

# Kenji

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My father came from Japan in 1905

He was, 15 when he immigrated from Japan

He, he, he worked until he was able to buy this patch

And build a storeLet me, tell you the story in the form of a dream

I don't know why I have to tell it, but I know what it means

Close your eyes, just picture the scene

As I paint it for you, it was World War II

When this man named Kenji woke up

Ken was not a soldier

He was just a man, with a family, who owned a store in L.A. That day, he crawled out of bed like he always did

Bacon and eggs with wife and kids

He lived on the second floor of a little store, he ran

He moved to L.A. from Japan

They called him 'Immigrant'

In Japanese, he'd say, he was called, Esay

That meant 'First generation in the United States' When everyone was afraid of the Germans, afraid of the Japs

But most of all afraid of a homeland attack

And that morning when Ken went out on the doormat

His world went black 'cause

Right there, front page news, three weeks before 1942

"Pearl Harbour's been bombed and the Japs are comin'" Pictures of soldiers dyin' and runnin'

Ken knew what it would lead to

Just like he guessed, the President said

"The evil Japanese in our home country will be locked away"

They gave Ken, a couple of days

To get his whole life packed in two bags

Just two bags, couldn't even pack his clothes Some folks didn't even have a suitcase, to pack anything in

So two trash bags, was all they gave them

When the kids asked mum, "Where are we goin'?"

Nobody even knew, what to say to them

Ken didn't wanna lie, he said, "The US is lookin' for spies

So we have to live in a place called Mandinar

Where a lot of Japanese people are "Stop it, don't look at the gunmen

You don't wanna get the soldiers wonderin'

If you gonna run or not,

'Cause if you run then you might get shot

Other than that, try not to think about it

Try not to worry 'bout it bein' so crowded

Someday, we'll get out, someday, someday As soon as war broke out

The G.I. came and they just come to the house  
And you have to come all the Japanese have to go  
They took Mr.Lee, people didn't understand  
Why did they have to take him?

Because he's an innocent labor So now, they're in a town with soldiers surroundin' them  
Every day, every night, look down at them  
From watch towers up on the wall  
Ken couldn't really hate them at all  
They were just doin' their job and

He wasn't gonna make any problems He had a little garden, with vegetables and fruits that  
He gave to the troops in a basket his wife made  
But in the back of his mind, he wanted his families life saved  
Prisoners of war in their own damn country, what for?  
Time passed in the prison town He wanted them to live it down when they were free  
The only way out was, joinin' the army  
And supposedly, some men went out for the army, signed on  
And ended up flyin' to Japan with a bomb  
That 15 kilotonne blast, put an end to the war pretty fast

Two cities were blown to bits, the end of the war came quick Ken got out, big hopes of a normal life, with his  
kids and his wife  
But, when they got back to their home  
What they saw made them feel so alone  
These people had trashed every room  
Smashed in the windows and bashed in the doors

Written on the walls and the floor 'Japs not welcome anymore' And Kenji dropped both of his bags at his sides  
and just stood outside

He, looked at his wife without words to say  
She looked back at him, wiped the tears away  
And, said, "Someday, we'll be okay, someday"  
Now, the names have been changed, but the story's true

My family was locked up back in '42  
My family was there it was dark and damp  
And they called it, an internment camp When we first got back from camp, uhh  
It was pretty, pretty bad, I, I remember my husband said  
"Are we gonna stay 'til last?"  
Then my husband died before they close the camp

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