

Script The Grudge, KAREN (20' s, American)

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

An international college in Tokyo. The autumn chill doesn't deter the students from enjoying the beautiful day. Karen and Doug sit by a lone tree in a small grassy patch in the center of a thoroughfare. Doug, reading a newspaper, steals a glance at Karen--she's sitting with her back to the tree, her face to the sky.

 DOUG
 Want another aspirin?

She shakes her head.

 KAREN
 What I want is my car. How much do
 you think it would cost to have her
 shipped over?

 DOUG
 Keep dreamin'.

 KAREN
 Imagine, no more trains. Never
 feeling like a sardine again. My
 own personal climate-controlled
 space--

 DOUG
 Public transportation is good for
 the environment. Climate control
 isn't.

 KAREN
 Maybe not. But it's darn good for
 my chi.

Doug lowers the paper, turns to her.

 DOUG
 Maybe you should get a bike. For
 when they start you on house calls.
 You wouldn't have to deal with the
 trains anymore.

She gives him a skeptical look.

 DOUG (CONT'D)
 It's a nice image. Riding down the
 sidewalk in your nurse's uniform.

(CONTINUED)

KAREN
Yeah. I figured that's what you had
in mind.

Doug seems to consider for a moment. Then:

DOUG
So, I was thinking. We're both
living alone now. And we'd have a
lot more money for traveling and
adventures and eating out and stuff
if...

Karen glances over at him. Getting the gist.

DOUG (CONT'D)
...if we decided to save money by -

Karen slows to a stop by the doors of a Nursing Care Center.

KAREN
By what?

DOUG
By combining rent.

KAREN
Is that code for "moving in
together"?

DOUG
Yeah. I think so.

KAREN
Hmmm.

DOUG
For fiscal reasons.

KAREN
Of course.

After a moment of leaving him hanging, she snatches Doug's
paper. Turns to the last page.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Wait- let me check my chart.
(reading) "Scorpio: the coming
autumn will bring about
life-changing events, which will
become charged by your actions and
decisions." Huh.

Doug rolls his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

DOUG
Come on, Karen--

KAREN
Hey, it's a big step. Maybe I
should go home and consult the I
Ching first--

Doug grabs the paper and crumples it up:

DOUG
Like everyone in the world born in
the same twenty-nine day period
will have the exact same life.

KAREN
Doug.

DOUG
"A tall dark stranger will sweep
you off your feet on Saturday."
This stuff is such bullshit.

He tosses the paper in a nearby trashcan. Turns back to see
Karen regarding him, her smile somewhat lessened.

KAREN
I was kidding, Doug.

DOUG
I know. I'm sorry, Kat. It's just -
you're always reading that trash,
and whipping out those damn Tarot
cards, and you know how I feel
about all that fortune telling
psychic stuff. It's just stupid.

KAREN
"Stupid," huh?

Doug takes her hand.

KAREN DOUG
Yeah. Stupid. And I'm trying to be
serious here.

Karen can't resist. She warms in the glow of his smile.

KAREN
Okay. Apology accepted.

(CONTINUED)

DOUG

Tell me you'll at least think about
it. Then I'll let you go to work.

Karen smiles, leaning in:

KAREN

I'll take it under advisement.

DOUG

Good. Have your people call my
people.

She kisses him back, and giving him a mischievous smile,
heads inside the building. Doug can't take his eyes off her.