

Spirit Sushi: Pilot/

EP. 1

"Kawaakari"

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**Ext. outdoor Sushi Tournament - Mid Day**

Cheering can be heard chanting names as the screen fades in from black. The crowd cheering "Go Yushi!" or "SUIKO, SUIKO, SUIKO" brings us into a Sushi eating tournament's final round. The camera cuts between chopsticks being split from each other, then grabbing sushi, and the sushi being eaten. All with slow motion at the end, exaggerating the pretty normal actions.

An announcer starts going over a fact sheet of our contestants in the current tournament.

**Announcer:**

As we finish our grand finals, I'd like to just tell you all of our finalists' amazing feats!! The seventeen year old young man to the right...

**The camera shows a young adult/ teen eating swiftly. He is wearing a headband with a sponsor logo. His hair instantly catches the eye as it is mostly white with pink spikes in it.**

... was born to a family of professional chefs; Which must be the reason he has a true understanding of food! With the knowledge he's obtained, and absurd accuracy, he's certainly worth being one of our two finalists!!!

This young man has won 41 previous eating competitions before reaching here today!!! KOFUKU YUSHI!

He is known for his quick clean methods of food devouring with creative means and out of the box thinking! He's broken records world wide such as most eaten sushi in six minutes beating the original record of one-hundred and forty seven pieces! Even more recently, he's broken the record of most singular rice grains ever eaten in a minute with 40 singular grains grabbed just last year!!

Yushi has certainly been a breakthrough in the world of competitive eating!

An image of a child Yushi with his parents is shown as other images are shown of his past victories. As each image frame passes, Yushi's friend group can be seen in each victory over the years. Flashes of him in the contest in between. With a final image of his friends and him sitting at a table cheering as he beat his 41st contest.

**Announcer:**

Of course, challenging Yushi's feats and winning 53 previous competitions is our other finalist, MIZUSHIMA SUIKO! This petite lady is deceptive in her capabilities!! She has extensive knowledge of fish, as her father is a fisherman and her mother is a marine biologist! She was practically raised in the very water with them! Often referred to as "The Shark of Shizuoka" she's used her family's knowledge on fish to learn how to eat them the most efficiently!

At the start of this year she had eaten an entire adult blue-fin tuna in just under thirty minutes!!! Next to that she's crushed records of her own! Eating a record blowing 20 pounds of Shrimp on the dot! As well as the most oysters eaten in three minutes by eating a total of 257 oysters!!

Certainly a ruthless and carnivorous challenger!!! SUIKO IS A TERRIFYING THREAT TO DEAL WITH IN THE WORLD OF COMPETITIVE FISH EATING!!

Camera flashes on all of her accomplishments much like Yushi, showing she's got a competitive and boastful pride about beating all these challenges!

**Announcer:**

THIS IS TRULY A BATTLE OF ENDURANCE AND GRIT OF TWO TITANS!!!  
WHO WILL COME OUT ON TOP??!!

The camera pans on Yushi as he's stuffing his face quickly but not ever showing his cheeks puffing up as if he's inhaling the sushi. As it shows a mirror shot of Suiko loading as many rolls as she can at once in mouth chewing ferociously. A shot combining their faces as a timer is above their head counting down from 50 seconds.

Cheering can be heard louder than the other voices as a hoarse screaming shatters through the rest.

Osamu :

[Hyped]

YuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuSHI! CRUSH HER!!!! JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED  
MAN! MEAT CAN BE BEAT!!!

Hiraku:

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[reserved]
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Dude seriously?

Osamu :

[Loud]

WHAT?? IT CAN! ON MONDAY YUSHI AND I SHOVED AS MUCH OF IT AS POSSIBLE IN OUR FACE FOR PRACTICE!! SO MUCH WE GOT KICKED OUT OF THE YAKINIKU STORE!

Hiraku:

[confused/ cheering]

That's not... Never mind, YUSHI YOU GOT THIS!

Miyu:

[analytical]

Hm, his performance has been slow since the start of this... I wonder what he's doing.

Osamu & Hiraku:

[curious]

Eh?

Miyu:

[concerned]

Yushi has been eating slowly as opposed to the way he usually eats.

Miyu points, Yushi is 50 rolls underneath Suiko as she's essentially crushing him.

**Osamu:**

**[loud concern]**

What?! Is my buddy not fired up??? HEY YUSHI WHAT'S THE MATTE-

**Hiraku slaps Osamu in the back of the head.**

**Hiraku:**

**[Chill]**

You're too loud. Just watch for a sec yeah? As for him, I wouldn't worry. He said something before coming into the ring today.

**Miyu:**

**[inquisitive]**

Oh, What did he say?

**Hiraku grins smugly.**

**Hiraku:**

He said "I-"

**The camera cuts to Yushi as we hear his thoughts.**

**Yushi:**

**[determined V.O.]**

have a plan to beat her whatever it takes! I've fought "The Shark" multiple times over the years and I've always lost... But today is different. I've watched her style and she's never adapted from her 'eat it all at once' technique. Her flaw is...

**Shift frame to Suiko as she is clearly in distress. Zoom in on the clock in front of her as the time shows ten seconds.**

HER LAST FEW SECONDS SHE TRIES EATING MORE THAN SHE CAN HANDLE!!  
SLOWING HER OVERALL SPEED!

**All of a sudden Yushi's points start going up swiftly. Suiko looks over with a mouth stuffed full of Sushi. She has a smug look that turns to one of shock as she sees Yushi's hands moving in a blur. (Show Yushi's chopstick being broken somewhere in between rounds) She starts picking up her pace of chewing and**

looks forward at her plate as Yushi's numbers start climbing. The clocks final moments ticking down as the crowd screams "3" Suiko swallows her food as her points jump up ten points "2" Yushi's points go up with numbers flipping as they continue to climb "1" The frame flashes on Suiko's eyes of worry and Yushi's eyes with his pupils in the shape of fire.

An alarm blares as the stadium cheers! The scoreboard comes into frame as Yushi had beaten Suiko by one point.

Hiraku, Miyu, and Osamu:

[cheers]

Yushi lifts up his chopsticks to the roof as he's panting clearly exhausted from the ordeal.

Yushi:

[Pleased]

It was quite a feast!!

Cut to the episode title with a black background and a stylistic text that looks like a paintbrush stroked the words in white.

-Kawaakari 川明かり-

INT. Sashimi Restaurant - Mid Day

Zoom out from a phone playing Yushi's dramatic pose from the end of the tournament. Japanese for 4 days later in the corner of the screen fades in and out upon the showing of Yushi and his friends Miyu, Osamu, and Hiraku. Miyu is the one watching the phone with Yushi as he is currently chewing on his food looking at the phone from Miyu's left side.

Miyu:

[Analytical]

So, after closely looking over the match... You barely pulled off your ending stunt there didn't you?

Yushi swallows the food.

Yushi:

[curious]

What makes you say that?

Miyu rewinds to a point in the video where Yushi was speeding up his eating. Then plays it in slow motion showing Yushi biting his chopsticks breaking them.

Miyu:

[worry and scolding]:

Well for starters, this stunt could have damaged your teeth or you could have even choked on those pieces of your chopsticks.

Yushi:

[genuine amazement]

Oh wow! I didn't even feel that.

Miyu:

[Still scolding]

Apparently you did, because after that your eating rate was half of what it normally is. There's more than this that we should really-

Osamu walks behind Miyu with a whole platter of fish cuts and puts it in front of the two, adding to the already large amounts of fish on the table.

Osamu:

[Breaking up the boring talk]

C'MON MIYU! ENOUGH OF THIS STUDYING!! WE'RE CELEBRATING YUSHI'S WIN HERE TODAY!!!

Miyu:

[interrupted]

Yeah, but-

Osamu:

[Carefree and happy]

No buts! Just chill out and have some fun!

Yushi, Osamu, and even Hiraku laugh as Miyu puts her phone away. Hiraku leans towards Yushi as he's in the middle of laughing.

Hiraku:

[beaconing/ directing]

Yo Yushi, restaurant owner wants to see ya.

Yushi:

[Excited]

Oh! I'll go see him now.

Yushi excuses himself with a little nod towards his group.

Yushi:

Be back everyone!

Yushi walks in the back. He goes through the kitchen where there are some fish skeletons hung up with their heads still on and some fresh cut filets. On a plate waiting to go out. Some humming can be heard in the back coming from the head of the restaurant (KŌJI SEKI)

Yushi:

[friendly]

Mr. Seki, you wanted to see me?

KŌJI:

[Proud and happy]

YUSHI! I just wanted to call you back here to thank you personally for your donation to the store!



**Yushi:**

I mean... you guys have been family friends before I was even born. Besides, I just felt I had to give something back to you for allowing me to constantly train before each contest.

**KŌJI:**

Nonsense, even without your constant contributions to our restaurant we'd let you eat to your heart's content. Seeing you grow has been one of my favorite parts of this job!

**Yushi:**

Heh. Well, this place has always been my favorite to go eat at. You have so many exotic fish, that the majority of Japan wishes they could prep what you have.

**KŌJI:**

**[Excited]**

OH! That reminds me! To celebrate your victory I wanted to make you something special in particular! So any fish you want I'll make it right here, right now. On the house!

**Yushi:**

That's what you've said about everything else so far...

**KŌJI:**

Well, that was for you to test our new fish that we've received, this one will be just for you!

**Yushi:**

Hmmmm, could I get halibut? It's just so soft and delicate that I can't help but always want it!

**KŌJI:**

MMMM...

**Yushi:**

What's the matter?

**KŌJI:**

It's just we're out of halibut at the moment...

**Yushi:**

Oh, no big deal I'll take-

**KŌJI:**

No! I'll get you that halibut! JUST FOR YOU YUSHI I'LL GO MAKE A QUICK RUN TO THE MARKET! After all, I have a connection who holds all the good stuff for me anyway!

**Yushi:**

You really don't have to.

**KŌJI is already putting his jacket on as Yushi has become a bystander to his family friend's antics.**

**KŌJI:**

Not another word! I'll be back in twenty minutes! Don't go anywhere!!

**KŌJI shuts the door and the audience can see him run down the street through a window by the door. As Yushi watches him run down the street he grabs a bike. (possibly his, possibly not) He disappears in a poof of dust. Yushi laughs as he goes back into the dining area.**

**Hiraku:**

**[curious]**

So, what'd the big man have to say?

**Yushi:**

**[humble]**

Oh nothing much, just a thanks for the donation I put in with the winnings.

**Yushi put a piece of fish in his mouth from a platter that hasn't been touched by anyone else yet.**

**Hiraku:**

**[teasing]**

That's nice haha. With all you eat. I'm glad you two still have a good relationship. I mean how many restaurants have you and Osamu been banned from now?

Yushi:

[embarrassed]

I'd rather not say...

Osamu:

[excited/ proud]

At least twenty-eight by now!

Hiraku:

[second hand embarrassment]:

Jeez, guess it is wise to donate to them...

Yushi

[flustered]:

Don't act like I'm bribing them to not kick me out!!

**Yushi puts another piece in his mouth as he begins to make a realization halfway through his next statement.**

Yushi:

[genuine/ curiosity]

I do genuinely support their business... Hey... this fish tastes... different? What is this?

Hiraku:

[nonchalant]

Dunno, the timid new guy brought it out and went back in to grab something else. Should be back here any moment now.

**As if like clockwork the new guy stumbles in with a huge crustacean that's steaming. He sets it on the table and is about to go back into the kitchen before Yushi grabs his arm.**

Yushi:

[inquisitive]

Hey, just a quick question! What's this fish? I've never tasted anything like it.

**New Guy:**

**[nervous]**

Oh um... that's uuuh... what was it... Oh right! Fugu! Just got it recently too! Should be really fresh. Made it myself!

**Yushi:**

**[slight concern]**

Wait... Fugu...? Eheh... the type of Fugu that takes years to learn how to prep? Are you qualified to make this?

**New Guy:**

**[Offended]**

O-OF COURSE!! I'M A PROFESSIONAL CHEF AFTER ALL! H-HOW ELSE WOULD I HAVE THIS JOB?!

**Yushi:**

**[worried]**

I was just curious, no need to be defensive ehehe... It tasted really good!!

**The new guy walks off insulted by Yushi's comment.**

**Osamu:**

**[genuinely doesn't know]**

What's a Fuji fish?

**Miyu:**

**[professional/Worry]**

"Fugu" is a pufferfish. They hold a ton of deadly toxins called tetrodotoxin in them. Most chefs have to take two to three years of classes just to learn how to properly prepare it.

**Slides of fugu and fugu prepping go by as Miyu is in the foreground explaining.**

Wait Yushi!! Do you feel anything being numb??!

Yushi

[playing it off]:

No. Wait... hmmmmmm. No, I'm not feeling anything out of the ordinary.

Miyu:

[Serious]

Okay, but if you feel ANYTHING let us know okay?

Yushi salutes overly exaggerated as he throws away the plate of fugu.

Yushi:

[Playful]

Aye aye captain.

Time passes with a montage of all the friends messing around and having fun with their victory feast, making jokes and just playing around with each other. (Yushi progressively looking worse) Hiraku tells a story of one of his drinking competitions and how he won by making his opponent laugh. While everyone is distracted Yushi is stuck with a neutral expression as his eyes are over shaded.

Hiraku:

[regaling]

Anyway this guy was trying so hard to hold his expression I decided while he was slamming down his next glass, I'd put on those weird eyebrow stickers over my own. So he put down the glass, with Sake still in his mouth, and he turned to look at me. The next thing he sees is me with giant bushy green eyebrows and he just SPEWED the Sake everywhere!!

Osamu and Miyu laugh really hard, Osamu launching liquid through his own nose like a jet stream. As Miyu laughs and turns to look at Yushi. Concern takes over her face as Yushi's skin looks blueish.

Miyu:

[concern]

Yu... Shi? Hey... are you okay?

**Hiraku:**

**[in the background]**

Didn't need a live action interpretation dude! Gross!

**Osamu:**

**[in background]**

Haha! My bad, you just tell way too good of stories!!

**Miyu:**

**[Panic]**

GUYS! WE NEED TO HELP YUSHI!!

**Osamu:**

**[oblivious/ panic]**

What? Why?

Osamu looks over to Yushi who's definitely suffocating from the toxins.

YUSHI!

**Hiraku:**

**[Calm but worried]**

Aw crap!

Hiraku shoots up from his chair and starts calling (119)

Miyu tries her best to keep Yushi awake so he doesn't stop fighting.

**Miyu:**

**[careful and fearful]**

Yushi!! Look at me! Do not fall asleep! You have to try and let your body purge the toxins!!! YUSHI!! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

**Yushi:**

**[V.O.]**

I... I hear you Miyu... But My body won't move. I've been trying for a while... I can't stay up... for much longer...

The camera cuts to having Yushi in the foreground. Yushi's eyes strain as if he wants to fight, but slowly loses the ability to do so. KŌJI runs in and sees everything happening as he runs towards Yushi. Yushi's eyes move as he sees Hiraku and Koji verbally fighting with muffled voices as Miyu continues to yell towards Yushi to attempt to keep him up.

Yushi:  
[exhausted]

I'm... sorry... everyone... so... tired...

Yushi falls backward out of his chair, doing a transition into a weird limbo-esk area of absolute nothingness.

Miyu:  
[echoing]  
YUSHI!!

Scene End.

Sanzu River - ???

Yushi continues falling into the void glowing a light blue with faint little soul flames around him, as he falls he abruptly hits water. Yushi starts to sink into the black liquid, bubbles coming out of him as he takes center screen.

The camera zooms out from him as Yushi's most key memories of life start going backwards. They wash vividly around him.

His most recent victory (Age 17)

Giving his winnings to multiple people. (Age 17)

Cheering on Osamu, Miyu, and Hiraku in their own contests.  
(Though more reserved with Miyu as she is in a more educational trivia type of competition) (Age 16)

His group cheering on some ridiculous but not impossible challenges of Yushi's. (Age 16)

Introducing Miyu to Hiraku and Osamu. (Age 15)

Meeting Hiraku by accident. (Age 13)

Yushi's parents congratulating him on his first contest win. (Age 12)

Being friends with Osamu while they were in middle school. Eating their respective favorite foods. (Age 12)

Eating a bunch of Sushi in his first eating contest (Age 10)

Cooking with his parents and serving guests. (Age 8)

Being handed his signature headband. (Age 5)

Yushi being handed his first piece of sushi. (Age 3)

After Yushi sinks past all these memories he's left in the dark again as he hits what seems to be a bottom in the water. The camera fades out.

Scene End.

Ext. Yomi

The camera fades in with a side shot of a beach unlike any other. Black waves hit a shoreline, the waves hitting a beach full of monotone pebbles grays, blacks, and whites yet still maintaining a tone of luminescence as the white pierces away the darker stones. The crashing foam of the wave also helping the darkness be tossed away.

A rock is in the fore frame obscuring the viewer's sight as a figure enters from behind it. The figure is in tattered robes and for the most part is hidden under the fabric. However it's arms show deformation as if to tell the audience "Take a close look".



The figure is searching for something on the beach before it acts upon instinct and finds exactly what it's looking for. It starts to dig into the beach grabbing an arm out of the stones and dragging out a middle aged man cackling away as it does. Upon pulling the body out of the rocks the tattered robes reveal the humanoid's jaw is thin and holds sharp teeth though the biggest allure is the fact the creature only has one big eye that has a darker color sclera and matching pupil something akin to a deep toxic purple with a bright green glowing iris.

The pupil contracts in anticipation looking at the full arm it's brought out.

Shinigami 1:

[pleased]

Kehehe this'll make for some good commission!!

The camera continues to pan out as it's revealed the beach is titanic. Multiple creatures of all sorts doing the same thing to multiple bodies on the beach. (Creature designs are a free for all in design as the form of a shinigami is very lenient in Japanese folklore).

As the camera keeps moving backwards we are met with Yushi (no longer with the spiritual flames) mostly buried in these rocks, unconscious. Only his hair and one of his eyes showing through the stones in order for the audience to tell just enough who it is.

A skeletal hand comes down in front of him and brings him out of the rocks. Taking a couple efforts before he's completely dug out within a couple drags.

The camera angle shifts as the new figure with a different hooded attire brushes off the teenager. He admires his work as Yushi is leaned against a wall.

The figure then clears his throat by coughing into his hand.

Shino Toki:

Oi. Kid. Wake up.

Shino flicks Yushi in the forehead.

Yushi:

-grunts in surprise-

Yushi reflexively puts his hands up to his forehead as he responds to the rude awakening. The camera moves to a shot in front of Yushi as he holds the part of his head that was flicked.

Yushi:

Gah, what was that for...

As Yushi's voice trails off the camera moves into his perspective. He slowly starts looking up at the looming figure. He's met with a dark hole in the middle of a hood. A big toothy white grin swiftly comes out of nowhere taking over the darkness.

Shino Toki [Uncanny glee]:

Congratulations. You're dead.

Upon saying these words, Shino Toki's eyes open, Rather than just two eyes he has multiple that go around his mouth like a scallop.

Both [stare in silence]:

...

Yushi:

[chuckles nervously]

Yushi then takes the normal way of going about this situation and starts to book it into another direction. He sprints as fast as he can from the apparent monster in fear.

As the other Shinigami hear the commotion some try to block off Yushi from running. This causes Yushi to look for a way other

than the wall of monsters closing in on him. He takes a sharp turn and runs up a staircase. As he soon starts to run, he begins to fade away in the background.

Shino walks up slowly to the crowd of disgruntled shinigami.

Shinigami 2:

[annoyed]

Shino, we have protocol when it comes to waking up the humans so we don't have another situation like this!

Shinigami 3:

[concerned]

You know he's about to cause a ruckus right? This is your twentieth one this year.

Shino:

[playful]

Yeah, but what's a day without a little excitement. Besiides I'm sure the kid will need to get some sightseein in. You know, acclimate to the area?

Shinigami 2:

[apathetic]

Whatever man, your paycheck.

Scene end.

Ext. Yomi Main City

Yushi runs through the street sweating in fear as he sees creatures akin to what blood blockade battlefront would have.

Yushi:

[fear]

What is this place?! No time to focus, I have to get away from that thing!

The city looks like a twisted version of the area near Shibuya Tokyo. He looks around and sees many different spirits and

ghouls. Some try to get past him as he's blocking up the sidewalk. A lot having their own conversations.

Yokai 1:

Did you hear about that island with those restaurants, we totes have to check it out.

Restful Spirit 2:

I heard that another soul almost got out, but totally got stomped by Susanoo in a sword battle.

Yokai [kitsune]:

Ever since I've sprouted that new tail, all of the guys have been all over me.

**Yokai walla audio**

Yushi:

[denial]

There's monsters everywhere! This just has to all be one bad dream!

Yushi runs through alleyways and even subway stations as he tries to put distance between him and his assumed threat. (correctly assumed as he's being stalked by Shino and he can be seen in every new place Yushi goes)

Yushi makes it to a giant opening in the city street with a very familiar reference to Shibuya crossing. Yushi pants and takes a break now that he's in the open, thinking he's at least a little safe now to gather his thoughts since he's in a public area.

Yushi:

[rationalizing]

Okay... Calm down Yushi, think... that monster from the beach probably lost you a while ago. That is if it's even still following me... We have to get out of here somehow. But I don't even know where *here* IS!

Izanami can be seen on a big television screen talking in the background.

Yushi:

Hmmmmmm... This place almost looks like Shibuya. Maybe If I use landmarks I can figure out how to get away from this place.

Yushi looks around for familiar landmarks all of which have distorted logos that are like amalgamations of Kanji, Hiragana, and katakana and tiny monsters on them. Alas Yushi is only to be made smaller as the camera places him in the middle of the crowd with the screen now looming over him. Izanami says an introduction line to all the new spirits and generic Yokai.

Izanami:

WELCOME! TO YOMI!

Yushi looks up at the screen in confusion as he parrots the last word Izanami said.

Yushi:

... Yo... mi?

Familiar boney fingers reach behind Yushi and pull him away. Shino carries Yushi with no effort at all, holding him in one arm while he gestures with his other.

Shino:

[playful sadist]

Oh wow kid you're one heck of a runner. Almost out ran death there heh.

Yushi:

LET! ME! GO!

Yushi struggles but to no avail.

Shino:

No can do. You've had your field trip now it's time to do this the right way.

Yushi:

-struggle sounds than realization- Right way?

Shino:

Yeah, gotta get you registered through for the big boss lady on the screen back there. Though don't worry, paperwork staff doesn't bite. Much.

scene end.

Int. RDSY (Registration of Departed Souls in Yomi)

Yushi is now sitting next to Shino with his arms tied up. Yushi looks around in the office as he sees images of multiple hints of the next character to come. Kiyohime paintings on the wall everywhere.

A hand with a dainty bell rings as a voice calls up Yushi.

Secretary:

Mr. Kofuku Yushi, Miss Kiyohime will see you now.

Shino:

Welp that's me kid, I'll catch ya on the flip side. Though, a quick word to the wise. Don't try to run from here. The staff can breathe fire.

Shino points at the secretary as flames lick the corner of her mouth. Yushi nods and Shino unties his arms. Shino gets up to talk to the secretary that had called Yushi and the two start laughing.

Yushi walks into the back room where he's met his first major famous Yokai. Kiyohime.

He closes the door behind him as he's met with a friendly smile.

Kiyohime:

[Welcoming]

Hello there! Please take a seat.

**Yushi pulls up a chair and sits in front of Kiyohime, definitely stressed out.**

**Kiyohime:**

**[empathetic]**

I heard that our Shinigami gave you a little scare. I deeply apologize about that. Shino Toki can be a bit of a trouble maker you see. Anyway, let's check out your file shall we?

**Yushi:**

**[nervous and serious]**

I'd like to know something ma'am.

**Kiyohime:**

Oh?

**Yushi:**

You mentioned a shinigami... did I really...

**Yushi can't even bring himself to say the word. Luckily Kiyohime is oblivious to Yushi's need to cope.**

**Kiyohime:**

**[cheerful]**

Die? Of course! Everyone who comes through my office is dead. It's my job to help you move on so we can get you set up here in Yomi.

**Yushi's eyes glaze over as he realizes what this means.**

**Kiyohime:**

So let's see here, Yushi Kofuku, age 17. You died in a fugu incident that was prepped poorly by a chef. You were considered certifiably dead before the ambulance even arrived. Though considered a tragic accident you were still surrounded by those you loved in death.

**Yushi scowls as his bangs fully shade his eyes as he's troubled by what he's hearing. Kiyohime continues talking in the background as Yushi starts to think over everything.**

**Kiyohime:**

Awwww that's cute. Y'know technically my husband was surrounded by his loved one in death... Oh now this is interesting, it looks like you took a dip into the Sanzu River. Right after you missed the bridge too. Sorry about that, but it looks like you made it here safely.

**Yushi:**

**[distraught]**

I... can't believe I died... in front of all of you. Even in my last moments you all tried to be there for me... Miyu... Osamu... Hiraku... What am I going to do without you guys? Mom... Dad... I never even got to say goodbye.

**Yushi starts crying in the seat as Kiyohime stops her tangent.**

**Kiyohime:**

Oh... don't be so blue. They'll all die eventually. I mean it may take a while because you died really young, but you'll see them again in the future so look forward to it!

**Kiyohime pulls out a few papers from Yushi's folder.**

Although I will need you to sign these papers. Just so you can hopefully reach that day when it comes.

**Yushi:**

**[Recompossing]**

By signing these papers what do I give permission on exactly?

**Kiyohime:**

**[nonchalant]**

Oh it's pretty standard really, you won't go back to the realm of the living and give them any trouble or items from here. You'll stay away from affairs involving your family and friends. You won't resent your death causing you to go on a terrifying rampage as you haunt houses and curse people and stuff. You'll just spend the rest of your days here.

**Yushi picks up a pen and begins to sign the agreement.**



After that I'll need you to eat this, just to make sure you really can't leave.

**Kiyohime puts a rice ball on the table as Yushi looks up at it.**

**Yushi:**

Why would that make it so I can't leave?

**Kiyohime:**

Well, once you eat food in the center of Yomi your soul is forever tied to here. You are unable to escape.

**Yushi:**

So if I don't eat that, I can recross the bridge later?

**Kiyohime:**

Oh no! I wouldn't do anything silly like that. That would highly anger Izanami. Messing with the order of things like that.

**Yushi rips the papers up in front of Kiyohime.**

Kyaaaaaaaa! Y-you really shouldn't throw your death away like that so quic-

**Yushi's spirit flames show back up on his body, but they look more distorted, hinting at something sinister brewing within him.**

**Yushi:**

**[Malicious determination]**

I'm sorry. But I can't stay here. There's so much I still have to do, and I feel as if those things were taken from me. I died with plenty of regrets. So I need to go and fix them!

**Yushi's flames violently ignite as they take on a more malicious color and his body starts to slowly corrupt with them. The room exploding with his negative energy.**

*Whatever. IT. TAKES!*

Shino and a secretary run into the room as they hear the commotion.

Secretary:

What the hell?!

Shino:

HEY KID!

Shino grabs Yushi (causing him to blacken his skeletal hand from the flames) and faces him towards a mirror in the office.

You need to calm down!!! You're turning into an Onryo!!

Yushi turns to look at the Mirror and becomes terrified of his own reflection snapping out of his flaming image. His flames slowly die out as he continues talking.

Yushi:

[depressed]

I just... can't leave them... they need me as much as I need them.

I would do anything to be by their side and fight again...

Shino and Kiyohime share a glance. Shino proceeds to pull up a chair and starts to talk.

Shino:

Well, looks like we've got another challenge taker.

Kiyohime:

That would appear to be the case.

Yushi:

Challenge...? What challenge?

Kiyohime:

-sighs- It's not something I'm supposed to talk about. Yet, you have a strong spirit to live. Which could cause a lot of trouble if we don't appease your restlessness.

**As shino explains the art style changes to be more of an older feudal japan style painting animation.**

**Shino:**

Basically, a ton of koo-koo spirits like you couldn't reel in their need to live. Many spirits would escape Yomi and terrorize the world of the living. Soon becoming a terrifying beast or Onryo. These creatures eventually rivaling even the great kami of the earth. After the kami along with human demon hunters smote the spirits all around Japan, they needed a way to make sure new evil spirits wouldn't show up. The only way they could stop it was by striking a fair deal with these restless spirits and contractually binding them to a challenge. The challenge, to restore one's life.

**The story fades away and brings them back into the office.**

**Kiyohime:**

Of course, this challenge has a second side to it. If you lose the challenge that's it. All your excess will to live and emotions are taken away from you. You'll be trapped in Yomi as a weak spirit. Forever. No ability to fight back. No ability to care.

**Yushi:**

... So ... What's the challenge?

**Kiyohime:**

You compete in challenges on the very thing you lived for. You must beat eight out of ten spirits who have mastered something in relation to the craft that you dedicated your life to.

**Shino:**

Basically, your life is what you make of it. So prove it.

**The room is silent as the two look towards Yushi who's been quiet up until now. Then all of a sudden Yushi stands up and makes a declaration.**

**Yushi:**

My father used to tell me a saying... there's even a small amount of light on the darkest water... Kawaakari. I'll take that chance!! I have dedicated my life to competitive sushi eating! I know everything there is to know about it! If all I have to do is eat some rice and fish then I'll take your challenge!!

**Kiyohime:**

But you could lose your identi-

**Shino raises his hand in front of Kiyohime. His wide grin crawls across his face once more.**

**Shino:**

**[amused]**

You sure about this kid? I'm not sure you truly understand what's at stake here.

**Yushi:**

**[determined]**

I'm positive.

**Shino:**

Well then Kiyo, what do you say? Will you let the kid sign up for the challenge? No point in talking him out of it now.

**Kiyohime tries to struggle one last time, but gives in and pulls out the challenge contract.**

**Kiyohime:**

I really must urge you to reconsider.

**Yushi:**

My mind is set. I'm going to come back to life. No matter the cost. Just so I can see them all again.

**As Yushi signs the contract all the hands of his peers and family put their hand on the pen too as he signs his name. Yushi's main theme fades out as he makes his declaration of war.**

The Title of the series flashes the screen as the first OP sends us out of Episode 1.