

EASTBOUND TRAFFIC
Short Treatment

DASHA, a young and pretty Russian woman in her mid-twenties, arrives in Tokyo following clues left by her younger sister who disappeared last year. Knowing nothing of the city or how it works, she quickly falls prey to RYO, a con-man who takes all of her belongings. With nowhere else to turn, she follows the advice of RYUSEI, a young man who happens to speak English and saw the encounter. Partially out of sympathy and partially to earn a commission, Ryusei introduces Dasha to his boss, BARON who runs a high-end girl's club.

Baron offers her a job working as a hostess. As she realizes how limited her options are, she reluctantly agrees, and uses her meager initial income to hire a private investigator. Having a passion for singing that she has yet to act on, Dasha also sees hope in working at Baron's club that she can eventually live her own dreams as well. She also meets ANGEL, a transgender woman who manages the club for Baron and who takes Dasha under her wing.

Baron, who struggles with alcoholism and his own demons beats SHO, to the edge of his life outside of his club. SHO is found by Ryo (who has a seething hatred of Baron) and they begin to work together.

The next day, while visiting his mother's grave on the anniversary of her death, Baron is startled by an old Japanese woman whose son was buried next to Baron's mother. He draws a knife as a knee jerk reaction, and she calmly states that he must belong to the same world that took her son. She tells him that for his own sake, he needs to get out of that world before it consumes him... and to leave his knife behind.

As time wears on, the darkness of the world around her starts to consume Dasha. She begins to realize that the search for answers about her sister may be hopeless and that she has gotten trapped herself in the same world that may have consumed her.

After a particularly trying night that ends in violence for Angel, Dasha is ready to give up all hope when she finally hears back from the PI. He says he may have found a clue in a surveillance video. When he shows the video to Dasha, she realizes that the location looks just like the apartment she is in. (Which is owned by Baron). She goes to work that evening with the intention of speaking to Baron about it, But Ryo and Sho had made a plan to kidnap her to blackmail Baron. The plan goes horribly wrong and this causes chaos.

As the night unfolds Baron ends up stabbing Sho in self defense in front of a business investor whom he has been cultivating a

relationship with for years. This causes the investor to cut all ties with Baron; despite their previous plans to substantially expand Baron's business. While Angel sews up his wounds from the fight, in an alcoholic rage, Baron violently blames Dasha for the situation causing her to run out of the club, and right into the hands of Ryo who was waiting for Sho to deliver her to him.

Sho leaves the club with the knife in his side and begs for Ryo to take him to the hospital. Ryo refuses to forgive him for this failure, pulls the blade out and leaves Sho there to die behind Baron's club in the same place he initially found him.

Meanwhile in the club, during Baron's drunken rage, Angel also quits the club, leaving Baron to clean up his own messes. Stepping out of the club, Angel sees Dasha's belongings and her sister's pendant on the ground. She figures out that Ryo has kidnapped her. She tries to get ahold of Baron who has since passed out from drinking.

Ryo takes Dasha to the same place that he murdered his last victim. He confesses to Dasha that he used to be the owner of the club, until that girl's rejection made him kill her, and that Baron took the club from him while he was in jail, leaving him penniless. We learn that the girl that he was obsessed with was Dasha's sister; a fact that Ryo discovered earlier on when he pickpocketed Dasha and found a picture of the two of them together.

Angel finally gets a hold of Baron who is awoken by her message. Angel's message begging him to save Dasha parallels the last words of Baron's mother, as she begged him to save her from his abusive father. Baron pulls himself together and goes to save Dasha.

Baron arrives and has a brutal bloody fight with Ryo that ends with Baron strangling Ryo to death in front of Dasha. Barely standing himself, Baron goes to lift Dasha to her feet when she stabs Baron with his own knife (which he dropped during the fight). As Baron did for Sho, she leaves the blade in, offering him his own chance of survival and leaves him there.

1 month later, Angel is running the club, and she has turned it into a tasteful night club. Dasha makes her debut as a singer. Ryusei and Angel discuss what happened to Baron and Angel states that even if he survived, he is wanted for the murder of Sho, (as Baron's fingerprints were on the knife and his body was found outside of Baron's club) so she doubts that they will ever see him again.

The film ends with a revisit to the scene of the final conflict. There is a bloody spot on the wall where Baron was stabbed and a trail of blood leading away from it. Next to the trail is Baron's switchblade, which has been left behind.