

Broken Fall

By

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Ozu's Films

EXT. WHITEHEAD CAMPUS CENTER - DAYTIME

The scene is at Haverford College's Campus Center. We see a wide shot of the building.

Cut to a shot of the patio outside the Coop. We see a sign of the Coop.

INT. COOP

We cut to inside the Coop where ERI sits alone at a table. She's wearing plain clothing. She has some books on the table. The viewer can see a big "Organic Chemistry" letters on the spine of one of the textbooks.

KEN enters from the left side of the camera. He is holding sushi and a bottle of Pepsi.

KEN
(in a blunt tone)
Are you not getting anything?

ERI
No, I'm good. I'm not really hungry.

Ken begins eating with overdramatic chewing sounds. Eri is seen glancing up sheepishly, while continuing to do homework.

KEN
(Really enthusiastically)
You sure are working hard! You deserve a vacation. I'm going to California for fall break. You should definitely come along.

ERI
(Reserved, forcing a smile)
Oh, no. I don't think I can- I, uh,- have a really big midterm after break and I have to study, ya know. And- yeah.
(looks quickly back to her books)

Shot of the Pepsi bottle.

Shot of sushi. Shot of price of sushi.

Shot of Eri's eyes squinting.

(CONTINUED)

KEN

Oh, yea. Your mom is coming today right? You must be really excited.

ERI

(Forcing a smile)

Yes, I am. I haven't seen her in a while. She doesn't get to travel that often, even though we don't live that far.

Ken nods and continues eating.

Shot of a clock. We see Eri looking at it expectantly.

ERI

Oh, it's time. My mother is coming.

Eri begins packing up her books in a hurry.

KEN

See you later. You should take your mom out to a nice restaurant. It will be fun!

ERI

(fidgety)

I'll consider it.

Ken eats one last sushi in THE most dramatic way possible.

KEN

DELICIOUS!

EXT. OUTSIDE ERI'S DORM- DAYTIME

The scene begins with YUKIKO, Eri's mother, walking out of a parking lot towards the camera. She stops and begins waving to someone off camera.

Cut to Eri, also in the distance, waving back.

Cut to bench surrounded by trees. Yukiko and Eri enter from the right side and sit down.

ERI

It's been a long time. How have you been? How was the trip?

(CONTINUED)

YUKIKO

I'm well. The bus was a bit crowded
but I was able to get a seat.

ERI

Oh, I see.

YUKIKO

You changed your hairstyle. How
fashionable! Have you attracted
any boys with it?

ERI

(embarrassed)

No, no. Not yet.

The two sit in silence for a bit, averting their gazes.

Cut to empty swings.

Shot of the trees.

Return to the two sitting.

ERI

So what brings you here? You've
never visited before. Is
everything okay?

YUKIKO

(In a dismissive tone)

Oh, I just needed to talk to you
about something.

ERI

Okay then. I'll show you my room
and we can talk there.

Eri and Yukiko walk off camera.

Multiple Shots of the empty bench.

INT. ERI'S DORM ROOM- MIDDAY

The scene begins inside the empty dorm room. Eri and Yukiko
enter through the door and turn on the lights. Eri takes a
seat. Yukiko picks up a shirt, folds it, sits down. Yukiko
starts hand dusting things around her.

YUKIKO

(in a motherly tone)

You have to clean up
better. Remember to fold your

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

YUKIKO (cont'd)
laundry. It's not lady like to
have wrinkled clothing.

Eri nods in agreement, submissively.

ERI
Would you like something to drink?

YUKIKO
No, I'm alright.

The two sit in silence. Shot of Maneki-neko statue.

Shot of a TV with a "Out of order" sign on it.

Shot of a laptop with a "rental" sticker on it.

ERI
(in a worried tone)
So, what's up?

YUKIKO
(With the utmost urgency)
I talked with your father and we
have decided that you need to take
some time off.

ERI
(goes pale and face drops)
What?

YUKIKO
(In a matter of fact tone)
Your father has lost his job. He
tried really hard to find work,
but, nowadays, things are too
tight. So we simply can't afford to
send you here anymore. Come home
for a bit, find a job, and save up
some money. Then you can return to
finish your studies.

ERI
(Becoming increasingly
agitated)
I don't understand. I'm so close to
finishing. I'm the leader of so
many clubs! What about all my
friends? I'm happy here!

(CONTINUED)

YUKIKO

It's already been decided. I already started preparing your room. You're gonna love the new sheets our neighbors gave us.

ERI

(Diverting her eyes)

Is that so?

YUKIKO

You're gonna have to start packing. We'll need to find some boxes to move the stuff out. Ask some of your friends if they can help bring this back home. Okay?

Yukiko stands up in a hurry. Heads towards the door, but stops to look back at Eri.

YUKIKO

I have to hurry back now for work. I'll be back in a week to help you move out. I know it's hard, but you'll be okay in the end.

Close up of Eri. The sound of the door closing reverberates.

Eri gets up, moves to a different seat. Puts her face in her hands and begins to sob, and sob, and sob.

EXT. WHITEHEAD CAMPUS CENTER - DAYTIME

A few days later. The scene is at Haverford College's Campus Center. We see a wide shot of the building.

Cut to a shot of the patio outside the Coop. We see a sign of the Coop.

INT. COOP

We cut to inside the Coop where Eri sits alone at a table. She's wearing plain clothing. She sits with nothing on the table. She sighs repeatedly.

Ken enters from the left side of the camera. He is holding sushi and a bottle of Pepsi. During the entire conversation, Ken will be eating sushi.

(CONTINUED)

KEN

You sure you don't want anything? It might you feel better.

Ken extends the sushi invitingly. Eri doesn't look up.

ERI

(Weakly)

I'm good, thanks.

KEN

(attempting to be encouraging)

You know, you don't HAVE to drop out. There are other options. I'm sure of it! Just tell your mom you're gonna take out a bunch of loans. Everyone's doing it.

ERI

(shaking her head)

But, I would be in so much debt. I would never be able to pay it off. Everything is happening so suddenly.

KEN

You can't quit now! You're a part of so many things. Plus, you've always wanted to be a pharmacist. I see how hard you study. Don't give up on your dreams!

ERI

(apathetically)

I guess I can return some day. Once I have more money...

KEN

Ahhh, either way you'll be fine. I know it!

Ken eats one last sushi in THE most dramatic way possible.

KEN

DELICIOUS!

INT. OUTSIDE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The scene begins with a shot of two large doors.

Cut to a sign that reads "Career Development." Eri walks out thanking the people inside as she exits. She has a bag over her shoulder and is holding many papers.

Cut to the papers that read "Job Listings."

Eri approaches a window and looks out longingly. She then takes out her cell phone and holds it up to her ear.

ERI

Hi, Mom. Yes, I'm ready.

Cut to stairwell door with Eri on the left side. Eri puts away her phone. Takes a deep breath. Walks towards the door and begins walking down stairs. Sound of footsteps echo loudly.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END