

A KOREAN LOVE STORY

Written by

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FADE IN:

--- Shot in B&W film, with Korean subtitles on all except vintage footage.

EXT. KOREAN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

--- VINTAGE STOCK FOOTAGE

Battle rages on the field between American soldiers and a mixture of North Korean and Chinese soldiers.

INT. STUDIO GREENSCREEN - DAY

--- VINTAGE STOCK FOOTAGE

MovieTone Newsreel of old Korean Conflict news footage (for instance: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meYtoNP\\_bCs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meYtoNP_bCs))

EXT. KOREAN COUNTRYSIDE - LATE AFTERNOON (CIRCA 1952)

A squad of American soldiers trudges down the road. Slung rifles, plodding steps, hunched shoulders, they look as if they might fall over if they stop moving. Nearby is a village that's mostly intact, but has still seen some battle action.

Villagers work in the field, carefully prodding the ground for mines. Some pause to watch the soldiers go by. One old man stands in a hut doorway. He speaks to someone back inside the hut.

OLD MAN  
(spoken in Korean,  
subtitled in English)  
Americans. Go back to bed.

The lead soldier, a young black man, is quite taken by a young woman in the field. FLOYD tries to smile but kinda fails at it.

MIN JEE straightens and stretches. She looks at him, pushes her head scarf back, and has no trouble smiling.

There his is! He manages to smile back, albeit a little nervously. He continues to lead the squad down the road.

She watches them until they are out of sight. Apparently, she's quite taken by him, too.

EXT. KOREAN COUNTRYSIDE - MORNING

Min Jee walks out of her hut and ties her scarf around her head. She hooks two empty buckets to a carrying-yoke, shoulders it, and walks away from her village.

EXT. KOREAN COUNTRYSIDE - MORNING

The temporary American Army camp buzzes with activity; cleaning weapons, rinsing out socks and laying them out to dry, C-rations being torn into or cracked open.

Floyd, needing a break from his platoon, grabs his canteen, shaving kit, and weapon and leaves the camp.

He walks to a nearby stream, where, rumor has it, the water is clean and cool. He squats near the stream and enjoys the water before filling his helmet. Huh. Rumors were right.

There's something relaxing about the sound of bristles against a brick of soap when you whisk up froth with a shaving brush. At least, Floyd thinks so.

Across the bank, Min Jee kneels on the bank and unshoulders the yoke. She fills a bucket and sees Floyd shaving.

Floyd rinses his razor and looks up. He sees Min Jee, smiles and waves.

She looks away quickly and sets the full bucket on the shore. She starts to fill the second bucket.

Floyd finishes his shave and catches her looking again. He raises his hand again without waving.

She smiles slightly before pulling up the second bucket, hitching them both to the yoke. The ease she shoulders the yoke is impressive, and soon, she leaves.

He gathers his things up quickly and looks for a place to cross. He follows her to the edge of her village and sees her going into a hut.

EXT. STREAM NEAR MIN JEE'S VILLAGE - MORNING

Floyd is near the river again, waiting for Min Jee. He sees her approaching with the bucket yoke and approaches quickly to help her with it.

FLOYD

Here. Let me help.

MIN JEE  
 (with a friendly, but shy  
 smile)  
 No, thank you.

She quickens her step to the shore, kneels, and unshoulders the yoke.

FLOYD  
 (caught off-guard)  
 You speak English?

He kneels next to her as she fills her buckets.

MIN JEE  
 English was taught in schools  
 before the war. And always  
 Americans around here.

FLOYD  
 They don't teach English anymore?

MIN JEE  
 Not so many schools anymore.

FLOYD  
 Yeah, I guess not. That wasn't us,  
 was it?

MIN JEE  
 Mostly not.

FLOYD  
 Good.

MIN JEE  
 But some.

They share a long, shy but friendly look.

I/E. MONTAGE - DAY

- A) Stock film footage (fighting)
- B) Min Jee and Floyd talk in the field outside her village
- C) Min Jee and Floyd fetch water in the stream
- D) Floyd enters the village and Min Jee leaves her hut to talk to him
- E) Stock film footage (fighting)

- F) Floyd holds Min Jee's hand, with a ring in his free hand
- G) Floyd fills out Army paperwork for marriage
- H) Floyd helps around the village
- I) Min Jee and Floyd marry in her village

INT. APARTMENT RENTAL OFFICE - DAY

Floyd sits in the office, dressed in his finest threads. After all, you want to look your most presentable in such situations. Across from him is a female RENTAL AGENT seated behind a desk. She reviews his application and accompanying paperwork proving prior service and current employment.

RENTAL AGENT

Everything looks in order here,  
Mister Russell. I'm sorry, Sergeant  
Russell.

She's friendly, almost ingratiating. She's well on her way to welcoming him to the community.

FLOYD

Thank you. I'm so glad.

RENTAL AGENT

We have lots of negro families in  
this community. I'm sure you'll  
feel right at home.

FLOYD

Yes, I'm sure. My wife can't wait.

RENTAL AGENT

And where is your wife?

FLOYD

She's finishing up some business  
with her family, back home.

RENTAL AGENT

And where is that? Back home.

FLOYD

Near Taegu.

RENTAL AGENT

I'm sorry, and that is where?

FLOYD

Korea. She's Korean.

Something in the rental agent shifts. Her friendliness evaporates. Floyd sees it tenses, fears coming to life.

RENTAL AGENT  
(speaks slowly)  
Korean. I see.

The rental agent gathers the papers together and stands, compelling Floyd to do the same.

FLOYD  
Is there a problem?

RENTAL AGENT  
I just need to run your application  
by my manager.

She fake smiles and leaves the room with his paperwork. Floyd looks worried and waits. The door opens again and the male OFFICE MANAGER enters, carrying Floyd's application.

OFFICE MANAGER  
I'm sorry, Sergeant Russell, but  
we're going to have to decline your  
application.

Floyd looks like the wind was just sucked out of him.

FLOYD  
Why? I thought everything was in  
order?

OFFICE MANAGER  
I'm afraid your family won't blend  
well here.

FLOYD  
Won't blend well? How am I supposed  
to take that?

OFFICE MANAGER  
I can see I'm not being clear.

FLOYD  
No. Perhaps you'd better speak more  
plainly.

OFFICE MANAGER  
This community supports negros and  
their families. Not Koreans.

FLOYD  
Wait a minute, let me get this  
straight.

(MORE)

FLOYD (CONT'D)  
You're saying we can't move in here  
because Min Jee is Korean?

OFFICE MANAGER  
I'm glad we understand each other.  
I'm sorry you wasted your time.

He opens the door for Floyd to leave. Floyd approaches the door and stops in front of the manager.

FLOYD  
What would have happened if we had  
already moved in?

RENTAL MANAGER  
We would have asked you to leave.

Floyd shakes his head, dejected, and leaves the office.

INT. STUDIO GREENSCREEN - DAY

- A) Next apartment rental office, next manager standing at the door, next instance of Floyd walking out
- B) Repeat of A, different office/staff, same scene plays out
- C) Manager shaking head 'no'
- D) Manager shaking head 'no'
- E) Another door closing behind Floyd
- F) Another door closing behind Floyd
- G) Floyd stands outside of an office door

EXT. TRAIN STATION - AFTERNOON

Floyd sits on a bench, waiting for the 3:14 train. He holds a picture of Min Jee in his hands. Love, sadness, hopelessness, they're all there. The train approaches, right on time, and draws his attention.

The train whistle sounds.

He puts the picture back in his pocket and lets out a long breath as the train pulls into the station and the first door opens.

FADE OUT