

Ambush in the Mist

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EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

An EAGLE flies high above a FOREST in the MOUNTAINS that is covered with MIST. MOONLIGHT shines on the mountain, illuminating pockets of the forest poking through the mist.

The eagle descends towards the forest and begins following a long, narrow CLEARING in the forest. The galloping of HORSES is heard getting louder and louder as the eagle gets closer to the forest's TREELINE.

A CAVALCADE of five hundred KNIGHTS on horseback are seen riding through the clearing, with mist occasionally blocking vision of them. Some of the knights are holding TORCHES that cast an ORANGE GLOW on their surroundings.

The eagle descends further, almost like it's trying to follow the knights. An ARROW flying in from off screen pierces the eagle through its breast. The eagle lets out a cry in pain and plummets to the forest floor.

A knight holding a bow lowers it, and turns to another knight riding next to him.

KNIGHT 1

Told you I can hit anything! I'm
the best shot in the whole
cavalcade.

KNIGHT 2

Bah! Lucky shot!

CAPTAIN KISHI rides at the front of the cavalcade. He turns around to the knights following him.

CAPTAIN KISHI

Third division, don't let those
flames go out! The forest won't
light itself up for us!

Towards the middle of the cavalcade, SAMOIYA rushes past the other knights. ASAHI tails behind him, slowly catching up.

ASAHI

Samoiya, slow down!

Samoiya slows down to the same speed of the other knights.
Asahi catches up to Samoiya and matches his pace.

SAMOIYA

What's, wrong, Asahi?

ASAHI

Why are you in a hurry? Kiyoda
isn't going anywhere.

SAMOIYA

I need to talk to Captain Kishi
about our plan.

ASAHI

Why? You don't really think the
demons stand a chance against us,
do you?

SAMOIYA

Of course not! I know we can save
Kiyoda. But I have a bad feeling
about sending so many of us there.

ASAHI

It's a bit overkill, I'll give you
that. To be honest I think just
the two of us would've been more
than enough to clear them out.

SAMOIYA

Just us two? I don't know about
that. There's supposed to be
thousands of them! And haven't you
heard the tales of what they do to
their enemies?

Samoiya and Asahi are riding alongside AKIRA, NORIKO, and
RYOTA. The three look at Samoiya and Asahi.

NORIKO

What's wrong, Sammy? Scared of a
few demons, are we?

AKIRA

Don't taunt him. There's no shame
in fearing a new enemy.

RYOTA

Nah, she's right. What's there to worry about? The Eagle Knights of Zai are the best there is. There's no foe we can't handle.

Asahi rolls his eyes and ignores the three. Samoiya doesn't acknowledge them. The two lock eyes, nod, and speed up until they're three rows ahead of the trio.

ASAHI

Ignore those clowns. They're not worth your time.

SAMOIYA

Oh, come on. They're knights just like us.

ASAHI

Who cares? We hardly know them.

SAMOIYA

Yeah, but we're still comrades in arms.

ASAHI

You give people too much credit. Always have, always will.

SAMOIYA

It wouldn't hurt you to put your trust in others, you know.

ASAHI

I trust you.

SAMOIYA

I mean someone besides me. There's nothing wrong with-

A loud WAR HORN bellows from the surrounding forest. The knights make surprised grunts.

KNIGHT 3

It's an ambush!

ARROWS and FIREBALLS begin raining down on the cavalcade, knocking knights off their horses and setting the surrounding TREES ablaze.

DEMONS jump out of the TREE CANOPY and attack the knights. Some demons land directly on their targets, knocking the horses to the ground and stabbing the knights in their chests, necks, or faces.

Still on their horses, Samoiya, Asahi, and the surrounding knights begin slashing and parrying the demons in an all-out brawl for survival.

A fireball crashes inches away from Samoiya. His horse buckles back and lets out a loud whinny before darting off into the forest with Samoiya still on its back.

A demon draws its BOW and fires an ARROW. The arrow lodges itself into the side of Samoiya's horse as it fades into the mist.

Samoiya pulls the arrow out of his horse and strokes the back of its neck.

SAMOIYA

Woah. Take it easy now. Hang in there, girl!

The horse doesn't seem responsive to Samoiya and keeps darting deeper into the forest.

Samoiya takes a deep breath then pulls his feet out of the STIRRIPS and jumps off of his horse's back. He lands on his feet and rebalances himself as he watches his horse disappear into the mist.

A loud grunt is heard and Samoiya turns around to see that some of the demons followed him. He unsheathes his SWORD and gets into a battle stance.

SAMOIYA

Guess it's too late for introductions.

The demons glare at Samoiya and growl. They ready their weapons.

SAMOIYA

Well, what are you waiting for?

Samoiya smirks and charges at the demons.

END