



THE TALE OF TERA

WRITTEN BY

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FADE IN:

EXT. SAISEI FOREST - NIGHT

The wind HOWLS in the dark. A singular beam of moonlight pierces through the canopy, illuminating a small, dirt clearing.

Appearing in the center are two silhouetted figures. One kneeling, the other standing. The former offers up a glowing blue orb. A soul.

The orb floats toward the standing figure, who brings it into their chest. A soft puff of energy as the figure absorbs the soul. Its right eye flares a bright, icy blue. It smiles.

Then, as quickly as they appeared, both figures vanish into the night.

OPENING CREDIT ROLL.

SUPER: "The Tale of Tera"

INT. RAMEN SHOP: DINING AREA - NOON

Like moths to a flame, customers crowd the small restaurant.

Those with bowls of ramen SLURP them down aggressively, devouring noodles, broth, and *chashu* alike.

INT. RAMEN SHOP: KITCHEN - SAME

The NOISE and CHATTER through the doors fades to near-silence as JII-CHAN (88), an old man in a stained chef's apron, draws in a breath.

He readjusts his grip on the hilt of his *katana* and EXHALES.

A THUD, as he slams the edge of the cutting board with his other hand, sending meat and vegetables flying in the air.

At the speed of light, he draws the sword, flicking it around in a circular motion before re-sheathing.

The ingredients fall neatly onto the cutting board, perfectly sliced.

DING. Jii-chan taps a bell and two steaming bowls of ramen are placed by the serving window.

All dialogue in *italics* is Japanese.

JII-CHAN
 (calling out)
 Two *tonkotsu* extra *chashu*!

TERA
 Coming.

Close on TERA (16), a Japanese girl with a good heart but an ironclad my-way mentality. She wipes the sweat beading down her large forehead, before carefully readjusting her bangs to cover it.

Grabbing the two bowls, she weaves her way through the small restaurant, narrowly dodging tables and customers.

TERA (CONT'D)
 Here you are.

She delivers them before another customer waves her down.

WAVING CUSTOMER
 Tera, more broth please!

INT. RAMEN SHOP: KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Tera spoons more broth in a bowl when OTOUSAN (55), a tanned Japanese man with a head as hard as his daughter's, drops a handful of dishes in the sink.

OTOUSAN
 Tera, don't forget to clear table twelve.

TERA
 Yes, Otousan.

INT. RAMEN SHOP: DINING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Tera sets the broth down and starts piling up dirty bowls and cups, struggling not to spill.

MASA (O.S.)
 You know, there's a better way to stack those.

Next to her sits know-it-all MASA (17), her childhood frenemy with annoyingly perfect hair. He watches with that small better-than-you smirk on his face.

TERA

For the last time, I know what I'm doing. Don't you have a date with Kimiko or something?

MASA

I do. She'll be here soon.

TERA

I told you to stop bringing her here!

MASA

And miss the opportunity to annoy you during a date? Not a chance.

Tera stomps away in frustration as KIMIKO (16) dainty and beautiful in every way Tera is not, takes a seat next to Masa.

KIMIKO

What's her problem?

MASA

She's just crying over spilled soup.

Tera bumps into a table and spills some soup on her apron. She refuses to look back at Masa on the way to the kitchen.

INT. RAMEN SHOP: KITCHEN - LATER

Tera washes dishes and turns around to see Kimiko laughing with Masa, hand not-so-casually on his shoulder.

Jii-chan notices her stare.

JII-CHAN

There are plenty of nice boys in the village.

TERA

What? No, Jii-chan it's not like that.

JII-CHAN

Are you sure? Because I could always set you up--

TERA

--No no, it's fine.

Masa and Kimiko stand up to leave. Masa makes eye contact with Tera and waves but she SCOFFS and turns back to her dishes.

EXT. RAMEN SHOP - TIME LAPSE

Sun setting over time as customers enter and leave the small shop.

INT. RAMEN SHOP - NIGHT

The last customer waves goodbye as they exit the shop.

TERA
(bowing)
Arigatou gozaimasu!

Tera plops down on a stool, exhausted.

OTOUSAN
Tera, dishes!

TERA
Ugh.

Tera trudges to the kitchen.

INT. TERA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tera, Otousan and Jii-chan walk inside. It's simple, but cozy with traditional *tatami* flooring and woven bamboo walls.

They walk past the family photo with Jii-chan, Otousan, Tera's mother and Tera.

TERA
Nuki! We're home.

Out of one of the rooms scurries NUKI (1013), a brown, furry *tanuki* with a round belly and an appetite for mischief.

He runs right up to Tera and sniffs all over the tied cloth bag she's holding.

NUKI
Is that what I think it is?

Tera opens it to reveal *chashu* and leftover *tempura*. Nuki dives right in.

TERA
You're welcome.

NUKI
(mouth full)
Thank you.

EXT. TERA'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Tera practices forms with her wooden *bokken* sword. Nuki lounges on a nearby tree and gazes at the stars.

NUKI
You know what I love about the night sky?

TERA
(half-listening)
What?

NUKI
Even after a thousand years, you can still see the same stars.

TERA
So?

NUKI
So, even after you and I are gone they'll still be there, shining. Like fiery balls of *takoyaki*.

TERA
Not everything round is *takoyaki*.

NUKI
You're right. It could be *dango*.

Tera smiles and rolls her eyes. She continues her practice.

NUKI (CONT'D)
Speaking of food, the festival is tomorrow.

TERA
I totally forgot! I told Otousan I would work. He wants me to start taking more responsibility around the shop.

NUKI
Responsibility? Gross. Why not just get out of it?

TERA

I can't. Not if I'm gonna take over eventually.

NUKI

Is that what you want to do?

TERA

It's what they expect of me.

Tera takes a final swing that lops off the head of a practice dummy.

SIGHING, she picks the head up and puts it back on the dummy. It falls right off again.

NUKI

C'mon Tera, you're young. You should be having fun.

TERA

Uh huh.

Tera tries to put the head back on again, but Nuki hops on the dummy instead.

NUKI

How about this? I help you get out of work early and you buy me extra food at the festival. Deal?

Tera contemplates for a moment.

TERA

Deal.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - NIGHT

Close on the mallet of a *mochi* pounder hitting a glob of *mochi*.

FESTIVAL GOERS crowd around as the warm, soft treat is placed in bulk on the tables.

All around, the streets are lively with bright lanterns, food stalls and villagers dressed in *yukata*.

Many of the festival-goers don *oni* masks or costumes of various Japanese mythological monsters.

The air is filled with TRADITIONAL MUSIC and CHATTER.

A pair of beat-up geta slippers and four furry paws walk gingerly through the crowd.

The smells from the food vendors waft into Nuki's nose.

NUKI

I think I'm in heaven right now.

TERA

Everything smells amazing. What did you tell Otousan to let me leave early?

NUKI

I told him you'd work extra next week.

TERA

What?

NUKI

What? Is this not worth it?

Nuki waves the eye of a large fried squid on a stick right in her face before munching on it.

Tera hands the oblivious SHOPKEEPER some money.

Nearby, Masa and Kimiko walk arm and arm through the festival. Other FESTIVAL GOERS gawk at the couple in awe.

FESTIVAL GOER

They're like a fantasy couple.

FESTIVAL GOER 2

I can't tell who's luckier.

They walk right up to Tera as she watches Nuki try to scoop goldfish with a paper net.

MASA

Fancy seeing you here, Tera.

TERA

(stale)

Masa. Kimiko.

MASA

Kimiko has a performance on the main stage. You should come.

TERA

You know I would love to but I'm actually really busy.

KIMIKO

Oh, don't be like that Tera. If you want, I can bring you onstage.

TERA

And embarrass myself? No thanks. Unlike some people, I don't crave attention.

Kimiko's offended but it's Masa who chimes in.

MASA

There's no need to be rude.

TERA

Yeah, yeah. Go flap your fish lips somewhere else.

Masa frowns and steers Kimiko away, touching his lips self-consciously.

When they leave, Tera deflates and smacks herself in the forehead.

TERA (CONT'D)

(exasperated)

What am I doing?

NUKI

I got one!

Nuki holds up his net with a goldfish on the last bit of paper. It flops its tail and falls back into the pond.

EXT. FESTIVAL ENTRANCE - SAME

Hulking footsteps stomp through the gates to the festival. People move out of the way for a pair of red horns that tower over the crowd.

The red-skinned ONI dons a spiked club on its back. Its loud BREATHING is almost a growl as it scans the stalls for its target.

ICHIRO (29), the village idiot turned *samurai* steps in front of the Oni.

ICHIRO

Oi! Can't you read the sign? No weapons in the festival.

The Oni looks down at him and GROWLS.

ICHIRO (CONT'D)
I don't know how you made that
costume so convincing, but you
don't scare me.

Ichiro touches the hilt of his sword.

The Oni leans down and SNIFFS Ichiro.

ONI POV:

The scent of his soul is a murky green.

END POV.

The Oni wrinkles his nose in disgust and swats Ichiro aside.

He goes flying into one of the stalls.

Nearby festival goers stand shocked for a moment before one
of them SCREAMS. They all go into a panic.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS: MAIN STAGE - SAME

The spotlight shines on Kimiko as she begins her performance.
Stringed *koto* instruments accompany her. Festival goers watch
in awe as Kimiko flits gracefully across the stage.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS: NEARBY CANOPY - SAME

Tera watches dejectedly from afar, stuffing *dango* under a sad-
faced demon mask.

Nuki finishes up his last *takoyaki* and lets out a loud BELCH.

 NUKI
Now that was delicious.

 TERA
I should've stayed at the shop.

 NUKI
And miss all this good food?

Nuki eyes the unfinished *dango* in her hand.

SIGHING, Tera hands it over.

 TERA
Let's just go.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS: MAIN STAGE - SAME

Kimiko takes her final pose and the crowd erupts into APPLAUSE.

Kimiko beams at the crowd. She blows a kiss to Masa who cheers her on.

She turns around to head off stage but bumps right into a tall, red figure.

KIMIKO
(annoyed)
Excuse me--

The figure picks her up with a huge clawed hand and hoists her into the air. The crowd GASPS in horror.

It brings her right to its face, giving her a perfect view of its razor sharp teeth.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS: NEARBY CANOPY - SAME

Tera stands up to leave when--

KIMIKO (O.S.)
Help me!

ONI (O.S.)
ROOOOAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRR!

Tera sees people fleeing from the stage and Kimiko dangling helplessly in the Oni's grasp.

Nuki tugs at Tera's sleeve.

NUKI
Time to go Tera.

TERA
Wait!

Tera spots Masa fighting his way through the crowd to Kimiko.

Without a second thought, she grabs a handful of *takoyaki* and makes a run for him.

NUKI
Tera no!
(beat)
Not the *takoyaki*!

Panicked, Nuki turns and runs the other way.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS: MAIN STAGE - SAME

The Oni takes a big whiff of Kimiko.

ONI POV:

The scent of her soul is a light blue aura around her.

END POV.

It smiles as she tries to squirm and pound at its fist in vain.

MASA (O.S.)

Hey! Let her go!

Masa smashes one of the *koto* instruments into the Oni's leg. It breaks without leaving a scratch. He looks up at the Oni.

MASA (CONT'D)

Uh oh.

Masa is backhanded into a food stand.

The Oni opens its mouth wide. A blue orb from inside Kimiko appears and starts traveling up from her chest and out of her mouth.

Before the Oni can consume the orb, a *takoyaki* smacks it in the face.

TERA

Eat this!

The Oni GROWLS at Tera who hits it again and again with *takoyaki* balls.

It drops Kimiko and approaches Tera instead.

Tera runs out of *takoyaki* and looks around frantically for something else to throw.

The Oni is upon her. She can smell the reek of its breath.

Tera tries to keep her legs from shaking as she puts on a brave face.

The Oni leans down to sniff her.

ONI POV:

Tera emits little color. Her soul is very faint, barely perceptible.

END POV.

ONI
(perplexed)
HMMMM.

The Oni spies Tera's necklace and is just about to reach for it when--

OTOUSAN (O.S.)
Don't you dare lay a hand on my daughter.

SLICE!

The Oni ROARS in pain as Oτουςan cuts a line down its back, gleaming sword in hand.

OTOUSAN (CONT'D)
Tera, get out of here!

The Oni whirls to face Oτουςan who stares it down.

They size each other up before Oτουςan strikes, quick as a snake, making precise cuts all around the Oni's body.

The Oni staggers back and grips its spiked club. When Oτουςan charges again, it swings, batting him across the other side of the stage.

EXT. CITY STREETS - SAME

Tera and Kimiko help Masa up.

KIMIKO
(to Tera)
Thank you for saving me.

She hugs Tera, who's a little surprised.

TERA
Yeah, don't mention it.

Tera makes eye contact with Masa who gives her a meaningful look.

ONI
ROAAARRRRRRRR!

The Oni charges them full speed.

The three freeze in place, like deer in the headlights.

Tera braces for impact.

SHINK!

A sword pierces through the belly of the Oni.

It slows to a stop and looks down at the blade in its gut.

A moment later, the blades pulls out and the Oni topples to the ground. Otousan stands behind it, breathing hard, sword in hand.

TERA

Otousan!

Tera runs over to him.

OTOUSAN

Tera, are you hurt?

TERA

No, I'm fine. That was amazing.

OTOUSAN

We'll talk about it later. Let's get you all out of here.

Otousan looks back toward the Oni, but its already gone.

His face is grave but he puts an arm around Tera's shoulder and lets her lead him away.

From a distance, the injured Oni hides, clutching its stomach and watching Otousan by Tera's side.

ONI POV:

Otousan's aura shines a bright blue.

END POV.

INT. TERA'S HOUSE: DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Tera helps Otousan and Jii-chan set the table with bowls of noodles, tea cups and chopsticks.

Her *bokken* sword sits against the wall nearby.

She pours the tea for Otousan and Jii-chan. The trio sit and begin to eat. Tera quietly HUMS to herself.

Nuki quickly swipes an extra bowl from the kitchen counter and scurries off.

Jii-chan SIPs his tea.

Otousan pokes around his food for a bit. He eventually sets down his chopsticks and looks up at Tera, who's still HUMMING. She catches his gaze and stops.

TERA

Soooo...when are you gonna teach me some of those moves?

OTOUSAN

What?

TERA

Like the one where you sliced the Oni's body--

Otousan cuts off her excited chatter.

OTOUSAN

--No one is slicing anything.

Tera falls silent.

OTOUSAN (CONT'D)

Tera, what you did--

TERA

--I know.

(mimicking Otousan)

What you did today was very dangerous. You can't be so reckless--

-

OTOUSAN

--Then why did you go? Why didn't you run at the first sign of trouble?

TERA

Because people could have died!

OTOUSAN

And you would've died with them!

TERA

But I didn't.

OTOUSAN

Because I got there in time. What if Nuki warned me too late? What would've happened to you?

Tera sits there in silence, for once having nothing to say.

OTOUSAN (CONT'D)
I won't let you take that risk
again.

Otousan stands and walks over to Tera's wooden sword. Next to it on the wall is the same picture of Tera and her family.

TERA
(worried)
What are you doing?

A pained expression on his face, Otousan picks up the sword and SNAPS it over his knee.

Tera sits at the table in shock as the broken pieces CLATTER to the floor.

Otousan sits back down and continues eating.

Tera stands, throws down her chopsticks and storms out.

Jii-chan continues SIPPING his tea.

INT./EXT. TREEHOUSE - NIGHT

Tera lies on the floor of the treehouse, staring at the wall.

A small oil lamp flickers beside her.

Nuki curls up nearby.

NUKI
Are you gonna sulk here all night?
Because I'm getting hungry again.

Tera continues staring at the wall.

Nuki hops down next to the broken sword. He grabs the two pieces and tries jamming them together. He holds the sword up, fixed.

NUKI (CONT'D)
Ta da!

The sword splinters in half again. Nuki deflates and tosses it aside.

NUKI (CONT'D)
C'mon, you can't be this upset over
a piece of junk like that.

TERA
I'm not upset.

NUKI

And I'm not a magical talking
raccoon dog with--hold on a second.

POOF! Nuki CLAPS his hands and a cloud of smoke engulfs him.

NUKI (CONT'D)

Webbed feet!

He wiggles a newly transformed pair of duck feet in Tera's
face.

Tera is unmoved.

NUKI (CONT'D)

Okay, how about--

Nuki CLAPS again and shape-shifts into a *tanuki*-colored duck.
He waddles around, QUACKING.

TERA

I just wish Otousan would stop
treating me like a child.

Nuki stops and transforms back.

NUKI

He's only trying to protect you.

TERA

Then why can't he teach me to
protect myself?

NUKI

He has his reasons.

Tera stands.

TERA

If I had my way, I would train
until I was the greatest warrior
the world has ever seen.

Nuki stares at Tera intently.

Wide shot of the treehouse and Tera standing, fist clenched
in front of her.

Nuki SNORTS.

TERA (CONT'D)

I'm being serious Nuki!

NUKI

No, I know. You're Tera. You'll get there. One day.

TERA

One day.

Tera looks out at the village.

TERA (CONT'D)

I never thought I'd see a real demon up close. I thought they were all made-up like Jii-chan's stories.

NUKI

Oh they're real all right. And nasty. Real nasty.

TERA

Do you think it's dead? Do demons disappear when they die?

NUKI

Some do.

TERA

Well I hope this is one of them.

NUKI

Me too.

Nuki gazes out as well with a worried expression.

FADE TO:

INT./EXT. TREEHOUSE - LATER

Tera lays down on a blanket, eyes closed. Nuki sits beside her, PLAYING a Japanese folk song on a *shakuhachi* flute.

Even after he stops blowing into the flute, the notes continue to PLAY as he begins to SING.

INSERT - OIL LAMP

The flame of the oil lamp wanes as it nears its last few minutes.

Nuki's voice fades as the MUSIC slowly transitions to a more ominous track with the same melody. The rhythmic beating of DRUMS grows LOUDER and LOUDER.

Focusing on the flame, we...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ONI CAVE - NIGHT

A makeshift campfire CRACKLES in the center of the cave.

Sitting beside it, the Oni GRUNTS as it wraps a rough piece of cloth around its stomach wound.

The bonfire grows. HISAN (8888), appears as a flaming demon face in the center. Its mouth moves, but we do not hear it speak.

The Oni GRUNTS in reply.

The flaming face of Hisan flickers violently.

The Oni stares at its injury for a moment before speaking.

ONI
Yes, Master.

The bonfire expands into a column of flame before dying back down into a small campfire.

The Oni turns, SNIFFING the air. It stares back out toward the village with narrowed eyes.

INT. TERA'S HOUSE: TERA'S ROOM - NIGHT

A bit of moonlight leaks through the bamboo window, gently illuminating the otherwise dark room.

Tera sleeps soundly on her *futon*. Nuki SNORES softly beside her.

For the briefest of moments, the shadow of the Oni crosses over the room.

Nuki shifts around in his sleep, but does not wake.

INT. TERA'S HOUSE: OTOUSAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Otousan and Jii-chan lay asleep, side-by-side on adjacent *futons* of their own.

The Oni's shadow passes over them.

EXT. TERA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A single bush outside the house makes a low RUSTLE.

INT. TERA'S HOUSE: TERA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Tera wakes to the sound and she instinctively sits upright. Her head turns to the window and she gets up to peer out.

She sees nothing.

Nuki wakes and rubs his eyes. He sees Tera by the window.

NUKI

(whisper)

What are you doing?

TERA

(whisper)

Shhh.

She cautiously creeps toward the door, grabbing a small lantern. She puts her ear by the door and listens.

A faint CLANK emanates from the kitchen.

A push and the door CREAKS open to reveal:

INT. TERA'S HOUSE: LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is empty.

Tera steps out, holding her lantern in front of her. It casts a dim, yellow light across the space.

Tera looks around, but still sees nothing. She stops again to listen, but only hears the rhythmic TRILLS of cicadas outside.

Tera slowly makes her way to:

INT. TERA'S HOUSE: KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

She shines her lantern across the counter. Everything seems to be in place, untouched. Except...

A pan. Laying upside down on the ground. As if it had been knocked off its hook.

Tera bends down to pick it up and sees--a muddy footprint.

She bolts up just as she hears Otousan SHOUT.

OTOUSAN (O.S.)
The sword!

Suddenly, a sickening THUD from Otousan's room.

OTOUSAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
JII-CHAN!

Tera runs to the door and swings it open.

INT. TERA'S HOUSE: OTOUSAN'S ROOM

The room is a mess. Furniture damaged, paintings torn, *futons* ripped to shreds.

Jii-chan lays unconscious up against the wall. Beside him, a smashed table.

Otousan stands face-to-face with the Oni, wielding a bamboo stick as he attempts to fend off the intruder.

The Oni SNARLS and bares its claws.

TERA
Otousan!

Otousan barely deflects a swipe from the Oni as it closes in on him.

Another parry, but this time the Oni's claws carve off a chunk of the bamboo stick. Otousan staggers back.

JII-CHAN
(weakly)
Tera...

TERA
Jii-chan! Are you alright?

Otousan swings what's left of the stick. The Oni catches it and wrenches it from his grasp.

JII-CHAN
The sword...

Jii-chan points to a sword hilt sticking out from underneath the broken table.

Tera pulls away splintered wood and wrenches the sword free.

The Oni swings again and again. Otousan dodges, but the Oni lands a kick that sends him tumbling back against a cabinet.

Otousan coughs weakly.

JII-CHAN (CONT'D)
Tera, go. We'll be fine.

Instead of listening, Tera rushes forward, drawing the sword and swinging it at the Oni's arm.

It ricochets off the Oni's skin and it turns, shoving Tera back against the wall, knocking her into a daze.

OTOUSAN
Tera!

Nuki appears in the doorway, taking in the scene. Seeing Tera, he rushes to her side.

JII-CHAN
(to Nuki)
Take her.

Nuki nods at Jii-chan. He SNAPS his fingers and turns into a gorilla. Nuki grabs the sword and Tera and heads for the door.

Tera fights Nuki but he holds her firm. She watches helplessly as the Oni slowly approaches Otousan. It picks him up and opens its mouth.

Otousan shudders as his bright blue soul orb begins to flow out of his chest and into the Oni.

It floats into the Oni's mouth causing the Oni's eyes to flare blue.

Soulless, Otousan's body dissipates into the air.

TERA
Noooo!!

Jii-chan gives Nuki a weak nod through the doorway as he closes the door behind them.

TERA (CONT'D)
(broken)
No.

Tears roll down Tera's face. She reaches a hand out toward the house as she's carried away into the night.

FADE TO:

EXT. SAISEI FOREST - NIGHT

Nuki stops to catch his breath in the dense, dark woods. He squints as he tries to make sense of his location. The only light in the area comes from a small lantern around his neck.

Tera takes the opportunity to wrestle her way off Nuki's shoulder and grab the sword from him.

NUKI

What are you doing?

TERA

Going back to save them.

NUKI

You're not strong enough.

TERA

I don't care. I have to try.

Nuki gets in front of her.

NUKI

Tera, wait.

Nuki pulls out a letter and hands it to her, holding his tiny lantern out for her to see.

TERA

We don't have time--

Tera tries to sidestep him but he blocks her.

NUKI

It's from Otousan.

Tera takes it and opens the letter.

OTOUSAN (V.O.)

Tera, if you're reading this, it means I failed. Now, you're left with the burden of forging your own path.

Tera throws down the letter.

TERA

I don't want to read that.

Nuki picks it up and hands it back to her.

NUKI

I know. But Otousan insisted.

Tera stares at Nuki. He pleads with her silently. Tera takes the letter again.

OTOUSAN (V.O.)

If the demons have returned, this attack will not be the last. Go through the forest. There is a man called the Blacksmith in a village to the west. Find him. He will set you on the right track.

Tera grips the letter so hard, it crinkles the edges.

OTOUSAN

I had hoped you would never need to be a warrior, but I always knew you were.

Tera's hands shake at the last sentence, but she tucks the note in her pocket and looks back at Nuki.

She wipes the tears from her face.

NUKI

Tera, your father is not lost.

TERA

What do you mean?

NUKI

His soul is still alive.

TERA

Then what are we waiting for?

Tera grabs the sword and straps it to her back.

She starts heading off into the forest.

NUKI

Where are you going now?

TERA

To find the Blacksmith. I'll need all the help I can get if I'm gonna pummel this Oni into the ground.

Nuki smiles. That's the Tera he knows.

EXT. SAISEI FOREST - SAME

Wide overhead of Tera and Nuki on their way.

NUKI
So, which way is west?

TERA
I have no idea.

FADE TO BLACK.

ROLL CREDITS.

TAG

END CREDITS.

FADE IN:

EXT. SAISEI FOREST - NIGHT

The Oni lies dead on the forest floor.

A HOODED FIGURE swings a massive black *nodachi* sword over its back and crouches down.

It reaches a hand over the Oni and Otousan's blue orb flows from its body into the Hooded Figure. A puff of energy, and once more its right eye flares blue.

A moment later, the Hooded Figure stands back up and looks out toward the dark forest. The moon overhead shines with a slightly blue hue.

FADE TO BLACK.

END PILOT.