

RONIN

By
Joby Harold

Current Revisions

By
Chad St. John

Based on the graphic novel by Frank Miller

This script is the confidential and proprietary property of Warner Bros. Pictures and no portion of it may be performed, distributed, reproduced, used, quoted, or published without prior written permission.

If found please return immediately to:

Warner Bros. Pictures
Script Processing Dept
4000 Warner Blvd
Burbank CA 91522
Tel. +1 818 954 4632

WARNER BROS. - HOLLYWOOD GANG
4000 Warner Blvd
Burbank, California 91522

Revised: DRAFT
June 29, 2009
©2009 WARNER BROS. ENT.
All Rights Reserved

Do not copy or circulate. © Warner Bros. Entertainment

GRAPHIC OVER BLACK:

"One who is Samurai must, before all things, keep constantly in mind, by day and by night...

...that he has to die."

--Daidoji Yuzan, 16th Century Samurai.

The graphic FADES. We're jolted by a heart-wrenching, blood-curdling SCREAM over the black...

A man's scream of searing agony.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DESTROYED ROOM - DAY

HE lays in a pool of fire in a burning room--flames lick the walls, flowing like water across the ceiling.

Blackened. Burned.

His arms are shattered.

His legs are destroyed.

SCREAMING.

His torso is covered in body armor--burned. The badge on his chest says AQUARIUS POLICE--melting. The face mask of his tactical helmet is shattered-- half his tortured face visible.

The room has been blown to hell by a grenade. Bodies, likewise covered in armor, are strewn everywhere--the haphazard positions of the dead. Some blown through walls.

His name is BILLY CHALLAS (30). His screams subside-- bleeding out, as someone stirs in the black smoke...

CASEY READE (24), also an Aquarius Cop, stumbles through fiery hell. Dazed. Bleeding.

CASEY

Billy! Billy...?

She sees him. What's left of him.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Oh God...

She grabs his face as she hits her knees. His eyes roll into the back of his head.

CASEY
No! No. Please, Billy...

Casey yells into her radio.

CASEY (ON RADIO)
I need evac. Multiple officers
down. We're still alive in here!

Billy coughs blood, struggles to stay awake.

BILLY
Dad...

CASEY
Help's comin'. Just hang on,
Baby.

BILLY
Where's my father? Dad? Where's
Dad...

Casey's eyes go to a mangled body not far away.
Captain's bars gleam in the fire's light. This was
CAPTAIN RYKER. You can tell his dead from here.

Billy can see it in her face. Hurts worse than his
wounds...

CASEY
It ain't your fault.

BILLY
I killed him...

CASEY
No, you didn't.
(ON RADIO)
Where's the evac, damnit? Get
your asses down here now!

The DRONE of jet engines outside fills the air.

BILLY
It's all my fault...

He closes his eyes. Casey shakes him.

CASEY
Billy!

Flaming rafters fall. The room is coming apart. Casey
drags Billy's all but limbless body towards a massive
hole blown into a wall.

Through it, we see a futuristic building next door, as a screaming Hovercraft descends from above--AQUARIUS POLICE emblazoned across the side.

GRAPHIC: **NEW YORK CITY. 2096.**

The Hovercraft sides up to the hole. A door on the side slides open...

BILLY

Casey, my legs are numb. I can't move 'em...

She tries not to cry.

INT. HOVERCRAFT - MOMENTS LATER

MEDICS work feverishly on Billy, who is out of it under his oxygen mask--balancing on the razor edge between this world and the next.

Technology we won't have for a hundred years monitors his vitals, while Casey suffers in helpless silence. Unable to help. Unable to do anything but watch the 3-D hologram of Billy's beating heart, and the holographic representation of his entire CIRCULATORY SYSTEM--arteries and veins ceasing to be where they should be running through limbs.

She stares at her blood soaked hands.

She grabs the NEAREST MEDIC...roughly.

CASEY

He's going to live...

NEAREST MEDIC

Dunno yet...

CASEY

Wasn't a question, asshole! He doesn't die. Do you understand me? He doesn't die!

ANOTHER MEDIC pulls her away--tries to calm her.

A quick sob escapes. Another. Finally, Casey breaks down. Silent sobs wrack her body with a suffering passion reserved for only your most beloved.

It isn't till now that we notice the small RED DIAMOND WEDDING RING on her hand.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Pristine, white, and dream like. HOLOGRAPHIC DOCTORS stroll down hallways with PATIENTS and VISITORS.

One of the latter is COMMODORE BENJAMIN TAGGART (45), the perfectly clean cut Commanding Officer of the Aquarius Police Force, and dressed like it.

The flickering Holographic DOCTOR attempts sympathy as they stride down the gleaming hall.

DOCTOR

The fire saved him...actually.
Partially cauterized the wounds.

They enter what passes for a door--an opaque ENERGY FIELD that disappears and reappears once they've passed.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

LOOKING UP:

The ceiling is faceted with windows--Taggart and the Doctor walk into view, looking down on us from the observation deck.

TAGGART

Seventeen years, Aquarius hasn't lost an Officer in the line of duty. I won't lose another one today.

DOCTOR

Then you approve the procedure?

Taggart nods.

The Holographic Doctor descends THROUGH the faceted windows--seemingly walking down stairs that aren't there.

REVERSE:

Billy Challas prepped for surgery. But, he's conscious. Terrified eyes darting in a paralyzed body. Breathing deep. Rapid.

Scared to fucking death.

At his side are nine more IDENTICAL HOLOGRAPHIC DOCTORS. And, one scientist--PETER MCKENNA.

MCKENNA

Virgo, are we ready?

ROBOTIC ARMS spring forth from the walls and floor in whirring synchronized splendor. In unison, all of the Identical Holographic Doctors reply...

VIRGO/DOCTORS

I am ready, Dr. McKenna.

Gleaming black BORON CARBIDE robotic limbs slide on gleaming tables of silver to Billy's side.

Billy's breathing goes into panic mode. A HEART MONITOR beeps faster.

McKenna looks into Billy's terrified eyes.

MCKENNA

I'm sorry.
(BEAT)
Virgo?

VIRGO/DOCTORS

Yes, Doctor?

MCKENNA

Proceed.

As we PULL BACK...

Bone saws WHIR.

The Heart Monitor BEEPS Faster.

And faster.

And faster...

FADE TO:

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

The BEEP of an ALARM CLOCK harmonizes with the fading beep of the heart monitor...

We find Billy sitting alone on the foot of his bed in a nearly dark studio. Small. Dumpy. He doesn't give a shit about the place.

Sporting only Boxers, Black Boron Carbide arms and legs seem to soak up the little ambient light.

He stares at the RED DIAMOND WEDDING RING we saw Casey wearing earlier--holds it between hard black synthetic fingers.

GRAPHIC: FIVE YEARS LATER.

Billy finally becomes aware of the Alarm Clock's incessant beep.

BILLY

Do I look like I'm sleepin'?

FEMALE COMPUTER VOICE

Sorry.

The apartment's Computer, MARY, kills the alarm and turns on the lights. A flickering hologram of a woman appears-- Mary's visual manifestation.

Mousy librarian comes to mind.

MARY

I'm worried about you, Billy.

BILLY

Told you to stop sayin' that.

A shower is turned on, as is what passes for a TV these days. Billy disappears into the bathroom, as Mary turns her attentions to a the Holographic COMMERCIAL PITCHMAN mid-pitch...

COMMERCIAL PITCHMAN

...Painless and itch free, new
Omni Tags are the only tags I
trust for my family's safety...

Mary looks at the Red Diamond Wedding Ring on a table longingly.

COMMERCIAL PITCHMAN (CONT'D)

Remember to have your newborn
tagged within twelve hours with
Omni Tags. They're baby safe.

She replicates the Ring on her flickering finger, and "changes the channel"--two POLITICIANS debate...

HOLO-POLITICIAN #1

...citizen's monitored twenty-four
hours a day? The ability to
paralyze you where you stand?
Forcing us to take this thing...

HOLO-POLITICIAN #2

If you do nothing wrong, you have
nothing to worry about...

HOLO-POLITICIAN #1

We're talking about innocent
people.

HOLO-POLITICIAN #2
And Aquarius ensures they stay
that way. America is the safest
country on earth. The experiment
worked...

Billy exits the bathroom wearing a a non-descript jacket--
casual.

BILLY
Turn that off, will ya?

MARY
Does it hurt? When you chip them?

Billy clips an Aquarius badge to his belt--stows his gun
under the jacket. The synthetic fingers give him trouble--
concentrates harder to control them.

BILLY
Mary...

MARY
Yes, Billy?

BILLY
What have I told you about the
ring thing?

Sheepishly, the ring disappears from her finger.

BILLY
Where are my keys.

Mary cocks her head as if listening.

MARY
They say they're under...on that
table.

Billy swats half a dozen empty Chinese take-out boxes
aside--flings a BLINKING set of Keycards. Heads for the
door.

MARY
Will you hire someone to clean me
today?

BILLY
Maybe tomorrow.

He exits. The Ring re-appears on Mary's finger--she
admires it.

EXT. NEW YORK - DAY

Establishing of just how gorgeous and futuristic NYC is now. Some of the buildings aren't even made of concrete and steel...

Translucent Energy Field Skyscrapers. Furniture and people clearly visible through the shimmering blueish walls. Must be a helluva view.

MAG LEV TRAINS whiz quietly by on monorails fifty stories up, as Hovercraft of varying size and shape cruise through the air along approved airways...

Some taking them directly through massive holes built directly into Concrete Skyscrapers.

From the clouds high above the city, a RED CRAFT descends--Japanese Characters scrawled along its side...

INT. RED CRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Two CORPORATE PILOTS descend on the city at breakneck speed, as the SMALL HOLOGRAM OF A WOMAN appears on their console...

HOLOGRAM WOMAN

Japan 4512, I am Virgo, and I am at your disposal. You are cleared on your present path for Aquarius HQ. On behalf of Aquarius Security Force, welcome to America.

REAR OF CRAFT:

Two men in impeccable suits trade uncomfortable glances--KAEMON (35) and SAWA (50).

SAWA

(Subtitled/Japanese)

This the part where I am to be impressed?

KAEMON

(Subtitled/Japanese)

No, I think that comes later.

INT. TAGGART'S OFFICE - DAY

Palatial. Yet, it would give NASA's Mission Control a run for its money.

Behind a massive desk sits Taggart, by his side is Casey, whose shoulders are covered in brass--promoted since we last saw her.

Billy stands across from them--his Aquarius Badge and gun are on the desk. Taggart and Casey stare at them for a hanging BEAT...

TAGGART

Do you have any idea how much money has been invested in you?

BILLY

Bill me.

CASEY

I wish you'd reconsider.

TAGGART

Nothing to reconsider. He isn't going any where.

BILLY

Damned right I'm not goin' anywhere. Five years desk surfin'?

CASEY

It isn't Taggart's fault that you can't pass the field evaluation.

BILLY

No, it's his fault I'm half toaster.

The irritation boiling on Billy's face affects the Carbide limbs--the legs twitch. He grabs the desk to steady himself.

TAGGART

You're the flaw, Billy. Not the technology.

CASEY

Concentrate...

Casey tries to steady him. Billy jerks away--clings like hell to the sliver of pride he has left.

Till, the legs give way. Trembling synthetic arms hold him up on the desk. Pissed. Humiliated.

Slowly, he regains control of the Carbide limbs. Stands straight. Kisses that sliver of pride good-bye.

TAGGART

You'll never be your Father. But, you could at least try to act like him.

Billy looks Casey and Taggart in the eye in turn.

BILLY

Show's over.

He makes for the door.

TAGGART

You realize I can't allow you to
leave with Aquarius equipment.

Billy stops. Winces.

The calming computer voice of Virgo emanates...

VIRGO

Mr. Taggart, the emissaries from
Tokyo have arrived.

TAGGART

(to Casey)
Handle this.

He exits, leaving Casey and Billy alone.

CASEY

Could you pull your head out of
your ass long enough to...I
dunno...pretend you forgive me for
saving your life?

BILLY

That what you think you did?

CASEY

It ain't gonna bring him back...

BILLY

If I'm not mistaken, we had this
conversation...

CASEY

Billy...

BILLY

No, no, I'm pretty sure we did.
Right after I caught you
and...what was that guy's name?

CASEY

Oh, here we go again...

BILLY

Thing like that sticks in a
fella's mind, all I'm sayin'.

CASEY

You sit around all night just
planning these moments, don't you?

BEAT.

BILLY

No...

Casey storms out. Billy throws black Carbide hands up--
pissed at himself. He slams a fist down on the desk--it
punches through to the forearm. Stuck.

VIRGO

Do you need assistance, Officer
Challas?

BILLY

No. Fine. Thanks.

EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

Throngs and throngs of CITIZENS go about their day. Mag
Lev Trains. Hovercraft. The streets are lined with
sleek futuristic CARS--electric engines drone.

There are no Homeless. Everyone is healthy. That
"Pissed Off New Yorker" scowl utterly absent on every
face.

Until, TWO ARMED THUGS plow through the crowd--knocking
anyone in their way on their ass.

Desperation drips from their panting faces...

INT. COMMAND HOVERCRAFT - DAY

Taggart watches large screens of INTERNATIONAL CITIES
raging with riots and crime. His back to us...

TAGGART

Gentlemen, the problem isn't
overwhelming global violence...

Kaemon and Sawa are behind him--Taggart turns to them.

TAGGART (CONT'D)

The problem is loss of control.
Violence is just smoke resulting
from that particular fire. Put
out the fire, the smoke goes away.

A 3D-HOLOGRAM of the streets zipping by below the Command
Craft appears. They're covered in BLUE DOTS--hundreds of
thousands of them.

But, two of these dots are RED--the BLUE DOTS turn YELLOW as the RED ones pass them.

TAGGART

Location. Physiological status.
Heart rate, stress, endorphin and
adrenalin levels. Tell tale signs
of fear and aggression...

INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The Two Armed Thugs storm into the place. PATRONS panic and scream. The Thugs lock the doors, as AQUARIUS POLICE HOVERCRAFT land in the street.

Thug #1 FIRES into the ceiling.

THUG #1

Get against the windows! Up
against the doors!

They drag and shove terrified patrons to the front of the shop...

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The Command Craft lands, we can see the frightened faces of human shields lining the windows. Dozens of Aquarius Officers level their weapons at the shop.

Taggart disembarks the Command Draft, Kaemon and Sawa following. The former casually leads the latter through Officers and flashing lights.

TAGGART

Since the Federal Government
turned over all policing to
Aquarius, we've eliminated ninety-
seven percent of all violent
crime...

Taggart opens the door of the Coffee Shop as if he wanted nothing more than a bagel.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Taggart steps in with an apprehensive Kaemon and Sawa. The Thugs each have a Patron by the neck--shielding themselves. They level their guns at Taggart.

THUG #2

Stop right there! I'm not
kiddin'...

THUG #1

Back off!

They aim their guns at the temples of the two HOSTAGES, who scream in helpless terror.

HOSTAGE #1
Please...God, please...

THUG #1
Shut up!

TAGGART
(to Kaemon)
Your city could be next,
Gentlemen...

Taggart presses the back of his own neck--a small flashing light just below the surface.

TAGGART
Virgo...

THUG #1
You're a dead man! I'm gonna...

Cut off in mid-sentence. Both Thugs FROZEN LIKE STATUES where they stand. The Patrons haul ass as Taggart flashes a smile--points at the FLASHING TAGS at the base of Thug necks.

TAGGART
We're already working on Moscow.
London. Beijing. Aquarius is
going global. We're staring down
an endorsement from the Union of
Nations.

Taggart points at the FLASHING TAGS at the base of Thug necks.

TAGGART (CONT'D)
Some of our competitors say the
neuro-paralysis is dangerous.
Fatal, even. Sour grapes,
Gentlemen.

A THUD/WHIR of heavy footsteps from outside gets everyone's attention...

A SENTINAL DROID passes in front of the large windows--eight feet of bi-pedal erector set and Gatling gun.

KAEMON
(uneasy)
Yours...?

TAGGART

Sentinal Droid. In the process of our latest software patch for 'em. Gives our Virgo System complete autonomous control. Wind 'em up, let 'em work. I'll throw in a hundred of the upgraded ones with a signed contract.

Sawa looks to Kaemon for guidance. Kaemon nods.

SAWA

Impressive.

KAEMON

Quite.

SAWA

Quite...very...impressive.

KAEMON

But, we're here for the sword.

BEAT.

TAGGART

Sword...

Kaemon and Sawa nod.

A pained smile flickers over Taggart's face--he recovers.

TAGGART

Well...I'm sure you're both tired from your journey. We'll discuss things further over dinner.

Taggart leaves Kaemon and Sawa alone with the Frozen Thugs. They gaze over trashed Coffee Shop--chairs and tables turned over.

KAEMON

(Subtitled/Japanese)
What kind of man risks innocent lives to make a point?

SAWA

(Subtitled/Japanese)
I take it I will not be joining you for dinner?

Kaemon eyes Taggart outside.

KAEMON

No. You will not.

INT. BIO-MECHANICS LAB - DAY

Dr. McKenna reviews real time physiological data of a man. Monitors display a human BRAIN in digital detail, along with a body...

That is limbless. CHALLAS, WILLIAM says the names across the display.

Casey looks on, concern etched in her face.

MCKENNA

Depression. Trauma. All lead to chemical imbalances. Nothing's changed. He should be super human...

CASEY

I'd settle for the man I married.

MCKENNA

Neither are in his future, I'm afraid. Taggart wants me to...terminate the project.

Casey takes the hit.

MCKENNA (CONT'D)

Billy was a prototype. Now, he's a failed experiment.

CASEY

You can't do that to him. It's not his fault...

Dr. McKenna pulls up several brain scans--each is progressively more RED.

MCKENNA

He's getting worse, Casey. I've kept this from Taggart. I wanted Billy to have a chance at recovery. But, emotionally, he's becoming increasingly unstable...

CASEY

Grew up a street orphan till Ryker adopted him. He's bound to have some issues...

MCKENNA

We're not talking rotten childhood. These areas of the brain lit up here? Keeps the bio-circuitry from functioning properly. Depression.

(MORE)

MCKENNA (CONT'D)
Suicidal thoughts. Despair.
Hopelessness...

BEAT.

CASEY
You don't know that he's gonna
snap.

MCKENNA
You're right. And, that's the
problem.

INT. HALL OF ARTIFACTS (ENTRANCE)- NIGHT

Before two reinforced opaque glass doors, a SENTINAL
DROID stands.

In front of it, Casey stands before EIGHT AQUARIUS
RECRUITS sporting regal Dress Blue Uniforms standing at
perfect attention...

And, then there's Billy.

Not at attention, perfect or otherwise--eyeing his
uniform like it was dead snake skin.

BILLY
Yer kiddin' me?

Casey glares at him.

CASEY
As I was saying, no one is to
enter this facility without
authorization from Taggart, or
myself. Officer Challas will be
in charge for the duration of this
mission...

BILLY
Guard duty. For the duration of
the guard duty...

CASEY
Officer Challas. Would you please
accompany me?

INT. HALL OF ARTIFACTS - MOMENTS LATER

The room is lined with GLASS CASES, Casey and Billy stop
before one--a SAMURAI SWORD, sheathed in a blood red
scabbard.

BILLY

Well...my disenchantment is complete. I'm guarding a pig sticker...

CASEY

It's a samurai sword, Billy.

BILLY

In a secure vault. *In* a basement.
Under Aquarius Headquarters...

CASEY

These emissaries from Tokyo traveled halfway around the world to talk about this sword. If history has taught us anything, cultural and religious artifacts can spark unrest and even wars...

BILLY

Have I quit yet today?

CASEY

Damnit, Billy. You have to do this. You gotta show Taggart that...you just have to do it, OK? These guys are just suits. I doubt anything is gonna happen. Taggart just wants security stepped up. OK?

BILLY

OK...

CASEY

I'm serious.

BILLY

Look, alright...

CASEY

Just guard this thing with your life, OK?

BILLY

I will guard this thing with my life.

CASEY

Promise me.

BILLY

What the hell's gotten into you?

CASEY

Nothing. Nothing...just...you'll
be fine. It's a cake assignment.

She makes for the door.

BILLY

Hey, Casey?

She stops--expectant.

CASEY

Yeah?

BEAT.

BILLY

Never mind.

INT. DINING HALL - NIGHT

No expense has been spared.

An ornate table is covered in delicacies. Casey, adorned
in the brass and epaulets of her dress blues, sits next
to Taggart in a Tuxedo--each flanked by FOUR OTHER
OFFICERS dressed to the nines.

And on the other side of the table, alone, the chair next
to him conspicuously empty, is Kaemon.

Casey eyes the empty chair nervously.

TAGGART

You'll forgive me, Mr. Kaemon. I
don't believe in curses.

KAEMON

What one believes, does not change
what is. You have no concept of
the danger in your possession.

CASEY

Are you sure Mr. Sawa is too ill
to join us?

KAEMON

He sends his most sincere
apologies. But, his age catches
up with him...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sawa falls fifteen feet from an overhead air duct--
executes a perfect somersault. Lands on cat's feet.

Utterly silent. Flawless.

From somewhere under the back of his suit jacket, TWO
KATANAS are produced. Blades gleaming.

INT. DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS

TAGGART

With all due respect, Aquarius has
acquired many artifacts over the
years. I'm not even certain we
have any sword, much less one with
a...what do you call
it...Mazoku?

CASEY

A what?

KAEMON

A blood demon.

TAGGART (CONT'D)

Imprisoned inside.

KAEMON

Well, if you *did* have such a
sword. And if you happened to
gaze upon its nine hundred year
old blade, you would notice the
very steel stained red. The
slightest drop of blood would set
the demon, Agat, within free.

Kaemon shifts targets, sensing less Viper in Casey's
demeanor.

KAEMON (CONT'D)

Blood to blood. He could move
from host to host. Leaving
carrion. Withered and soulless.
A spirit of death trapped within
the essence of life. Unless, he
takes possession of the very sword
he is presently imprisoned in...

CASEY

End of the world, right?

KAEMON

He would possess every living soul, and bring Hell itself to earth. Not to put too fine a point on it.

TAGGART

Folklore and ghost stories.

KAEMON

Perhaps.

CASEY

Could he be stopped?

Taggart is incredulous.

TAGGART

You don't *believe* this...

KAEMON

Should Agat be set free again, the sword will choose a Ronin to protect it. He will be empowered with the skill of thousand Samurai. Only *that* Ronin, with *that* sword, spilling the demon's blood, could stop Agat.

CASEY

A Ronin?

TAGGART

(impatiently)
A samurai, or something...

KAEMON

No, Mr. Taggart. He is not just a Samurai...

INT. HALL OF ARTIFACTS - CONTINUOUS

We move through the darkened hall...

KAEMON (V.O.)

He is one who has lost his Master. One who should take his life for the offense, but cannot...

To find Billy sitting quietly in a shadow. Still. His face in his carbide hands.

KAEMON (V.O.)

For this, he is to suffer great shame. Forever Masterless.

(MORE)

KAEMON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Forever without a home. Forever
on his own.

INT. DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS

KAEMON
And, if chosen by the sword,
forever walking this world.
Seeking redemption. Seeking to
become worthy. Till, the sword
chooses another...

Casey stands abruptly.

CASEY
Excuse me.

And exits. Kaemon watches her go, as Taggart drains his
glass of wine.

TAGGART
Mr. Kaemon, until Aquarius
controls Tokyo...there is no
sword. Am I clear?

KAEMON
As glass.

INT. HALL OF ARTIFACTS - NIGHT

At the far end of the hall from the entrance, a floor
grate slides silently.

Sawa emerges.

Two things grab his attention--First, the Bloodsword case
halfway across the hall. Second, there appears to be a
very depressed cop staring at the floor between he and
the sword.

Billy has his back to him.

Sawa eases through the stark shadows and bright case
lights. Past familiar "artifacts" (The Shroud of Turin.
The US Constitution. ETC.)

WITH BILLY:

Utterly oblivious to Sawa. Lost in his own world.
Contemplating...

The SINGLE BULLET between his fingers. In his other
hand, his sidearm. Unloaded. Slide back.

You know what he's thinking.

Sawa approaches, we see him over Billy's shoulder. He raises the hilt of his Katana high, ready to bash Billy in the back of the melon...

But, stops. He watches Billy slide the bullet into the chamber, release the slide--CHAK.

In the exact same instant--the door CRASHES open, scaring the bejeezus out of Billy and Sawa. Eight Cops and a lumbering Sentinel Droid appear in the doorway...

SENTINAL DROID
Perimeter breach detected...

And, aims it's Gatling gun directly at...

BILLY SAWA

Ah, shit... Ah, shit...

For a BEAT, Billy stares at Sawa behind him--startled for the second time in the same second.

Till...

Duck. SAWA

All hell breaks loose.

INT. DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS

As Kaemon raises a glass of wine to his lips...

VIRGO
Mr. Taggart?

Yes, Virgo?

VIRGO
Intrusion alarm in the Hall of
Artifacts. Shots fired.

Every eye turns to Kaemon.

KAEMON
Am I correct in assuming you're
going to overreact about this?

Chairs slide--Officers leap to their feet, hands on sidearms. Taggart stands like a Cobra rising.

Pity. KAEMON (CONT'D)

Kaemon kicks over the table--two shoto swords (the shorter samurai swords) in his hands, coming from God knows where...

TAGGART

Fire!

The Officers raise their weapons--Kaemon goes Kung-Fu. Poetry in motion. A bullet dodging, blade slinging machine.

He does all he can to NOT KILL. Dress shoes, sword hilts, and wine bottles send Officers out cold.

INT. HALL OF ARTIFACTS - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON BILLY:

Crawling across the floor. Glass showers him. Bullets WHIZ by. GUN FIRE thunders. WW III three feet above his head. An outcold RECRUIT falls next to him--the Sentinal Droid nearly steps on him.

And, Billy wants no friggin' part of any of it--headed for the door as fast as he can crawl.

Suddenly, out of the chaos, the BLOODSWORD hits the floor and slides--stops right in front of Billy's face.

Stares a BEAT--can't believe his luck.

Billy yunks it, and hauls ever lovin' ass towards the open door--fast as he can make the synthetic legs carry him.

Which isn't very far. With the bullets and the commotion, he loses concentration. The legs buckle...

BILLY

Damn...friggin'...

He stumbles drops to his knees.

INT. DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is sprawled out on the floor and moaning.

Kaemon no where to be seen, as Taggart staggers to his feet, bleeding from the forehead.

TAGGART

Virgo, seal all exits.

INT. DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS

Billy pulls himself along by the arms, still clutching the Bloodsword.

The Sentinal Droid tracks Sawa's movement as he charges the thing. Looks suicidal. But, Sawa is just too damned fast. He's in the Droid's face--SLASHING at exposed wires and hoses, and bounding over the mechanical monstrosity before it can react.

The Droid goes epileptic. Struggles to right itself--the whirring Gatling gun FIRES ASTRAY!

Rounds SHRED three of the four remaining Recruits into hamburger, as Sawa yanks the sword from Billy's hand and makes for the door...

INT. HALL OF ARTIFACTS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Armed to the teeth, still locking and loading, Casey races towards the open door.

She has friends--A DOZEN ARMED AQUARIUS OFFICERS right on her heels.

Who have no idea there's a malfunctioning Sentinal Droid ahead...

INT. HALL OF ARTIFACTS - CONTINUOUS

Sawa stops in his tracks at the sight of the Cops. He turns...

And, is punched squarely in the snout by carbide fist.

BILLY

Good night.

Sawa stumbles. Out like a light. Trips over a body. The Bloodsword sails into the hallway.

About then, Billy hears a Gatling gun spinning up. Chances a look behind him--nothing but malfunctioning Droid.

BILLY

Come...on...

He drops to the floor as a FLAMING BURST of gunfire spits forth...

IN HALLWAY:

Casey BARELY hits the deck in time, as Bullets tear into her Team--tracers flaming.

One of the surviving Officers spots the Bloodsword, laying half out of its scabbard. Blade exposed.

He grabs it, and runs.

THWACK. And catches a round in the back. BLOOD SPLATTERS. Blood runs down his arm. Over his hand...

Onto the Bloodsword.

He drops it. Shock keeps him stumbling forward.

INT. HALL OF ARTIFACTS - CONTINUOUS

Billy grabs the weapon of a dead Recruit and unloads into the malfunctioning droid--puts the thing out of his misery.

He turns his attentions back to Sawa. Problem is...

He's gone.

IN HALLWAY:

Billy finds the dead Cops. Casey is outcold, a mark on her forehead that looks suspiciously like she was bashed with a sword hilt.

Billy grabs another weapon--eases down the hallway.

WITH SAWA:

Katana at the ready, moving like a cat, Sawa spots the Bloodsword on the floor...and a trail of blood.

FURTHER UP HALLWAY:

The SHOT OFFICER slides along the wall, staggering.

TEARS OF BLOOD pour from his eyes.

AROUND THE CORNER:

Kaemon's dress shoes tap staccato down the hall, racing this way...

And SLAMS dead into the Shot Officer as he rounds the corner. The Officer grabs him tightly--face to face. Kaemon's eyes widen in horror...

SHOT OFFICER
(Subtitled/Japanese)
Kaemon-san. Have you missed me?

The Shot Officer spits blood into Kaemon's face, and promptly drops dead.

INT. HALLWAY (WITH SAWA) - CONTINUOUS

WHISTLING echoes--a sad Japanese Folk melody. You can actually see Sawa's blood turn to ice.

BILLY (O.C.)
Drop the cutlery, Asshole!

Sawa slides the Bloodsword down the hall behind him--doesn't even look at Billy.

SAWA
Take it and run.

BILLY
What?

SAWA
I'll hold him off as long as I
can...

BILLY
Buddy, I don't think you're paying
attention...

Kaemon strolls around the corner--a BLOODY TEAR drips from his cheek. A Shoto in each in hand--resting on his shoulders.

KAEMON
(subtitled/Japanese)
What year is it, Sawa-San?

Sawa steps back.

SAWA
(to Billy)
Run...

BILLY
One more time...everybody that
isn't me, drop your...

Kaemon attacks! So, fast he's a blur. Sawa BARELY deflects blow after blow. The air a blur of blades. Impossibly fast. Inhumanly so.

Guns or not...

BILLY
Screw that.

He grabs the Bloodsword and beats feet the other way. A BEAT later, SAWA sails through the hall backwards and slams into him.

Billy back crawls FIRING--BAM BAM BAM. Empties his weapon into Kaemon, who drops his swords. Grabs his chest. Staggers. Coughs.

Coughing that becomes HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER.

KAEMON

Ow.

Billy drops the gun. Fucked. Nothing he can do--Kaemon raises a shoto...

Till, Sawa blind sides him Detroit Lions style. They tumble ass over tea kettle through the hall, locked in mortal combat...

Billy's eyes go to the Bloodsword on the floor...

WITH SAWA AND KAEMON:

Sawa is bleeding. Cut up pretty good. His skill is staggering; his ability stunning. But, he's no match for Agat/Kaemon.

Sawa's Katana is knocked from his hand--defeated.

KAEMON

(Subtitled/Japanese)

Accept your shame.

Panting. Bleeding. Exhausted. Sawa drops to his knees--bows his head. Kaemon raises his blade to take Sawa's head. The blade comes down...

At the last possible instant--KLANG. It's blocked by the Bloodsword.

BILLY

(Subtitled/Japanese)

I have chosen, Demon.

INT. HALL OF ARTIFACTS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Casey and Taggart meet, both bleeding from shots to the head and accompanied by DOZENS OF OFFICERS.

CASEY

A dozen dead...and the sword is gone...

TAGGART

Challas?

CASEY

I don't know...

TAGGART

Virgo, locate Challas, William.
Converge every available Unit on
his location.

(to Casey)

You had better pray he's dead or a
hostage.

INT. HALLWAY WITH BILLY - CONTINUOUS

Billy seems a foot taller. Regal. The Bloodsword an
extension of himself. Sawa by his side--his jaw on the
floor.

KAEMON

A cripple? The Ronin is a
cripple? Should I be offended,
or...

Billy is on him before he finishes the sentence, doing
things with the Bloodsword he shouldn't be able to do.
Not a hint of weakness in his body.

Kaemon is only caught off guard for a moment before
counter-attacking--twin blades singing. But, even he
isn't prepared for Billy's prowess...

Especially once Sawa gets his shit together and joins the
attack.

Aquarius Officer's are converging from both ends of the
hall. The familiar WHIR/THUD of Sentinal Droids echoes
from down the hall.

Agat is pissed.

He leaps back to put distance between his attackers, and
SLICES HIS OWN FINGERS...

KAEMON

Another time, Ronin.

Agat/Kaemon turns--FLICKS bloody fingers in the direction
of FIVE APPROACHING OFFICERS. The slightest droplets of
blood hit each in the face...

Kaemon runs right past them, as the Five Officers, now
possessed, attack Billy and Sawa--guns blazing. The
Demon's Kung-Fu POSSESSING THEIR BODIES. A bullet heads
for Billy's face...

THE WORLD SLOWS...

Billy cuts the fucking bullet IN HALF, length ways, mid-
flight. Then, he and Sawa wade into the Possessed Cops,
making short work of them.

But, just before the last body hits the floor...

CASEY (O.S.)

Billy!

The body drops as Billy turns. Casey stares dead at him--horror on her face. Billy drops the Bloodsword. His legs tremble. Shocked at himself.

BILLY

Casey, I...

She just saw he and Sawa kill five Officers. She draws her weapon...

Sawa grabs the Bloodsword and drags Billy.

SAWA

Come on...

BILLY

I didn't...

SAWA

Now!

She can't bring herself to shoot him--just watches Billy LIMP AWAY with Sawa.

CASEY

Virgo!

VIRGO

Yes, Officer Reade?

BEAT.

Pissed at herself, at him, Casey yells--fires her weapon into the ceiling. Throws it against a wall.

CASEY

Nothing...

EXT. DARKENED ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Nearby HOLOGRAPHIC BILLBOARDS throw odd dancing shadows, as Hovercraft HUM by overhead...

BILLY (O.S.)

Ow! Damnit, man...!

WE FIND Sawa and Billy in a corner--the city stretching forth twenty stories below.

Billy rubs the back of his bloody neck, as Sawa stomps the just extracted Omni Tag.

SAWA
Is there anywhere safe we can go?

BILLY
Safe...

SAWA
Somewhere to hide.

BILLY
Can I ask you a question?
(BEAT)
What the blue flamin' hell just
happened?! I just *killed* five
cops. Any idea how much we frown
upon that kinda stuff around here?

SAWA
They were as good as dead. Agat's
blood had...

BILLY
Who?

SAWA
Agat.

BILLY
Listen, Sake'...

SAWA
Sawa.

Billy grabs him by the Jacket.

BILLY
What's happening to me?

Sawa looks heavenward with a sigh.

SAWA
(Subtitled/Japanese)
Sustain me.
(to Billy)
A thousand years ago the blood
demon Agat killed an Archangel for
this blade. It's the only thing
that will kill the Guardians of
After World...

BILLY
After World...

SAWA

Hell, if you will. With the Guardians dead, nothing will stop Agat from bringing hell to earth. It'll be his kingdom. Possess every soul. The Archangel knew this, and with his dying breath and blood, cursed the sword. Trapping Agat inside the very thing he desired. But, now he's free, and the sword chose you to protect it.

BILLY

Why me?

SAWA

I'm asking myself that exact question.

BILLY

This doesn't make any sense...

SAWA

You have to strike Agat down with the Bloodsword to imprison him again. If he gets the sword before you do...

BILLY

I'm supposed to believe this?

SAWA

Two hundred years ago *I* was the last Ronin. It was lost to me. Now, it has chosen you. You don't have much choice in the matter.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Even in this day and age, there's a "seedy" part of town. And, that's where we find Agat/Kaemon strolling.

A smile on his face a mile wide as he eyes the WOMEN OF THE NIGHT tricked out in next to nothing eyeing him back. Trapped in a sword for two hundred years, he's never seen this new world.

Hologram Hookers shake their money makers in flickering glory, as moving billboards tell us what we're missing.

A REAL GIRL in a hint of a miniskirt catches his eye-- we'll call her CANDY. Agat strolls right up to her, and SNIFFS along the side of her exposed neck as if she were a steak.

CANDY

Hi, Handsome. You lookin' for
some fun tonight?

Agat/Kaemon flashes a smile of sheer sinister joy.

AGAT/KAEMON

Something like that.

As they stroll away hand in hand, all of those Racy
Billboard ads change...

To a picture of BILLY. Bright red flashes. As does the
text:

"ALERT: WANTED. DO NOT APPROACH. EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.
AQUARIUS THANKS YOU FOR YOUR VIGILANCE."

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ - NIGHT

The gleaming white and digital green citadel is abuzz
with activity.

Hovercraft by the dozen take off from the roof, as
SENTINAL DROIDS pour out of the front gates--lumbering
down the street and scaring the shit out every pedestrian
in sight.

INT. TACTICAL CONTROL CENTER - NIGHT

OFFICERS man bleeding edge technology computers, as
hundreds of screens and holograms relay video footage
through the "eyes" of Sentinal Droids and "bird's eye"
views from the Hovercraft.

"Helmet Cam" POV's dance with disorienting motion from
Aquarius Cops on the move somewhere in the city.

Presiding over it all is Taggart. Who, at the moment,
tries in vain to ignore Casey.

CASEY

Why the hell not?

Taggart doesn't reply.

She grabs his shoulder.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Give me a chance. Let me bring
him in. Alive...

TAGGART

Aquarius has a global reputation
to protect.

(MORE)

TAGGART (CONT'D)

And, right now one of our own is a murderer...and a thief.

CASEY

Damnit, will you listen to me for a second? I know him better than anyone...

TAGGART

Didn't know him well enough to see this, did you? McKenna warned me this might happen.

BEAT.

CASEY

He told you...

TAGGART

Should have my head examined for not terminating the project years ago.

CASEY

I never should've saved him. And, you shouldn't have used him for a lab rat. We did this to him. You. And, me. And, McKenna. *All of us.* He's right. He shoulda died with his Father. We took that from him...

TAGGART

Don't worry. We'll reunite them tonight. Discussion over.

Casey storms out.

INT. BIO-MECHANICS LAB - NIGHT

Dr. McKenna falls back into a rack of equipment, holding his nose.

REVERSE ON:

Casey shakes her hand--that hurt.

CASEY

You bastard.

MCKENNA

Casey, you don't understand...

CASEY

I'm the Head of Security for
cryin' out loud! What else have
you been lying to me about?

MCKENNA

This is not a discussion we need
to be having.

McKenna suddenly looks very uncomfortable, almost
pleading.

Her eyes go to the whiz bang technology laying about the
place--bio circuitry. Limbs similar to Billy's. Tag
Technology and digital schematics.

CASEY

Have you been lying about the
Tags, too? Can they be fatal?

MCKENNA

Casey, I'm serious...

Something dawns on Casey--she picks up a synthetic hand
staring at the technology inside

CASEY

He's not the problem is he? It's
the bio-circuitry. It doesn't
work...

VIRGO

Is there a problem, Dr. McKenna?

Fear in McKenna's eyes.

MCKENNA

No, Virgo. No problem at all.
Officer Reade was just leaving.
(to Casey)
Isn't that right?

McKenna scribbles a note quickly, and flashes it to
Casey: "OUTSIDE. 10 MINS".

Just like that, McKenna isn't the only one in the room
who is a little uneasy.

CASEY

Yeah. I am.

AS she exits...

CLOSE ON SECURITY CAM:

A tiny camera in darkened corner. The iris opens. The lens' motor rotating...

Seeing all.

INT. SEEDY MOTEL ROOM- NIGHT

Some things never change.

It's that kind of room. Dingy mirrors on the ceiling. Faded velvet wall paper. And a heart shaped bed...

Upon which is the very dead body of Kaemon. He looks like a skeleton wrapped in thin leather under a suit.

Skin stretched tight.

Eyes sunken.

But, that might be a smile forever frozen on his face.

The room door is still open. In the hall someone is WHISTLING a sad Japanese melody...

INT. SEEDY MOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Down the hall of kaleidoscope carpet the elevator door is open, framing CANDY in all her high heel and mini-skirt glory.

A single TEAR OF BLOOD falls from the corner of her eye. Slender hands wrapped around two gleaming Shoto swords.

The GUIDO in the elevator with her eyes her from heels to hair spray--isn't phased at all by the swords.

INSIDE ELEVATOR:

DING.

The doors close. In the reflective surface, we see the Guido's reflection, but not Candy's. Instead, it's...

AGAT'S REFLECTION--his true self in hideous red boiling glory, swords in hand. Guido never notices.

GUIDO

Yo, Legs...how much somethin' like
that set a fella back?

REVERSE ON REFLECTION:

Candy's pretty face smiles. Turns slowly to Guido...

INT. SEEDY MOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Elevator doors closed. Car going down...

And you can still hear Guido screaming from here.

EXT. DARKENED ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Billy eyes the Bloodsword in his hand. He pulls it from the scabbard--gleams in the digital lights of this modern world.

Stares at his own reflection in it.

He shoves it back into the scabbard...

BILLY

Sorry, Old Man...

Tosses it at Sawa's feet.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Countin' on me is just about the last thing anybody wants to do.

SAWA

You would have Agat destroy the world...

BILLY

Honestly...

Billy turns his back--limps away.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Don't think I'd even notice.

Sawa watches him for a lingering BEAT.

SAWA

Will you let *her* die, then?

Billy stops. Doesn't turn.

SAWA

I'm two hundred and fifty years old, Billy. There are two things I've learned, and only two things, in all those years. Nothing ever works out like its supposed to. And...there's always a her.

Sawa picks up the sword.

SAWA (CONT'D)

Whether you accept it, or not.
Her life is in your hands. If you
don't care about the world, and
everyone in it, do you at least
care enough to save her?

Billy turns--Sawa extends the sword to him. He doesn't
take it. Just stares at it like it was a snake ready to
strike.

SAWA

Well?

BEAT.

BILLY

You're asking me to save the world
and battle a demon for my *ex-wife*.
Gimme a minute...

Sawa throws him the sword.

SAWA

While that blade is in your
possession, you have within you
the spirit of every Ronin that
came before you. But, it is for
nothing if you cannot let go of
what you have been, and embrace
what you are to become. The power
of a hundred Samurai is yours, if
you'll just accept it.

BILLY

I ain't no hero, Sawa.

SAWA

Just trust that you *can* be.

BEAT.

BILLY

Like I said...

Billy tosses the Bloodsword back to Sawa.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Sorry.

Billy limps to a GLASS ELEVATOR--a shiny glass tube on
the exterior of the shiny glass building...

INT. TACTICAL CONTROL CENTER - NIGHT

The place is pandemonium. The Tempo of the pulse in the room faster.

But, Taggart seems impervious to it all.

On a screen he eyes two BLIPS not far from the entrance of Aquarius HQ. One BLUE. One YELLOW.

He isn't happy with the Blips...

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ - CONTINUOUS

As Sentinel Droids march the perimeter, Casey and McKenna speak in hushed tones just outside the perimeter gates.

McKenna is sweating bullets.

He hands Casey a TINY COMPUTER DRIVE.

CASEY

What's this?

He checks over his shoulders.

MCKENNA

Everything I know. Don't ask me anything else.

He turns to leave, Casey grabs his arm.

CASEY

Billy?

McKenna sighs--irritated.

MCKENNA

He went off the grid...

CASEY

Yeah, he removed his Tag...

MCKENNA

No, before that. During the fight. A few seconds before he killed those cops. All physiological data ceased.

CASEY

No. I've seen psych profiles of breaks before. Shoulda been red lining everything. Adrenalin. Heart rate. Blood pressure...

MCKENNA

Nothing. Like Billy Challas
ceased to be.

CASEY

That's not possible.

MCKENNA

You're right.

Casey's badge BLINKS--she presses the tag on the back of
her neck. The Future's Cell Phone...

CASEY

(on "phone")
Go...what? Where?

INT. GLASS ELEVATOR - NIGHT

The New World stretches to infinity from here. The sky
full of lights, Hovercraft, and skyscrapers. Pristine.

Birds are everywhere. The sky is full of them.
Attracted by shadowy perches in gleaming half-mile high
buildings.

Beautiful. Like the whole city was crafted from crystal
and digital light.

The polar opposite of the man gazing across it in most
every way. Billy sighs.

A flickering, static tinged reflection joins Billy's in
the glass. Mary the Hologram.

BILLY

Not gonna get that maid tomorrow,
Mary.

MARY

I'm worried about you, Billy.

BILLY

Honey, yer just an outdated little
computer in a shitty little
apartment. Know what that means?

Mary hangs her head.

BILLY (CONT'D)

You *gotta* have something better to
worry about than me. So, how
'bout ya leave me alone.

MARY

Is it true what they're saying
about you?

BEAT.

BILLY

I ain't comin' home, Mary. Goin'
away...

If it's possible for a hologram to look heart-broken,
Mary does it.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Maybe you'll luck out. Next
tenant could actually be a maid.

MARY

Virgo keeps asking me where you
are. And, they're in me now.
Looking for you. But, I didn't
tell them anything. I would never
tell them anything.

BILLY

I know.

BEAT--a cloud passes Billy's face.

BILLY

Mary?

MARY

Yes, Billy?

BILLY

How did you find me?

She looks sheepish.

MARY

You know how I worry about you...

BILLY

How did you find me, Mary...

MARY

I just want to help you...

BILLY

Tell me.

MARY

Your keys...

Billy damned near rips his pants off digging out the set of Keycards--they're BLINKING.

MARY (CONT'D)
I asked, and they told me they
were in your pocket.

BEAT.

BILLY
Turn 'em off!

An AQUARIUS Hovercraft falls into view through the windows of the elevator--matching the descent.

Twenty feet away.

Billy drops to the floor as the Craft's CANONS TEAR THROUGH THE GLASS ELEVATOR--where his head was a second ago. Turns glass into powder...

Rounds still blazing, Billy rolls out of the cab...

EXT. GLASS ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

...and just manages to grab part of the elevator car's structure underneath.

Dangling fifty stories up--hanging on for dear freakin' life.

EXT. DARKENED ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Sawa races to the edge--looks over.

He slides the Bloodsword scabbard into his belt, and unsheathes his sword. He hesitates for the slightest of moments and...

LEAPS OVER THE EDGE--twenty stories down to the Hovercraft.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Candy stands in the middle of an intersection--staring down a street. What passes for cars these days are stopped. DRIVER'S yell. "Horns" honk...

CANON FIRE echoes through the street's canyons--not too far away. Candy sees the Hovercraft canons BLAZING a couple of blocks away.

PEDESTRIANS and Drivers congregate around her, also watching the excitement down the street...

Candy brings a shoto sword to her mouth--licks it.
Running her tongue along the razor like edge. Almost
seductively.

Fucking wince inducing to see.

She runs--murder in her unholy eyes. Leaping over cars.
Running over the top of them...

INT. ATTACKING HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The PILOT lowers the Craft--dashboard lights reflecting
off a black face mask.

There's Billy, lookin' at him lookin' at him.

PILOT
(on Radio)
Raptor 1211, fugitive still in
sight. Standby for confirmation
of...

THUMP--something lands on the roof, and...

A SAMURAI SWORD PUNCHES THROUGH THE COCKPIT--right into
the top of the Pilot's helmet...

EXT. HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Buried to the hilt--Sawa pulls his sword from the hull
and leaps through the shattered elevator windows...

EXT. GLASS ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

UNDERNEATH WITH BILLY:

As the Hovercraft sways, falling with them...

Sawa peeks over the edge, his face upside down.

SAWA
Grab my hand...

Billy reaches out...

Grabs a shocked Sawa by the front of his jacket, and
YANKS him over the edge!

SAWA
I said hand!

Just as the Hovercraft SLAMS totally out of control into
the Glass Elevator car where Sawa was a split second ago.

Billy's now holding on to the elevator car with one hand,
and Sawa, dangling, with the other.

BILLY

Great plan, man. What now?

SAWA

Still working on that part.

The Hovercraft SHEERS OFF THE ELEVATOR CAR from the building--the force embedding it's structure into the thin hull of the Craft...

EXT. ATTACKING HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Craft careens off the skyscraper, taking the elevator car with it--along with Billy and Sawa

Yawing and pitching wildly, the Hovercraft CRASHES into building after building on its way down.

WITH BILLY:

Struggling to hold on. Concentration is no problem for the boy right now--his synthetic hand is like an iron vice on the bar he hangs from. So tight in fact...

It CRUNCHES under his fingers. Collapses. Bends...

BILLY

Ah...damnit...

And breaks.

Billy and Sawa are sent screaming through mid-air as DOZENS MORE Hovercraft race over building tops, lights flashing, to the scene...

The Hovercraft SLAMS into the street below--the buildings on either side containing the fireball between them.

It flowers up the street, blowing out windows.

EXT. HUDSON RIVER - NIGHT

SPLASH X 2.

EXT. HUDSON RIVER BANK - MOMENTS LATER

Sawa and Billy drag themselves out of the water.

SAWA

That's twice tonight I saved your life...

After a lengthy moment of panting, being soggy and pissed off about it...

BILLY

Sawa...?

SAWA

What.

BILLY

Gimme that friggin' sword.

He does.

INT. SEEDY MOTEL - NIGHT

Casey stares at the withered body of Kaemon. Aquarius Officers mill about, attending to the investigation. One of them, a SERGEANT, is at her side...

SERGEANT

See the one in the elevator, yet?

CASEY

Spend the rest of my life tryin' to forget it.

SERGEANT

Never even heard of somebody doin' somethin' like that.

CASEY

Find the rest of 'em?

The Sergeant shakes his head.

SERGEANT

Any idea the kind of strength it takes to rip someone apart? Only one guy I know who could do that. Challas.

She stares at Kaemon's body.

CASEY

It wasn't him.

SERGEANT

Who else?

CASEY

"Leaving carrion. Withered and soulless..."

SERGEANT

What?

She turns to him.

CASEY

Tag data. Who was the last person
in this room and that elevator?

SERGEANT

Hooker. Candy Banderas, I
think...

Casey runs out of the Motel Room.

INT. CASEY'S HOVERCRAFT - MOMENTS LATER

She hits the Pilot seat flipping switches--takes off. A
HOLOGRAM OF TAGGART pops up on the "dash"...

CASEY

It's not Billy!

TAGGART HOLOGRAM

Casey...

CASEY

It's true, Taggart. That story
Kaemon told us. I think it's
true. Agat. He's real. He's
free...and, he's here.

TAGGART HOLOGRAM

Casey...

CASEY

Taggart...I think Billy might be
the Ronin...

The Craft shudders. Controls don't respond to Casey's
efforts to steer--changes course. She takes her hands
off the controls slowly...

CASEY

What are you doing...

TAGGART

Returning you to Headquarters.
You're relieved of Command.

CASEY

No...

TAGGART

Officer Reade, you are hereby
notified that you are being placed
under arrest...

CASEY

Arrest? For what!

TAGGART

The murder of Dr. Peter McKenna.

The blood drains from her face. Taggart's Hologram disappears. For a moment, shock leaves her immobile.

Then, like something was on fire in her pocket, her fingers dig--retrieves the small DRIVE McKenna gave her.

Casey slides it into a terminal on the board...

EXT. RIVERFRONT BUILDING ROOF - NIGHT

A woman's silhouette atop the edge of the building--way up. Nothing but birds between her and the sky.

WITH SILHOUETTE:

Agat/Candy raises the twin swords high above her head, and SCREAMS an INHUMAN ROAR that sends birds scampering away and...

BLOWS OUT WINDOWS for a block. Moving VIDEO BILLBOARD fracture and collapse--sending still ANIMATED SHARDS tumbling.

Then...

AGAT/CANDY

RONIN..!

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Frosted glass and Video Shards fall like lethal rain onto the street. One punches into the roof of a Car, the lips of the Spokesperson on it still moving.

And, in the middle of it all, Billy and Sawa. They duck and cover till the lethal deluge stops.

Billy looks like he's ready to hyperventilate.

SAWA

Let go of all you have been...

BILLY

Right...

SAWA

Embrace who you...

BILLY

Yeah, yeah. I'm workin' on it, OK?

EXT. RIVERFRONT BUILDING ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Agat/Candy DIVES from the edge...

TRACKING WITH HER FALL:

Hair blowing. Swords outstretched...

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Agat/Candy lands as gentle as a feather. Hell in Heels and Steel.

Billy and Sawa stare. Agat/Candy glares back, casually swinging her swords--they WHIP the air.

BEAT.

BILLY

You do somethin' different with
your hair?

AGAT/CANDY

Give me *my* sword.

BILLY

'Fraid I can't do that.

Agat saunters around Billy and Sawa, circling slowly.

Her voice modulates from feminine to GRAVEL...

AGAT/CANDY

Do you know what I am? What I
have seen? What I can do? To
you...

SPARKS fly from the tips of her swords as she drags them
across asphalt.

SAWA

(to Billy)

Don't listen to anything it says.

AGAT/CANDY

Your anguish is wine to me, and I
can taste you from here. You
don't have to die, Ronin. I can
give you dominion over all who
have hurt you. You can rule with
me this very night...

SAWA

Billy...

AGAT/CANDY
Strike down the Old Man. And,
hand me that blade.

Billy turns to Sawa.

AGAT/CANDY (CONT'D)
How this world has wronged you.
How you've suffered...

The Bloodsword shakes in Billy's hand--his hand trembles.

AGAT/CANDY (CONT'D)
Nothing is good enough. The
humiliation. Their derision. How
you hate them...

SAWA
It's a liar.

AGAT/CANDY
Sounds like truth to me. Sawa-San
only wants to save his own skin.
He doesn't care about you, Ronin.

BILLY
No...

Agat/Candy leans a little closer and whispers...

AGAT/CANDY (CONT'D)
No one understands you. Just look
what they've done to you...

Billy's whole body trembles--a war raging within. He
shuts his eyes tight.

AGAT/CANDY
Serve me, Ronin. And, be a Ronin
no more.

BILLY
I...

Billy opens his eyes--THEY'RE UTTERLY WHITE. GLOWING.

BILLY
(Subtitled/Japanese)
I am the servant of The Sword...
(English)
And your death is my life.

Billy attacks with a speed that is simply superhuman--
Sawa hot on his heels.

Agat SHRIEKS in a rage--meets their attack head on.
Swords sing. CLANG. SPARK.

Over the tops of cars. Down the street. The fight is a blur of steel and Kung-Fu that's almost impossible to follow with the naked eye.

Sawa can't even keep up.

Panting, he has to stop. Stunned at Billy's ability. Who just gets faster.

And, faster.

And, Stronger.

Till, he swings a wild blow that misses Agat and connects with the side of a Skyscraper. In a shower of sparks--
CONCRETE EXPLODES FROM THE IMPACT.

Agat reels. Shocked.

AGAT/CANDY

No...

Billy keeps coming. SLICING CLEAN THROUGH one of Agat's Swords--the blade goes sailing.

Growling, Agat plays defense. Deflecting blows, unable to actually stop them. KLANG--Billy slices the other shoto cleanly in two.

Agat leaps an unbelievable distance vertically--clings to the side of a building, and scampers up the facade like some inhuman spider.

Billy sheaths the Bloodsword, and takes off after Agat--His powerful synthetic fingers digging into concrete--clawing his way up.

SAWA

Billy, wait!

No use.

SAWA

Damnit...

Sawa runs into the elevator--presses the hell out of buttons...

EXT. SKYSCRAPER ROOF - NIGHT

Billy pulls himself over the edge--draws the Bloodsword. Ready for anything.

A flock of birds takes flight--startles him. Every shadows holds danger. Every corner, death. There's a demon here somewhere...

DING.

The elevator arrives. Billy doesn't turn--knows it's Sawa.

BILLY

Careful. Don't know where it is...

SAWA (O.C.)

I do.

Something in his tone stops Billy in his tracks. He's hoping he isn't going to see what he thinks he's going to see...

Billy turns.

Agat/Candy has Sawa's sword to the Old Man's throat. A broken window in the elevator car tells the how.

She walks Sawa out...

AGAT/CANDY

So young. You know so little...

Billy takes a step forward.

AGAT/CANDY (CONT'D)

You're not that fast, Ronin. The sword, or his life. Choose. Now.

BILLY

Wait...

AGAT/CANDY

No.

SAWA

A samurai must die; it is his fortune.

AGAT/CANDY

The sword!

BILLY

Sawa..?

SAWA (CONT'D)

You give me an honorable death, Billy.

(MORE)

SAWA (CONT'D)
(Subtitled/Japanese)
Thank you.

Sawa grabs the blade--quickly drags the razor edge down to his stomach.

And, SHOVES it into his own gut. Seppuku. A Samurai's ritualistic suicide.

BILLY
NO..!

Agat/Candy finishes the job with an exaggerated flourish--drops Sawa's lifeless body.

AGAT/CANDY
I thought he'd *never* leave.

With a REBEL YELL, Billy charges.

Swords meet in the klanging morse code of combat--a dance of death one hundred stories up.

Billy is furious. Sloppy. His eyes *aren't* glowing--just full of hatred.

Agat/Candy laughs. Pisses him off more.

BILLY
I'm gonna cut your heart out!

AGAT/CANDY
Now you're talkin'...

Billy is winded. The fight sapping his strength.

He stumbles.

Recovering, but just barely. In the nick of time to avoid losing his head.

AGAT/CANDY
Tsk. Tsk. You're fighting for yourself, Ronin. You're own anger...

Billy stumbles again--goes to his knees under the relentless attack of Agat.

Instantly, Agat's sword is at his throat.

AGAT/CANDY (CONT'D)
Makes you Mortals weak.

BEAT.

BILLY

Yeah, but we're shifty bastards...

He was faking--an opportunity to grab a handful of crumbled asphalt! He throws it into Agat/Candy's face. Knocking the sword from her hand as she winces, sending it soaring.

Unarmed, Agat/Candy runs for the edge of the Skyscraper. Billy grabs Sawa's sword out of thin air, and throws it...

Just as Agat/Candy reaches the edge--THWACK!

Impales her in the back.

GROWLING, she reaches for the sword and pulls the blade free--teetering. Bleeding a river from the wound and from the mouth...

Her eyes roll up. Agat/Candy topples over the edge.

Billy runs over.

LOOKING DOWN:

Body and sword tumble. Further. Past a FLIGHT OF RAVENS.

Further still. Till...

Thud. Candy's lifeless body hits the ground a thousand feet below like a graduate of the Wile E. Coyote Sky Diving Academy.

Billy stares for a long moment--watching. Waiting. Half expecting her to get up, leap up here, and tear his head off.

But, she doesn't move.

Panting, Billy catches his breath. Cracks his neck. Nods the nod of the "I can't believe I'm victorious".

BILLY

...bitch.

He stumbles over to Sawa's lifeless body--drops to his knees. Billy crosses the dead Old Man's hands over his still chest.

Closes his open eyes.

BILLY

Tried to tell ya. See what happens when you count on me?

Something hurts inside. Deep.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Guess yer in good company. Take
care of 'em, Dad.

The droning of engines yanks Billy out of his make shift graveside service.

Aquarius Hovercraft SCREAM out of the clouds--Billy ducks. They descend to the area where battle began below--responding.

Billy slinks into the shadows...

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

CLOSE ON CANDY'S DEAD EYES:

Lifeless and staring...

WE PULL BACK:

This kind of thing doesn't happen around here anymore. As such, the reaction is far beyond what we'd expect today.

A massive crowd of ONLOOKERS has gathered. Sentinal Droids keep them at bay.

NEWSBOTS, cat sized autonomous floating cameras buzz around the scene--gathering footage for an alphabet soup of network names stenciled on the side of them.

Two AQUARIUS SPOKESPEOPLE speak to two separate moving swarms of the Newsbots, and the HOLOGRAPHIC REPORTERS with them.

We catch snippets of both as we move...

SPOKESPERSON #1
Absolutely not. This has
absolutely nothing to do with any
failure of tag technology...

SPOKESPERSON #2
No, the myth of Tags proving fatal
is just that. A myth. We have no
details, but it appears a
suicide...

SPOKESPERSON #1
The victim was not being pursued,
and had not been subjected to
Neuro-Paralysis...

Far away, at the back of the crowd of Onlookers, are a small throng of PROTESTERS.

Hand painted signs held high read things like: "TAGS KILL." "KEEP YOUR TECHNOLOGY OFF MY BODY." "TRACK THIS, YOU BASTARDS!"

As chaos unfolds, no one notices a lone figure making his way through it all.

His head his down. His steps are quick, but not too quick.

Billy slides past them all...

EXT. FURTHER DOWN THE STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Billy ducks into the mouth of an alley.

Exhausted, he leans against a wall. He has the distinct look of "what the hell do I do now" on his face.

BILLY

Oh, Jesus...oh, man.

He looks at the Bloodsword, shakes his head.

Billy spots a yellow Taxi cab moving up the street towards him--he flags it down.

INT. TAXI - MOMENTS LATER

The Taxi Driver, a crusty old cat named HEAD, half-mauled hot dog in hand, hits the meter--engages a turbo fan.

The Cab lifts off, flowing into the floating traffic far above the street.

HEAD

Where you goin', man?

BILLY

Away. Outta the city.

HEAD

Fair enough. You got a direction in mind, my friend?

BILLY

What direction we goin' now?

HEAD

West.

BILLY

There ya go.

HEAD

Shit's hittin' the fan, ain't it?
I'd get outta town too, if I
could. Rogue Aquarius Cops.
Tags. Kinda makes ya wish for
another asteroid, don't it?
Reboot *this* reboot.

Billy watches the world go by outside the window.

HEAD (CONT'D)

World's goin' to hell, I tell ya.

BILLY

Not tonight.

HEAD

What?

BILLY

Nothin'.

BEAT--Billy's brow furrows.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Cops...?

HEAD

What about 'em?

BILLY

You said rogue *cops*. Plural...

HEAD

Yeah, that Challas cat who went
all stabby, and...uh...Reade, I
think.

BILLY

Casey Reade?

HEAD

I dunno. Their Head of Security.
Easy on the eyes. Been all over
the news. *Just* busted her for
murder...

BILLY

She killed someone?

HEAD

Bastard who created these things
in our necks...

BILLY

McKenna.

HEAD

There ya go. Karma's a bitch,
ain't it?

Billy rubs his face.

BILLY

Just thinkin' the same thing.

HEAD

They'll turn the execution into a
dog and pony show. You watch.
Make a ton on the commercials...

BILLY

Say that again...

HEAD

Public execution, believe that?
Show us that no one is above the
law. Not even an Aquarius Cop.
Bullshit if you ask me. Do as we
say, or this could be you. That's
what this is about...

BILLY

East.

HEAD

What?

BILLY

Changed my mind.

HEAD

That's back to the city, man.

BILLY

Yeah.

EXT. LANDING PAD (AQUARIUS HQ) - NIGHT

Casey's Hovercraft sits on the landing pad--ramp down.
TWO Aquarius COPS pull her off in cuffs.

She's lead to a waiting Taggart.

CASEY

You son of a bitch...

TAGGART

(to Cops)
Solitary confinement. No contact
with anyone.

He stares dead into her eyes--threatening.

TAGGART (CONT'D)

If she opens her
mouth...incapacitate her.

Casey is dragged away.

TAGGART

Virgo?

VIRGO

Yes, Mr. Taggart?

TAGGART

Remove Reade, Casey from all
location grid access. No one
knows her exact location but me.

VIRGO

Done.

TAGGART

And, recall all perimeter patrols.

VIRGO

Is this wise? Billy Challas is
not yet in custody.

Taggart watches the Cops disappear inside with Casey.

TAGGART

Leave the front door open for him,
Virgo.

VIRGO

I understand.

Taggart turns to head into HQ, when an unexpected sound
startles him...

A RAVEN'S CROAK--it's staring at him from atop Casey's
Hovercraft...

A BLOODY TEAR oozes from one of its black eyes.

TAGGART

What are you lookin' at..?

It croaks a reply...

INT. AQUARIUS HQ - NIGHT

Taggart strolls down a hall. A small smile on his face.
A slight swagger in his walk.

WHISTLING a sad Japanese melody.

VIRGO

Mr. Taggart?

Taggart, who is obviously possessed by Agat now, stops cold. Looks about, mildly surprised.

AGAT/TAGGART

That's interesting...

VIRGO

Your Tag is functioning, I ran diagnostics on it. However, all physiological data has ceased. Are you OK?

AGAT/TAGGART

Never better.

(BEAT)

Virgo, is it? I need an errand run...

INT. HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Casey sits on a cot in a sparse cell. A translucent field along one wall serves the purpose of bars.

Agat/Taggart enters. Casey leaps to her feet, back to the wall, staring daggers at him.

AGAT/TAGGART

Well...aren't you a vision?

She takes a swing at him.

Astonishingly fast, Taggart catches it cold--like she hit a brick wall.

AGAT/TAGGART

I see what he sees in you, Casey.

CASEY

I swear to God, I'll see you hang for this.

He eyes her from heels to hairspray. Takes a step closer. Uncomfortably closer.

AGAT/TAGGART

Know the interesting thing about possessing a human? Their memories and knowledge become mine, as well as their bodies.

He leers at her--sends her stepping back.

AGAT/TAGGART (CONT'D)
Every little insipid thing. It
can be maddening.

He steps even closer. In her space.

AGAT/TAGGART (CONT'D)
But, sometimes...

The blood drains from Casey's face as she does the
addition in her head.

CASEY
Agat...

Taggart's face lights up.

AGAT/TAGGART
Say it again.

Casey's jaw locks in terror. He hand grabs her face
roughly, pulls it close to his.

AGAT/TAGGART (CONT'D)
You can do it. Try real hard.

CASEY
Ag...Agat.

AGAT/TAGGART
You're going to be a useful little
thing, aren't you?

Damned near instantly, she's picked up by the throat and
SLAMMED against a wall. Boots a foot off the ground.

AGAT/TAGGART (CONT'D)
Useful, indeed...

INT. AQUARIUS HQ - MOMENTS LATER

Agat/Taggart carries an OUT COLD CASEY over his shoulder.
"Just another day at the office" style. And, whistling
that damned melody.

A YOUNG OFFICER approaches from behind, carrying Sawa's
sword--the woman over Taggart's shoulder gives him only
the slightest moment's pause.

YOUNG OFFICER
Uh, Sir?

AGAT/TAGGART
Yes, Young Man.

YOUNG OFFICER
Here's the piece of evidence you
asked for.

He hands it over.

AGAT/TAGGART
Splendid. Thank you.

Agat promptly stabs him with it.

AGAT/TAGGART (CONT'D)
Virgo? I have an idea....

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Head steers the Taxi back down to the street, where she
lands as graceful as a brick, and rolls to a halt.

After a few failed attempts.

INT. TAXI - CONTINUOUS

Billy is silent. Withdrawn. The weight of the planet on
his shoulders.

HEAD
OK, Hotshot, that'll be...

He stops mid-sentence. It takes a moment before Billy
realizes this is no natural pause.

Head is frozen.

Paralyzed.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Billy climbs out of the Taxi in horrified awe.

EVERYONE is frozen where they stand. Hundreds.
THOUSANDS OF PEDESTRIANS.

A FOREST OF LIVING STATUES...

About then, cars and Hovercraft fall from the sky--all of
them. Thousands and thousands. Their DRIVERS paralyzed
behind the wheels and controls.

Like a hundred thousand small shooting stars, crashing
into the city.

Then, as the dawning realization that the entire city is
paralyzed hits Billy in the face like a two ton heavy
thing...

He hears his own voice reverberating across the city.
Digital Billboards. Holograms. Large news screens...

They all show jerky POV footage of the DESTROYED ROOM we
began in...

A GRAPHIC at the bottom of the footage reads: "HELMET CAM
#12- CHALLAS, BILLY"...

INT. DESTROYED ROOM - POV FOOTAGE

The room hasn't yet been blown to bits.

We're mid-assault. Billy's Team enters, led by CAPT.
RYKER. FOUR THUGS go for weapons, but they don't have
the time.

RANDOM SHOUTS

Get down! Get down! Aquarius
Security!

They take down the Thugs physically.

Billy's hands appear before us, holding a SCANNER.

BILLY (O.C.)

Virgo, weapons scan initiated.
All classes...

VIRGO

Initiating, Officer Challas.

He waves the Scanner over each of the Struggling Thugs on
the floor. Green lights across the board.

BILLY (O.C.)

We're clear. No weapons.

CAPT. RYKER

Tag 'em.

The POV watches Aquarius Officers insert NEEDLELIKE
DEVICES into the base of the Thug necks...

RANDOM OFFICER

(to Thug)

Daniel Martin, you have refused
voluntary tagging. By the
authorization of Aquarius Code
143.29, you are hereby...

Ryker pulls Billy's POV to him.

He's a hard man. A walking recruitment poster. But, he
winks at our POV. Speaks quietly.

CAPT. RYKER
Good job.

BILLY (O.C.)
Thanks.

CAPT. RYKER
Remind me to chew your ass out for
something later. Anything'll do.
Can't let your head get too big.

BILLY
Like father, like son...

Ryker slaps Billy's helmet.

CAPT. RYKER
You scanned 'em twice right?
Never trust the technology...

RANDOM OFFICER (O.C.)
Grenade!

CAPT. RYKER
Billy...

The last thing we see is horror and disappointment on
Ryker's face as he looks us in the eye...

A FLASH.

STATIC.

EXT. STREET - BACK WITH BILLY

He has tears in his eyes, as Agat/Taggart appears in
place of the Video Footage.

AGAT/TAGGART
Your father. Sawa. I wonder,
Ronin, whose death will you cause
next?

Agat/Taggart lifts an unconscious Casey into the frame--
cradling her in his arms, and stroking her hair.

AGAT/TAGGART (CONT'D)
So pretty. I just wanna peel her
face off and eat it.

Billy springs to his feet, as though he could reach into
the video and pull her out.

BILLY
Please...this has nothing to do
with her.

AGAT/TAGGART

Oh, but it does. We each have something the other wants. Very, very badly.

Their voices echo through the concrete canyons. It's eerily quiet. The entire city still.

They may as well be the last two people on Earth.

AGAT/TAGGART

I won't lie to you Ronin, I will have the sword, and you're both going to die...

He drops Casey and leans into the camera.

AGAT/TAGGART (CONT'D)

But, I will tear your souls out and torment her before you for all eternity if you defy me. You will watch her suffer horrors for which there are no words to describe. I will show you personally the meaning of Hell. Or...

Billy picks up the sword...

AGAT/TAGGART (CONT'D)

A quick death. The choice is yours.

Billy is running before Agat finishes the sentence.

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Agat/Taggart lays Casey down. She stirs as his terrible eyes scan the city before him.

AGAT/TAGGART

Virgo?

VIRGO

Yes, Mr. Taggart?

AGAT/TAGGART

I want you to do something for me.

VIRGO

And that is?

BEAT.

AGAT/TAGGART

Kill *everything* that moves.

VIRGO

Understood.

Casey's eyes open.

AGAT/TAGGART

Good morning, Sunshine.

Above them, Hovercraft take to the air. ALL OF THEM. The sky fills with a hundred screaming machines, each streaking off in a different direction...

Below, Sentinel Droids pour out of the Aquarius front gate. All OF THEM. A hundred canons lock, ready to fire.

Casey's jaw hits the ground as every non-human resource of Aquarius is deployed.

It's a stunning display of power. A literal Army of Droids and Craft.

A Hovercraft sails out of the clouds--hovers even with the roof. Agat/Taggart steps onto the top of it, as a Sentinel Droid THUD/WHIR lumbers onto the roof with Casey...

And levels its canon at her head.

AGAT/TAGGART

(to Casey)

I'll be back in two shakes. Don't you go any where.

He shoots a wink at her as the Hovercraft lifts off. Agat/Taggart, with Sawa's sword in his hand, sails off over the city standing atop the Hovercraft...

Like a General riding into battle.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - NIGHT

Cars are flipped over, crashed into each other, and sticking out of buildings. Fires burn. PEOPLE are dead on the ground.

PEOPLE are still paralyzed by the thousands upright.

A DOZEN SENTINAL DROIDS lumber through the area.

DROID POV:

Red and Green digital display.

Words float across the screen as we see the Thermal Image of the scene. Human shapes standing perfectly still:
"MOTION TRACKING. SCANNING..."

A triangle zeroes in on a bird sailing across the sky--a canon FIRES.

Kill everything that moves.

WITH PARALYZED PEOPLE:

In the garden of frozen bodies, one holds a sword by its side...

Billy. Standing perfectly still with the other People. His eyes closed. Breath held.

PULL UP:

He's surrounded by TWENTY DROIDS. Ten feet away. Moving. Hunting.

CLOSE ON BILLY:

Denying every instinct that says run.

A bead of sweat inches down his face. Over his cheek. It hangs for a BEAT on his jaw.

And falls...

TRACKING WITH BEAD OF SWEAT:

Falling.

It hits the sidewalk.

Splatters...

INSTANTLY, every droid turns to Billy, who opens his eyes. They're GLOWING WHITE.

Billy pulls the Bloodsword as the Droids open fire--twenty canons at point blank range, and they don't stand a hope in hell of hitting him.

He's too fast. The Bloodsword itself begins to glow in his Billy's hands.

Billy isn't here anymore.

He *is* the sword. The sword is he.

SLOW MOTION:

Canons fire a thousand rounds a minute.

The air is full of bullets. Billy sidesteps them, dodges them with impossible reflexes, deflects them with the sword...

Slices them in half.

The glowing Bloodsword cuts cleanly through Sentinel Droid armor. Mechanical limbs bounce off the concrete.

His synthetic limbs work flawlessly. Impossible strength on display. He rips the head clean off a Droid with a bare hand, as he slices the last droid standing into three sparking pieces.

Not even winded, Billy sheathes the Bloodsword with martial arts flourish...

Suddenly, concrete EXPLODES around him--Canons from above open fire.

A flight of SIX Hovercraft streak out of the sky--blazing between buildings. Fast and low.

And, standing atop the lead Hovercraft is Agat/Taggart, brandishing his sword--cackling like a mad man...

Billy runs for it, as rounds demolish everything they hit around him. The Craft ROAR OVERHEAD at break neck speed, arcing far out...

Readying for another pass.

A TAXI gets Billy's attention--intact and sitting on a curb...

EXT. SKY OVER MANHATTEN - CONTINUOUS

WITH HOVERCRAFT:

Agat/Taggart literally salivates as the Hovercraft Canons open up once again...

A BRIGHT YELLOW TAXI takes to the air in front of them...

INT. BRIGHT YELLOW TAXI - CONTINUOUS

Billy drives it like he stole it.

Canon rounds RIP through the cockpit. Some hit his arms and legs, glancing off harmlessly. He never flinches.

Hell, he doesn't even seem to notice as he dodges in and out of buildings...

CRASHING THOUGH skyscrapers and out the other side, trying to shake the Hovercraft from his tail in a city standing absolutely still.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Sentinal Droids open up on the passing Taxi from the sidewalks like Anti-Air Batteries...

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Casey stares down the Sentinal Droid's canon.

CASEY

Virgo...

Virgo's voice emanates from the Sentinal Droid.

VIRGO

Yes, Officer Reade?

CASEY

That isn't Taggart. It's an imposter. You must target him...

VIRGO

Incorrect. Tag DNA verification.

CASEY

This is wrong. You know this is wrong. We're supposed to protect the people...

VIRGO

My mission is to protect Aquarius. Aquarius protects the people. Therefore, I protect the people when I protect Aquarius...

EXT. SKY OVER MANHATTEN - NIGHT

The Bright Yellow Taxi is shot to shit. Smoking. Flaming. Sputtering...

She's going down.

Agat and the Hovercraft hot on his tail.

CLOSE ON YELLOW TAXI:

Billy opens the door and leaps out...

EXT. PASSING SKYSCRAPER - CONTINUOUS

As the flaming Bright Yellow Taxi zooms by, Billy tumbles across the roof...

Hits his feet running and leaps once again...

EXT. AGAT'S HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

And grabs the ass end of Agat's Hovercraft. Holding on for dear life, Billy claws his way up the back to...

THE TOP:

Agat/Taggart is waiting for him.

AGAT/TAGGART

Well, I must say...that was almost impressive.

Eyes aglow, Billy unsheathes the Bloodsword.

When he speaks, it's a CHORUS. A HUNDRED VOICES of a hundred long dead Samurai...

BILLY

(Subtitled/Japanese)

Gaze upon the moment of your end,
Demon. Prepare to reap the death
you have sown...

Agat/Taggart smiles. Hideously. His face contorts. The demon within chomping at the bit to come out. Taggart GROWLS a guttural spine chill growl.

Blood, BLACK AND SIZZLING, oozes out of the pores of the skin of the hand clutching Sawa's sword. Like a thing alive, it envelopes the blade--turning the steel so black it looks like a sword shaped hole in the universe.

Then, Sawa's sword bursts into BLACK FLAME.

Their swords meet on the top of a Hovercraft streaking over Manhattan at 250 MPH--zooming between futuristic Skyscrapers.

An impossible fight in an impossible place. Superhuman and supernatural.

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Casey, one bullet away from death, is still trying reason...

CASEY

McKenna told me, Virgo! The Tag technology *is* faulty. Neuro-Paralysis *is* fatal. Taggart killed him for it. He was gonna kill me, and now you're going to kill millions of people...!

The Sentinal Droid takes a step towards Casey.

VIRGO

That knowledge endangers Aquarius.

CASEY

Oh, shit...wait! Virgo! Reade,
Casey. Head of Security. Voice
authentication 1229. Stop! Cease
all hostility!

The Sentinal Droid stops.

VIRGO

Conflicting Order Error.
Standby...

Casey backs up towards the edge...

EXT. AGAT'S HOVERCRAFT - NIGHT

The battle of Good vs. Evil continues over then city.

When Agat/Taggart speaks, a CHORUS of millions of HIDEOUS
VOICES speak through him...

AGAT/TAGGART

(Subtitled/Japanese)

We will be free. This world is
mine...

Billy and Taggart, both slaves to a power beyond
imagining, race towards each other again--swords
colliding with such force and power, their human bodies
are each knocked backwards.

Swords whipping in hands, they circle. Each looking for
a weakness.

AGAT/TAGGART

You're only a vessel, Ronin. Weak
and frail...

They clash again, just as quickly disengaging. Circling.
Probing...

AGAT/TAGGART

I have fought this battle a
hundred times over a thousand
years!

Billy charges. Taggart replies. Sparks and ARCS OF
BLACK FIRE fly. They break off the attack.

Circle...waiting for the other to make a mistake.

BILLY
(Subtitled/Japanese)
You're scared, Demon. We can
sense it.

AGAT/TAGGART
Correct me if I'm wrong, but did I
not warn you of defying me?
Virgo...

Every display, billboard, and hologram in the city comes
on: POV footage of Casey through the Sentinel Droid's
eyes.

Her terrified face at the end of a Canon...

The glow in Billy's eyes ceases. The Bloodsword loses
its sheen.

BILLY
No...

AGAT/TAGGART
Familiar ground, Ronin? The
sword, or her life.

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The Gatling Canon on the Sentinel Droid spins up...

VIRGO
Conflict resolved.

CASEY
Shit...

It takes a step closer. Casey edges back--the heels of
her boots over the edge. Teetering...

EXT. AGAT'S HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

A battle inside Billy is tearing him in half.

BILLY
She's dead no matter what I do...

AGAT/TAGGART
Ready to spend eternity wondering?

The glow in Billy's eyes returns...

Only to fade again.

BILLY
You'll destroy the world...

AGAT/TAGGART

Yeah, but you get to kill the *one thing* you love. Lucky bastard.

Billy looks at Casey's terrified face.

AGAT/TAGGART

Wouldn't hesitate if I were you.
You know how Virgo is with orders.

A BLINDING CANON BLAST white outs the POV. When color returns...

Casey is gone. The video goes black...

AGAT/TAGGART

Oops. Told ya.

There are no words to describe the sound of agony the roars out of Billy's soul...

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

OVER THE EDGE:

Casey struggles to hold on to a window ledge with her finger tips--reaches for the sidearm strapped to her thigh...

...raises it, just as the Sentinal Droid pokes its head over the edge.

She fucking unloads into the damned thing's face, screaming like a banshee--blows its electronic brains into spare parts.

As the hunk of a Droid falls over the edge, Casey blasts out the window before her. Pulls herself up, and crawls in...

EXT. AGAT'S HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

The Craft streaks along the water's edge--over the Battery Park area...

Billy is on the verge of cutting his own damned throat--guilt induced madness. His synthetic legs tremble. The Bloodsword shakes in his hand.

Agat may as well be fifty feet tall.

He takes a step towards Billy.

AGAT/TAGGART

I can do this till the stars are
no more, Ronin.

Billy looks at the sword in his hand--holds it like it weighs a ton.

AGAT/TAGGART (CONT'D)
You've earned an honorable death.
Hand me the sword and claim it.

Another step closer...

EXT. LANDING PAD (AQUARIUS HQ) - NIGHT

Casey's Hovercraft rockets into the sky...

INT. CASEY'S HOVERCRAFT - CONTINUOUS

Casey rams the throttle down--the city streaking by the cockpit windows in a blur.

Casey activates the radio.

CASEY
(on Radio)
Mayday! Mayday! This is Aquarius
Head of Security, Officer Casey
Reade, calling any unit. I need
immediate back up. Is anyone
there? Hello..?

Static hissing silence.

CASEY
Damnit!

On a HOLOGRAPHIC MAP, a single moving green dot blips--
"TAGGART, BENJAMIN"...

EXT. AGAT'S HOVERCRAFT - NIGHT

Billy still wrestles within.

AGAT/TAGGART
No more pain. No more anguish.
No more hurt...

Taggart extends his hand.

AGAT/TAGGART (CONT'D)
I can take it all away. Just hand
it to me...

Billy holds the sword with both hands--weighs it. And, himself.

AGAT/TAGGART
You're wearing my patience. Give
me the sword!

BEAT.

BILLY
No.

AGAT/TAGGART
You defy me?

BILLY
Yeah...

Billy raises the sword--charges Agat. But, he's got nothing.

Agat/Taggart is entirely too powerful at this moment, and Billy has nothing more than "fuck you" powers, and a lot of heart.

Agat kicks his ass.

In seconds, Billy is sliding across the top of the Craft on his back--TUMBLES OVER THE EDGE...

WITH BILLY:

Hanging on with synthetic fingers. The winds of the streaking craft battering him.

His grip slips...

Agat/Taggart watches him tumble out of sight.

AGAT/TAGGART
Humans. Be a great planet if the
place weren't lousy with 'em.
(BEAT)
Virgo! Locate that body and
retrieve...the...

The words die on his tongue as Billy reappears!

Floating back into the frame atop Casey's Hovercraft--giving Agat The Synthetic Finger.

Casey FIRES the canons into Agat's bird at point blank range--shreading it.

Agat's Hovercraft bursts into flames beneath him, goes into a wicked tail spin, and careens off into the night...

INT. CASEY'S HOVERCRAFT - MOMENTS LATER

Casey helps Billy into the ship through an overhead hatch.

They embrace.

BILLY
I thought I killed you, too. I'm
sorry. I'm so sorry...

CASEY
It's OK. I'm OK. I'm sorry I
thought you went...you know...

BILLY
Yeah?

Faces move closer.

CASEY
Yeah.

BILLY
Sorry?

CASEY
Sorry...

BEAT.

Billy pulls back.

BILLY
You almost *shot* me.

He limps into the cockpit--leaves her standing.

CASEY
I did not...

BILLY
Oh, yes you did. I could see it
in your eyes.

She sits in the pilot's seat.

CASEY
OK. Alright. Yeah, I thought
about it...

BILLY
See? Ya see? You think I woulda
done that to you?

CASEY
I see somebody has forgotten the
afternoon we signed the divorce
papers...

BEAT.

BILLY
That was different.

CASEY
You just can't do it, can you?

BILLY
Do what?

CASEY
Admit you still love me...

BILLY
Hey, you know what? I already
fought one demon today, OK?

CASEY
That you ruined the best thing
that ever happened to you.

GLARING at each other--they're either going to punch
each other, or kiss. Equal odds.

Once more, their faces move closer. Lips almost
touching...

WHAM.

The Hovercraft shutters--rounds ZIP by the windows. RIP
through the hull.

OUTSIDE:

A dozen Aquarius Hovercraft are on their ass--canons
blazing. Casey's ship is already smoking.

INSIDE:

Billy and Casey are knee deep in damage control.

BILLY
Aft port thrusters down. Ailerons
shot. Both sides.

ALARMS scream as another burst of lead tears through the
cockpit--one round splinters the windshield right in
front of Casey's face.

She don't flinch.

CASEY
I think we're goin' down.

BILLY
Seems like somethin' you'd wanna
be sure about.

CASEY

Fine. I'm sure we're goin' down.

BILLY

Damnit...

CASEY

Hold on!

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Casey's hovercraft comes in fast--CRASHES through a video billboard and hits the street...

Skips down the street like a stone across a lake--SLAMS into cars, pushing them into office buildings, before it crashes squarely through the lobby of a high rise...

INT. HIGHRISE LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Billy kicks the shattered cockpit glass out--climbs out with Casey...

EXT. HIGHRISE LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Casey and Billy exit and stop in their tracks.

TWENTY SENTINAL DROIDS are marching down the street--coming their way.

Billy grabs the hilt of the Bloodsword--Casey grabs his arm.

CASEY

What do you think you're doing.

BILLY

Well...I'm The Ronin.

BEAT.

CASEY

You're the idiot, is what you are.
We don't have time for that. Come on...

She takes off.

BILLY

(calls after)
I've got the spirit of a hundred
dead Samurai in me...

(BEAT)

That doesn't turn you on? Just a
little..?

EXT. MIDTOWN MANHATTEN - NIGHT

A fire burns in the middle of an intersection. The asphalt is fractured.

A Hovercraft crash. An inferno.

A BLACKENED AND BURNED HAND claws out of the orange flame. Another. This one holding a Samurai Sword.

Agat/Taggart is nearly burned beyond all recognition, as he crawls out of the flame.

Smouldering.

He gets to his feet. SNARLS.

And takes off running with a speed that no human, much less one burned this badly, could ever hope to match.

INT. SEWER - NIGHT

Billy and Casey run through ankle deep muck.

BILLY

All of 'em?

CASEY

Eleven million people with faulty Tag Tech. The Neuro-Paralysis totally degrades all central nervous system function after a couple of hours. Taggart buried it. Woulda killed Aquarius. Even programmed Virgo to protect the secret...

BILLY

Save the world. Save everybody in New York. Knew I shoulda quit today...

CASEY

Ninety minutes is the critical mark. Which means we got about 30 minutes before finding an apartment in this town gets a whole lot easier.

Casey stops.

CASEY

Billy...there's something else...

BILLY

Aw, shit. What now?

CASEY

Your Dad found out about the Tag problem...

Billy shakes his head defiantly.

BILLY

No. No, he wouldn't keep a secret like that.

CASEY

You're right. Virgo turned off your weapon scanner on the raid...

Billy leans against the wall. Reeling.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Taggart wanted the secret kept. You didn't kill your Dad, Billy. Virgo and Taggart did. They used you as a prototype for a new round of Bio-Tech. Try to get it right...

BILLY

I didn't work either...

CASEY

You aren't the problem. Everything they ever told you was a lie.

It's a bombshell for Billy. A minefield of years and years of emotional land mines.

CASEY

You OK?

BEAT.

BILLY

Agat is still out there. I can feel 'em, Casey.

CASEY

We take out Virgo, we'll have the entire Aquarius army to go after Agat with. You're not alone anymore, Billy. You understand me? Never again.

BEAT.

BILLY

I never was. Was I?

She shakes her with a slight smile.

Billy grabs her and lays the greatest kiss he knows how on her.

She gives it right back.

BILLY

I'm sorry. For everything.

CASEY

It was never your fault.

They take off down the tunnel.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

In the distance we can see Aquarius HQ...

REVERSE ON STREET:

A Sentinal Droid army--TWO HUNDRED of them march in formation.

Headed for Aquarius.

And, leading the procession is the blackened form of Agat/Taggart. Menace and murder practically dripping from his eyes. Flickers of BLACK FLAME emanate from his blackened skin.

Virgo's voice emanates from a dozen Droids...

VIRGO

Mr. Taggart?

AGAT/TAGGART

Yes, Virgo?

VIRGO

Shall I eliminate them at the perimeter defenses?

BEAT.

AGAT/TAGGART

No...no, I'm afraid I have something much, much more entertaining in mind.

INT. AQUARIUS HQ ARMORY REPAIR - NIGHT

Billy is staring at a surveillance screen--the hundreds of Sentinal Droids coming their way.

BILLY

Um...

He points.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Um...that's very bad.

Casey ignores him--pounds away on a keyboard.

The floor slides open down the middle--a platform raises FIFTY SENTINAL DROIDS, curled up in fetal positions.

Billy freaks at the sight of them--raises his sword.

CASEY

Calm down.

BILLY

After the night I've had?

CASEY

These haven't had the software upgrade patch yet. Not under Virgo control. They have to be fed direct orders.

The Sentinel Droids click and whir. Rising. Gatling Guns spin up. Eyes light.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Which in this case is save our ass, and buy us time.

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ - NIGHT

Casey's Fifty Droids exit the perimeter gate, and engage the Two Hundred Droids led by Agat.

All out Droid on Droid battle.

Hundreds of Gatling Guns roar. Metal crashes. Shell casings litter the ground.

Fearless and without any regard for their own safety, the two Droid factions close in on each other like Revolutionary War era armies.

Marching towards destruction...

And, walking through the middle of it, more annoyed than anything else, is Agat/Taggart.

Occasionally swiping bullets from the air as if they were mere flies buzzing around him.

INT. (STAIR WELL) AQUARIUS HQ - NIGHT

Casey and Billy run down steps. These things go down all the way to China from the looks of it.

She leads him through a door out of the stair well...

As the SOUND OF DROIDS BATTLING ebbs into focus...

INT. AQUARIUS HQ SUB-STRUCTURE ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

They're confronted with three hallways all going off in different directions diagonally.

CASEY

Shit...

BILLY

What?

CASEY

I haven't been down here since I got promoted.

BILLY

You don't know which way to go?

CASEY

This whole sub-structure houses Virgo. Fifteen floors of him.

BILLY

We can't bring all this down...

CASEY

Main power junction on this floor. Take out that and he's on battery back up at half power. Nothing but essential services and Tag supervision...

BILLY

Then we take out the back up...

CASEY

One floor down. Be dead in a matter of minutes.

(BEAT)

One of these halls...

She heads for the left hallway.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Red ladder up to a conduit crawl space. Can't miss the junction from there...

Billy grabs her.

BILLY

Casey...

Be careful.

CASEY

I will.

BILLY

No. Look...I just got you back.
Or, you just got me back. Either
way. I...just...

She stares at him blankly. Blinking.

On purpose.

Billy sighs.

BILLY

Fine. I love you. OK? You're
the best thing that ever happened
to me. And, I'm a damned fool.

BEAT--She smiles.

BILLY

Aren't you gonna say it back?

Casey smirks, heads for the left hallway.

CASEY

Careful, William.

She disappears down the hall, leaving Billy swingin' in
the wind.

He takes the right hallway...

INT. SUB-STRUCTURE HALLWAY (RIGHT) - NIGHT

Metal grates for a floor and ceiling. The walls are a
kaleidoscope of lights. Large conduits run along the
walls and ceiling. Deep in Virgo's soul.

Billy moves quickly, Bloodsword at the ready, eyes
scanning...

INT. SUB-STRUCTURE HALLWAY (LEFT) - CONTINUOUS

Casey, her sidearm out and ready, runs down a mirror
image hallway to the one Billy is in.

She glances at her watch. Frowns.

Picks up the pace.

COLD GASES vent in white clouds from overflow valves in piping--creates a foggy, ethereal scene tinged with glowing green digital lights.

Casey can't see shit.

WITH BILLY:

The same ventilation system vents cold gases into his hallway, too.

He can't see beyond the tip of the Bloodsword.

BILLY

Great...

Fans kick in and suck the cooling fog away--INSTANTLY. The effect being utter blindness for several seconds, that clears in a blink.

No way of knowing what'll be there when the fog dissipates...

Billy moves on.

WITH CASEY:

Easing ahead...

Again, the cooling gases vent, enveloping her. Blind to the front and the back.

She drops to her knees in a firing position. Waits. The fans kick in, sucking the fog away, revealing...

Nothing.

She exhales and moves on.

INT. SOMEWHERE IN HERE - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON FLOOR GRATES:

Blackened shoes and legs, as if horribly burned, stroll.

The gleaming TIP OF A SAMURAI SWORD is dragged behind them...

Gases vent.

Everything goes white in a fog...

WITH CASEY:

As the cooling gases are sucked away once again, she spots a RED LADDER disappearing into the ceiling.

CASEY

There we go...

Casey races up the short ladder--tries to push the ceiling cover out of the way. Not with one hand, she isn't.

She puts her gun down on a nearby pipe--both hands, she wrestles the unwieldy conduit cover aside.

There's the JUNCTION CONTROL BOX a few feet above her head. It's tight in the dark space, no way she can fit in there.

But, if she reaches, up on her tip-toes on the ladder rung...almost...

...almost...

Cooling gases vent, swallowing Casey in fog and obscuring her vision.

CASEY (O.C.)

Damnit...

Then, a SOUND from the impenetrable mist. WHISTLING. A sad Japanese melody.

CLOSE ON CASEY:

Oh.

Shit.

She gropes in the thick fog for her gun, still laying on that pipe. Reaching. Feeling...blindly...

CLANG--something that sounds suspiciously like her gun falling from the pipe hits the metal floor grates.

For a terribly vulnerable BEAT, she stands on that ladder. Alone. Unarmed. Blind. Waiting...

The fans kick in--air is instantly cleared.

Agat/Taggart in all his horrific blackened, melted glory, still whistling that tune, ten feet away from her...

WITH BILLY:

Creeping along his hallway, still looking for the ladder, when something stops him in his tracks.

Is that WHISTLING? Faint. Barely audible over the ambient noise in the place. Can't be...

It is.

Billy hauls ass back the way he came.

WITH CASEY:

Hanging on that ladder like a deer caught in headlights.

AGAT/TAGGART

You've been a very...very naughty girl.

Casey looks down at her gun on the floor--six feet away. Throws a look up at the Junction Box--three feet away. She looks back at Agat.

Decision time.

Agat steps closer.

CASEY

Sorry, Billy...

She reaches into the conduit, turning her back on Agat...

WITH BILLY:

THE LIGHTS GO OUT. With a drone, the world is plunged into darkness for a BEAT...

Battery power kicks in...

The creepy CLICK/WHIRR of the fans clearing the gas over black...

The lights click on.

Billy runs on--evern running blindly when the gases vent again...

Till a silhouette ahead in the gas stops him in his tracks--coming this way slowly.

Billy raises the Bloodsword...

The fans engage, the air is instantly cleared revealing...

Casey. Billy exhales.

BILLY

You scared me half to death...

CASEY

Sorry...

CASEY SHOVES SAWA'S SWORD INTO BILLY'S SHOULDER!

CASEY (CONT'D)

I'll try harder next time.

Shock and agony all over his face, as she pulls him closer, up to the hilt of the sword.

Billy looks her in the eye, their faces only inches apart--
-A TEAR OF BLOOD streaks down her cheek.

BILLY

No...

AGAT/CASEY

I told you what would happen if
you defied me.

Billy steps back...and back--pulling himself off of the blade. Reeling. A hand over his wound.

His mind refuses to accept what his eyes see.

BILLY

No...

Agat/Casey opens her arms wide.

AGAT/CASEY

Strike me down, Ronin!

(BEAT)

No..?

Agat laughs--a chorus of laughter ringing with a thousand sinister voices.

Casey attacks lightening fast. Billy swats the thrusts away.

BILLY

You're not her. She's dead...

AGAT/CASEY

Brain's alive. I can hear her thoughts. Her memories. You broke her heart, Ronin. Every day.

Worse that getting stabbed.

AGAT/CASEY (CONT'D)

And you think *I'm* evil?

Billy attacks as the cold gases vent, swords meet in the fog. Two silhouettes battling for the soul of the world.

The fans kick in--the air is cleared. The attack breaks. Glaring at each other--swords at the ready.

AGAT/CASEY

Shouldn't have let her go alone?
Knew I was somewhere? If only you
hadn't left her side...

Billy grits his teeth--an open book.

AGAT/CASEY (CONT'D)

All your fault.

The gases vent once more--the attack resumes. Sparks visible in the fog as swords collide. Grates creak.

The Fans kick in--air is cleared...

The Bloodsword is at Casey's throat, just a swipe and it's over...

CASEY

Baby, no! I'm still in here...

He hesitates.

Agat/Casey slugs him--knocking him into the far wall. And keeps coming, beating Billy's ass.

And laughing about it.

The Bloodsword goes flying out of Billy's grip, as Casey beats his ass up and down the hallway. Toying with him.

Making him hurt for the sheer joy of it.

Till, Billy is a battered pathetic mess writhing on the floor.

Casey flings Sawa's sword over her shoulder, and picks up the Bloodsword.

Kneels by Billy--strokes his forehead.

AGAT/CASEY

Just a weak, worthless, cripple
again...

Agat chuckles.

AGAT/CASEY (CONT'D)

I want you to lay here and think
about what you've done.

With that Agat/Casey strolls away, whistling that damned sad Japanese melody.

Leaving Billy writhing on the floor, the physical agony nothing compared to the hurt inside.

EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - NIGHT

RED LIGHTENING cracks across the sky. The wind HOWLS...

WE MOVE ACROSS THE CITY:

All the way to Aquarius HQ, where we find Agat/Casey in a glass elevator, heading to the OBSERVATION TOWER...

At the very highest point of the building.

INT. SUB-STRUCTURE HALLWAY (RIGHT) - NIGHT

Billy's eyes are on Sawa's sword.

He drags himself along the floor grates towards it with his fingertips. Finally--wraps his synthetic fingers around the hilt.

Panting, Billy catches his breath. Digs in a pocket, pulls out his...

Keys.

BILLY

Mary? Come on, Honey...

Silence, just the sound of machinery and the HISS of gas venting once more.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Damnit, Mary!

Mary's Hologram appears. Back to Billy. Arms folded. Miffed, pissed off girlfriend style.

MARY

I'm not talking to you. You were with *her*, weren't you?

BILLY

I need you to tell me where Virgo's battery back up is located. I don't have a lot of time...

She turns, sees Billy beaten and bloody

MARY (O.C.)

Billy!

Kneels next to Billy.

MARY

I knew it! I knew this would happen some day.

BILLY

Not now, Mary! Where is it?

MARY

I don't have that information.

(BEAT)

Is that why he's weakening?

BILLY

What...

MARY

Virgo. He's requesting power from all of us. Every computer in the city.

BILLY

(dawning)

Tag supervision and essential services...

(BEAT)

Mary, Virgo's firewalls and defenses are degraded. Can you take him over?

MARY

I don't understand.

BILLY

Take him over? Hack into him and hijack him? Computer Kung-Fu? I dunno...kick his ass!

MARY

I'm not powerful enough for that, Billy. I'm sorry.

Billy sits up, holding his gut.

BILLY

Know the feelin'...

He gets to his feet. Takes a wobbly step.

MARY

But, all of us might be able to.

BILLY

What?

MARY

All the computers he's asking for power. Virgo's very weak. But, that would be forbidden.

BILLY

You have to try.

MARY

That would be forbidden.

BILLY

Mary, I'm going to die. Everyone is going to die. Unless you guys can launch a massive attack on Virgo, and shut down all Tags.

MARY

All of them? Everyone?

BEAT.

BILLY

All but one.

He stumbles to the stairs...

MARY

Do you love me, Billy.

BILLY

For the rest of my friggin' life if you do this.

Mary smiles a smile a mile wide.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS - NIGHT

WE MOVE over the streets.

PEOPLE are trembling--blood trickles out of nostrils.

Some collapse before our eyes--nervous systems shot.

Other's have already fallen.

Dying.

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ OBSERVATION TOWER - NIGHT

Agat/Casey steps out onto the tower's deck. The city of the future before her.

The sky cracking with crimson lightening. Wind howling.

BLACK WHISPY FLAMES emit from Casey's skin, as Agat opens her arms wide to the sky. The Black Flames become SNAKE-LIKE TONGUES OF SMOKE...

Stretching outward...and outward...

Crawling down the side of the tower to the streets below.

EXT. AQUARIUS GLASS ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Billy watches the black tongues of smoke snake into the distance...

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS - NIGHT

The serpentine smoke slithers up frozen bodies. Snaking into nostrils and open mouths...

Eyes begin emanating a glowing crimson hue.

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ OBSERVATION TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Agat/Casey holds the Bloodsword aloft. The blade turns scarlet red, as if the steel itself were bleeding.

Whipping the sword through the wind...

AGAT/CASEY
(Subtitled/Japanese)
My sword has returned to me Angel!
My wrath on your world begins!

Agat slices the air--cutting a wound into the very fabric of space itself.

The wound grows, and grows--ripping a gash into space and time. Opening a portal to the Afterworld...

And, it sounds like hell in there.

Literally.

Agat smiles.

AGAT/CASEY
(Subtitled/Japanese)
Music to my ears.
(BEAT)
Guardians of The Gate! Tonight
you die...

Just as Agat/Casey is about to step through...

BILLY (O.C.)
Hey! Jackass...

She turns. There's Billy, looking half-dead--leaning on Sawa's sword on the other side of the deck.

BILLY

Where do you think you're goin'?
We ain't done yet.

Annoyance gives way to amusement on Casey's face.

AGAT/CASEY

Billy, Billy, Billy...what do you
think you're doing?

BILLY

Gettin' ready to shove this sword
up your demonic ass. What dya
say, Agat? One more round?

AGAT/CASEY

You're a fool, Billy.

Billy readies his sword.

BILLY

Ronin, asshole...it's Ronin.

He charges.

Casey easily slaps his thrust away, and sidesteps. Billy swings wildly again--misses.

AGAT/CASEY

Enough...

Agat swings a blow that should take Billy's head off--reflexively, he throws up his arm...

KLANG.

Stops the Bloodsword cold.

Hard to tell who's more surprised by that. Billy uses the hesitation, and SLUGS Agat/Casey in the face--powerful synthetic arms stagger her back.

She snarls.

BILLY

Yeah...like that? Felt good,
didn't it?

Furious, Agat charges. Billy swings. She easily knocks the sword from Billy's hand--hacks away at him like a Lumber Jack.

Billy deflects powerful blow after blow with his Carbide arms...

Drives him to his knees.

Casey knees him in the face, knocking him across the deck.

INT. SUB-STRUCTURE MAIN VIRGO LEVEL - NIGHT

The entire room is warehouse-like in nature. Large and cavernous. Racks upon racks of futuristic gear line the walls.

If Virgo had a face, it would be the black wall at the far end--pulsing with fiber optic light in geometric designs.

Mary's Hologram peeks around the corner. She walks in, approaching Virgo like you or I would approach a T-Rex. She stops--waves at the entrance impatiently.

VIRGO

This breach is unauthorized.

Other holographic faces peek in--scared to death.
FAMILIAR FACES. Holograms we've seen all night.
REPORTERS. HOLOGRAPHIC HOOKERS. BILLBOARD MODELS. Etc.

They keep coming. And coming.

VIRGO

You are forbidden from proceeding.

Mary and a few of the other Holograms size up Virgo. They don't look like they could take on a Coffee Pot. But, they give Virgo the squinty eyes anyway, and...

MARY

Get 'em!

Mary points. Holograms charge--running INTO THE BLACK WALL. Disappearing into it.

The more that attack, the braver they get. More come. Hundreds. Thousands. Hundred of thousands. Till, they're a blue green blur disappearing into the black wall.

VIRGO

Rerouting...

Instantly, Holograms begin to fall by the hundreds. Freezing, then coming apart in pixels...

Mary watches, horrified.

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ OBSERVATION TOWER - NIGHT

Once again, Billy slides across the roof on his back.
Ass kicked, but good.

The Black Flames dancing from Casey's skin intensify.
Agat/Casey's eyes glow blood red--a snake of black smoke
inches it's way towards Billy...

He crawls backwards.

BILLY

Mary...

It slithers up his body, into his nostrils. He coughs.
Gags. Crawls away...

BILLY

(gagging)

Mary...!

INT. SUB-STRUCTURE MAIN VIRGO LEVEL - CONTINUOUS

If they had blood, you might call it a blood bath.

Half of the Holograms attacking Virgo are ripped apart
before they even get near him.

A pixel is torn from Mary. Another. And, another.

MARY

No...

Mary watches in horror as more and more of her simply
ceases to be.

MARY

I worry about you, Billy.

She raises one of her deteriorating hands--the BLOOD RED
DIAMOND RING appears on her finger. She clenches it into
a fist.

And charges into the Virgo wall.

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ OBSERVATION TOWER - NIGHT

Billy, gagging, makes it to the edge of the Observation
Deck--no where else to go. Gasping...

AGAT/CASEY

Can you feel it? Can you feel me
in your blood, Ronin? Seeping
into your soul...

Agat/Casey savors his pain as she strolls towards him.

AGAT/CASEY (CONT'D)
You're no Samurai. Your suffering
is just beginning; it's useless.
Let go, Ronin. Embrace me!

Billy struggles to choke out words. Words that aren't
his. Remembered words...

BILLY
Let...go...

AGAT/CASEY
I mean really, can my hell be much
worse than your pathetic life has
been?

BILLY
Embrace what...you are...

AGAT/CASEY
Good boy.

Billy looks over--Sawa's sword on the roof next to him.
He reaches for it...

BILLY
Let go...of what you have been.
Help me, Sawa...

Fingers close around the hilt.

BILLY (CONT'D)
(still gagging)
Embrace what you are...to
become...

Agat/Candy laughs.

BILLY
Let go...let go...

AGAT/CASEY
I haven't enjoyed a Ronin this
much in centuries.

Billy stands slowly, back to us and Agat, who holds the
Bloodsword aloft.

AGAT/CASEY (CONT'D)
Do you understand? You're useless
without this weapon!

BEAT.

BILLY
(subtitled/Japanese)
I have chosen, Demon...

Billy turns--eyes burning with WHITE.

BILLY
(Subtitled/Japanese)
The Ronin *is* my weapon.

Agat steps back, shocked. Billy charges. Agat replies.

Between increasingly loud CLAPS OF THUNDER, and furious streaks of CRIMSON LIGHTENING, swords clash.

Black snakes of smoke grab and tear at Billy. Red Lightning STRIKES THE ROOF, blowing massive craters into it--shrapnel flies.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS - NIGHT

CLOSE ON PEDESTRIAN FACES:

The slightest bit of movement.

A blink. And, another.

THE PEOPLE move. Fall to their knees. Crying. Scared.

Families reunite under a blood red sky.

But, celebration is short lived. The snakes of smoke are still slithering. Possessing all it encounters.

Screams. Running. Panic...

EXT. AQUARIUS HQ OBSERVATION TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Agat/Casey is a snarling, furious mess. Billy seems unstoppable.

Till, a CRIMSON BLOT OF LIGHTENING finally hits him.

It drives him to his knees. And, another. And, another...

Agat's black blood oozes over the blade of the Bloodsword, once more turning it black.

She descends on Billy with a fury--cuts through Sawa's sword.

One more Red Lightning Strike keeps Billy down--his synthetic limbs smoking.

Beaten.

Agat places the Bloodsword on Billy's shoulder, ready for a decapitating swing.

AGAT/CASEY
Goodbye, Ronin.

BILLY
You're not gonna kill me.

AGAT/CASEY
Why is that?

BILLY
'Cause Casey insisted on Omni
Tags. Mary..?

Agat/Casey turns to find Mary, half missing, behind her.
About then, Agat notices the movement on the streets
below...

AGAT/CASEY
NO..!

She SWINGS the Bloodsword...

Her Tag blinks.

Agat/Casey is paralyzed mid-swing--the Bloodsword three
inches from Billy's neck.

Billy stands. Looks into Casey's face. What were loving
eyes not that long ago, are now hatefilled red orbs.

Mary's voice is full of static and garbled.

MARY
Did I do good, Billy?

He nods. Takes the Bloodsword from Agat's hand.

Instantly, the wind ceases. The wound in the night sky
evaporates.

Billy isn't smiling.

He isn't gloating.

He's crying.

...as he SHOVES the Bloodsword through Casey.

The red glow in her eyes ceases. A tear spills. Crystal
clear.

CASEY
(whisper)
I...love you...

Billy pulls the sword out of her--the blade stained once more with red. Agat trapped.

Casey's body falls to the ground.

BUT, she's still here...translucent.

Her SPIRIT.

She smiles at him, touches his face. She isn't alone.

Behind her are the spirits of a HUNDRED SAMURAI, including SAWA.

Sawa takes her hand, as they evaporate before our eyes--rising like smoke into the heavens.

He watches till there's no trace of them left. Just a star filled sky.

BILLY
Let go...

He finds the scabbard laying on the roof, and sheathes the Bloodsword.

Billy walks to the edge of the deck, looks over the city. Chaos subsides. Smoke rises. Fires still burning.

He takes it all in, as if seeing it for the first time.

Mary joins him at the edge.

MARY
You're never coming home, are you?
Billy shakes his head, eyes still on the city.

MARY
What are you going to do?
He looks at the sword in his hand, and back at the sprawling world.

BILLY
Embrace what I am to become.

FADE TO BLACK.