

### SCENE THREE

Directly after scene two.

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INT. SHINJUKU, IZAKAYA "KURUKURU" - NIGHT

A skeazy looking izakaya filled to the brim with people who look like thugs and gangsters. The waitresses are dressed in tight, revealing uniforms as they weave around the tables. Sagi and Yasuda sit at a table next to a window; Sagi downs a stein of beer while Yasuda settles for a modest shot of soju.

YASUDA

Of all the places to go drinking,  
you had to pick a place like  
this?

SAGI

Huh? Can't hear you!

The crowd is loud. Yasuda has to raise his voice.

YASUDA

I said, of all the places in  
Shinjuku, you had to pick a place  
like this?

SAGI

Why, what's wrong with it?

Yasuda sighs and pours himself half of a shot and sips at it slowly, looking thoughtful. Sagi, in the meantime, flags down a waiter to order food. As the waiter leaves, Yasuda taps the table to get Sagi's attention.

YASUDA

Hey, I was thinking - maybe you  
could help me with something.

Sagi looks over at Yasuda, raising an eyebrow.

SAGI

What kind of something?

YASUDA

You've had tangles with the police before, right?

(Sagi snorts)

I mean, no offense, but given your line of work.

SAGI

Yeah, I have. What about it?

Yasuda fiddles with his cap as he speaks.

YASUDA

Well, it's a bit of a weird story, but there was a suicide at the station this morning, and - well. You know the kid you just saw when you came in?

SAGI

(chuckling)

Oh yeah. Bandaged-up mousy.

YASUDA

Well, he -

EXT. SHINJUKU, OUTSIDE "KURUKURU" - NIGHT

The door clatters and a waitress calls out, "Have a nice night!" as Sagi slinks out of the izakaya, shrugging her jacket back on. Yasuda comes running out a few paces behind her, struggling with his jacket and carrying his cap.

YASUDA

Hey - hey, what the hell was that? Just up and out all of a sudden?

Sagi ignores him, rummaging through her pockets as she walks. Yasuda jogs to catch up to her, pulling his cap back on.

YASUDA

Hey, did I say something wrong?

SAGI

(bored)

No.

YASUDA

Then why the sudden exit?

Yasuda watches as Sagi clamps a cigarette in her lips and lights it up with a fancy, Zippo - engraved with a heron.

SAGI

Because I was getting bored.

Halting in his steps for a moment, Yasuda stares at her.

YASUDA

Bored?

SAGI

Yeah, bored.

EXT. SHINJUKU STREETS - NIGHT

Sagi walks quickly down the streets, weaving between other people. Shortly afterwards, Yasuda comes stumbling after her, trying to keep his cap on.

YASUDA

Oh, come on, what the hell kind of response is that? You saw the kid, how could I say no?

SAGI

Like this.

Sagi whirls around and grabs Yasuda's shirtfront to pull him close; the cigarette in his lips almost grazes across his face. Yasuda looks shocked as Sagi says to him flatly,

SAGI

No, I won't help you.

A pause. Sagi lets go and turns to keep walking down the street. As people walks past him, Yasuda stares at her back for a few moments before following her, but his movements are more hesitant now.

YASUDA

-- seriously? You would

be that mean?

SAGI

Don't forget, I work for the  
yakuza. I can kick puppies into  
meat grinders if I want.

YASUDA

That's not funny.

SAGI

Really? I thought it was.  
(laughs loudly)  
Why the hell are you following  
me? I'm gonna go to a strip club.  
You into that stuff?

YASUDA

Why do you keep changing the  
subject?

SAGI

'Cause the one you're talking  
about is boring as hell.

Sagi suddenly swerves and turns into a dark alleyway.  
Yasuda screeches to a halt at the entrance of the alley and  
hesitates for a moment before following gingerly after her.

EXT. SHINJUKU ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

An alleyway littered with trashcans and abandoned boxes.  
Sagi walks well ahead of Yasuda, who struggles to keep up  
with Sagi's quick pace.

YASUDA

What the hell is wrong with  
you anyway? One moment you're  
acting all buddy-buddy, and the  
next you're being this cruel?

SAGI

My time of the month.

Yasuda stumbles into a fire escape out of surprise.

YASUDA

Really?

SAGI

No.

YASUDA

See, this is what I'm talking about! Why're you being so mean now, you were just fine in that bar!

SAGI

(laughing harshly)

Sorry, did I hurt your feelings?

YASUDA

Stop it!

Sagi exits the opposite side of the alleyway back onto the streets.

EXT. SHINJUKU STREETS - NIGHT

Yasuda almost trips over a bag of trash, but stumbles and runs up to catch Sagi's wrist. He jerks on her arm, hard, forcing her to stop and look at him.

YASUDA

What, do you like watching people suffering? I bet you could easily tell me how I could go talk to this guy to help him, but you just don't feel like it? What are you, some sort of professional jerk or someth -

Sagi suddenly slugs Yasuda, who topples to the ground, holding his bruising cheek. Sagi spits out her cigarette, looking contemptuous.

SAGI

So, I'm either a bleeding heart Samaritan or I'm a douchebag, huh?  
(grinding out her cig)  
Sorry to say, buddy, but I'm neither of those. I just don't have much pity for whiny little brats who can't do anything for

themselves.

YASUDA

The kid's dead, you know he can't -

SAGI

I'm not talking about that, you idiot. - how stupid could the kid have been to not do something himself? One call to the police could've saved him, but no, he instead chose to jump the rails. I'm not interested in helping a shitty brat like that.

YASUDA

(in disbelief)

What?

Sagi is silent for a few moments, and Yasuda gets to his feet, holding his cheek. Passersby are staring at the two of them as they pass by. Sagi looks at Yasuda with her hands in her pockets.

SAGI

- you know, I think you don't even really care about this kid.

YASUDA

Woah, are you just trying to change the subject again, don't even start -

SAGI

No, I can tell with your type. You guys are just so desperate to play the part of the nice guy that you'll do anything to please people. Having fun playing the stationmaster's bitch aren't you? Gonna roll over for the ghosts too, now?

YASUDA

(indignant)

I'd never do that!

SAGI

Right. Cause you're definitely not

going to go looking for a way to help this guy on your own.

YASUDA

I can't just let the kid down like that!

SAGI

Listen to yourself, you lump! You're trying to step into business involving the fucking police just cause some kid asked you to? You hoping to get some sort of medal for being the most self-sacrificing piece of shit around?

YASUDA

I'm not -

A food vendor pushes past them with a grunted "excuse me," dragging along his covered hand-cart. Yasuda stares, distracted from what he was saying by this interruption. Sagi pulls out another cigarette and flicks open her lighter.

A moment of silence passes where Sagi takes her time blowing out a cloud of smoke. Yasuda finally sighs and turns to leave.

YASUDA

Fine, then. I'm leaving.

SAGI

Hold it.

Sagi throws Yasuda's cap, which had fallen off, at his back. Yasuda fumbles and barely manages to catch it before it drops again. Sagi watches this, smoking, before speaking flatly.

SAGI

Fine, I'll help you with this shitty little goodwill mission of yours.

Yasuda looks up, startled.

YASUDA

You will?

SAGI

But.

(pause)

This is for my own entertainment.

YASUDA

What?

SAGI

(blowing a smokering)

I'm looking into this only because messing with the police is always fun for me. So let's get this clear: I don't give a damn about the kid, the idiot who got himself arrested, or you. Got it?

Yasuda nods dumbly. Sagi shrugs her shoulders and turns to leave.

SAGI

Really, I'm off to a strip club now. Maybe I'll drop by with info tomorrow.

Before she walks off, though, Yasuda calls out.

YASUDA

Do you have something against helping people or something?

SAGI

(without turning back)

I help myself and no one else. Self-sufficiency. Kinda pathetic if someone can't even take care of themselves, you know.

A wave of the cigarette through the air before Sagi weaves through the crowd of late-night stragglers and down the street.

Yasuda stands awkwardly, mashing his cap in his hands, as he watches Sagi leave.