

WHITE IRIS

Written by

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Inspired by

This Lone Iris - Haiku by Masaoka Shiki (1867-1902)

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this lone iris
white
in the spring twilight
Masaoka Shiki (1867 - 1902)

FADE IN:

1 EXT. STONE COTTAGE - MORNING 1

MORNING SOUNDS.

Sun dancing through trees, vines, and flowers. The cottage is overgrown, wild and beautiful.

An OLD WOMAN, wild and free, lovingly tends the garden.

An OLD MAN watches her through the cottage window.

The old woman cuts a bouquet of PURPLE IRISES. She smells the flowers, savoring each one, then hobbles toward the cottage.

2 INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - MORNING 2

The old man is sitting at a wooden table.

The old woman enters the rustic kitchen carrying the flowers. She smiles at the old man.

He smiles back and takes a drink from his mug.

She lays the flowers on a stone counter, takes a beautiful vase from the cupboard, fills it with water, and places the flowers inside. Again, she smells the flowers.

She hobbles over to the old man and puts the flower vase on the table. He leans over to smell the flowers then looks up at her. They smile as she puts her hand on his shoulder.

CRASHING SOUND.

The old man looks out the window.

The old woman is standing in the garden. She has dropped her tin watering pitcher. She is holding a single WHITE IRIS. She looks back at the old man, her expression pained.

3 EXT. STONE COTTAGE - DAY 3

The old woman looks at the old man in the window then wilts and falls.

The old man struggles to stand up.

4 INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - DAY 4

As he rises, the old man bumps the table, spilling the flowers and water.

5 EXT. STONE COTTAGE - DAY 5

The old man quickly shuffles to the old woman, lying in the grass and drops to his knees beside her. He places his hand on her forehead, then gently cradles her head. Her eyes close. She stops breathing.

Tears spill from his eyes.

In her right hand she holds a single WHITE IRIS. He raises her arm and folds it with the White Iris, gently, on her chest.

6 INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - EVENING 6

Close on: The spilled flowers. A YOUNG WOMAN'S ARMS as she uprights the flower vase and wipes up the spilled water.

7 EXT. STONE COTTAGE - EVENING 7

The old man kneels in the garden, watering a WHITE IRIS. He turns his head to look at the cottage. In the window he can see a beautiful YOUNG WOMAN dressed in white.

Startled, he struggles to his feet and hurries toward the cottage.

8 INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - EVENING 8

The old man rushes into the kitchen. On the table is a vase filled with Purple Irises. A single white iris lies next to the vase.

He puts his hand on a chair to steady himself as tears spill out of the corners of his eyes.

He sits down and looks out the window. In the garden he sees a beautiful young woman dressed in white.

9 EXT. STONE COTTAGE - EVENING 9

The young woman cuts a single white iris and looks at the cottage window. The old man looks back. She brushes a strand of her long wild hair behind her ear and smiles at him.

10 INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - EVENING 10

The old man watches the young woman through the window. She holds a single white iris.
She smiles lovingly.
He smiles sadly, tears on his cheeks.

11 EXT. STONE COTTAGE - EVENING 11

The young woman inhales the white iris scent, pushes her long hair back, and looks toward the cottage window.

The old man is watching.

12 INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - EVENING 12

Through the window, the young woman laughs and, like a young girl, skips away.

The old man watches her go, then, slowly he picks up the white iris and places it in the vase with the purple.

13 EXT. STONE COTTAGE - EVENING 13

The sun is setting.

Through the window, the old man bends to smell the single white iris as a shaft of light illuminates the flower.

14 SUPER: 14

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FADE TO BLACK.