

Two Blades

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FADE IN:

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

ELIS (22), a skilled fighter and a tomboy raised by her dad, trains alone on a body bag.

She swings, cuts, and stabs at the body bag. Elis breathes heavily.

BEN (22), a boy with book smarts, approaches Elis. Ben startles her. Elis swings around. Her katana stops on Ben's neck.

BEN

Whoa! At ease.

Elis lowers the katana. She blushes.

ELIS

I'm sorry. My nerves are on end.

BEN

Is it because of what Master Robinson told you?

Ben gestures for the two to sit.

BEN (CONT'D)

Elis, I love you, and you'll be fine.

Elis smiles. They hug.

INT. MEDITATION ROOM - DAY

MASTER ROBINSON (65), a wise old man from years of katana training and meditation, meditates alone.

LEON (27), a jealous and undisciplined fighter, walks in.

MASTER ROBINSON

Why have you returned?

Leon scowls as he unsheathes his katana.

LEON

(annoyed)

We both know that I should've
been named your successor.

(beat)

Not some girl!

MASTER ROBINSON

That girl displayed better
leadership than you ever have.

LEON

Then both of you must die.

Leon sends his katana blade through Master Robinson's gut.
GUARD #1 rushes in. Leon flees.

GUARD #1

No! Master Robinson?

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

Elis and Ben lay on the ground. STUDENT #1 rushes up to them.

STUDENT #1

Elis, we need you!

ELIS

What's happening?

STUDENT #1

Master Robinson has been
attacked.

INT. MEDICAL ROOM - DAY

Elis enters the medical room. The DOCTOR (33) walks up the
Elis.

DOCTOR

Elis? A moment please?

Doctor shows Elis to Master Robinson. Master Robinson lies in
bed with bloody bandages.

ELIS

(worried)

Master? Who did this to him?

DOCTOR

A guard said it looked like Leon.

Elis looks at the Doctor horrified.

Elis walks out to the students. Leon is hidden in the crowd

STUDENT #1

Is he okay?

ELIS

Master Robinson.

(beat)

Master Robinson is dead.

The students gasp. A few murmur. Panic slowly fills the room.

STUDENT #1

Who did this?

ELIS

Leon. He will be brought to justice.

STUDENT #1

Who will lead us?

BEN

If I'm not mistaken, aren't you next in charge Elis?

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - NEXT DAY

The sun rises over the training grounds. The dew from the early morning is still fresh. Elis stands before the students.

ELIS

With Leon on the loose we need to be sure that everyone can protect themselves. This school houses thirteen of the finest minds war has to offer.

(beat)

No more books. From here on out we fight.

The students cheer. They take position as Elis shows them fighting moves.

The students face off against training dolls. The dolls are stationary with layers of moving parts.

ELIS (CONT'D)
You must be light on your feet.

The students dodge and evade low attacks from the dolls.

ELIS (CONT'D)
But even faster with your
strikes.

The students swing at the dolls. Ben struggles.

BEN
Hey Elis? A second?

ELIS
(to students)
Keep training.
(to Ben)
What is it?

BEN
I don't think I'm cut out for the
fighting side of war.

ELIS
What do you mean? What happens if
you're attacked?

BEN
I would avoid getting myself
into that situation.
(beat)
Listen Elis, you're a great
teacher. Everyone is looking
better by the second. But I'm not
meant to fight up close.

Ben walks away.

INT. ELIS'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Elis sits at her bedroom desk. A loud creak fills the room.
Elis jolts up.

Leon sits in the window frame. He holds up a picture of Elis
and Ben.

LEON
(reads picture)
"To my ray of sunshine. Love
Ben."
(beat)
I can't stand romance personally.

Leon tosses the picture aside. Elis grabs her katana.

ELIS
(angry)
Leon.

LEON
You see Elis, you have something
I want.
(beat)
Master Robinson gave it to you
instead of me.

ELIS
What are you talking about?

LEON
The School.

Leon pulls out his katana. He strikes at Elis. She dodges and counters catches Leon on the shoulder. Leon snarls and strikes back. He cuts Elis on the cheek.

GUARD #1 enters the room.

LEON
Well, I've enjoyed our chat.
(beat)
Until tomorrow, Elis.

Leon jumps out her window. Elis looks to see where Leon went. He slips into the dark.

INT. BEN'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Leon sneaks in through Ben's window. He stands above Ben. Leon turns on the light. Ben's eyes flutter open.

BEN
(confused)
Huh?

LEON
Good morning sunshine.

Before Ben can comprehend anything, Leon knocks him out with the butt of his katana.

INT. MEDITATION ROOM - DAY

Elis sits and polishes her katana. In the reflection of her katana she sees the door open. Elis stands and faces Student #1.

STUDENT #1

(wind)

Elis...it's Ben... he-he's gone.

Eli rushes out of the room.

INT. BEN'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Elis walks into Ben's chambers. She grabs a note from the bedside table.

STUDENT #1

What does it say?

ELIS

Leon has Ben.

(beat)

He wants us to meet at Shang's Meadow.

EXT. SHANG'S MEADOW - DAY

Elis approaches Leon. Leon places his katana blade on Ben's neck. Ben's mouth is taped shut.

LEON

That's far enough, Elis.

ELIS

Let him go. This is between you and me.

LEON

Then give me what is rightfully mine.

ELIS

You're crazy Leon.

LEON

Those are some shameful last words.

(beat)

Wouldn't you agree Ben?

Ben mumbles through his sealed mouth.

LEON (CONT'D)

I agree.

Leon slowly pulls his katana blade across Ben's neck. Ben falls over dead.

ELIS

(screaming)

No!

Elis charges at Leon. She delivers a series of attacks. Leon defends them all. Leon attacks back. Elis dodges and evades the swift fighter.

The battle is even. The two collide katanas. Leon gains the advantage. He looms over Elis.

LEON

What a shame he put someone as weak as you in charge.

Elis gains the advantage. She looms over Leon.

ELIS

What a shame you didn't kill me last night.

Elis sweeps Leon's legs. Leon lands on the ground. Elis holds her katana blade up to Leon's heart. He laughs.

LEAN

(laughing)

Well done, Elis. Well done.

ELIS

Do you yield?

Leon glares at Elis with an evil smile.

LEON

Did Ben?

Elis screams in rage.

ELIS
(screams)

Agh!

Elis raises her sword above her head. Leon pulls out a small throwing knife from his wrist. Elis swings down. Leon throws the throwing knife. Elis freezes. She drops her katana.

She looks down. The throwing knife sticks out of her stomach. Elis falls.

Leon stands and faces the school. He smiles with contempt.

LEON
(happily)
I did it.

Elis slowly pulls the throwing knife out of her stomach.

LEON (CONT'D)
It's all mine.

Leon gasps. He turns around to face Elis. Her hand is extended and bloody from the throwing knife.

Leon laughs. He reaches back and yanks out the throwing knife.

LEON (CONT'D)
You stupid girl!

Leon charges Elis with the throwing knife. Leon jabs at Elis. Elis kicks him over her. Leon lands hard on his back.

Elis grabs her katana. She stands over Leon and quickly sends her katana through his chest and into the ground.

Leon gasps for air and dies. Elis collapses. She cries.

INT. MEDICAL ROOM - DAY

Elis lies in bed. Her stomach is bandaged. Doctor walks in.

ELIS
Well?

DOCTOR
You'll be fine. For the mean
time, take things slow.

Doctor leaves the room. Elis grabs the picture of her and Ben. She lowers the picture and stares out the window. She watches her students continue to train.

Elis smiles with pride.

FADE OUT.