

INT. CITY OF KARMA - ORPHANAGE - NIGHT

In the overrun orphanage where unwanted and orphaned children live, a young man lies on a pallet covered by a thin, dirty sheet, cold and alone in the windowless dark room on the top floor of the dilapidated building. He waits for the spirit of his long-dead sister to come to him.

KAZ, 17, a dark-haired, brooding young man that speaks to the spirit of Keira, his twin sister, who drowned at the age of 5.

KEIRA, 5, beautiful dark-haired child (in memory sequences). At present time she is 17, the same age as her twin brother.

INT. KAZ'S ROOM AT THE ORPHANAGE - NIGHT

Kaz closes his eyes and remembers the day his sister Keira died 12 years ago.

50 children sit on the dirt floor outside of the orphanage kitchen eating rice from bowls with their fingers. They aren't allowed to talk to each other or reach for anyone's food. The orphanage's house mother stands inside the warm kitchen doorway smoking a rolled cigarette, watching them eat with a stick in her hand.

Kaz and Keira whisper to each other so they don't get in trouble.

KAZ

Keira, are you still hungry?

KEIRA

I'm always hungry but you need to eat too,  
KK.

KAZ

Shh. Come closer to me. I saved you some.  
You are too small.

Keira starts to quietly cry and carefully slides closer to Kaz.

KEIRA

I love you KK.

KAZ

I love you too baby girl! We're going to get  
through this together, but you have to eat  
more. I'll be fine. Don't cry, just eat.  
Please eat.

KAZ AND KEIRA GET UP WITH  
THE OTHER CHILDREN AND  
PUT THEIR BOWLS IN A  
TROUGH OUTSIDE OF THE  
KITCHEN DOOR

INT. SITTING OUTSIDE UNDER A TREE IN THE YARD OF THE ORPHANAGE -  
AFTERNOON

It's a cold, damp day but 5-year-old Kaz and Keira don't want to stay inside where it's crowded and dirty. They go to their favorite spot behind the orphanage where they like to hide.

KEIRA

KK. I miss Mama. Do you think she sees us from heaven?

KAZ

I don't know. Maybe she'd be sad if she saw us. She wouldn't like us to be here. Do you remember how it used to be? Mama loved on us all the time, and we always had lots of food and a warm house. I loved spending time with her in the kitchen when she cooked those sugar cookies.

Kaz sighs and puts his arm around Keria.

KEIRA

I remember but sometimes it's hard to see her face. I don't want her to go away KK.

KAZ

You look so much like her Keira. Me too, I guess. We can't leave this place, but maybe one day someone will come for us. We have each other. We'll always be together Keira. Don't worry. I will take care of you. No matter what.

KEIRA

I know you will KK.

Kaz stands up and holds out his hand to Keira.

KAZ

Let's go have some fun. What do you want to do?

KEIRA

Can we please, please go and see the fish?

KAZ

You know we can't go to the pond without a teacher. Think of something else.

KEIRA

Please! The fish are hungry too. Let's look in the trash for some food for them. The big orange goldfish loves to kiss my fingers. Please KK!

KAZ

Ok, let's go. You know the gate is always locked but if you want to just walk down there, maybe we can throw some food over the fence. Nothing else though, OK Keira?

Keira doesn't answer Kaz. She smiles up at him instead.

KAZ AND KEIRA WALK TO THE  
BACK OF THE ORPHANAGE  
WHERE THE TRASH IS KEPT.

They look through the trash bin to find leftover food to feed the fish. They look around to make sure no one is watching them.

Keira and Kaz hold hands and sneak down to the Koi Pond. They are happy to see that the gate to the fence around the Koi Pond is open. Keira runs to the side of the Koi pond and laughs as she leans over the slippery rocks, trailing her little fingers in the cold water. She reaches out with a piece of stale bread, trying to get the Koi to come to the surface.

CLOSE UP ON KEIRA

KEIRA

Look KK! The big goldfish likes me. Watch! She's going to come up and kiss my hand.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

Shh! Don't move KK. She's shy. Just wait. She's looking up at the bread.

PAN OUT TO KAZ AND KEIRA

KAZ

Just drop the bread! You're getting all wet  
and those rocks are slimy and slippery.  
We're going to get in trouble!

KEIRA

Wait KK! She's almost here! I just need to  
get a little bit closer to her. Just a  
little bit more""

Keira reaches too far over the slippery rocks and quietly slips into the water, still trying to reach the fish as she disappears under the dark pond water. It happens quickly. There is a slight ripple in the dark water as Kaz calls out to her searching frantically for her, but nothing is there. Just the Koi eating the bread that had been in Keira's hand.

KAZ SCREAMS KEIRA'S NAME  
AND FALLS TO THE GROUND  
ROLLING IN AGONY.

## SCENE TWO

INT. IN PRESENT TIME BACK IN KAZ'S ROOM - NIGHT

Laying on his pallet, Kaz smiles grimly at the horrific memory. Keira was taken from him, but not forever. Kaz found her again, so he smiles when he thinks of her now.

Keira is more real to him than anything in the physical world. She lives somewhere caught between the living and the dead. She is more 'real' than people who are alive. She is eternal.

Kaz suddenly sits up and waits expectantly. He senses Keira's spiritual energy in his room. He closes his eyes and smiles. She is there with him.

KAZ

I was just thinking about you.

KEIRA

I know. That's why I'm here KK.

KAZ

I've missed you this past week. Where have  
you been? You know I don't like it when  
you're gone for too long.

KEIRA

I miss you too, even if I was just here a week ago! Don't worry. Time has no beginning or end in my world. You know I'll always come when I feel your soul reaching out to me.

KEIRA

Remember, our promise to each other. 'Always together. Twins forever and ever.

Kaz stands up and draws Keira into a big hug. Her beautiful face looks up to his so much like her own. He cups her face and kisses her cheeks, then reaches to twirl a lock of long black hair that fell over her shoulder. His smile is bittersweet.

KAZ

Well, in my world time stands still when you're gone, so keep that in mind brat! I'll be leaving this place soon. It's time. I guess I've stayed here so long because this is the last place we were together as children. Strange, but as much as I hate this place, I just couldn't leave because I was afraid that you may not be able to go with me.

KEIRA

I'm going with you wherever you decide to go! We're going to grow old together KK. Or, you will anyway! I'm going to stay young and beautiful forever. Twins forever, remember?

Kaz smiles and takes Keira's hand, turning it over in his palm. He kisses her upturned hand and traces her lifeline.

KAZ

You know what? I know you're right, and I am so glad that you are. Being with you and worrying about you all these years has kept me sane! Even though you're still a little brat! I wouldn't change anything about you.

KAZ

Where next, Brat!