

ying ying^{20.}

The black SUV ROARS up next to the food truck. Paces him for a beat. Cuts in front and SLAMS on the brakes. Kai swerves. The damn food truck almost tipping over.

Kai LOOKS IN THE REARVIEW to SEE the SUV closing the gap. Kai reaches for a lever. YANKS it.

BENEATH THE TRUCK, the grease trap FLAPS OPEN. Grease dumps onto the pavement.

The SUV's tires hit the grease.

Scene 1

Kai WATCHES IN THE REARVIEW as the SUV SPINS OUT. He cranks a turn, SPEEDS up a narrow street. HE CHECKS THE REARVIEW.

KA-THUMP! Shit. He hit something.

STAY WITH KAI as the collision sends the food truck crashing up onto the curb, coming to a wrenching stop. And...

The truck is up on its driver's side wheels and TIPPING OVER.

KAI

Shit!

Kai holds on to the wheel as the truck slowly TIPS OVER onto its side with a metal-grating CRASH!

25 EXT. NARROW STREET - DAY

25

Kai climbs out of the food truck, runs back to a body lying face down in the gutter. A young woman. Shit. Fuck.

Kai pulls out his cell. Dials 911 as the woman stirs.

Stay →

KAI

Don't move.

The woman rolls over. Meet YING YING, 24, Chinese.

YING YING

(in Mandarin)

Hang up.

(off his look; in
Indonesian)

Hang up.

KAI

Stay still.

YING YING

(in English)

I said hang up.

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KAI

Yeah, but. I --

He looks back at the truck. To her. She *can't* be all right.
She stands up.

YING YING

I've been looking for you, Kai.

He stands. Disconnects the call. Fuck struck.

Ying Ying places an old chunk of tortoise shell in his hand.
He LOOKS at it. Turns it over. The underside is inscribed
with Ancient Chinese characters.

YING YING

(portentous)

It's called the Monk Piece.

The Chinese characters on the Monk Piece LIFT UP and OFF the
shell, and in a supernatural display, the characters SWIM and
SWIRL over Kai's body, bathing him in a golden aura.

Kai stumbles back as the golden aura collects itself into a
stream and enters his body through his chest. Over his heart.
Gone. Along with the Monk Piece.

A moment later, Kai and Ying Ying disappear.

26 INT. THE TEMPLE OF THE GOLDEN DRAGON - DAY

26

Kai TUMBLES INTO FRAME and SLIDES across the temple floor,
coming to a HARD STOP against a pillar. Shit. That hurt.

He gets to his feet. LOOKS around. He's in an Ancient Chinese
temple.

He stumble-walks into the center of the round temple. Open
sides with views of distant mountains. Twelve dragon pillars
hold it up. Beneath his feet, an engraved floor with a clock
featuring the five Chinese elements.

Kai LOOKS up to the ceiling. A Chinese Sistine chapel. When
he looks down --

A magnificent Ancient Chinese Warlord dressed in blue
ceremonial armor steps out from behind a pillar. And faces
Kai. This is the WATER WU.

The Water Wu raises his hand, palm up. An orb of angry,
swirling water, about the size of a basketball, materializes.
The Water Wu takes a step toward him and --

Another Chinese Warlord, the EARTH WU, in his yellow ceremonial armor, steps out from behind a second pillar. A quaking terrestrial orb materializes in his palm. He steps toward Kai as --

The green WOOD WU steps out from behind a pillar. An orb of gnarled, intertwining vines materializes in his palm. He steps forward as --

The white METAL WU, a gleaming orb of metals and spikes materializing in his palm, steps out from behind a fourth pillar. Steps toward Kai as --

The FIRE WU, red ceremonial armor, steps out from behind a fifth pillar. Holds his hand up, palm heavenward. An orb of crackling firestorm materializes.

DOWN ANGLE on Kai in the center of the Temple, the circle of Wu Warlords advancing. Closing in on him.

BACK TO KAI. He spins -- no way out.

The Warlords stop. The Water Wu steps forward --

And lobs the orb at Kai. The ball ENVELOPS Kai in a water-cocoon. Kai spins and turns and fights to get out of the cocoon. It's unbreakable. And inescapable. He's drowning.

He SEES Ying Ying outside the cocoon. She just stares at him. Kai lets loose an UNDERWATER SCREAM. Ying Ying draws two ceremonial daggers from behind her back. SLICES OPEN the cocoon.

Kai falls to the floor in a deluge of water. He chokes and coughs and struggles for breath. Gets to his feet. LOOKS around -- the Wu Warlords are gone.

Continue → YING YING
Can you fight?

KAI
What? Look, I --

Ying Ying strikes him. Knocking him back.

YING YING
I said, can you fight?

She attacks him with a combination of PUNCHES. He BLOCKS, but then a LEG SWEEP takes him down. She looms over him in her armor.

YING YING
Let me tell you a story.

↓
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He tries to get up. But her foot on his chest keeps him down.

Kai SEES the ceiling COME TO LIFE. Ancient Chinese painting animates a scroll that moves across the ceiling, the images depicting the story Ying Ying tells us --

YING YING (V.O.)

kyi
About a period of great chaos and suffering. When men corrupted by the power of the Wu waged war on the world, laying waste to villages, towns, and cities.

WE SEE the five Wu Warlords in their colored ceremonial armor. Backed by their armies, laying waste to towns, villages, and cities.

YING YING (V.O.)

Death and destruction flowed from their blades. Rot from their loins. Leaving the world awash in blood.

WE SEE a thousand monks gathered in the Temple. Kneeling as one in prayer.

YING YING (V.O.)

Finally, a thousand holy monks were called upon by the desperate citizens to empower with strength, wisdom, and supernatural fighting skills, a chosen one.

WE SEE a solitary soul rise amidst the thousand gathered monks.

YING YING (V.O.)

To do battle with the warlords and their soldiers. This sacred warrior was called the Wu Assassin.

An historical timeline takes us to 2019. Dissolves into a map of North America. Dives down to San Francisco. And HOLDS.

YING YING (V.O.)

Since that time, the Wu Powers have been visited upon many cultures.

WE SEE images of cultures known for their barbarity, among the more notable -- the Mongols; the Romans; The Crusaders; The Nazis; The Red Army.

YING YING (V.O.)

They've been traded. Fought over. Lost. Stolen. Bargained for.

(MORE)

YING YING (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Dreamed of. Cursed. And killed for.
And they still exist today.

WE SEE more images of less obvious evil doings -- hurricanes;
earthquakes; wildfires; bombs leveling cities.

YING YING (V.O.)
The holders of the Wu powers are
converging on San Francisco. They
will, if you let them, destroy your
world. As they did mine.

WE SEE images of political assassinations; over-crowded
prisons; corrupt politicians; suicide bombings; immigrant
detention centers; school shootings; the poor and homeless.

Continue →

YING YING (V.O.)
You are the new Wu Assassin, Kai.

KAI
What? No.

He tries to get up. She presses him down with her foot.

YING YING
You must open your eyes. See the
world for what it is. See *them* for
who they are. Find them. Kill them.

KAI
No. You got the wrong guy. I'm not
a killer.

YING YING
You are. You must be. Or say
goodbye to the world you know. And
everyone you love.
(off his look)
I'm telling you the truth.
(off his look)
Go see for yourself.

/Stop

She stomps his chest, drives him down through the floor.

27 INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

27

Fluorescent lights in the ceiling COME INTO FOCUS as we ROLL
BENEATH THEM.

Kai on a gurney. Being shuttled down the corridor by
ORDERLIES and a NURSE.

The SOUND of breaking glass. Kai LOOKS up as --

MR. YOUNG, 60, kindly neighborhood grocer, purveyor of Confucian wisdom, LAUNCHES out of the 3rd floor window and DROPS like a drunken watermelon. FREEZE.

SMASH CUT TO:

40 INT. THE TEMPLE OF THE GOLDEN DRAGON - DAY

40

Kai, transported to the temple.

Start →

YING YING (O.S.)

You're back.

He spins around. Ying Ying walks out of the ether.

KAI

This isn't real. You're not real.

YING YING

You saw what I was talking about down there.

KAI

I saw the world. My world.

YING YING

You think I made all this up? Who do you think I am?

KAI

I have no idea.

YING YING

(off temple)

This is real. This place. What I'm talking about is real. If you're not ready, then --

KAI

-- I'm not a killer. I never will be, if that's what you need me to be.

YING YING

You hold the Monk Piece, Kai. Evil is attracted to it. Evil will find you now. If you don't kill it, it'll kill you. And not just you.

KAI

Find another way.

YING YING
(sarcastic)
Oh. Wish I'd thought of that.
(then)
There *is* no other way. The Wu
Assassin is a hero and a killer.
And you are the Wu Assassin.
(off his look)
But, you still have free will. You
can choose to let Mr. Young fall.
Let him die. He'll be the first.
What number you'll be, I don't
know.

15+00

SMASH CUT TO:

41 EXT. KAI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

ON THE CUT, Kai catches Mr. Young, glass RAINING DOWN on
them, saving the old man from certain death.

Mr. Young GROANS. He's badly beaten. Kai gently sets him
down, resting him against the building.

KAI
How many up there?

MR. YOUNG
Two more.

KAI
Stay here.

Kai heads for the door. Mr. Young also SEES him as the 50-
year old Chinese man.

MR. YOUNG
(bewildered)
Wait. Who are you?

How to answer that... when you're the savior of the world.

KAI
I'm a chef.

Chen and Cheng rush out of Kai's apartment building. Look at
their guys sprawled on the sidewalk -- the guys Kai laid out.

Chen and Cheng see Kai as the 50-year old man.

CHEN
Who did this? You?