

MEGA COPY

Pilot Episode ("Brian's First Day")

An Animated Series  
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TEASER

EXT. MEGA COPY STORE - DAY

Establishing: Astor Place in NYC, a brand new shiny building on a warm summer day. A large MEGA COPY sign hangs above the first floor. We push through the glass store front to...

INT. MEGA COPY STORE - CONTINUOUS

A lobby filled with copiers, racks of paper and writing supplies for sale. No customers at the moment as we continue through the lobby to behind the counter.

The TEAM wears purple button downs with the Mega Copy logo. Large copiers and work tables sit behind them.

THE MANAGER

Team, this is Brian MacIntosh, a new trainee. Please show him the Mega Copy way.

THE MANAGER is an elderly Japanese man. He's balding a little, hair in a topknot and a patch over his left eye.

BRIAN is athletic, early-20s, a spiky-haired jovial guy.

THE MANAGER (cont'd)

Brian, you will be with Lars today.

LARS is lanky, mid 30s and shaggy blonde. Laid back and earth, dude.

LARS

You got it Manager San.

THE MANAGER

Jennie Lee, may I see you in my office?

JENNIE LEE is stunning, 6 ft. tall, late-20s, part Japanese. Piercing, dangerous eyes.

JENNIE LEE

Yes Manager Sa--

DEREK

Wait! Can I take my break?

It's DEREK, he's chubby and sassy.

THE MANAGER

Yes Derek. Everyone else, back to work please.

Jennie Lee follows The Manager off the floor.

DEREK

Going for donuts. Anyone, donuts?

GINA is buxom, brunette, mid-20s, and MYRTLE a short, nearly retired, native Long Islander.

GINA

No thanks.

MYRTLE

(heavy L.I. accent)  
No Derek.

BRIAN

No, thank you.

LARS

Juice cleanse dude.

Derek heads out. Lars leads Brian to a register at the counter.

Gina gives a LONGING GLANCE at Brian as she and Myrtle move to a large copier in the back.

GINA

Wow, the new guy, huh?

MYRTLE

This isn't your personal--

GINA

Myrtle, he's just, wow. And did you check out his package?

MYRTLE

Your personal dating pool. And yes I did but no, you shouldn't.

And PHILIP, late 20s, short, thin, soft. A sourpuss.

PHILIP

I'll be in the stock room.

GINA

Grab some more staples, Philip.

PHILIP

Wouldn't hurt to say please, Gina.

MYRTLE

(to Gina)  
He can be a bit of a bitch.

Philip leaves and we jump back to Lars and Brian.

LARS  
So welcome and all that dude.

BRIAN  
Thanks. Uh, what's with all the  
"Manager San" stuff?

LARS  
Just a total sign of respect. He's  
*The Manager*. So, what made you want  
to work at Mega Copy?

As Brian begins, behind a copier in the lobby--

BRIAN (O.S.)  
Well, I just finished school,  
architecture. My dad wants me to  
join his firm but--

A ninja crouches, ready to spring. He's clad in black with a  
Red Star logo on the forehead of his mask.

BRIAN (O.S.) (cont'd)  
I don't think that's for me. So, I  
took this job. Take time, decide  
what I really want.

And behind the other lobby copiers, five more ninjas, ready  
to strike. Let's do this.

Wait, wait. Hold on. A CUSTOMER just walked in.

BRIAN (O.S.) (cont'd)  
I think there is something else for  
me out there. Know what I mean?

A ninja shrugs, eyeing the first, asking: Should we or  
shouldn't we? The first nods yes. Here we go.

LARS (O.S.)  
Yeah dude. I get that.

The Customer reaches Brian and Lars.

LARS  
Hi there! Welcome to Mega Copy--

The ninjas launch from behind the machines, flying through  
the air towards the staff.

Slo-mo: The first ninja in mid-flight, his Katana blade  
ready to strike.

The blade arcs down and SCHRING! Blocked by a Tanto, a Samurai dagger. We move up the holder's arm to... Lars?

LARS (cont'd)

Attack!

Yup. Bedlam. Gina, Myrtle, and Lars jump into fighting mode. The Manager and Jennie Lee rush in, Katanas drawn.

SLICE! The Customer is cut from shoulder to hip by a ninja. Brian GAGS.

The ninja eyes Brian. Brian covers his eyes. He's done for. The blade pulls back and--

A box of thumbtacks EXPLODES into his chest.

GINA

Watch out Brian!

He sneaks a peek. She has another box ready to launch, a ream of paper in the other with throwing stars lodged in it.

Brian's ninja recovers and swings as The Manager flies over the counter, his Katana gleaming.

THE MANAGER

Hataya Clan!

He deflects the ninja's attack and goes on the offensive. The Manager's attack is economic but fierce.

Brian ducks behind the counter to avoid the melee.

Gina aims her thumbtack fire on her star throwing opponent.

GINA

If they hurt the new guy, I'm gonna be super pissed!

Jennie Lee is smoothly taking on two ninjas, wielding her Katana with unsurpassed skill.

Lars is fighting, dagger to sword, with his opponent.

LARS

Dudes, let's wrap this up. Juice cleanse. Gotta pee.

Myrtle unhinges an industrial hand stapler. She nails her ninja multiple times on both side of his neck. With each word, another staple.

MYRTLE

I. Haven't. Had. My. Morning.  
Coffee.

He drops to the floor clutching at his throat and Myrtle puts one more staple shot right in his crotch.

JENNIE LEE

Less talk, more fighting please.

The staff is winning. The remaining ninjas, sensing defeat, FLEE out of the lobby.

Brian stands and surveys the scene: the lone ninja writhing, Myrtle's foot on his chest, the customer in chunks on the floor, and the staff frozen in fighting stances--

BRIAN

Hoooooooooly shit.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLE SEQUENCE.

ACT ONE

INT. MEGA COPY STORE - CONTINUOUS

The Manager stands down first. The others follow suit.

THE MANAGER

Jennie, Lars, make sure they are gone and find out how they got in.

LARS

Yes Manager San.

JENNIE LEE

Yes Manager San.

Lars and Jennie Lee take off. The ninja is still pinned down by Myrtle's foot. He's got one hand on his throat, the other on his crotch.

MYRTLE

I can't fucking believe those guys.

GINA

Seriously! Broad fuckin' daylight.

MYRTLE

God damned Red Stars.

THE MANAGER

Language, please!

MYRTLE

Yes Manager San.

GINA

Sorry Manager San.

THE MANAGER

Get him downstairs, stabilized, ready for questioning. And get a crew up here to take care of that mess on the carpet.

Gina and Myrtle strong arm the ninja up and get him moving.

Brian is a GREENISH COLOR, looking down at the severed body oozing out on the carpet.

THE MANAGER (O.S.)

(to Brian)

Are you injured?

BRIAN

(growing angry)

What the... What the f... What just happened???

The Manager puts a gentle hand on Brian's shoulder.

THE MANAGER  
(deliberate)  
Are you injured?

BRIAN  
No.

THE MANAGER  
All right then. Come with me,  
quickly.

Brian stiffly follows The Manager off the floor to:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - A QUICK MOMENT LATER

Fluorescent lights, a large table and chairs. A few file cabinets line a wall. The Manager closes the door.

THE MANAGER  
Sit, sit.

Brian sits. The Manager is rifling through a file cabinet.

BRIAN  
What just happened?

The Manager lays a pen and forms in front of Brian.

THE MANAGER  
Sign here... here... and here.

Brian is unfocused and signs without really looking.

BRIAN  
Who were those guys--

The Manager gathers up the forms and sits near Brian.

THE MANAGER  
Listen. You were never meant to see  
that and will never speak of it to  
anyone outside this building.

BRIAN  
What? Why? That was crazy.

Brian stands and starts pacing about.

THE MANAGER

These are Mega Copy confidentiality agreements. You have also sworn fealty to the Hataya Clan for life.

Brian is confused and getting frustrated.

BRIAN

Wait, for how long? I don't understand. Who's the Hataya?

THE MANAGER

They own Mega Ship and their subsidiary company, Mega Copy.

BRIAN

Those were fucking ninjas!

THE MANAGER

Language Brian. Everyone and their language. Hmmm, perhaps a new swear jar.

CUT TO:

INT. EMPLOYEE BREAK ROOM - DAY

Next to the microwave on the counter is a mason jar overflowing with quarters and bills, mostly \$1s, and a \$5. The label reads: NO SWEARING .25¢ PER WORD. Myrtle stuffs a \$100 in the top.

BACK TO SCENE

THE MANAGER (cont'd)

Yes, those were ninjas. Please sit and I will tell you.

He returns to his seat.

THE MANAGER (cont'd)

Take a deep breath and listen.

Brian takes a giant breath... and holds it.

THE MANAGER (cont'd)

No. Take a deep breath and let it out. Try to relax.

EXHALE. Brian tries again. Another big breath then sighs.

THE MANAGER (cont'd)

A long time ago--

EXT. SAMURAI TRAINING SCHOOL - DAY

SUPER: Feudal Japan, 1451

A large DOJO and several other outbuildings form a square filled with a graduating class. 100 students, dressed in samurai armor, form a block in the center.

The School Master stands at the head. A large sign: **"Congratulations Class of Hotoku 3,"** hangs above him.

THE MANAGER (V.O.)  
Twin brothers were graduating from  
Samurai training, the best in their  
class, Mikay and Ikay Hataya.

We move in on the twins, early 20s, in the front row. Their armor has hints of the Mega Copy purple.

The ceremony ends and all the students launch their helmets into the air in celebration.

Helmets in mid-air, the twins hive-five and--

MIKAY  
Samurai!

IKAY  
Samurai!

Then catch their helmets.

THE MANAGER (V.O.)  
But a rift grew between them--

INT. A TAVERN - NIGHT

Mikay and Ikay sit at a table. A gorgeous tavern MAIDEN approaches the table. HEARTS fly from both of their chests.

IKAY  
Dibs.

MIKAY  
Dibs.

EXT. A WOODED LAKESIDE - DAWN

The sun creeps onto the lake. The Maiden lies dead on the shore. She's cut in half.

IKAY  
You killed her.

MIKAY  
You killed her.

IKAY  
It was an accident.

MIKAY  
It was an accident.

The twins fly into an epic battle. Launching themselves from trees and boulders, their blades CLASH in midair.

THE MANAGER (V.O.)  
Their feud cemented, the brothers formed separate clans. Ikay's became the Akahoshi and they began a war across Japan.

RAPID MONTAGE: BATTLES

Two Samurai Armies. Mikay's in PURPLE, Ikay's in BLACK with the RED STAR on the helmet.

They fight through fields, forests, and lastly a village. The brothers always in the middle of the action.

THE MANAGER (V.O.)  
The last battle caused the destruction of an entire village.

EXT. A JAPANESE VILLAGE - DAY

The village is CHARRED and TORN. Dead samurai from both sides and villagers are strewn everywhere.

Mikay and Ikay, now in their 30s, meet in the carnage.

THE MANAGER (V.O.)  
To spare the innocent, they agreed to take their battle to the shadows.

They smile at one another, jump in the air and high five--

MIKAY  
Ninja battle!

IKAY  
Ninja battle!

Just like old times. But when they land, their faces return to cold rage. They turn and walk away from one another.

THE MANAGER (V.O.)  
And so, the ninja war began.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - PRESENT

Brian's lips are pursed. He's just can't take it all in.

BRIAN  
What happened to that poor girl?

THE MANAGER  
Another time Brian.

BRIAN  
Wait. So Mega Ship and Mega Copy...

THE MANAGER  
Yes.

BRIAN  
And Red Star Shipping and Copy...

THE MANAGER  
Yes.

BRIAN  
Are just fronts for a centuries old  
battle between two ninja clans?

THE MANAGER  
That is correct. Soon after, Japan  
had begun trading with Europe.  
Shipping was the perfect way to  
fund their war.

BRIAN  
And you want me to be part of it?

THE MANAGER  
Yes.

BRIAN  
Sweet. How does that even work?

THE MANAGER  
In this day and age we war through  
the streets of the world when no  
one is looking--

CUT TO:

EXT. A BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Brownstones line this lovely street. It's deserted except  
for a lone Red Star Delivery Truck and--

A Mega Ship DELIVERY GUY pushing a cart of packages.

The Red Star DRIVER launches from the rear of his truck, a  
BLADE in hand.

He's flying right at a Mega Ship DELIVERY GUY. Delivery Guy turns fast and BLOCKS the attack with a PACKAGE.

They battle up and down the street, fighting with knives, stars... packages.

They pause and talk casually as a couple pushing a stroller passes by. Aaaaaand the coast is clear. Back to the melee.

BACK TO SCENE.

BRIAN

That's awesome. I'm in.

THE MANAGER

Good Brian. Like all large corporations, we need accountants, HR personnel, architects.

BRIAN

Architect? What about ninjas?

THE MANAGER

Ninja is the most dangerous and difficult training, just above accountant.

BRIAN

If I can choose, I'm taking ninja. Ninja is way more more exciting than--

THE MANAGER

The choice is not yours to make. You are either born into a ninja family or recruited for assignment.

BRIAN

But I want a shot at this.

THE MANAGER

I cannot accept you because you *want a shot*. You have no understanding of our world.

Brian is suddenly WOOZY and GAGS a bit.

BRIAN

Jesus. What about that customer in the lobby?

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. MEGA COPY STORE - DAY

Gina is at the counter watching two Mega Copy CLEANERS. The body is mostly in the bag. An arm is sticking out. A STEAM CLEANER stands nearby.

GINA

You two better hustle. That shit is a mess and I've got to unlock the front door any second now.

CLEANER ONE

(to the other Cleaner)  
Come on man. Just stuff it in.

CLEANER TWO

I'm trying. Just give me a--

CRACK! The arm snaps into the bag. ZIP! All sealed up.

CLEANER TWO (cont'd)

Second. See? No problem.

INT. MEGA COPY STORE - DAY

The Manager is leading Brian out of the conference room.

THE MANAGER

It is a great difficulty when the Red Star involve a civilian. The body must be dealt with and his family will receive a large sum from a made-up contest.

BRIAN

You buy them off?

THE MANAGER

Yes. That is all we can do.

BRIAN

Are all the employees ninjas?

THE MANAGER

Not generally at the copy centers. We are the exception since we are above the training center.

BRIAN

Why was I hired then?

THE MANAGER

This is a working business. You were hired because we needed help on the production floor.

BRIAN

Is anyone else here not a Hataya?

INT. MEGA COPY STORE - CONTINUOUS

TAP TAP TAP. Like a sad puppy, Derek knocks on front door. The Manager and Brian arrive at the counter.

THE MANAGER

Just Derek. He is not really what the Hataya need. Likable though, great with customers.

Cleaner Two snatches up the bag and takes off. Cleaner One fires up the steam cleaner. Gina flips a switch near the register to unlock the door. Derek moseys in.

THE MANAGER (cont'd)

(softly to Gina)

Take Brian downstairs. Show him around. I will meet you both in the Med Bay.

GINA

Yes Manager San.

DEREK

Hey, why's the door locked?

THE MANAGER

We were showing Brian how it works.

DEREK

Cool, what evs. Ew, did someone spill a Slurpy?

GINA

Yeah. Rude, huh?

DEREK

Totes.

GINA

Come on Brian.

Gina ushers Brian towards the back of the store.

DEREK

Where's she going?

THE MANAGER

She, is showing Brian the stock room. You, I need to stay here. We received a terrible customer service report last week.

DEREK

That wasn't me! It was Philip. He's always on his phone. I told him--

THE MANAGER

I know you did. Not to worry, I will speak to Philip. Have you seen him?

INT. MEGA COPY STORE - A MOMENT LATER

The stock room. PALLETS of papers and COPY SUPPLIES fill the space. To the left: A door marked **AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY**. Gina slides a FIRE ALARM up revealing a RETINA SCANNER.

GINA

This is how we get downstairs. Hey, uh, kind of forward but what's your girlfriend situation like?

BRIAN

Wait, not some entrance behind a bookcase or something?

GINA

No, they'd look for that. Hide in plain sight. You'll learn. So...

Gina SCANS her eye. SHOOK SHOOK, the door unlocks. She pulls it open.

BRIAN

Well, I mean, I don't know.

GINA

So there is someone.

It's a stairwell leading down. She pulls him in. SHOOK SHOOK as the door locks behind them.

INT. HATAYA HEADQUARTERS - A MOMENT LATER

We are moving slowly down a long hallway looking towards the stairwell door. Everything is shiny, metallic. The floor is gleaming white tile.

To the left: various doors and halls, and to the right: a HUMONGOUS WINDOW reveals a gorgeous JAPANESE ZEN GARDEN.

A stream runs through it, plants, trees, rocks with moss and a large white gravel square with several boulders. A soft, artificial sunlight fills the space.

As we get closer to the door--

GINA (O.S.)  
Maybe? What's maybe?

BRIAN (O.S.)  
We just haven't--

Gina and Brian emerge through the door. He halts.

BRIAN  
Hooooooly shit.

GINA  
Haven't had the talk? Are you one of those guys who doesn't want to be labeled?

BRIAN  
What is this?

GINA  
This... is our training center and headquarters. I'll give you a quick tour before we hit the med bay.

BRIAN  
Amazing. Uh, no, we haven't had the talk.

GINA  
Ah, I see.

BRIAN  
I'm sorry, what's your name again?

GINA  
Gina.

BRIAN

Did that stuff upstairs freak you out?

GINA

Yeah. But we're trained for it. Well, I'm still in training. Two years so far. Started right after I finished at Brown.

BRIAN

Oh yeah?

GINA

Yup. English lit. I know, *super boring*.

She leads him down the first hallway. They pass the CAFETERIA. People work through a buffet line and are eating at tables.

GINA (cont'd)

The cafeteria. Watch out for the mock duck.

Ew. Brian's face says it all.

Next a TECH LAB: A scientist hits a button on a cell phone. Mini daggers fly out of a package and lodge into a crash test dummy.

GINA (cont'd)

Tech guys. The usual stuff.

Then a WEAPONS ROOM, no people but racks of katanas, daggers, stars, nunchucks, staves: the ninja essentials.

GINA (cont'd)

Weapons room. Careful, lot of sharp stuff in there. The locker rooms here on the left. *Great showers*.

They pass the doors marked LOCKER ROOMS.

GINA (cont'd)

If we had time, I'd show you those.

BRIAN

Uh, I just told you I have a girlfriend.

GINA

But you don't.

BRIAN  
Well, not officially--

GINA  
Here is the training room.

It's massive. Men and women practicing combat: karate, sword play, staff fights.

BRIAN  
How is this possible?

GINA  
That I'm already into you?

BRIAN  
No. Yes, but I meant this facility.

GINA  
I learned recently not to pass up opportunities. And the building, Mega Ship paid for it. We used Hataya architects and contractors.

BRIAN  
It's fucking awesome!

GINA  
Were you busted for language yet?  
They pass one more door marked FILE STORAGE.

BRIAN  
Yeah.

GINA  
It's just his way. This, is all state of the art. We moved in about six months ago.

BRIAN  
Where were you guys before this?

GINA  
Brooklyn.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT [FLASHBACK]

The old Hataya Headquarters. It's CRUMBLING, FIRE and MAYHEM. Battle rages and the Akahoshi have the Hataya outnumbered.

GINA (V.O.)

The last place was destroyed in a full on Red Star assault. A lot of people died. Jennie Lee lost her fiance. It was tough but the move has been a way to start the healing.

The building is beginning to collapse. Both sides are fleeing. Dead Hataya are here and there, a few Akahoshi.

Jennie Lee kneels over the still body of a once powerful man in Hataya Purple. She runs her hand through his blond hair. Rubble drops all around her.

She won't leave. Lars is pulling her away now as the building COLLAPSES around them.

BACK TO SCENE

BRIAN

I'm sorry. I had no idea.

GINA

We do try and keep it a secret. And here we have the--

MYRTLE (O.S.)

Cock punch! Do it! Cock punch!

INT. MED BAY - CONTINUOUS

Gina casually strolls in with Brian in tow. It's bright and sterile. A half dozen med stations with beds fill the room.

The Red Star ninja, still masked, is restrained to a bed. He's surrounded by Myrtle, Jennie Lee, Lars and a DOCTOR.

MYRTLE

You think he won't talk then? I put a staple in that sack. Cock punch!

GINA

Yeah! Cock punch! What's going on?

LARS

Man that's harsh.

JENNIE LEE

No, no cock punching. Myrtle, settle down. Gina and Brian, right?

BRIAN

Uh, yeah.

JENNIE LEE

Okay, here's where we're at: This guy needs urgent medical treatment but we also need to know how he and his buddies got into our store.

BRIAN

So--

DOCTOR

He has large staples lodged in both sides of his neck. If one pops out, he's done.

JENNIE LEE

Fact. Now, our doctor can, and would prefer, to save him--

The Manager enters.

THE MANAGER

Oh Derek. So sweet but could try a saint's patience. Has he talked?

JENNIE LEE

No Manager San.

RED STAR NINJA

Guys, I know I have some serious health issues right now but... can someone check out my bag? Think a staple hit one of my testicles.

Jennie Lee leans over the Red Star.

JENNIE LEE

Doctor, forceps please.

FORCEPS, delivered to her waiting hand.

RED STAR NINJA

Oh thank you.

JENNIE LEE

Not what you think. Now listen. If you bleed out, you won't need either ball. So one more time, how did you get in today?

RED STAR NINJA

Guys, who's with me? Tell her I need my balls checked. Then maybe we can talk, right?

Gina leans over to Brian.

GINA  
(quietly)  
Wanna grab a drink after all this?

Jennie Lee WIGGLES a staple in the ninja's neck. BLOOD.  
SPURT, SPURT, SPURT.

BRIAN  
(gags)  
Oh god.

GINA  
Come on! It's just a drink.

Brian collapses.

THE MANAGER  
Oh great.

INT. HALLWAY - A MOMENT LATER

Brian is leaning against a wall, head down, hands on his knees. Lars stands at his side.

LARS  
Just breath dude. Nothing to be  
ashamed of. I was the same way at  
first. You get used to it.

BRIAN  
Oof, I think I need another minute.

LARS  
Take all the time you need. I'm  
going back in.

BRIAN  
Will any one try to kill me out  
here? Or bleed all over?

LARS  
No dude, you're safe.

Lars heads back into the Med Bay.

BRIAN  
(to himself)  
I have got to sit down.

He sees the FILE STORAGE door. SHRUG. This should work.

INT. FILE STORAGE - CONTINUOUS

A computer terminal beams out in the darkness. In the shadows are file cabinets. A table with a few chairs.

Philip's head pops out from behind the terminal. He's clicking and typing furiously.

BRIAN

Oh, hey man. Sorry to interrupt. I need to sit for a minute. Mind if I turn the lights on?

PHILIP

What? Um, ahhhh. Okay.

FLICK. Lights are on.

BRIAN

Thanks. You're Philip, right?

Brian sits right next to him. Philip keeps on his task. CLICK CLICK. TYPE TYPE TYPE. And one final... CLICK!

PHILIP

Yes and you're the new guy?

BRIAN

Yeah, Brian. Brian MacIntosh. What are you working on?

ANGLE OS: Between the guys. The computer, a FLASH DRIVE poking out its side. On the screen: a DOWNLOAD PROGRESS BAR covering open personnel files.

PHILIP

Just some, uh, stuff. So Brian MacIntosh, how's your first day?

Back on Brian.

BRIAN

Crazy so far. I still don't really know what happened. All of the sudden this ninja was flying at me--

As Brian speaks, Philip reaches behind and begins slowly pulling a DAGGER, the light glinting off its surface.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. FILE STORAGE - CONTINUOUS

BRIAN  
(trailing off)  
I mean, I don't know where you were  
while that was happening--

One more shot of the screen. DOWNLOAD... COMPLETE!

BRIAN (cont'd)  
But--

It hits him. Brian yanks out the flash drive out and makes a break for it. Philip LUNGES, dagger in hand, just missing.

Brian halts. He can be a little cocky.

PHILIP  
I'm going to need that back.

BRIAN  
You know, for a second there, I  
thought I might be wrong.

PHILIP  
About what?

BRIAN  
That you might be stealing files.  
You're in the dark downloading  
stuff to a flash drive. It's weird  
right? But then you pulled a giant  
knife on me--

PHILIP  
The attack was a diversion. Really  
thought it would've taken longer.

BRIAN  
So those are for the Red Star guys?

PHILIP  
Yup.

He SLASHES menacingly at Brian.

BRIAN  
You remember I'm new, right? You  
could've just made something up to  
get me out of here.

PHILIP  
Well, frankly, I didn't think of  
that.

BRIAN  
And now I have your files.

PHILIP  
Not for long.

Philip shoots over the desk, dagger leading the way.

INT. MED BAY - CONTINUOUS

The Doctor, Jennie Lee, Lars, Gina & Myrtle, all blood  
speckled, stand around the ninja.

Jennie Lee is still working the forceps. The Manager paces  
off to the side.

GINA  
Mister, you better talk soon. She  
will not let up and that has got to  
feel awful.

Jennie Lee wiggles another staple, SPURT!

RED STAR NINJA  
Maybe just take a look down there?  
Hit it with some peroxide?

LARS  
Dude, you've got to be getting  
woozy.

RED STAR NINJA  
Fine, fine. Maybe just caress them.  
Or a gentle handy?

JENNIE LEE  
Take off his mask.

DOCTOR  
Uh, it's stapled on.

JENNIE LEE  
Cut it off.

INT. FILE STORAGE - CONTINUOUS

Brian jumps aside but Philip's blade scratches his chest.

BRIAN

Ow. Dick.

Brian scrambles to right himself as Philip blocks the door.

PHILIP

(mockingly)

Ow. Dick.

Brian feints to his left then right. Philip dives and grabs his leg.

He swings his knife arm. Before it can land Brian's FIST CRACKS his face.

Philip loses hold and Brian makes for the door.

PHILIP (cont'd)

Come on newbie! Don't make this difficult.

INT. MED BAY - CONTINUOUS

The Doctor is cutting off the ninja's mask. The Red Star is chiseled, his dark hair tousled. He's pale and sweaty.

RED STAR NINJA

Okay you'll see my face, whatever.  
Even if I talk, you guys can't win.  
I was in Williamsburg that day.  
Epic fail for the Mega Ship gang.

The mask comes off. The forceps CLING off the floor.

JENNIE LEE

Mother fucker. You mother fucker!

She's in mid-air already and lands square on the ninja, SLAMMING down a COCK PUNCH.

RED STAR NINJA

(in pain)  
Get her off me!

JENNIE LEE

You son of a bitch!

Myrtle and Gina jump and high five, twins style.

MYRTLE

Cock punches!

GINA

Cock punches!

JENNIE LEE  
I saw you that night.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT [FLASHBACK]

It's mid-battle in the old Headquarters.

OTS on Jennie Lee, her Katana in hand. She's watching the Red Star from the Med Bay, mask-less, cut down the tall, blonde man in Hataya purple.

BACK TO SCENE

Another COCK PUNCH.

JENNIE LEE  
You killed my fiance.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Brian is scrambling into the hall, tucking the flash drive into his pants pocket. He dashes into the WEAPONS ROOM.

INT. WEAPONS ROOM - A FEW SECONDS LATER

Brian is hiding behind a rack loaded with katanas.

Philip creeps in, dagger at the ready.

PHILIP  
Brian. Oh Brian MacIntosh. Let's end this... You shit.

Brian gently slides a katana off the rack.

BRIAN  
Why are you stealing from the Hataya and giving it to the, what are they called?

PHILIP  
The Akahoshi Clan.

Brian springs up, sword in hand. He's a righty. Philip races in to attack, ditching his dagger for a nearby sword.

BRIAN

Right, them. Weren't you trained by the Hataya? Isn't there some sort of ninja samurai code of honor loyalty rewards program thingy?

PHILIP

Here's the problem: Performance reviews.

Brian is barely keeping him at bay. It's a flailing sort of defense. They are fighting in and around the weapon racks.

BRIAN

Like work evaluations?

PHILIP

Exactly. Totally unfair.

(whiny voice)

Philip does this, Philip doesn't do that, has poor customer service skills, not good with throwing stars. Bullshit. All of it.

BRIAN

So you're pissed about your reviews and now you're a spy. Wow, you're kind of a bitch.

INT. MED BAY - CONTINUOUS

Everyone, The Manager included, is dragging Jennie Lee off the Red Star. She's fighting hard to get another shot in.

GINA

Whoa! Jennie hold on!

MYRTLE

Easy dear, easy.

JENNIE LEE

You punk shit, lying there joking about your balls. How do they feel now?

The ninja GROANS a bit. They've got her off him.

RED STAR NINJA

(still defiant)

You call that a gentle handy?

THE MANAGER

Jennie, shhhhh, shhhhh.

It's calming. She relents and regains her composure.

THE MANAGER (cont'd)  
Take a moment.

She turns away from the gang to the corner. The Manager steps up to the Red Star.

THE MANAGER (cont'd)  
(softly)  
I do not want this to continue. I have to know how our security was breached and right now you are the only one who can tell me. Please, one more time--

RED STAR NINJA  
Nope. Not gonna ha--

With a subtle, powerful move The Manager STRIKES the Red Star's left shin. Shards of tibia BURST through his pants.

RED STAR NINJA (cont'd)  
(screaming)  
Gaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaagggggghhh!

INT. WEAPONS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Still battling. Brian is losing ground.

BRIAN  
Gaaaaaaaghhh!

He's nicked on his left arm, bleeding down his sleeve.

INT. MED BAY - CONTINUOUS

Red Star POV: His mangled shin in view. The Manager pulls back his hand to strike again.

RED STAR NINJA  
(agony)  
Philip. It was Philip.

Back on the room.

RED STAR NINJA (cont'd)  
He let us in early this morning when he opened, before anyone else arrived.

INT. WEAPONS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brian takes another step back. He trips on the rack of swords, knocking them into the air as Philip launches into a spinning, flying assault.

PHILIP  
Give me the files and I'll make  
this-- Gaaaaaaaagh!

As he's coming out of the spin a stray Katana lops off the last two fingers on his left hand.

Brian scrambles up and away to avoid the landing blades, his own sword still in hand.

Philip lands and stops dead in his tracks. He drops his sword and clutches his bloody hand.

BRIAN  
Oh man. Oh man. I am so sorry.

PHILIP  
You, you cut off my fingers.

BRIAN  
Wow, I did not mean for that to  
happen.  
(beat)  
Are you okay?

PHILIP  
Okay? I just lost--

He peeks at his stumpy hand, blood pouring out.

PHILIP (cont'd)  
Two. Two of my fingers.

BRIAN  
Oh, we should get those on ice.  
(beat)  
Hey. I didn't gag. Lars was right.  
Um, where did they go?

PHILIP  
I don't know. I didn't see where  
they landed.

Brian looks around, takes a step-- CRUNCH.

BRIAN  
Uh oh, I just--

PHILIP  
 You just broke my fingers?  
 Seriously?

Brian lifts his foot to inspect the damage.

PHILIP (cont'd)  
 Are they...

BRIAN  
 (gags)  
 Gross.  
 (beat)  
 Oh hey--

Brian raises his sword and steps towards Philip.

Philip, with his good hand, ZINGS a throwing star at Brian.  
 It flies super wide left and sticks in a wall.

PHILIP  
 Dammit!

Philip bolts. Brian drops his swords and lets out a giant...

BRIAN  
 (SIGH)

INT. HALLWAY - A MOMENT LATER

The Manager, Jennie Lee, Lars, Myrtle and Gina are racing  
 down the hall almost at the Weapons Room.

Philip is rounding the corner, heading for the stairwell.

LARS  
 On it!

He chases after Philip. Gina sees Brian in the Weapons Room.

GINA  
 Oh god, Brian.

The gang rushes in to him.

INT. WEAPONS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brian sits on the floor. His arm and chest blood soaked, his  
 sword next to him. Squashed, severed fingers nearby.

BRIAN  
 Oh, hey guys.

They circle around him.

BRIAN (cont'd)  
 Is this a typical first day?  
 (beat)  
 It was Philip. He set it all up,  
 the attack. He was stealing  
 information for the Akawhatzy.

Brian pulls out the flash drive and hands it to The Manager.

THE MANAGER  
 Akahoshi. We know.

BRIAN  
 Did we catch him?

THE MANAGER  
 Lars is in pursuit now.

INT. MEGA COPY STORE - A MOMENT LATER

The lobby. Derek mans the register.

Philip races past headed for the front doors. His injured hand clutched to his chest.

DEREK  
 Hey! Your shift isn't even close to  
 being over.

Philip turns and with his good hand, FLIPS Derek THE BIRD.

DEREK (cont'd)  
 Oh, he can be such a bitch.

Lars reaches Derek but Philip is long gone.

LARS  
 Dude, I don't think Philip works  
 here any more.

INT. MED BAY - A BIT LATER

Brian sits on a bed, his wounds bandaged. The Manager stands next to him.

The Red Star is gone. Only bloody sheets remain.

BRIAN  
 What happened to him?

THE MANAGER  
He is in surgery.

BRIAN  
Why?

THE MANAGER  
He will be nursed back to health.  
Then, he will be free to go.

BRIAN  
Free to go? How are you going to  
end this war if you let people go?

THE MANAGER  
We want peace, not another five  
hundred years of warring. Letting  
him go spares a life and will show  
others our intentions. Even so  
Brian, death is a part of this  
life. Do you understand?

Brian give a little nod, yes.

THE MANAGER (cont'd)  
Your training will be difficult.  
The ninja training as well as time  
upstairs. We all do it.

BRIAN  
Wait. I'm in?

Brian throws two fist into the air.

BRIAN (cont'd)  
Yes!

Immediately regrets it and grabs his injured arm.

BRIAN (cont'd)  
Ow.

THE MANAGER  
Can you stay focused and avoid  
distractions?

BRIAN  
Yes Manager San. Will you go after  
Philip?

THE MANAGER  
No. He has chosen his path and is  
no longer our concern.

INT. RED STAR CLAN HEADQUARTERS - LATER THAT DAY

A conference room. A dark wooden table with the Red Star logo in the center.

A large, round, powerful black woman sits at the head, ANTOINETTE. She's wearing the Red Star ninja uniform, no mask, no sleeves.

Other Red Stars sit around the table. Philip stands near the door, hand bandaged, in a sling.

ANTOINETTE

Did you retrieve the personnel and recruiting files?

PHILIP

No Master San.

ANTOINETTE

But you did blow your cover and lost how many fingers?

PHILIP

Two.

ANTOINETTE

Who did this to you? The Manager? His mutt, Jennie Lee?

PHILIP

No Master San. A new recruit.

ANTOINETTE

A newbie? You're such a bitch.

The table bursts out LAUGHING, Antoinette the loudest.

INT. RED STAR CLAN HEADQUARTERS - A MOMENT LATER

A hallway. Philip stands alone. Laughter raging behind the conference room door.

PHILIP

I will fucking kill you, Brian MacIntosh.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - DAWN

The bedroom. LOW ANGLE on the floor: Beer bottles and clothes are everywhere. Then up to the bed--

Close on Brian, who is just waking. He's naked with an arm and leg draped across his body. Pull back to reveal Gina, just as naked.

She wakes too, groggy with sleep.

GINA

Mmmmm, I just might love you Brian  
MacIntosh.

BRIAN

(panicked face)

FADE OUT