

## Ch. 4 - The Enemy

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(Servants of Dr. Sadao left him after the surgery of American Soldier, and other happenings):

On the seventh day after that, two things happened. In the morning the servants left together, their belongings tied in large square cotton kerchiefs. When Hana got up in the morning nothing was done, the house not cleaned and the food not prepared, and she knew what it meant. She was dismayed and even terrified, but her pride as a mistress would not allow her to show it. Instead, she inclined her head gracefully when they appeared before her in the kitchen, and she paid them off and thanked them for all that they had done for her. They were crying, but she did not cry. The cook and the gardener had served Sadao since he was a little boy in his father's house, and Yumi cried because of the children. She was so grieving that after she had gone she ran back to Hana.

Kerchief: square piece of cloth

Dismayed: shocked

Mistress: a woman in a position of authority or control

Inclined: bent towards one side

Grieving: in a state of sadness

*On the seventh day after that two things happened. The servants of the house left in the morning. They had tied their belongings in huge pieces of cloth. When Hana got up in the morning, she saw that the work had not been done – the house was dirty, and the food had not been cooked. She realized that the servants were up to something. She was shocked and horrified when she came to know that the servants were leaving. Hana did not show her feelings to the servants, instead she remained calm and maintained her grace as the lady of the house. She paid the servants and thanked them for their services. As the servants had been working there for many years, they were crying but Hana did not cry. The cook and the gardener were very old employees. They had been employed by Sadao's father and had served Sadao since his childhood. Yumi was crying because she would miss the children. She was so sad that she ran up to Hana after she had left.*

“If the baby misses me too much tonight, send for me. I am going to my own house and you know where it is.”

“Thank you,” Hana said smiling. But she told herself she would not send for Yumi however the baby cried.

*Yumi said to Hana that if the baby missed her at night she could call her. She further added that she was going to her own house and Hana knew where her house was. Hana smiled and thanked her for the offer but to herself she said that in case the baby cried she would not call for Yumi.*

She made the breakfast and Sadao helped with the children. Neither of them spoke of the servants beyond the fact that they were gone. But after Hana had taken morning food to the prisoner, she came back to Sadao.

*The next morning Hana prepared the breakfast and Sadao helped her by looking after the children. Neither of them talked regarding the servants but after Hana served the morning food to the Prisoner of War she came back to Sadao probably to talk something.*

“Why is it we cannot see clearly what we ought to do?” she asked him. “Even the servants see more clearly than we do. Why are we different from other Japanese?”

*Hana was very worried, and she questioned that why they were not very clear about what they ought to do. She added that even their servants were very clear as compared to them. She said that why were they behaving differently from other Japanese people. Hana wanted to say that as Americans were their Enemies they should not have treated that Prisoner Of War and they should have let him die just like any other Japanese would have done.*

Sadao did not answer. But a little later he went into the room where the prisoner was and said brusquely, “Today you may get up on your feet. I want you to stay up only five minutes at a time. Tomorrow you may try it twice as long. It would be well that you get back your strength as quickly as possible.”

**Briskly:** quickly

*Sadao did not reply to Hana but after some time he went into the room where the Prisoner of War was resting and spoke very fast. He said that that day the man could get up and stand on his feet. Sadao wanted him to stand only for 5 minutes at a time. Further he added that the next day he could try to stand for double the time that is 10 minutes. Sadao also said that it would be good for everyone that the man regained strength as soon as possible. Sadao hinted that they wanted to get rid of the American as early because he had become a cause of trouble for them.*

He saw the flicker of terror on the young face that was still very pale. “Okay,” the boy murmured. Evidently he was determined to say more. “I feel I ought to thank you, Doctor, for having saved my life.”

*Sadao saw that his words brought a hint of terror and scare on the face of the young boy. His face was still very pale and colourless because he was very weak. The boy spoke in a low voice*

*and said “Okay”. It appeared that he wanted to speak something more but he just said that he wanted to thank Sadao for saving his life.*

“Don’t thank me too early,” Sadao said coldly. He saw the flicker of terror again in the boy’s eyes — terror as unmistakable as an animal’s. The scars on his neck were crimson for a moment. Those scars! What were they? Sadao did not ask.

Crimson: bright red colour

*Sadao was very expressionless when he said that the boy did not need to thank him yet. As he spoke this he saw that the hint of scare again appeared in the boy’s eyes. The writer compares the boy’s terrorized eyes to that of a scared animal. The injury marks on the neck of the boy turned the bright red in colour for a while. Sadao thought that what has caused those injury marks, but he did not ask the boy about them.*

In the afternoon the second thing happened. Hana, working hard on unaccustomed labour, saw a messenger come to the door in official uniform. Her hands went weak and she could not draw her breath. The servants must have told already. She ran to Sadao, gasping, unable to utter a word. But by then the messenger had simply followed her through the garden and there he stood. She pointed at him helplessly.

Unaccustomed labour: not used to perform hard work

Gasping: struggling to breathe, unable to speak

*That day the second incident happened in the afternoon. Hana was busy with the household work as the servants had left. All of a sudden, she had to perform all the work which she was not used to. She was very tired. She saw that a messenger wearing official uniform had come to the house. As she saw him her hands went week and she was unable to breathe. This was because she felt that the servants must have told the authorities that they were sheltering an enemy. Hana ran up to Sadao and she was struggling to breathe. She was unable to speak. By that time the Messenger also followed her through the garden and he stood in front of Sadao. Hana was helpless, and she pointed her finger towards the Messenger.*

Sadao looked up from his book. He was in his office, the other partition of which was thrown open to the garden for the southern sunshine.

Southern sunshine: the door of the office which opened into the garden faced the South direction. This means that the sunshine which entered the office was not direct and bright instead it was a shady sunshine.

*Sadao was reading a book and when he saw Hana, he looked up. He was sitting in his office which had a partition in it. The part of the office beyond the partition opened into the garden and was full of shady sunshine.*

“What is it?” he asked the messenger and then he rose, seeing the man’s uniform.

Sadao asked the messenger the matter due to which he had visited them. When he saw that the Messenger was wearing a uniform he stood up as a mark of respect.

“You are to come to the palace,” the man said. “The old General is in pain again.”

The Messenger said that Sadao was supposed to accompany him to the palace. He added that the old general was suffering in pain and Sadao was supposed to visit him and treat him as a doctor.

“Oh,” Hana breathed, “is that all?”

“All?” the messenger exclaimed.

“Is it not enough?”

“Indeed it is,” she replied. “I am very sorry.”

Upon hearing this Hannah was relieved and she said, “oh”. With this, she took a deep breath and asked that was that all for which the Messenger had come. The messenger reacted and said, “All?” he could not understand that what else could it be for which he was supposed to visit the house. He asked that was that not enough, did they want any other reason for him to visit them. Hana was sorry for her reaction and said that the reason was enough for the messenger to visit them. She did not need any other reason for him to visit them.

When Sadao came to say goodbye, she was in the kitchen, but doing nothing. The children were asleep and she sat merely resting for a moment, more exhausted from her fright than from work.

*As Sadao had to accompany the Messenger, he went to Hana to say goodbye. Hana was in the kitchen but she was not doing anything. The children had gone to sleep, and Hana was taking rest. She was more tired due to the scare on seeing the messenger than she was from doing the household work.*

“I thought they had come to arrest you”, she said.

He gazed down into her anxious eyes. “I must get rid of this man for your sake,” he said in distress. “Somehow I must get rid of him.”

*Hana said to Sadao that she had thought that the messenger had come to arrest him.*

*Sadao looked carefully at Hana’s anxious eyes. He was very sad and distressed, and he said that he must get rid of the man for her sake. He added that he had to get rid of the man by any means.*

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(Sadao goes to see the General)

*Sadao went along with the messenger to visit the general*

“Of course,” the General said weakly, “I understandfully. But that is because, I once took a degree in Princeton. So few Japanese have.”

**Indispensable:** necessary

*Sadao narrated the entire story to the general. The general who was very weak said that he understood Sadao's position because he had also studied in America at the Princeton University but there were only a few Japanese who had studied in America.*

“I care nothing for the man, Excellency,” Sadao said, “but having operated on him with such success...”

“Yes, yes” the General said. “It only makes me feel you more indispensable to me. Evidently you can save anyone—you are so skilled. You say you think I can stand one more such attack as I have had today?”

“Not more than one,” Sadao said.

*Sadao replied to the general that he did not care for the American man but as he had operated upon him successfully. The general interrupted him and said, “yes, yes”. He felt that Sadao was a necessary part of his life. As Sadao had been successful at operating on the man, the general felt that Sadao was very skilled. The general asked that did Sadao think that the general had any chance of surviving another heart attack as the one he had that day. Sadao replied that in his opinion the general could not survive more than one such heart attack.*

“Then certainly I can allow nothing to happen to you,” the General said with anxiety. His long pale Japanese face became expressionless, which meant that he was in deep thought. “You cannot be arrested,” the General said, closing his eyes. “Suppose you were condemned to death and the next day I had to have my operation?”

*The general said that then in that case he could not allow anything to happen to Sadao. He wanted to say that he needed Sadao and so, he would protect him. The general's long, weak yellowish face became expressionless because he was thinking about Sadao being arrested. He became serious, closed his eyes at the thought of Sadao being arrested and said that Sadao could not be arrested. Further, he added that if Sadao was sentenced to death and he needed an operation the next day, then who would operate upon him. So, the general wanted to say that he needed Sadao and so he would protect him and he would not let anything happen to him.*

“There are other surgeons, Excellency,” Sadao suggested. “None I trust,” the General replied. “The best ones have been trained by Germans and would consider the operation successful even

if I died. I do not care for their point of view.” He sighed. “It seems a pity that we cannot better combine the German ruthlessness with the American sentimentality. Then you could turn your prisoner over to execution and yet I could be sure you would not murder me while I was unconscious.” The General laughed. He had an unusual sense of humour. “As a Japanese, could you not combine these two foreign elements?” he asked.

ruthlessness: harshness

sentimentality: being emotional

execution: legal punishment

peculiar: strange

*Sadao suggested to the general that there were many other surgeons in Japan. The general replied that he did not trust anyone else other than Sadao. He added that the best surgeons had been trained by the Germans and for them the operation would be successful even if the general died. He did not care for their point of view. The general added that the Japanese could not combine the harsh nature of the Germans with the emotional nature of the Americans. So the general wanted to say that they did not have such persons who could combine the harsh nature of a German and the emotional nature of an American. He said that if they would have been able to do that then Sadao could be harsh and could turn the prisoner to the Japanese and at the same time, be emotional and not murder the general during the operation. With this the general laughed. The writer says that the general had a strange sense of humour. He was very witty. Then he asked Sadao that being Japanese could he not combine these two foreign elements. So, the foreign elements to which the general is referring is the harsh nature of a German and the emotional nature of an American.*

Sadao smiled. “I am not quite sure,” he said, “but for your sake I would be willing to try, Excellency.”

*Sadao smiled at the general’s question and said that he was not quite sure about it but for his betterment, he was willing to try it out.*

The General shook his head. “I had rather not be the test case,” he said.

*The general shook his head as he did not want to be such a person on whom a new trial would be made.*

He felt suddenly weak and overwhelmed with the cares of his life as an official in times such as these when repeated victory brought great responsibilities all over the south Pacific.

Overwhelmed: full of emotions

Cares of his life: problems and responsibilities that he faced during his life

South pacific: the part of the Pacific Ocean that lies in the southern hemisphere.

*Suddenly, the general felt weak and emotional as he was reminded of the problems he had faced throughout his life while fulfilling his duties and responsibilities in various wars won by Japan.*

“It is very unfortunate that this man should have washed up on your doorstep,” he said irritably.  
“I feel it so myself,” Sadao said gently.

*The general was irritated and said that the happening of the injured man reaching his house was an unfortunate one.*

*Sadao agreed with him.*

“It would be best if he could be quietly killed,” the General said. “Not by you, but by someone who does not know him. I have my own private assassins. Suppose I send two of them to your house tonight or better, any night. You need know nothing about it. It is now warm — what would be more natural than that you should leave the outer partition of the white man’s room open to the garden while he sleeps?”

### Assassins: professional killers

*The general said that the best solution was to kill the man quietly. He added that he would not be killed by Sadao but by his hired killers. He would send two killers to Sadao’s house that night or any night. Sadao did not need to know about it. As the weather was warm those days, he wanted Sadao to act naturally and keep the door of the outer partition of the man’s room open. As it opened into the garden, it would give easy access to the killers while the man was asleep.*

“Certainly it would be very natural,” Sadao agreed. “Infact, it is so left open every night.”

*Sadao agreed that the idea seemed natural. He added that they did leave the door of the outer partition open at night.*

“Good,” the General said, yawning. “They are very capable assassins — they make no noise and they know the trick of inward bleeding. If you like I can even have them remove the body.”

*The general was over with the talk and so, he yawned to show disinterest. He added that was a good thing. He commented that the killers were experts – they did not make any noise and killed the person in such a way that he bled inside. There would be no traces of blood on his body. He would even ask them to remove the dead body if Sadao wanted.*

Sadao considered. "That perhaps would be best, Excellency," he agreed, thinking of Hana.

*Sadao thought about Hana and said that that would be very good.*

He left the General's presence then and went home, thinking over the plan. In this way the whole thing would be taken out of his hands. He would tell Hana nothing, since she would be timid at the idea of assassins in the house, and yet certainly such persons were essential in an absolute state such as Japan was. How else could rulers deal with those who opposed them?

Timid: showing lack of courage or confidence

Absolute state: a state run by kings having total powers

*Sadao went back home and on the way he kept on thinking of the plan that he had made along with the general. He thought that in this way, he would not be involved in the death of that American man. He planned that he would not tell Hana anything about this plan. Hana would not like the idea of the hired Killers coming to their house but such persons were essential in a place like Japan. It was the only way for the rulers to deal with their opponents.*

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