

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Every Hero"

by
Chris Haigh

Kyoko Fukuda as Reiko Kimusume
Emily Booth as Skye Underwood
Jacqueline McKenzie as Grace Fitzgerald
and
Sonny Chiba as Takeshiro Kagemura

WEBISODE

FADE IN:

1

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

1

It's an unbelievably bright day. The light shines a gorgeous, bright gold and the sky is a perfectly warm azure blue, dotted with little fluffy clouds.

There's no sound, not yet. Now we can see a single, gnarled oak tree. Brightly coloured BANNERS hang from the branches, shimmering and blowing in a slight breeze.

Fields of knee-high grass wave in the same breeze, almost SHIMMERING with the sunlight reflecting off of it.

SWEEP PAST rows of golden corn, absolute fields of it, until we LAND on a single FIGURE:

The figure, definitely female and wearing a feminine kimono-like dress, turns towards us.

It's ALITA.

She SMILES, as radiant as the sun and holds her hands out to us. Beckoning us forth.

Her dark hair FLUTTERS behind her, but there's no sound. Absolute silence, even as Alita continues to GRIN, before we:

SMASH CUT TO:

2

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - DAY

2

Alita's BODY is laid out on one of the beds in the Academy dorms. Despite the large WOUND in her chest, she looks serene, pale and peaceful.

Beside her sits REIKO. Her eyes are puffy and red-rimmed, indicating that she hasn't slept for days.

She runs a traditional Japanese COMB through Alita's long, dark hair, SNIFFING to hold back more tears as she does so.

REIKO

(long beat)

You were always my hero. From the first moment I saw you fighting, you were my Indy.

(beat)

Even when we were drinking mud in Sennybridge, I thought you were so cool and so brave. I mean, you survived for three months in the Arctic!

(CONTINUED)

She takes a moment to stop, wiping away almost tears.

REIKO (cont'd)

I know I wasn't the best person to
be around all the time. I know that
I wasn't the best fighter, or the
strongest, or the smartest.

(beat)

I know that you had a destiny, and
I know that I'm just the little
city girl who latched onto you. And
I'm sorry for anything I've done.

(beat)

But thank you. For being my best
friend. For being my hero. For -

However, the door opens and in steps SKYE, looking as teary
as Reiko. She looks down at Reiko who continues to comb
Alita's hair.

SKYE

Hey. Whatcha doing?

REIKO

Making sure our girl looks
gorgeous.

Skye LAUGHS, sniffing back a cry.

SKYE

Yeah. Beauty never was the highest
of Allie's priorities.

REIKO

But she looked pretty no matter
what she did.

SKYE

Agreed.

Skye sits down on the bed next to Reiko.

SKYE (cont'd)

So what's going to happen to her?

REIKO

I'm taking her home.

SKYE

(beat)

I thought this was 'home.'

REIKO

Her father was... I spoke to her
father on the phone, and...

(CONTINUED)

Reiko can't stop the wave of fresh SOBS that overwhelm her as Skye wraps an arm around her shoulders.

After a few beats however, she stops, WIPING at her eyes and nose.

REIKO (cont'd)
Sorry. It's just... Juanita, and
now Alita, and...

Skye HUGS Reiko, tears STREAMING down her face as well.

SKYE
I guess it's true what they say.

REIKO
What?

SKYE
'Home is where your feet may leave,
but your heart never will.'

That gets no arguments from Reiko and we PAN ALONG the room,
DISSOLVING THROUGH a wall and into:

Soft, melancholic instrumental MUSIC starts to play as we PAN
DOWN from the pale sky to find ourselves in a cemetery.

Small SHRINES and GRAVESTONES serve as markers for the
unfortunately deceased. PAN ALONG the cemetery to find an
open site.

MOURNERS, all dressed in black, move along in a small group
as a COFFIN is brought forward. The surprisingly Western
tradition seems strange here as sakura blossoms FALL to the
ground.

DISSOLVE TO:

The coffin is lowered slowly, carefully into the ground and
we see faces, the vast majority of them crying as Alita's
body is placed.

TAKESHIRO, Alita's father is crying in utter desolation as is
MASAMI.

The final face we see is Reiko. She's not crying, bravely
holding it back.

DISSOLVE TO:

Almost everyone has gone as we stand before Alita's
GRAVESTONE. Honourary gifts litter the grave but the two
remaining mourners are standing by.

(CONTINUED)

Reiko and Takeshiro are almost standing side-by-side but they're still silent, until...

REIKO

(in Japanese)

<Before she took her Cruicamentum,
she asked me to deal with something
in case... this would happen.>

TAKESHIRO

(also in Japanese; nods)

<Her destiny.>

(beat)

<She was destined to save our
village. A prophecy told of a
Slayer being born into our village,
who would slay the Dark Beast and
who would save us all.>

REIKO

<And that was Alita.>

(beat)

<She asked me to continue her
destiny, if it ever happened.>

(beat)

<I don't think I'm strong enough,
Kagemura-san.>

TAKESHIRO

(shakes head)

<No. She chose you for a reason.
She believed you were special.>

(sad smile)

<And we both know that Alita was
right in most situations.>

The sad smile is reflected in Reiko's as we eventually
DISSOLVE TO:

Reiko is busy tidying up the dorms. She stops for a moment,
tucking a strand of her dyed hair behind her ear as she spots
a framed PHOTOGRAPH on a dresser.

It's of Skye, ERIKA, Alita and Reiko, grinning and laughing
away with ice creams in a shopping mall.

Reiko reaches out and touches Alita's smiling face reverently
before FITZGERALD enters nervously, KNOCKING on the door
before poking her head in.

FITZGERALD

Ah, Reiko!

REIKO

Miss Fitzgerald. Can I help you?

FITZGERALD

Well, I... I just...

(takes deep breath)

In the event of Alita's... death,
she asked that this be given to
you.

Fitzgerald hands over a bulky PACKAGE which Reiko takes,
raising an eyebrow suspiciously.

REIKO

Um, well... thank you.

Reiko starts to turn away but...

FITZGERALD

Oh! And this. I almost forgot.

She hands over an ENVELOPE. Reiko looks down at it and sees
'To Reiko' enscribed on the front of the envelope in Alita's
delicate script.

Reiko blinks back tears before nodding gratefully to
Fitzgerald.

REIKO

Thank you.

FITZGERALD

(beat)

I'm still getting used to this, you
know. All this...

REIKO

Death.

FITZGERALD

No. The aftermath.

Fitzgerald goes, closing the door behind and Reiko's
attention turns to the envelope which she OPENS after a
thoughtful beat.

She pulls a single sheet of paper out and we see that it's
written in Japanese kanji. Reiko takes a deep breath and
starts to read aloud.

REIKO

(reading)

<Dear, Reiko. If you are reading
this then the inevitable has
happened.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REIKO (cont'd)
I have followed the tradition of my fellow Slayers and have died in battle. Doing what I knew was right.>

(beat)
<I know that death comes to us all in the end, but I know that my death will be hard. As all death is. But hardest on you, because not only were you what Skye would call a 'Mini Me'...>

Reiko SMILES, even though she's half-laughing and CRYING at the same time.

REIKO (cont'd)
<... but because you were the one I could see carrying on my fate. My destiny.>

(beat)
<I will have no doubt told you that I was born to save my village. But if I am gone, then I hand my mantle down to you, Reiko Kimusume.>

Reiko's SOBBING now but manages to keep on reading.

REIKO (cont'd)
<Inside the package I have instructed the Council to give to you, there is my final gift to you.>

Reiko opens the package - and Alita's FANS fall out into her hands. Reiko pulls them out fully and continues reading the letter.

REIKO (cont'd)
<These have been a tradition of the Kagemura clan ever since we fought as samurai on the battlefield. And now, I feel it is right to pass them onto my heir. Use them wisely, Reiko. Use them with honour. Remember, you are chosen, Reiko...>

(beat)
<And I will always be there for you. One way or another.>

Reiko wipes away fresh TEARS.

REIKO (cont'd)
<Love, Alita.>

Silence and Reiko folds the letter before picking up the red and black fans. She FLIPS them out with a SNAP and starts to admire the delicate kanji written on them.

Tears continue to fall down her face, but she strikes a battle pose. She SMILES.

REIKO (cont'd)
I'm ready, Alita.

She TWIRLS the fans experimentally.

REIKO (cont'd)
Let's hope they are.

With the smile still on her face, Reiko FLIPS the fans and SNAPS them shut, forcing us to:

BLACK OUT:

END OF WEBISODE