

ARCHE
-Witchlove-

by

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Based on the Novel by

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Darkness. Deep murmuring voice from the distance.

A thunderstorm...

ADULT KAI (V.O.)
 ...every book is built
 from the bones of
 another...

FADE
 IN

EXT. THE DESERT - DUSK

Dreamlike atmosphere.

We pass through a dim, whirling cloud which clears away gradually to reveal a dead straight, empty road in a barren valley. We see immense, dark clouds in the sky.

As we fly along the road, we reach ADULT KAI, walking. He is wearing a brown leather trench coat. His face is weather-beaten. Ahead of him in the distance is a rundown motel.

ADULT KAI (V.O.)
 ...so the ancient wisdom
 of mankind is passed
 down through their pages
 ... producing painful
 questions across the
 millennia.

Adult Kai arrives at the motel. Determined, he goes to the entrance. He has a white patch in his hair, above an old scar.

ADULT KAI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Now, books are very
 strange creatures; some
 dangerous, even...

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DUSK

Adult Kai bursts in.

Inside we find a filthy room; in the middle under the lamp there is a table and at the opposite side of it, sits OLD WILKINS. Cragged skin, foul teeth, long filthy hair in his face. In front of him on the table are an old book and a silver gun. The book has a bullet hole in it. In his hand, a bottle of whiskey.

They exchange a look. Wilkins looks away. Fingers tightening around the Book, Wilkins gives a rasping laugh.

OLD WILKINS
I knew you'd come! All
these years, chasing
me... right?

Adult Kai looks at him with pity; refuses to
answer.

OLD WILKINS
I knew, I knew!

Wilkins fans away some invisible entity. Begins to
sob, strokes the book. Adult Kai steps closer.

OLD WILKINS
You don't understand! I
deciphered it!

Wilkins stops sobbing. Kai leans closer.

OLD WILKINS
You can't take it away
from me! You're gonna
die! I told those fools,
but no-one listens...
Look! Look! Together, we
can...

Old Wilkins starts to gasp. Adult Kai reaches out
for the Book; as if under the effect of a spell,
Wilkins can't do anything.

OLD WILKINS
(eyes widen)
The witch... She is with
you!

He stares at the Book; Kai is clearly not going to
give it back. Old Wilkins looks at the gun on the
table. Pause. With shaking hands, he puts it into
his mouth.

ADULT KAI (V.O.)
Your sanity will revolt
against what commences,
forcing you to laugh...

Kai calmly grabs the gun and turns it sideways -
the bullet explodes into the wall behind.

ADULT KAI (V.O.)
...and shrug it off as a
fairytale.

Slowly, Kai takes the gun away from Wilkins who
sobs in his chair, defeated. He looks up.

ADULT KAI (V.O.)
But that's how it has to
be. For you are not ready
to want to behold...

OLD WILKINS
Help me!

ADULT KAI (V.O.)
 ...to dare to behold...

Kai turns the gun at Wilkins.

ADULT KAI (V.O.)
 ...to know how to
 behold...

The gun fires, and Wilkins falls back dead.

ADULT KAI (V.O.)
 ...and to stay silent.

Shadows fill up the room, until all is dark again.
 Buzzing fills the space.

CUT TO

EXT. CATHEDRAL - DUSK

Slam of a police car door. Red and blue lights
 color the old, gray houses. Cops in black uniforms
 everywhere.

The City is none and all of the European
 metropolises, a chaotic mix of high-tech design
 and old, hand-carved stone. Ancient layers of dirt
 cover everything; the filth of centuries.

We follow two cops amongst the cars. LIEUTENANT
 GOROM, a butch, black man walks with a fast pace,
 followed by an officer.

GOROM
 (to officer)
 ...and I want the whole
 area sealed tight on
 these loonies! No way in
 or out!

COP
 Yes Sir!

Gorom arrives to negotiator WILKINS. He is clean-
 cut and closely-shaved, with well-combed hair and
 perfect teeth. He's holding a brand new laptop and
 adjusting his bullet-proof vest.

WILKINS
 (sarcastic)
 Lieutenant!

GOROM
 Wilkins! Unless you're
 ready to grab a gun,
 you're no use here. These
 kids are frickin' insane.

Wilkins looks at the gate of the CATHEDRAL. It is
 closed. A dead cat is nailed to it, with symbols
 and circles painted around it in blood.

GOROM (CONT'D)
 Arrested for a lethal
 car crash, escaped from
 custody, leaving dozens
 of wounded and dead cops
 behind, not to mention
 the fucked-up satanic
 paintings...
 What else do we need to
 finish off these...

Wilkins glances at his laptop, tilts it to Gorom.

WILKINS
 ...kids?! They don't know
 what they're doing.

We see layers of photos on the laptop: arrest
 photos of ANGITHIA and KAI, Sumerian magic
 circles.

GOROM
 And do WE know it?

Pictures change to Angithia hugging a Christ
 statue. Gorom's phone rings.

WILKINS
 I've already called in
 my specialist from the
 University.

GOROM
 (answers phone)
 What priest? No, I told
 you not to...

He looks around to find MORDANNO coming towards
 them.

MORDANNO
 Mr. Wilkins?

Wilkins turns around, coming face to face with
 FATHER MORDANNO. Gray hair, Caesarian expression,
 steel-rimmed glasses. Mordanno, agitated, forces
 Wilkins to shake hands with him.

MORDANNO
 Carlos Paulus Mordanno,
 at your service. You must
 be Wilkins.

WILKINS
 Indeed, I am.

GOROM
 Father, this is a police
 operation. I have to ask
 you to leave.

MORDANNO

I'm here to represent the Church.

(takes out a paper, gives to Gorom)

I admire your achievements, Mr. Wilkins. I hope you are both aware that the Cathedral is a protected historical building...

GOROM

(injured expression; gives paper to Wilkins)

Not this bureaucratic bullcrap...

MORDANNO

(raises voice)

That thing on the gate is pure blasphemy...

GOROM

I've sent a man to take it down!

MORDANNO (CONT'D)

...(not mentioning that) use of firearms should be avoided at all costs. No bloodshed.

WILKINS

(keeping calm)

That is exactly why I'm here, father.

Weird noises come from the walkie-talkies of the cops.

COP

(to Gorom)

Sir! Something's wrong with Jones...!

Wilkins looks around. His gaze meets Gorom's. They head to the nearest police car to find out what's going on.

Wilkins notices an old Asian woman: CHIEKO is heading to the Cathedral, unobserved. She has a white streak of hair. She looks at Wilkins; they exchange a glance. Wilkins turns to Gorom as they get to the police car.

GOROM

(into radio)

What's the matter?

Wilkins turns back to look for Chieko but she's disappeared.

GOROM
Lieutenant Gorom here!

Suddenly, a deep tremor shakes the ground. People grab cars, etc. trying not to fall over. Mordanno's expression hardens. An earthquake, it seems. It is over in a few seconds.

Wilkins looks at the horizon - dark smoke rises up and obscures the Sun.

From the Cathedral gate, a POLICE OFFICER runs towards them. His eyes are filled with terror - saliva is drooling from his mouth. He cannot talk.

As he sees Mordanno, he shrieks, falls to the ground, takes out his gun, and blows his own head off. A cloud of blood explodes into the air.

GOROM
(to Wilkins)
What the fuck...?

The cops are disturbed. Wilkins runs to the suicide cop, others flee for cover.

The ground trembles again.

CUT TO

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

A narrow alley leading to the Cathedral. The tremors shake the puddles on the ground. The street is empty.

A CAT appears and runs in fright to find safety between a pair of legs.

CHEIKO leans down, pets the cat.

CHIEKO
It's alright, little one.

The tremor's over. Chieko looks at the Cathedral. She notices something: someone is standing behind an arched window. Chieko narrows her eyes. It is a woman - naked. After a moment, she moves away, disappearing in the darkness. Chieko looks at the window with sad eyes.

CUT TO

VISIONS 1.

Strange images, accompanied by the rasping noise of a shovel digging into the ground:

Sky, filled with smoke.
Playground, kids. White sand.
Police car passing by.

Little girl runs in sand.
 Sandcastle.
 Hand of a small boy.
 Pigeons fly up.
 Poodle.
 Old woman sits down on a bench.
 The surface of water.

CUT TO

EXT. PARTY - NIGHT

The surface of water. A body splashes into it.
 YOUNG KAI shrugs back to reality (no scars, no
 white patch of hair).

A rich suburban house, with a waterfall cascading
 into a pool. Party boy climbs out of the pool,
 others cheer. A party of spoilt teenagers, drunk,
 dancing, screaming.

CUT TO

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kai, on his phone, looks around awkwardly. He has
 a digital camera on him. Realizing where he is,
 he fills his glass with tap water. Loud pop music.
 Two girls climb onto the table in the dining room
 and start dancing. Others spray sparkling wine at
 them.

The host-of-party boy runs in and tries to stop
 them. In the kitchen, a boy and a girl make out
 on the table while a third drunken boy tries to
 explain something to them.

Kai, disgusted, watches it all. In one hand an
 almost empty glass, in the other a mobile.

MOTHER (V.O.)

I don't want to remind
 you that your exams are
 very close.

KAI

It's just a party...

MOTHER (V.O.)

Why do you let them
 influence you? You don't
 even like parties!

KAI

Yes, but... Jenny wanted
 to come and...

MOTHER (V.O.)

Can you be home by 11?

KAI

Yes.

MOTHER (V.O.)

Be careful.

KAI

Yeah... okay... bye...

His girlfriend JENNY appears.

JENNY

Who were you talking to,
lawyer boy?

KAI

My mother.

JENNY

Can you get me some wine
or something?

(a girl passes
by)

Hey, Joanna!

JOANNA

Hiya! Have you seen Joe?

JENNY

Oh, yeah, he's around.

(They exchange
appreciative
glances)

What're you up to?

KAI

I... Uh...

(girls ignore
him)

I'll get some drinks.

Kai gets the wrong type of glasses for wine. He pours red wine into them, spills it. He frowns. The snogging couple leave the kitchen. Jenny is gone. Kai stares out of the window at the stars.

Two DORKS come into the kitchen.

DORK#1

Dude! That girl is
frickin' crazy!

DORK#2

She has a sick dagger,
though.

DORK#1

I'd do her!

Kai stares at the stars... Through the reflection in the window, he catches a glimpse of ANGITHIA, sitting at the top of the stairs. Long black hair, warm eyes, long black shirt and skirt.

She smiles, Kai watches her reflection.

People come in for drinks. Jenny phones Kai.

JENNY
Where's my drink?

KAI
(looking at her
over the crowd)
Yeah. On my way.

He turns back. Angithia is still watching him. Smile gone. She smokes her spliff. Jenny appears, takes the wine from Kai, goes away. Angithia leans back against the wall, puts out the spliff on the wall. Kai is amazed by this moment. As Angithia looks away, he takes a photo.

As the flash goes off, Angithia looks back.

KAI
Shit!

Angithia stands up and goes over to Kai.

KAI
Oh... shit...

Kai is very awkward. Angithia is seductive.

KAI
I... I'm sorry about the
photo...

ANGITHIA
It's okay...
(steps closer)
Kai...

KAI
My name is not Kai.

ANGITHIA
(whispering)
I've been watching you.
It suits you perfectly.

KAI
I...

ANGITHIA
Now, Kai... How would you
name me?

Angithia lights a cigarette.

KAI
(baffled)
Hmm... Well... Angithia?

ANGITHIA
(surprised)
Why?

KAI
It's a mythological
name...

ANGITHIA

Etruscan.

KAI

(a bit
surprised)

How do you know that?

ANGITHIA

(smile)

How do YOU know it?

KAI

I read too much...

ANGITHIA

You can never read
enough.

KAI

You like myths and magic
and stuff?

ANGITHIA

(smiles)

I create them.

(steps very
close to
Kai but Kai
looks at his
girlfriend)

KAI

Uhm... My real name is...

ANGITHIA

I don't give a shit what
your parents named you!

KAI

Hey! ... I should go. My
girlfriend...

ANGITHIA

Right. 'Cos that whiny
bitch really needs you.

She blows the smoke away from Kai.

KAI

I... I just have to be
home soon.

ANGITHIA

Is there anything else I
need to know about you,
kid?

They look each other in the eye. Kai looks away.

KAI

Don't call me kid!

A shot of Angithia's shoulder.

ANGITHIA
What are you doing here,
Kai?

KAI
Partying.

ANGITHIA
Liar. You're so not.

KAI
Why... why me?

Angithia smiles. She strokes his face. He's trying to keep his distance.

ANGITHIA
I like you, Kai.... The
romantic kind who dies at
the end of the story.

Kai hesitates. Angithia leans closer.

ANGITHIA
You want to fuck me.

KAI
(extremely
embarrassed)
What...?!)

Angithia's lips almost touch his ear. He is scared even to move.

ANGITHIA
(whispers)
That was your very first
thought when you saw me.

KAI
I...

His phone rings. He does not answer. The ringing and the party music fades.

The girl gazes deep into Kai's eyes.
Kai gazes back.
Phone stops.

KAI
(puzzled smile)
You are insane...

ANGITHIA
Am I?
(pause)
What are we doing here?

Kai hesitates.

ANGITHIA
Come with me!

KAI
 (puzzled smile)
 No...

Kai catches a glimpse of Jenny dancing.

ANGITHIA
 I want to show you
 someplace.

Kai is overwhelmed. Jenny dances, surrounded by
 guys. Kai looks into Angithia's eyes.

CUT TO

EXT. CATHEDRAL HILL - NIGHT

A huge truck goes by. On the other side of the
 road, Angithia stops under a lamp, takes out a
 cigarette.

ANGITHIA
 Do you mind?

KAI
 No.

ANGITHIA
 (lights
 cigarette)
 Just say if you do.

KAI
 No, I'm fine.

ANGITHIA
 You're a weird one, you
 know.

KAI
 I'm weird?

ANGITHIA
 (smiles)
 Come on!

She offers her hand. Kai takes it. She leads Kai
 off the road, up the hill, amongst the bushes.

KAI
 Where...?

ANGITHIA
 Sssh!

Behind them, the thousand lights of the City. They
 get to an old stone fence with rusted iron bars.
 They climb through the fence.

KAI
 This is...?!

ANGITHIA
 ...a cemetery, Kai.

Angithia leads him amongst the tombs by moonlight.
All is still and silent.

ANGITHIA
I love coming here.

KAI
Are you not afraid of
death?

ANGITHIA
No. Sometimes, I long for
it.

KAI
I hate the idea. There's
so much to see in the
world!

ANGITHIA
And yet so far you've
wasted your life.

Angithia leads him to a ruined chapel. They
climb up to the second floor, walls half-fallen,
roof still standing. There is a rug on the floor.
Angithia lights a few candles. The City can be
seen in the distance.

KAI
Wow! This is amazing!

ANGITHIA
As a kid I used to hide
here whenever I was hurt.
Before you ask: you're
the first person I've
brought here.

She finishes lighting candles. Kai stands by her;
awkwardly, he strokes her face. She is drawn to
him like a cat. They stare at each other with
longing.

KAI
What are we doing?

ANGITHIA
Do you believe in
miracles?

KAI
I don't know.

ANGITHIA
Lucky boy. I've lost all
my dreams.

KAI
Why?

ANGITHIA
I was first fucked at
twelve. By a drunken

asshole. At fourteen, I
tried to commit suicide.

KAI
I'm sorry.

ANGITHIA
Don't be.
(looks deep into
his eyes)
Tell me your dreams.

KAI
...I want to build a
house by the ocean.
Shaped like a sphere...

ANGITHIA
(smile)
I like that.

KAI
With an oak-tree growing
in the middle.
(pause)
And a roof of glass...

Kai realizes that Angithia is silent. He looks at her and sees tears in her eyes.

She looks up at him. Tears running down her cheeks but she smiles. Angithia draws Kai to her and unbuttons his shirt. Kai is uncertain, a bit afraid.

ANGITHIA
(smiles)
It's all right...

They end up on the carpet, sitting facing each other, discovering each other's bodies.

Kai notices a tattooed dragon on her shoulder. For a split second it seems animated. Kai kisses her shoulder.

ANGITHIA
Show me yourself!

Angithia sits on Kai's lap. She slowly starts moving and draws Kai to her breasts. Kai sees weird movements in the shadows.

Kai pulls back and looks into her eyes.

KAI
What is this...?

Angithia rocks in his lap.
We see twines grow up onto the tombstones and the ruins of the chapel. While Kai and Angithia hold each other:
The twines on the mortuary bloom to flowers and leaves.

The cemetery appears to be sinking down (the City rises up).
Huge trees emerge amongst the tombstones, forming a forest around Kai and Angithia, blocking the view of the City.

Kai and Angithia are both breathless. The boy notices the forest and pushes her away in shock. Angithia turns his head back to her.

ANGITHIA

No! Look at me!

Kai holds her, her body covered with sweat, the safest place he's ever been.

KAI

Angithia...

FADE
OUT

===== END OF SAMPLE MATERIAL=====