

PORTFOLIO SITE: NaomiHanaNightingale.com
CONTACT EMAIL: Naomi.h.nightingale@gmail.com

BURADO V

Narrative Design Sample / Cinematic Script

By Naomi Nightingale

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Logline

When Japanese American Jennifer Masuda begins seeing visions of an ancient spirit, she travels to Japan in search of answers—only to discover a hidden legacy of ninja warriors she was born to inherit. To stop a long-dormant evil, she must reclaim her family's ancestral spirits and rise as Burado V.

Gameplay Context

The game opens as **Jennifer Masuda**, a Japanese American delinquent, breaks into the **Tokyo National Museum** to steal a mysterious katana that has been calling to her in dreams. Unknown to her, the blade was forged from a fallen star and made legendary by her ancestor—the first to bear the title **Burado**.

As Jennifer touches the legendary blue-steel blade, the spirit of Burado I emerges, revealing himself as a **tsukumogami**, a living artifact bound to the blade. He tasks Jennifer with recovering the other ancestral tsukumogami hidden across Japan and preparing for the return of an ancient evil long thought vanquished.

To defeat this threat and inherit her destiny, Jennifer must master her ancestor's path and rise as **Burado V**.

GAMEPLAY: The game opens on the night she is to break into the museum, shaping the narrative as an organic tutorial for movement, stealth, and platforming as she makes her way through the exhibits while evading infrared lasers, pressure plates, and guards.

CUTSCENE: She receives a vision of the distant past as she grabs the legendary blue-steel blade. She realizes it is a memory of the warrior who once wielded the blade. She doesn't know why this talking sword has chosen her, specifically, but she senses the spirit within it to be that of her ancestral blood.

GAMEPLAY: She tries to escape but runs into a swarm of angry guards, marking a combat tutorial with this new weapon as she makes her escape. She climbs through the vents and catches her breath on the rooftop, where she encounters a superhero who watches over Japan's people and cultural relics.

CUTSCENE: What follows is the next cutscene before the title screen.

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EXT. TOKYO, ROOFTOPS – NIGHT

CUTSCENE: JENNIFER MASUDA (17) stumbles onto the rooftop, breath ragged, clutching a gleaming **blue-steel katana** streaked with moonlight. Her hoodie is torn, her knuckles bloodied—but her eyes burn with purpose. A shadow drops into her path with a thud. **THE MASKED HERO**, cloaked in a feathered mantle and wearing a sleek black visor, steps forward. Rain drips from his blade.

MASKED HERO

That's a six-hundred-year-old national treasure
you're stealing, foreigner.

Jennifer stands her ground.

JENNIFER

I claim this blade as its rightful descendant.

The Masked Hero belts out a guttural laugh. Jennifer clenches her teeth.

JENNIFER

I don't know how, or why, but this blade calls to me.
In my dreams I see visions of a life I've never lived,
wielding this blade I've never touched. I have
to know what that means.

The Masked Hero takes a fighting stance.

MASKED HERO

You know what I think? You're just a lying rat desecrating
a legend to turn a profit. Now, return the blade, thief.

The Masked Hero draws a ninjato (short sword), ready to strike.

GAMEPLAY: This is the first boss fight—one the player is destined to lose.

CUTSCENE: Jennifer is slashed across the back and falls into the alleyway below.

EXT. TOKYO ALLEYWAY – NIGHT

Jennifer crashes to the ground in a heap, blood on her back from a clean slash. She stumbles to her feet as the Masked Hero descends in a shimmer of pale light.

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MASKED HERO

You can't outrun an owl, little rat.

JENNIFER

(through gritted teeth)

I'm not running.

She braces herself, body trembling, eyes locked on the descending blade.

GAMEPLAY: In a slow-motion Quick Time Event, the player must press (□) to draw the blade just in time.

CUTSCENE: The katana flares to life as she draws it.

MASKED HERO

What? That's impossible.

A shockwave erupts—blue light slashing through the alleyway like a thunderclap. The **SPIRIT OF RYOICHI YOSHIKATSU (56), the FIRST BURADO**, materializes mid-swing and intercepts the blow, knocking the Masked Hero to the ground. Jennifer stares, wide-eyed. Ryoichi looks at her, then vanishes in a flicker of blue light.

JENNIFER

Who... was that?

The rain hisses against steel. Thunder echoes overhead. The Masked Hero groans and starts to come to. Jennifer bows to the fading wisps of her ancestor—then disappears into the night.