

## KATSUKO'S REVENGE

ZINTA - Eighteen-year-old American girl living in Japan.

TORISHIMO aka TORI - Zinta's boyfriend, her saviour and yakuza member.

HIRO – Lives above a theatre and holds shadow puppet shows for children.

AKIMASA - Tori's rival and the head of the gang that terrorised Zinta.

### INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

The story begins with HIRO telling one of his legendary stories through the use of shadow puppets. Focus on a hanging white sheet with the soft, romantic glow of a lamp behind it. Behind the sheet hangs many folded origami as decoration.

### NARRATOR (HIRO)

*It is said that many moons ago there existed two giants. Both were larger than Earth itself. Katsuko, the female giant stood on the left side of Earth and Hinata, the male giant, on the right.*

To illustrate the story being told, three shadow puppets appear behind the sheet, two in the shapes of giant figures dwarfing the third shadow puppet that represents planet Earth.

### NARRATOR (HIRO) cont'd

*Both giants were responsible for keeping Earth balanced for if one were to move over to the other side, Earth would tip over and all human life would slip from the planet like peas from an upturned plate.*

*Both giants became infatuated with one another and Katsuko's desire to move over to the right side grew stronger and stronger. On Earth, humans retaliated, shooting arrows into the sky that simply*

*disappeared into dust.*

Many small shadow figures enter the scene depicting an army trying to shoot arrows at the sky.

NARRATOR (HIRO) cont'd

*This love lasted for 1 000 years until desire became too great. One evening when Marsh and Jupiter aligned, Katsuko leapt over to Hinata's side in so causing planet Earth to tip over. All humans slipped from Earth and scattered into the sky where they became the stars we know today.*

In the form of shadow puppets, we depict one giant moving over to the other side with many small shadow stars slipping from the round planet Earth puppet.

EXT. PARK - DAY

ZINTA is sitting on a park bench reading a book, wearing a Japanese school uniform. A black vehicle appears and stops next to her. The driver rolls down the window and we see TORI in the car.

TORI

Zinta-san, come here!

ZINTA obeying immediately, stands up and walks over to the car. She leans in through the open window and gives TORI a kiss.

TORI cont'd

Why aren't you at school?

ZINTA

School let out early today.

TORI

Get in the car then. It's dangerous being out here on your own.

ZINTA

I can find my own way home, thank you. Besides, it's a beautiful day, I don't want to waste it.

TORI

I wasn't asking.

ZINTA

Please, Torishimo, I'll come home in an hour, promise.

TORI

One hour.

With a final kiss, TORI drives away.

INT. THEATRE - DAY

ZINTA sighs in relief and slips through the doors of a dilapidated theatre and find the theatre is empty inside except for a big white sheet draped on the stage.

ZINTA

Hello? Hiro?

HIRO appears, his shirt unbuttoned, sleeves rolled up. ZINTA rushes towards him and starts kissing him.

HIRO

(Surprised)

Zinta, it's day out.

ZINTA

I know.

HIRO

Come, let's go upstairs before someone sees.

INT. THEATRE APARTMENT – DAY

HIRO leads ZINTA to his small apartment which is cluttered full of origami, pieces of paper and shadow puppets. ZINTA sits on the bed and HIRO prepares a pot of tea.

HIRO

You shouldn't have come.

ZINTA

I don't care. I like it here.

HIRO sits down next to her and folds his arm around her shoulders and kisses her forehead.

HIRO

I've missed you.

ZINTA

That story you told the other night, the one about the giants, what does it mean?

HIRO

Ah, it is a story of love and its destructive capabilities.

ZINTA

But love is a beautiful thing, how can it be destructive?

HIRO

Zinta-san, love can also turn to jealousy, selfishness... anger. The giants knew that being together meant the destruction of planet Earth and they still made the leap.

ZINTA

Would you make the leap for me? Would you sacrifice the world to be with me?

HIRO

It is nothing but fairytales. Drink your tea and make your way home.

ZINTA

You'd have done it for her though, wouldn't you?

HIRO

Zinta, I do not wish to speak of her. Not today, not ever. Now, drink your tea.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

ZINTA sneaks in through the front door of an upmarket apartment. TORI is sitting on a couch, watching TV, drink in hand. As soon as he sees ZINTA, he switches off the television.

TORI

(Annoyed)

The span of an hour clearly means something different to you than it does to me.

ZINTA

(Nervous)

I apologise, Tori. I got lost.

TORI jumps up and grabs ZINTA by the jaw and chin and squeezes, knuckles turning white.

TORI

Speak the truth. Are you seeing someone?

ZINTA

(Close to tears)

No, Tori! You're hurting me. Please let go.

TORI

Answer me!

ZINTA

Akimasa!

At the mention of the name, TORI let's go of ZINTA and immediately turns his gestures of anger to that of soothing and love as he strokes her hair.

ZINTA cont'd

Akimasa's men followed me, I got scared so I hid until they left.

TORI

I told you, Zinta-san. I told you. You should listen to me otherwise you'll get hurt. There are people out there, dangerous people, who would do unimaginable things to the woman I love if given half the chance.

ZINTA

(Crying)

I know, Tori. I apologise.

TORI

You are the woman I saved, you are part of my soul, my destiny. I won't let anything happen to you, ever.

ZINTA

I understand.

TORI gives ZINTA a kiss on the cheek.

TORI

Now, stop crying and stop apologising. You're a grown woman. Go and get my gloves, it's time we trained again.

ZINTA

I'm tired, TORI.

TORI moves to hit ZINTA and she deftly deflects it with a swipe of her hand, catching his wrist before his fist can connect with her face.

TORI

I cannot be seen with a woman who is weak. Now go.



INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

The theatre is dark except for the white sheet hanging on the stage and the lamplight glowing behind the sheet casting shadows of ZINTA and HIRO who are lying on the stage under a blanket behind the sheet. Above them dangles the shadows of multiple origami cranes.

HIRO

Legend has it that if you fold 1 000 origami cranes that the gods would grant you one wish.

ZINTA

What would you wish for?

HIRO

That things could be different for us. I wish to live in a world where you and I can be together without planet Earth tipping over.

ZINTA kisses HIRO on the cheek.

ZINTA

Wouldn't you rather wish to be with your wife again?

HIRO

No wish nor magic can ever bring back the dead. Besides, it wouldn't be the same. Her soul is best left at peace... What would you wish for?

ZINTA

A life without fear.

HIRO

What is scaring you, my love?

ZINTA

My feelings.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

TORI hears a knock on his front door. He opens his door to reveal a GANG MEMBER looking concerned. The GANG MEMBER and TORI bow to one another and TORI welcomes the member inside.

GANG MEMBER

I apologise for bothering so late. Is Zinta here?

TORI

No, why?

GANG MEMBER

Because I have something to tell you about her. We saw her visiting that old theatre, Hiro's theatre.

TORI

(Hands balled into fists)

I don't believe you.

GANG MEMBER

Would I risk telling you if it weren't true? We spied on the theatre and saw her coming out in the back late the other night. They were alone.

TORI

Hiro Akimasa?

The GANG MEMBER nods. TORI in his rage swings his fist and connects with the unfortunate messenger's face.

INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

ZINTA and HIRO are seated inside the theatre. ZINTA is toying with a folded crane that HIRO gave her.

HIRO

There is someone else in your life, isn't there?

ZINTA nods

HIRO cont'd

Who is he?

ZINTA

Torishimo, he's a member of the yakuza.

HIRO

(Shocked, shifts away from her)

Torishimo Tanaka? Why? You have no business fraternizing with the yakuza.

ZINTA

I am indebted to him.

HIRO

In what way?

ZINTA

He saved me from being beaten to death. One day I was making my way home from school and a gang of five men dragged me into an alley...

HIRO

Stop.

ZINTA

I won't, you need to understand. They dragged me into an alley and started beating and kicking me. Two men had already had their way with me when Torishimo and his men passed and took them down. Tori almost beat them to death, picked me up and took me to his apartment.

HIRO

So you owe him your love?

ZINTA

No, I owe him my life.

HIRO

He is dangerous.

ZINTA

You think I don't know that? He scares me but... I'm also another person when I'm with him, stronger.

HIRO

You don't know, Zinta-san. You couldn't possibly know what you're getting yourself into.

ZINTA

Why do I get the feeling you know him?

HIRO

His anger and jealousy is legendary. Everyone in the city knows of him. If he finds out...

ZINTA grabs him by the collar.

ZINTA

Tell me what you're hiding.

HIRO falls to his knees, hugging ZINTA's legs.

HIRO

He killed my wife. He is the reason my Black Rose is gone.

ZINTA

(Frowning, backing away from him in fear)

Black Rose? Black Rose as in Katsuko Akimasa?

HIRO

(Expression turns from serious to something more evil)

I think... it is time you saw the real me.

HIRO'S skin starts shriveling and peeling, turning to white dust that falls from his skin to reveal a much, much older HIRO. He grows old before ZINTA'S very eyes.

ZINTA

(Horried)

What? Akimasa, no!

HIRO reaches out to ZINTA and wraps an old hand around her neck, starts squeezing as we hear noises outside.

EXT. THEATRE - NIGHT

Cut to TORI standing outside of the theatre preparing Molotov bombs.

TORI

Zinta-san! I know you're in there. Come out my love. Be brave now, reveal your betrayal to me.

INT. THEATRE - NIGHT

HIRO let go of ZINTA'S throat and chases her to the back of the theatre and out through the back door just as a massive explosion of fire hits the theatre.

EXT. THEATRE - NIGHT

TORI has torched the theatre and is now moving around the theatre, waiting for ZINTA and HIRO to come out through the back.

TORI makes his way to the back garden of the theatre where he finds ZINTA crouched beside a water fountain, blood running down the side of her face. TORI grabs her by the hair and pulls her hair, his face contorted in rage.

TORI

You think you can betray me like this?

ZINTA

(Hysterical)

Please, Tori. I-I didn't know!

TORI

Explain it to me then!

ZINTA

HIRO he-he changed. I didn't know it was him, I swear.

TORI

So you betray your lover as you've betrayed me, with lies?!

ZINTA

Please, Tori! I love you. I love only you!

TORI pulls a blade out of his pocket and uses it to stab ZINTA through the heart. HIRO appears behind TORI and slams against him using his full strength. TORI lets go of ZINTA and turns his attention to HIRO.

HIRO slams his fist into TORI'S face, a blow that TORI meets with equal force. TORI manages to tackle HIRO onto the ground and now has his knife clutched against HIRO'S neck, drawing blood.



HIRO

My wish for revenge has been fulfilled.

TORI slits HIRO'S throat and leaves both HIRO and ZINTA dying on the ground. A bloodied origami crane is on the ground between them.

NARRATOR (HIRO)

*I, HIRO, have slipped from planet Earth and turned into a star to finally join my wife, my one true love, in the sky.*

Fade out to the last scene: a picture of the night sky filled with glittering stars.