

Princess Lily

By

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FADE IN:

1

EXT. HATTORI HOUSE - DAY

1

July 1941, Itoman, Japan. The sun shines warmly over the Edo-style garden. HATTORI MEGUMI (13) naps on the porch of her house. She listens to the BUZZ of the cicadas and the TOCK of the sozu fountain.

SAITO NAMI (35), Megumi's mother, calls from the side of the house.

NAMI (O.S.)
Megumi! Megumi, come over, please!

Megumi, waking up from her nap, opens her eyes and looks out into the clear blue sky. She stays there for a moment before slowly sitting up.

Megumi stretches her back and slips on her shoes. She jumps down the porch and walks along the stone path and crosses the bridge.

She opens the gate and stands by her mother.

Nami squats on the ground as she scrubs laundry in a wooden wash bin.

MEGUMI
(sluggishly)
Yes, Mother?

NAMI
Go into town and buy tofu, daikon,
and a miibai fish.

MEGUMI
Yes, Mother.

NAMI
And don't forget to bring the tofu
bucket. And check the eyes before
you buy the fish.

MEGUMI
Yes, Mother. Of course.

Megumi walks off the Hattori property and closes the front gate. She holds a wooden tofu bucket in a furoshiki.

2

EXT. ROAD TO TOWN - DAY - CONTINUOUS ACTION

2

The path from the Hattori residence into town runs along a river canal. A breeze from the sea blows through the trees. FISHERMEN and FARMERS glide down the river in their boats.

VILLAGERS and JAPANESE IMPERIAL SOLDIERS casually stroll up and down the road. Japan is still an imperial empire. Soldiers walking around is normal.

Megumi gives a small bow to every soldier she passes by in greeting. They greet her with a bow.

Megumi, carrying the wooden tofu bucket in a furoshiki, walks along the edge of the canal. A fish swims up to munch on a fallen leaf. Megumi peers over the edge watching the fish. There is no railing.

MR. AKIO (50s), a fisherman, watches over Megumi as she balances on the edge.

MR. AKIO
(cheerfully)
Careful little lady, if you lean
too far, you'll fall in!

MEGUMI
I'm careful as always, Mr. Akio!

Megumi waves to Mr. Akio. She continues down the road.

3

EXT. MARKETPLACE - DAY - CONTINUOUS ACTION

3

The marketplace BUSTLES with activity. MERCHANTS at their stalls sell fresh produce, cooked food, toys, fabrics etc. They call out for special deals and barter with CUSTOMERS.

A small group of soldiers in uniform, walk in the middle of the street market. Megumi slowly walks around them careful not bumping into any soldier.

Past the soldiers, Megumi walks in between stalls marveling wide-eyed at all the colorful merchandise.

Megumi stops by the produce section of the market. She runs her hands along some melons at a melon stall. The MELON FARMER smiles at a possible customer.

MELON FARMER
Hello, pretty lady! Get yourself a
fresh watermelon to keep you cool
in this heat!

Megumi smiles politely, but shakes her head. She moves on to a vegetable stall. MRS. MAKI, a vegetable farmer, stands behind her stall.

Megumi looks at some of the root vegetables Mrs. Maki has to sell.

MEGUMI

Good afternoon, Mrs. Maki. How are you and Mr. Maki doing?

MRS. MAKI

We are doing quite well, Megumi. Now what can I do for you today?

MEGUMI

Mother wants two daikons.

Megumi holds up two fingers.

MRS. MAKI

Of course.

Mrs. Maki picks out two big, fresh daikons and hands them to Megumi. Megumi unties the furoshiki and wraps the daikons. She puts the wrapped vegetables in the tofu bucket.

Megumi pulls out a pouch of money and gives Mrs. Maki what is due.

MRS. MAKI (CONT'D)

Thank you for your business! And tell your mother hello!

MEGUMI

Will do. Have a good day, Mrs. Maki!

Megumi continues through the market. As she walks to the next stall, a few TOWNSPEOPLE set up for the annual Itoman Hari Dragon Boat Races. Along the canal, some people set up banners and decorations, while others set up the boats for the races.

Megumi stops in her tracks and watches the townspeople run around in preparation for the festival. A few teams of RACERS check their boats.

Lost in awe, Megumi stands in the middle of the street. TWO MEN carrying a log for seating accidentally bump into Megumi.

MAN 1

Hey! Get out of the way, kid!

MEGUMI

Sorry.

Megumi gives a half bow in apology. She steps to the side of the road still watching people work. Realizing she still has things to buy, Megumi turns around and goes back into the market place.

Megumi's next stop is the tofu stall. The TOFU MAN (40s) is big and burly. Megumi is afraid and does not make eye contact.

MEGUMI

Good afternoon, sir. Can I please get one tofu?

Megumi takes out the daikon from the tofu bucket and hands the Tofu Man the bucket.

TOFU MAN

Are you going to the festival?

The Tofu Man plops a block of tofu in the bucket and then scoops some water in.

MEGUMI

I-I don't know, sir.

Megumi lowers her head in disappointment.

TOFU MAN

(booming and cheerful)

Well, you should! It's a lot of fun! There's the races...

The tofu in his hands slosh around in the bucket as he talks.

TOFU MAN (CONT'D)

And so much food! My wife makes the best takoyaki on the island! And there will be lots of games and competitions and performances!

The tofu sloshes even more in the Tofu Man's excitement. Megumi smiles. She takes out some money from her pouch and hands it to the Tofu Man.

MEGUMI

It sounds like fun, I'll think about it!

She looks at him and smiles again.

TOFU MAN

That's more like it! Thank you for your business.

He hands her the tofu and takes the money. Megumi puts the lid on the bucket and stacks the vegetables on top.

MEGUMI

Thank you, sir. Have a good day.

Megumi walks to the seafood section of the market. It is under many tents by the docks. There are all kinds of fish and shellfish sitting out on display.

Megumi stops by a THIN FISHERMAN that sells miibai fish.

MEGUMI

Good afternoon, sir. Can I please get one gutted miibai fish?

The Thin Fisherman nods and takes a miibai by the tail and holds it up to Megumi. Megumi looks at the scared fish in the eyes. She pauses in discomfort. Megumi nods and the Thin Fisherman turns around to prepare the fish.

Waiting for the fish, Megumi walks to the stall on the right and looks at a basket full of giant sea snails. One of them is out of its shell and crawling.

As Megumi leans in a bit to take a closer look, the sea snail goes back into its shell.

4

INT. HATTORI HOUSE, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

4

It is dinner time in the Hattori household. Megumi's father, HATTORI TAKESHI (35), and Nami sit on the side facing the doors. Megumi and her twin brother, HATTORI HISOKA (13), sit across from their parents.

The dinner consists of a grilled miibai fish, a daikon-no nimono dish with tofu, and steamed rice. The food is set on a traditional chabudai short-legged table.

Everyone sits on flat cushions. Megumi fills a bowl of rice for everyone. She fills her own bowl last.

ALL
Let's eat!

All four of the Hattoris put their hands together in thanks. They pick up their chopsticks to take portions of food they want from the dishes in the middle of the table. Megumi's father and brother take their share first.

Megumi patiently waits her turn. She looks into the dead miibai fish's eye. Megumi frowns a little.

NAMI
Megumi, aren't you going to eat?

Megumi looks up.

MEGUMI
Yes, Mother.

Megumi takes some daikon and tofu and places it in her bowl. She pauses before taking some fish.

TAKESHI
What did you do today, Hisoka?

HISOKA
Hung out with the boys by the harbor. We were thinking of watching the races tomorrow.

Megumi, looks up from her dinner at the mention of the races.

TAKESHI
That's fine. Just behave yourself. I don't want anymore trouble from you.

HISOKA
Yeah, sure.

Megumi takes a deep breath.

MEGUMI
(quietly)
Can I please go too?

TAKESHI
I don't know, ask your mother.

Megumi looks at her mother waiting for a response. Nami furrows her brow.

NAMI

There are a lot of chores that need to be done.

MEGUMI

(louder than expected)

I can do them all!

NAMI

Very well, IF you finish all your chores, then you can go.

MEGUMI

Thank you, Mother!

Megumi goes back to her dinner. She can't keep her excitement in and smiles wide as she finishes her dinner.

5 INT. HATTORI HOUSE, BEDROOM AND KITCHEN - DAY 5

Sunrise. Megumi wakes up. Excited for the races, Megumi jumps up and puts her bed away. She changes into a simple, casual yukata.

Megumi washes her face and ties her hair up. She goes into the kitchen and starts a fire in the stove. She fills a pot with water and puts it on the stove.

She adds all the ingredients for miso soup. She pours some grains of rice and puts it on the stove. She takes out a bowl and mixes natto and soy sauce.

Megumi pulls a box from under the counter and takes out four eggs. Once the rice is ready, she scoops rice in four bowls and boils the eggs.

6 INT. HATTORI HOUSE, DINING ROOM - DAY 6

In the dining room, the Hattoris eat the breakfast Megumi made. Takeshi finishes quickly and leaves for work. Hisoka finishes soon after and leaves.

Megumi finishes her food, but Nami slowly enjoys her breakfast. Once she eats everything, Nami calmly sips her green tea.

Megumi watches her mother closely. She waits for her mother to finish her breakfast. Nami drinks all her tea and then leaves the room.

The moment Nami closes the door, Megumi quickly collects the dirty dishes.

7 EXT. HATTORI HOUSE - DAY

7

It is a clear morning. Megumi squats at the side of the house scrubbing laundry. As Megumi scrubs, KOBAYASHI FUMIKO (13), Megumi's best friend and neighbor stops in front of the gate.

FUMIKO
Hey, Megumi!

Megumi looks up from the laundry. Fumiko waves to her friend. Megumi smiles.

FUMIKO (CONT'D)
You going to the festival? I'm meeting up with Kanna and the others, you should come. It'll be fun!

MEGUMI
Yeah, I'll be there. I just have to finish a few things, so don't wait up.

Megumi smiles.

FUMIKO
Ok, well, don't be too late or you'll miss the races.

Fumiko waves goodbye to Megumi and walks to town. Megumi, releases her smile. She SIGHS and continues to scrub.

8 INT. HATTORI HOUSE - DAY

8

Megumi rushes to change out of her dirty clothes into a nicer yukata. She brushes her hair and ties it up again. Megumi runs to the front door and puts her shoes on.

9 EXT. ITOMAN HARBOR - DAY

9

At the entrance of the harbor, large crowds of SPECTATORS: young and old, soldiers and civilians, men and women, stand at the edge of the harbor watching the race. They bustle with CHEERS and CHATTER.

Unable to see, Megumi walks further along the harbor. She goes on her tippy-toes as she walks.

Megumi sees an opening in between some spectators and pushes her way to the railing. FIVE TEAMS, in colorful uniforms, paddle furiously to the finish line.

The crowd CHEERS even louder as the first team finishes. The WINNING TEAM beams with pride as they hug and congratulate each other, but Megumi's smile is even brighter having made it to the festival.

10

EXT. MARKETPLACE - DAY

10

The marketplace, which is next to the harbor, has been converted into stalls for the festival.

People of all ages gather around the food and souvenir stalls. PARENTS buy their KIDS sweets, OLDER KIDS run around, ELDERS enjoy their walk, and Soldiers in uniform messily eat street food.

Megumi walks through looking left and right. Her eyes are wide taking in all the sights.

TOFU MAN
(booming)
So you made it after all!

Megumi jumps from his loud voice. She looks up and smiles at the Tofu Man. He stands behind the takoyaki stall next to MRS. TOFU (40s). They are both flipping takoyaki balls on the grill.

MEGUMI
Hello, sir. I was able to...

TOFU MAN
Good, good. Now, come and try one.
It's the missus' famous recipe!

The Tofu Man drizzles sauce and sprinkles dried onions over a small basket of takoyaki and hands it to Megumi.

Megumi fumbles to grab money.

TOFU MAN
Oh, don't you worry about that.
Just enjoy yourself.

The Tofu Man gently pushes the takoyaki into Megumi's hand.

MEGUMI
Thank you so very much, sir.

Megumi takes a bite from a takoyaki ball. It steams from her mouth. Megumi chews and blows out the steam at the same time.

MEGUMI (CONT'D)
This is delicious!

Mr. and Mrs. Tofu smile. Megumi gives a bow to the Mr. and Mrs. Tofu before she leaves.

Megumi holds the basket of takoyaki and continues to eat the balls with a wooden stick as she walks through the festival.

She walks to an open area that has been set up for shows and performances. Megumi walks to the seating area. She sits on the end of the bench.

There she watches DRUMMERS and DANCERS prepare for their number. The AUDIENCE members settle down in anticipation of the performance.

From the street area behind the audience, IWAO (15) is YELLING. He is a bigger boy than Hisoka.

Everyone looks in that direction in confusion.

IWAO
You dumb kid! You think you're
better than us?

Iwao kicks Hisoka, who is already on the ground, in the ribcage. Hisoka GROANS.

BOY 2
Yeah, teach him a lesson!

Iwao, BOY 2 (14), and BOY 3 (15) all kick Hisoka. The audience members and performers are turned around watching the fight.

Megumi holds the basket close to her chest. She trembles. The three boys are much bigger than her and her brother.

She looks around but people just stand there watching and whispering.

IWAO
If you ever come to my Pop's store
again, you're dead!

The boys stop kicking Hisoka and leave. The people who were watching turn back around to start the delayed performance.

BOOM BOOM BOOM. The Drummers play. Megumi hurries out of her seat and runs to Hisoka. Megumi drops the basket when she gets a full view of Hisoka.

Hisoka WHEEZES in pain. He has a cut on his chin and his left eye is swollen.

MEGUMI

HISOKA!

Megumi supports Hisoka as he slowly sits up.

HISOKA

(wheezy)

Those....

MEGUMI

Don't talk, it'll hurt more.

Megumi takes out a handkerchief and gently dabs the cut on Hisoka's chin. He winces in pain.

MEGUMI (CONT'D)

Can you stand?

Hisoka nods. Megumi looks around, but no one acknowledges them. She helps her brother up. Hisoka puts his arm around Megumi's shoulders as she supports some of his weight.

The twins slowly walk home.

11 INT. HATTORI HOUSE, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

11

It is dinner time in the Hattori household. Takeshi and Nami sit in their spot at the table. They wait for the kids to come in.

Megumi slides open the door and sits down.

TAKESHI

Where is your brother, Megumi?

MEGUMI

He said he wasn't hungry, Father.

Megumi keeps her gaze down at the table.

NAMI

Megumi, tell Hisoka to come to dinner.

Megumi doesn't move.

TAKESHI

Megumi, do as your mother says.

MEGUMI
Yes, of course.

Megumi gets up hesitantly. Her parents sit in silence as they wait.

Megumi supports Hisoka as they walk in. Hisoka avoids his father's gaze. Megumi and Hisoka sit down. It is quiet at the dinner table. No one moves.

TAKESHI
(sternly)
Let's eat.

He puts his hands together in thanks.

OTHER THREE
Let's eat.

They put their hands together in thanks.

The Hattori family eats in silence. Megumi and Hisoka avoid their parent's gazes.

12 EXT. HATTORI HOUSE - NIGHT

12

The moon shines brightly over the garden. Crickets CHIRP, the sozu fountain TOCKS, and SLAPS of Takeshi hitting Hisoka repeatedly echo.

Megumi sits on the porch looking up at the moon. Tears run down her face. She weeps silently. She flinches at each SLAP as though she were getting hit.

Nami comes out to the porch. She stands next to Megumi. She looks out over the garden. She doesn't react to the sounds of the punishment.

Nami looks over at her daughter. She sits next to Megumi. Megumi wipes her tears with her sleeve trying to make it look like she wasn't crying.

NAMI
What's wrong, Megumi?

Megumi shakes her head.

NAMI (CONT'D)
Hisoka was warned, yet he still disobeyed your father.

MEGUMI

I know, Mother. It's just that....
I could have prevented Hisoka from
getting hurt.

NAMI

What happened?

MEGUMI

I don't know, but when I saw big
brother, the others were hurting
him. But I didn't say anything. I
stood there like a coward!

Nami puts her hand on Megumi's back to comfort her.

NAMI

Megumi. You did the right thing. It
is not a cowardly thing to let men
do what they will. It is our place
as women to support them. It is our
duty to stay out of the way.

Megumi is quiet. She furrows her brow in frustration.

MEGUMI

Yes, Mother, I understand.

NAMI

That's my good girl.

Nami stands up and kisses Megumi on the top of her head. She goes back inside. Takeshi hits Hisoka one last time. Megumi jumps down to the ground and walks to the pond. She sees her shadow over the water. Megumi throws a rock at her shadow in anger.

13 INT. HATTORI HOUSE, BEDROOMS - DAY

13

It is morning.

Megumi wakes up in her bedroom.

Hisoka wakes up in his bedroom.

Megumi lies for a moment before she stretches and rolls off her tatami mat.

Hisoka lies for a moment before he stretches and rolls off his tatami mat.

Megumi folds her blanket and tatami mat and stacks them in her closet.

Hisoka folds his blanket and tatami mat and stacks them in his closet.

Megumi and Hisoka go into the bathroom.

MEGUMI

Morning.

HISOKA

(raspy)

Morning.

Hisoka, face still bruised, hobbles into the toilet stall to pee first while Megumi washes her puffy-eyed face and brushes her teeth. They switch.

Megumi and Hisoka go into their rooms and change into their school uniforms.

They go downstairs to the dining room.

14

INT. HATTORI HOUSE, DINING ROOM - DAY

14

Nami sets up breakfast. Takeshi sits in his usual spot reading the "Ryukyu Shimpo" newspaper. There are no photographs or any mention of World War II.

HISOKA (CONT'D)

Good morning, Father. Good morning, Mother.

MEGUMI

Good morning, Father and Mother.

TAKESHI

Hmm, morning.

Takeshi doesn't look up from his paper.

NAMI

Good morning, kids!

Nami fills the last bowl of rice. Everyone is seated at the table. Takeshi puts down his paper.

For breakfast there is grilled mackerel, hijiki seaweed salad, miso soup, and rice.

EVERYONE

Let's eat!

They put their hands together in thanks. Megumi and Hisoka eat their breakfast quickly.

TAKESHI
Hisoka, I want you to come home
immediately after school.

HISOKA
Yes, sir.

Megumi and Hisoka finish their food and put down their chopsticks.

MEGUMI AND HISOKA
Thank you for the food!

They get up and kiss Nami before they go to the front door. They sit on the genkan and put their shoes on. They shoulder their backpacks that lean against the wall.

15 EXT. ROAD TO SCHOOL - DAY

15

At the front of the house the twins give a small wave as they close the front gate. Megumi turns left and Hisoka turns right.

On the way to school, Megumi and Hisoka pass by soldiers. They both bow in greeting as they walk past. The soldiers bow in return.

Halfway to school, Hisoka meets up with some MALE CLASSMATES, while Fumiko runs to catch up to Megumi at the top of the hill.

FUMIKO
Meg! Wait up!

Fumiko waves her arm. Megumi turns around and waits for her friend. Fumiko runs up the hill; she gets slower as she gets closer to the top. Megumi laughs.

MEGUMI
You didn't have to run, I would've waited.

Fumiko reaches the top of the hill breathing heavily. She puts her hands on her waist and leans forward and breathes.

FUMIKO
(between breaths)
That hill... looked... smaller at
the bottom...

Megumi laughs again.