

Fast Fist Flying

Episode 1: How Long Has it Been

Scene 1: PLAYGROUND

A bright sun shines in the clear summer sky. Kids huddle around a tree, where a small bird is crying at their feet.

BOY 1: It must've fell out of the tree

GIRL 1: What should we do with it?

GIRL 2: Look at the wing! It must be broken.

BOY 1: Do you think it forgot how to fly?

The kids mutter among themselves. A young SHIZUKA kneels next to the bird. Across the playground, an OLDER BOY sees the group and walks over to investigate.

OLDER BOY: (forcing his way through the crowd) Outta the way! Move it! What's going on?

GIRL 1: This bird fell and broke its wing.

BOY 1: We should tell our parents.

GIRL 1 & 2: Good idea

*The kids run off, leaving SHIZUKA and the OLDER BOY at the tree.
SHIZUKA has her back turned to the boy, tending to the now quiet bird*

OLDER BOY: (To SHIZUKA) You should go with them. (SHIZUKA doesn't respond. OLDER BOY speaks up) Hey. You'd better get help too. Those kids are slow. (SHIZUKA is quiet) Did you hear me? That bird is going to die.

SHIZUKA: (Back still turned) I won't let you.

OLDER BOY: Hm?

SHIZUKA: I won't let you hurt it. (Shields the bird with her body)

OLDER BOY: (Approaching With a sinister smile) Oh, you stupid, stupid kid, still wet behind the ears and full of hope. Mom and Dad let you believe the world is full of joy...But I'll tell you what this world is full of (Standing at SHIZUKA's side, hands in his pockets. SHIZUKA is curled up over the bird) IT'S FULL OF SHIT! (kicks SHIZUKA, who grits her teeth and takes it. OLDER BOY sneers) Idiot, the bird is crippled. If I don't put it out of its misery, it'll be eaten alive. One way or another: The bird is gonna die.

SHIZUKA: (Defiant) My friends will be back any minute!

OLDER BOY: (Smiling again) Then I better get this over with quick.

OLDER BOY begins to kick SHIZUKA again and again. She holds back her cries until she can't anymore, but stays on top of the bird.

OLDER BOY: This is what the world is, little girl. It beats you down, breaks those who think they're strong. But you're not strong. If you were strong you'd stand up. (KICK) If you were strong you'd stop me! (KICK) YOU'D FIGHT BACK! (KICK)

SHIZUKA cries aloud. OLDER BOY smiles over her crumpled body. The sound of footsteps pounding the pavement snap him back to reality. He turns his head and his eyes go wide before a small fist slams into his face. Seen from his point of view, he flies backwards as his feet lift off the ground, blood shooting from his nose. His attacker, Young OSHIMA, lands gracefully on the pavement.

OLDER BOY: (Thinking as his eyes roll back) How could this be... How could you be this strong

He crashes on the floor a few feet away. OSHIMA turns his attention to SHIZUKA, kneeling by her side

OSHIMA: Shizuka? Are you okay? Shizuka! (places her head in his lap, moving the hair out her face) Shi..

The bird chirps weakly in her arms, and she begins to stir.

SHIZUKA: (Weakly) He..he wanted to kill it.

OSHIMA: (Sniffles) I stopped him, Shizuka.

She smiles, and he smiles back as she loses consciousness. His smile breaks, tears falling from his face onto hers. He lets out a long cry as the kids return with adults.

Scene 2: OSHIMA's ROOM/ SHIZUKA's ROOM

Sixteen years later. The sun sets over Beta City skyline, shining purple and gold rays reflecting off the river below. In a loft near the water, OSHIMA sits on his window sill scrolling through his phone. The loft is messy and colorful, music and fighting posters cover the walls, a home gym in the

living room, the only clean areas are the kitchen and the mountain of shoeboxes. The open window brings in all the noise of the busy city outside--until a ringtone cuts through the ambience.

OSHIMA: (Answers the call) Took you long enough to call back.

SHIZUKA: (Over the phone, out of breath) Oh, shove it. There was maintenance on the bullet line, I had to take regular transit.

OSHIMA: Regular transit? (Walking to the kitchenette) Sounds filthy.

SHIZUKA: (Sounds of bags hitting the floor) Right up your alley. The gangs have taken everything over. It's like they don't care anymore.

OSHIMA: Tell me about it (Grabs a bottle of booze from the counter) Every day it's getting worse.. I don't like the idea of you being somewhere like that.

SHIZUKA: Yeah well tell that to the construction committee.

OSHIMA chuckles; now heard over SHIZUKA's phone as she walks through her apartment. It is pristine, with minimal muted furniture and lots of electronics. She puts the phone on speaker and sets it on her nightstand.

OSHIMA: (Voice over the phone) I've waited long enough, Shizuka. So how long til we get robots?

SHIZUKA: (Laughs as she undresses) What makes you think I know?

OSHIMA: Aw come on, don't do me like that. How long have we been friends?

SHIZUKA: Confidential.

TARO: What, You're keeping secrets now? Got a work boyfriend I don't know about?

SHIZUKA: *(Picking back up her phone, now dressed in pajamas)* You're so annoying. I'm changed and getting ready to log on now. You ready?

She sits on her bed and powers on her laptop. OSHIMA sits on his couch, controller in hand

OSHIMA: *(After an audible stretch)* I am, but I gotta warn you, I got my last two teams killed.

SHIZUKA: You ruin my rank and I'll kill you

It is now night time. SHIZUKA has fallen asleep on the phone, lightly snoring on the other end. TARO, still awake, checks his phone. It is 11:42.

OSHIMA: *(Thinking)* I've got work at 8. I can squeeze in a run before bed.

OSHIMA stands and stretches, leaving on his tv as he walks towards the closet. He retrieves a small duffle bag, opening it to find black tracksuit. He puts it on and pulls a white and red mask from the pocket. After staring at the mask for a moment, he checks his phone again. 11:54.

OSHIMA: *(Thinking)* Two hours, then it's bedtime. Goodnight, Shizuka.
(Ends the call)

Scene 3: BETA CITY

The city is covered in shadow; storefronts are barricaded with shutters and gates, dogs howl and gunshots echo through the night sky before things become silent again. Tires screech. A white van speeds down a busy street, followed by a black car. The car chases behind the van, engine growling menacingly as the driver window rolls down. In the van, a scared scientist checks his rearview before it is shot off

SCIENTIST: Jesus! (Slams on the accelerator, struggling to control the wheel)

The chase continues down the street as OSHIMA, mask rolled up to show his face, watches from a nearby rooftop. He checks his phone again. 1:35. Stuffing the phone back in his pocket, he begins following with a light stride. He picks up speed and vaults over the gap, rolling onto the next rooftop. The chase continues down an alley. The SCIENTIST swerves to avoid vagrants, running over a flaming trash can. The black car hits one of the homeless men and sends him flying over the hood. OSHIMA taps his ear, and a bluetooth earpiece lights up under the mask

OPERATOR: Beta City Emergencies.

OSHIMA: (Running) Shots fired. (Vaulting over vents) Hit and Run. (Comes to a halt and watches as the van flips on its side, crashing underneath a nearby overpass) South sector by the docks

OSHIMA ends the call. Meanwhile, the SCIENTIST has crawled, bloodied, out of the van with a broken leg. The black car comes to a stop nearby, engine idling as the headlights shine on the SCIENTIST. The passenger doors open and TENGAN steps out with two men in suits.

SCIENTIST: He sent you--(Groaning) I must've done something irredeemable.

TENGAN: (Staring him down) We've drawn this out long enough. You have something that belongs to my client.

OSHIMA hides behind a shipping container a few yards behind the cars, phone in hand.

SCIENTIST: (chuckles) You shouldn't make such accusations without proof...

TENGAN: Your collaborators sold you out. (To her men) Search the van.

SCIENTIST: You'll never find it. What will your master say when his retriever comes back a failure?

TENGAN: You underestimate my client. That's how you ended up here. We will find the Fly Drive.

The men check the van as The black car's driver side door opens; another suit steps out to hand her a phone. She places it to her ear, talking inaudibly. OSHIMA advances forward until he is a few feet away, still recording.

OSHIMA: (Thinking) What the hell is going on? What are suits doing in the South Sector?

TENGAN ends the call and holds the phone behind her for the driver to take. Once the phone is out of her hands she pulls a gun from her hip and shoots SCIENTIST in the head. He screams before his head explodes. OSHIMA clenches his fist as she coldly walks over to the dead body.

TENGAN: (Kneeling down to search him) So foolish, ready to die for your cause. You make it so easy. (Stands up; to her men as she returns to the car) Someone tipped off the police. Get rid of the body

The driver and TENGAN return to the car. She hesitates, scanning the area before approaching sirens force her to get in. OSHIMA waits until the car has turned the corner to make his escape

Scene 4: OSHIMA'S ROOM

OSHIMA has returned home, undressed and put the bag back in the closet. He closes the window roughly, shutting out all the outside noise

OSHIMA: (Thinking) I couldn't help him. (His hands ball into tight fists) I didn't make it in time.

He sits on the bed and checks his phone. 3:16.

OSHIMA: (Thinking as he swallows sleeping pills) Who were those people? What was she talking about? (Closes his eyes) In any case, I can figure that out tomorrow. After work...

END