Onegai.

ACT I

Scene I/DAY I

*(Current times. Unknown city. There is an impaired old man in his 70s on one side of the avenue’s sidewalk.)*

OLD MAN: I’m getting a little bit long in the tooth to get back here everyday.

OLD MAN: *(looks to the wristwatch)* I used to take 20 minutes to arrive from home, now it has passed an hour. But I need this. I need to keep going.

OLD MAN: I require help now to cross over the street. Let me ask someone.

*(The old man approaches to a group of 3 young triplets.)*

OLD MAN: Hey, children, may you…. Oh, you look so young, how old a…

TRIPLET 1: Oh, it’s the old man that ate her wife at breakfast!

OLD MAN: Wait a second, what?

TRIPLET 2: No way! The one from the story Papa told us last night?

TRIPLET 3: Unbelievable! Sooooo creepy. May I ask you an autograph?

OLD MAN: Oh God, please help me in this hour of need…

TRIPLET 2: Shhhh, Papa does not let us talk to strangers. He could devour us for dinner.

TRIPLET 1: Eow, that sounds disgusting.

TRIPLET 3: Soooooo cool. Let me be the first one, onegai!

OLD MAN: Can you stop pretending to ignore me?

TRIPLET 2: We cannot talk to strangers, sir. It’s no our fault. It’s Papa’s.

OLD MAN: But I’m not a stranger, after all, I was introduced to you last night, if I remember correctly…

TRIPLET 3: Soooooo genius, my ultimate idol!

OLD MAN: You are so young, it’s dangerous to go around alone today when you are such a child like you. It’s been a long time since I was your age, probably five years old, when I passed by here every day, it was still a narrow street, to go to school. But those were other times, there weren't many cars, and the streets were less dangerous.

TRIPLET 1: Papa had to work, so we’re going to school all by ourselves.

TRIPLET 2: Don’t underestimate the power of the triplets!

TRIPLET 3: Although I’m the coolest one, don’t tell them about this, ok?

OLD MAN: I wanted help to cross the street but you’re in a hurry, I’ll try to catch someone else…

TRIPLET 2: That’s true, we must not talk to strangers anyway.

OLD MAN: Oh God, I forgot to bring a flower! What am I gonna do?

TRIPLET 3: *(takes a crumpled-cold flower from his coat pocket)* Take it, please kind sir!I picked it on the way till here for my girlfriend, but it’s ok.

OLD MAN: Thank you! Are you sure about this?

TRIPLET: Soooooo sure. Chicks… There are plenty. But you sir – the coolest serial killer still alive – I am your greatest fan!

OLD MAN: I do not know what to say about this, I’ll just quit. Please, take care!

*(The old man approaches a lady passing by.)*

OLD MAN: Good morning, lass!

LASS: …

OLD MAN: Hmm, could you stand a hand to help an old man? I need to go to the other side…

LASS: …

OLD MAN: Oh, you don’t speak English… También puedo hablar un poco de español.

LASS: …

OLD MAN: Hmm… Ok…

*(The old man approaches a young man.)*

OLD MAN: Hi, boy, I’m an old man that can hardly walk and I needed to cross the street, could you please help me? Onegai.

POLICEMAN: Oh, so now you complain! But last time I checked you were yelling to leave you alone, that your legs could run a marathon.

OLD MAN: Excuse me, do I know you?

POLICEMAN: The uniform makes all the difference, don’t you think? I’m the policeman that visited you last week.

OLD MAN: Oh. How lucky I am.

POLICEMAN: Please, sir, you should really think about what I said.

OLD MAN: May I kindly ask what was it? My schedule’s being so stirring lately…

POLICEMAN: Let me move you to a senior center. Onegai.

OLD MAN: I already said no.

POLICEMAN: Onegai.

OLD MAN: No. I can’t even afford it.

POLICEMAN: Your family will help. I’m sure of it.

OLD MAN: There is no one left. The only person I had is gone a long time ago.

POLICEMAN: Oh, I’m sorry. But we’ll find a way.

OLD MAN: No.

POLICEMAN: Onegai.

OLD MAN: No!

POLICEMAN: You know I won’t give up so easily, sir. You live in an apartment on the last floor. It’s alarming for you to use them in your condition.

OLD MAN: I have the lift.

POLICEMAN: C’mon, stop sa…

OLD MAN: Leave me alone, now! I won’t ever quit my home! Never! There until I die! It’s the only thing left. The only thing left that remembers me of her.

OLD MAN: LEAVE ME ALONE! I SAID LEAVE ME ALONE! LEAVE ME ALONE OR I’LL CALL THE POLICE!

POLICEMAN: I am the police.

OLD MAN: LEAVE ME ALONE NOW!

*(The old man approaches an old lady.)*

OLD LADY: Such a wonderful good-looking gentleman…

OLD MAN: I’m sorry but, do I know you?

OLD LADY: No, but you could…

OLD MAN: It might be some kind of mistake.

OLD LADY: It’s been a while since I don’t touch man’s flesh. And my body lacks on masculine chair too!

OLD MAN: My heart is already taken. Excuse me.

OLD LADY: Who cares about that? I just wanna take on a ride!

OLD MAN: It all started with a woman. It all will end with a woman. Have a good day.

*(The man approaches a boy in his late teens.)*

TEEN: What do you want, dumbass?

OLD MAN: Hey, kid, show some respect. I could be your grandfather.

TEEN: You could. That’s right. Although you’re not. I have no family since my first memory.

OLD MAN: My sympathies. I have no family too. I did not have time to make one of my own. No one will ever call me Papa. It’s all my fault. All my fault!

TEEN: I don't look like a psychologist, big ball. Get the fuck outta here.

OLD MAN: Language, child!

*(The old man approaches a mysterious man using a hood.)*

*(If the old man does not have a flower.)*

OLD MAN: I have the feeling that I should check on someone else first.

*(If the old man has the flower.)*

OLD MAN: Please. Onegai. Listen to me. I should go to the other side. Help me.

MAN: How much?

OLD MAN: How much what?

MAN: Bucks.

OLD MAN: Wait a second, so… It means I need to give you money so you could succour me?

MAN: Bucks control everything.

OLD MAN: Sorry but I did not bring my wallet.

MAN: No pain, no gain.

OLD MAN: Okay… Take it. It’s all I have right now.

*(The man starts running away.)*

OLD MAN: Hey, where are you going? Come back! Please! Come back… I need to see her again… Come back. Onegai.

*(Suddenly, another old man hears the yelling and comes close to him.)*

???: Sir, are you feeling alright? Should I call 911?

OLD MAN: Oh, my apologies for making you worry about me. I’m fine, or I’ll be, at least. I just wanted to get to the other side… My legs… They’re making me shiver. I’m no longer the man that I used to be.

???: No one is the same as they used to. People change. And that’s okay. Don’t think about it as a negative thing. It’s just, you know… Life in its essence.

OLD MAN: I’m not living for so long… I’m just surviving.

???: Aren’t we all?

*(The man who had arrived realizes that the old man is not paying attention to their conversation. He is fixedly looking towards a traffic signal, in the middle of the avenue where they are.)*

???: Oh, I talk too much! You know, retirement is turning me into an useless haughty old man! I never imagined I would be like this…

OLD MAN: As you said. People change.

???: Oh, right, right! I almost forgot. Let’s keep going then?

OLD MAN: Yes, please. My legs are tired.

*(Both men start traversing.)*

???: So, what brings you here today?