

The Dedication

written by

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1 EXT. KYOTO - MORNING 1

Establishing shot of pre-cellphone Kyoto. Beautiful structures.

2 EXT. KIKO'S HOUSE - MORNING 2

KIKO, late 40s, leaves her house. She checks to make sure she has everything before locking the door. Looks inside her BAG to make sure she has the BOOK, her most precious possession.

3 EXT. KYOTO - MORNING 3

Credits roll as Kiko heads to work.

4 EXT. GRAND HOTEL - MORNING 4

Kiko walks up the front of the grand hotel then takes a turn, heading towards the employee only door.

5 INT. GRAND HOTEL HALLWAY - DAY 5

Insert: Name Tag

Whether in the hotel or the employee area, Kiko (in work uniform) pushes a cart. She sees MIDORI, same age, also in work uniform. The women excited rush to each other.

KIKO
It arrived!

MIDORI
Hooray!

KIKO
It feels like a dream, my baby boy is a published author. I wish he had brought it himself instead of mailing it...

MIDORI
We must celebrate!

KIKO
Meet in the bar later?

MIDORI
Yes, must hold the book.

A younger cleaning staff walks by. They regain their professionalism as she bows deeply. These two are veterans here. After the younger staff leaves, they waves good bye to each other like school girls. Their friendship and closeness inspire envy.

5A INT. GRAND HOTEL NEW ROOM - DAY 5A

Kiko cleans up a hotel room. Heavy comforters. The bathroom makes her cover nose and back up. The contents of a trash can makes her withdrawal.

6 INT. DOOR TO ROOM 474 - DAY 6

Routine for Kiko to clean. When she touches the door knob, a chill down her back, she freezes. She stares at the number.

INSERT: Vertigo shot of the number

She shakes it off and enters the room.

7 INT. GRAND HOTEL LOBBY - LATER 7

Kiko, back in regular clothes, comes out of an employee door, with her BAG.

Other employees bow and wave. A special day for a valuable member of this small community.

She enters the bar.

8 INT. GRAND HOTEL BAR - DAY 8

Midori, in regular clothes, waits for her in the empty bar. She excitedly waves Kiko over. Kiko heads her way, Midori waves to the BARTENDER.

KIKO

(sitting down)

I present you: the first best-selling novel by Yusuke

Kiko pulls out a hard cover book, showing to Midori. She delicately touches it like a spell book. The bartender comes around the corner of the bar hold a Champagne bottle.

MIDORI
 Congratulations! We shall
 celebrate.

KIKO
 Oh no, no. It's too expensive!

MIDORI
 Don't worry, I've take care of it.
 You should enjoy this moment.

Kiko changes at this moment, a relaxation of someone
 finishing a 10 year task.

BARTENDAR
 Our best bottle, all the way from
 France. Congratulations Tazaka-san.

INSERT: The champagne bottle pop, the foam flows. The
 placement is sexually suggestive. Laughs and giggles.

They catch the foam in the glasses.

BARTENDAR (CONT'D)
 It must be good to see Yasuke-chan.

KIKO
 Oh, he is still in Tokyo.

BARTENDAR
 Now that the book is finished, you
 will see him soon. I visit my
 mother once a week.

KIKO
 I actually haven't seen him since
 he came back from England.

BARTENDAR
 I'm sure its only because he is
 very busy. Do tell him
 congratulations from me next time
 you speak.

The bartender ices the bottle, leaving the women to talk.
 Respectfully bowing Kiko, but big smile to Midori.

MIDORI
 To the woman that would do anything
 for her son. You are a great
 mother. Cheers!

Kiko considers the champagne for a moment before taking a
 sip.

INSERT: Lips on champagne class, same sexual suggestiveness.

KIKO

It's a shame his father isn't here
to see it.

MIDORI

(taken aback)

You have talked about Nobu in 20
years.

KIKO

I meant his spiritual father... The
reason Yasuke became Yasuke. I've
never mentioned him before...

MIDORI

I've known that boy all my his
life, he looks just like your
husband did.

Kiko downs the rest of the glass. Midori holds her breath

KIKO

Yes but they couldn't be more
different. I never told anyone but
I feel like I have to say it. Would
you like to hear this story?

Midori enamored by what was just said. She pours a new glass
for Kiko. She looks through the rose colored liquid to a rose
colored past.

9

EXT. GRAND HOTEL - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO

9

YOUNG KIKO stands in front of the Hotel in a shabby dress and
woven sandals. She's bewildered by the grandness.

KIKO

(vo)

It was not long after I was hired
at this hotel. I never knew how
poor I was until that day.

10

INT. GRAND HOTEL HALLWAY - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO

10

Young Kiko walks through the hall pushing an old style cart
in an older style uniform, excitedly waves at young Midori.
They bow to the older employees as they go past.

KIKO

(vo)

I only got the job because of you.
I'm forever grateful.

11 EXT. KYOTO - DAY

11

NOBU stands sweaty in the sunlight. Uses water to cool off his head. Kiko stares, a young woman seeing a man in a new way.

KIKO

(vo)

I met Nobu on the way home one day.
I'd never seen a man make dirty
look so good.

He notices her. His half smile unnerves her as she tries to quickly walk past. He stops her by blocking her way with his leg. She likes it.

12 EXT. KIKO'S HOME - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO

12

INSERT: Wedding photo.

KIKO

(vo)

When I figured out I was pregnant,
we got married. Nobu was happy, he
couldn't wait to be a dad.

Kiko sweeps the entrance. Sudden pain in her lower abdomen sends her reeling. Drops the broom and hurries inside.

13 INT. KIKO'S HOME - EVENING

13

KIKO

But after I lost our baby, he
changed. Losing a child can bring
out the worst in people.

Tired, she arrives home to find her husband, NOBU, early 20's, handsome, pass out drunk, surrounded by empty sake BOTTLES.

She tries to move him off the cold floor but drops him accidentally. He wake up, pushing her off. She falls to the ground. He stumbles over to her purse, drunkenly rummaging for her wallet.

KIKO (CONT'D)

(vo)

I had married worthless man. After several months, I had almost had enough. He took every dime I made. He seemed to know where to hit me to not let anyone know. That night I found he had a new dirty little secret.

YOUNG KIKO

Stop! That's my money!

NOBU

You spent all of our money. So I'm taking this.

She tries to stop him but he easily pulls it from her, threatening her with a look. She backs up, sliding down the wall to sit. When he finds the WALLET, he throws the BAG back at her. He exits, with a slam.

She picks herself up, looking at the mess around her. She halfheartedly cleans. Nobu's JACKET lays on the floor. She hangs it up, but finds a small, folded piece of bamboo leaf. She unwraps it to find a sticky black substance. Shock!

14 EXT. KIKO'S HOUSE - NEXT MORNING - 25 YEARS AGO 14

Young Kiko leaves her house, checking first that no one sees her.

KIKO

(VO)

In the morning, he still wasn't back. I felt so helpless. I had the urge to pray. I wanted to ask someone for help.

15 EXT. WOODS - MORNING - 25 YEARS AGO 15

Kiko walk through a mountain pass, a little confused.

KIKO

(vo)

I walked the path I always did but ended up a different place I had never been before. I looked for it several time since and have never found again.

16 EXT. YAMAMBA'S HOUSE - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO

16

Kiko comes upon an unfamiliar house, falling apart but not sinister

KIKO

(vo)

I came upon an old house that an even older lady lived in.

OLD WOMAN

Hello child.

YOUNG KIKO

Good morning.

OLD WOMAN

Come, we have much to talk about, Tazaka-chan.

The OLD WOMAN stops sweeping, as an old as a person can be, smiles friendly. It is hard to imagine her living here by herself. She slowly walks towards her house, Kiko is compelled to follow.

17 INT. YAMABA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - 25 YEARS AGO

17

The interior is completely different than one would imagine. The house seems much larger on the inside than the outside. Very Grandmotherly and clean. Drying plants, bottles, jars.

Kiko inspects the nic-nacks. Small bottles, etc.

OLD WOMAN

Your husband has developed some bad habits. He is too rough, the sake, and now the opium.

She gestures for Kiko to sit. The woman goes about making a plate of snacks and tea from a TEAPOT.

YOUNG KIKO

How did you...

INSERT: Stirring the tea and a mushroom comes the surface before putting a lid on it.

OLD WOMAN

I see many things. Sit, child. We must do what is best for the baby.

KIKO

(vo)

I had no idea I was pregnant again.
When she said it, deep down inside
I knew she was right.

YOUNG KIKO

I'm pregnant?

OLD WOMAN

Your husband is a handsome man.
Sit.

Kiko obliges despite the ominous feeling.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

That man will try to get rid of it
if he can. His temperament has
soured. He has reached the limit of
his potential.

YOUNG KIKO

I should leave him?

OLD WOMAN

No, there will be some good that
will come of it. Be patient but
quiet.

YOUNG KIKO

He will change?

OLD WOMAN

In a way, yes.

She puts the items in front of Kiko. Warm and inviting tea
and snacks. Small luxuries. Pouring the tea.

YOUNG KIKO

(The temptation of the
snack and tea wins)

What do I call you?

OLD WOMAN

(low laugh)

Ba-chan.

YOUNG KIKO

(sipping tea)

How long have you lived here?

OLD WOMAN

As long as I can remember.

YOUNG KIKO

I've live here my whole life but never seen you or this place. Why is that?

OLD WOMAN

Now for the important question. You don't have a worthless son. Who is the child's "spiritual father"?

YOUNG KIKO

(offended)

Excuse me?! I am a loyal woman!

OLD WOMAN

Yes, yes. It is you husband that made you pregnant. Drink.

As if her arm moves on it own, the teacup and tea goes into Kiko's mouth. She sputters a moment.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

I asked who is the "spiritual father", the man the boy will take after?

YOUNG KIKO

I don't understand. What you are talking about?!

OLD WOMAN

I am trying to help you child. You and your child's destiny lays before you to chose.

YOUNG KIKO

My husband!

OLD WOMAN

(commanding, loud)

Lies! Your husband became like his father and his son will become like him. Doesn't he deserve a better future than be a worthless, drunk?

(beat)

Tell me, in your heart, who's name?

SPEAK!

Kiko's head looks up to the ceiling, unable to move or fight.

Insert: lips whisper.

18 INT. GRAND HOTEL BAR - MOMENTS LATER 18

Beat.

Midori watches Kiko drain the last of her glass of champagne, on the edge of her seat, fixated.

MIDORI
Did you tell her? Who?

KIKO
Yes, the next thing I remember...

19 EXT. WOODS - EVENING - 25 YEARS AGO 19

KIKO
(vo)
I was running back through the woods as fast as my legs would carry me.

Younger Kiko tears through the woods, drugged and wide-eyed.

20 INT. GRAND HOTEL BAR - CONTINUOUS 20

Tipsy Kiko sadly inspects the empty CHAMPAGNE. Midori notices that the bar filling up with guests. Kiko notices as well.

KIKO
Do you want to hear the rest?

MIDORI
I have to hear the rest, it's killing me.

KIKO
I have some leftovers and some sake at my house...

Big smile, they gather their things. Kiko handles the BOOK with care.

20A EXT. KYOTO - AFTERNOON 20A

Kiko and Midori wander home through Kyoto

21 INT. KIKO'S HOME - EVENING 21

The house has been updated, loving warm place. All signs of the drunk ex-husband are gone.

Food has been eaten, Midori pours sake into Kiko's cup.

MIDORI
Goshosama desu.

KIKO
Hai, where was I?

MIDORI
Running through the woods.

KIKO
Ah yes.

22 EXT. KIKO'S HOUSE - EVENING - 25 YEARS AGO 22

Kiko arrives back at her house as if from a dream. She looks down and has one box in each hand.

Insert: Falic shriveled mushrooms.

KIKO
(vo)
I arrived back at home without much memory. The old woman had to have drugged me or put me under some spell. I had a box that contained the ugliest mushrooms I've ever seen. I threw them in the cupboard and forgot about them.

Kiko puts them in the back of a cupboard and closes the door.

23 INT. KIKO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS 23

MIDORI
What about the spiritual father?

KIKO
Promise not to laugh at me. Do you remember Kafuka-sama?

MIDORI
(clearly does not)
Was he famous? Or did we know him?

24 INT. HOTEL ROOM BEDROOM - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO 24

Kafuka, 30s, small aristocratic man stares out the window.

KIKO

He was a hotel guest. A regular guest.

25 INT. GRAND HOTEL LOBBY - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO 25

Kafuka, enters the lobby, walks like a king, dressed to the highest level of old money. He's followed by an attendant. Everyone bows to him, guests included. He does not bow back, he doesn't stop at the front desk.

KIKO

(vo)

He was the second son of an aristocratic family. The kind of person that never has check in. He looked at everyone in disgust.

26 INT. DOOR TO ROOM 474 - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO 26

She takes a deep breath, knocks, then enters.

KIKO

(vo)

He always stayed in the London suite.

MIDORI

(vo)

I do remember him! The writer!

27 INT. HOTEL ROOM LOUNGE - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO 27

Kafuka wears silk pjs, writing by hand. Does not seem to be going well as there are crumpled papers every where. Room service and cigarettes, wine bottles, and a tea set. Kiko bows deeply, he doesn't even look up.

KIKO

(vo)

He would come to write. After the war, his parents sent him to England to study. He seemed to prefer Western way that's why he stayed in the nicest Western hotel despite coming to Kyoto. He spoke English, French, Chinese and Japanese. He drank black tea from England and preferred wine. Despite being highborn, he became a best selling author of 7 novels.

28 INT. KIKO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

28

MIDORI

Why him? He was cold, cruel even.

KIKO

(shy smile)

Had he been nice I might not have even noticed him. I seem to only like the mean types.

MIDORI

(with a giggle)

At least you know and don't have to be told.

29 INT. HOTEL ROOM BEDROOM - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO

29

Kiko cleans the room. Inspects the bed.

KIKO

(vo)

He was a curious one. He didn't love anyone but himself. And he did that daily, if you know what I mean. Right there in his sheets. He never married. I never even saw a woman with him but I do think he bought prostitutes. Sometimes the pillows would smell like cheap perfume, or I'd find a cigarette with bright lipstick. To me, it was just affirmation he was a man. But I always thought he was a man of quality.

Kiko sniffs a pillow. She inspects a cigarette butt in an ashtray.

She removes the sheets then freezes when she holds the sheets with his "love" on top.

KIKO (CONT'D)

(vo)

He was staying at the hotel for 2 days right after I went to the mountain. I was cleaning as usual when suddenly, it was like at the old woman's house. I was possessed.

She pulls the bedsheet closer and closer to her face. She fights it. Closer, closer, tongue out. Her body fights, herself. (nothing is actually licked or eaten)

CUT TO BLACK.

Hear the sound of someone rushing to the bathroom, loud vomit sound.

30 INT. KIKO'S HOME BATHROOM - EVENING 30

Midori sits down next to the toilet having thrown up. Watery eyes and flushed face. Kiko stands in the doorway of the dark bathroom. Silhouetted with bead of light reflecting from her black eyes, momentarily ominous. Cigarette optional.

Kiko helps her friend up.

KIKO
Tea?

MIDORI
Tea.

31 INT. KIKO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS 31

Midori returns to her seat as Kiko makes tea.

INSERT: She stirs the tea, an ugly mushroom floats to the top, she puts on the lid.

MIDORI
Did you really do ... that?

KIKO
Trust me. When I got home, my reaction was the same. I've never been more horrified with myself.

Kiko pours the tea for Midori.

KIKO (CONT'D)
Drink. That bad feeling will go away, I promise.

32 INT. DOOR TO ROOM 474 - MORNING - 25 YEARS AGO 32

Kiko prays before entering the room.

KIKO

(vo)

He was only there for one more day.
I prayed and solidified with myself
that I would not do that again.

33 INT. HOTEL ROOM LOUNGE - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO 33

He writes furiously. She could not be more invisible.

34 INT. HOTEL ROOM BEDROOM - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO 34

KIKO

(vo)

When I entered the bedroom, there
it was. And again, my body moved on
its own. You could not have forced
me to do it, yet somehow I was
being forced to do it.

Kiko, in precise movements, as if she's not even human, her
hand forced in her mouth, to the back of her throat.
Terrified look.

KIKO (CONT'D)

(vo)

When I was over, I swear I thought
he was behind me.

Kiko turns fast, no one there. He still sits at the table
writing in a fever.

35 INT. HOTEL ROOM LOUNGE - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO 35

Kiko cleans the table near him.

KAFUKA

Thank you. The mess is worse than
usual so the writing is better at
its best. I had the most amazing
idea this morning.

KIKO

That is good news. Congratulations!

KAFUKA

Yes, imagine, a two brothers caught
in war. Brothers and war is as old
as time but what if they were twin
brothers on opposite sides?

(MORE)

KAFUKA (CONT'D)

The confusion and intrigue when they engage the enemy. Who is who? Is it enough to betray your side, all of that. I just can't decide the war.

KIKO

I suggest not the Russo war.

The attempt at a joke hangs in the air.

KAFUKA

(soft laugh)

Quite right.

KIKO

I'm sure it will be a great book. I can't wait to read it when it is finished.

KAFUKA

You would read my book?

KIKO

Of course, I've read all 4. I see how hard you work, so I couldn't help myself.

KAFUKA

(blush)

I'm moved. You know how to make a writer happy. This room and you are always my lucky charms.

There is a moment between them.

Beat.

He realizes he just complimented the help. Cold and cruel expression returns. Turns back to his writing in silence. Kiko returns to cleaning in silence. The PLATE in her hand has a half bitten ugly MUSHROOM.

36

INT. KIKO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

36

KIKO

You should remember that day. It was the day everyone found out I was pregnant.

MIDORI

The day you fainted?!

KIKO
Remember, I asked you if you had
seen anything strange that day?

MIDORI
Hmmm.

36A INT. GRAND HOTEL HALLWAY - DAY

36A

In maid uniforms, Young Kiko rushes up to Young Midori.

YOUNG KIKO
Midori, this might sound strange,
but has anything been out of the
ordinary today?

YOUNG MIDORI
Not really. There was a leaking
sink in 523...

YOUNG KIKO
Okay, never mind.

YOUNG MIDORI
I mean there was that very old
woman that got lost back here.

YOUNG KIKO
What?

YOUNG MIDORI
Yah, she was smaller than me and
maybe 100 years old. We had to show
her how to leave... Kiko! Are you
okay! Wake up!

Younge Kiko collapse on the floor but Midori catches her and
starts fanning her.

37 INT. GRAND HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - 25 YEARS AGO

37

Hazy memory, out of focus old lady smiling.

38 INT. KIKO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

38

MIDORI
That was her?

KIKO
That was her. She must of snuck in
and put the mushroom there.

(MORE)

KIKO (CONT'D)
 Because he was struck with the
 idea. He didn't leave that day.

39 INT. HOTEL ROOM BEDROOM - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO 39

KIKO
 (vo)
 I was hoping he'd leave. But he
 stayed another 10 days! He was
 writing his book while I did...
 what I did.

MONTAGE of her eating the "love" over and over again.
 (nothing is actually eaten, it is not pornographic)

40 INT. KIKO'S HOME BATHROOM - EVENING - 25 YEARS AGO 40

Kiko throws up.

KIKO
 (vo)
 And every night I tried to get it
 all out of me.

Nobu stands at the door as he listens to her, then exits.

41 INT. HOTEL ROOM LOUNGE - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO 41

She stands by herself in the dirty room. Kiko sinks to the
 ground in relief.

KIKO
 (vo)
 After the worst 12 days of my life,
 he finally left. I've never been so
 relieved.

42 INT. KIKO'S HOME - EVENING - 25 YEARS AGO 42

Kiko comes home to find her husband sitting, drunk, waiting
 for her.

NOBU
 Hey! Where have you been?

YOUNG KIKO
 I was out.

NOBU
 What were you doing?

YOUNG KIKO

I went to work and then met up with friends. A female friend, though...

NOBU

Oh, well, then a guy would have been better. A guy would solve all my problems. He might even give me back all the money I worked hard for.

YOUNG KIKO

Don't say that.

NOBU

You definitely don't have another guy, do you?

(Beat)

I saw it, I heard it. My friends say you're pregnant. You're not lying like last time, are you?

YOUNG KIKO

I don't know yet.

NOBU

So, you were lying? That means I was right, even though I was lying. So, you're pregnant now!

YOUNG KIKO

Calm down!

42A EXT. KIKO'S HOUSE - EVENING 25 YEARS AGO

42A

From the outside we can see through the Soji what seems like violence. A swing of a purse.

NOBU

You're not pregnant! Or else go to the guy who gave you the seed! Do you hear me!?

Two people hurry past.

42B INT. KIKO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS 25 YEARS AGO

42B

Kiko curls up into a ball. He pulls her money out of her purse, then stumbles out. Not even closing the door.

Kiko lies there a moment, wiping tears. Looking at the door, she touches her stomach. Then as if possessed, stands.

His jacket is hanging. She reaches into his pocket and pulls out a knife.

She walks to the kitchen counter. Pulls the BOX w/ MUSHROOM out of cupboard. She squeezes the mushroom until a red, liquid (almost blood) drips from her hand onto the weapon.

Kiko blinks. There is no red liquid. Just the weapon on the counter and the ugly mushroom in her hand. In a frenzy, she puts the item back in the pocket, then rushes out the door with her purse.

43 INT. STORE/BANK - DAY - 25 YEARS AGO

43

Nobu stares in space with the half-smile. Reveal the knife in his chest. Nobu is no more.

MIDORI

(vo)

You came to my house that night?
Then the next day...

KIKO

(vo)

That was the day he tried to rob
the bank. He was stabbed with his
own knife.

44 INT. KIKO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

44

MIDORI

You think she had you curse the
knife? Maybe Nobu wouldn't have
died? No...

KIKO

I don't know what happened. I just
know, like she said, I received
some money when he died. And I was
a widow instead of a single mother.
People treated me very differently.

MIDORI

It's not your fault, sweetie. He was
the one that did the robbery.

(beat.)

And the woman? Did you see her
again? Did she do all this for
free?

KIKO

Heavens no, all things come with a price.

(Kiko lies)

I took some of the money and went back up to the house, left it for her.

Beat. Midori seems to be getting sleepy. It is late. Kiko pours more tea.

MIDORI

Wait, didn't you say you never found the house again?

(beat. Nervous laugh)

This is a lot.

KIKO

I know. But that's why Yasuke and Nobu are so different. He got his good looks but he is so much like his spiritual father. I wish they could have met. Coldly intelligent. They both went to Wasada and speak English. They both write Historical war novels. They will both be famous authors that ignore all women, myself included. I wish Yasuke had brought me this instead of mailing it. Nobu paid attention to me at least.

MIDORI

You are still better off without him, right?

Kiko walks over to the book shelf, pulls off a book.

KIKO

Kafaka never married, never had other children. His drinking and smoking poisoned him. I watched him decline for years before he stopped coming all together. Before he died, I did get to speak with him one more time.

Kiko holds this book, bows and holds it out for him. He looks down his nose at her for a moment.

Hastily takes the book and scribbles on the front page. He hands it back without looking.

KAFUKA

Enjoy.

KIKO

I will. Thank you.

46 INT. KIKO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

46

Kiko opens the book to the scribbled note. "To Tasaka-san, who cleans my mess without ever complaining. You are my lucky charm." Midori studies it with a tired smile. Kiko then pulls out her son's book. "To mom, who supports me with ever complaining. You are my lucky charm."

The handwriting is identical.

KIKO

(in a strange voice)

The undeniable proof.

Midori, puzzled by the sound, looks at Kiko. She's not in focus. Midori has trouble keeping her head up. Kiko twitches like during the previous possessions.

Midori fights the effects of being drugged while Kiko fights the effect of the possession. As if her hands and feet are glued, Kiko struggles.

KIKO (CONT'D)

Midori, run. Get out of here!

Midori loses consciousness, falling from her chair. Reveal the back door open. The smiling Old Lady stands. But now she has small horns.

47 INT. YAMABA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - 25 YEARS AGO

47

Pick up from the moment. Kiko stares at the ceiling.

Reverse shot to show SKULLS imbedded in the ceiling.

OLD WOMAN

(now with horns)

Who?

KIKO

(whisper)

Kafuka-sama

Swirl of smoke as she says the name. Seemingly sealing the spell.

OLD WOMAN

All things come with a price. The more valuable the thing you wish, the more it will cost you.

KIKO

I want undeniable proof.

OLD WOMAN

Then I take something or someone you love in return.

KIKO

Anything.

OLD WOMAN

(laughing)

You have a deal, child.

48 INT. KIKO'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

48

Kiko fights and cries but is helpless.

The Yamamba slowly walks in the house.

OLD WOMAN

I come to collect what was promised for the woman who would give anything for her son. What a wonderful mother.

Slow distant laugh as the door closes.

FADE TO BLACK.