

# SHADOW WARRIOR

An Original Treatment by  
Christopher Salazar

1

## TAPESTRY - OPENING CREDITS / MONTAGE:

The year is 1512 and the world is a very different place. It is a world in which honor and your word were all that defined you. In 1512, the Japanese are under attack by hordes of barbarians from the Chinese mainland. Two humble men decide to fight back. They recruited others and trained with what weapons they could cobble together. They called themselves; Samurai. After many years of hard fighting, they were successful in turning the invaders back. As the number of the marauders dwindled, so did the number of the Samurai until there was only two left. The original two.

The final image on the tapestry is a prophetic one. It shows a great evil about to raise its head, and a child that will ultimately destroy it.

The year is 1534 and today a boy becomes a man. UMETSU, one of the last original Samurai, is celebrating his ten year-old son's birthday. As a gift, he tells his son an old story. The story of how Umetsu and his old friend KANNO stood up against a horde of invaders and fought to keep Japan safe. They, and the men they trained, were called Samurai.

Umetsu's son loves to listen to this wonderful story for his birthday every year. Umetsu finishes the story and pauses. This year he decides to tell his son an unspoken part of the story. He tells his son how he found him as a baby at a Chinese camp on the eastern coast of Japan. He tells him how brave his real father was. Umetsu finishes the story and gives his son a Chinese medallion. It bears a warriors name. Lo-Wang.

Umetsu finishes by telling his son that it is a matter of honor, that he must bear the name of his real father; the name of Lo-Wang.

Kanno, Umetsu's dear friend, arrives. He and Umetsu head out for the night. Umetsu's son, Lo-Wang, heads to bed. At the Sake bar, Umetsu and Kanno talk about the future of the Samurai. They are both convinced that the Chinese will renew their attacks against Japan. They decide to train a new generation of Samurai warriors, starting with Lo-Wang.

As they head home for the night, they are ambushed by three Chinese brothers and their army. Umetsu and Kanno are killed. The Chinese, lead by the three evil brothers, begin their attack against Japan in earnest. Massive ships off the coast launch their attack. Chaos ensues as the three brothers begin their reign of terror.

As the Chinese begin their occupation of Japan, Lo-Wang is an outcast in his own village, and rightly so since he is now using the Chinese name that Umetsu gave him. Lo-Wang would never dishonor his adoptive father by not using this name.

Lo-Wang is filled with anger and rage when he discovers the identity of the men who killed Umetsu and Kanno. He tries to get his vengeance but, being only ten, Lo-Wang is severely beaten by the three Chinese brothers and is left for dead. Lo-Wang lies dying in the middle of his village. No one helps him.

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2

The village ORACLE, a wizard, who lives high in the mountains and journeys through the villages from time to time, has seen enough. She takes the dying boy back to her home where she nurses him back to health. Tears stream down Lo-Wang's face as he sits awake at night and watches the Chinese burn down the many small villages that surround the mountain.

His health returned Lo-Wang begins to head down the mountain to extract his revenge. The old Oracle laughs, for who would fear the wrath of a ten year-old. The Oracle convinces Lo-Wang to stay and complete the Samurai training Umetsu started. Lo-Wang agrees.

Eight years pass as the Oracle puts Lo-Wang through a grueling training program. She instructs him in the use of the weapons of a Samurai, and uses her book of spells to call upon the 'other side' for help in instructing Lo-Wang.

He has become a strong and powerful Samurai warrior with a heart that is yearning for revenge. The Oracle tells him that his training is complete and the time has come for him to avenge his father's death. The Oracle has become a mother to Lo-Wang. He expresses his eternal gratitude and heads down the mountain.

The invading hordes have become lazy over the past eight years and Lo-Wang slices through them with the greatest of ease. The Chinese are on the run. Lo-Wang's skills are so great, the Chinese believe he is a spirit that has risen from the dead to extract revenge on them. The Chinese armies flee Japan in terror, however, the three Chinese brothers know better. They head to the mountain to visit the Oracle, frantically trying to evade Lo-Wang's deadly wrath.

The old Oracle is severely beaten by the three Chinese brothers. They demand that she help them escape the wrath of Lo-Wang. They continue to beat her when she refuses. In the corner of the Oracle's mountain top garden, a wind stirs. The three brothers see that a portal, a doorway to another world, is opening. Their escape guaranteed, they laugh and run through the portal.

Lo-Wang bursts into the garden. He sees the Oracle, bleeding on the ground. She manages to tell Lo-Wang to help her out of the garden. The power of the portal increases. As Lo-Wang helps her out of the garden, she tells him that she did not open the portal, that the Gods must have and surely the Gods are sending the three Chinese brothers to a world of evil; To Hell itself. Lo-Wang stands and checks his weapons. The Oracle knows what he is thinking and pleads to Lo-Wang to not follow them into the portal. Lo-Wang tells her that he must. She knows that he can't be stopped and gives him her book of spells to help him. Lo-Wang turns, takes a deep breath, and runs headlong through the angry portal.

Lo-Wang shuts his eyes as the screams of all that is unholy fill his ears. He tumbles through a dark void and comes to rest among huge clouds of white smoke. A deep orange light surrounds him. Lo-Wang draws his razor-sharp katana and slowly steps through the clouds. He is in a oil refinery outside of Houston, Texas. The year is 1998.

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3

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The three Chinese brothers are on the run in this strange land as Lo-Wang hunts them down through the city. The brothers are cornered on the outskirts of town, just outside of a military base. Lo-Wang, katana raised, closes in for the kill. JOE GRAMS, a military police officer sees what is happening and screams for Lo-Wang to drop his weapon. Lo-Wang continues his advance on the three Chinese brothers leaving Joe no choice. Joe shoots Lo-Wang.

As Lo-Wang falls to the ground, the book of spells lands at the feet of the three Chinese brothers. They pick up the book and flee. Joe calls an ambulance for Lo-Wang.

The three brothers run, and run. Once they make sure they are alone, they consult the book of spells, and open the portal back to their world. Up the street, a drive-by shooting in front of a boarded up house distracts the three Chinese brothers. They are amazed at the firepower of the guns used in the shooting. They close the portal and head up the street where they pick through the bodies of the dead gang-bangers, gathering their guns. They pull the dead bodies into the boarded-up house and set up a camp, resting for the next night.

Lo-Wang awakes in a hospital. He is handcuffed to the bed, a police officer guards the door. JOHANNA CARLTON, A police psychiatrist enters and interrogates Lo-Wang, finding his story an amazing tale from an obviously sick mind. She recommends that Lo-Wang be transferred to a mental hospital for further evaluation.

Night. The three Chinese brothers leave their safe-house and wander through the streets of Houston, searching for more weapons. They are attracted by huge banners, displaying Chinese terra-cotta warriors, to the Museum of Natural Science. They break in to the museum and are amazed when they discover twenty stone warriors from the tomb of the Chinese ruler; Qin. They use the book of spells to bring the nine-foot warriors to life. Before they return to their own time the brothers decide to gather more weapons.

The Houston police are called to investigate a break-in at the museum. The officers see the twenty stone warriors marching out of the museum followed by the three Chinese brothers. The officer's bullets bounce off of the nine-foot tall warriors as they advance, killing the police officers.

The next afternoon, faced with the facts of the previous night, Johanna returns to talk with Lo-Wang. He convinces her that he must be allowed to find the brothers and stop them. She agrees. They head out into the streets of Houston, listening to the police scanner, searching for the three Chinese brothers.

The three brothers are looking out of the window of the deserted house, waiting for another night to fall. The twenty stone warriors stand silently behind them. As the blanket of night falls, they head out with the warriors in search of more weapons.

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4

The three Chinese brothers and their stone army approach the military base. Joe Grams is the first to run into them. He is knocked unconscious and left for dead. The base is alerted but the MPs' are no match for the stone warriors. They are killed one by one as the base is torn apart; gathering an impressive array of modern weapons.

Lo-Wang and Johanna hear a call over the police scanner about a fire-fight at the military base. When they arrive, they find Joe unconscious outside of the guard shack. They quickly revive him and search the base where they spot the three Chinese brothers herding the stone warriors through the portal. Each of the stone warriors are carrying a great number of weapons they have stolen from the base.

A great battle ensues but Lo-Wang, Joe, and Johanna are no match for the stone warriors and their weapons. The three Chinese brothers and their warriors kidnap Johanna and escape through the portal, back to wreak havoc in their own time. Without a second thought, Lo-Wang races through the portal after the brothers and their invincible army.

Joe stands and stares at the looming portal. Joe, an honorable marine, decides that he can't let Lo-Wang fight alone. He studies the size of the portal and gets an idea.

Back in 1542, Lo-Wang stands on a high cliff and assess the bleak situation. He sees that the three Chinese brothers have outfitted an army of men with the weapons from the twentieth century and are being led by the stone warriors. Johanna is held prisoner at their base camp on the eastern coast of Japan.

Lo-Wang calls on the strength of the Gods to help him in this suicide mission when suddenly, there is a blinding flash of light. When the light recedes, there is Joe in an M-1 A1 Abrams main battle tank.

As the three Chinese brothers prepare to launch their attack, Joe and Lo-Wang plan their strategy and set an ambush with the help of the local farmers. Joe instructs Lo-Wang in the use of the weapons he has brought with him; M-16's, grenade launchers, tear gas, etc. Lo-Wang is a quick learner of the modern weapons.

Lo-Wang, Joe, and the farmers fight the ultimate battle against the three Chinese brothers and their army. Even with the Abrams tank, it is a grueling battle. Joe defeats the stone warriors as Lo-Wang extracts his revenge on the three Chinese brothers.

With the battle won, Johanna rescued, and his home saved, Lo-Wang lets the few surviving Chinese soldiers return to China, to warn those who might be planning future attacks. The frightened men race to their boats and leave, never to return. Lo-Wang is a huge hero in his village, not to mention all of Japan.

Lo-Wang extends his thanks to Joe. These two men of honor have beaten incredible odds to emerge victorious. Lo-Wang invites Joe to stay and help train the next generation of Samurai warriors. Joe smiles and tells Lo-Wang that he needs to return home to teach his warriors the meaning of the word; Honor. The Oracle opens the portal, sending Joe back to 1998.