

The Days of April

Written by

Sagnik Patra and Hindole Shihan

Version 11

Fade in.

An empty restaurant with a bunch of round tables and chairs. We start from total silence and slowly bring in each individual sounds of the restaurant such as the door chimes and the clinking of plates and forks. APRIL, 33, curly hair, a focused look on her face, wearing a black dress and a white apron is checking the tables and the chairs if they are wobbly or not. When she finds one, she puts a piece of paper underneath one of its legs. Going from table to table, she arranges the napkins in order and puts the table mat in a symmetrical position. We hear door chimes of people coming in and she turns to look at the clock - taking a deep breath.

CUT TO:

APRIL is talking to the customers, writing the order down on a little notepad and then placing it at the kitchen counter. She focuses on each action of the customer, their fork scrounging around in their plate, food being gently placed on their tongues. As she moves across the room to the kitchen counter, everyone else's speed slows down. The fluidity in her motion contradicts the jarring lagging people around her. At the kitchen counter, she sees that a Gai Lan plate has been ordered.

OTHER WAITRESS (O.S.)

We got a health freak over at that table.

APRIL picks it up and walks over to that table where a middle-aged lady wearing big black sunglasses and a black fur coat is struggling to arrange her two big suitcases around her in order to sit comfortably. On her table, there's a book opened and placed upside down with the title: Patriotism by Yukio Mishima. MAUD is on a phone call. MAUD looks up briefly at APRIL and says,

MAUD

Thanks. Can I get a fork?

As APRIL quietly puts down the GAI LAN on the table, she looks at MAUD's hands and notices that there are deep cuts and bruises on her palms. Especially on her wrist. It looks like she tried to erase something off her skin. She looks up at MAUD as if recognizing her.

MAUD continues her phone call.

MAUD (CONT'D)

Yeah, I'm gonna stay here for a while. I don't know, I have no idea what the future holds for me.

APRIL takes out a pair of fork and spoon wrapped in tissue and places it on the table. APRIL stares at her, waiting for her to acknowledge the forks. Finally, she says:

APRIL  
There you go. Anything else?

MAUD  
No.

Maud says while smiling:

MAUD (CONT'D)  
I'll let you know when it's over.

APRIL stands there silently for a few seconds and then bows saying:

APRIL  
Sorry Mam.

APRIL looks at her feet. Her shoes - worn out and dirty.

MAUD  
(On the phone) Okay, I'll call you later.

AT THE COUNTER:

APRIL leans on the counter. She uses a rag to clean her shoes while simultaneously staring at MAUD. MAUD looks out the window and uses her fork to move her food around absent-mindedly. On her suitcase it's written: PROPERTY OF MAUD GONNE. The writing is very big and roughly hand-written. APRIL briefly looks at the giant wall clock behind the counter. She turns back to notice a hand rise up in the middle of the restaurant but can't see the person. She walks up to the hand and sees a young woman (19-21) - nervous - holding the menu.

YUI  
(in broken English)  
Umm... What here?

YUI, wearing a blue hoodie and a pair of jeans is pointing to a particular dish on the menu. She's quite short and has a small blackbird tattoo on her wrist. APRIL seems to be transfixed on the girl's short hair.

APRIL  
You have nice hair.

YUI  
Thanks. You want?

APRIL  
What?

YUI  
You like hair, you want?

APRIL  
I don't think so. That time has passed, I think.

YUI  
No, I...I do for you.

APRIL  
Thank you so much. But...it's  
umm...what language do you speak?

YUI  
Japanese.

APRIL  
Ahh...Well...what were you pointing  
at again?

APRIL (CONT'D)  
Ah...the chilly garlic noodles?  
Okay. Anything else?

YUI  
No, no. No Okay. No chilly...Umm...

APRIL  
So no that?

YUI  
Ahh-

YUI starts to panic. She keeps flipping through pages. Just then we hear a loud crash - the sound of a plate breaking.

APRIL  
I'll come back.

YUI looks like she is about to say something but stops. Suddenly, APRIL runs towards the table where the sound came from. Seated there on opposite chairs are a couple, HAROLD and GEORGIA. HAROLD, 37, wearing a beige colored shirt and corduroy pants is angrily breathing at his wife. GEORGIA, 32, wearing office clothes wipes her mouth with a napkin. Her eyes suggest that she's embarrassed.

HAROLD  
Why? Why would you do this to me?  
FUCK!

APRIL immediately rushes in and starts to pick up the plate pieces.

GEORGIA  
(to APRIL) Sorry.

APRIL bows her head as if to say "It's okay" and then slows her actions to listen in on their conversation.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
(sighs) There's no one.

APRIL  
Can you please...

GEORGIA  
Sorry. Hey, I have seen you before.  
What's your name?

HAROLD  
Why are you still lying to me?

GEORGIA  
Stop it, HAROLD.

APRIL  
APRIL.

HAROLD  
I'm a hundred per cent sure that  
you're cheating on me.

GEORGIA  
Hundred per cent? What's it this  
time, you saw it during an  
afternoon nap? (turning to APRIL)  
You like your job, APRIL?

APRIL  
(Looking at HAROLD) It  
gives me structure.

The main course of the couple is almost finished. APRIL  
leaves. HAROLD turns to GEORGIA and composes himself for the  
next thing he's about to say.

HAROLD  
This was inevitable. Yet you insist  
on lying. I don't understand.

GEORGIA  
It's not my job to ratify your  
obsessions.

HAROLD  
It's fine. It...uh...happens.

APRIL stops by their table again.

APRIL  
Dessert might smooth things over.

GEORGIA  
We'd like that.

HAROLD  
(looking at Georgia) Just say  
it.

APRIL is about to leave when GEORGIA says

GEORGIA (CONT'D)  
How long have you worked here?

APRIL is taken aback by this question.

APRIL  
Umm, long - pretty long.

GEORGIA

Have you ever seen me here with anyone else apart from him? (points to HAROLD)

APRIL

I don't want to get involved-

HAROLD

Why not?

HAROLD looks intensely at APRIL and then looks down at his table where the broken plate was supposed to be.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Hmph. It's a shame. The Teriyaki was nice.

APRIL stands there awkwardly. While standing, she notices a tall guy enter the restaurant.

GEORGIA

(Dismissively) Why would I cheat on you?

HAROLD

I know why but It doesn't matter anymore.

HAROLD looks at APRIL looking at the tall guy and says:

HAROLD (CONT'D)

It's not wrong. Or good. Or acceptable. I'm not accusing you of anything. I am just stating something we both know. And I don't know the way you think I know. I KNOW (with emphasis)

A bald old guy, wearing an old blazer, crosses the couple - enters the bar area and sits at the bar on the kitchen side. He is Monsieur YU, the owner of the restaurant. While walking back to the counter, APRIL notices the BALD MAN and looks at the wall clock again, behind MONSIEUR YU, she notices MAUD looking around for someone. She signals MONSIEUR YU to wait and goes to MAUD's table again.

APRIL

All good?

MAUD stares at her blankly with a lifeless expression. The silence is very awkward for APRIL.

APRIL (CONT'D)

Umm...How is the Gai Lan?

MAUD

It's very good, thank you.

Something didn't sit well about MAUD's eyes to APRIL. That's when she heard her name being called.

OTHER WAITRESS (O.S.)

APRIL!

APRIL

What?

APRIL looks around and then focuses on the bald old man. She walks over to him.

APRIL (CONT'D)

How are you today, Monsieur Yu?

MONSIEUR YU is wearing narrow-framed reading glasses on his nose with a neckstring. He is going through the accounts of the restaurant. On the table, there's a cup of coffee, a calculator and a newspaper.

MONSIEUR YU

(points to the papers)  
I'm doing good actually.  
You want a raise?

APRIL

No, I'm good.

MONSIEUR YU

Hmph! Stubborn girl.

APRIL

Did you take your medicine yet?

APRIL proceeds to take out a prescription from her apron pocket. She looks around the restaurant (as a force of habit) and finds that tall guy sitting alone. No one has taken his order yet.

MONSIEUR YU

Hmm.

She puts the prescription back.

MONSIEUR YU (CONT'D)

Who's that guy over there? Why didn't he finish his food? Is he new?

APRIL looks at the guy MONSIEUR YU pointed at. It's the same tall guy again.

APRIL

He didn't like the food.

MONSIEUR YU

Note it down. How much did you earn so far?

APRIL hands over her tips to MONSIEUR YU. And as MONSIEUR YU counts and un-wrinkle's the money APRIL says,

APRIL  
Mrs. Yu came by this morning. Your  
daughter-

MONSIEUR YU  
-Is engaged?

APRIL looks at the newspaper that's on the table. The pages  
are turned to the obituary section. On it, an obituary of  
Monsieur Yu.

APRIL  
You know there are better ways to  
communicate with your wife.

MONSIEUR YU  
You should read today's issue. Its  
a good one: Death by choking on a  
dumpling. (laughs hysterically)

APRIL, disappointed at this display - starts to walk away.

MONSIEUR YU (CONT'D)  
I hope you're available till  
closing.

APRIL stops. But doesn't turn.

MONSIEUR YU (CONT'D)  
You shouldn't quit. This is all you  
can do now. You're not a human  
anymore. You're a waitress.

APRIL's about to leave again when MONSIEUR YU yells

MONSIEUR YU (CONT'D)  
And, get me another cup of coffee.

APRIL signals the other waitress to attend to MONSIEUR YU  
while she quickly reaches back to the counter stumbling on  
her way and pours herself a glass of water. As she's filling  
up the glass, she loses herself in the sound of the water  
pouring while all other sounds slowly fade away. Water  
overflows, she shrieks and then starts to clean it up  
hastily. While doing that, she notices YUI's raised-up hand  
again.

YUI  
I decide - chilli garlic noodles.

APRIL  
That's it?

YUI  
Soup?

APRIL  
You know what leave it to me.

APRIL notes it down and finds her previous customer, MAUD  
looking at her.

While she walks towards her, she can't help but notice those giant suitcases that are settled beside her. The wounds in her arms somehow seem fresher.

MAUD

I'm facing a problem with my card.  
The payment is being denied.

Taking a deep breath, she replies.

APRIL

Would you... Would you like to try another card? Sometimes the machine also doesn't work.

MAUD

But I don't have any money in any of them.

APRIL

What?-Why are you eating then?

While she continues to talk, her face goes pale as she looks at the name of the suitcase. It states "PROPERTY OF APRIL GONNE". She immediately looks at MAUD who is staring at her directly. MAUD's wound starts gushing blood. APRIL, in complete panic, starts moving back, while MAUD gets up and starts to walk towards her.

MAUD

Did you think, killing yourself will be your way out?

APRIL

(tears coming out) WHAT?  
WHO...ARE...YOU. STAY  
AWAY FROM ME.

While backing away, she stumbles on a table and a bottle of wine falls over. She looks at it, picks it up and points it towards MAUD.

MAUD

And cut your wrist again?

APRIL falls down on the ground. In the background we notice a table vibrating heavily. APRIL turns around but what she sees makes her nauseated. HAROLD is seated in his place, while a stranger is fucking GEORGIA. It's that same tall guy. HAROLD seems to be masturbating while GEORGIA continues to scream in pleasure. She's wearing her wedding dress. APRIL pukes on herself. She stands up while crying out of disbelief. HAROLD, GEORGIA and the tall guy all laugh while looking at her. But they don't stop what they are doing. Not being able to stand it, APRIL closes her eyes. When she opens them again, she finds the whole restaurant empty except for YUI with her head down on the table, sleeping.

As she reaches closer, she sees two giant bags on either side of her with the name "PROPERTY OF APRIL GONNE". Her BIRD TATOO looks like it has been freshly drawn again.

APRIL quietly walks over to YUI. She is cautious and fearful, still recovering from the incidents that just transpired when YUI suddenly speaks, with her head still down.

YUI  
That was rough, huh?

APRIL  
Your accent...

YUI  
Sit.

APRIL proceeds to sit down. Her hands tremble as she pulls the chair. Yet again, she looks at YUI's hair in wonder.

APRIL  
Who are you?

Wide angle: YUI stands up and wipes April's face with a bridal veil slowly while looking into her eyes. Then she goes behind the bar to the kitchen counter.

YUI  
(coughs) Sometimes, you  
find yourself taking  
notes during  
conversations with people  
out on the street and-

APRIL  
-In my dreams, I live the lives of  
my customers and sometimes when I  
can't sleep, I imagine the sounds  
of plates and forks clinking  
together, the distinct tap of  
chopsticks, they lull me to sleep.

YUI  
So that the next morning, you can  
be a waitress again.

YUI brings two cups of tea and places them on the table.

YUI (CONT'D)  
Tea?

APRIL tries to take a sip from her cup but notices that her hands are tied behind the chair. She struggles to free herself.

APRIL  
Why would you do this?

YUI  
(Mockingly) Why would you  
do this? (pause) You know  
I'm better than you. I  
always was.

APRIL looks around the restaurant and yells:

APRIL  
I'm getting out of here. Help! Is  
somebody out there?

YUI  
You know frankly, I don't get it.  
What happened? How did this (points  
to herself) become (points to  
April)

April doesn't say anything.

YUI (CONT'D)  
Anyway, do you know what's in the  
bags?

April's eyes widen. With every second she's increasingly more  
terrified. As she struggles to free herself, YUI slowly sets  
down the bag on the left and starts to slowly unzip it.

APRIL  
No, don't! don't!

She finally unzips the bag.

YUI  
Oh! (laughs)

YUI drags the bag towards APRIL so she can see the contents  
of it. Inside the bag, we see HAROLD with a creepy grin on  
his face and his hands still on his penis. April struggles to  
turn her head away - not wanting to look.

APRIL  
Just let go of me!

YUI  
A Present. The Present.

Suddenly Harold opens his eyes. He stands up without saying  
anything. Dusts off his clothes and says

HAROLD  
What the fuck is happening?

He looks around.

HAROLD (CONT'D)  
Really? This is how you want to  
confront your (does air quotes)  
demons!

APRIL  
It's not my fault. Just untie me,  
please.

HAROLD  
Who am I even supposed to be?

Harold looks down.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Oh, I see. I'm now.

He puts his penis back inside his pants pulling his zipper up.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Well, this blows. I mean, that's not bad. That's what I am worth so - It makes sense.

He looks at April. April's eyes look melancholic.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

But I have to check out what I am gonna turn into.

APRIL

NO NO NO...Why WHY WHY you're on my side.

He walks over to that bag and then looks back at April.

HAROLD

Isn't that why?

He starts to open the other bag in a similar fashion to Yui. He finally unzips it and says.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

I'll be damned. Smells of Gai lan.

And pulls out a pair of big sunglasses - MAUD's sunglasses. He wears them and (in a cut) turns into MAUD.

MAUD

What do you think? Is the future pretty?

MAUD comes back and sits down at the table - sipping her tea. APRIL is crying.

APRIL

What's all this supposed to mean? Is this a dream?

MAUD

No dreams are much nicer. Even nightmares are better.

APRIL's still struggling to break free of her bounds.

MAUD (CONT'D)

You'll die here you know. If not today, tomorrow. Or maybe day after tomorrow.

APRIL's trying harder.

MAUD (CONT'D)

No No, it's okay. It's good. You know how many cats I own? It's directly proportionate to your shattered dreams.

APRIL

Shut up! Fucking - SHUT UP!

MAUD

This is a tomb of your own making. Well, at least you had control over it. On the other hand - I just exist. No prospects.

APRIL's moving the chair back and forth vigorously.

MAUD (CONT'D)

You should have kept up with your mandarin. Maintaining yourself is just not your strong suit.

Close-up of APRIL's hands about to free.

MAUD (CONT'D)

(In Chinese) You're not a human anymore, you're a creature known as the waitr-

APRIL finally frees herself from the chair, leaps up at MAUD and starts to choke her. MAUD grasps for air as a smile slowly forms on her face. She slowly lifts up her hands and points to the kitchen counter. APRIL turns her head and finds the dead body of MONSIEUR YU on the kitchen slab, with bits and pieces of dumplings here and there.

YUI

That's cool.

She immediately let's go of the neck and plops back down on her chair. Maud has turned back to YUI and is now smiling. She turns back to see the body but there's nothing there.

YUI (CONT'D)

Calm down! You don't wanna die of auto-erotic asphyxiation do you?

APRIL

You have no right to do this to me. I have been through a lot, you know this.

YUI

Nah...not that much. But you know the difference between you and me?

APRIL

You have good hair.

YUI

Exactly.

They both laugh.

YUI (CONT'D)

Also, I can do anything. I am reckless like that.

APRIL snickers at that. They both sit in silence for a while. Then YUI takes out a pack of smokes.

YUI (CONT'D)

Is it okay to smoke in here? Ah- Who cares anyway!

YUI takes out a cigarette and lights one up. Then APRIL takes out a nicotine chewing gum and starts to chew on it.

APRIL

(Big Sigh) I gotta get out of here.

CUT TO: WIDE  
SHOT

APRIL is sitting alone. YUI is not there. Not the bags either. The light of the setting sun comes in through the windows. We hear the chime of the door.

Fade to black.

The END.