

Revolution Synopsis

1 LINE:

Koreans, who become excluded from legal protection in the middle of the LA riot as social and political sacrificial lambs of the situation, decide to rise indignantly and protect themselves on their own as well as their family and their livelihood, from looting, arson, and the conspiracy of the establishment; eventually taking part in a revolution that could never be actualized in reality.

SHORT:

When the LA riot, fueled by racial conflicts, breaks out and makes Koreans and their livelihood – smack dab in the middle of an African-American populated area and a White-dominant neighborhood – the direct target of looting and arson, Koreans regardless of their age and gender rise and organize their own vigilance committee and exercise their right to self-defend by guarding Koreatown and so on. Based on their experience from their mandatory military services, a large group of middle-and-senior-aged Koreans heavily arm themselves and guard Koreatown, and the KAYA (the Korean-American Young Adult) Team, led by Kuman and his friends, patrol around the area and do their part as much as they can, trying to put a lid on the riot. Kuman and his friends head towards the South Central with the broadcasting station reporter Nicole, who joins them by chance, to rescue a friend who got stranded after being beaten up by the rioters. While they try to avoid the chaos of the riot, they end up seeking refuge along with the Black Panthers (a militant African-American group that bumps into them at a questionable police brutality scene) at the swap-meet (a wholesale store) where “the Uncle,” a relative of one of the KAYA members, is guarding. Soon, the mafia, who attempts to monopolize the regional redevelopment business once they could dramatize the riot through a fabricated police brutality scene with the Black Panthers as their sacrificial lambs, and the FBI who collude with them, besiege the swap-meet where the Uncle and the Kumans are hiding. The swap-meet is efficiently guarded under the Uncle’s military-style regime, as he had been notorious at the torture room in the national information agency during the 80s Korean democratization movement. The reporters from the broadcasting station are hiding out at the swap-meet while the mafia continues to attack the Black Panthers. Various groups of different races that gather at the swap-meet with different reasons and purposes eventually all fall, and the remaining members drive their truck to charge towards Beverly Hills, to fulfill their ideals for a revolution that could not be actualized in reality.

LONG:

Kuman, who had been arrested and tortured after being a part of the democratization movement during the 80s in Korea, released in exchange for ratting out his comrades and half-forced into exile in America, is living a depressing life driving a truck transporting supplies in Koreatown. Even his friends are mostly jobless and drunk all day and night, smoking pot and taking odd jobs here and there. Meanwhile, Nicole – a rookie reporter at the broadcasting station – continues to illegally interview people in order to bring into light the conspiracy between FBI executives and the mafia, and plunges into success with her exclusive scoop, despite the fact that the bureau chief, and her fellow cameraman Mickey, both discourage her from pursuing her route.

April 29th, 1992. It is just another ordinary afternoon except for the fact that a crowd has gathered in front of the Los Angeles Police Station, waiting for the Rodney King decision to be revealed. Danny, who works at the same shipping company as Kuman does, is passing through the South Central area for work when he gets trapped and beaten up at the early riot scene led by the fact that the violent white police officers who beaten up Rodney King have gone free. The riot, fronted by looting and arson, grows bigger and bigger; and Koreatown, directly on course for the rioters on their way to the whitewashed, wealthy neighborhood of Beverly Hills, morphs into a dangerous eye of the storm due to the mainstream media trying to paint the riot as a mere conflict between Korean-Americans and African-Americans, and the police force ignoring requests for protection during the riot. At this, one Korean radio broadcasting station who had been initially urging people to leave and escape from Koreatown, eventually begins to plead to Koreatown locals that they could forgo giving up on their livelihood and instead protect and guard the area themselves.

While KAYA (the Korean-American Young Adults), comprised mainly of Kuman and his friends, arm themselves and patrol around town to prevent riot from spreading further in Koreatown, they are informed that their friend Danny is being cared at an African-American household after being beaten up at the South Central, and head to rescue him. Nicole and Mickey, who were originally dispatched by the network and had joined the Kumans by chance on their way to South Central to rescue Danny, capture on film a very suspicious police brutality scene in which the police use the Black Panthers – a militant African-American rights group – as their sacrificial lambs. They are soon chased by a large group of gang members as a result. The rioters get into a fist fight with the firefighters, who trying to fires out from various burning buildings, while mass looting takes place at stores and shops as if a wave has swept over them, shop owners screaming their lungs out outside their own stores, gunfire exchanged between some shop owners and rioters. Kuman's group chooses the swap-meet (a wholesale store), run by a relative of Justin (Kuman's friend) called the "Uncle/Sam-chon," as their shelter amidst the insanity of the riot.

The "Uncle," who had been notorious for his torturous ways at the national information agency back in the day during the Korean democratization movement in the 80s, gathers together his subordinates and old colleagues and so on, who have also immigrated to America at the same time he did, ordering them to guard the swap-meet efficiently on their own, locking up rioters and looters and torturing them. The Uncle and his forces wield absolute power over people seeking refuge at the swap-meet, even forcing Kuman and his friends to unarm themselves, and forcefully locking up the Black Panthers. Meanwhile, the corrupt forces within the FBI and their connection to the mafia, which Nicole had been trying to hunt down for a while, gather up a mass-scale team to besiege and attack the swap-meet in order to take away the videotape that accidentally recorded the fake police brutality that they had plotted, as well as to eliminate all eyewitnesses. The FBI's special force, who breaks in first, is soon captured by the Uncle, and Nicole realizes that FBI and the mafia have been plotting together to fake police brutality to spread the L.A Riot and monopolize the local redevelopment business afterwards.

While people of various races mix with each other at a spontaneous Korean BBQ and Soju party at the swap-meet, friction breaks out as Kuman realizes that he recognizes The Uncle from somewhere; Kuman, then, is locked up and beaten. Soon a fierce battle breaks out between the

mafia and the swap-meet people, as the mafia tries to face them head-on in order to obtain the evidence that Nicole shot and eliminate all witnesses. The network people, the police, and the national guards rush to the scene as the battle between the multi-race force – consisting of Asians, African-Americans, and Caucasians altogether – at the swap-meet and the mafia becomes public knowledge through Nicole's broadcasting. Finally, Kuman realizes that the Uncle is one and the same with the horrible officer who had tortured his friends and himself back in the day, marking the climax of his conflict with the Uncle. The forces at the swap-meet leave the swap-meet, which is now in shambles, and charge towards Beverly Hills for their ideal revolution, aiming to disclose the FBI-mafia conspiracy to the world and overthrow the injustice of racial conflicts within the society. However, the swap-meet force on a flimsy cargo truck fails to break through the guard line created by the FBI and the police, and ends up being massacred by the FBI as a result of their extreme maneuvering tactic that corners the swap-meet truck to a remote alley.

Nicole's videotape – which contains the truth about the police brutality conspiracy fabricated by the FBI and the mafia, the torture scenes at the swap-meet led by The Uncle and his subordinates, as well as the scene of people at the swap-meet being wiped out under the orders of the FBI – gets destroyed per the decision of the network executives, buried away in history. Nicole and Mickey, the last surviving witnesses, are also eliminated.

At the aftermath of the LA Riot, which had been unprecedented in modern history, local residents return to their daily lives. At the redevelopment site of the Koreatown, the surviving followers of the Uncle – with the memories of a fierce race war behind them – cut the tape at the new strip mall site, with the smiles of innocent, law-abiding citizens.