

JOSHI

Written by

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IN BLACK

FEMALE VOICE (V.O)  
Give virtue to my hands, O Lord,  
that being cleansed from all stain  
I might serve you with purity of  
mind and body.

FADE IN:

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Rain hits the windows.

In the rear, AMAYA "LADY A" BARRETT (30s) Asian American, long black hair, traditional feminine beauty censored only by her muscularity, sits bolt upright, clothes drenched.

Dry blood cakes under her nose, black make up around her eyes, smudged, runs down her cheeks.

A blank stare towards the front of the bus.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

House keys fall on a kitchen table next to a Bible. Amaya packs a gym bag. Elbow, knee pads, custom tights and boots.

A CHYRON reads: FOUR DAYS EARLIER.

Television in the b.g.

ANNOUNDER (O.S)  
New laws now treat those aged 18  
and 19 like adults.

Laundry basket lands on the floor, clothes tossed into the washing machine, Amaya's, those of a YOUNGER FEMALE. Amaya pauses, sniffs the clothes, once, twice.

Odd.

Amaya turns, spots a note on the fridge:

Can't today, will join later, don't kill yourself. E.

She writes a note, posts her reply on the fridge:

Dinner's inside. Love you. Mum. P.S. Your clothes smell like petrol, again xx.

ANNOUNCER (O.S)  
Cases transferred from the family  
court to the prosecutor's office  
will are expanding.

Beside the note, a photograph of ELIANA (18), American, Asian  
descent, long black hair, beautiful, personality for miles.  
Amaya's daughter.

ANNOUNCER (O.S) (CONT'D)  
Another change will be making  
public offenders' names.

INT. KORAKUEN HALL - NIGHT

Sounds of a SCREAMING, CHEERING CROWD overwhelm us. RINGSIDE  
ANNOUNCERS boom commentary:

RINGSIDE ANNOUNCER  
Oh, my! Lady A hit with a  
devastating piledriver! I've never  
seen a girl get fired into a buckle  
that hard!

Outside the ring, RIN (20s), Japanese professional wrestler,  
tall broad shouldered, takes it to Amaya.

Rin grabs Amaya by the hair, picks her up, rams her head into  
the side of the ring, BAM! Amaya crumbles. CROWD OOOHH's.

RINGSIDE ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
Lady A absorbing tremendous  
punishment!

Rin picks her up, rolls Amaya back inside the ring.

RINGSIDE ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
How much more can she take? Wait a  
minute... Look at this...

Amaya gets to her knees, rises. Rin runs at Amaya.

SUPLEX!

RINGSIDE ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
She's coming back! I don't believe  
it!

POWERBOMB!

RINGSIDE ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
Lady A giving absolutely everything  
she's got!

(MORE)

RINGSIDE ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
This is the very definition of  
heart! Just listen to this crowd!  
The entire Hall, 5,000 people, are  
on their feet!

Amaya climbs to the top rope... The crowd going wild...

RINGSIDE ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
They know what's  
coming...MOONSAULT!

Amaya faces away from her opponent, performs a backflip,  
SMASH!! Lands on her opponent in a splash/press position

A pin, ONE, TWO, THREE!

The crowd SCREAMS.

The REFEREE raises Amaya's hand. Crowd goes wild.

Amaya runs to the corner of the ring, jumps on the ropes,  
throws both hands in the air, fists clenched, blood drips  
down her face, tongue out, crowd CHEERS.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Amaya sits at a dressing table, alone, studies her reflection  
as she removes her make-up.

As it comes off, Amaya appears weary, fragile, vulnerable.

She looks at her new reflection with the anxiety someone  
feels in the presence of their friend.

STAGE MANAGER  
Lady A, phone call.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Amaya picks up.

AMAYA  
Hello?

Her smile fades. AMBULANCE SIRENS BLARE (O.S)

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Amaya stands in front of Eliana, tubes coming out her mouth  
and nose. (O.S) CARDIAC MONITOR beeps.

MALE DETECTIVE (O.S)  
We're waiting for the information  
from the sexual assault kit to come  
back.

HIRO MASTUBARA (40s) slides in. Weathered, like he's seen to  
much, someone you want on your side.

MASTUBARA  
She's suffered multiple blows to  
the head, facial lacerations. She's  
also sustained a fractured orbital,  
broken jaw and broken bones from  
large solid objects. It's a miracle  
she's alive. Cameras caught this.

He hands Amaya his phone.

On SCREEN CCTV footage, a MALE FIGURE punches Eliana, she  
collapses, he SLAMS his foot into her stomach, she HEAVES.

Others look on, LAUGH, record the punishment on their phones.

MATSUBARA  
We haven't identified him yet. But  
we will. Anything turns up, we'll  
be in touch. Try to get some rest.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Amaya frozen, arms crossed, stares at her note on the fridge,  
turns to the photograph of Eliana.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Amaya sits in a pew; stares up at a huge crucifix, Christ  
hanging from it, a crown of thorns, body bloodied.

A PARISH MEMBER joins her.

PARISH MEMBER  
Romans 12:19. God's love and  
forgiveness is seen in our ability  
to love and forgive.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Amaya opens the cupboard, reaches in, grabs a glass, opens a  
whiskey bottle, pours a drink, brings the glass to her mouth.

INT. GYM - DAY - FLASHBACK

An old rustic interior with a ring in the center. In it, a younger Amaya and Eliana play-wrestle.

Eliana grabs Amaya's wrists spins under Amaya's arm, puts Amaya in an arm bar. Eliana performs a clothesline on her mother, Amaya falls to her back, feigns pain, Eliana jumps on her, pins her.

AMAYA

One, two, three, ah you got me!

They roll around on the ring mat, Amaya tickles her daughter, they giggle, laugh.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT - BACK TO PRESENT

Amaya pours the whiskey from the glass down the sink.

She takes the bottle, tips it all down the sink, turns to the fridge, opens it.

Sees Eliana's meal, untouched. Fridge door closes. Eliana's photograph stares back at her.

Amaya turns, moves from the kitchen to Eliana's

BEDROOM

Amaya sifts through clothing hanging in the cupboard, opens drawers, moves to Eliana's desk, opens the top drawer, a small biscuit tin. She opens it.

Inside, money, too much money for a teenager, and dress watches. Men's dress watches.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Amaya approaches the entrance gates. Moves to enter, pauses.

Parish member appears at the church door, sees Amaya. Their eyes meet. Amaya backs away, turns, leaves.

INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

Paintings of paradise, hell, golden buddha statues.

Amaya stares up at a three meter statue of ENMA god of the dead, face and dress both red, square crown on his head, mace in his right hand, eyes slant upwards, wide, angry.

An old priest appears behind her.

PRIEST

Imagine you are a spirit of the  
dead. You stand in a hall awaiting  
judgment.

Amaya presses her palms together, closes her eyes, gives a prayer to evoke Enma, she leaves.

PRIEST (O.S) (CONT'D)

You hear an angry voice. You look  
up, you see the menacing eyes of a  
judge glistening in the lamplight.  
Suddenly you remember all the bad  
things you have ever done in your  
life, filling you with shame and  
despair!

CARDIAC MONITOR beeps. (O.S)

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Amaya paces across the street, watches the school entrance.  
STUDENTS file out.

PRIEST (O.S)

When you look at enormous statues  
of godlike figures in a dark hall,  
you might feel they are real.

Amaya dashes across the street, car horns HONK. She calls  
out to AKIRA (18) and MARI (18).

Mari turns, the conversation inaudible, but the body language  
energetic, they argue.

CARDIAC MONITOR beeps increase. (O.S)

Akira tries to leave, Amaya grabs him by the wrist, he stops.

PRIEST (O.S) (CONT'D)

These are the same feelings people  
have experienced throughout time.

Amaya realizes she's gone too far, lets go. Mari and Akira  
hurry away. Amaya stands in a sea of school uniforms.

CARDIAC MONITOR beeps increase. (O.S)

PRIEST (O.S) (CONT'D)  
If you can experience these  
feelings, you've taken your first  
step.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Fridge door opens, Amaya reaches for her chilled whiskey glass, past Eliana's moldy dinner.

Amaya stares at an unopened bottle of whiskey. She opens the bottle, pours a drink. She swallows. Pours another.

And another.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Amaya gazes at her reflection in the mirror, she examines herself, begins to apply make up, black around her eyes.

She cuts eye holes in a beanie, whiskey glass close. Gazing at her reflection, her face distorts.

She picks up a beanie.

AMAYA (O.S)  
Give virtue to my hands, O Lord...

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Amaya stalks through a crowded dance floor, everybody in costume, jumping, dancing, kissing.

AMAYA (O.S)  
...that being cleansed from all  
stain I might serve you with purity  
of mind and body.

She sees KEISUKE (20s) Young, baby faced. Short cropped hair. He wears mostly black. Sports cheap gas station shades.

Keisuke moves through the mass of dancing bodies.

Amaya eight feet behind, five feet behind...three feet.

Keisuke turns, nothing behind him except a sea of bodies. He turns back moves into the club toilets.

Amaya in the distance, watches him enter, she pulls out her beanie, follows him in.



INT. CLUB TOILET - NIGHT

Keisuke gazes at his reflection, turns the faucet, washes his hands, bends down splashes water on his face.

Behind him, reflected in the mirror Amaya, beanie pulled over her face, a frightening where's Wally.

Keisuke rises. Amaya's gone.

He enters a stall, closes the door, bolts the lock.

Outside the stall Amaya paces, curse under her breath. She moves to the exit, pauses, moves to Keisuke's stall...she's right in front of it...

Amaya gives up. She turns to leave, toilet FLUSHES, Amaya freezes, Keisuke's stall door opens. Keisuke freezes, eyes widen. Amaya turns.

They're face to face.

She lunges at him, grabs the back of Keisuke's head, pulls him out of the stall.

SMASH!

Keisuke's face collides into the mirror, glass shards hit the floor. Amaya picks him up, throws him into the stall, he tumbles in.

The fight is chaotic, punches and elbows messy, both trying to hit each other in the confined space.

Keisuke fights like a mad man, Amaya's face in his hands, Amaya smashes down on his arms breaks his grip, pushes his face up against the wall...

BAM! BAM!

She delivers two liver shots, he folds like a deck chair, she pulls his head up by his hair, shoves his head into the toilet bowl, now overflowing with water.

Amaya holds him under. His body stops writhing and kicking.

She lets the body slide to the floor, steps back.

Toilet door opens, a bunch of MALES enter, mill about.

MALE VOICE (O.S)  
Someone's had a party in here!

Males LAUGH.

Amaya freezes. She spots Keisuke's hand sticking out from the cubicle. She pulls it back into the cubicle.

One male spots water on the ground coming from the stall.

MALE

You alright in there.

Amaya retches, once, twice.

Males back off. Door closes. SILENCE.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Rain hits the windows.

Amaya sits, clothing drenched, dry blood under her nose, black make up around her eyes runs down her cheeks. A blank stares towards the front of the bus.

A MALE PASSENGER eyes her. Like a robot, she gazes back.

He gestures to her collar. Amaya looks down, a blood stain on her shirt, she covers it. The passenger looks away.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Amaya reaches into the fridge, takes out Eliana's putrefied meal, tosses it in the trash.

Door bell RINGS. Amaya moves to the door, opens it, Mari stands in the doorway. They move to the

LIVING ROOM

MARI

It just, it just got out of control.

Mari pulls out her cell phone, selects a video, shows Amaya.

INT. TRAIN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Eliana and Mari flirt with OLDER MEN on the train.

Keisuke watches from further down the train car through his cheap gas station shades.

Eliana steps on a BUSINESS MAN'S foot, he turns, scolds her for not apologizing.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Eliana and her FRIENDS follow the business man from the train, a loud LAUGH, the business man turns, sees a group of teenagers gathered, looking at him.

The business man swings around, BAM! Keisuke pounces on him assaults him, beats him and beats him, he's not stopping. LAUGHTER from the group, a FEMALE FIGURE approaches.

Eliana. She's not here to help. She reaches into her small bag, pulls out a small container of lighter fluid. She squirts it all over the man.

BUSINESS MAN  
Please, I have kids.

Eliana strikes a match, throws it at him.

WHHOOOSSHHHHHH!

INT. HOUSE - DAY - BACK TO PRESENT

Amaya watches the man burn. SCREAMS.

MARI  
It was an initiation. It went to far.

Amaya drops the phone, her hands shake.

AMAYA  
Which one?!

MARI  
What they did to him, once initiated, you gotta follow the rules, if not you're punished. Severely. That's what happened to E.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Amaya stands in front of Eliana (O.S) CARDIAC MONITOR beeps.

She studies Eliana's motionless frame, the rising and falling of her chest. CARDIAC MONITOR beeps.

Amaya watches the video of Eliana burning the man. She deletes the video. She inhales.

FADE OUT: