COBRA KAI

Episode 304
"The Right Path"

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INT. BIJINESU HOTEL - BAR - LATE AFTERNOON

It’s happy hour at the hotel bar. Two excited BUSINESSMEN happily clink sake cups at a table, celebrating good news.

BUSINESSMEN
BANZAI!!

They chug their sake and as one of the businessmen excitedly pours a second round, we find Daniel LaRusso. He sits dejected at the bar, tie loose, in a much different mood...

DANIEL (V.O.)
At our core, we’re a family run business...

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. TOYOTA CONFERENCE ROOM - EARLIER

It’s moments after the end of 303. Daniel stands before a group of TOYOTA EXECUTIVES, including head of international sales, JIROU TANAKA. Charts are presented on a screen as Daniel finishes his big pitch to save LaRusso Auto.

DANIEL
That’s why we’ve sold more cars over the past ten years than any other dealer in the San Fernando Valley. And with our new incentive program, LaRusso Auto’s partnership with your company can only get stronger.

Daniel reads the room. Dead silence. Jirou clears his throat.

JIROU TANAKA
This is very impressive... but...

BACK TO:

INT. BIJINESU HOTEL - BAR - LATE AFTERNOON

Daniel takes a deep sip of Japanese whiskey, trying to drink away the pain...

JIROU TANAKA (V.O.)
...Unfortunately we have already made our decision.
INT. TOYOTA CONFERENCE ROOM – EARLIER

Daniel now sits at the conference table. His face falls as the news gets worse and worse. We only hear snippets of what Tanaka says, including:

JIROU TANAKA
It’s not just about sales.... We are trying to avoid negative PR...

(MORE)
I’m sorry to say the wheels are already in motion. Thank you for coming all this way...

Daniel slumps in his chair--

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. BIJINESU HOTEL - BAR - LATE AFTERNOON

Daniel slumps at the bar. He gulps his drink and checks his phone: the background is a picture of himself and Amanda. He stares at the picture, sad, taking another long sip...

AMANDA (V.O.) (PRE-LAP)
How did the meeting go?

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. TOYOTA TOKYO HEADQUARTERS - A FEW HOURS EARLIER

We find Daniel outside, businessmen and women walking past. Daniel FaceTimes with Amanda (at home), spinning the bad news like any good salesman.

DANIEL
I’m... still working on it. (off Amanda’s reaction) I know there’s an answer, and I’m gonna find it.

AMANDA (ON SCREEN)
Daniel, if it can’t be done...

DANIEL
It can be. I’m coming home with a “yes.” Don’t worry.

AMANDA (ON SCREEN)
I know you are. Work your magic. We miss you. Have a good night.

DANIEL
Have a good morning. (playing it up) Sayonara!

Amanda hangs up, and Daniel’s brave face immediately drops.

DANIEL
(sigh, to himself) What the hell am I gonna do?
CLOSE ON: Ice dropped into a highball of Japanese whiskey. The glass is handed to Daniel, who sips it, a bit unsteady. *(NOTE: In the background, the TV is playing a travel channel for tourists).*

Daniel is flipping through older pictures on his phone, going back in time, smiling wistfully at each one-- 1) A family photo of Daniel, Amanda, Samantha, and Anthony 2) Amanda hugging a newborn baby Anthony 3) Daniel and Amanda’s wedding photo... 4) Finally, he lands on one of him and Mr. Miyagi. They’re both smiling. The bartender (KENJI) takes Daniel’s empty glass, but pauses.
KENJI
(re: photo) You look happy there.

DANIEL
(nods) Happier times.

KENJI
That a friend of yours?

DANIEL
Best friend I ever had. He grew up out here... well, on this side of the world.

KENJI
Are you visiting him while you’re in town?

DANIEL
I wish. I’m afraid he’s no longer with us.

Kenji smiles and shakes his head a bit.

KENJI
Very American way of thinking. In Japan, you can always visit someone. They speak to us, even when they’re gone.

This lands on Daniel. As Kenji goes to the other side of the bar, Daniel’s attention is drawn up to the TV playing a traditional, soothing Japanese song.

It’s a travel commercial featuring images of beautiful vistas and ancient shrines.

COMMERCIAL NARRATOR (V.O.) (ON TV)
(British accent) The nature. The tradition. Spend your four seasons... in Okinawa.

He smiles, hearing the universe loud and clear.

CLOSE ON: The TV, showing the beautiful scenery of Okinawa...

SUPER: COBRA KAI
Demetri approaches the punching bag.

DEMETRI
You see, it’s all about the form...

With that, Demetri kicks the bag hard, sending it swinging.

DEMETRI
Ooh, that was a good one. Let’s see how it came out...

REVEAL: the other Miyagi-Do students gathered nearby him. Jaden has been using Demetri’s phone to record him. Demetri grabs the phone and takes a look.

DEMETRI
Oh yeah, that’s a keeper.

Just then, the dojo doors slide open and Sam emerges with her game face on.

SAMANTHA
Okay guys, let’s get lined up.

Demetri keeps typing on his phone, not looking up.

DEMETRI
I’m gonna need a minute. Just gotta find the right treatment for this ‘gram... Boomerang. Nice. Now I just gotta apply the filter...

As Demetri keeps admiring his photo--

Sam SWEEPS HIM to the ground.

DEMETRI
Hey! What the heck!

The other Miyagi-Dos straighten up, realizing that Sam means business.

SAMANTHA
After the car wash, Cobra Kai thinks they can walk all over us. But we’re gonna prove them wrong. (helps Demetri up, to Miyagi-Dos) So stop messing around and get into position. (badass) Summer’s over.

Demetri brushes himself off and turns to one of the Miyagi-Dos, wary of Sam.
DEMETRI
Guess there’s a new sensei in town.

KREESE (PRE-LAP)
Never underestimate your enemy...

INT. COBRA KAI DOJO – DAY
Kreese stands before his students, all in tight formation.

KREESE
Even if you think they’re weaker than you-- you always have to be one step ahead of them... that’s the only way to guarantee victory.
Is that understood?
COBRA KAI

YES SENSEI!

KREESE

Good. Now... let’s see if you truly understand the lesson...

Kreese leads them to a tall wooden column (the thickness of a telephone pole). At the top of the column is a potted bonsai tree.

KREESE

I want you to kick the tree off the top. Red! Go first.

Big Red nods to his sensei. He does a high kick, but misses. Kreese shakes his head, unimpressed.

KREESE

Pathetic. Rickenberger!

RICKENBERGER (John Cihangir) takes a bigger running start. He whiffs and takes a hard fall to the ground in extreme pain.

KREESE

Oh stop your sniveling.

Hawk looks at the column and has a realization.

HAWK

I can do it, Sensei.

KREESE

Then what are you waiting for?

Instead of taking a running start, Hawk approaches the column, standing practically next to it.

KREESE

Don’t you want a running start?

HAWK

Don’t need one.

With that, Hawk KICKS the base of the column with the side of his foot, causing the column to topple and the potted bonsai tree to SHATTER on the ground! Kreese looks impressed.

KREESE

Not bad. Not bad at all.

RICKENBERGER

 stil in pain) Hey, he cheated!
KREESE
No he didn’t. Unlike you, he did exactly what I asked him to do. If your mind is agile, so are you. That’s how you beat your enemy. Not just with brute strength. You have to fight smart. Do that-- and you’ll always come out on top.

Hawk and the other Cobras nod, taking this in.
Johnny is on the phone at the Nurse’s station, talking apologetically with Bobby. He keeps one eye on Miguel’s door, waiting for news about his surgery.

JOHNNY (ON PHONE)
I’m sorry Bobby, I know I messed up... Just tell Robby I’ll make things right-- (listening, frowns)
Okay, fine, I’ll tell him myself.

Ellen exits Miguel’s room: There’s news about Miguel.

JOHNNY (ON PHONE)

Johnny hangs up and cautiously walks up to Ellen.

JOHNNY
Hey, how did the surgery go? Is Miguel okay?

ELLEN
He’s awake – A little out of it, but healing.

JOHNNY
So he can walk?

ELLEN
It doesn’t work like that. Time will tell how successful it was. You can go in, if you’d like. I’m sure he’d like to see you...

Johnny smiles, relieved, but hesitates. He stares at Miguel’s door, thinking about how upset Miguel was with Johnny (at the end of 302). Johnny can’t bring himself to open that door. He can’t face Miguel.

JOHNNY
No. He should be with his family.

Johnny backs away and walks towards the elevator.
Just before the elevator doors open--

MATCH CUT TO:

12  EXT. OKINAWA - NAHA AIRPORT - DAY

Daniel exits the double doors of the Naha Airport. He stands before a “Welcome to Okinawa” sign (in both Japanese and English) and inhales deeply, genuinely grinning ear-to-ear.

Daniel hails a cab, which pulls up and pops the trunk. Daniel tosses his carry-on into the back and climbs into the taxi.

13  INT. YELLOW TAXI - CONTINUOUS

As Daniel slides into the seat--

   DANIEL
       Konnichi wa. Tomi Village.

MAKO, the taxi driver, nods and drives off. As Bill Conti’s classic music from KARATE KID PART TWO begins to play...

14  EXT. OKINAWA / INT. YELLOW TAXI - DAY

The yellow cab drives through the beautiful vistas of Okinawa. Lush hills, beautiful beaches, it’s untouched paradise. Daniel looks out the window, taking it all in.

   MAKO
       Lots of Americans here. Soldiers.
       When last time you see Tomi Village?

   DANIEL
       It’s been awhile...

Off Daniel’s nostalgic smile, Bill Conti’s music swells...

15  EXT. OKINAWA - CONTINUOUS

As the yellow cab drives the winding streets of Okinawa...
EXT. TOMI VILLAGE - MONTAGE - FOOTAGE FROM KARATE KID PART I

An older model taxi drives young Daniel LaRusso and Mr. Miyagi along the Okinawan coast and through the center of Tomi Village, a traditional Japanese town.

This takes us into a MONTAGE of Daniel’s time in Okinawa; It’s like a Tomi Village “Best of”.

EXT. TOMI VILLAGE - STREET - FOOTAGE FROM KARATE KID PART 2

Young Daniel and Mr. Miyagi exit Mr. Miyagi’s house and walk through the unpaved streets of Tomi Village.

YOUNG DANIEL
This looks like a town that time forgot.

They pass the Shinto Shrine, where ICHIRO plays for a group of kids. Miyagi leads Daniel past KUMIKO, a cute local girl who teaches the “O-bon dance” to a group of children. Young Daniel smiles, smitten. She waves to him, and he waves back.

INT. ORIGINAL MIYAGI-DO DOJO - FOOTAGE FROM KARATE KID PART 2

In the original Miyagi-Do Dojo, Daniel bows to Mr. Miyagi, both in silhouette with the Pacific Ocean in full view behind them. It’s pure Okinawa magic...

MAKO (PRE-LAP)
We’re here.

INT. YELLOW TAXI - DAY

Daniel snaps out of his memories and quickly pays Mako.

DANIEL
Great. Thanks-- Domo arigato.

EXT. TOMI VILLAGE GREEN - MOMENTS LATER

But when Daniel steps out of the taxi, his glowing smile (and the romantic Bill Conti score) fades.

REVEAL: Present Day Tomi Village has now become an outdoor mall (think an Okinawan version of The Grove). A large sign welcomes Daniel to “Tomi Village Green.”

DANIEL
“Tomi Village Green”? A mall?
Daniel is clearly crestfallen.

INT. SOUP KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Robby, feeling just as joyless but in a hairnet, works in a soup kitchen with other JUVIE KIDS. Robby robotically pours soup into the bowls of the HOMELESS. Then--

JOHNNY (O.S.)
Hey Robby.

Robby looks up, surprised. Johnny stands in line, keeping a low profile.

ROBBY
You’re not supposed to be here.

JOHNNY
It’s the only way I could see you. Found out you were doing community service to try and get out earlier. I respect that...

Robby scoffs. He doesn’t care. As Robby continues to work, Johnny notices Robby’s black eye.

JOHNNY
Is that a black eye? Are you fighting in there? After everything that’s happened...

ROBBY
Are you seriously going to lecture me about starting fights?

JOHNNY
(calms down) You’re right. I’m sorry. (deep breath, begins speech) Look, I just wanted to say... I know how you feel right now and--

ROBBY
Save it.

JOHNNY
Robby, I’m just trying to say--
ROBBY
Let me guess. “You’re in my corner.” “You’ve got my back.” Let’s be honest: that means jack shit. Mr. LaRusso said the same thing and look where I am...

JOHNNY
Hey, forget about LaRusso, okay? I--

Suddenly, LYNN calls out from a bit further down the line.

LYNN
Hey! Quit holdin’ up the line! Don’t make me throw a shoe atcha! (recognizes Johnny) Well lookie what we have here. You stalkin’ me, pretty boy?

JOHNNY
Of course not.

LYNN
You better not be eating my soup, Goldilocks. I called dibs on them beans.

JOHNNY
Jesus Christ-- (shoves a full bowl on her tray) Here. Take your slop and get the hell out of here.

LYNN
Tou-chy.

Lynn takes her food and the line continues.

JOHNNY
Look, I’m not leaving until we talk.

ROBBY
That’s gonna be awhile. Don’t know if you noticed but I’m a little busy.

Johnny takes a bowl and holds it out for Robby to fill.

JOHNNY
Then it’s a good thing I’m hungry.

A beat, then Robby fills his bowl. Robby watches curiously as Johnny goes to find a seat. Johnny sits, sniffs the spoon, tastes it, and nods – it’s better than he thought.
Robby shakes his head, but has Johnny changed? As Robby fills another bowl--
CLOSE ON: A bowl of yogurt. REVEAL: Yasmine and Moon at the “cool table”. Demetri takes a seat next to Yasmine, setting down a diorama covered in a bed sheet.

DEMETRI
(to Yasmine, re: diorama) Are you ready to ROCK... our Earth Science presentation?

YASMINE
I’m ready to go back to a world where we don’t have to talk to each other on a regular basis.

DEMETRI
Hey, my popularity is on the rise, while yours is steadily declining. But we could meet in the middle, like a sexual Venn Diagram.

Yasmine looks disgusted as Moon chuckles.

MOON
So what’s under the sheet?

DEMETRI
I’m glad you asked...

Demetri rips off the sheet, unveiling a Lego model for their school project.

DEMETRI
Behold! What scientists believed to be the Valley... “when dinosaurs roamed the Earth.” (to Yasmine) Go on, press the hadrosaur egg. (off her look) The speckled rock -- Wow, did you do any of the reading?

Yasmine rolls her eyes and taps the egg. The volcano comes alive! Moon “oohs” and claps, impressed.

YASMINE
Not bad. (sotto, to Moon) My parents may not have to pay for my “A” this time.
Behind her, Big Red passes, holding up his phone recording a video. He brings us to the Cobra Kai table, where Rickenberger and the other Cobras watch Hawk juggle a soccer ball like a badass. Hawk catches the ball and turns Big Red’s phone --

HAWK
That’s twenty-two in a row. New record.

Hawk feels good, until he hears the ELECTRONIC ROAR of a dinosaur. Hawk looks over to see Demetri still showing off his project to Moon and Yasmine. Hawk focuses on Moon laughing, and his smile drops--

INT. WEST VALLEY HIGH – CAFETERIA – CONTINUOUS

BACK AT DEMETRI’S TABLE:
DEMETRI
And at 8,251 individual pieces,
this meticulously assembled model
shows the exact moment before the
asteroid hit the--

SMASH!! A soccer ball flies in and utterly destroys the Lego
diorama. Pieces go everywhere; the girls scream. Demetri is
heartbroken. Hawk jogs to retrieve his ball, grinning.

HAWK
My bad, the ball got away from me.

DEMETRI
That took me three weeks to build!!

HAWK
And it took my ball three seconds
to destroy. Sorry bro.

Hawk, Big Red and Rickenberger snicker and walk back to their
table. Yasmine looks pitifully at Demetri.

YASMINE
Do you have another one?

Inspired by Sam’s speech at the dojo, Demetri gets up from
the table, storms past Sam holding a lunch tray, and up to
Hawk.

DEMETRI
Another week, another pissing
contest. I shouldn’t be surprised,
since you love pissing so much.

Hawk steps up to Demetri.

HAWK
You made ONE kick. You were lucky.

Just then, Sam approaches, putting down her tray.

SAMANTHA
You better back off, or you won’t
be lucky.

Just then, out of the corner of Hawk’s eye-- he sees
Counselor Blatt enter the cafeteria. He turns to Sam.

HAWK
Yeah right. Like you’re gonna start
anything. Why don’t you go sleep
around with someone new, then break
his heart.
Pissed off, Sam PUSHES Hawk. Hawk purposely falls back on the table, causing a scene-- Counselor Blatt approaches.

COUNSELOR BLATT
What’s going on here, Ms. LaRusso?!
You know our new guidelines on physical contact. (to Hawk) Did she enter your personal bubble without your verbal consent?
Hawk looks solemn as he manipulates Blatt like a pro.

HAWK
She definitely triggered me in my safe space, Counselor Blatt.

DEMETRI
He started it by destroying my science project!

HAWK
It was an accident. He shouldn’t bring his toys to school.

COUNSELOR BLATT
I don’t want excuses. I just want you all to respect each other.

HAWK
She’s right, guys. We gotta stop the aggression-- macro and micro.

Counselor Blatt smiles, buying Hawk’s bullshit.

SAMANTHA
Oh, gimme a break.

COUNSELOR BLATT
Hey! Consider this a warning, Ms. LaRusso! (to Demetri, re: Legos)
And get those Legos off the ground.
Someone could get hurt.

Counselor Blatt walks away as Hawk, Rickenberger and Big Red return to their table. Demetri starts picking up his Lego pieces as Sam kneels down to help.

DEMETRI
How the hell are we supposed to defend ourselves now?

Sam focuses on Hawk, fuming, wheels turning...

DANIEL (PRE-LAP)
Tomi Village was sold?

Daniel stands at a large concierge desk (no carry-on suitcase - it has been checked), speaking with REN, a helpful mall employee.

REN
When villagers’ crops started to die out, village almost died as well. So Mr. Sato turned to a whole new economy: retail. Now Tomi Village Green is premiere destination for shopping, entertainment, and--

DANIEL
But what happened to the villagers? Aren’t they upset about what happened to their home?

REN
No. It brought them jobs. Modern homes. It saved the village.

DANIEL
(looks around sadly) But this is nothing like what I remember.

REN
Yes, there are a lot of changes. We used to have a Sbarro, now it’s a California Pizza Kitchen. I have a menu, if you’d like to see it...?

DANIEL
No, that’s okay. Thank you for your time. Arrigato.
REN
(bows) Enjoy the rest of your time
at Tomi Village Green.

Daniel walks away. Just then, he hears a TRADITIONAL DRUM
BEAT, masking the mild mall music. He smiles at the
recognition, and walks toward the sound.
EXT. TOMI VILLAGE GREEN - AMPHITHEATER - MOMENTS LATER

A crowd has formed around the multileveled grassy stage. As Daniel passes a sign, “SHOHASHI DANCE STUDIO - REHEARSAL TODAY” (both in English and Japanese), he pushes through the watching crowd to get a better look. He witnesses a group of DANCERS performing and smiles at the traditional performance.

Just then, the dancers break formation to reveal: KUMIKO, Daniel’s long lost love, dancing with her students. Daniel’s breath catches as he sees her dance, which starts out traditional but then evolves into something more contemporary and upbeat. Daniel is entranced by Kumiko’s dance—

INTERCUT WITH:

INT./EXT. MONTAGE - FOOTAGE FROM KARATE KID PART II

We see Daniel’s memories of young Kumiko throughout Daniel’s time in Okinawa.

- Kumiko dance the traditional O-bon dance with grace.
- Kumiko shows Daniel the Castle of King Shohashi.
- Daniel and Kumiko dance at the 50’s dance club.
- CLOSE ON: Kumiko, smiling warmly at Daniel during their tea ceremony. WIDE: Daniel and Kumiko lean in and share a kiss. They loved each other, once upon a time.

EXT. TOMI VILLAGE GREEN - AMPHITHEATER - MOMENTS LATER

The crowd applauds as Present Day Kumiko finishes her dance. Daniel snaps back to reality, clapping loudest of all. Kumiko nods politely to the crowd, until she meets eyes with Daniel. She’s surprised, then gives him a heartwarming smile.

KUMIKO
Akisamiyo! Daniel-san?

As Daniel smiles back...
OMITTED
CLOSE ON: A cup of glistening ice water. A straw floats lackadaisically. REVEAL: Miguel reaching for the cup, but it’s just out of reach. Just then, Ellen enters.

ELLEN
Oh! Don’t strain yourself, let me get that for you.

Ellen bring the cup to Miguel’s mouth, holding the straw out for Miguel to sip from, like a child. Miguel, feeling babied, leans forward and sips. He hates this. Once he’s had his fill...

MIGUEL
Thanks.

Ellen picks up the call button and puts it on his lap, and even places his finger atop of it.

ELLEN
Anything you need, just hit that little button and we’ll take care of it for you.

Ellen picks up Miguel’s chart, but clocks that he’s still upset.

ELLEN
What’s wrong? Can I turn the TV on for you? Get you a new pillow?

MIGUEL
What if the surgery didn’t work? What if I never walk again?

ELLEN
Don’t think like that, sweetie. (beat, then smiles) I know what’ll make you feel better: A big piece of chocolate cake. Huh? How’s that sound?

Miguel gives her the slightest smile.

MIGUEL
Sure.

Ellen, oblivious, leaves the room.
Miguel grabs his phone and scrolls through Instagram. He stops at a video of Hawk juggling a soccer ball at school. Miguel clicks on Big Red’s profile and is flooded with pictures of his friends at school, at the dojo...

Miguel grows more melancholy as he sees his friends out in the world, living their day to day lives while he’s stuck in here. He throws his phone down on the rolling tray.

He focuses back on his toes, trying to will them to move. Off Miguel, frustrated and resigned...

INT. SOUP KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

A homeless man enters the soup kitchen. He passes Johnny, still sitting at the table, waiting for the right opportunity to speak with Robby. Just then, Robby comes out from the back with a fresh vat of NAVY BEAN SOUP, struggling with the heavy pot. Johnny notices Lynn eyeing his unfinished bowl.

JOHNNY
Here, take it, you vulture.
Johnny pushes the bowl to Lynn and gets up. He goes over to Robby and grabs the other side of the pot.

JOHNNY
Lemme give you a hand.

ROBBY
I don’t need your help.

JOHNNY
You’re right. You don’t. But you’re my kid, Robby. And I’m your dad. So let me give you a hand.

Robby considers this as he struggles with the pot. He nods and Johnny, hiding a smile, takes the other handhold.

JOHNNY
I know we’ve had problems, but before that fight at the school you and I were going in the right direction--

ROBBY
We had one good day, over a month ago. Where have you been since then? (trying to keep it together) Where have you been, Dad? Why didn’t you show up?

For a brief moment, Robby looks like a scared kid - a kid who needs his father.

JOHNNY
I’m really sorry, Robby. I wanted to come see you, but something happened at the hospital and--

Robby hardens at the truth: Johnny was with Miguel.

ROBBY
(cold) No. I get it.

JOHNNY
Robby...

ROBBY
It’s fine. I shouldn’t be surprised you chose Miguel over me. Again.

JOHNNY
I didn’t-- Goddamn it, I’m just trying to make things right.
ROBBY
I’m sure Miguel appreciates that!

JOHNNY
(defensive, angry) Hey I’m not the one who put him in the hospital--!!

Robby looks slapped in the face, and Johnny immediately regrets his outburst. Johnny reaches out to Robby.

JOHNNY
Robby... c’mon--

ROBBY
Don’t touch me, asshole!

Robby shoves Johnny, sending the vat of soup to the ground, spilling everywhere. Lynn scrambles to the ground, excited...

LYNN
Woo-hoo!

She scoops beans off the floor and shovels them in her mouth like Augustus Gloop.

ROBBY
I don’t need you anymore.

This hits Johnny like a pile of bricks. Other juvie kids, including Shawn, snicker and whisper to each other as a SECURITY GUARD grabs Johnny by the arm. Johnny shrugs him off and exits the soup kitchen on his own, leaving his son behind.

EXT. WEST VALLEY HIGH - SOCCER FIELD - AFTERNOON

Sam, Demetri and the Miyagis get ready for gym class by the bleachers; It’s PE at West Valley High. They watch as a crowd of students make a path for Hawk and the Cobras Kais (including Rickenberger, Mikey, Ajay and Big Red). One STUDENT is too busy playing on his phone to move out of the way. Hawk and Rickenberger exchange a look and lift him up, SHOVING HIM IN A TRASHCAN. The rest of the kids immediately make a path. As they cackle--

DEMETRI
I wish we could do something about those cretins.

SAMANTHA
(looks around, then smiles) We can.
DEMETRI
How? Counselor Blatt will give us detention just for breathing near them.

SAMANTHA
I don’t see her out here, do you? Besides, what’s a game of soccer without a little physical contact? (to Demetri and Miyagi-Dos) They think we’re door mats. Let’s prove them wrong.

Sam, Demetri, and the others share conspiratorial smiles.

TIME CUT TO:

CLOSE ON: Gym shoes dribbling a soccer ball down the field. Hawk sends the ball through the goal and celebrates like Cristiano Ronaldo. He winks at Moon, cheerleading with the freshman girls on the sidelines. She rolls her eyes and talks to a male cheerleader. Hawk’s jealousy boils over and he shoves a passing student out of the way to get the ball. Demetri, sensing an opportunity, runs alongside Hawk.

DEMETRI
She loved you, you know.

HAWK
What did you say?

DEMETRI
She told me. Man, you had a good thing going with the hottest girl in school, and you ruined it. (leans in) By becoming a loser.

Demetri SWEEPS Hawk (just like how Sam swept Demetri), sending him into the mud face first. Everyone “OOOHS” at the kick. As Demetri dribbles the ball away --

DEMETRI
I guess that’s why the Europeans call it “football”.

TWEEE! The gym teacher, MRS. BENADRETTI, sets down a whistle.

MRS. BENADRETTI
Hey, let’s take it easy with the physical contact!

Ajay helps Hawk up. Hawk shoves Ajay away, enraged. Rickenberger is about to go after Demetri, but Hawk grabs him, holding him back.
HAWK
Remember. Be smart.

As a fun energetic rock song crescendos...
In a QUICK MONTAGE, the Miyagi-Dos and Cobra Kais use the physicality of the soccer game to disguise their fighting. Thanks to Sam, the Miyagis are more aggressive than ever. Amidst the ongoing soccer action are QUICK PUNCHES:

- Sam slide tackles Mikey, taking him out.
- Hawk pops the ball into the air. He’s about to head the ball... but head butts Demetri instead.
- Fighting for the ball, Rickenberger trips Sam and she falls to the ground.
- Demetri kicks a ball hard into Hawk’s face.
- Finally, Sam dribbles the ball. Rickenberger and Mikey run at her. Sam pops the ball into the air and instead of kicking the ball, bicycle kicks the Cobras in their faces.

It’s absolute chaos until-- TWEEEE!!

MRS. BENADRETTI
Stop stop stop! That’s it! All of you to the Principal’s office! NOW!

As the Miyagi-Dos and Cobra Kais walk off the field, glaring at each other, Hawk glances over his shoulder at Moon. They briefly make eye contact, but Moon looks away, upset. Hawk hardens as the whistle is blown one more time: TWEEEEEE--

MATCH CUT TO:

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EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

TWEEE!! A hand-painted Tsuboya teapot blows steam. As the steaming pot is poured, we RACK FOCUS to a waiter carrying a tray with a beautiful Tsuboya teapot and a set of cups to an outdoor cafe, passing where Daniel and Kumiko sit (already with their own tray). As Kumiko pours Daniel a cup and hands it to him...

KUMIKO
After graduation, I joined the Hijikata Tatsumi dance company. We traveled all over the world... Sydney, Paris, Singapore...

DANIEL
You got your dream. That’s terrific. Did you have a favorite place?
KUMIKO
London.

DANIEL
Let me guess, the tea?

KUMIKO
No, I saw the Cranberries open for Radiohead in 1995. They played Linger, Zombie, and Dreams!

Daniel and Kumiko laugh. As Daniel pours a cup for Kumiko, he chuckles, shaking his head:
DANIEL
I’m sorry, this is absolutely surreal. It feels like I haven’t seen you for five minutes, but it’s been thirty years. Thirty years!

KUMIKO
Maybe if we had Facebook, or Instagram, we would have never lost touch.

DANIEL
(nods, smiles) So when did you start teaching?

KUMIKO
When I moved back to Okinawa. Auntie Yukie got sick... and this was always my home.

DANIEL
I was sorry to hear she passed. I know she was very proud of you.

KUMIKO
She was. Although deep down she wished I had gotten married. I stayed a... what was your word for it? “Free agent.”

DANIEL
(laughs, then) C’mon, I’m supposed to believe a guy never got a ring on that finger?

KUMIKO
Oh many have tried. But not one of them ever fought to the death for me.

DANIEL
Hey that’s a hard act to follow.

They chuckle at the memory. But then Kumiko studies Daniel, sensing something is off.

KUMIKO
Why did you come to Okinawa, Daniel-san?

DANIEL
I told you, my business--
KUMIKO
No. Why are you really here?

Daniel pauses, considering the question, then opens up...

DANIEL
I got my dream too, you know. I’ve got an incredible family and my own business. I should be counting my blessings... But so many things have been going sideways lately. Everyone looks to me for answers, but I’m spinning around so much I can’t tell which way is up.

KUMIKO
That is an unsettling feeling. I used to have this nightmare that I was about to go on stage, but I didn’t know the choreography. I felt so out of control.

DANIEL
Exactly. Usually, I’d go to Mr. Miyagi for help. But... (chuckles sadly) You know, I’m the same age Mr. Miyagi was when he met me. He had everything figured out and I... feel so lost. I just wish he could be here to help guide me.

KUMIKO
I think I can make that happen.

Kumiko smiles - maybe there’s still some Okinawa magic left to discover. Off Daniel’s curious, confused look...
Johnny sits at the bar, equally lost. He finishes a Banquet, gulping heavily, drinking his sorrows away. He shakes the stubby bottle at the bartender (DAVE).

    JOHNNY
    Another one of these.

    DAVE
    Sure. Everything good, boss?

    JOHNNY
    Not in a talking mood.

Dave shrugs and cracks open another Banquet, setting it in front of Johnny. Johnny gulps it down, drinking his sorrows away. Behind him, a TALL MAN enters the bar and approaches Johnny.

    KREESE (O.S.)
    Barkeep! A cutty and water!

Johnny knows that voice. He turns and sees Kreese approaching.

    KREESE
    I thought I’d find you here.
    Figured your little temper tantrum
    is over by now and we could talk
    like adults.

The bartender gives Kreese his drink. Furious, Johnny stands and grips the bottle, ready to smash it over Kreese’s head... and murder him. It’s like a western – the tension could be cut with a knife. But before Johnny can take a step, OFFICER DAWSON, an off-duty cop exits the bathroom behind Kreese. Johnny and Kreese freeze, staring at each other.

    OFFICER DAWSON
    (to bartender) Hey Dave, lemme get
    a chicken sandwich to-go.

    DAVE
    Sure thing. Give me three minutes.

The Off-Duty cop leans on the bar as Kreese walks past, approaching Johnny carefully. Johnny returns to his seat, never taking his eyes off Kreese.

    JOHNNY
    (intense) You’ve got three minutes.
Kreese sits down at the corner of the bar opposite Johnny. He takes a sip of his cutty and water.
KREESE
You don’t look so good, Johnny.

Johnny looks away, still gripping the bottle.

KREESE
You’re in a bad place. And maybe I put you there. But you gotta believe me, it was for your own good. I don’t want to hurt you. I want to help you.

Johnny looks back to Kreese, confused.

KREESE
You did the impossible. You brought Cobra Kai back to life. Hell, you brought me back to life. But when you started taking those kids down the wrong path, I had to step in. I kept trying to warn you, but you wouldn’t listen. So I had to act. But now it’s time for you to come home.

Johnny slowly shakes his head, resisting it.

KREESE
You may hate my guts— but I’ll always be your teacher. I know you more than you know yourself. There’s only one way to get you out of this funk— the way of the fist.

Kreese makes a fist. Johnny continues to take this in. Is Kreese getting through to him?

KREESE
You can teach that to these kids. You’ve done it before.

(MORE)
KREESE (CONT'D)
And when our boy comes back, he’s
gonna need help getting up on his
feet--

Kreese has gone too far. Johnny loses what little cool he’s
got left. He looks Kreese dead in the eyes.

JOHNNY
If you come anywhere near Miguel,
or his family, I'll kill you.

Kreese watches the bartender hand Officer Dawson a to-go box.
As the cop exits, Kreese smiles with that cheshire cat grin.

KREESE
Looks like my time is up. Think
about what I said, Johnny.

Kreese finishes his drink, throws down a couple bucks, gets
ap and exits. Johnny releases his grip on the bottle, his
knuckles white.

INT. WEST VALLEY HIGH - OUTSIDE BLATT’S OFFICE - AFTERNOON 36

Outside Counselor Blatt’s office, the intensity between the
bruised and battered Cobra Kais and Miyagi-Dos is boiling.
Sam, Demetri, Rickenberger, and Mikey never drop eye contact,
waiting for any of them to make the first move. Sam is about
to stand, when Counselor Blatt comes out... With Hawk.

COUNSELOR BLATT
Miller, Rickenberger... Eli...
you’re all free to go.

Hawk, Mikey, and Rickenberger grin ear to ear. They get up,
grab their backpacks, and leave. The Miyagis are upset --

SAMANTHA
You gotta be kidding me!

DEMETRI
Unbelievable!

SAMANTHA
What about us?

COUNSELOR BLATT
The rest of you will be receiving
rehabilitative, not punitive,
Saturday detention--

The Miyagi-Dos erupt in protests.
DEMETRI
Detention!!? Great. Another blemish on my permanent record!!

SAMANTHA
This isn’t fair! We were just playing soccer!

COUNSELOR BLATT
Kicking a ball and kicking a person are quite different. That “soccer” game was an unprovoked, poorly disguised attack on innocent students.

That’s the last straw – Sam completely loses her cool.

SAMANTHA
This is FUCKING BULLSHIT!!

COUNSELOR BLATT
Ms. LaRusso! That is not how we express ourselves here. I think you need two weekends of rehabilitative detention.

SAMANTHA
(fuming) This school sucks!

Samantha storms off, banging a locker with her fist.

EXT. YUKIE’S HOUSE – NIGHT

CLOSE ON: KSSH! A match is struck. A lantern is lit. REVEAL: Daniel sets the lantern down, sitting on a cushion in the courtyard of a traditional Japanese house. As Kumiko sits across from him, setting down a small box...

DANIEL
So this was Yukie’s house?

KUMIKO
Yes. She left it to me when she passed. I just don’t have the heart to sell it.

DANIEL
I can relate to that. (re: box) You found what you were looking for?

KUMIKO
(smiling warmly) Yes --
Kumiko opens the box for Daniel: It's full of letters, all written in Japanese.
KUMIKO
These are letters Miyagi-san wrote to Auntie Yukie over the years. They are very sentimental.

DANIEL
(taken aback) You’re kidding... Mr. Miyagi wrote love letters?

Kumiko smiles and takes a letter out.

KUMIKO
Don’t be so surprised. He was very romantic. (reading) “Ever since we were little, and you smiled at me so shy, I have loved you. One good thing came out of our time apart - I got to fall in love with you twice in one lifetime.”

As Kumiko reads this passage, it’s almost as if she’s saying her own feelings to Daniel. They share a moment, then they look away. Daniel clears his throat and turns his attention back to the letters, rummaging through the treasures.

DANIEL
Kumiko, this is amazing... Oh.

Daniel’s heart stops. He double checks the date of a letter.

KUMIKO
What? What is it?

DANIEL
This was written the week Mr. Miyagi died.

KUMIKO
...Would you like me to read it?

DANIEL
Please.

Kumiko gingerly takes the letter and begins reading.

KUMIKO
“Wan Umuya-gwa... My sweetheart Yukie, I am sorry it has been a long time since my last letter. I am happy to hear Kanhizakura is in good health...”

DANIEL
Who’s that?
KUMIKO

(smiles) Kanhizakura is an Okinawan cherry blossom. (continues reading)
“I am sorry to say I am back in the hospital. Please do not worry.”

Daniel’s smile falls. He looks down at his hands, remembering those days. It was a hard time in Daniel’s life.

KUMIKO
“There is nothing to do. Nothing to do except watch television and think. Think of us. Think of family. Think of where I have been. Think of where I will go. Almost all of my life I looked for signs to tell me if I am going the right way. But I got lost. Until... I met Daniel-San.”

Daniel looks up at Kumiko, surprised.

KUMIKO
“His kind heart, strong “chi”, and loyalty and love for those around him was a guiding light to me. I am so proud of the man he has become. (pauses, smiles) Even though he still has hard head.”

Daniel chuckles. Kumiko smiles, then continues.

KUMIKO
“I never thought I would have a family again. But Daniel-san has welcomed me into his family, and passed on what I teach of Miyagi-Do to his daughter. Samantha makes me feel like I am her tanmee.”

DANIEL
Tanmee?

KUMIKO
Grandfather.

Daniel chokes back tears.

KUMIKO
“In life we always lose our way... but it is people, not signs, who guide us back to the right path.”
Daniel takes this in, Miyagi’s words echoing in his head.

   KUMIKO
   “Do you like that Yukie? I heard it on a car commercial.”

Daniel laughs through his tears. It’s the exact kind of Miyagi-ism Daniel needed to hear. For a small moment, it’s like Mr. Miyagi is in the room with him.

   KUMIKO
   “Kanashii... Love, Nariyoshi Miyagi.”

   DANIEL
   (looking up) Thank you, Mr. Miyagi.
   (to Kumiko) Thank you.

   KUMIKO
   You are welcome, Daniel-san.

Kumiko hands the letter to Daniel, and they sit quietly in the candle-lit room. Off Daniel’s face, no longer lost...

INT. WEST VALLEY HIGH - MAIN LOBBY - DAY

Sam walks with fire in her eyes. Demetri, Little Red, and the other Miyagis walk with her, backpacks slung on their shoulders. They stop and see Hawk and the Cobra Kais, laughing mockingly. Demetri notices Sam tensing up.

   DEMETRI
   “There’s nothing we can do, Sam. It’s Chinatown.” (off Little Red’s blank stare) Try seeing a movie that doesn’t have the words “fast” or “furious” in it.

Sam’s anger finally boils over.

   SAMANTHA
   That’s it. We’re not taking their crap anymore.

Sam storms toward the Cobra Kais. Demetri and the Miyagis share a look and follow.
Sam gets in Hawk’s face.

**SAMANTHA**
You think you’re hot shit for getting out of detention?

Sam’s outburst has gotten the attention of the other students. Kids stop what they’re doing to look over.

**SAMANTHA**
You’re nothing but a bunch of pussies.

**HAWK**
What’d you say to me?

Sam leans in further, almost nose to nose.

**SAMANTHA**
There will come a time when mommy won’t be there. But we will be. And we’ll be ready.

Feeling strong, Sam leaves with the Miyagis in tow. Hawk glowers as she walks away - it’s clear Sam’s challenge was received loud and clear.

**HAWK**
They want a fight? Well... let’s give it to them.

Hawk smiles a Kreese-like grin. This isn’t over.

**INT. WEST VALLEY GENERAL HOSPITAL - MIGUEL’S ROOM - DAY**

Johnny approaches the door and peeks in. He sees Miguel lying in bed, stretching to reach his phone on the rollaway cart just a hair out of reach. When Miguel gives up and lies back in bed, something comes over Johnny. He storms in.
MIGUEL
Johnny..?

JOHNNY
You want the phone?

Miguel nods. Johnny KICKS the rolling cart away.

JOHNNY
Go get it.

MIGUEL
But... I can’t walk. Even with the surgery, I might never--

JOHNNY
QUIET!!

Miguel is taken aback.

JOHNNY
Never. Can’t. Those are just words. They’re meaningless. It’s time to get out of that bed and do something.

Miguel absorbs this, sitting straighter, a bit less defeated.

JOHNNY
You’re not a kid anymore. The world isn’t gonna just hand it to you. You want something? You’re gonna have to crawl across the floor. Use your damn teeth if you have to. You’re gonna do whatever it takes... (leans in) And I’m always gonna be right here next to you. Because I’ll always be your teacher. (intense) Now... Go. Get it.

Miguel smiles warmly, happy to finally have someone treating him without kid gloves.

MIGUEL
Yes sensei.

Miguel dramatically throws his sheets off. The score triumphantly builds as he uses his arms to force his way out of bed. The music crescendos... and then Miguel falls (out of frame) onto the floor. The score abruptly stops.
JOHNNY
Oh shit. (helps him) It’s okay, you fell like a champ...

Miguel takes his hand, BEAMING as his sensei helps him up.

INT. SYLMAR JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY - DORM - DAY

Robby, still furious about his “visit” with Johnny the other day, enters. Shawn leans on the wall nearby.

SHAWN
(mocking Johnny voice) Robby, you’re my son! (then, whiny) But I hate you, dad!

A couple guys in the bunk snicker. Robby, at the bottom of the juvie totem pole, stops short when he sees his bed. His sheets are gone, his stuff scattered everywhere.

SHAWN
Aww, your girl left you, your dad hates you, you got nobody. And now, you got nothing.

A guard, RANDALL appears in the doorway.

RANDALL
Back to your bunk, Payne.

Shawn gives a patronizing salute and leaves.

RANDALL
Keene, you’ve got a visitor.

ROBBY
(annoyed) Who is it?

INT. SYLMAR JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY - VISITING ROOM - DAY

BZZ!! Robby enters the visitation room. It’s empty, save for Robby’s guest... Kreese. Kreese smiles that same crocodile grin he gave Johnny back at the bar.

KREESE
Hello, son.
The noonday sun shines brightly over Okinawa.

CLOSE ON: A sheet of ice placed in a bracket (identical but smaller than the one in the ice chopping competition in *Karate Kid II*). But when the ice is SMASHED with a small ice pick, a BARTENDER places the shards into two *Awamori* drinks, set before Daniel and Kumiko. We’re back where Daniel began, at a bar, but Daniel is rejuvenated. Kumiko picks up her glass. Daniel follows suit.

**KUMIKO**

*Karii!*

**DANIEL**

*Karii!* To you, Kumiko. Hearing those letters last night... It was like I was back with Mr. Miyagi. Thank you, Kumiko. Really.

They clink glasses, and as they sip...

**KUMIKO**

Auntie Yukie used to tell me: “Put good into the world, good will come back to you.”

**DANIEL**

I like that. I could use a little good right now.

**KUMIKO**

I know things are still unresolved with your business. But you put a lot of good into the world, Daniel-san. You affected the lives of a lot of people, for the better. Including me. It will work out. I know it.

They smile. As Kumiko reaches for her glass, their hands touch. The two former lovers pull away, chuckling awkwardly. But then they look into each other’s eyes, sharing a moment... until Daniel hears a familiar imposing voice.

**VOICE (O.C.)**

Daniel-san!
Daniel freezes at that voice. It can’t be... Daniel turns around... It’s CHOZEN.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT./EXT. OKINAWA - FOOTAGE FROM KARATE KID PART 2

In a series of quick flashes, we see young Chozen terrorize young Daniel LaRusso throughout his visit to Okinawa.

- Chozen shoves Daniel in the bar, just before the ice-chopping challenge. Daniel looks afraid.


- Chozen holds Daniel back, a spear to his neck, as Chozen’s minions trash Mr. Miyagi’s courtyard.
- CLOSE ON: Chozen, sneering at Daniel, his rival.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. MIKKAKAN RESTAURANT - BAR AREA - DAY

Chozen, a grown man but still terrifying, glares at Daniel. What is he going to do? Off Daniel’s look of fear, the past coming back to haunt him...

DANIEL

Chozen...

ENDSNAKE