Sleeping Demon (10 page sample)

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ZAFFI Pictures 917-653-3294 Raffi@zaffi.com WGA Registered TITLE: "HAD I NOT KNOW THAT I WAS DEAD ALREADY, I WOULD HAVE MOURNED MY LOSS OF LIFE" -OTA DOKAN, SAMURAI 1432-1486

EXT. HIGHLANDS - JAPAN - EVENING

A fierce rain pours down upon soft green grass, atop a small mountain overlooking a valley below. Several trees are silhouetted in the darkness.

LIGHTNING crackles, defining the shape of the trees. A downpour of RAIN falls from the sky.

TITLE: Japan, 1504 A.D.

A troop of three WARRIORS, each well armed, run like a pack of wolves up the mountain's path, squinting to see in the darkness and rain. They stop as they approach the trees.

Each of them pants heavily as another bolt of lightning flashes across the sky. For the first time, we see someone sleeping under one of the trees, shielded from the rain.

It is JUBEI, the legendary samurai warrior of Japanese folklore.

He wears a traditional straw hat which conceals his face from the guards.

GUARD

You there. Wake up.

Jubei shifts his position slightly, apparently still sleeping. The rain continues to pour ferociously on the guards.

GUARD 2

Do we wake him, sir?

GUARD

No.

The guard motions to the other two and they advance slowly, spears ready. The leader of the troupe pulls out a bow and arrow. He gently pulls back on the string, carefully aiming the arrow straight for the head of the samurai.

Jubei is still, seemingly sleeping.

The string is taught as the arrow is pulled back to its maximum.

One guard is clearly more anxious than the rest. As he approaches closer his expression becomes more clouded.

Suddenly, he lunges at Jubei just as the other guard unleashes the arrow but--

LIGHTNING flashes.

The three guards are motionless. The one guard who had lunged is now frozen in his tracks. He looks to his two partners.

They fall down dead, splitting in two at the waist from an unseen movement of Jubei's KATANA(long sword). Jubei moves his hand away from his blade and drops the arrow he caught with his other hand.

He looks up from his hat, eyes gleaming with power, at the remaining guard.

JUBEI

Do not disturb a sleeping man.

The guard gives off a pitiful cry for help before running down the hill. He slips in some mud on the way down.

Jubei rises from his position and walks into the rain, down the mountain path towards the valley.

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE MUSIC

CUT TO:

EXT. WARRIOR BASE - VALLEY - CONTINUOUS

A large fortress provides a beacon of light in the dark valley. Torches are lit at each entrance and several GUARDS, dressed similarly to the ones before, survey the area for intruders.

Jubei approaches in the darkness, his steps masked by the falling rain.

A GUARD steps into the light of a torch.

BASE GUARD

Shinya.

A second GUARD runs out from the darkness into the light.

BASE GUARD 2

What is it?

BASE GUARD

Listen. I hear someone coming.

They look at each other, frightened and carefully scan the area. The surrounding nature has become a labyrinth of darkness and rain. They cannot see beyond their torches.

BASE GUARD 2

I don't hear it. It's just the rain.

The rain masks the silence of death.

THWAP.

The guard's eyes open wide. A trickle of blood slowly descends from his forehead. The other guard looks at him and sees the terrible truth.

His head has been split open with a TANTO(short sword).

BASE GUARD 2 (CONT'D) (screaming)

Ah! Intruder! Intrud--

The second guard receives a severe blow to his head. Another TANTO has torn through this poor man's chest. He didn't have a chance.

A small distance away, Jubei looks out from beneath his hat, the rain dropping from the brim. He vanishes into the darkness like the distant lightning.

CUT TO:

INT. WARRIOR BASE - PRIVATE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

A large room illuminated by several torches, with a massive wooden table sprawled out in the center. Scattered on it are vials, roots, plants and other wondrous items.

Carefully brewing some type of potion is a short old man, TOBOSAKU. He has a long white beard and is wrapped in a blue kimono. On the table near him is an unusually large, beautiful ripe peach.

It gives off a mystical glow of perfection.

Tobosaku picks up the peach with a wooden cane and balances it perfectly. He smiles, a smile of pure evil.

FLAMES BURNING.

Tobosaku senses something. He leaps onto the table, knocking over a vial. He move his arms in a circular pattern, somehow attuning his senses.

He feels the samurai's movements.

TOBOSAKU (whispering to himself) Samurai.

CUT TO:

SCREAMING.

EXT. WARRIOR BASE - CONTINUOUS

Jubei has split open a GUARD with his KATANA. Two more GUARDS rush him from both sides, but his reflexes are far superior.

He ducks and swipes effortlessly, chopping off a head and an arm. Blood spurts out from the decapitated body. Jubei stands still, waiting for more incoming threats.

The rain pounds down upon the corpses ferociously, filling their wounds with water.

Another GUARD runs around the corner, slipping in the mud. As he stands up, Jubei raises his arm to stop him. The guard, terrified, looks into Jubei's eyes.

GUARD 3
You. The massacre--

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - FLASHBACK

JUBEI STANDING IN FLAMES.

Around him are the shadows of people fleeing a burning village. The dead bodies of villagers are sprawled over each other.

One by one, soldiers try to fight him. One by one, they die.

CUT TO:

EXT. WARRIOR BASE - CONTINUOUS

The guard has been silenced by Jubei's blade. He falls to the ground, sprawling his arms over Jubei's feet.

Jubei kicks them away.

JUBEI

You will pay me in blood for this betrayal.

Jubei stands before the entrance to the base. He kicks it open shattering the door to pieces, and readies his Katana.

Nearly twenty GUARDS wait for him inside.

CUT TO:

INT. WARRIOR BASE - PRIVATE CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS

Tobosaku stands quietly in front of a door, the peach perched high on his cane. Outside the room, Jubei's rampage of the remaining guards can be heard.

Tobosaku closes his eyes and meditates. He sees a flash of Jubei slicing one of his guards and snaps out of the trance.

He grins beaming evil thoughts. From a small pouch on his belt, he pulls out a piece of paper. With his finger, he magically etches the Japanese Kanji character for 'FIRE' onto the paper.

CUT TO:

INT. WARRIOR BASE - MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jubei finishes off the last guard by spinning a hundred eighty degrees, his Katana acting as a rotating plow.

Ahead of him is an open stone door leading down into the recess of the base. Jubei runs forward and leaps down the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. WARRIOR BASE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

He pushes the head of his Katana into the ground and run towards the final door.

He charges like a bull and screams a true SAMURAI war cry.

SPARKS FLY FROM HIS BLADE.

Jubei uses his shoulders to blow the door open. As this happens, his arm bursts into flame.

CUT TO:

INT. WARRIOR BASE - PRIVATE CHAMBERS - MOMENTS EARLIER

Tobosaku stands by the entrance as before. Jubei is heard charging outside. He bursts into the room, exploding the door.

With one effortless motion, Tobosaku flings the piece of paper at Jubei, striking down his arm. It erupts into flame.

Tobosaku lifts his canes and twirls it around, sending the peach flying straight at Jubei. It knocks him back into the hallway and bounces right back onto Tobosaku's cane.

Jubei stunned and hurt, rolls around on the ground smothering the flames on his arms. He leaps up to a standing position. The peach flies toward him again but this time he is ready.

He perfectly raises his Katana, defending his face. The peach slices into to two pieces and misses Jubei on both sides.

One half immediately begins to rot into a black worm infested fruit while the other half turns completely white. Jubei charges back down the hallway, this time at an unseen speed.

Tobosaku, now standing on his table, tosses another piece of paper into the air. It floats in front of him. Jubei jumps towards the old man.

He pushes his wrist into the paper sending it flying into Jubei. While it soars threw the air, the Japanese character for 'BOMB' etches itself in fire.

Jubei recoils and drops to the ground in pain. Small explosions start erupting on his arms and chest. Each boom sends a small piece of skin flying in the air.

He tries to stand but each effort is met with another agonizing explosion. He finally is able to stand, grinding his teeth as he tries to withstand the pain.

TOBOSAKU

Jubei, legendary warrior of the Hanto Clan.

TOBOSAKU(cont'd)

I cannot believe the stories of your power if you cannot harm an old man like myself.

Jubei lifts both his arms high in the air and slams his hands together in a praying style. A blue aura surrounds him and the explosions on his body become less frequent. They stop and Jubei regains his balance.

TOBOSAKU (CONT'D)

So you do know some tricks after

Tobosaku charges at Jubei, hitting him several times with his cane. Jubei, still recovering from the explosions, is unable to guard with his Katana. Tobosaku trips him and runs into the hallway after the peach.

Jubei stands and readies his Katana. He carefully approaches the hallway and peers down the corridor.

Tobosaku takes the two pieces of the peach, recoiling at the rotting half, and merges them back as one.

TOBOSAKU (CONT'D)

You understand the power of the perfect fruit. Separated, they are light and darkness. Life and death.

Tobosaku takes the peach and perches it on his cane.

TOBOSAKU (CONT'D)

But as one, it is the sum of everything in this world. Harmony of both the good and evil, the perfect circle. Infinity encapsulated in my palm.

Jubei charges down the hallway but is sent flying back into the room by a strong thrust of the peach. He crashes into the large table and smashes vials splattering colorful liquid everywhere.

Tobosaku sends another cursed piece of a paper flying at Jubei, but this time he is ready. He slices it in two with his Katana, igniting his blade into flames.

JUBEI

Your time is over old man.

Leaping from the table, Jubei strikes down upon Tobosaku with his fiery blade. Tobosaku is quick to block with his cane, but is overwhelmed by Jubei's strength and the heat of his sword.

Jubei kicks him in the stomach, sending the old man flying into a wall. He cuts into the ground, setting the floor on fire.

For the first time, Tobosaku shows signs of fear.

JUBEI (CONT'D)

You destroyed my village. Slaughtered my wife and child.

Tobosaku is shaking, bleeding from his forehead.

JUBEI (CONT'D)

For what? More power, more control, more land? Greed is the sickness of this world.

Jubei approaches Tobosaku and moves his blade to his neck.

TOBOSAKU

Please, wait.

Tobosaku sweats profusely from the flames heat, as the blade caress his neck.

JUBEI

Death waits for no one.

With one swift movement, Jubei slices through Tobosaku's neck and rips his Katana down into his chest. Black blood surges from the wounds. The fire ignites his robes and he drops his cane and peach.

The old man writhes in pain on the ground. Jubei, severely injured, dislodges the sword and takes a few steps back from him.

JUBEI (CONT'D)

I bring you the vengeance of my slain village and its people. The fire that burns in their hearts have seared you.

Jubei sheaths his Katana, turning away from the now burning corpse. As he leaves, he senses something is not right.

A problem. Behind him, the fiery corpse of the old man sways back and forth.

Tobosaku is not dead.

He kicks his peach into his hands and bites down hard. As if quenching a thirst, the flames on his body subside. Smoke rises from his charred skin.

Jubei looks at the old man, amazed at his resistance. He resumes his fighting stance and readies his Katana.

TOBOSAKU

Didn't they tell you what you were dealing with?

Jubei, frozen in disbelief, backs away. Tobosaku runs straight at his target, jumping mid-air to strike down with his cane.

Jubei barely blocks with his sword, yet is successful in sending Tobosaku flying in an opposite direction. But the old man is too quick and bounces back charging at Jubei.

Tobosaku seems to have awakened some inner hidden force by eating the peach. The two warriors volley back and forth, sword versus cane. Each blow is met with another, neither connecting for a full body blow.

The speed of the fight increases until their movements become nothing more than a blur. Tobosaku extends his palm towards Jubei, knocking him to the ground with a mystical wind.

As he stands up, he notices a hidden effect of the wind. Jubei's vision is blurred and he can't move. He has been poisoned.

He watches the old man prepare another piece of paper. It gently touches him on his chest before he can see the character. He looks down and sees that it says "HELL".

He looks towards Tobosaku.

TOBOSAKU

I'll see you there one day. Wait for me.

Jubei, puzzled by the words, takes a dizzy step back. Suddenly, he writhes in pain, dropping his Katana. He looks at his hands erupting in fire.

TOBOSAKU (CONT'D)

But not yet. Not for a very long time.

Jubei is set ablaze, his entire body burning away to dark demonic flames. It strips him of his clothes and skin until there is only a skeleton left.

Even the bones of his skeleton break away into dust, and his entire being is reduced to a pile of ashes on the ground, still burning. Tobosaku walks over to the burning dust and smiles.

Jubei's remains have magically transformed into a RED TALISMAN, the center of which is off set by a beautiful red ruby. It pulsates with a demonic glow of fire.

Tobosaku picks up the talisman from the pile of dust.

TOBOSAKU (CONT'D)

Send my regards to the demons.

Tobosaku lets off a shriek of evil laughter as he places the talisman inside his robes, his skin already healing and returning to it's normal state.

He picks up his cane and uses it to grab the peach in one fluid movement. He also grabs a basket, hidden underneath the table.

CUT TO:

INT. WARRIOR BASE - MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tobosaku slowly walks up the stairs of his desecrated temple and sees for the first time the path of destruction Jubei has left in his wake.

Bodies everywhere. Limbs and heads spread over the floor. Tobosaku goes close to a wall and punches a hole with his palm. He removes the talisman and buries it deep into the ground.

He places the basket on the ground.

Tobosaku moves to the center of the room and raises both of his hands in the air. He balances his aura and starts to scream as a rush of energy surges through his fingers. In one blinding flash of light, the temple is set aflame.

CUT TO:

EXT. WARRIOR BASE - CONTINUOUS

The massive temple is now a beacon of fire. The old man disappears into the shadows as he climbs up the hill path.