

AGNI - SHORT

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EXT. KOLINGA - ALLEYWAY - DAY

DROPS of water fall into a puddle in the alleyway. Crates and barrels stack up against the side of the two buildings.

People pass by at the end of the alley.

CRANE UP going through the colorful clothes and flags hung on wires between the buildings.

A figure JUMPS across the rooftops. Another FOLLOWS.

EXT. KOLINGA - ROOFTOP - DAY

AGNI, a young boy with scruffy hair laughs while running across the roof before he STOPS to turn around. Gripping a wooden dagger, he catches his breath.

At the other end lands LUX, a poised teenage girl with a pony tail wielding a bo staff. She gives her younger brother a smirk.

LUX

I can't teach you much if you keep running away all day.

AGNI

Who's running...away?!

Agni CHARGES at Lux.

He SWIPES his dagger repeatedly while Lux BLOCKS all his attacks with her staff. She steps with gentle ease.

LUX

Impatience will make you careless.

Her stance changes and she KNOCKS Agni away - his dagger SPINS in the air.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

The dagger, now steel, PIERCES the ground. Flames revolve around the handle as a hand forms from the fire followed by the rest of AGNI, now a teenager with shoulder length hair.

He PICKS up the dagger and looks around.

The jungle feels alive with all the vines SLITHERING around. They rise above and SHOOT across.

Agni SHIFTS into a similar stance as Lux from the past and starts SLICING them as they attack.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. KOLINGA - ROOFTOP - DAY

LUX

Over-thinking will lead to just as many mistakes.

Lux FLUIDLY moves between Agni's constant JABS. Her footwork is purposeful as she SLIDES across.

BACK TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

Agni's foot STOPS before flames ERUPT from his base and BOOSTS him across the jungle.

BURSTING around, he slices the vines with speed. He SLIDES across the ground before JUMPING off again with momentum.

A larger vine WRAPS around Agni before THROWING him away. The boy goes FLYING through the trees.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. KOLINGA - ROOFTOP - DAY

Agni LANDS on the ground and GRINDS to a halt just shy of his wooden dagger.

LUX

Stay light and keep moving.

Lux spins her staff back with a smug look.

LUX (CONT'D)

Maybe that was a bit too hard.
Agni, you good?

Agni turns around sweaty and panting but clearly thrilled.

AGNI

Don't worry about that. This is nothing if I gotta learn to fend for myself.

LUX

That's all this better be. If I catch you picking fights I can make this a lot worse.

AGNI
I'm not, I'm not...but, just outta
curiosity...

Kites FLY across the sky. Agni catches his breath, stands up and smiles.

AGNI (CONT'D)
Don't hold back.

Agni SPINS the dagger, changing the blade's position in his hand. He SLOWS his breathing further.

Lux FOCUSES up noticing his change of composure.

He CHARGES again, swinging his blade for Lux's face. She DODGES. Agni spins his blade, changing the way he holds it with every attack.

LUX
Woah!

Agni SWIPES.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

Agni CUTS through the vines attacking him while he flies through the trees. He LANDS on a branch and BLASTS forward.

BACK TO:

EXT. KOLINGA - ROOFTOP - DAY

Agni SWIPES from above and spins around for another. Lux and Agni are almost in sync with their back and forth attacks.

Lux POV - Agni keeps attacking but is PUSHED back with a swift staff to his shoulder.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

Agni SPINS in the air, his boots leave a trail of fire before SKIDDING to a halt on the ground.

BACK TO:

EXT. KOLINGA - ROOFTOP - DAY

They move across the rooftop with Lux on the ATTACK as Agni focuses on evading looking for an opening to counter. He sweats and pants.

LUX

Things can change in an instant.
Move with purpose and control your distance.

Agni smacks Lux's staff, gets pushed back.

LUX (CONT'D)

Hands up! Don't leave your face wide open or you'll get caught.

He breathes heavily before going for another attack.

LUX (CONT'D)

You're gassing out again. Stay calm and focused.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

Agni SPINS with precision while SLASHING the larger vines repeatedly attacking him. His eyes move constantly trying to keep track of the vines before he turns.

BACK TO:

EXT. KOLINGA - ROOFTOP - DAY

Agni looks up at Lux.

AGNI

You're nagging again, Lux. I learn better by doing.

The boy attempts a leg sweep but Lux sees it a mile away and casually DODGES it before tapping his back with her staff.

LUX

You need to know *why* you're doing what you're doing.

(mockingly)

Base instinct will only get you so far, little brother.

Lux SPINS her staff as she advances towards Agni.

LUX (CONT'D)
Besides, I'm still kicking your
butt.

AGNI
I won last time!

LUX
In what world?

Agni swiftly dodges a SWISH of Lux's staff and goes on the offensive. He forces Lux to the edge of the roof.

She turns to look back and Agni uses the opportunity - TAP. He scores a point.

LUX (CONT'D)
Dammit.

Lux rolls her eyes and HOPS off the edge.

With precision and grace, she LANDS effortlessly onto the alleyway below.

Lux looks up.

LUX (CONT'D)
Cheap shot.

Agni glances down from the edge of the roof.

AGNI
Yo, that was a point!

LUX
Still winning.

Agni gives himself a running start and JUMPS...He BAILS.

AGNI
AAAHH!

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

AGNI
AAAHH!

THUD - Agni FALLS onto the ground. Branches drop around him. He gets up brushing the twigs from his hair and LOOKS ahead.

A paw STOMPS the ground followed by a mace. VAREE, a giant monkey with brass shoulder pads and a scar on his lip readies himself with a furious GRUNT.

Agni SMILES.

AGNI (CONT'D)
Finally.

Varee CHARGES Agni like a bulldozer and SMASHES his mace down. Agni bursts out of the way and SKIDS the ground. Using his speed and dagger Agni SWIPES at Varee, bit by bit, frustrating the overgrown ape.

The monkey uses his tail to CATCH Agni off guard. He BLOCKS with his dagger at the last second before Varee's mace SMASHES him across the jungle.

A bloodied Agni ROLLS across the ground before stopping, with his eyes barely open.

AGNI (CONT'D)
(whispering)
...Lux?

Agni POV - a blurry view of the jungle. He BLINKS.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. KOLINGA - ALLEYWAY - DAY

Agni POV - Lux holds out her hand to help Agni up.

He GRABS it and gets up from a pile of cloth bags, brushing the dust off his clothes.

Lux brushes his hair and a puff of dust flies out of it. She looks up.

LUX
Gonna have to work on that.

Lux gives her brother a soft smile.

AGNI
No kidding...

LUX
Maybe take a second to think your plan over before executing...?

He jumps back and readies himself.

AGNI

Alright, let's go again! I think
I'm getting it. I mean, I
definitely got you then. Maybe all
your talking is actually working!

A bell RINGS across the town and Lux's smile quickly fades.

LUX

I can't...I gotta go, little bro.

Agni's shoulders drop with disappointment.

AGNI

No, no, no. You said you'd teach
me. You promised!

Lux walks to Agni.

LUX

I know Agni, but this is important.

Lux tightly hugs her younger brother before grabbing a badge
from her pouch and pins it on. She hands her staff to Agni.

LUX (CONT'D)

Take this back home for me?

AGNI

Fine...

LUX

Hey, chin up. We'll make a Deva out
of you yet.

Agni POV - Lux heads to the end of the alley with her back
against Agni. He BLINKS.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

Agni POV - Wind WHIRLS around an older LUX, her hair flows
with the breeze along with her dupatta as her back faces
Agni.

LUX

Come on, this isn't over.

Agni smiles wiping the blood from his nose and stands up.

AGNI

Sounding a little cocky there, Lux.

LUX
Look who's talking.

The wind RISES around Lux and Agni's hand LIGHTS with fire.

AGNI
Together?

LUX
Together.

They LUNGE at Varee who CHARGES back in SLOW MOTION.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The silhouette of Agni and Lux against Varee morphs into an old illustration of two warriors facing off against a demon painted on a scroll.

LUX (V.O.)
The boon granted by the gods was not to be taken lightly. For its power must always be balanced with the practice of discipline.

Lux folds the parchment, placing it on the floor beside Agni as the two sit cross-legged in front of a desk holding an idol surrounded by the mist of a lit incense.

LUX (CONT'D)
Together?

AGNI
Together.

They put their hands together and pray to the idol.

FADE OUT.