



SHINJUKU DISTRICT, TOKYO.
WEDNESDAY, 8:20 PM.



MY EMPLOYER FIRST MET TAKEO SUZUKI ON THESE VERY STREETS, NEARLY 30 YEARS AGO.

TAKEO WAS A YOUNG GANGSTER ON THE RISE, SURROUNDED BY PLENTY OF COMPETITION. HE NEEDED AN EDGE.



WHEN MY EMPLOYER SUGGESTED TAKEO ALLY HIMSELF WITH HWANG, A MAN WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS IN SHANGHAI, HE SCOFFED.



TAKEO EXPLAINED THAT NO SELF-RESPECTING JAPANESE ENTREPRENEUR WOULD DO BUSINESS WITH THE CHINESE. SOME THINGS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN BUSINESS, HE CLAIMED.



<CAN I HELP YOU, MISS?>*

*<TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.>



<YES, I'M HERE TO SEE VIC TAKAHASHI?>

MISTER CHING LAUGHED, PATTED TAKEO ON THE SHOULDER AND SAID, "NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN BUSINESS, MY FRIEND!"

TAKED LISTENED TO MY EMPLOYER AND PARTNERED WITH HWANG...



...AND HIS BUSINESS BOOMED.

NOW HE SITS ATOP THE LARGEST UNDERGROUND GAMBLING OPERATION IN TOKYO.



AND WHILE MOST GANG-RELATED ACTIVITIES OCCUR IN SECRET, AS FAR AWAY FROM SCRUTINIZING EYES AS POSSIBLE, TAKED HAS PAID OFF SO MANY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND RIVAL GANGSTERS THAT HE FEARS NO ONE.



NOT YET.

<EXCUSE ME, BUT CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE TO FIND MISTER TAKAHASHI? I'M NAKIKO INABA...>



<YOU'RE CUTE, NAKIKO. YOU LOOKING FOR A JOB AS A HOSTESS?>

<WELL, NO. I'M NOT QUITE READY FOR THAT YET. I WAS HOPING TO BE A CARD DEALER.>

<HEY IT'S NIKKI. IS VIC AROUND?>



<SHE SAYS SHE WANTS TO BE A DEALER... UM 5'7", PRETTY EYES... HAHA, NO, YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.>



<HUH-HEY SWEETIE, YOU WANNA COME HOME WUH... WITH ME? I'M RICH!>





<CERTAINLY>

-MMMMM-

<YOU SURE YOU WANNA BE A DEALER? CUZ I CAN THINK OF SOME OTHER JOBS YOU'D BE MORE THAN QUALIFIED FOR.>

<I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BUT I TRY TO BE A VIRTUOUS WOMAN, YOU KNOW?>

<CAN'T BLAME A GUY FOR TRYIN'.>

<HERE TAKE THIS AND HEAD OVER TO THE YUMMY HOSTESS BAR. MISTER SUZUKI WILL BE EXPECTING YOU.>

TAKED CONTROLS OVER A DOZEN BUSINESSES IN SHINJUKU ALONE.

ALL PLACES THAT ARE RIDDLED WITH GAMBLING, DRUGS AND PROST--

I-- KNOW HER.

KNEW HER...



...AT THE ACADEMY.

EVERYBODY KNEW HER.



SHE WAS THE BEST.



VERY GOOD.



VERY GOOD, INDEED.

YOU ARE MY SPECIAL FLOWER...



...MY PRECIOUS LILY



LATER THAT EVENING...

LILY, SHE COULDN'T HAVE RECOGNIZED ME.

IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.

AND WE'VE EMBARKED UPON SUCH... DIFFERENT PATHS.



<HELLO. I'M HERE TO SEE MISTER SUZUKI.>

<OF COURSE.>



<LET ME GET THAT FOR YOU...>



<ENJOY...>



PENTHOUSE...



...MY EMPLOYER HAD MENTIONED THAT TAKEO HAD BECOME SOMETHING OF A... HEDONIST.

THAT APPEARS TO BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT.



<SO... THIS MUST BE NAKIKO.>

<YES... VERY NICE... PLEASE, FOLLOW ME.>



<I HOPE YOU LIKE CRISTAL. IT'S A PREREQUISITE FOR ALL MY... INTERVIEWS.>



<SO MS... INABA, I'M FLATTERED THAT YOU WANT TO WORK FOR ME... BUT I WONDER WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?>

<MISTER SUZUKI, YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU. I CAN THINK OF NOBODY I'D RATHER WORK FOR.>



<YES IT'S TRUE. EVERYONE HERE IS FAMILY TO ME. AND I MUST SAY YOU'D MAKE A LOVELY ADDITION.>



<BUT ENOUGH TALK... LET'S TOAST!>