



Japan | Tokyo

“The Curse of Inokashira Park”

I must warn you of a great danger, here in the middle of Tokyo. This happened to a friend of a friend of my uncle, but really no one is safe from it. The girl, whom I'd heard of, met her great love at the university. To celebrate their first Cherry Blossom Festival together, they went to the most romantic spot in Tokyo: Inokashira Park in Kichijoji. Hand in hand, they strolled slowly under the pink sea of flowers on the path to the bridge in the middle of the park. They decided to take one of the swan boats ...

... and then it happened.

In the middle of the pond they had their first quarrel. All of a sudden there was a coldness between them. He blamed her, she him. Day after day their quarrels grew more violent, until they could bear it no longer and separated. Broken-hearted, the girl went again to Inokashira Park ... and there she saw it suddenly, the bright red shrine behind the willow trees. The monk inside, seeing her despair, told her of the curse that has hung for more than 200 years over the park:

Every couple who dares profane the waters round the ancient Benten shrine must come apart! The jealousy of the goddess Benten knows no bounds and no one is safe from her curse. In the end it will destroy every great love ...!

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