BLEAK OF HOPE

PROLOGUE: THE PAST

Written by

Seif Addeen AlTahan

FADE IN:

1 EXT. UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO - AFTERNOON - 14 APRIL 2004

The scene begins showing the big university of Tokyo in Japan, then the camera zooms in to the Faculty of Medicine where our characters are studying.

The lecture has finished...

YUSEI
Hey, Maria..

MARIA
Hey, Yusei

YUSEI
How was the lecture?

MARIA
As usual, didn't understand a thing

MARIA (CONT'D)
Oh! Yusei Look! They are Susan and Yusuke.

YUSUKE
Heyyyyyyyyy..

MARIA
Energetic as usual

SUSAN
Let's sit down there or do you want to walk together since we finished all of our lectures?

YUSEI
Let's Walk..

MARIA
You seem down today what's wrong with you Yusei?

YUSUKE
She is right, you are really down like a man in debt

Yusuke comes close to Yusei to tease him

YUSUKE (CONT'D)
Or have you fallen in the forbidden, Yusei? (sarcastic tone)

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YUSUKE (CONT'D)
(in Japanese)
Do you love her?

YUSEI
(in Japanese)
If you want to stay alive, don't bring it up again.

Since Maria and Susan are American they didn't understand a word.

SUSAN
What were you saying?

Yusei gives Yusuke a sharp look..

Yusuke understood the lesson...

YUSUKE
Talking about something funny, but it would only be funny in Japanese, in English it would be a cold joke

SUSAN
What is the joke that would be only funny in Japanese.

Susan gets closer with looks of doubt

SUSAN (CONT'D)
Because you aren't the type to tell a Joke.

YUSEI
It's about Hawaiian Dentist

YUSUKE
Yes, he is right, like in Japanese that Hawaiians don't go to dentist, because their teeth are good, and in Japanese teeth is (ha) and good is (ii) so it makes haii like Hawaii..

SUSAN
It's really a bad joke in Japanese..

Maria was smiling, because she understood what they said since she knows Japanese, but no one knows about it..

Seif Adnen Alahan

MARIA
I suggest to walk around the university a bit, I don’t feel like going home..

YUSEI
I’m Ok with it, how about everyone else?

SUSAN
Me too.

YUSUKE
No problems here...

Gameplay:

The player controls Maria and starts walking with friends while having a dialogue..

MARIA
I want to ask did anyone understand anything?

YUSUKE
Here is Maria, pretending not to understand anything then she scores an almost full score..

Maria is teased and pouts..

MARIA
Look, who’s talking you always get higher marks than me..

YUSEI
Come on, I always pass by a miracle, and here I am enjoying the life..

YUSUKE
Bro, you are careless

SUSAN
Regarding your question Maria, you would’ve understood the lesson if you weren’t sleeping

MARIA
You saw me!!

Yusei and Yusuke laughed...

Seif Aaqeen Altahan

YUSUKE
Everyone saw you, you were snoring..

Maria is embarrassed..

MARIA
Whatttttttttttt!!!!!!!!!

Before they pick up a fight they will see a woman coming with a baby to the university..

Cutscene:

SUSAN
Who is she?

YUSEI
No Idea, She is with a baby, is she a student here?

MARIA
I think so, she looks pretty young..

MARIA (CONT'D)
Having a baby at this age must be difficult for her.

YUSUKE
Maybe she isn't her baby.

MARIA
No, she is actually, I remembered her now she is Sakura, we take chemistry together, I remember her pregnant, but I don't know her boyfriend or husband.

YUSEI
Must be tough for her, but having a baby is a beautiful thing.

MARIA
You are right, if I had a baby girl I would give her the name "Yona"

YUSUKE
A Japanese Name?

Everyone gave a pause since that came out of nowhere..

MARIA
Yeah, I really love this name..

Seif Addeen Eltahan

MARIA (CONT'D)
Hey, let's approach her..

YUSUKE
No wait!!

SUSAN
Yona... interesting name..

Maria approached Sakura...

MARIA
Sakura!!!

SAKURA
Oh! Malia

Sakura is a bit rough in English..

MARIA
How are you? Is she your daughter?

SAKURA
I am doing great! Yeah she is my daughter, her name is Miyu..

MARIA
What a name!, it has a meaning of beautiful but also it can be interpreted to beautiful hope!

SAKURA
You seem be a neld(nerd) in names..

MARIA
No, I just used to read about them sometimes..

YUSEI
Do you need any help with her? Since you are a student, it must be tough for you..

SAKURA
Actually, I am withdrawing from the university, my husband passed away a month ago, and now I have to take care of her myself..

YUSEI
My deepest condolences for you, if you need any help just reach out?

Maria seemed curious about something..

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MARIA
Was your husband sick or just a normal death..

YUSUKE
(whispering to Maria)
Hey, don't ask questions like that!

SAKURA
It's a long story, but it's neither of your options..

Sakura expression turned sad...

MARIA
I apologize for being nosy, I didn't mean to...

SAKURA
No problem at all...

Sakura Smiled..

SAKURA (CONT'D)
I want to ask you a question Maria, can I?

MARIA
Of course..

SAKURA
If one day you had a daughter, what would you name her? You seemed to be interested in names..

Maria was caught off-guard with the question..

MARIA
Yona

SAKURA
What a great name!

Sakura expression turned sad again!

MARIA
Are you Okay?

SAKURA
Actually, Maria I wanted to talk with you about something can I?

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MARIA
Of course, Yusei! Yusuke! Susan!
You can continue without me

Susan, Yusei and Yusuke nodded and moved on..

YUSUKE
I hope Maria can help her, she
seems to be in big trouble..

SUSAN
I agree, I am shocked that she is
going to withdraw..

SAKURA
Hey, can we go to the bench to
talk?

MARIA
Of course!

Maria looked at the baby sleeping quiet and sound, and gave her warm looks and smiled from her heart..

SAKURA
Do you want to carry her?

MARIA
Can I?

SAKURA
Of course, but be gentle not to
wake her up..

Sakura gave Miyu to Maria..

Maria carried her gently...

MARIA
She is so cute and innocent...

Maria is smiling and tearing...

SAKURA
Why are you crying?

MARIA
I don’t know, but looking at her
moved my heart..

MARIA (CONT’D)
Let’s go to the bench to talk..

Seif Addeen Altahan

SAKURA
Yeah, let’s go..

CUT TO:

2 EXT. UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO - BENCH - CONTINUOUS

Maria and Sakura sat down on a bench as Sakura wants to talk about her husband’s passing away...

MARIA
So, why are you withdrawing?

SAKURA
As I said my husband, Maruki, passed away, and I must take care of her, I can’t leave her to a babysitter, I don’t trust them

MARIA
I understand, but what about work?, you need money also..

SAKURA
I am working a part-time in a restaurant, it helps cover a bit of expenses.

SAKURA (CONT’D)
But I take Miyu with me and they help me take care of her, they are nice co-workers..

MARIA
Yeah that’s nice of them..

MARIA (CONT’D)
But look if you need someone to stay with her, I can manage...

SAKURA
No, I don’t want to cause you trouble..

MARIA
What trouble? Come on, Sakura!, I know it’s tough for you to take care of her at work, feeding, changing and stuff..

Self Adhesive Altahan

SAKURA
Still, I can’t leave her, it’s not a matter of trust, but when you become a mom you feel your entire life is tied to your baby..

Maria took a look at Miyu, with teary eyes..

MARIA
I understand you and I will respect your decision, but whenever you need me I will be there..

SAKURA
(smile)
Thank you!

MARIA
Sorry about the sudden change of topics, but what about your husband?

SAKURA
I think he got killed..

MARIA
WHAT?!

SAKURA
There wasn’t anything indicating a death, he left to work then, he is dead suddenly after 2 hours..

SAKURA (CONT’D)
Adding up, the company he works at hate him since he is trying to uncover a scandal about them..

MARIA
Scandal?!

SAKURA
He works at an international company, but at the Japanese branch.

MARIA
Which company?!

SAKURA
ViraGenex Therapeutics

MARIA
Oh! A medicine company?

Seif Addeen Kaltahan

SAKURA
Yes, and there target is to make cures for viruses, since there is barely any medicine for them..

SAKURA (CONT'D)
But they, do experiments on children to do so..

MARIA
It can't be!, You mean?!

SAKURA
Yes if the medicine fails, the child dies...

SAKURA (CONT'D)
They get an infected child, give it the medicine and wait, some react positively, and some...

Sakura started crying

SAKURA (CONT'D)
Dies because they couldn't handle the ingredients of the vaccine or the medicine, they are babies at the end of the day..

MARIA
Brutal! Absoulotely Brutal!

SAKURA
Maruki tried to uncover it, but he is dead now so they can continue with their experiments and kill more children..

SAKURA (CONT'D)
But main orders comes from the branch in New York, USA!

MARIA
That means! They have other branches that do the same thing, one of them here in Tokyo!

SAKURA
Exactly, and one day Maruki was very close to uncover the truth, and he got evidence, he went to work then suddenly later that day he is dead!

Seif Aldeen Altahan

SAKURA (CONT'D)
It makes sense right?

MARIA
Yeah, but maybe he had a normal death, humans can die suddenly also.

SAKURA
I know, but something doesn't add up at all!

Miyu started crying..

MARIA
She is crying, what's wrong with her..

SAKURA
She is either sleepy or hungry, I think I should go home!

MARIA
OK, you go and take care of her..

SAKURA
Sorry for being noisy!

MARIA
Come on, you can always come to me whenever you want to talk!

Sakura Smiled

SAKURA
Thank you, I mean it..

Sakura and Maria parted ways, Maria wanted to regroup with her friends..

Maria calls Susan..

MARIA
Hello, Susan!

SUSAN (V.O.)
We are at your apartment

MARIA
My Apartment!

SUSAN (V.O.)
Yeah, We have a surprise, Come Now!

Seif Addeen Altahan

MARIA
I am coming!

MARIA (CONT'D)
Oh these people, what are they up to!

CUT TO:

3 INT. TOKYO - MARIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Maria arrived at her apartment to see all of her friends pulling of a birthday party for her..

MARIA
(laughs)
Is it my birthday today?!

SUSAN
You are always like that, forgetting your special moments..

YUSEI
(Shouts)
Happy Birthday Maria!!!

MARIA
(smiles and laughs)
Thank you!!

YUSUKE
But there is something special also today!!

MARIA
For me!

YUSUKE
Of course!

Maria gets excited

MARIA
What is it?

YUSUKE
You are getting 20 years old today, you have started the 2nd decade of your life

Maria seemed disappointed

Seif Addeen Altahan

MARIA
Here I thought it would be a gift, but you are just making me remember that I am getting older!

YUSUKE
But getting old is a good thing

Maria gives Yusuke a sharp look..

YUSUKE (CONT'D)
Oh Yeah! Hhhu.. There is also a gift we bought it together!

Maria gets all excited again..

SUSAN
Yusei, give it to her!

YUSEI
Here it is...

YUSEI (CONT'D)
But wait blow the candles first..

Maria goes behind the lemon cake..

MARIA
Oh! A lemon cake, that is my favorite!!

Maria's face is shining from happiness, then she is getting started to blow the candles

YUSUKE
Make a wish!

MARIA
Made one!

Maria then blows the candles, and every one claps

YUSEI
Now for the gift!!

MARIA
Yeah!

Yusei gets closer to Susan..

YUSEI
This is the first time I see her this happy and excited..

Self Adgeen Altahan

SUSAN
Yeah, she seems like a baby!

SUSAN (CONT'D)
She always forgets about herself
and what she needs, so I am glad we
prepared this party

Maria opened the gift, and she was shocked, it was a necklace with her name on it, it was necklace made of pure gold..

MARIA
This is amazing!!!

MARIA (CONT'D)
Thank you everyone!!!!

MARIA (CONT'D)
Can I put it on!

SUSAN
Of course!

Susan comes and helps Maria with it, it looked amazing on her...

MARIA
How it looks?

SUSAN
Absolutely perfect!!

YUSEI
It suits you like it was made
specially for you, in fact it is

MARIA
What do you mean?!

SUSAN
We asked a pawn shop we know here,
to make it for you..

Maria smiles and laughs like she is a child..

MARIA
I will tressure it, I would never
take it off.

SUSAN
Glad you liked it!

Seif Addeen Altahan

MARIA
Then let’s eat the cake, I am excited for it!

YUSUKE
Here comes my favorite part!

Maria laughed!

MARIA
Mine too..

Yusuke gets close to Yusei and started whispering to him so Maria couldn’t hear them...

YUSUKE
(in Japanese)
If you want to confess, today is your day, she seems to be in a perfect mood.

YUSEI
(in Japanese)
Shut up!

They sit down and start eating the cake...

After they finished eating, they sit down to talk a little..

MARIA
That was delicious, thank you everyone for the Party, I mean it, I don’t remember being this happy since forever

YUSUKE
How was Sakura!

Susan gets all mixed up!

SUSAN
I am going to the toilet!

MARIA
She is having it tough, her story is difficult..

MARIA (CONT’D)
She lost her husband.., Maruki, and now left alone with her daughter Miyu..

YUSUKE
How?!

Self Acceen Altahan

MARIA
And what make it worse that it isn't a normal death, she thinks he got killed.

Yusuke seems lost..

YUSUKE
I am not sure that I am following up.

MARIA
He works in a medical company, ViraGenex, and they do experiments on children and ***youth***, when he was near to uncover the truth he disappeared.

YUSUKE
That seems fishy..

MARIA
Yeah Right, That's the feeling I am getting too..

YUSUKE
Do you think we can research the company?

MARIA
But, what's the point?

YUSUKE
Maybe protecting people who are about to be a victim to the experiments.

MARIA
Maybe you are right..

YUSEI
Come On, why are we sticking our noses to something out of our business..

MARIA
Yusuke has a point, Imagine they got your child as a participant for an experiment..

YUSEI
Simple, I will refuse..

Seif Addeen Altahan

MARIA
The way Sakura talked, it seems this option is invalid..

YUSEI
They can’t take our children without permission..

MARIA
We will have to do a research to know that..

YUSUKE
I think you should talk to Sakura tomorrow, and try to understand how these experiments happen..

MARIA
Maybe I should to..

Susan Comes..

SUSAN
What’s wrong, why you all are so gloomy?!

SUSAN (CONT’D)
We supposed to be happy..

MARIA
I can’t stop thinking about Sakura.

Susan puts an irritated expression, but holds it with a calm smile..

SUSAN
Oh! About that experiment?

Maria seemed to be suspicious, talking to herself

MARIA (V.O.)
How did she knew?

MARIA (V.O.)
Event though she were in the toilet?!

SUSAN
Am I Right?

Maria decided to not talk her thoughts to Susan.

Seif Addeen Altahan

MARIA
Yeah, They were doing experiments, her husband discovered them, suddenly disappeared and then found dead.

SUSAN
Then you mean he discovered the Mirage experiment..

MARIA
How do you know the name?!

Susan Startled and panicked...

SUSAN
Actually I saw it on the internet, that they want to do this experiment to cure the Influenza virus using pills instead of vaccines.

MARIA
You have any idea about deaths?

SUSAN
No, I don’t know anything at all

MARIA
But you just said that they did this experiment for the sake of Influenza cure as pills.

Susan being pushed into a corner

SUSAN
What are you aiming for?

MARIA
You said you know what “Mirage” is about but you don’t know anything about who died?

MARIA (CONT’D)
Interesting...

SUSAN
As I told yo..

MARIA
Wait!

Seif Abdeen Altahan

MARIA (CONT'D)
In the university, when I was about to talk to Sakura, you wanted to return home..

MARIA (CONT'D)
And moments ago, you startled before asking to go to the toilet..

MARIA (CONT'D)
Pretty suspicious..

Susan panics...

SUSAN
What are you talking about? I went home to prepare your birthday party!

MARIA
Maybe... who knows

Maria gave a sharp look to Susan..

Susan responded to Maria with the same looks..

SUSAN
You seem smarter than you look!

SUSAN (CONT'D)
That's enough for tonight...

MARIA
Hey, Stop!

But Susan Runs before Maria could catch her

MARIA (CONT'D)
Fuck!

YUSUKE
She is panicked, and being honest this isn't a good sign

MARIA
At all..

YUSUKE
She knows something!

YUSEI
She seems involved..

Seif Addeen Altahan

MARIA
I don’t know what to think anymore..

Intercut:

4 EXT. TOKYO - FRONT OF MARIA’S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Susan left the apartment alone, and talks on the phone, to an unknown person

SUSAN
Hello.

SAKI
Hello, Susan.

SUSAN
Regarding Maruki..

SAKI
Don’t worry, the mission is done..

SUSAN
Is he dead?

SAKI
Yes, for sure!

SUSAN
But something happened!

SAKI
What?

SUSAN
His wife, Sakura, she has a daughter, Miyu.., I didn’t know she were pregnant, fuck it!

SAKI
You gotta stay away from her!!!!

This unpleasant surprise fucks up the plan of both of them, but Susan isn’t showing any sign of regret..

SUSAN
(shouts)
I DON’T CARE, FUCK IT

SUSAN (CONT’D)
THAT GUY KILLED MY PARENTS..

Serif Addeen Altahan

SUSAN (CONT'D)
FUCK HIM!!!!!

Susan seems to go out of control that Yusuke in the apartment heard her...

YUSUKE
Did you hear that?

MARIA
Yes, I did...

YUSUKE
I am going to the window to look for it..

When Yusuke sees that she is Susan... he is shocked:

YUSUKE (CONT'D)
Maria, it's Susan!

MARIA
What!

YUSUKE
I will open the window a bit so we could hear..

But Susan she starts shouting even more on the phone

SUSAN
I LOST EVERYTHING BECAUSE OF HIM

SUSAN (CONT'D)
MY DREAMS, MY REASON TO LIVE

SUSAN (CONT'D)
I AM ONLY A WALKING REVENGE MACHINE

SUSAN (CONT'D)
I DON'T GIVE A FUCK ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE...

SUSAN (CONT'D)
THIS PIECE OF SHIT MARUKI DESERVED WHAT CAME FOR HIM...

SUSAN (CONT'D)
I WISHED I COULD HAVE KILLED HIM WITH MY HANDS..

Susan Started Crying

Seif Addeen Altahan

SUSAN (CONT'D)
AHGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGAHHHHHHHHH

Susan shouted as loud as she could..

Hearing her, Maria understood Susan's pain...

MARIA
It can't be..

YUSUKE
So that's how her parents died...

SUSAN
I can't forget that day, Saki, You know what happened...

Intercut Ends...

DISSOLVE TO:

5 INT. NEW YORK - SUSAN'S HOUSEHOLD - FLASHBACK

The scene starts while the camera is taking a shot from the roof..

MIKEL
Susan, I am going to be a volunteer to the experiment, called Mirage.., the goal of it to give a cure to influenza as pills but for now it's still a vaccine..

SUSAN
OK, but before you go, I got accepted in the university, my dream to go to Japan came true, Dad!

MIKEL
That's great..

Mikel ran to hug Susan..

MIKEL (CONT'D)
Great Job, you are my pride, I am proud to have a great daughter like you... I love you so much...

MIKEL (CONT'D)
When it will start?

Seif Addeen Attahan

SUSAN
In 2 weeks!

MIKEL
But can you get ready, this fast?

SUSAN
We will talk more when you return!

SUSAN (CONT'D)
And, is my mom going?

MIKEL
Yes!

SUSAN
Mom! You heard it right!

SOPHIE
Yes, I heard it, I am proud of you..

Sophie hugged her daughter, Susan Tightly

SUSAN
But still why are you going when the experiment is only for kids..

MIKEL
They invited couple of old people, who could die from Influenza, I was one of them that's all..

SUSAN
Are you sure it's safe?

MIKEL
Don't worry it's not my first time

SUSAN
Ok then, I will be waiting for you!

MIKEL
Come on let's go Sophie...

CUT TO:

5A INT. NEW YORK - VIRAGENEX THERAPEUTICS - FLASHBACK

Mikel and Sophie walked in, Maruki welcomed them..

MARUKI
Welcome Everyone..

Seif Addeen Altahan

MIKEL
Welcome Maruki..

MARUKI
Oh! Mikel, how you have been doing!

MIKEL
I couldn’t be happier, my daughter got accepted in University of Tokyo!

MARUKI
My Wife too!!

MIKEL
You mean Sakura!

MARUKI
Yes, she got accepted I am happy for her!

MIKEL
Maybe my daughter and your wife can be friends, and help each other..

MARUKI
Of course, I am going to Japan with her...

MIKEL
Isn’t she Japanese?

MARUKI
Yes, but she came here, to stay with me a bit, but this time I am going abroad with her!!

MIKEL
Wish you a safe trip..

Maruki prepared the vaccine..

MARUKI
Give me your hand..

MARUKI (CONT’D)
Here it goes...

MARUKI (CONT’D)
You too, Sophie!

After giving the vaccine they left..

CUT TO:

Seif Ardeen Altahan

5B INT. NEW YORK - SUSAN'S HOUSEHOLD - FLASHBACK

Mikel and Sophie came home.. But they were pretty tired...

MIKEL
We are going to sleep, I think the vaccine is pretty strong..

MIKEL (CONT'D)
But before we go, Maruki's wife got accepted in the same University!

SUSAN
Really, that's great, I really wanted to know Sakura..

Mikel and Sophie went to sleep...

But the disaster happened in the morning after it..

SUSAN (CONT'D)
It's late in the morning, where are they?

Susan entered the room and...

SUSAN (CONT'D)
Dad, Mom!!

SUSAN (CONT'D)
Daddddddd,Mommmmmmm

She can't hear any breath, no sign of life.. She puts her hand on the heart, and.... No beating

She runs and calls the ambulance

SUSAN (CONT'D)
Come now, it's an emergency, COMEEEEEEEEE, Mikel Walton house

AMBULANCE
Coming!

The ambulance came but....

AMBULANCE (CONT'D)
Sorry, but they are dead

Susan is dammed..

SUSAN
It can't be.

Seif Addeen Altahan

SUSAN (CONT'D)
It can't
BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

FLASHBACK ENDS

6 EXT. TOKYO - FRONT OF MARIA'S APARTMENT - PRESENT

Back to present time when the call with 'Saki' continues

SUSAN
So since that day, I vowed revenge on him, finally after a year I finally managed to take it..

SAKI
Yeah Finally...

SUSAN
But why you helped me?

SAKI
Because I lost my job due to these experiments...

SAKI (CONT'D)
Maybe not as powerful reason as yours, but still..

SUSAN
Thank you, for real..

CUT TO:

7 INT. TOKYO - REAPERS CLAN BUILDING - LATER

The phone call ends..

SAKI
You are really stupid, Susan, for real, really stupid..

CUT TO:

8 INT. TOKYO - MARIA'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone in the apartment were shocked..

Self Adaeen Altahan

MARIA
It can’t be, Sakura’s husband killed Susan’s Parents..

YUSEI
It seems these two know each other pretty well..

MARIA
Then our investigation begins now...

YUSEI
What do you mean?!

MARIA
I mean we are going all out!

MARIA (CONT’D)
Also, it’s time for us to start our relationship!

YUSEI
What do you mean?

MARIA
I want you, because I love you, and I know about your love for me..

MARIA (CONT’D)
So do you accept to be my husband, so we help each other hand in hand in the investigation because I trust you, Yusei?!

YUSEI
Yes of course, Let’s begin, and REV IT UP!!

MARIA
YEAH, LET’S GO ALL OUT!

FADE TO BLACK.

Seif Adgeer Altanan