

JULIANA AND MASATO

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH IN BRAZIL -- MORNING

A SUNRISE over the ocean. Pristine Atlantic coastline.

No one in sight, except;

JULIANA, 17, is PADDLING out calmly on her SURFBOARD. She is brown-skinned, and sturdily built. Her hair is a disaster however, beginning to dread up in tangled knots. She sits up on her board and looks around, taking in the view. A WAVE comes, but Juliana lets it PASS.

Another wave comes. Juliana also lets it PASS.

Soon another wave starts to swell, and Juliana STARTS TO PADDLE. The wave PICKS HER UP, and she HOPS to her feet. Juliana SURFS effortlessly, playing casually on the board.

After a while, the wave begins to GROW. Julie braces herself and widens her stance as the wave SWELLS BIGGER, but Juliana's skills are strong.

However the wave keeps GROWING and GROWING, and soon Juliana finds herself surfing HUNDREDS OF FEET above sea level, riding an IMPOSSIBLY MONSTROUS WAVE. The wave KEEPS RISING until Juliana can almost see over the CURVATURE of the earth.

And there, far in the distance, beyond the familiar Brazilian coastal mountains and trees, she sees a DREAM WORLD of colors unfamiliar to her; ISLANDS and FORESTS, MOUNTAINS, and architecture of a JAPANESE STYLE among the MISTY LANDSCAPE.

A beautiful WHITE LIGHT sparkles and dances over all of it.

Juliana then sees that also surfing atop this impossible wave, is a FOX, with its own LITTLE ORANGE SURFBOARD. It too seems to SHINE and SPARKLE with the same WHITE LIGHT.

INT. JULIANA'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Juliana WAKES UP, her blankets all twisted. Her room is TINY and HUMBLE, the walls a bit CRUMBLED and STAINED, with SURFING POSTERS, MAGAZINE PULLOUTS, and some PHOTOS taped up. An old SURFBOARD is propped up in the corner.

INT. MOM'S POTTERY STUDIO/KITCHEN -- MORNING

Juliana STUMBLES as she enters, where MOM, a naturally beautiful woman, is brewing some TEA. The studio is tiny, obviously homemade, but functional.

MOM

Well, you're up early.

JULIANA

Dad said he needs me at the shop before noon. Is it noon yet?

The KETTLE WHISTLES. Mom pours tea into a HANDMADE CERAMIC MUG. Juliana, still half-asleep, heads for the DOOR, but Mom hands Juliana the MUG, BLOCKING Juliana's way.

MOM

Here.

Juliana SIPS, calming down. Mom SMILES.

MOM (CONT'D)

You know your father really likes when you help him like this sometimes.

JULIANA

Mmmm. Thanks. Gotta go.

Juliana hands back the mug, gives Mom a KISS. Mom pulls a MANGO down from a small tree, and GIVES IT to Juliana.

MOM

Bye Little One. Be brave. Love you!

JULIANA

Thanks Mom! Love you too!

EXT. JULIANA'S HOME -- MORNING

Juliana grabs her ALMOST-BROKEN BICYCLE, and PEDALS AWAY, BITING into the mango again.

Mom smiles, watching her go as she FINISHES Juliana's TEA.

EXT. BRAZILIAN BEACH TOWN -- MORNING

Juliana is riding her almost-broken-bicycle through town.

SUPER: "BRAZIL - 2027"

TOWNFOLK 1

Ayyy, Juliana! How's your mother?

TOWNFOLK 2

Lord God girl, when are you gonna cut that hair?

TOWNFOLK 3

Get a job, eh Juliana?

Juliana passes them all with a smile. She stops at a RED LIGHT. The intersection is loaded with ADVERTISING for an MMA TOURNAMENT, all branded heavily with SURFWORLD logos.

Up above, Julie sees an even more impressive SURFWORLD BILLBOARD, shiny and new amidst the otherwise weathered town. She STARES at it sadly. The light turns GREEN.

EXT. BRAZILIAN BEACH TOWN -- MORNING

Juliana continues along the streets and sidewalks.

But she is a bit too reckless, and she ALMOST WIPES OUT, narrowly missing some HONKING CARS.

In the chaos, she SEES SOMETHING from the corner of her eye; Maybe 30 feet away, in an ALLEY, a FIGHT; 4 on 1.

Juliana SKIDS to a stop, and BACKS UP to peek into the alley. She sees MASATO, 18, in an awkward FIGHTING STANCE, gripping a SUITCASE. He is ASIAN, wearing SUIT PANTS, a COLLARED SHIRT, SNEAKERS, and a school BACKPACK. There are 4 TOUGH GUYS surrounding him, all clearly MUCH BIGGER than Masato.

JULIANA

Hey!

Everyone looks in her direction. The SUN is in their eyes.

TOUGH GUY 1

Juliana?

Masato looks at her, squinting.

JULIANA

Why don't you leave him alone?

The Tough Guys DROP THEIR GUARD a bit, giving Masato space. Some BYSTANDERS stop to gather and watch, curious.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

This makes you tough? Harassing
some kid? Go fight in that big
tournament if you're so badass!

TOUGH GUY 1

Ah, Juliana, we were just having a
little fun. There's no problem
here. We like this guy, right?

Masato keeps looking at Juliana from a distance, SQUINTING.
The Tough Guys give some LIGHT PUNCHES to Masato's shoulder,
TUSSELE HIS HAIR, and pass Juliana one by one, sarcastically;

TOUGH GUY 1 (CONT'D)

Juliana to the rescue, eh? Wonder
Woman!

He MIMES a punch to her chin. She doesn't flinch.

TOUGH GUY 2

Tonight. You and me. I pick you up.

He WINKS. Juliana makes a face of disgust.

TOUGH GUY 3

Get a haircut, eh Juliana?

They leave, LAUGHING. Juliana looks back at Masato. The LIGHT
is REFLECTING and TWINKLING STRANGELY around him... Juliana
shouts from the seat of her almost-broken bicycle;

JULIANA

You OK?

Masato does not hear.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Hey!

Masato looks up.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You OK? You got a place to go?

MASATO

Yes. Thank you!

Juliana watches a few seconds more, the light still TWINKLING
STRANGELY around him.

JULIANA

Hm. Well, OK then.

She pedals away.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Good luck!

EXT. DAD'S SURF SHOP -- DAY

Juliana arrives at a small STOREFRONT. A WEATHERED SIGN is mounted above; 'DAD'S SURF SHOP'.

She tries to look in through the WINDOW, but the pane is too DIRTY and DUSTY.

INT. DAD'S SURF SHOP -- CONTINUOUS

A humble commercial space, maybe 1000 square feet. Large areas of shelves and display space are EMPTY.

DAD, a handsome man in his 30's, is FIXING an EMPTY DISPLAY.

JULIANA

So where's all the new stuff? You said a new order was coming in today! This place looks as empty as the day we bought it!

DAD

You tell me. It was supposed to come 3 days ago. You're late, by the way.

JULIANA

Maybe the driver's late too?

DAD

No. Deliveries only come before noon. Maybe tomorrow.

He picks up he DRILL, and drills a few more screws in.

DAD (CONT'D)

But don't get too excited about it when it arrives, because none of it's for you! No testing the merchandise this time!

Dad GESTURES to a few OLD and WORN looking SURFBOARDS.

DAD (CONT'D)

Use those old boards over there if you want to surf.

Dad picks up some PAPERS, a CALCULATOR, and a PEN. He looks at the CLOCK on the wall. Juliana endures an UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE, as Dad continues doing some MATH.

JULIANA

So... if the new stuff isn't here yet... then there's nothing for me to help set up. Right?

Dad RUBS his TEMPLES.

DAD

I suppose not. Maybe tomorrow. You can go have fun, Juliana.

JULIANA

Yeah? Really? OK. Thanks Dad.

Juliana grabs a SURFBOARD, and awkwardly CARRIES it out the door with her almost-broken BICYCLE.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Supposed to be good waves today!

Juliana looks outside; indeed, a beautiful sunny day. Then she looks back at Dad. He RUBS HIS TEMPLES again. Juliana PAUSES, BITING HER LIP slightly.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Actually, you know what Dad? I'm gonna go get you some money today instead. Help out, until the new stuff comes in!

She awkwardly navigates her bike and surfboard BACK INSIDE.

DAD

Oh? You have a money tree somewhere I don't know about?

JULIANA

I'm serious! Those tourist boats in the harbor? They love me there! I can get a job on those boats anytime I want. Did you know I hold the record for 'Most Tips on a Single Voyage'?

Dad does not seem convinced.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Relax, Dad. I'll go get the afternoon shift right now!

(MORE)

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Maybe the dinner shift, bring you a nice stack of cash tonight. You deserve it. I should help out more.

Dad waits for the hook.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

But... I might need to use your motorcycle to get there?

DAD

OK. You can use my motorcycle.

Juliana is surprised. Her eyes go wide.

DAD (CONT'D)

And, if you do actually get a job today, so easily like you say...

He holds up some KEYS.

DAD (CONT'D)

You can keep it. You'll need it to get to work each day.

Dad DROPS the keys into her hands.

JULIANA

What? Serious? Ha! Wow, thanks!

She HURRIES out the door again, but looks back one more time.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Everything'll be fine Dad, you watch. The new stuff will come in, we'll set up this place awesome and sell everything on the first day for top price. Mom will sell all her work at the market, we'll get Claudio off our backs for another month, and we'll all go surfing together! Just like old days.

Dad SMILES, and takes a moment to appreciate her optimism.

DAD

You're a good girl Juliana. Good luck with work, see you tonight.

EXT. BRAZILIAN BEACH TOWN -- DAY

Juliana is riding Dad's almost-broken MOTORCYCLE. No helmet.

TOWNFOLK 4

Hey watch where you're going!

EXT. HARBOR -- DAY

A nice VIEW of the TOURIST BOATS in the docks. Juliana STOPS the motorcycle for a second, to appreciate the scene.

Across the street, standing in the hot sun, is MASATO, still in long pants and shirt. He looks hopelessly out of place.

JULIANA

Hey, it's you!

Juliana RIDES closer, finally getting a better look at him.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Oh, you're older than I thought. In that alley I thought you were just a kid. You're gonna boil dressed like that, you know.

Masato BOWS, answering nervously in HORRIBLE PORTUGUESE;

MASATO

Yes. Thank you.

JULIANA

Don't worry about those guys, eh? They're losers, really. I thought you said you had a place to go?

MASATO

Yes. Thank you.

Masato just stands there.

JULIANA

You have no idea what I'm saying, do you?

Masato clearly doesn't. Juliana smiles, a bit amused.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Interesting. Kinda cute. A bit uptight maybe.

She gets an idea;

JULIANA (CONT'D)

No speak-a da English??

Masato's eyes light up.

MASATO

Yes.

She looks at him, suspicious.

JULIANA

Say somethin' more.

MASATO

Yes. I speak English. My name is Masato.

JULIANA

Masato. Japanese?

MASATO

Yes.

Masato hands Juliana some DOCUMENTS. He POINTS to an ADDRESS;

MASATO (CONT'D)

Can you take me to this address?

JULIANA

What, now?

She looks at the ADDRESS, frowning.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Well Masato, this address is on the other side of town! I don't even think I have enough gas to get there. I gotta go to work, my shift starts in like -wait a second-

Juliana SEES that the documents are about the MMA TOURNAMENT that she has seen advertised around town. Some FLYERS, etc.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Hey this is from that big fighting tournament everyone's buzzing about! That's where you wanna go?

MASATO

Yes.

Juliana looks further through the documents; images of the FIGHTERS, with SURFWORLD logos everywhere.

MASATO (CONT'D)

Please. I'm already late.

Juliana looks at the BOATS in the harbor, BITING her LIP.

EXT. URBAN ROAD -- DAY

Juliana is giving Masato a RIDE on the back of Dad's almost-broken MOTORCYCLE. Masato is trying awkwardly to hold onto both the bike and his suitcase at the same time.

JULIANA

Hang on!

MASATO

What?

EXT. SPORTS ARENA PARKING LOT -- AFTERNOON

The lot is almost full. A horde of TV BROADCAST VANS are gathered near the front. Juliana PARKS the motorcycle right by the doors, and they GET OFF the bike. Juliana LOOKS at Masato for a second.

MASATO

What is it?

JULIANA

Oh, nothing. You're taller than I thought. You must have looked smaller when I was on the bike.

Indeed, Masato stands about an inch taller than Juliana.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Come on! Maybe we're still in time!

EXT. SPORTS ARENA ENTRANCE -- AFTERNOON

Juliana and Masato RUN through the EMPTY LOBBY. FIGHT POSTERS, BANNERS, and SURFWORLD ads everywhere. They arrive at 2 SECURITY GUARDS, stationed at the ENTRANCE to the event.

Masato digs out a GUEST PASS, and puts it around his neck. They wave him through. Juliana however does not have a Guest Pass, and is clearly underdressed.

She sees a stack of folded PROMOTIONAL T-SHIRTS on a nearby table, and PUTS ONE ON over her top right in front of the Security Guards. She does a little POSE for them, and they instantly fall to her charm, and LET HER IN.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM -- AFTERNOON

The LIGHTS are DIMMED, and a PROMOTIONAL VIDEO for the TOURNAMENT is playing on the large SCREEN above, in ENGLISH.

The room is PACKED with FANS, PRESS, TV CAMERAS, more. On the STAGE is a LONG TABLE where the PROMOTERS and FIGHTERS sit, each with a MICROPHONE and name card.

Juliana and Masato WALK IN.

JULIANA

See? Look, it's not over yet!

FANS

Shhhh!!

FILM NARRATOR

But now... this summer, one spectacular tournament, with the assistance of PRIDE REVIVAL, and 'SURFWORLD', NHK MARTIAL ARTS GLOBAL PRESENTS;

More flashy images of FIGHT FOOTAGE, as the event's main TITLES blast onto the screen.

FILM NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The First International King of Kings Global Tournament: BRAZIL!!!

Everybody CLAPS, and the LIGHTS come back up. The film screen is replaced with a giant TOURNAMENT DIAGRAM, showing the brackets and names of the 8 FIGHTERS competing.

A BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER steps up to the PODIUM, TAPS the MICROPHONE, and smoothly speaks in impressive ENGLISH;

BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER

So this will indeed be an event of epic proportions, with 7 of the greatest Brazilian fighters today - and, as a price for co-promotion from our friends in Japan...

He gestures to BOSS TANAKA, a powerful looking Japanese Yakuza-esque man, sitting to his left.

BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER (CONT'D)

...They have sent one Japanese wildcard of their own into the mix. The very famous and always entertaining, YOSHIHIRO MASATO!

Camera flashes go off at YOSHIHIRO MASATO, the sole Japanese fighter sitting at the table, wearing some outrageous colorful modern Japanese fashion.

BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER (CONT'D)
And he is indeed a wildcard, ladies
and gentlemen.

Everyone laughs warmly. CAMERA FLASHES go off. Masato
WHISPERS SOMETHING to himself in Japanese.

BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER (CONT'D)
So over the next week, in 3
separate nights, we will crown the
champion. Fighters will have just
one day to recover between fights.
If a fighter is unable to continue,
we have some lucrative 'Alternate'
spots still available for some
lucky local talent.

A BUZZ hums through the room at mention of the opportunity.
Masato continues MUMBLING to himself, FRUSTRATED.

BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER (CONT'D)
And on the final night, the
tournament winner will win the One
Million Reais Grand Prize, and the
honor of being...

He looks to Yoshihiro Masato humorously.

BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER (CONT'D)
Hopefully, Brazil's representative
in next summer's International
Tournament, the first of its kind
in the history of our sport.

It takes a minute for Juliana to realize that Masato is BEING
PHYSICALLY ESCORTED out of the room.

INT. ARENA HALL -- AFTERNOON

An attractive female Japanese-Brazilian TRANSLATOR has been
summoned to assist in Masato's urgency, and TRANSLATES from
Japanese into Portuguese for the EVENT COORDINATOR.

Masato shows the Event Coordinator his GUEST PASS, a bunch of
printed DOCUMENTS, and PLANE TICKETS, pleading his case.

TRANSLATOR
He says he's supposed to be here -
But nobody met him at the airport.

The Press Conference ENDS in a WARM AND THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE.
The Translator must SHOUT over the noise;

TRANSLATOR (CONT'D)

He says he came for the tournament!

The Event Coordinator begins greeting the crowd as they exit the room, not paying much attention. Masato SPEAKS UP, this time directly to the Event Coordinator;

MASATO

I am Masato Yoshihiro!!

The Translator TRANSLATES into Portuguese.

The FIGHTERS start to pass by, all clearly BIGGER and STRONGER than Masato. The Event Coordinator begins to put two and two together, and looks at Masato oddly.

EVENT COORDINATOR

He has the same name?

Yoshihiro Masato is next, to a mix of CHEERS and BOOS;

FANS

Masa-to! Masa-to!

He is at least 40 pounds bigger than Masato. He STOPS, AUTOGRAPHS Masato's Press Pass, SMILES for the cameras again, TUSSELES Masato's hair, and continues along.

The Event Coordinator looks to the Translator, clarifying;

EVENT COORDINATOR

He thought he was invited to fight??

EXT. ARENA BENCHES-- AFTERNOON

Juliana is finishing a SLUSHEE in a PROMOTIONAL CUP.

JULIANA

You didn't really think you were invited to fight, did you?

Masato appears thoroughly crushed.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Oh well, they're gonna fly you back for free, right? I still say you should've at least bargained for some tickets to the show... I would have liked to have seen that.

She looks again at Masato. He catches her looking at him, and she quickly looks away, stirring her slushee.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I never knew fighting was so big.
We have a few jiu-jitsu clubs in
town, but I didn't know it was so
fancy like this.

She takes another slurp of her slushee.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

So listen, I should be getting
back. You still need a ride?

-But when she looks back, Masato has suddenly donned A BRIGHT
ORANGE JAPANESE WRESTLING MASK.

The sight of the mask TRIGGERS a disorienting, *WAKING
HALLUCINATED VISION*;

*The mask COMES ALIVE, ANIMATED before her eyes. It
transforms into a PAPER FOX MASK, GLOWING with the WHITE
LIGHT like in her dream.*

The vision ENDS SUDDENLY, leaving Juliana a bit DIZZY.

When she can focus again, she sees that Masato is now wearing
some THRIFTY ATHLETIC SHORTS. He looks directly at Juliana
through the darkened black eyes of the mask.

MASATO

Thank you for your help.

He RUNS BACK INTO THE ARENA.

INT. ARENA PROMOTIONAL EXPO -- AFTERNOON

Everyone from the press conference has now moved into the
MAIN LOBBY for Phase 2 of the day's promotional festivities;
autograph signing, various Brazilian celebrities, merchandise
sales, a full ring with training demonstrations, etc.

Masato STORMS in. Juliana FOLLOWS.

Masato finds the Translator and PULLS her to the nearest
MICROPHONE. Masato GRABS the mic, speaking in Japanese;

MASATO

There is an impostor among us!!!

He puts the microphone to the Translator's FACE. The
Translator starts TRANSLATING into Portuguese. Some of the
FANS stop to pay attention.

Masato POINTS directly at Yoshihiro Masato, who is SIGNING AUTOGRAPHS nearby.

MASATO (CONT'D)

You say that THIS is Yoshihiro Masato? The man to threaten the hopes and dreams of Brazil's finest warriors?

The Translator continues TRANSLATING. Still, nobody is clear what exactly is happening. Juliana WATCHES in amazement.

Masato holds up some DOCUMENTS high for everybody to see;

MASATO (CONT'D)

I too have been given the name of Yoshihiro Masato!

The Translator continues TRANSLATING. Masato holds up his PLANE TICKETS and DOCUMENTS;

MASATO (CONT'D)

And I too received a personal invitation from CHK MARTIAL ARTS GLOBAL to be the 8th competitor in the tournament!! I received round trip tickets and a free continental breakfast! Yet this was no mistake of names, I tell you; this was divine fate and cannot be ignored!

The Translator translates perfectly, and the CROWD is beginning to PAY ATTENTION.

Suddenly Boss Tanaka enters the room, flanked by several large JAPANESE SECURITY. He does not look amused. Masato POINTS at Boss Tanaka, and speaks to him IN ENGLISH;

MASATO (CONT'D)

I demand you honor your contracts, and allow me to compete as invited!

The Brazilian Fight Promoter INTERJECTS, also in ENGLISH;

BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER

The spaces, my foolish masked friend, are already filled.

He gestures to Yoshihiro Masato at the autograph table;

BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER (CONT'D)
This 'impostor' you speak of... is
on a 9-Fight winning streak, and is
one of the most popular sports
personalities in all of Japan.

The Translator continues TRANSLATING.

BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER (CONT'D)
Which 'Masato' do YOU think should
get to fight? You?

The Crowd LAUGHS, turning their eyes back to Masato.

Masato TAKES OFF HIS MASK. It is rather anti-climactic.

MASATO
Then make me an 'alternate'
fighter! If there is an injury, let
me take their spot!

BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER
We already have an Alternate as
well. We just signed him a few
hours ago.

He gestures towards the ring, where a DARK BRAZILIAN FIGHTER
is hitting the pads with an ELDERLY TRAINER.

BRAZILIAN FIGHT PROMOTER (CONT'D)
Can we have some security here
now?? Ladies and Gentlemen, please
return to your scheduled activities
and enjoy the day.

MASATO
If I can beat that man in less than
10 seconds, I am the alternate!!

The Translator is quick to keep up with translations. The
crowd BUZZES at the challenge. The PRESS begin a whirlwind
of QUESTIONS, and CAMERAS begin FLASHING.

Juliana continues to watch, ENTHRALLED.

EVENT COORDINATOR
SECURITY!! Take this prankster out!

But Boss Tanaka RAISES HIS HAND, belaying the order. His
hand carries a heavy weight. Everyone OBEYS, almost frozen.

Boss Tanaka steps forward, eyeing Masato with curiosity. Juliana sees a subtle glimmer of the White Light again around Masato. No one else seems to notice, but Boss Tanaka SQUINTS his eyes. - Can he see it too?

MASATO

10 seconds. If I win, I'm the alternate. If I don't, then I will leave, and never be seen again.

The Translator repeats in Portuguese. Boss Tanaka stares laser-like at Masato, transfixed. Masato stares right back.

Boss Tanaka nods and GRUNTS AN APPROVAL, and Masato heads straight for the RING, dropping the mic to the floor. The crowd is baffled, and SWARMS the ring.

Masato jumps up through the ropes in a cheesy pro-wrestling style to the delight of the crowd. He looks outweighed by at least 40lbs when seen next to The Dark Brazilian Fighter.

MASATO (CONT'D)

10 seconds.

Several Brazilian EVENT STAFF furiously PLEAD with the Brazilian Fight Promoter, but Boss Tanaka ALLOWS it.

MASATO (CONT'D)

10 seconds.

Masato gets in an AWKWARD FIGHTING STANCE, almost comical. The Elderly Trainer holds up a STOPWATCH.

ELDERLY TRAINER

Go!

Masato takes a deep breath... -and just stands there.

The Dark Brazilian Fighter is confused. The crowd COUNTS:

CROWD

1... 2... 3...

The Dark Brazilian Fighter FLINCHES at Masato - but Masato does not blink. Juliana rubs her eyes; can she see a White Light around him?

The Dark Brazilian Fighter takes a boxing stance and begins hopping around, like ready to throw some jabs.

CROWD (CONT'D)

4... 5... 6...!!

But Masato does not move. The Dark Brazilian Fighter is getting nervous. The crowd continues;

CROWD (CONT'D)

7... 8...!!

Suddenly the Dark Brazilian Fighter has had enough, and throws a VICIOUS LEAD RIGHT HAND at Masato.

But the momentum of his punch simply blows Masato to the side like a leaf in the wind. The force of the Dark Brazilian Fighter's punch is RE-DIRECTED around Masato's center, and he goes FLYING head first into a SPIT-BUCKET.

CLANGG!!!!

The Dark Brazilian Fighter appears to be KNOCKED OUT.

JULIANA + CROWD

9..!

The Elderly Trainer rushes to inspect;

ELDERLY TRAINER

HE'S OUT!!!

Somebody rings a BELL before anyone dares shout '10'. The crowd goes crazy. The Dark Brazilian Fighter regains his senses, and looks over at Masato, defeated.

Juliana LAUGHS deeply both inside and out.

Boss Tanaka likewise SMILES widely. Masato is SWARMED by PRESS and FANS. Masato and Juliana make EYE CONTACT for just a brief moment, but the crowd CARRIES HIM AWAY.

EXT. SPORTS ARENA ENTRANCE -- EVENING

Juliana is WAITING BY HERSELF by Dad's MOTORCYCLE. The parking lot is EMPTYING, the last of the FANS trickling out. Suddenly Masato EXITS the arena.

JULIANA

Masato!

They APPROACH each other.

MASATO

You waited for me?

JULIANA

Well, I didn't really know what happened to you in there, they just took you away like that. You said you didn't have a place to go, so I thought, I don't know, maybe you needed a ride somewhere. Or whatever. I missed my shift but that's OK... Where's your suitcase?

Masato smiles.

MASATO

They are taking care of me. I'm A-OK. Did I say that right?

Juliana laughs.

MASATO (CONT'D)

Do you have a phone?

JULIANA

A phone? No. No phone. I don't even have a watch.

She laughs a bit at herself. A short awkward silence.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Well, if you're all good then, Masato, I guess I'll just go. Maybe I can still make the dinner shift. Working on the boats. You'd like it. I mean, as a tourist you'd like it. Not working. That sucks.

MASATO

I don't know your name.

JULIANA

Juliana.

MASATO

Juliana.

Another awkward silence.

JULIANA

Anyways, it was nice meeting you Masato. I had an interesting day.

She STARTS the motorcycle.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Good luck with the fighting stuff!

But the motorcycle is LOUD.

MASATO

What??

JULIANA

(shouting)

Good luck!!

Juliana RIDES AWAY. Masato just watches as she disappears.

EXT. DREAMSCAPE -- NIGHT

Juliana is having another DREAM, in the same animated style of her Vision-Memories;

In the dream, Juliana sees a JAPANESE GIRL, about 4 years old, scampering down a MOUNTAIN PATH. She is dressed in casual clothes typical of 1950's rural Japan.

JAPANESE GIRL

C'mon Dad, why are you so slow?

Her FATHER, a healthy Japanese man in his late 20's, follows her carrying a few sacks of fresh PEACHES.

JAPANESE GIRL (CONT'D)

You're getting old, Dad!

EXT. JAPANESE RURAL HOME -- AFTERNOON

The Japanese Girl and her Father return to their HOME, a simple but peaceful house among the rice fields and mountains of an idyllic Japanese landscape.

There is a humble POTTERY STUDIO next to the house. The Japanese Girl's MOTHER steps out into the sun, carrying some unfired pottery to her KILN. The light favors her.

JAPANESE GIRL

Mom! We found peaches! Look how much! I got the best ones.

She looks back fondly at her Father, displaying their bounty. Mother is pleased. Father smiles.

INT. JULIANA'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Juliana AWAKENS suddenly from her dream. She lifts up a SOCK, uncovering her ALARM CLOCK;

JULIANA

Shit!

EXT. BRAZILIAN BEACH TOWN -- MORNING

Juliana is SPEEDING on her almost-broken-bicycle, EATING a MANGO, almost causing another traffic jam.

EXT. HARBOR -- MORNING

She rides right onto the DOCK, where a small CREW is preparing the CAIPIRINHA, a particularly handsome boat.

JULIANA

Hey Boss! How ya doing?

She approaches BOSS, who is preparing for the next trip.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Looks like perfect weather, no?
You're gonna have some happy
customers today! Yessir!

She slides up a little closer. Boss continues to prep.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

So hey, I'm available and you can
always use some extra hands on
deck, right? I can fill in
anywhere, whatever you need, I can-

BOSS

No. You don't know how to deal
with the English customers.

Juliana replies in ENGLISH, but with a hilarious and deliberate ITALIAN accent;

JULIANA

What? What are youz talkin abouts?
I speaka de Purr-fectly English!

Boss WALKS AWAY. Juliana FOLLOWS, losing the accent;

JULIANA (CONT'D)

No seriously, I speak awesome
English, you know that.

(MORE)

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I bet I speak the bestest English
on this whole boat!

BOSS

Nope. Felipe speaks way better.
Lived in Pittsburgh. 3 years.

Juliana looks up to see FELIPE, a good-looking young man.

JULIANA

OK but I still hold the record for
'Most Tips on a Single Voyage'!

BOSS

Nope. Felipe broke that too.

FELIPE

Crushed it.

BOSS

Go home Juliana. I already have a
crew, we don't need you.

JULIANA

But I'm awesome at this! Remember
that British Lady that kept buying
me drinks?

BOSS

Yeah and remember how you kept
drinking them? You were so loaded
by the end of that voyage you fell
over trying to dance samba.

JULIANA

They LIKED it! We were having fun!

She begins to DEMONSTRATE, but quickly feels silly and stops.

BOSS

You were sweating all over them.
Your hair stinks. Look Juliana,
I'm targeting a different class of
clients these days. Sophisticated,
higher taste. This aren't the days
of cheap beer and sambas anymore.
I'm actually trying to run a real
business here, trying to get real
clients, for real money. Now
kindly, get off my boat.

Juliana turns and BUMPS into a TOURIST WOMAN in her late
50's. The Tourist Woman makes a FACE OF DISGUST at Juliana.

EXT. HARBOR DOCKS -- LATER

Juliana watches as the Caipirinha SAILS AWAY, a party vibe already growing on board. After a moment, she looks over, almost instinctively, to the spot she saw Masato yesterday, standing in the hot sun. But he is not there.

JULIANA

Shit.

Suddenly Juliana recognizes a man, RICARDO, walking past.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Hey! - Ricardo, no? No, wait -
Rodrigo, right? Yeah, man.. You
know me.

She chases after him. Ricardo is heading for a NEIGHBORING BOAT, considerably nicer than the Caipirinha.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You got any extra shifts on your
boat this week? I'll work real hard
for ya.

Rodrigo smiles, and continues towards his boat.

RODRIGO

You have mango in your teeth.

JULIANA

What?

He WALKS AWAY. Juliana checks; indeed, some mango.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Shit.

Then;

MASATO

Hey!!

Juliana looks behind, and sees Masato. He HOPS DOWN to her.

MASATO (CONT'D)

I thought I'd find you here. Come!
I want to show you something!

INT. MASATO'S PLACE -- MORNING

Juliana and Masato are going UP the steep stairway entrance.

MASATO

It's the promoter's.. Sister's..
Nephew's house. Or something like
that. They said I could stay here
while he's away.

The top of the stairs opens to a nice little BACHELOR PAD.

MASATO (CONT'D)

Come up to the roof!

He takes her up ANOTHER STAIRCASE, this one even STEEPER.

INT. MASATO'S DOJO -- MORNING

The stairs lead to the ROOFTOP of the apartment; covered,
open partially at the sides to the natural BREEZE.

The whole area has been set up as a DOJO; The floor is
covered with MATS, and around the edges are various PUNCHING
BAGS, MEDICINE BALLS, and WEIGHTLIFTING EQUIPMENT.

MASATO

What do you think? They said I
could train here for the fights.

Juliana sees his OPEN BACKPACK on the floor with his MASK,
some COMIC BOOKS, some CLOTHES, and a CASE OF CD's.

JULIANA

CD's? You actually listen to CD's?

She starts BROWSING through them. Masato continues UNPACKING.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Japanese punk? Does that even work?

MASATO

Other fighters bring their coaches
and trainers but I didn't know I
was supposed to bring those things.
I only got one ticket.

They look right at each other, a frozen moment.

MASATO (CONT'D)

It's perfect!

Masato digs further into his backpack and takes out a tangle
of more wires and a PORTABLE DVD PLAYER.

MASATO (CONT'D)

I start training right away.

JULIANA

Yeah. Sure, right. Well I should go then, get out of your way.

MASATO

Of course.

JULIANA

But, now I know where you live, maybe I'll just show up sometime when you least expect it, how about that? Sorry I don't have a cell phone, that's not really my style.

MASATO

I like your style.

Juliana gets a bit flustered at the compliment, and turns away back down the steep stairs.

JULIANA

OK then. Bye, Masato.

MASATO

Tchau!

He pokes his head over the stairs as she leaves.

MASATO (CONT'D)

Did I say that right?

INT. DAD'S SURF SHOP -- DAY

Juliana carries her bicycle inside.

The displays are still EMPTY. Dad is ON THE PHONE.

JULIANA

What? Still no delivery? How am we supposed to make any money if we don't have anything to sell?

DAD

I'm trying to call the dispatch again. They have me on hold.

Dad holds up his CELL PHONE for Juliana to HEAR the LAME ELEVATOR MUSIC coming from the receiver.

JULIANA

Ouch.

Dad TIGHTENS some more pieces of the shelving units.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Hey Dad, what do you know about
Martial Arts?

As she says this, Dad JAMS his THUMB. He swallows the pain.

DAD

I know it causes fights.

Dad SMILES cynically, then changes the subject:

DAD (CONT'D)

How did it go on the boats
yesterday? Did you get some shifts?

Juliana instantly gets FLUSTERED, BITING her LIP.

JULIANA

Hm? Oh, yeah. It went fine.

Dad keeps working. Juliana WINCES to herself.

DAD

Good girl. More shifts today?

Juliana gets FLUSTERED again. She continues the LIE:

JULIANA

Today? Uh, yeah. Evening shift.

DAD

Why don't you go see if your Mom
needs help then? No sense two of
us being stuck on hold.

He holds up the phone again to hear the horrible ELEVATOR
MUSIC. Juliana makes a FACE of disgust.

It quickly changes however to a SHEEPISH SMILE;

JULIANA

Can I take your motorcycle?

EXT. BRAZILIAN BEACH TOWN -- DAY

Juliana is riding her almost-broken BICYCLE through the
streets. She approaches a CONSTRUCTION CREW, BLOCKING HER
WAY and putting up DETOUR SIGNS. Juliana tries to CROSS.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER 1

Miss? You can't go through there!

Juliana tries to navigate THROUGH, but they STOP her.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER 2

Hey! What'd I say? Out!!

JULIANA

I just need to get through!

CONSTRUCTION WORKER 2

Go around! You can't be in here.

CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN

Hey! Get her out of here!

EXT. BRAZILIAN BEACH TOWN -- DAY

Juliana is PUSHING her almost-broken bicycle up a HILL. At the top is a fancy MMA TRAINING ACADEMY. The door is OPEN.

INT. MMA TRAINING ACADEMY -- AFTERNOON

Inside, Juliana sees one of the fighters from yesterday's press conference, GUSTAVO, in training. To make sure, she spies some POSTERS on the walls in the lobby for the big tournament, with Gustavo clearly HIGHLIGHTED.

He is being 'shark-pitted' by opponents consecutively for 1 minute each. He is impressive - lightning fast, seemingly endless cardio, powerfully explosive, high technique.

Juliana watches him, impressed. But her vision begins to BLUR with another disorienting waking hallucinated VISION: MEMORIES of a KARATE DOJO, in a FOREST. The sound of KATAS, the flickering of TORCHLIGHT.

But suddenly, Juliana is GRABBED by 4 or 5 MARTIAL ARTISTS and the ACADEMY MANAGER. The vision ENDS. They HAUL her out.

JULIANA

Yo, what the hell?

EXT. MMA TRAINING ACADEMY -- AFTERNOON

ACADEMY MANAGER

What are you doing here?? How did you get in? Goddammit answer me before I call the police!!

JULIANA

Whoa, easy...!! I was just passing by, checking it out! There was a detour, some construction and I -

ACADEMY MANAGER

Do you have a camera? A phone?
Were you filming anything?

JULIANA

I got nothing, pal, relax.

Then: CRACK!!!!

GUSTAVO

AAAAAAAAAGGGHHHHHHHHHHH!!

Everyone RUSHES INSIDE at the sound of the PANICKED SCREAM.

INT. MMA ACADEMY -- AFTERNOON

GUSTAVO'S TRAINING PARTNER

I'm so sorry!!! Oh god. I'm so
sorry... Oh god.

ACADEMY MANAGER

What happened!??

CONDITIONING COACH

His leg...

Gustavo is in severe pain. His ANKLE is beginning to SWELL
up badly. Juliana is PEEKING from the back.

GUSTAVO'S TRAINING PARTNER

Oh God. I'm so sorry. Oh God, Oh
God, Oh God, Oh God,

CONDITIONING COACH

Will you shut up?

Gustavo's Training Partner SHUTS UP. Everyone stands around
in shock. Juliana just watches from a distance.

CONDITIONING COACH (CONT'D)

This is bad. There's no way he can
fight like this.

ACADEMY FIGHTER A

Psst! Dude!

He nudges ACADEMY FIGHTER B.

ACADEMY FIGHTER A (CONT'D)

You know what this means, right?

But Academy Fighter B is not so smart.

ACADEMY FIGHTER A (CONT'D)

That crazy Japanese kid is in.
He's the alternate, remember?

ACADEMY FIGHTER B

That Japanese kid's gonna fight..?

He repeats the words, this time loudly, in utter disbelief.

ACADEMY FIGHTER B (CONT'D)

That Japanese kid's gonna fight?

And in seconds, the whole academy, save for those financially invested in Gustavo, explode in jubilant excitement.

Gustavo however looks at his 'friends' - deeply betrayed at their excitement. They all look guilty.

ACADEMY FIGHTERS

Sorry...

Juliana lightly DUCKS AWAY without anyone's notice. But as she leaves, she feels eyes on the back of her neck;

She turns around - one of the larger, stronger fighters, MATHEUS, is staring hard at her. But he does nothing.

Juliana gets on her bicycle, and LEAVES.

As soon as she is out of sight, she STOPS, and repeats the words to herself, incredulous;

JULIANA

'That Japanese kid's gonna fight!'

EXT. MASATO'S PLACE -- AFTERNOON

Juliana KNOCKS LOUDLY. No answer. She KNOCKS again, harder.

JULIANA

Masato??

She checks the DOOR. To her surprise, it is UNLOCKED. Juliana slips inside, LOCKING the door behind her.

INT. MASATO'S DOJO -- MORNING

JULIANA

Masato!

Juliana runs up the steps. There she sees Masato doing PULL-UPS, without a shirt.

Though he looked skinny with a shirt on, he is actually quite RIPPED. Masato FINISHES his set, dropping back down to the floor.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Whatsa matter, that's all you got?

MASATO

They're hard!

Masato PUTS A SHIRT ON. Juliana takes off her flip-flops, and manages 3 or 4 pull-ups before she gives up.

MASATO (CONT'D)

Look! Come here.

Masato leads her over to his portable DVD player, where he is studying some VIDEO TUTORIALS.

MASATO (CONT'D)

I'm studying this move called the 'Bear Trap'. If I get in trouble in a fight, I can turtle up in a ball!

JULIANA

That doesn't sound like a very good strategy.

MASATO

Yeah but if I do get in trouble, like really getting beat up.

JULIANA

Fun.

MASATO

So you crumple up into a ball, but you leave this little space open between your legs.

He drops down to the MATS, demonstrating. Juliana remains standing, watching Masato demo the technique by himself.

MASATO (CONT'D)

That little space is called the 'Bear Trap'. And if your opponent steps in the Bear Trap, you reach down and grab his ankle, and pull up as hard as you can and push your hips against his knee. That's called a 'Knee-Bar'. I think.

JULIANA

Knee Bar?

Masato DEMONSTRATES again without a partner. It looks like he is HUMPING an imaginary leg. Juliana can't help but LAUGH.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Dude, do you even know how to fight at all??

Masato stands up.

MASATO

No. Well sort of. Not really.

He gestures to the DVD player,

MASATO (CONT'D)

I'm learning.

JULIANA

'Cause you're in.

Masato blinks.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Gustavo got injured! I just saw it with my own eyes. You're the alternate. You're in the tournament! You're going to fight!

There is a brief pause, after which Masato LAUGHS out loud.

Just then, the Brazilian Fight Promoter, the Translator, and several LAWYERS all RUSH into the room, nervously carrying a mountain of CONTRACTS and paperwork.

Lastly enters Boss Tanaka. His presence carries more depth than everyone else combined. He and Masato make eye contact.

EXT. BEACH -- EVENING

Juliana and Masato are sitting on a WALL, sipping SLUSHEES and watching the SUN SETTING over the waves.

JULIANA

So you fooled them all.

Masato just SLURPS his slushee.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

They just signed you into a huge all-Brazilian MMA tournament, you're getting paid even if you lose, and you don't even know how to fight? What did you tell them??

MASATO

Told you, I'm learning. That Japanese promoter likes me I think.

Juliana looks at him. He takes another spoon of his SLUSHEE.

MASATO (CONT'D)

I should go home. I need to sleep if I want to stay strong.

JULIANA

Oh, come on. Let me show you around. The night is just starting!

MASATO

Don't you have work?

JULIANA

Nah. Those guys are losers.

MASATO

You don't have a job?

Juliana is a bit embarrassed.

JULIANA

My Dad has a little surfing shop, but you know that big SURFWORLD sponsor at the tournament? Well they opened a huge superstore here a few months ago and it kinda stole a lot of Dad's business.

MASATO

Do you have a mom?

JULIANA

Yes. She makes pottery. She's really good at it, but doesn't make much money. Unless sometimes if she finds a rich client, then she can make a lot. But that hasn't happened in a long time. You're really gonna go to bed early?

MASATO

Yes. I'm in the tournament now. I need to be responsible.

Juliana stares at him for a moment.

JULIANA

OK. Come on then, Mr. Responsible. I'll walk you home.

EXT. PATHWAY -- NIGHT

Juliana and Masato's path is about to enter an unlit FORESTED GROVE between neighborhoods.

JULIANA
Are you afraid of the dark?

They share a brief glance. They ENTER.

EXT. FORESTED GROVE -- NIGHT

The night is actually not so dark - it is quite warm and lovely. Frogs are heard CROAKING in the jungle nearby.

JULIANA
What about you? What's Japan like?

MASATO
I feel more at home here.

JULIANA
How could you feel at home here?
You've only been here for 2 days!
You don't even speak Portuguese!

Juliana and Masato STOP at a FORK IN THE PATH.

MASATO
I feel at home with you.

Juliana looks at him, then away, SHY.

JULIANA
I can't believe you're actually
gonna fight in that tournament.

Masato just stands there, grinning contently.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
It all feels like a dream or
something...

Juliana stares at his unafraid smile.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
Well, good night I guess. My house
is this way, but if you go that
way, it'll take you straight to
your apartment.

The moment is peaceful.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
How do you say 'goodnight' in
Japanese?

MASATO
Goodnight.

Masato gives her an awkward, but gentlemanly KISS on her
CHEEK. They PART.

JULIANA
Good night, Masato.

EXT. JULIANA'S PATH -- NIGHT

Juliana walks casually, and cannot help a SMILE. She
approaches a SMALL BRIDGE under the cover of trees.

Suddenly Matheus APPEARS out of the shadows, BLOCKING her;

MATHEUS
Don't you think I didn't see what I
saw today.

JULIANA
What are you muttering?

MATHEUS
You injuring Gustavo like that, so
your friend can play his games.

JULIANA
Me? I didn't hurt anyone! You saw
it! I wasn't even inside!

MATHEUS
You think I don't know what you
know I know.

Juliana gets tripped up trying to follow his language.

MATHEUS (CONT'D)
You are using the Spirits! You
have made a deal with them to
interfere for your friend! The
others may not have had the eyes to
see it, but I see it. I know.

Juliana is dumbfounded at the bizarre accusation. All of a
sudden a SPOOKY ELDERLY WOMAN appears out of the shadows, and
stands beside Matheus. She is dressed in typical costume of
the African/Brazilian religion of CANDOMBLE. Her EYES appear
to be ROLLED BACK IN HER HEAD.

MATHEUS (CONT'D)

Your mother is not the only one in town with eyes to see the spirits.

JULIANA

You leave my Mom out of this!

Juliana's energy tips them back a bit.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

That guy got hurt in training! I wasn't even near him! I don't know what you're talking about, you take your voodoo shit somewhere else!

MATHEUS

You are dealing with powers you do not understand.

JULIANA

You guys are nuts.

Juliana WALKS PAST THEM. They let her go.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

Juliana keeps her best pokerface, but she is shaken.

INT. JULIANA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Juliana is having another *DREAM-VISION*;

EXT. FOREST -- NIGHT

The Japanese Girl is walking down a TRAIL through a DARK FOREST. The path is BARELY VISIBLE.

Up ahead there is a LIGHT, and SOUND of KARATE KATAS. She arrives at a FOREST DOJO. Inside are several MARTIAL ARTISTS. One of them is the Japanese Girl's FATHER.

The class CONTINUES, but Father looks DISTRACTED. The Teacher SCOWLS. The Japanese Girl WAITS outside on the STEPS.

INT. MASATO'S DOJO -- AFTERNOON

Juliana RUNS up the steps.

JULIANA

Masato! Masato!

Masato is SEATED on the mats, MEDITATING.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
I got work!!

Masato opens his eyes.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
Afternoon cruises, baby! All week!
All I had to do was wash my hair!

She shows off her newly washed hair, not much different.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
Come! I still got a few hours left,
let's go have some fun!

But Masato hesitates.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
What's wrong? Let's go!

MASATO
Juliana, I have to train.

She looks at him, just SITTING on the mats.

JULIANA
That doesn't look like training.

MASATO
Well, it is.

A tense pause.

MASATO (CONT'D)
You could help me, if you like.

JULIANA
I don't know what you're doing.

MASATO
Then come, sit.

Juliana SITS.

MASATO (CONT'D)
Look. There is Physical power. The
Human will, imposing it's way on
the material world around them.

Juliana tries to follow.

MASATO (CONT'D)

But there is also Spiritual power.
Where we let the natural flow of
things take control!

Masato seems really excited about this. But all of a sudden
Juliana's vision begins to distort;

*The sight of Masato becomes a sight of the FATHER from her
animated DREAMS, speaking the SAME WORDS, but in JAPANESE:*

MASATO & VISION OF FATHER TOGETHER

*When we connect to Spirit, all
becomes one! And that is always
stronger than anyone's will.*

She tries to shake off the vision, but she cannot;

JULIANA

*Where have I heard this before? Am
I speaking Japanese??*

*She can see bits of a sparkling WHITE LIGHT around Masato,
and around her OWN fingertips.*

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Masato - what's happening?

The Vision ENDS. No more White Light is visible. Juliana
JUMPS out of her meditation posture.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

What the hell was that??

She looks around, still disoriented.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Did you drug me??

She looks around, as if waking up from a spell.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You think because you watch some
crappy DVD's and talk some kooky
New Age bullshit, that you're
suddenly some kinda kung fu
master?? I got news for you Mas -
those guys are gonna kick your
philosophical ass into next week!

Masato just looks at her, still SEATED. Juliana turns, still
trying to shake off the Visions.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Look, I didn't mean to interrupt your training or whatever it is you're doing. Clearly this is not my thing. I gotta go get ready for work. Sorry to bother you.

She LEAVES. Masato remains SEATED, alone.

EXT. MASATO'S PLACE -- AFTERNOON

Juliana WALKS AWAY, stressed. She stops and looks back up at Masato's apartment for a moment, but then continues.

EXT. CAIPIRINHA DECK -- EVENING

Juliana is helping prep the boat for the next tourist voyage. She works impressively, prepping for sailing expertly.

JULIANA

I'm gonna work hard for you, boss.
You watch. Rich customers today?

BOSS

Clients! Not customers. Look -

He hands Juliana a very chic looking CORPORATE PROMOTIONAL BOOKLET. People in BUSINESS WEAR, HI-TECH infographics etc.

BOSS (CONT'D)

Some fat cats from this tech company are in town, and rumor is they want to go for a boat ride tonight. They have more money that you can imagine.

He TAPS the booklet in her hand, vigorously.

BOSS (CONT'D)

With these kind of clients, I can hire better chefs, serve better wine, better music, and grow this business into something real! I just need the right bait.

JULIANA

Ugly logo. What a horrible color.

She hands the booklet back, and they both return to work.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Say, where's Felipe?

Boss SIGHS at the sound of Felipe's name, DISAPPOINTED.

BOSS

He's off at those fights today.

JULIANA

Fights? What fights?

Boss looks at her sideways.

BOSS

I don't know where your head is at sometimes, girl. Those fights everyone's been talking about! That SURFWORLD Tournament or whatever. First round is tonight.

He puts a MOP in her hand.

BOSS (CONT'D)

Here. Mop the deck. Clients will arrive soon. I want it shiny.

JULIANA

What? TONIGHT? First round is TONIGHT?? Shit! Hey you know what Boss? I gotta go... But I'll work real hard for you tomorrow! I promise. You'll see! Sorry Boss!

She HANDS the mop back to him, and RUNS OFF.

INT. ARENA BACKSTAGE -- EVENING

Juliana scrambles around trying to find Masato. The ROARS from CROWD above SHAKE THE WALLS.

Juliana soon find the Translator;

JULIANA

Where is he?

INT. ARENA LOCKER ROOMS -- EVENING

The Translator has taken Juliana to Masato, where he is trying to UNTIE a KNOT in the laces of his MASK.

JULIANA

You're actually going to fight??

EVENT COORDINATOR

Masato, you're up in 3 minutes!

JULIANA

But you're gonna get killed!! I'm
sorry I cut into you like that this
morning, but I didn't know you were
actually fighting today! I thought
it was next week or something!

She bravely contains her tears. Masato HOLDS her shoulders.

MASATO

Before I came here, I had a dream
to look for a Girl with a White
Light around her...

He looks at her, fluorescent light REFLECTED in her TEARS.

MASATO (CONT'D)

That morning you helped me in the
alley...

Juliana sheds more TEARS.

MASATO (CONT'D)

I saw it.

EVENT COORDINATOR

30 seconds!!

Juliana can see a bit of the White Light dancing around him.

JULIANA

It's crazy...

Masato dons his orange wrestling MASK.

EVENT COORDINATOR

It's time!!

INT. ARENA -- EVENING

The AMERICAN BROADCAST TEAM is on the air:

PLAY-BY-PLAY

Well Bob, the first match of the
tournament is finally underway, and
it is a surprise, let me tell you.
The whole MMA world is talking
about this one. The great CESAR
SANTOS, versus a mystery last-
minute entry, Masato Yoshihiro!

COLOR COMMENTATOR

That's right Frank. This kid came out of nowhere as an alternate, and is suddenly thrown into one of the most prestigious tournaments in the world. And, if you can believe it, he has exactly the same name as another competitor in the tournament, Yoshihiro Masato. I don't know what to make of it.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

Well we'll certainly find out, as here he comes now, Masato Yoshihiro with his team, and uh..

Masato enters BY HIMSELF, wearing his mask, thrifty athletic shorts, and a T-shirt. There is no entrance music.

PLAY-BY-PLAY (CONT'D)

Well.. Just himself then.

COLOR COMMENTATOR

Is that him?

PLAY-BY-PLAY

I think so. We really don't know much about him, he was just added as an alternate a few days ago, and that's about all we know. When asked about his record, he simply responded, "I have some wins, and several losses". Apparently his opponent tonight, the great Cesar Santos hasn't even seen this kid yet, and knows nothing about him.

Masato enters the ring, still wearing his T-shirt. He doesn't look very intimidating.

PLAY-BY-PLAY (CONT'D)

AND HERE COMES HIS OPPONENT!!

The Arena explodes with MUSIC and CHEERING, as CESAR SANTOS enters with a 'Gracie-Train' style walkout to the ring, drawing rich emotions from the crowd.

Cesar Santos looks slightly older than most fighters, but has the look of a veteran on him. A class act indeed.

INT. ARENA BACKSTAGE -- EVENING

Juliana is WATCHING via the TVs backstage. The Translator TOUCHES Juliana on the shoulder, STARTLING her.

TRANSLATOR

Come.

INT. RINGSIDE -- EVENING

Juliana has been given a SEAT, a few rows back from ringside along with the Translator, the Event Co-ordinator, and a few other familiar EVENT STAFF.

Cesar Santos is getting checked and cleared before entering the ring. Everything looks good, he looks ready.

COLOR COMMENTATOR

Now while Cesar is not typically a top contender anymore - its been a while since he's fought at top competition - but in the spirit of the tournament they thought that a legend like him deserves a spot.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

It does add a bit of drama indeed.

The RING ANNOUNCER bellows the introductions. Cesar is looking over at Masato, who just stands in his corner, still wearing his Mask and T-shirt by himself.

RING ANNOUNCER

Masatooooo YoshiHIRO!!!!!!!

Masato TAKES OFF HIS MASK at the call of his name, revealing his young face. A mix of unenthusiastic cheers and boos.

Juliana watches Cesar closely. He seems confused.

RING ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

And in this corner...
Raphaeellllllll SAANNN- TOOS!!!!!!

Cesar is ARGUING with his TEAM and RING OFFICIALS.

COLOR COMMENTATOR

Ooh, there seems to be a bit of a problem in Cesar's camp.

Masato walks to the center of the ring. The REFEREE sternly orders Cesar to join, but Cesar is REFUSING. There is an awkward delay, Cesar is still clearly upset.

COLOR COMMENTATOR (CONT'D)
Santos looks like he's quitting!

The Referee is ARGUING with Cesar and his team. Cesar shakes his head NO. A teammate ceremoniously THROWS IN THE TOWEL. The Referee waves his arms in the air, STOPPING THE FIGHT. The bell DINGS a bunch of times.

PLAY-BY-PLAY
What?? It's over??

COLOR COMMENTATOR
I think so, Frank..! Cesar Santos is throwing in the towel!!

A HUGE COMMOTION erupts at ringside.

PLAY-BY-PLAY
Masato advances to the quarter finals!

Juliana is nearly knocked over by the IRATE FANS. People begin to THROW cups and such into the ring. The Referee grabs Masato's wrist to raise it, but is HIT in the head with a cup and quickly flees the ring.

Masato is SWARMED by Security to protect him from the melee. He SMILES at Juliana from the chaos. Security ESCORTS Masato to safety. Juliana sees Boss Tanaka sitting nearby, SMILING.

INT. ARENA BACKSTAGE -- EVENING

Juliana continues watching the live broadcast on the TV screens mounted above; Cesar Santos is with his TEAM, being INTERVIEWED. He speaks English very well:

COLOR COMMENTATOR
Mr. Santos, you've never been one to back away from a fight - tell us why you refused the match.

CESAR SANTOS
Because I am not here to be a part of a comedy show. We take fighting very seriously in Brazil and I don't think it's right to make a joke of it like this.

COLOR COMMENTATOR
But he came to fight you. He's not worthy of respect as an opponent?

CESAR SANTOS

Look, this was supposed to be a tournament to find the Brazilian representative for the World Finals next year, no? But these Japanese promoters, they already took one spot with a Japanese competitor... and now they have two? Do they not want a Brazilian to win?

COLOR COMMENTATOR

Are you suggesting that your replacement opponent today was somehow here a setup?

CESAR SANTOS

I don't know who put him in here. I will never throw a fight, nobody's paying me to do this I can tell you. I have a successful school, I am not here for the money and I still have my integrity. I'm not going to beat up on some kid for Japanese entertainment.

COLOR COMMENTATOR

Well there you have it, ladies and gentlemen. Oh, one more question Cesar - now that you're out of the tournament, can you tell us who you'll be rooting for to win?

Cesar looks up at the TV Screen, showing a hilarious REPLAY of Masato raising his arms.

CESAR SANTOS

Well, if this tournament is to be a circus, I guess I'll cheer for him!

Cesar Santos' team LAUGH.

INT. LOCKER ROOM -- EVENING

Juliana RUNS to him, amazed.

MASATO

See? I didn't even get hit!

They KISS. Then she PUNCHES him in the shoulder.

MASATO (CONT'D)

Ow!

The NEXT MATCH is starting on the TVs above.

JULIANA

You want to watch the next match?

Masato looks up, and sees a fighter he doesn't recognize; DEMIAO, a lighter, but absurdly fit young man.

MASATO

No.

They HOLD HANDS, affectionately.

JULIANA

Good.

All of a sudden a MAINTENANCE STAFF runs in, FRANTICALLY.

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Holy shit!! Did you see that??!

They look up again at the TV screen; the fight appears to be ALREADY OVER; Demiao's opponent KNOCKED OUT on the canvas.

They CUT to a shot of DEMIAO, victorious.

But then they cut to a shot of Demiao's elderly COACH; A tall caucasian man, BALD, with a SHARP BEARD.

The sight of the Coach triggers new NIGHTMARISH VISION-MEMORIES that appear before Juliana's eyes at the sight of him; a flood of disjointed images of FORESTS and TORCHES and FIGHTING, of FIRE and SNOW and FALLING TREES -

The visions VANISH, and Juliana is SHAKEN to her core. She looks again at Demiao's Coach with terror.

MASATO

Let's go.

EXT. BAR -- NIGHT

Juliana and Masato are at an OPEN PATIO bar. A small BAND plays Brazilian music, a LIVELY CROWD.

JULIANA

You are a very weird boy, you know?

Masato looks at her.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You sure you don't want a drink?

MASATO

No.

Some CUSTOMERS LAUGH, all with DRINKS in hand. The WAITRESS brings Juliana two SHOTS.

JULIANA

Aw, come on don't be such a stiff!
Here! I already ordered. We have
to celebrate your win!

An AD for the MMA TOURNAMENT plays on the TV screens. Some LOCALS at the bar RECOGNIZE Masato, POINTING and WHISPERING. Masato catches their eyes. They RAISE THEIR GLASSES to him.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

See? Now you gotta drink, or it's
rude!

Masato DRINKS, poorly, a comedic face. Juliana LAUGHS.

EXT. BEACH -- NIGHT

Juliana and Masato SIT on the sand, watching NIGHT SURFERS.

MASATO

It looks so beautiful.

JULIANA

The ocean?

MASATO

The surfing.

They WATCH together for a moment.

JULIANA

I'll teach ya in the morning.

Masato looks at her, CURIOUS.

EXT. JULIANA'S PATH -- NIGHT

Juliana is ALONE, and is approaching the BRIDGE again.

And again, MATHEUS appears out of the shadows.

JULIANA

For god's sakes - what is it now?

MATHEUS

That is 2 now not 1 that he has used the spirit world to meddle with. No doubt now it is 3, as your soul too must be under the hand of his demons.

JULIANA

Talk plain! No more riddles!

MATHEUS

Your friend will play no more. My mother and the elders from our church are putting a curse on him as we speak, and a curse on the demon spirits for which he serves.

JULIANA

A curse?

The word makes Juliana visibly uncomfortable.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You don't know what you're doing.

MATHEUS

We shall see. But I guarantee you this - from now on... if your friend tries to continue his game -

Matheus has almost possessed look in his eyes.

MATHEUS (CONT'D)

He will fall.

Juliana is spooked for a moment, but walks past him.

JULIANA

Tell me when you get some more of whatever you're smoking, OK?

Matheus just watches her leave, his eyes piercing.

MATHEUS

I will tell you what I will do...

Juliana turns around. Matheus looks at her, strangely.

MATHEUS (CONT'D)

You come to the church. Bring one hair from his head. And my mother will show you the truth of who it is you are dealing with.

Matheus retreats into the SHADOWS. Juliana continues WALKING.

JULIANA

What a psycho.

EXT. JULIANA'S HOME -- NIGHT

Juliana is finally home. Dad is up, drinking some TEA.

JULIANA

You're up late.

Dad does not reply.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Did the stuff come yet?

DAD

No. But Claudio comes for the rent tomorrow. I don't have the money.

JULIANA

Tomorrow? What? Seriously? I thought we had more time!

Dad RUBS his TEMPLE, dizzy with dread.

DAD

What am I going to do?

Mom ENTERS from her bedroom, sleepy, hair disheveled.

MOM

You're going to come to bed. Both of you. Sleep, tomorrow's a new day.

JULIANA

I'm going with you tomorrow, Dad.

MOM

No little one, you shouldn't be involved.

JULIANA

But I want to. I have to.

DAD

You have work tomorrow. That's more important now.

Juliana looks away, guilty.

JULIANA

Uh, actually I don't.

DAD

You don't? You told me you were working! Juliana?

MOM

Stop. It's too late for this. Come.

Mom HUGS Dad. She offers Juliana to JOIN. After a moment of hesitation, she accepts. Everyone CALMS.

MOM (CONT'D)

Good. We have to trust. OK?

Dad NODS. Mom KISSES him.

MOM (CONT'D)

No more lies. What time is your meeting tomorrow with Claudio?

DAD

8am.

JULIANA

Oh - actually uh, I'm supposed to go surfing tomorrow at 8am.

Mom and Dad both look at her in disbelief.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

OK, OK! But you have to wake me up.

EXT. CITY STREETS -- EARLY MORNING

Juliana and Dad are waiting outside of Dad's Surfshop.

DAD

I don't understand what you've been doing all week if you weren't working. And that day you said you would go help your mother? She said you never showed up!

Dad checks his WATCH. It is 8am. Juliana PEEKS at it.

They wait nervously.

DAD (CONT'D)

What have you been doing all week??

An EXPENSIVE CAR pulls up across the street. CLAUDIO gets out, a real sleazy looking fellow, with 2 GOONS.

CLAUDIO
So, daughter helping daddy with
business today?

JULIANA
That's right.

CLAUDIO
Juliana, no?

Claudio smiles politely.

CLAUDIO (CONT'D)
They grow up so fast, don't they?

DAD
Claudio I don't have the money.

Claudio's tone changes. The 3 Goons straighten up.

DAD (CONT'D)
I'm late with a big a delivery, I-

CLAUDIO
That's the third time. What am I
supposed to-

But Juliana interrupts him;

JULIANA
It's not his fault, Mr. Claudio!
Look, he ordered like a billion
dollars worth of stuff, but it
never showed up! As soon as it
comes in, we can make that money
back real fast! We're gonna have a
big sale and everything!

Claudio patiently allows her to finish.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
It's not his fault Mr. Claudio. A
delivery just screwed up, that's
all. We just need a bit more time.

Claudio can not help but succumb a little to her charm.

CLAUDIO
And what about you? Are you
working to help with your father's
pathetic income these days?

JULIANA

Uh, yeah. Sorta. And my Mom's making some stuff too. There's a big market next weekend, she's been working on this fancy dinner set-

DAD

Leave Mom out of this.

Dad looks to Claudio with the same sentiment in his eyes.

JULIANA

We're good people, you know that...! I know we're late with the rent sometimes but you see how life is! And you see that humongous American SURFWORLD megastore they opened! How can we compete with that?? Times are tough, man. Give us a break.

Claudio considers.

CLAUDIO

All right then. Get your delivery, fix up this shitty place, and start making some money again. You can start with these dirty windows. I can barely see through them.

Claudio looks into Dad's eyes.

CLAUDIO (CONT'D)

Because maybe next time, you might not have daughter here to fight your battles for you.

Claudio leads his 3 Goons to their car, STOPPING TRAFFIC as they all arrogantly cross the street.

CLAUDIO (CONT'D)

I'll be back in 2 days! 2 days, you show me some progress.

Juliana watches them DRIVE AWAY. Claudio ROLLS down the WINDOW as they pass;

CLAUDIO (CONT'D)

Happy surfing.

INT. DAD'S SURFSHOP -- MORNING

JULIANA

Why you let him talk to you like that?

DAD

What's to say!? I told him I didn't have the money. It's not his fault I don't have anything to sell.

JULIANA

I mean when he was getting all up in your face. You shouldn't let him put his mug on you like that.

Dad tries to look busy, clearly stressed.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Why don't you fight back a little?

DAD

Because fighting is stupid!!

Dad is visibly upset. He starts cleaning a few things up. Juliana does not push him any further.

DAD (CONT'D)

You know what? I'm OK here, Juliana. I'm just gonna clean up a bit. You can go.

Juliana watches him SADLY for a moment, and BITES her LIP.

INT. MASATO'S PLACE -- DAY

Juliana RUNS UPSTAIRS. Masato is BRUSHING HIS TEETH.

JULIANA

Sorry I'm late!

Juliana spies a STACK OF CASH on a nearby counter poking out of an ENVELOPE; clean, crisp bills, like from a bank.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I had some things I had to take care of. But there's still waves, if you still wanna go...

Masato SPITS the toothpaste.

MASATO

Let's go.

EXT. ROAD TO THE BEACH -- AFTERNOON

Juliana is leading Masato to the beach, BOTH riding ALMOST-BROKEN BICYCLES with SURFBOARDS under their arms. Masato's bike WOBBLER a bit, and he almost wipes out.

EXT. WAVES -- AFTERNOON

Juliana and Masato are PADDLING out. A good day for surfing. Masato has a long beginner-sized board. Juliana's is smaller.

MASATO

It's so cool your dad has his own Surfshop!

JULIANA

My Dad and I used to surf all the time. But now it's all business.

A particularly sharp WAVE starts to SWELL before them.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

OK, here comes a wave. When I tell you, start paddling.

Masato is excited.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Go!!!

Masato awkwardly turns himself around and begins to paddle as hard as he can. The wave begins PUSHING him.

Masato tries to jump up to his feet, but he WIPES OUT, getting DUNKED under the breaking wave.

When he comes up, Juliana is CHEERING;

JULIANA (CONT'D)

YEEAAHHH!! You almost got it!!!

But Masato is not so enthusiastic.

They try again. A big wave catches Masato at an awkward angle, and Masato WIPES OUT again, getting TUMBLED underwater a while. When he comes up, he is TOPPLED by another wave.

He resurfaces, COUGHING up water.

MASATO

Dammit!

JULIANA

Don't get frustrated. It's your first day, Masato. It goes like this for everybody.

MASATO

I should be able to do this.

Masato paddles back into position.

JULIANA

It's like you say about fighting - You have to BE the wave! Feel it as a part of your own self!

Masato frowns. Juliana spots another wave coming;

JULIANA (CONT'D)

OK GO!! Go, go, go!!!

Masato PADDLES HARD. This time, the wave LIFTS HIM beautifully. He takes off like a rocket.

Suddenly Juliana gets a flash Vision-Memory of her last encounter with Matheus, and his *prophetic words*;

MATHEUS

...he will fall.

Juliana snaps back to reality when she notices TOUGH GUY 1 surfing nearby, trying to catch the SAME WAVE. Masato is heading right for him.

JULIANA

Shit.

Masato CRASHES straight into Tough Guy 1, JAMMING into his ankle. They both BAIL in a TANGLE of boards and leashes.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Shit, shit, shit.

EXT. BEACH -- AFTERNOON

Tough Guy 1 is DRAGGING Masato onto shore by his SURF LEASH, which has TORN OFF from his board. Tough Guy 1 begins KICKING Masato around, HOLDING the broken end of the leash. Tough Guy 1 SHOWS the CUT ON HIS ANKLE, BLEEDING.

TOUGH GUY 1

*You see what you did, you asshole?
You have shit for brains, or what?
This is OUR beach, bro!*

Juliana takes off her leash and RUNS towards them.

JULIANA

Whoa, whoa, whoa!! Take it easy!!

Tough Guy 2 and Tough Guy 3 also RUN in to join the action, Masato still awkwardly attached to his leash.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I'm teaching him, it's his first day! I should have seen it guys, it's my bad.

Masato finally REMOVES the leash.

TOUGH GUY 1

Fuck that! - BOTH you assholes are surfing in the wrong place.

JULIANA

Whoa, whoa, whoa! Who do you think you're talking to??

A TUSSELE ensues. Masato tries to defend her, but is quickly PUNCHED hard in the head by Tough Guy 1. Masato GOES DOWN.

Juliana throws a PUNCH at Tough Guy 1, but it MISSES, and she is GRABBED FROM BEHIND by Tough Guy 2.

Juliana reverse-HEAD-BUTTS Tough Guy 2 in the face. An awful CRACK is heard and he goes down, BLEEDING from his nose.

Juliana ATTACKS Tough Guy 1 again, throwing a WILD PUNCH with bad intentions. It CONNECTS, but Juliana is not so strong, and unfortunately does little damage.

Tough Guy 3 PUSHES Juliana down to the sand, hard. Juliana GETS BACK UP and holds her fists up. She moves in front of Masato, defending him.

Tough Guy 1 SMILES, massaging his jaw where Juliana hit him.

Tough Guy 2 has recovered from Juliana's head-butt, though his nose is still BLOODY. He approaches Juliana, and PUNCHES her hard in the face, KNOCKING HER DOWN. Her right eye is CUT, and is already starting to SWELL.

MASATO

Stop it!

Masato ATTACKS, but is also PUNCHED HARD. He GOES DOWN.

TOUGH GUY 1

That's what you get. You wanna teach sissy foreigners, go somewhere else. Now we're going to surf our waves, our beach. And if I see you two here ever again, we're gonna have a bigger problem.

They pass one by one, as they return to the waves;

TOUGH GUY 1 (CONT'D)

Wonder Woman!

TOUGH GUY 2

Tonight. You and me. I pick you up.

TOUGH GUY 3

Get a haircut, eh Juliana?

They leave, LAUGHING.

INT. MASATO'S PLACE -- EVENING

Masato is an emotional mess, lip BLEEDING. He SLAMS his keys down. Juliana is checking out her BLACK EYE in a MIRROR.

JULIANA

What, you thought everything would be easy?? You fluke out in your first fight, and the second guy you didn't even have to do anything!!

But Masato is still CLEARLY UPSET.

MASATO

You don't understand...

JULIANA

Holy shit Masato, those guys aren't even fighters, they're pot-head losers. If you're spooked by them, my god - the guys in the tournament are gonna kick your ass!

She pauses.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You've been spoiled Masato. You never had a fight in your life.

MASATO

You don't know my life.

An AWKWARD SILENCE.

Juliana spots the STACK OF CASH on the counter again, and attempts to change the subject;

JULIANA

So, how do you buy all your food and stuff? Are they paying you?

MASATO

I get a weekly training allowance. And a bonus for every win.

Juliana squirms.

JULIANA

Listen, I can't hang out with you for a while, Mas... I need to find a job. I just surfed with you today cause I said I would.

MASATO

Of course.

She eyes the STACK OF CASH again.

INT. MOM'S POTTERY STUDIO/KITCHEN -- EVENING

Juliana ENTERS. Mom is MIXING GLAZES, her SMOCK splattered and messy. Mom sees Juliana's BLACK EYE.

MOM

Juliana, your eye! What happened?

JULIANA

I'm OK.

Mom inspects it further, but Juliana PULLS AWAY.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

It's fine! Mom I'm fine...

MOM

Did Claudio's goons give you this?

JULIANA

No. Just some losers at the beach. I'm telling you Mom, it's nothing.

She PAUSES for a moment.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Claudio says we have 2 more days.
You better sell all this pottery,
Mom. We're gonna need the cash.

MOM

How's your father?

JULIANA

He looks rough.

MOM

You knew your father has been
anxious. Couldn't you have found
more time to help him at the shop?

JULIANA

He says he doesn't have anything
for me to do! He tells me to go
away! He gets mad when I'm late.

MOM

Why don't you just start wearing a
watch, Juliana?

Juliana has no answer.

MOM (CONT'D)

Why did you tell him you were
working on the boats if you were
not? I never taught you to lie.

Juliana SQUIRMS.

JULIANA

I know I shouldn't have lied. Mom,
I wanna help, I just don't know
how. Anything I can do here?

MOM

As a matter of fact there is.

Mom shows a finished CUP with a gorgeous PEACH-COLORED GLAZE.

MOM (CONT'D)

You remember this glaze?

JULIANA

The new one you made. Cone 6?

MOM

That's right. I finally got it
right. I need all these pieces 3/4
dipped before the sun goes down.

Juliana looks at the elegant but UN-FIRED collection of DINNERWARE; plates, cups, saucers, bowls, and more.

JULIANA

All of them?

MOM

You said you want to help. I've got lots more here to do. And tomorrow, to make up for lying to your father, you will go look for a job.

JULIANA

OK.

Juliana puts on a SMOCK.

MONTAGE. JULIANA GLAZING IN MOM'S STUDIO -- NIGHT

Juliana works LATE into the NIGHT.

MONTAGE. JULIANA LOOKING FOR WORK -- MORNING/DAY

Juliana is scouring the streets by bicycle, LOOKING FOR A JOB. Her DREADLOCKS are tied back, some RESUMES in her hand.

She enters a cafe, a mechanics shop, a beachside bar, several tourist boats; All REJECTED.

Her LAST RESUME blows away in the WIND. She watches some WEALTHY PEOPLE with SHOPPING BAGS, and some SHOELESS KIDS. Money problems and imbalance in every face.

EXT. HARBOR -- EVENING

Juliana is sitting on a WALL by the harbor. The SUN is SETTING. Most of the TOUR BOATS are OUT.

Nearby is a small BEACH BAR with some TV's mounted around.

BOSS

Juliana!

Juliana turns to see Boss sitting at the beach bar.

JULIANA

Oh hey Boss.

She comes CLOSER, to talk;

JULIANA (CONT'D)

No cruises tonight?

BOSS

Boat is getting some upgrades. You want a shift tonight?

But Juliana is DISTRACTED; the TV's are playing a PREVIEW for the MMA TOURNAMENT. MASATO is highlighted.

BOSS (CONT'D)

Juliana?

TV PROMO

Semifinal Fights!! Tonight!!!

BOSS

Tonight! Clients arrive in 1 hour. You want it?

But Juliana is glued to the TV's;

TV PERSONALITY 1

It's not even a fair fight if you ask me!

BOSS

Juliana? Hello? I'm offering a job!

Juliana looks at Boss. Then the TV. A CLIP of MASATO.

TV PERSONALITY 2

He's gonna get killed.

She bites her lip, HARD. Then LEAVES.

BOSS

Juliana?

EXT. MASATO'S DOORWAY -- EVENING

Juliana KNOCKS, hard. Masato OPENS the door. They stand there awkwardly for a moment, but then Juliana HUGS HIM, trying not to CRY. Masato ACCEPTS, HOLDING her.

JULIANA

I'm so sorry Masato. I didn't mean all those things I said... It was just all just getting so crazy. I'm supposed to get a job, my family needs help, but I can't stop thinking about you!

(MORE)

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I just wish life was simple again,
but then I think you're actually
fighting in this crazy
tournament... and then how you
handled that fight on the beach,
and I'm seeing these crazy cartoons
when I'm awake, and -

Juliana gets her breath back.

MASATO

Your eye looks good.

Juliana LAUGHS a bit under her tears.

JULIANA

Your lip doesn't.

Masato SMILES. They KISS.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

It's like we fell into a dream, or
something... but why does it feel
like it's all falling apart?

MASATO

I don't know. Maybe we're cursed.

Masato SMILES jokingly, but Juliana is SHOCKED by the word;

JULIANA

Cursed? Whoa. Hey, I gotta go...

MASATO

But you just got here! I'm
fighting tonight!!

JULIANA

I'll be there, Masato - go without
me, I'll find a way to get there.

But Masato doesn't understand. Juliana HOLDS his HANDS.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Maybe we really are cursed. Just
trust me, OK? I'll find you before
your fight. Promise.

Juliana spies Masato's MASK, lying near the doorway.

She KISSES him, DISTRACTING Masato as she STEALS HIS MASK.

INT. CANDOMBLE CHURCH -- EVENING

A humble building, with a main hall and some small rooms in the back. SOFT MUSIC is playing lightly in a corner. Several STRANGE BUT NOT NECESSARILY CRAZY FOLK are mingling about.

JULIANA
WHERE IS SHE!!???

But before anyone can answer, Matheus comes forth;

MATHEUS
What are you doing? How dare you
bring your demons here!

Juliana ignores his tone.

JULIANA
Calm down, punjab. You told me to
come. So here I am.

Juliana takes out Masato's MASK. She turns it INSIDE OUT, revealing some of Masato's HAIR caught in the stitching.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
We gonna clear up all this bullshit
now, or what?

INT. SPOOKY OLD LADY'S SEANCE ROOM -- EVENING

Juliana and Matheus are sitting opposite the Spooky Old Lady at a small TABLE with typical items and decor of Candomble.

MATHEUS
Mother - this girl has brought you
a hair of the boy you say is being
fed by demons.

But the Spooky Old Lady takes the WHOLE MASK instead. It appears she is already in a TRANCE, her pupils again ROLLED BACK in her head.

She takes a HAIR out between her fingers, and holds it straight up. She puts her hand over the tip of the hair, and closes her eyes. The hair begins to STRAIGHTEN.

The Spooky Old Lady begins to TREMBLE. She SWAYS AROUND violently, clearly distressed...

The tip of the hair begins TWINKLING with the WHITE LIGHT.

The Spooky Old Lady DROPS the hair, and SNAPS OUT of her trance, PANICKED.

And for the first time, Juliana sees this woman for who she is; a kind and fragile looking woman that could be anybody's grandmother.

The Spooky Old Lady looks at Juliana, terrified. But her horror multiplies when she looks again at the Mask in her hand - the eyes looking right at her. The Spooky Old Lady SCREAMS, SHAKING. Other CANDOMBLE MEMBERS rush in. Matheus tries to comfort her but she CRUMPLES over;

SPOOKY OLD LADY
Get her out of here!!

She THROWS Masato's Mask to the floor, FRIGHTENED. It lands FACE UP, which SCARES her even more.

SPOOKY OLD LADY (CONT'D)
Get it out of here!!!

The Candomble Members begin PHYSICALLY REMOVING Juliana.

JULIANA
What?!! No! What did she see?? You
said she would tell me the truth!

But the Candomble Members continue to DRAG her out.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
You said she would tell me!!! I
brought a hair! He asked me to
bring a hair!!!

The DOOR to the Spooky Old Lady's Seance Room SHUTS, and Juliana is FORCIBLY ESCORTED off the premises.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
You put a curse on him you
bastards! What did she see??

But Juliana is literally THROWN to the curb, her FACE getting SCRATCHED UP. They THROW her Masato's MASK. Matheus speaks with DOOM and heavy SARCASM;

MATHEUS
You can wish your boy good luck in
the Tournament.

INT. MASATO'S LOCKER ROOM -- NIGHT

Juliana RUNS in, OUT OF BREATH, her face SCRATCHED UP.

JULIANA
Masato!

The CROWD can be heard through the walls and floor.

MASATO

I can't get it together. Your face!

Juliana looks at him, helpless.

BACKSTAGE COORDINATOR

Masato! You're on in 5!!

Boss Tanaka walks in. He looks seriously at Masato;

BOSS TANAKA

I am taking a big risk in you. Do
not make a fool of me.

He looks again into Masato's eyes, as if trying to find something, then speaks again, in ENGLISH:

BOSS TANAKA (CONT'D)

You WILL defeat your opponent.

He LEAVES, Masato and Juliana left alone in his wake.

JULIANA

...who IS your opponent?

INT. ARENA WALK-IN TUNNEL -- NIGHT

Masato is waiting for his entrance cue, nervously. Juliana watches him HOPPING up and down, trying to raise his heart-rate and wake himself up.

BACKSTAGE COORDINATOR

1 minute! Everyone ready..!

The Backstage Coordinator looks at Juliana.

BACKSTAGE COORDINATOR (CONT'D)

Who are you again?

JULIANA

Uh.. - His manager??

MASATO

Music!! I forgot again!!

He looks at Juliana.

MASATO (CONT'D)

Some 'manager' you are!

JULIANA

It's fine. No music is still
better than anything in your CD
collection.

MASATO

(a bit offended)
-No it isn't...

BACKSTAGE COORDINATOR

OK let's go! Let's go, let's go,
let's go!!!!!!!

Juliana and Masato REACH IN FOR A KISS, but the Backstage
Coordinator PULLS Masato away to begin his ENTRANCE.

INT. ARENA -- NIGHT

PLAY-BY-PLAY

And here he comes! Whoops, what's
he doing??

Masato begins his WALKOUT, but SUDDENLY TURNS BACK.

COLOR COMMENTATOR

Looks like he's gone back.. I
don't know Frank.

Masato RETURNS, now wearing his MASK. He fiddles with the
LACES in the back as he JOGS towards the ring.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

Oh, he forgot his mask!

COLOR COMMENTATOR

Oh, well, of course.

They LAUGH.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

It is a pretty cool mask I guess.

COLOR COMMENTATOR

Reminds me of something Kazushi
Sakuraba might have worn, back in
the early PRIDE FC days.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

That's right. Good call.

They both shut up for a second as Masato makes his way to the
ring, music-less.

COLOR COMMENTATOR
I loved watching Sakuraba.

PLAY-BY-PLAY
Great fighter.

COLOR COMMENTATOR
Great fighter.

PLAY-BY-PLAY
And here comes the OTHER Yoshihiro
Masato!!

Yoshihiro comes out wearing a GLITTERY OUTFIT and oversized
SUNGLASSES. He is accompanied by a team of sexy BRAZILIAN
DANCING GIRLS wearing Brazilian colors, and lively MUSIC.

COLOR COMMENTATOR
It's gonna be weird calling a fight
when both fighters have the same
name.

PLAY-BY-PLAY
That's why we're going to call the
more famous and experienced fighter
by his family name, Yoshihiro, and
the young mystery fighter by his
given name, Masato.

COLOR COMMENTATOR
Yeah they reverse the names in
Japan, don't they?

PLAY-BY-PLAY
Yes they do.

Yoshihiro is checked by the DOCTOR before entering the ring.

COLOR COMMENTATOR
Currently in the ring right now, is
the CEO of SURFWORLD, one of our
event's main sponsors. SURFWORLD;
A World of Surfing!

Juliana eyes the SURFWORLD CEO, who stands in the SPOTLIGHT
in the center of the ring. A fat, sweaty man in expensive
clothes. He WAVES to the crowd.

Yoshihiro ENTERS the RING.

PLAY-BY-PLAY
So tonight, we will narrow these 2
Japanese contestants to one;
(MORE)

PLAY-BY-PLAY (CONT'D)

Yoshihiro Masato vs Masato
Yoshihiro!

COLOR COMMENTATOR

This should be one for the ages.

The 2 fighters are brought to the center of the ring for the referee's instructions. Yoshihiro looks ready. Masato stands quite still, nervous.

The REFEREE gives his instructions. They go to their CORNERS. The BELL dings, starting the fight. The CROWD CHEERS.

Masato and Yoshihiro begin CIRCLING, testing their distance.

Yoshihiro looks quick and limber. He FEINTS with a few jabs and LOW KICKS. Masato has his arms at his side, and is only SWAYING around slightly, a dreamy look in his eye.

Yoshihiro steps back and looks to the ref.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

What's going on?

COLOR COMMENTATOR

Yoshihiro is complaining that Masato isn't fighting.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

Yeah, a really weird situation with this kid. We'll see if tonight can finally answer some questions.

The ref SHOUTS the command to fight.

Yoshihiro comes on strong, but Masato quickly lets his hands down again, and begins swaying around, somehow managing to avoid getting hit. Yoshihiro stops fighting once more, and gestures to the ref in frustration of Masato's lack of engagement. The crowd JEERS.

But while Yoshihiro looks to the ref, Masato sneaks up and SLAPS him lightly when Yoshihiro isn't looking.

PLAY-BY-PLAY AND COLOR COMMENTATOR

Whoa!!

Masato DARTS AWAY, HIDING behind the ref. Yoshihiro is getting angry. Masato RAISES HIS FIST from the far corner. The crowd LAUGHS and begins to warm up, CLAPPING.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

This kid is funny.

COLOR COMMENTATOR
Usually it's Yoshihiro who is the
trickster in the ring!

The ref WARNS Masato again sternly, and re-starts the action.

Yoshihiro immediately fires a vicious FLYING KNEE.

PLAY-BY-PLAY AND COLOR COMMENTATOR
Whoa!!!!!!

But Masato EVADES it, just barely.

COLOR COMMENTATOR
He's really going for the kill now.

Yoshihiro ATTACKS again with crisp punching power. Masato
SWOOPS away from everything, with surprising ease.

PLAY-BY-PLAY
I've never seen anything like this!

Yoshihiro grows FURIOUS, going into an OFFENSIVE FLURRY, but
to absolutely no avail. He CANNOT HIT Masato.

COLOR COMMENTATOR
Yeah, this is weird... uh -

The crowd is likewise dumbfounded. Masato continues
impossibly AVOIDING EVERY STRIKE.

Yoshihiro delivers a crushing RIGHT HIGH KICK, but Masato
EVADES it again. Yet Masato sees that Yoshihiro is off
balance from the missed kick, and LIGHTLY PUSHES Yoshihiro at
just the right time. Yoshihiro FALLS to the canvas, clumsily.

Color Commentator LAUGHS OUT LOUD and DROPS his microphone.

It takes a few moments for the crowd to follow what they are
seeing, yet they slowly begin to unleash their approval.

Yoshihiro gets back to his feet, embarrassed and flustered.
He looks again to the ref. Masato puts up his dukes in a
funny and adolescent way. The crowd REACTS heartily. The
ref INSTRUCTS for the fight to continue.

Meanwhile, Juliana watches from her seat. She squints her
eyes - can she see the White Light around Masato?

The fight continues, though Yoshihiro is now more tentative.
Masato keeps his fists up, circling around like a schoolyard
fight on the playground.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

I don't know - what would you do with him, Bob?

COLOR COMMENTATOR

Well, Masato clearly has to bring some offense to the table. You're not going to win a fight ducking.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

Yeah we're not playing dodgeball here.

But then all of a sudden Masato once again catches Yoshihiro off-balance. He LIGHTLY SLAPS the side of his head along with its momentum, and for a second time Yoshihiro is sent CRASHING to the canvas.

The crowd STANDS UP. Yoshihiro GETS UP, FRUSTRATED.

COLOR COMMENTATOR

This kid is hilarious!

The BELL DINGS: End of Round 1.

Masato goes to his EMPTY CORNER. Yoshihiro is getting furious instructions from his TRAINERS as they ice him down.

Juliana WATCHES from her SEAT, NERVOUS. She looks a few rows over and sees Boss Tanaka, surrounded once again by his ENTOURAGE. Boss Tanaka has a strange gleam in his eye.

Juliana also sees DEMIAO and his eerily familiar COACH, also sitting not far away. They too watch intently.

The sight of eerily familiar Coach DISORIENTS Juliana for a second; quick and fleeting visions of FORESTS, CABINS, and FIGHTING. But the visions END QUICKLY, and Juliana looks back towards the RING.

The bell DINGS for Round 2.

Yoshihiro TAUNTS Masato to fight. But Masato just stands there. Yoshihiro YELLS at Masato again to 'COME ON!', Then ATTACKS with a nice ANGLED COMBINATION.

But Masato evades it and SLAPS Yoshihiro again on the way out. The crowd is loving it. Juliana too.

Again and again, with every DODGE, Masato SLAPS Yoshihiro around, managing at least 7 crisp shots in. None of them do significant damage, but with each slap, Masato begins to GLOW BRIGHTER with the WHITE LIGHT.

Juliana sees it first, but it is soon apparent that OTHERS in the CROWD are finally seeing it as well. People begin to STAND UP, POINT, and converse at the sight of it.

For there, in the center of the ring is a furious Yoshihiro, trying his best to kill this skinny kid - and Masato swooping around gracefully, SLAPPING Yoshihiro in an almost comic routine, SPARKLING and GLOWING BRIGHTER with the White Light.

People BLINK and RUB THEIR EYES to verify what they see.

Juliana looks over to Boss Tanaka. He has settled nicely into his seat, and is now smiling a wide and rich GRIN.

Juliana begins to feel STRANGE. TIME seems to slow down, and her vision once again blurs into a DREAM-LIKE STATE;

Juliana looks to the ENTRANCE TUNNEL, and sees the SPOOKY OLD LADY, but only as a TRANSLUCENT APPARITION.

Then, on the opposite side of the Arena, Juliana sees a similar TRANSLUCENT APPARITION of MOM.

Then - CRACK!! - Yoshihiro finally lands a SHOT.

Juliana SNAPS BACK TO REALITY. TIME returns to NORMAL.

It is a STIFF RIGHT CROSS, and it catches Masato flush on the temple. Masato GOES DOWN, and the crowd goes bananas.

Juliana JUMPS UP in panic.

Masato STAGGERS to his feet, trying to escape Yoshihiro's follow-up as Yoshihiro comes in for the kill. Masato is drowsy, and drunkenly tries to evade the punches.

- CRACK!! - Yoshihiro lands a KICK to Masato's HEAD. Masato FALLS into the ropes and COVERS UP. All White Light is GONE.

Yoshihiro goes into a frenzy, PUMMELING Masato with everything he has. The ref watches closely, ready to call the TKO at any moment, but Masato is still SCRAMBLING out of the way, CRAWLING and ROLLING FRANTICALLY in defense.

Yoshihiro CRACKS him again and Masato TURTLES up into a BALL, protecting his head. Yoshihiro stands BEHIND him and begins RAINING PUNCHES.

Juliana is terrified. The Referee looks ready to stop the fight at any second.

CESAR SANTOS
Bear Trap!!!

JULIANA

Bear trap?

Juliana looks again at Masato, CRUMPLED in a ball. She tries to climb towards the ring, but is HELD BACK by Security. She catches Masato PEEKING UP at her from the turtle position.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

BEAR TRAP!!!

But Masato cannot hear.

Then she remembers the silly move she caught him practicing with his mini-DVD player. Juliana MIMICS the move, doing the same silly motion on an imaginary leg.

Masato suddenly understands - indeed, Yoshihiro's right foot is almost inside the 'bear trap'. And just as the Ref steps in to wave off the fight, Masato REACHES with two hands onto Yoshihiro's ankle, PULLING UPWARDS with all his might, and THRUSTING his HIPS onto Yoshihiro's KNEE.

Yoshihiro TOPPLES BACKWARDS, and Masato PULLS for dear life, trying to hyper-extend Yoshihiro's knee. The ref holds off, as Yoshihiro tries to escape.

All of a sudden Yoshihiro TAPS. The ref pulls Masato off.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

Yoshihiro taps!!

COLOR COMMENTATOR

It's over!!!!

The BELL RINGS. The crowd goes BERSERK. Fans RUSH the ring.

Juliana looks over at Boss Tanaka, now SMILING BROADLY, arms folded. Juliana also watches as DEMIAO and his elderly COACH get up and LEAVE. A SHUDDER goes through Juliana.

Juliana looks back to the ring again as Masato is declared the winner. He doesn't look too happy.

INT. MASATO'S LOCKER ROOM -- NIGHT

Juliana is at the door, as some DOCTORS and OFFICIALS exit.

JULIANA

Good fight.

Masato has an ICE PACK on his eye.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

What'd the doctor say?

Masato LIFTS the ICE PACK; his face is quite SWOLLEN, blackening under one eye, the other side badly scratched.

MASATO

Nothing serious. Hurts though.

He looks at her, managing a hint of a SMILE.

MASATO (CONT'D)

Now we both got black eyes!

He tries to laugh, but the opposite emotion comes out.

MASATO (CONT'D)

I've been a fool. I feel so stupid.

JULIANA

But you won!

MASATO

I was scared in there, Juliana. I could hear those cracks inside my head, so loud...

JULIANA

But you were doing it..! The White Light! - I saw it! Everybody did.

MASATO

It's not enough... It's not enough. What was I thinking?

All of a sudden the DOORS behind them BURST open. The Backstage Coordinator enters, wide eyed, terrified.

BACKSTAGE COORDINATOR

Did you SEE that??

JULIANA

See what?

But the Backstage Coordinator RUNS AWAY.

INT. ARENA LOBBY -- NIGHT

PANIC in the air. Some fans are RUSHING for the exits.

JULIANA

What's happening? Why is everyone running away?

A FEMALE FAN POINTS up to one of the mounted TVs above.

FEMALE FAN

Look!

A REPLAY of the last fight; Demiao vs a fit looking CARIOCA.

For a few moments the Carioca looks great, but then Demiao begins to emit a GLOWING RED ENERGY that INTENSIFIES and GLOWS BRIGHTER with his movements.

JULIANA

What..?

Demiao executes a COMBINATION of STRIKES, infused with the BRIGHT RED ENERGY. The Female Fan SHRIEKS again at the sight of it, and scurries away. Juliana and Masato watch, shocked, as more people run for the doors. Juliana begins to TREMBLE.

Suddenly Boss Tanaka appears, surrounded by HEAVY SECURITY.

BOSS TANAKA

There you are! I told you to stay
in your room!

They quickly SURROUND Masato, and SEPARATE him from Juliana.

Boss Tanaka looks up at the television screen, and watches the REPLAY of Demiao unleashing the RED ENERGY on his opponent, SMASHING him into unconsciousness.

The Japanese Security TAKE Masato AWAY.

JULIANA

Hey!!! Where are you taking him?

Juliana tries to follow, but the Security BLOCK her.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Masa - TO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

EXT. MASATO'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

It is RAINING. Juliana is POUNDING on Masato's door;

JULIANA

Masato?? Are you there??

She tries to OPEN it, but it's LOCKED.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Oh, great. NOW you lock it.

She notices something sticking out of the MAILBOX. A LARGE ENVELOPE. On it is written: FOR JULIANA. Juliana OPENS it; Inside, is the STACK OF CASH she had been eyeing earlier.

INT. JULIANA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Juliana is DREAMING;

EXT. HUMBLE JAPANESE HOUSE -- NIGHT

The Japanese Girl is AWAKE in her BED. She SNEAKS out, and SPIES Father SITTING OUTSIDE.

The Japanese Girl sneaks CLOSER to see more; Father is holding a small concentration of the WHITE LIGHT in his hands. The Japanese Girl is AMAZED, but remains hidden.

She cannot help however but sneak a little CLOSER, and as she does, she realizes that MOTHER is with him.

Juliana accidentally KNOCKS something over, and the SOUND STARTLES Mother and Father. The White Light DISAPPEARS.

The Japanese Girl SCURRIES back to bed.

INT. JULIANA'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Juliana WAKES UP. She looks at her clock;

JULIANA

Shit!

EXT. DAD'S SURFSHOP -- MORNING

Juliana SPEEDS down the hill on her almost-broken bicycle. She sees Dad ALREADY IN A SCUFFLE with CLAUDIO and his GOONS.

Juliana aims straight towards them with ferocity.

JULIANA

YOU LEAVE HIM ALONE!!!!!!!!!!!!

She rides right into the melee, LEAPING off her bike to TACKLE the Goon closest to Dad.

She finds a PIECE OF BRICK from a crumbled wall, and THROWS it as hard at the Goons, almost hitting Dad.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You leave him the hell alone!!

She charges in on foot, and throws a PUNCH. The Goons GRAB her, she ELBOWS one in the teeth, then KICKS him in the nuts.

The other Goons SMASH her against the WALL, HOLDING her.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

RRRRRRRGGGHHHH!!!!!!!!!!

Dad tries to intervene, but they now attack HIM;

But Dad executes a SKILLED DEFENSE TECHNIQUE, expertly RE-DIRECTING one of the Goons to the ground.

Juliana is surprised, and looks to Dad, dumbfounded.

CLAUDIO

Hold it!!

Everyone stops. The Goons HOLD Juliana.

CLAUDIO (CONT'D)

Do you have what you owe me?

DAD

No.

JULIANA

Let him go! I got your money here!

Despite being restrained, Juliana manages to take the ENVELOPE from a pocket. One of the Goons TAKES IT, and HANDS it to Claudio. Claudio suspiciously OPENS it.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

That's most of it.

Claudio examines the bills, impressed. They LET DAD GO.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I got a lead on some big money, OK?
Look how crisp those bills are!

Indeed, the cash is immaculately crisp and clean.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I can get more! Gimme a week.

GOON

Don't believe her, Mr Claudio!

But Claudio looks in her eyes, searching for lies. He ADMIRES the stack of money in his hands.

CLAUDIO

All right. I'll play along. But only because I think you're crazy enough to be telling the truth...

A momentary stare-down.

CLAUDIO (CONT'D)

I'll give you 3 days. Or your chicken shit father here will have more to worry about than his store.

Claudio and his Goons walks back to the car, and SQUEAL away.

INT. DAD'S SURFSHOP -- MORNING

JULIANA

Dad, I overslept! Why didn't you wake me up?

Dad heads into the back of the shop, trying to look busy.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Hey what was that move you did on that guy? That was cool!

DAD

It was nothing, he just fell the wrong way. But don't change the subject here, where are you getting this 'big money' from? Are you selling drugs?

JULIANA

No Dad! You know me better than that.

DAD

Do I??

Juliana is visibly hurt by this.

DAD (CONT'D)

Is it this boy you're seeing?? Don't think I don't hear things!! Juliana, tell me what's going on!!

Dad begins to break. Juliana shows empathy. Dad calms down.

JULIANA

I did meet a boy.

DAD

And?

JULIANA

He has a chance of making some money. A lot of money.

DAD

A chance of making some money? Juliana you know better than to get involved with things that sound like that. Exactly how old is this 'boy', making 'big money'?

JULIANA

I've been kinda helpin' him out. And I really did give him surf lessons! It didn't go so well, actually didn't go well at all... But it's all legal I promise you!

DAD

Doing - what?

JULIANA

Fighting.

Dad doesn't understand.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You know, Jiu-jitsu? Fighting? There's that big tournament going on at the arena, you've seen all the ads! He's one of the fighters.

Dad recoils in internal anguish at the sound of the words.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

But he's a really great guy, Dad! He's not like the other fighters, he's nice! And I promise you we're not having sex or anythi-

DAD

Fighting!!???

Dad is deeply upset.

DAD (CONT'D)

Fighting!!

He rubs a sore spot between his eyes.

DAD (CONT'D)

All the time - fighting! Everybody fighting! And now my own daughter has fallen into their trap.

Dad gets ANGRIER;

DAD (CONT'D)

This whole world is in a trance! Fighting each other over money and power!

He continues;

DAD (CONT'D)

You've watched this store go down, and that other huge corporate beast go up, taking all my business!!

He looks at Juliana desperately.

DAD (CONT'D)

And you see these empty shelves, and Claudio breathing down my back! I can't even pay my electric bills! My god, what am I going to do when THAT comes around!??

He KNOCKS OVER a stack of PROMOTIONAL T-SHIRTS with 'Dad's Surf Shop' LOGOS printed on them.

DAD (CONT'D)

I can't even give things away!!

Dad takes a breath.

DAD (CONT'D)

We work our whole life fighting like fools to pay these bills!

Juliana dares not interject.

DAD (CONT'D)

And you? You're lying to me about work? And now you're fooling around with some asshole fighter who thinks it's cool to get his head bashed in!

JULIANA

He's not like that, Dad! He's a really good fighter!

DAD

There are no good fighters. Anyone
who fights, has already lost.

Dad is calmed down, but deeply hurt.

JULIANA

You should meet him, Dad.

DAD

You know what Juliana? It was
wrong of me to expect you to help
pay my debts. I should have just
done it myself. You're still just a
kid. You should be out surfing.

Dad walks away.

JULIANA

I'll get that money for you Dad.

DAD

Don't bother. This is my problem.

INT. MASATO'S DOJO -- DAY

Juliana enters, and sees Cesar Santos, the Dark Brazilian
Fighter, and 2 other FIGHTERS, all CIRCLED around Masato.

JULIANA

LEAVE HIM ALONE!!!

She GRABS a ceremonial FIGHTING STICK off the wall and holds
it up threateningly.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I don't care what rainbow color
belt you have around stupid
pajamas, I swear to god I'll crack
this hunk of wood right through
your skulls!!!

MASATO

Juliana, no!

Masato RUSHES to her side.

MASATO (CONT'D)

They are not here to harm me.

Juliana looks again - indeed, there is NO FIGHT here.

CESAR SANTOS
We're here to help him!

INT. MASATO'S DOORWAY -- DAY

Masato has taken Juliana aside.

JULIANA
When did this happen?? You're
actually friends with those guys??

MASATO
I've been forced to. Boss Tanaka
hired them for me to train properly
for the finals.

JULIANA
'Properly'? What do they know
about the White Light??

Masato turns away.

MASATO
I've been a fool Juliana. My
dreams and wishes have taken me
this far, but they can't control
real forces in the world. I have to
start taking things more seriously.

JULIANA
But they can! Don't you see?
That's what makes you good! These
guys will mess up your groove,
Masato!!

MASATO
No Juliana. They will help take me
out of my infancy. It's time to
grow up. No more play time.

JULIANA
So what then? What are you saying?

MASATO
I have to be away from you for a
while.

JULIANA
What? You're breaking up with me??

MASATO
Just until the finals are over.
You're too big of a distraction.å

JULIANA

A DISTRACTION?? That's what I am,
a distraction?? I've been trying
to HELP you!

MASATO

No, see - you're not helping at
all! Taking me surfing, and trying
to get me drunk is not helping. I
need to actually train, if you
haven't realized yet!

JULIANA

I sacrificed my job for you.

MASATO

You were fired! And you got your
money from me in the end! Maybe
that's all you wanted.

JULIANA

That's not true!

Cesar Santos PEEKS from the doorway.

MASATO

Look - I have to train now,
Juliana. Just a few more days and
it's all over anyway, win or lose.

But Juliana is devastated.

JULIANA

Fine then. I've got shit to do too.

She walks away, hurt.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Good luck with your new friends.

EXT. CITY STREET -- AFTERNOON

Juliana SITS by herself, her almost-broken bicycle next to
her. She watches the CAIPIRINHA SAIL AWAY, a PARTY on board.

There is a PROMOTIONAL EVENT going on at the far end of the
docks. Juliana looks closer, and sees a bunch of SURFWORLD
BRANDING on the FLAGS and TENTS.

EXT. SURFWORLD PROMOTIONAL EVENT -- AFTERNOON

The event is just ENDING. The small TV CREW is starting to PACK UP, and the PUBLIC is dispersing, wearing a variety of SURFWORLD promotional GIVEAWAYS.

Juliana APPROACHES inconspicuously.

TV PRODUCER

Good show, everyone.

Juliana sees the SURFWORLD CEO, the SAME MAN that was in the ring before Masato's last fight. Juliana SCOWLS, STARING at him for a few moments. But then she notices something else; CLAUDIO is with him.

JULIANA

(to herself, quietly)

Claudio?

Juliana MINGLES a little closer. Claudio stands alongside the SURFWORLD CEO and a few other BUSINESSMEN, chatting.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

(to herself, quietly)

What are they doing together?

Claudio, the SURFWORLD CEO, and the other Businessmen get into a LIMOUSINE, and DRIVE AWAY.

EXT. BRAZILIAN BEACH TOWN -- AFTERNOON

Juliana is FOLLOWING the LIMOUSINE through the streets on her almost-broken bicycle. The Limousine drives faster than she can pedal, but she takes SMALL SHORTCUTS, ALMOST WIPING OUT several times to keep up.

EXT. SURFWORLD MEGASTORE LOADING DOCKS-- AFTERNOON

Juliana SKIDS to a stop at a safe distance in the shadows.

The SURFWORLD CEO, Claudio, and the Businessmen all EXIT the limousine and ENTER the Megastore through the back doors.

Juliana SNEAKS up to the building. The doors are LOCKED. She cups her hands around her eyes to see through the tinted limousine windows. She can't see much.

She then sees some DELIVERY TRUCKS, parked by the BAY DOORS. The rear ROLL-UP DOOR of the trucks is SLIGHTLY OPEN. Juliana LIFTS it up a little further; It is FULL with SURFING MERCHANDISE of all sorts.

Juliana reads the ORDER STICKER on the merchandise, customer name, address, etc:

JULIANA
'Dad's Surf Shop'? What??

BADASS SECURITY 1
Hey! Who are you? Freeze!

He GIVES CHASE. Juliana RUNS. More BADASS SECURITY TACKLE her to the ground, her cheek SCRAPING on the pavement.

JULIANA
Ow!!

They HOLD her down, and FRISK HER.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
Watch where you put your hands!

BADASS SECURITY 3
She's clean.

BADASS SECURITY 1
Who are you!? Why are you spying?

JULIANA
Ain't spying nothing, relax! I was just passing by! What are YOU doing beating up defenseless girls?

They continue to HOLD HER DOWN.

BADASS SECURITY 1
You must be stupid or something, right? Ever heard of security cameras? We have you trespassing on video! Do you understand that?

Juliana sees a SECURITY CAMERA, looking right at her.

JULIANA
Yes.

BADASS SECURITY 1
Do you understand how much hot water I could put you in right now?

JULIANA
Yes.

He PUSHES her harder into the ground.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Aaaghh! Yes!

BADASS SECURITY 1

If I see you around here ever again
I'm going to put you away. Do you
understand??

JULIANA

Yes!

They LET HER GO. Juliana RUNS AWAY, LIMPING a bit.

She gets back to her almost-broken bicycle behind the
DUMPSTERS, and RIDES AWAY.

INT. DAD'S SURF SHOP -- EVENING

Juliana BARGES into the shop with her bicycle.

JULIANA

Dad! Dad!

But her bicycle gets CAUGHT on a corner of a SHELF. Juliana
STUMBLES, TRIPPING over her bicycle.

The bicycle FALLS, and the SHELF comes CRASHING DOWN. A
CHAIN-REACTION of COMIC DISASTER follows as other shelves and
displays also come SMASHING DOWN to the floor, BREAKING.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry!

DAD

Get out of here! Just go surfing or
whatever it is you're doing but
please just leave me alone!

JULIANA

Can't I help? Where's the dustpan?

DAD

Out!!

EXT. DAD'S SURF SHOP -- EVENING

Juliana SHUTS the DOOR behind her, and holds in a CRY.

EXT. JULIANA'S HOME -- EVENING

Juliana PARKS her bicycle next to some OLD SURFBOARDS, when;

MOM
AAAAAAAUUGHH!!!

INT. MOM'S POTTERY STUDIO/KITCHEN -- EVENING

Juliana RUSHES in.

JULIANA
Mom?? What's wrong??

Mom is OPENING the KILN with her big MITTS on.

MOM
What did you use to glaze with?

JULIANA
The new peachy one. Cone 6.

Mom HOLDS UP a CUP with her 2 MITTS. It is a HORRIBLE PURPLE.

MOM
Does this look like the peachy one?

JULIANA
I used the glaze you told me to!
That one right there in the bucket!

MOM
Not that bucket!! That's not even
a glaze! I thought you knew! You
tested it with me 3 times!! Look,
it bubbled! The set is ruined!

JULIANA
At least it didn't explode!

JULIANA (CONT'D)
Maybe I can fix it!

MOM
No! Please - it's OK, it was an
accident. Just please, leave me
alone for a bit.

INT. JULIANA'S BEDROOM -- EVENING

Juliana SHUTS the DOOR, and holds in another CRY.

She sees her SURFBOARD propped up in the corner.

EXT. BEACH TRAIL -- EVENING

Juliana is riding her almost-broken bicycle down the trail, her OLD SURFBOARD under her arm.

JULIANA

This is all I need. Everyone making life so complicated. You stop surfing, you stop living. That's what went wrong, Juliana. You stopped surfing. Got distracted by other junk. No strings attached, Juliana, remember? No cell phone, no mortgage, no credit card, no bosses, no boyfriend, no headaches. Just surfing. Free.

She comes out of the TREES, and APPROACHES the BEACH.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

That's all I really need.

But when the BEACH comes into view, she sees something remarkable; There are NO WAVES, the water FLAT as a MIRROR.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

What the - ?

Juliana STOPS her bicycle, INCREDULOUS.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

No waves?

EXT. BEACH -- EVENING

Juliana SITS on the sand, staring at the WAVELESS OCEAN.

She RECALLS several WORDS and SCENES from the past few days:

MOM

Why don't you just start wearing a watch, Juliana?

TOWNFOLK 3

Get a job, eh Juliana?

BOSS

You were sweating all over them. Your hair stinks. Look Juliana, I'm targeting a different class of clients these days.

MOM

*You knew your father has been
anxious. Couldn't you have found
more time to help him at the shop?*

DAD

*I should have just done it myself.
You're still just a kid.*

MASATO

*Taking me surfing, and trying to
get me drunk is not helping. I
need to actually train, if you
haven't realized yet!*

ARMED SECURITY 1

*You must be stupid or something,
right?*

MOM

Does this look like the peachy one?

EXT. BEACH -- NIGHT

Juliana is still sitting in the same spot.

The night is DARK. There are STILL NO WAVES. Juliana begins to dip into another VISION;

INT. HUMBLE JAPANESE HOUSE -- NIGHT

The Japanese Girl is AWAKE in BED. Suddenly she hears a LOUD NOISE and some SHOUTING from OUTSIDE. She JUMPS out of bed.

EXT. HUMBLE JAPANESE HOUSE -- NIGHT

The Japanese Girl RUNS down the trail to Mother and Father.

With them is Father's Karate TEACHER, accompanied by his TOP STUDENTS, and a KARATE BRETHERN. They carry TORCHES, and are wearing their KARATE KIMONOS. The Karate Brethren TAKES OFF his KIMONO TOP.

MOTHER

Little One, go back to the house.

But the Japanese Girl cannot take her eyes of the CHALLENGE.

FATHER

Do as your Mother tells you!

The Japanese Girl GOES BACK TO THE HOUSE.

EXT. BEACH -- PRE-SUNRISE

Juliana still SITS in the same spot, motionless; she has been here all night. She looks at her HANDS. And there, at the tips of her FINGERS, is a little bit of the WHITE LIGHT.

Juliana looks out to the ocean; Some WAVES begin to ROLL IN.

INT. JULIANA'S BEDROOM -- PRE-SUNRISE

Juliana grabs some PAPER and a PEN, and makes a LIST:

1. DAD
2. MOM
3. STUFF
4. VODOO

EXT. BRAZILIAN BEACH TOWN -- PRE-SUNRISE

Juliana is riding Dad's MOTORCYCLE.

She drives right through the closed-off CONSTRUCTION zone.

INT. DAD'S SURF SHOP -- EARLY MORNING

Juliana is FIXING the shelf she broke.

INT. DAD'S SURF SHOP -- EARLY MORNING

Juliana is CLEANING the WINDOWS. She SPRAYS and WIPES, then LOOKS through the newly cleaned spot.

The SUN finally PEEKS up over the horizon.

Juliana begins to PAINT some LETTERS on the window.

INT. DAD'S SURF SHOP -- EARLY MORNING

Juliana SCRATCHES #1 off the list:

- ~~1. DAD~~
2. MOM
3. STUFF
4. VODOO

Juliana sees Dad's CELL PHONE lying on the desk.

She BITES her LIP, and TAKES it.

EXT. CAIPIRINHA DECK -- MORNING

Juliana parks the motorcycle and walks right on board.

Juliana searches around for the CORPORATE PROMOTIONAL BOOKLET. She GRABS it, and SHOWS it to Boss. Boss looks at her, CURIOUS.

EXT. HARBOR -- MORNING

Juliana SCRATCHES #2 from her LIST.

1. ~~DAD~~
2. ~~MOM~~
3. STUFF
4. VOODOO

She TAPS HER PEN nervously at #3, and takes a DEEP BREATH.

JULIANA

OK, Dad. This one's for you.

EXT. SURFWORLD MEGASTORE LOADING DOCKS -- DAY

The LIMOUSINE is there, but the DELIVERY TRUCKS are not.

Juliana takes out Dad's CELL PHONE, and begins FILMING.

She SNEAKS closer to the building, FILMING the LICENSE PLATE. One of the BAY DOORS is slightly AJAR. Juliana LIFTS it a bit more, and SLIPS INSIDE.

INT. SURFWORLD MEGASTORE LOADING DOCKS -- DAY

Inside is a humongous clean modern warehouse space, with shelves of merchandise stacked to the high ceilings.

The DELIVERY TRUCKS are here. Juliana CONTINUES FILMING, and finds the one with 'Dad's Surf Shop' on the ORDER STICKERS. Juliana CONTINUES FILMING, then hears VOICES coming;

CLAUDIO

Then his daughter started throwing bricks at us! It's not my fault!

Juliana HIDES, and PEEKS from around a corner and sees Claudio, the SURFWORLD CEO, and the same 3 BADASS SECURITY she encountered before, all together. She CONTINUES FILMING.

CLAUDIO (CONT'D)

But all his stuff is here, sir.
Trust me, he's dry. You'll be the
only surf store in town.

SURFWORLD CEO

Good.

Juliana REVEALS HERSELF.

JULIANA

You sonofabitch!!!

CLAUDIO

Juliana?

JULIANA

You sonofabitch! You steal my
Dad's stuff and giving it to this
guy? What's the matter? Big bad
business man scared of a little
homegrown?

SURFWORLD CEO

Call the police.

BADASS SECURITY 1

Yes sir.

JULIANA

Not if you don't want the whole
world to see what I got here!

She holds up Dad's CELL PHONE. Everyone FREEZES.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I filmed everything! Mess with me
and this goes live!

She THREATENS with her FINGER on the SCREEN. She looks to
the SURFWORLD CEO;

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You're a monster. You have millions
of dollars, and you have to kill my
Dad's little shop to survive?

She looks to Claudio.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

And you! You knew where Dad's
order was the whole time!

(MORE)

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You KNEW it was never gonna show up, but you kept harassing us anyways? What kind of people are you??

Claudio looks GUILTY. The SURFWORLD CEO does not.

The SURFWORLD CEO SNAPS HIS FINGERS, and the Badass Security ATTACK. Juliana SCRAMBLES for the BAY DOORS, and ALMOST CRAWLS under. But Badass Security 3 GRABS HER LEG.

But as he holds hers, Juliana KICKS HIM in the face with the other foot. It STUNS him for a second, so she KICKS him AGAIN. And AGAIN and AGAIN. After the 5th kick, Badass Security 3 is finally KNOCKED OUT.

Juliana gets some DISTANCE, and finds a METAL BAR.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

OK. Let's do this.

The Badass Security ATTACK. Juliana SWINGS the metal bar. It CONNECTS, but doesn't stop them. Badass Security 2 SHOVES Juliana's HEAD against a WALL, his FOREARM SMASHING her in the face. Now Juliana has TWO BLACK EYES.

Badass Security 2 HOLDS her there, but Juliana is too mad;

JULIANA (CONT'D)

RRRRRRRGGGHHHHH!!!!

She KICKS FREE, and SWINGS the METAL BAR again, this time CONNECTING into Badass Security 2's RIBS. Badass Security 2 GOES DOWN. - Only 1 left.

Badass Security 1 takes out his GUN, and AIMS it at Juliana.

Juliana FREEZES in TERROR. However she musters her courage;

JULIANA (CONT'D)

What's wrong? Can't handle a girl without your gun?

Badass Security 1 PAUSES, then THROWS his gun AWAY. Juliana THROWS the metal BAR away.

Claudio and the SURFWORLD CEO just WATCH, stupefied.

Badass Security 1 CHARGES at Juliana, and at the very last second, Juliana IGNITES some of the WHITE LIGHT and RE-DIRECTS Badass Security 1 into some TALL SHELVES. He CRASHES into them so hard that the entire shelving unit comes TOPPLING DOWN, boxes and packages FALLING on top of him.

SURFWORLD CEO and Claudio RUN AWAY.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Where do you think you're going???

She CORNERS them, and holds up DAD'S CELL PHONE.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You see this cell phone? I recorded everything! I'll tell the whole world what your evil corporation is doing! Or you know what? I got a better idea! I know one of the finalists in that big tournament you sponsor, maybe HE can tell everyone in front of all the fans, show this video on the big screens live at your own show! How about that?

She looks at the SURFWORLD CEO. Pathetic.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You don't even surf.

She looks at them CLOSER.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

You deliver all my Dad's stuff. Tomorrow. Before the sun is up. ALL of it. Got it?

SURFWORLD CEO

Yes.

JULIANA

And you leave my Dad alone. Forever. No matter what, you stay out of his business. Understand?

SURFWORLD CEO

Yes.

She KICKS the WALL next to his head.

SURFWORLD CEO (CONT'D)

Aaagh! Yes!

Juliana looks to Claudio. He is PEEING HIS PANTS. Juliana CONTINUES FILMING.

EXT. SURFWORLD MEGASTORE LOADING DOCKS -- DAY

Juliana ESCAPES through the loading dock bay doors. Her HEART is RACING, full of adrenaline. BOTH eyes are black and swollen now, her face a mess.

She can't decide if she wants to CRY or LAUGH. After a few hyperventilating breaths, a LAUGH wins. Immediately after however she suddenly VOMITS all over the pavement.

She recovers, and manages another LAUGH.

EXT. BEHIND THE DUMPSTERS -- DAY

Juliana SCRATCHES OFF #3:

1. ~~DAD~~
2. ~~MOM~~
3. ~~STUFF~~
4. VOODOO

INT. CANDOMBLE CHURCH -- AFTERNOON

Juliana storms in, bloodied.

JULIANA
WHAT DID SHE SEE??

MATHEUS
Oh my God, Juliana - your face!

But Juliana GRABS him with two hands by the collar, roughly.

JULIANA
What did she SEE?

The Spooky Old Lady ENTERS, and upon seeing Juliana tries to SCURRY away. Juliana LETS GO of Matheus and FOLLOWS her.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
What did you see!?!?? You saw
something about my friend that
night- What was it??

The Spooky Old Lady STOPS, and is suddenly sympathetic. She looks into Juliana's eyes APOLOGETICALLY.

INT. SPOOKY OLD LADY'S SEANCE ROOM -- EVENING

The mood has been set. The Spooky Old Lady opens a small decorated box, with a familiar looking BLACK HAIR inside.

SPOOKY OLD LADY

What I saw in this one hair, I'd never seen before.

The Spooky Old Lady explains, humbly;

SPOOKY OLD LADY (CONT'D)

Oh, I had some real experiences when I was younger... But all this church and cards and chanting every day, I was starting to wonder what was real and what was just my imagination.

She looks at the hair again.

SPOOKY OLD LADY (CONT'D)

But what I saw in this vision was real! Like the visions I had when I was younger.

She looks at Juliana, truthfully.

SPOOKY OLD LADY (CONT'D)

The spirit that grew this hair is indeed blessed! I saw a hundred thousand angels protecting him, a host of illuminated little souls!

JULIANA

Then - why were you so angry?

SPOOKY OLD LADY

Because I had sworn a curse on him! I had cursed this beautiful being. I was ashamed.

Juliana considers.

SPOOKY OLD LADY (CONT'D)

But don't worry, love. My feeble powers can have no effect on the light that is guiding this boy of yours. My bullshit curses could never touch a boy like him.

She laughs out loud at the wonderment of it all.

JULIANA

What else can you tell me about him? Tell me more what you saw!

SPOOKY OLD LADY

My dear, that's all I can tell you.

Juliana is disappointed.

SPOOKY OLD LADY (CONT'D)
But if you want to know more, there
is one person in town who can see
things even far better than I...

JULIANA
Who?

INT. JULIANA'S HOME -- EVENING

Juliana ENTERS the kitchen. MOM is making TEA.

MOM
Juliana! O Lord, what happened to
you this time!?? Are you OK?

Mom starts INSPECTING Juliana's wounds with motherly care.

JULIANA
I'm OK Mom.

But Mom can't stop touching them.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
Mom!

Juliana looks into Mom's eyes, desperately;

JULIANA (CONT'D)
Where were you 2 nights ago??

MOM
2 nights ago? I was here, working.
Then I went to sleep.

JULIANA
But where were you, really??

MOM
I don't lie Juliana, I was
sleeping. But I did have a dream.
About a fight.

She looks back to Juliana.

MOM (CONT'D)
Did he lose?

JULIANA
No, Mom. He won.

Mom smiles, relieved.

MOM

A nice boy...

Mom looks with love and empathy into Juliana's eyes.

JULIANA

You've been seeing things and not
telling me again, haven't you??

MOM

Oh child, you must be so confused!

They embrace.

JULIANA

Why don't you ever tell me about
what you see?

MOM

Because sometimes I can barely
understand it all myself...

Her face shows a hint of the weight this burden carries.

MOM (CONT'D)

It's too much sometimes, Juliana.

JULIANA

Then let me help you with it!! Let
me know what you know! I'm a part
of you, Mom!

Mom looks to her daughter proudly.

MOM

So brave.

EXT. BACK PORCH --EVENING

Juliana is seated. Mom brings some TEA.

MOM

Here. It's warm.

Some LANTERNS are lit, and they cast DANCING REFLECTIONS into
the dark Atlantic jungle.

MOM (CONT'D)

What have you seen so far? Tell me.

JULIANA

I see an island. Forests.
Mountains. Rivers. It feels
Japanese... I see a family, a
Karate dojo...

She looks to Mom, confused.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Mom, what does it all mean?

Mom smiles.

MOM

What you are seeing is a past life.

Juliana takes it well.

JULIANA

So I'm not going crazy? It's true?

MOM

We all lived there together once.
As you say, in Japan. That's where
you were born! Your Father was
from Chinese descent, and we named
you after his grandmother, XIU LI.

The VISIONS in the dancing light in trees becomes more VIVID,
as Juliana's incarnation as Xiu Li is ANIMATED before them;

JULIANA

Dad was training Karate or
something, but he wasn't happy.

They recall visions of Father, DISTRACTED in class.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I had another dream that he had
some kind of magical White Light...

Juliana looks to Mom, trying to make sense of it all.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

That's real? Dad knows about the
White Light? Oh, Mom help me
remember!!

Mom SETTLES herself.

MOM

Your Father did train Karate. For
many years, he was ranked highly in
a respected school.

(MORE)

MOM (CONT'D)

But with time, after you were born, he began to lose interest in it. Your Father had new ideas he was developing, a new style. But, his Teacher insisted that if your Father wanted to leave the dojo, that he had to earn it. He had to fight, prove his new style to not disgrace himself, or his teacher.

JULIANA

A fight? Where?

MOM

At the dojo. You were asleep. Your Father used the White Light, and won the fight!

They watch together as Father, even with just a beginner's understanding of the White Light, is able to defend himself, REDIRECTING and EVADING all attacks, easily. Indeed, a totally new style of fighting.

MOM (CONT'D)

He had won the right to leave the dojo, to develop his own style. To follow the White Light.

Scenes of Xiu Li, Mother and Father, happy.

MOM (CONT'D)

But there were more fights... People from afar had heard the rumors that he had a magic style, and would travel to challenge him.

They watch Father accepting numerous CHALLENGE MATCHES from various TRAVELING MARTIAL ARTISTS, Father masterfully DEFEATING all of them with his new White Light style.

JULIANA

I remember now. He was really good!

MOM

Yes. But then one day, his old Karate Teacher returned, to defend his honor. He had brought his own son, the most skilled of all the KARATE BRETHREN.

They watch the CHALLENGE on the TRAIL, hot far from their HOME, in the NIGHT;

MOM (CONT'D)

It was then that I told you to go
back to the house.

They recall as Xiu Li is ordered to go back to the house.

JULIANA

Did they fight?

MOM

Yes.

Juliana watches the VISION, as Mom CONTINUES THE TALE. The Karate Brethren steps forward for the challenge. His NEW WIFE is with them, watching nervously.

They begin FIGHTING, the Karate Brethren indeed a fantastic Martial Artist, able to engage with Father, and even PENETRATE the White Light.

MOM (CONT'D)

Your Father almost lost that fight,
but at the end...

Juliana watches as Father executes a huge White-Light infused THROW on the Karate Brethren.

JULIANA

What? What happened??

The Karate Brethren is HURLED into a THICK TREE, his body BREAKING with the impact, the tree almost collapsing.

The Karate Brethren's New Wife SCREAMS in horror, and RUSHES to the Karate Brethren's side, horrified.

MOM

He died there. Your Father was
devastated.

The Karate Brethren looks into Father's eyes, HELPLESS. His New Wife GRASPS his HAND. The Karate Brethren DIES.

MOM (CONT'D)

Your Father swore right there that
he would never fight again.

JULIANA

No one else came to challenge him?

Mom looks away, a TEAR falling from her eye.

MOM

Don't you remember?

Juliana thinks, and tries to remember;

Suddenly, they see VISION-IMAGES of Xiu Li at 9 YEARS OLD, PLAYING by a pond with a simple handmade TOY BOAT. She LOOKS UP against the sun, and sees a tall bearded man ARRIVING.

Juliana finally and suddenly recognizes Demiao's elderly COACH, and realizes that he is actually SIFU (from 'JULIE AND THE LIGHT').

JULIANA

Him?? Oh, Mom I saw him! He's here! The same man, I'm sure of it!! How can that be??

MOM

That man is someone who has followed us through many lifetimes.

Juliana returns to her vision;

MOM (CONT'D)

He had heard the stories of your Father, and came to see the White Light for himself. He came to challenge it.

The vision shows Sifu CHALLENGING Father to a match. Father REFUSES. Sifu keeps INSISTING, becoming angry.

MOM (CONT'D)

But your Father kept his promise to never fight again. Sifu became enraged, demanding a contest, and unleashed his powers.

JULIANA

The Red Energy.

MOM

Yes. But the White Light is a style of peace, of harmony.

Mom looks at Juliana and manages a smile.

MOM (CONT'D)

And it has been infuriating that poor man for a long time!

Juliana envisions the confrontation again;

JULIANA

- But Dad... he did nothing!

Visions of Sifu BULLYING Father, shoving him around, coaxing him to fight. But Father does not fight.

XIU LI

Why won't you fight back?

She sees Xiu Li, YELLING at Father.

XIU LI (CONT'D)

Why won't you DO anything!?? FIGHT HIM BACK!!!! You COWARD!!!

Father DOES NOT FIGHT.

JULIANA

I called him a coward...

Xiu Li insults and kicks dirt at her Father, unleashing a fury of shame upon him for not being the heroic man she thought him to be.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I left him.

Xiu Li LEAVES in a fury.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

That was the last thing I said to him. Oh God.

The vision continues; Xiu Li is storming down the road, over a hill, CRYING. She stands by a BUS STOP. Some CARS typical of rural 1950's Japan can be seen driving about.

Then, a BOY, about 5 years old, wearing a PAPER FOX MASK, appears over the crest.

XIU LI

Well, who are you supposed to be?

But the Boy just STARES AT HER from behind his paper Mask.

GIRL

Can't you speak?

Masato manages to speak weakly, in JAPANESE:

MASATO

Your Father... He needs help!

GIRL

You? Ha! How could you help him?

The Girl looks off in the distance, WIPING A TEAR.

GIRL (CONT'D)

No one can help him.

The BUS arrives, STOPPING for the Girl. The Girl BOARDS the BUS. The DOOR CLOSES, and it DRIVES AWAY.

The Boy TAKES OFF HIS MASK, revealing an innocent kid, not much younger than the Girl. The Girl SEES HIS FACE for a moment through the REAR WINDOW.

Juliana RETURNS to her PRESENT REALITY; She looks to MOM, who gently SIPS her tea.

JULIANA

Was that boy Masato??

Juliana DIPS BACK into the Vision-Memory;

JULIANA (CONT'D)

*I remember now... I'd left, angry.
Masato said you and Dad were in
danger... he begged me to come
back, but I didn't listen.*

Juliana can see Masato in the vision, unable to bring Xiu Li back, a defeated look on his face. He puts his MASK back on, and RUNS back toward the house by himself.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

But I did come back. That night.

Xiu Li sluggishly GETS OFF a BUS at NIGHT, and WALKS back over the hill, her family's farm coming into view. But instead of the familiar view of her home, Xiu Li sees something awful;

Her home has been BURNED, now but a smoldering structure.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Oh!

She BURSTS into TEARS.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

He killed you? He killed you both??

Mom does not answer.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

*Oh god - How awful! How I could I
have forgotten? I left you!! Oh
Mom, I feel so ashamed!*

MOM

No, Juliana! You shouldn't!

JULIANA

Why? How??

MOM

Because you found us again! That debt does not follow you anymore.

Juliana is confused, but feels the truth in Mom's words. Mom holds Juliana's hands warmly.

MOM (CONT'D)

You traveled over mountains to find us again! Don't you remember?

Suddenly Juliana is ABSOLUTELY FLOODED with images from 'QUEEN OF THE STREETS' and 'JULIE AND THE LIGHT', as an ENTIRE INCARNATION comes into focus in just seconds;

Canadian Cities, friends, skateboards, a Greyhound Bus, trains, prairies, Rocky Mountains, punk shows, islands, and images of Sifu's COMMUNE.

MOM (CONT'D)

You found us again! You and your Father are reunited. You have him back again!

Mom smiles proudly at her daughter. Juliana is overwhelmed.

MOM (CONT'D)

It's your friendship with Masato now you must heal. Do you love him?

JULIANA

Yes.

MOM

Then go to him.

JULIANA

What about Dad? How much does he remember?

MOM

You should ask him yourself.

EXT. BEACH -- EVENING

Juliana and DAD are SITTING on the beach.

JULIANA

So you knew? Why didn't you tell me?

DAD

Because I thought I could make it go away. I thought we had escaped it, I thought it was all over.

JULIANA

Thought what was all over?

DAD

The fighting! All that martial arts stupidity! It causes so much more pain than its good for. I wanted to leave it all behind.

He takes a breath, looking out at the view.

DAD (CONT'D)

I thought your Mom and I had found our paradise here, and were finally free of it all. I saw the ocean again, and the surfers - where the water meets the sky... I thought it would be enough.

JULIANA

But it wasn't enough.

DAD

I was a fool to think ignoring it would make it go away. That *he* wouldn't one day cross my path again.

JULIANA

He's here, Dad. I saw him. Oh, Dad I'm so sorry! I'm sorry I lied to you, I'm sorry I haven't been helping you better, I'm sorry I broke your shelf and stole your motorcycle, I'm sorry I called you a coward, I'm sorry I left you like that...

Juliana CRIES, openly. Dad HOLDS HER.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I'm sorry Dad, I didn't know... I didn't know...

DAD

It's OK Little one, it's OK. I love you, you know? My little warrior.

Juliana WIPES HER TEARS, bravely.

DAD (CONT'D)

Did you really get Claudio peeing his pants on video?

JULIANA

Oh yeah!

She LAUGHS her tears away, and gives Dad his CELL PHONE back.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Check it out - go to your VIDEOS.

DAD

There's nothing here.

JULIANA

What? But I filmed everything!

DAD

You know you have to press 'record' to actually record video, right?

JULIANA

You don't just turn on the app?

DAD

No.

JULIANA

Oh. So, I didn't actually get any evidence?

DAD

Doesn't look like it.

JULIANA

Huh.

DAD

But they don't know that!

They LAUGH.

JULIANA

You should really start using the White Light again, Dad.

DAD

I wouldn't know what to do with it.

JULIANA

I do. We have to help him.

DAD

Who? - Masato?

Juliana nods.

DAD (CONT'D)

When is his fight?

JULIANA

What time is it?

INT. ARENA -- NIGHT

The regular Play-By-Play commentator is mysteriously ABSENT.
Instead is a REPLACEMENT COMMENTATOR.

REPLACEMENT COMMENTATOR

Welcome ladies and gentleman to the
night we've been anticipating...
the night we've all been waiting
for. The night we wanted to happen.

COLOR COMMENTATOR

That's right Pat. Obviously my
regular partner Frank is not here
tonight, and amazingly, neither is
a lot of tonight's sold out venue.

REPLACEMENT COMMENTATOR

And why is that, Bob?

COLOR COMMENTATOR

Well, tonight - in my opinion - is
a very, historic night. I think we
are witnessing a new level in the
evolution of Martial Arts. Many
people were frightened when we
first saw it, my partner included -
that's why he chose not to come
tonight, believe it or not. But I
think they are crazy to miss this.

REPLACEMENT COMMENTATOR

And what is that, Bob?

Play-By-Play looks at him strangely.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

You haven't seen it?

REPLACEMENT COMMENTATOR

No.

Play-By-Play is stunned.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

You haven't seen the Red Energy?
The White Light??

REPLACEMENT COMMENTATOR

They just hired me to fill in.

Dead air.

REPLACEMENT COMMENTATOR (CONT'D)

What?

INT. ARENA ENTRANCE -- NIGHT

Dad and Juliana are scrambling through the chaotic crowd looking for Masato's locker room. The preliminary fights are playing on the TV SCREENS mounted about.

Access to the locker rooms is BLOCKED by SECURITY.

JULIANA

I need to see Masato! - You
remember me!! I'm his manager!

The Security Guard just deepens his scowl.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Let us through!

The Security Guard ignores her. MORE SECURITY come over.
Juliana CLENCHES her FIST.

Dad and Juliana look to each other silently. Juliana notices a bit of the WHITE LIGHT glowing and dancing around Dad's fingertips. The Security Guards do not seem to see it.

Dad PASSES some of it subtly to Juliana, TOUCHING her hand.
Juliana LOOSENS her FIST.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Guys...

She steps forward.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

We love him.

Suddenly the Security Guards somehow wake up as if from a trance. Some begin to get TEARY EYED. They ALLOW Dad and Juliana THROUGH.

EXT. MASATO'S LOCKER ROOM -- NIGHT

The team is warming Masato up in the last moments before his fight. The Translator is with them. Masato looks AFRAID. Cesar Santos INTERCEPTS Juliana and Dad in the DOORWAY;

CESAR SANTOS

What do you want? You think this is the time for this?

JULIANA

What other time is there?

CESAR SANTOS

After! This is no time for girlfriend stuff, OK?

Juliana considers.

CESAR SANTOS (CONT'D)

Please trust me. If you go in there now and fill his head up with drama, he's gonna lose focus in the fight, and you know what's gonna happen? He's gonna get hurt.

JULIANA

Listen, you've seen what's going on here. That guy with flashing Red Energy? Masato making a White Light, and doing impossible things? What do you think exactly is happening? Do YOU know what it is?

She looks to the TV mounted up next to them in the hallway. Replays of Demiao's fight, brutally KO-ing his last opponent, the RED ENERGY clearly VISIBLE.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

Have YOU ever fought a guy like that before?? Jiu Jitsu ain't gonna help him, man. You know this!

Cesar Santos is suddenly overcome with fear. Dad humbly SHOWS him the WHITE LIGHT in his hands. Cesar Santos' eyes WIDEN.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

He needs us.

INT. MASATO'S LOCKER ROOM -- NIGHT

CESAR SANTOS

Guys? Guys!

He welcomes Dad and Juliana in. Juliana and Masato lock eyes. Masato is TREMBLING.

CESAR SANTOS (CONT'D)

Please meet Masato's new teacher.

Dad enters. Juliana and Masato EMBRACE. She pulls Dad closer. The White Light TWINKLES around him.

JULIANA

This is my Dad.

MASATO

I know.

EVENT COORDINATOR

Masato!! On in 5!

Juliana HOLDS HIM CLOSE.

JULIANA

Why, Masato? Why are you doing this? I need to understand...

MASATO

If I lose, I will have to go back to where I'm from.

Juliana is EMOTIONAL.

MASATO (CONT'D)

If I win... I can stay with you.

INT. ENTRANCE TUNNEL -- NIGHT

Masato is prepped and ready with his team. An EVENT LACKEY stands dumbly alongside. Suddenly MOM runs in, holding a BAG.

JULIANA

You got it? Masato, meet my Mom!

Mom pulls out Masato's MASK from the bag.

MASATO
My Mask!! Thank you!!

Mom and Masato SHARE A MOMENT.

JULIANA
Did you get the music, too?

Mom pulls out Masato's CD CASE. Masato CHOOSES one.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
Get this to your sound guys, now!

MASATO
Track 5!

JULIANA
Track 5!

The Event Lackey RUNS OFF with it.

JULIANA (CONT'D)
OK everyone, check this out -

Also in the bag are the promotional T-SHIRTS, with the 'DAD'S SURF SHOP' LOGO printed on them.

MOM
For luck.

DAD
Juliana, I don't think we can do that. SURFWORLD is a huge sponsor, its would be a conflict of interest-

JULIANA
Trust me. Just wear it.

Everyone PUTS ON the T-SHIRTS. Mom and Dad KISS. Juliana and Masato KISS.

And as Masato puts his MASK on, Juliana discreetly takes out her LIST from her pocket. #4 is already SCRATCHED OFF.

She WRITES IN #5:

- ~~1. DAD~~
- ~~2. MOM~~
- ~~3. STUFF~~
- ~~4. VOODOO~~
5. WIN

EVENT COORDINATOR
It's time!!!

INT. ARENA -- NIGHT

TRACK 5 from Masato's CD BLASTS into the arena, playing a surprising but absolutely perfect tune for his walkout.

Masato comes out in his MASK with Dad, Juliana, Mom, Cesar Santos, the Dark Brazilian Fighter, and the Translator, in a 'GRACIE-TRAIN' entrance style. All of them are wearing 'DAD'S SURF SHOP' T-SHIRTS.

REPLACEMENT COMMENTATOR

And here comes the first finalist!
Masato Yoshi-hi-ro-totoro!!

PLAY-BY-PLAY

Not sure if that's right, Pat.

REPLACEMENT COMMENTATOR

Shut up.

PLAY-BY-PLAY

What are those shirts they're wearing? Dad's Surf Shop? Oh, my.

REPLACEMENT COMMENTATOR

Maybe a local business here? I don't think SURFWORLD will be too happy about that!

Juliana spots the SURFWORLD CEO in the audience. She finds the nearest TV CAMERA, and makes sure to get Dad's LOGO as square in the frame as she can. The JUMBO SCREENS above the ring broadcast the shot. Juliana looks again to the SURFWORLD CEO, and GRINS.

The lights GO OUT. A HUSH comes over the crowd.

DEMIAO and SIFU begin their entrance, a RED SPOTLIGHT on them as they walk out to MENACING MUSIC.

Dad and Mom SEE SIFU for the first time with these eyes.

Demiao gets into the ring, a fantastic specimen of physical efficiency, power and violence. Some of the Red Energy can already be seen FLICKERING about his wrists. The crowd BUZZES and shifts around nervously at its presence.

CESAR SANTOS

I can't believe you're actually gonna fight that guy.

Juliana and Masato both look at Cesar Santos, shocked.

CESAR SANTOS (CONT'D)

Sorry.

RING ANNOUNCER

Ladieees, and gentlemen... Let's
make some fightinggg historyyyyyy!!!

The crowd begins to warm up. This is really going down.

RING ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

The final match of the Brazilian
World Grand Prix Qualifying
Tournament... Brought to you by
SURFWORLD: 'a World of Surfing'!

Now the crowd is really alive.

RING ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Fighting out of the Blue Corner,
with a perfect record of 2 and 0,
fighting out of Saitama, Japan -
Masatoo Yoshihirooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!!!

Masato raises his arms accordingly.

RING ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

And fighting out of the Red
Corner... also with an unbeaten
record of 14 wins, zero losses...
Fighting out of Ouro Preto, Brazil -
Demiaoooo!!!!!!!!!!!!

The crowd BUZZES. Demiao STARES VICIOUSLY across the ring at
Masato. Mom, Cesar Santos, and the Translator TAKE THEIR
SEATS near ringside. Dad and Juliana STAY in Masato's CORNER.

The REFEREE invites the fighters to the center of the ring to
brief the rules. Dad HOLDS MASATO BACK for a second,
WHISPERING something in his ear. Masato NODS.

Masato walks to the center of the ring, HEAD DOWN. Demiao
HOLDS UP his fists to 'touch gloves', but Masato doesn't see
it and thus does NOT touch gloves. The CROWD REACTS.

The Referee SEPARATES them to their corners. The BELL RINGS.

Demiao CHARGES immediately, and tries to bully Masato into
the corner. Masato easily EVADES, breathing deeply, relaxed.

The CROWD CHEERS. Masato looks to Dad. Dad NODS.

Demiao JABS a straight left at Masato. As the strike is
thrown, a FLASH of the Red Energy appears. The crowd 'OOH'S.

Masato ROTATES out of the way, and SEIZES the extended arm with a concentration of the White Light. Masato tries to rotate the momentum of the jab further, countering into a throw - but Demiao is too strong. Demiao plants his feet hard into the canvas, and instantly becomes an immovable force, ILLUMINATED with the Red Energy.

One of the LIGHTS above them SHORT-CIRCUITS, slightly DARKENING the ring, SPARKS falling. Masato is DISTRACTED for a second, and Demiao throws a RIGHT that CONNECTS. Demiao does not follow up, but rather smiles, as Masato stumbles.

Masato tries desperately to conjure the White Light, but only small twinkles softly glow around his hands and arms.

Demiao throws a HIGH KICK, also BRIGHT with the Red Energy. The CROWD STANDS UP in unison. Masato has just enough time to raise his hands up to block, but the sheer force of it KNOCKS him completely over. Masato is down but not out. Demiao approaches and launches into a FLYING STOMP.

Once again, Masato just covers up and takes it, not knowing what else to do. Masato tries desperately to SCRAMBLE for an ANKLE PICK from his knees. Demiao steps easily out of every attempt, throwing more STRIKES and KICKS.

Cesar Santos and his team are SCREAMING instructions to him, but Masato CAN'T HEAR. Dad just watches, silently. Mom appears to be PRAYING. Juliana, HELPLESS in the middle.

Masato gets CLIPPED as he rolls, and tries to stand up. He manages amazingly to invoke some more of the White Light and COUNTER Demiao's strikes successfully to ESCAPE the flurry.

Demiao RECOVERS, and SMILES at Masato. The crowd has lost all sanity by now - half of them MOVING CLOSER to the ring, and the other half moving back in fear.

The BELL RINGS - End of Round 1

Sifu puts an ICE PACK on the back of Demiao's neck with one hand, and his other hand on his SPINE. Demiao looks good.

Masato sits on the stool, breathing hard and dripping with sweat. Cesar Santos likewise puts some ICE on Masato's head.

Dad conjures up some of the White Light. He lets it PASS through his hands into Masato. The referee calls the fighters back to their feet.

ROUND 2 BEGINS.

Demiao doesn't wait to put the heat on. He cuts Masato off beautifully, throwing COMBINATIONS from unexpected angles. Each strike now FLOWS together in a CONTINUOUS MOVING RIBBON of the Red Energy, CURLING and STRIKING like a snake of fire.

Masato however now sparkles with a BRIGHT GLOW of the White Light, and effortlessly begins to ABSORB, RE-DIRECT, and EVADE each and every threat from Demiao's combinations.

The result is spectacular;

Red Energy and White Light, juxtaposed together, one chasing the other in a dance of supernatural brilliance. The crowd is dumbstruck - as are the Commentators.

Demiao gets a STRIKE in, landing on Masato's cheek, but it is not powerful enough to bring him down. Masato gets some in turn as well, TOSSING Demiao around, and even getting some comical SLAPS to Demiao's head. Demiao SMILES again. Their fight is becoming almost PLAYFUL.

Juliana looks to Dad, confused. Dad is SMILING. Cesar Santos and team all just watch stupidly, their mouths open.

Suddenly, Sifu SHOUTS Demiao's name;

SIFU

Demiao!

Demiao looks to Sifu's scowl, and returns to the fight, focused and vicious again - he has stopped playing.

The DANCE OF LIGHT resumes, although now it looks less like a dance, and more like a WAR. Demiao LANDS a few HARD STRIKES that Masato is unable to handle. Demiao turns it up with MORE STRIKES, BREAKING THROUGH Masato's White Light style.

Juliana panics for a moment and LUNGES into the ring, but Dad HOLDS HER BACK. Juliana looks to MOM in her seat.

Demiao is delivering a stream of punishment, all backed by the Red Energy. Masato is deflecting and countering less and less efficiently, his physical strength and the White Light both WANING. A LEFT HOOK lands on Masato's face, and a CUT opens up above his eye. The other eye is already swollen.

Cesar Santos grabs the ceremonial TOWEL, but Dad STOPS HIM.

Demiao lands a HUGE kick to Masato's solar plexus, and Masato goes HURLING BACK into the ropes.

Demiao, in fashion trademark, does not follow up for the finish, but rather stops to savor the victory. Masato's face is a mess - bleeding, swollen and scratched.

Suddenly the experience of Masato and Demiao begin to SLOW DOWN, and take a DREAM-LIKE consistency. The 2 are locked in the final moment of the battle - when the predator gets his prey, and both know it.

Demiao can HEAR Masato's MIND, as if telepathically;

*MASATO'S SPIRIT VOICE
Why do you fight? For yourself?*

MEMORIES of Demiao's PAST begin to animate in their mind's eye; Demiao being TRAINED by SIFU.

They look to SIFU in Demiao's CORNER.

*MASATO'S SPIRIT VOICE (CONT'D)
- Or for HIM?*

And for that brief second, Demiao seems to SNAP OUT of a trance; Masato SMILES. Demiao SMILES back, and lets go of his rage, the Red Energy FADING...

*SIFU
DEMIAO!!!!*

Demiao looks to Sifu, remembering. His fists CLENCH.

Dad hangs his head. Masato too seems deeply disappointed. Juliana looks to Mom, who is also now somehow not as nervous.

Demiao is RE-ENERGIZED with the Red Energy, and he CHARGES the broken and bloodied Masato with ONE LAST VICIOUS ATTACK.

But Masato simply breathes out, conjures the White Light -

- And sends Demiao's crashing into the canvas. Demiao SMASHES face first, KNOCKING HIM OUT.

The referee waves the fight OVER. The CROWD goes crazy. Play-By-Play and the Replacement Commentator HUG.

Sifu watches coldly from his corner, as DOCTORS rush to Demiao's attention.

Juliana, Dad, Mom, Cesar Santos, and the rest of the team RUSH into the ring.

*JULIANA
You did it!*

SHINY CONFETTI drops from the rafters, and DRAMATIC MUSIC kicks in. Juliana EMBRACES Masato.

JULIANA (CONT'D)

I love you!

Masato looks up, painfully. He manages a smile.

MASATO

Thank you.

They KISS.

In the audience, the Brazilian Fight Promoter SITS, overwhelmed. Boss Tanaka however STANDS, a HUGE GRIN from ear to ear. Boss Tanaka catches both Dad and Masato's glances, and BOWS regally to both of them.

Juliana catches Sifu's EYES across the ring. She MOVES to him through the chaos, until close enough to speak;

JULIANA

You stay away from us now. All of us. Forever. You got it? Forever.

Sifu says nothing, and is carried off by the wave of people leaving the ring with a beaten Demiao. Mom GENTLY PULLS Juliana back. The CROWD continues to CHEER.

EXT. DAD'S SURFSHOP -- DAY

The place looks great, with a HAND PAINTED SIGN on the newly cleaned WINDOW that reads: 'DAD'S SURF SHOP - GRAND RE-OPENING!'. The window displays and inside shelving are all FULL OF NEW MERCHANDISE. A DELIVERY TRUCK is parked in front, some DELIVERY MEN carrying in the last of the goods.

CUSTOMERS, FRIENDS, and SURFERS are mingling all about.

Juliana stands by the door greeting and thanking the customers, GIVING AWAY more 'Dad's Surf Shop' promotional T-SHIRTS. Masato works the REGISTER inside.

The Delivery Men indicate that there is ONE LAST BOX in the back of the truck. They CARRY it out, and OPEN it.

Inside is a SHINY NEW BICYCLE, exactly Juliana's size.

Juliana is overwhelmed and confused, but then sees CLAUDIO, standing across the street. Claudio BOWS slightly to Juliana. Juliana considers for a moment, then subtly BOWS BACK.

EXT. CAIPIRINHA DECK -- AFTERNOON

On the main deck is a small PARTY of elegant CLIENTS, around a DINNER TABLE. Wine, music, etc. Also on deck are Boss, Juliana and Mom.

The clients are ADMIRING MOM'S POTTERY DINNERWARE. They COMPARE the COLOR of the pottery to their LOGO on their business cards; It is an EXACT COLOR MATCH.

Juliana SMILES. Mom too. Boss too.

EXT. BEACH -- EVENING

Juliana, Masato, Dad, and Mom are all SURFING TOGETHER.

It is a perfect evening, where the water meets the sky.

FADE OUT.