he hiccups)  
And drinking. Speaking of, where's  
the booze?

AI  
I don't know.

BANRI

Ugh, do I have to do everything  
around here?

Banri walks off, headed toward the kitchen.

Ai continues to stare at the TV.

ON THE TV SCREEN: An aerial view of the giant crater where  
Katsuya's school used to be.

Ai looks at her phone expectantly.

ON HER MESSAGES TO KATSUYA:

**"Hey, what happened, are you okay?"**

**"Big brother?"**

**"I'm worried. Please answer me, if you can..."**

**"Katsuya?"**

**"I'm at home. Come home."**

There's no response yet.

Banri stumbles back into the room.

He takes one big drink from a bottle of sake, then falls to  
the ground and starts SNORING.

The sake spills everywhere, staining the carpet.

INT. THE GYM - SUNGUN MAGICAL ACADEMY - DAY

Katsuya and Takeshi are frozen in battle stance.

The wind dies down. The light in Katsuya's hands fades.

Silence gives way to a CACOPHONY OF SCREAMS.

TAKESHI

Something is wrong.

KATSUYA

It's coming from outside.

Katsuya MARCHES towards the doors.

Takeshi runs after him.

TAKESHI

Katsuya, wait, be care--

Before he can open the door, a DEMON barrels through the wall to the right, creating a huge hole in it.

A spiked tongue flicks out of the demon's mouth. It's eight feet tall, humanoid with yellow skin, warts all over its body, and a third eye on its forehead.

The creature emits a GUTTURAL SCREECH, then rushes towards Katsuya, extending its tongue out a good five feet.

Katsuya spins, eyes wide. He raises a hand as it approaches, releasing a ray of light that narrowly misses the demon as it changes course.

It barrels toward Takeshi.

Takeshi freezes, body shaking, eyes wide with fear. The creature SNARLS as it CRASHES toward him.

Its spiked tongue comes out, shooting towards him, about to impale him in the neck.

But then, Katsuya rushes at it from the side, and with a sword of light in his two hands, he slices through the exposed tongue.

The creature SCREECHES in pain, blood spurting all over the floor as it retracts the half of its tongue that is still attached.

KATSUYA

Pull it together, Takeshi!

Takeshi looks dazed.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)

We need to fight! I thought you were the strong one!

TAKESHI

Oh god. How am I alive?

The demon with the spiked tongue gets up, emits another SCREECH.

KATSUYA

Come on! If we take it on together, it stands no chance.

A look of realization comes over Takeshi's face. He shakes.

TAKESHI

N-no. We have to run.

KATSUYA

NO WAY!

The demon eyes Takeshi and Katsuya, looking hungry.

TAKESHI

Don't be an idiot, Katsuya. We're still students, and you're reckless, we're going to get k--

KATSUYA

I said I'd be on the front line fighting the demons, and that's what I'm going to do.

Katsuya flexes his fingers, and light forms in them.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)

Now are you gonna just sit there like some helpless civilian, or are you gonna fight with me.

TAKESHI

(shaking his head, looking fearful)

Er, um, well, I suppose I will--

Before Takeshi can finish, the demon RUSHES at them again, HOWLING with aggression.

KATSUYA

I got this one!

Katsuya races after the demon with his sword held high.

Takeshi gives chase.

TAKESHI

Be careful!

The demon slows to a standstill, waiting for Katsuya.

Katsuya SCREAMS.

As he nears, he raises his sword higher.

The demon's severed tongue shoots out of its mouth, headed straight for Katsuya's exposed chest. It's still bleeding, and flicks blood everywhere.

A gust of wind hits it, and the tongue misses by a hair.

TAKESHI (CONT'D)  
Go for the head!

Katsuya swings the sword of light, slicing the demon's head clean off.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Ai sips a milkshake. She's seated in a booth, looking out the window, with a distant expression on her face.

Lonely.

She looks down at her drink, stirring it with the straw.

REVEAL: Kaori and HANS (36), Kaori's father, sit across from her.

KAORI  
Ai?

AI  
Oh, uh, yes?

KAORI  
Did you hear what my dad said?

AI  
(shaking her head)  
Sorry.

HANS  
There are traces of demon energy at the site where Sungun Academy used to stand.

AI  
Demons...*they* killed my brother?

HANS  
Well, actually, the working theory is that the school has been, um, kidnapped. To whatever realm the demons come from.

AI  
(eyes widening)  
So he's still alive?

Hans nods.

HANS

The Japanese Magical Army is investigating the incident, and it's become a top priority. We were already looking for a way into their world...

(beat)

We're not far off.

KAORI

Meanwhile, Ai, you can totally stay with us instead of your dad, we have a spare bedroom.

Ai shoots to her feet, SLAMMING her hands down on the table.

AI

I want to go!

HANS

Um, sure, like Kaori said, we have a spare bedroom.

AI

No.

(serious)

I want to go to the demon realm.

Hans frowns. His expression turns grim.

HANS

It wouldn't be safe.

AI

I'll stay close to you and the other army magicians so I don't get hurt.

HANS

I don't know. You're twelve. Even if I wanted to, I'm not sure I could convince my superiors.

Ai frowns, then sits back down.

Tears form in her eyes. She SLURPS up her milkshake.

KAORI

(whispering to Hans)

You made her cry, dad.

HANS

(whispering back)

I'm not going to lie to her.

Kaori gives him a steely gaze.

HANS (CONT'D)  
I shouldn't even be telling you  
about the investigation at all!

KAORI  
Well, if you don't do something,  
I'm going to start crying too.

Hans SIGHS.

HANS  
Ai...okay, I'll talk to some  
people. See what I can do. But I  
can't guarantee anything, you  
understand?

Ai nods. The tears are already drying up.

She casts a hopeful look out the window.

AI  
(whispering, missing him)  
Katsuya.

INT. THE GYM - SUNGUN MAGICAL ACADEMY - DAY

Katsuya and Takeshi stand next to the demon. It lies on the ground, blood pooling over the hardwood floor. Its head has rolled to a standstill several feet away.

They look down at it, faces full of concern.

SCREAMS and SCREECHES can be heard coming from outside the room.

TAKESHI  
Something is wrong. Demons aren't  
supposed to bleed. Deal them a  
fatal wound, and they dissolve into  
dust.

KATSUYA  
I know. I've seen the news.

TAKESHI  
This one must be different  
somehow...

Katsuya's hand closes into a fist.

KATSUYA

We can't just keep standing here!

He turns, rushing toward the front doors to the gym.

Takeshi's eyes widen.

TAKESHI

Katsuya, wait--!

Katsuya throws open the doors.

The CACOPHONY of SCREAMS and SCREECHES turns louder.

INT. HALLWAY - SUNGUN MAGICAL ACADEMY - CONTINUOUS

50-100 DEMONS have flooded the hallway. Dozens of students lay bloody on the ground.

Katsuya watches with horror as a ten foot tall, lean demon with sagging black skin skewers a person with its arm like a piece of meat on a shishkabob. Two other corpses are already hanging on the arm.

A similarly sized, but much more muscular demon with the face of a wolf rips a young magician's head off, then throws the rest of him across the room, where he collides with a pile of corpses.

Two impish demons, less than four feet tall, with big horns and spiky tails, skitter across the floor, CHITTERING and playing catch with someone's dismembered arm.

Katsuya stares at the ruckus, mouth hanging open, devastation on his face.

It's mostly students who have been slaughtered by the demons, but there are a few teachers in the mix too.

Then Katsuya's eyes settle on Mr. Kato, Erika, and Misako, who are huddled in a corner with four other student magicians, in a defensive stance against a pack of SNARLING demons with animal heads and humanoid bodies.

Takeshi trembles.

TAKESHI

(with an uneven voice)

Sh-shut the door, Kat--

KATSUYA  
 (interrupting with a  
 scream)

ERIKA!

Katsuya bolts out of the gym, swinging his sword of light at demons as he comes across them.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)  
 I'm coming for you, Erika!

En masse, the demons converge on Katsuya, cutting off his path to Erika and the others.

Katsuya stands alone against what is a pack of at least twenty of them, glaring at him with gleaming white teeth and hungry smiles.

ERIKA  
 Katsuya!

Katsuya takes a battle stance with his sword. The demons RUSH him.

KATSUYA  
 Ar-AH!

He slices up one demon. Then another hits him from the opposite side, and Katsuya goes flying.

He swings the sword of light again, misses. The demons HOWL, piling on top of him like wolves to fresh meat.

Katsuya's eyes go wide with fear. He watches as a demon opens its mouth, drooling on him as it leans in close to take a CHUNK of flesh.

Then, a gust of wind BUFFETS the creature's face. As the gust grows in intensity, the demon is thrown into the air, riding the breeze until it CRASHES into a wall.

Takeshi stands several feet away, hand raised, PANTING heavily.

TAKESHI  
 Katsuya, you idiot!

Katsuya GROANS, searching out Takeshi.

KATSUYA  
 Takeshi, my man!

TAKESHI  
 Get up! We need to leave. Now.

The demons HOWL. They slowly trek back toward Katsuya and Takeshi.

A wave of water CRASHES into several of them, knocking them into a wall, and then Erika rushes toward Katsuya.

ERIKA

Katsuya!

They hug.

KATSUYA

Erika. Are you alright? You're not hurt, are you?

ERIKA

I'm fine.  
(she shoves him)  
You almost died! Jerk.

KATSUYA

I was trying to save you.

ERIKA

I know, you're so sweet.

Katsuya grins.

Mr. Kato and Misako approach.

MR. KATO

(interrupting)  
No time to chitchat, everyone.  
Let's get out of--

There are several loud THUDS.

The four students who had been fighting with Misako, Erika, and Mr. Kato are skewered by four demons with spikes for arms.

The students cough up blood. The demons heft their victims, leaving them on their arms like oversized bracelets.

Takeshi's eyes go wide. He shakes, remaining frozen with fear as he watches the demons turn on him and the others with hungry eyes.

MISAKO

Too many to count.

MR. KATO

Too many to fight, too. We should escape while we have the chance.

KATSUYA  
 (snarling)  
 There's no such thing as too many  
 to fight. Leave 'em to me!

ERIKA  
 (grabbing Katsuya's arm)  
 No way. We're leaving.

KATSUYA  
 Aw, but Erika, I want to--

ERIKA  
 No.

She drags him off.

Mr. Kato has a worried look on his face.

Misako hesitates, then takes Takeshi's arm.

MISAKO  
 Takeshi, let's go.

He shakes in fear. She looks startled.

MISAKO (CONT'D)  
 Takeshi? You okay?

The demons HOWL and charge.

MR. KATO  
 I'll hold them off. Get out of  
 here!

Mr. Kato's fists turn to stone. He punches the demons, taking  
 them all on barehanded.

MR. KATO (CONT'D)  
 GO!

Takeshi still doesn't move.

MISAKO  
 C'mon, Takeshi. There's a path. We  
 have to hurry.

TAKESHI  
 No. Too many. It's over.

MISAKO  
 It's not over. I know you're  
 scared. Just focus on me.

TAKESHI

What?

MISAKO

Focus on something besides the  
demons. Something that isn't scary.  
And just do what I say.

A demon strikes Mr. Kato in the abdomen, bringing him to his  
knees.

He SCREAMS. Blood drips from the wound.

Takeshi's eyes go wide.

MISAKO (CONT'D)

NOW, TAKESHI!

She pulls him by the arm.

MISAKO (CONT'D)

Don't look.

Takeshi nods, swallowing hard.

He allows himself to be pulled along with Misako.

As they reach the exit, Mr. Kato SCREAMS IN AGONY. He is  
twice as loud as before.

INT. DINING ROOM - KAORI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ai picks up a piece of steak off her plate and sticks it in  
her mouth.

She sits on a cushion on the floor, at the dinner table with  
Kaori on her left and Kaori's parents across from them.

Hans and his wife, MAAAYA (36) smile at each other as they  
watch the two kids chew.

Kaori smiles, leaning in close.

KAORI

Good, huh?

Ai swallows. Meekly nods.

KAORI (CONT'D)

That's Kobe beef. Bet you never had  
anything that good, huh?

Ai looks at the ground, silent.

KAORI (CONT'D)  
 You do like steak, don't you?

AI  
 Yes, it's just that, well, uh...  
 (she turns to Kaori's  
 parents)  
 May I be excused, please?

Hans looks surprised.

HANS  
 Of course. But are you still  
 hungry? Because if you don't like  
 the beef, we can always get you  
 something else...

Ai is running off before Hans even finishes his question.

AI  
 No, thank you very much!

She rushes down the hall, slipping into the bedroom at the  
 end of the house and SLAMMING the door behind her.

INT. GUEST ROOM - SOMETIME LATER

Ai lays in bed, staring at the ceiling.

Tears cascade down her cheeks.

There's a KNOCK at the door.

Ai SNIFFLES.

AI  
 Yes?

KAORI  
 It's me.

Kaori slides the door open. Looks startled as she sees Ai's  
 tears.

Kaori slips into the room and gently shuts the door behind  
 her.

KAORI (CONT'D)  
 I'm sorry, Ai.

Ai turns toward her friend.

Beat.

KAORI (CONT'D)  
It's your brother, isn't it?

AI  
I'm just so lonely without him.

KAORI  
(nodding)  
We'll get him back.

AI  
I don't know...

KAORI  
(pressing)  
We will.

AI  
It hurts.

Kaori puts a hand on Ai, giving her a soothing look.

KAORI  
I'm sorry.

Ai nods.

KAORI (CONT'D)  
Maybe it would help to remember the  
good times.

AI  
I dunno.

Kaori LAUGHS.

KAORI  
Remember that one time we took Mr.  
Lee's stapler? He freaked out so  
much.

Ai smiles.

AI  
He kept going in his drawers and  
mumbling curse words.

KAORI  
He thought we couldn't hear him.  
(laughs)  
And how about when we were both on  
the soccer team and you had that  
winning goal?

AI  
 (brightening)  
 On your pass!

KAORI  
 Or when we both teamed up against  
 your brother and beat him at Big  
 Beat'em Up Bros?

AI  
 He was so upset. He threw the  
 controller.

Kaori nods, smiling.

Ai hugs her.

AI (CONT'D)  
 Thanks.

KAORI  
 Course. That's what best friends  
 are for.

EXT. COURTYARD - SUNGUN MAGICAL ACADEMY - DAY

Katsuya, Erika, Misako, and Takeshi emerge into an absolutely  
 wrecked courtyard SWARMING with masses of demons.

The demons HOWL, charging at the four students. Katsuya  
 summons two blades of light, one in each hand, and he fights  
 them back.

Off in the distance, five winged demons are clawing at a boy  
 on the ground.

KATSUYA  
 There's another survivor!

He points with his sword, then rushes through the center of  
 the demon mass, slicing them up as he dashes toward the boy.

ERIKA  
 Katsuya! Don't die!

Katsuya reaches the boy. He SCREAMS, slicing one demon, then  
 two. The others take to the sky, SNARLING at him.

The boy looks up at Katsuya. It's Kuro.

Katsuya offers a hand.

KATSUYA  
You alright?

KURO  
(nodding)  
Think so.

A demon divebombs him, SCREECHING. Katsuya impales it with his sword of light, and sends it CRASHING to the ground.

TAKESHI  
Katsuya, you reckless fool! Get back here!

ERIKA  
Don't look at the sky!

Katsuya looks at the sky.

There's no clouds. The sun shines bright. Instead of blue, it burns a hellish red.

An army of over 100 demons flies toward the school. They descend, headed right for Katsuya.

KATSUYA  
Oh shit.

Katsuya grips his swords of light tighter. They grow longer and wider in his hands.

Then, as the demons near, there's a WHOOSH of wind, and Katsuya and Kuro are suddenly lifted into the sky.

They're riding on top of a giant tornado with Takeshi, Erika, and Misako.

KATSUYA (CONT'D)  
AH! AH! AH!

TAKESHI  
Oh my god, Misako. It worked!

Misako smiles at Takeshi.

KATSUYA  
I'm dizzy. So dizzy.

ERIKA  
Katsuya, relax, Takeshi and Misako made this tornado so we could escape. Isn't it cute?

Katsuya GAGS, looks like he might hurl. Kuro's not much better, mumbling as he goes round and round the tornado.

The tornado speeds over the wreckage of the courtyard, turning up hedges and ripping the grass from the ground. Eventually, it reaches the perimeter of the school, where grass and dirt turn to sand.

The group speeds off into the desert, over rolling sandy dunes until the school grounds are nothing more than a spec in the distance.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Ai and Kaori walk down the street with their backpacks slung across their backs.

Ai closes one hand into a fist, then opens it.

She stops walking, watches as Kaori continues on, oblivious to the fact that her friend is no longer beside her.

Ai turns and shuffles off down the street the other way, looking resolute.

As Kaori continues on, she talks.

KAORI

...might be better if you do something to get your mind off him, just so that you're not so stressed, ya know? Mom says stress can make you sick. Of course, we have to go to our classes, especially since I'll get detention if I miss one more period. Hey, what if we go to the amusement park after school? You like the roller coaster, right?

Kaori looks, realizes Ai isn't there.

KAORI (CONT'D)

Ai?

She looks around. Ai is long gone by now.

KAORI (CONT'D)

(stressed out)

Ai.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE TOKYO BRANCH OF THE MAGICAL ARMY - DAY

Ai looks up at the towering skyscraper, backpack still strapped to her back.

She proceeds through the big glass doors, heading inside.

INT. LOBBY - TOKYO BRANCH OF MAGICAL ARMY - CONTINUOUS

Ai approaches the security guard at the front desk.

SECURITY GUARD  
Can I help you, kid?

AI  
Yes, um...

SECURITY GUARD  
Here to see someone?

AI  
(nods, feigning  
confidence)  
Hans Nagata.

SECURITY GUARD  
Sure, I'll call him up.

He reaches for the phone. Dials a number.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)  
You his daughter?

AI  
Um, a friend of his daughter.  
(beat)  
Tell him Ai is here. Tell him it's  
important.

The security guard nods. Ai looks nervous but determined.

EXT. DESERT - THE DEMON REALM - DAY

The giant tornado's winds die down.

The five magicians are dropped haphazardly onto the ground. Katsuya is dropped into the sand head first. Takeshi and Misako land two dozen feet away, with Takeshi's head in her lap.

Erika gets up first, going to Katsuya.

ERIKA

Oh my god, Katsuya, are you okay?

She grabs his legs, pulls him out.

He SPEWS sand from his mouth.

KATSUYA

Oh god. Everything's still spinning.

ERIKA

I'm sorry. But if you hadn't run away so recklessly, I could have warned you they were about to do that.

KATSUYA

(scratching his head)  
True. Guess I should work on that.

ERIKA

(shoves him playfully)  
No, duh!

A little ways away, Takeshi looks up at Misako. He realizes that his head is in her lap.

TAKESHI

(startled)  
Misako! Uh, uh, sorry!

They both blush. He gets up. Brushes the sand off. She does the same.

MISAKO

Thanks for helping me out back there.

TAKESHI

You must be joking. You were the one who came up with the idea. I never thought...

Takeshi goes silent, making eye contact with Misako.

MISAKO

Never thought it would work?

Takeshi nods.

Back to Katsuya and Erika.

They are both helping Kuro out of the sand.

Takeshi and Misako approach them.

TAKESHI

The red sand...the red sky...the  
demons...you all know where we are,  
don't you?

KATSUYA

No. Where?

Beat.

TAKESHI

We're in the demon realm.

INT. SAHED'S LAIR - DAY

SAHED (50s), a demon with black robes and hair made of  
glowing blue fire, watches the group of kids through use of  
scrying magic in a bowl of water.

PHONES (30s), a birdlike demon with the face of a man,  
watches with Sahed.

PHONES

Shall I send more dogs to kill the  
survivors?

Sahed waves the image of the kids away.

SAHED

No need. They are as good as dead.