

# Cash Grabbing Bitch: Interview with Reiko Nagae

Translated by Ei Arakawa

## MIDWIFE

### **Was your mother's friend a midwife? (Ei)**

No, my grandmother's sister. She had an old birth center. They have a small facility inside their homesite. It's like a small hospital, or hostel where only pregnant women who are almost 9 months stay there. When a woman goes into labor at night, they go to birthing room. It's all natural childbirth method. They don't use injections like here. She just watches as a woman gives birth. (Reiko)

### **Did we have that until the 70s?**

No way, we still have one, but maybe it's difficult to find that same style anymore. It must have disappeared in the 80s.

### **People now must be scared by the natural way.**

They have a drug which lessen pains. Also, It isn't rare to cut to give a birth too.

### **Do they need a license?**

Of course, they do. I think it's like a similar license as a nurse.

### **Have you been to the birth center.**

Yes, because it was still there when I was a child. When I was in junior high school, she quit, and passed away, but I often visited there. It's not because it was where I was born but because she has money. She didn't marry with someone, and kept her job, so she had lots of money. Unlike other relatives who were stingy, she gave me totally expensive presents like a study desk set or a set of traditional dolls. You know how children are honest? They like the rich aunt the most.

### **Sure. But, how can midwife make that good money?**

She is not a doctor, but she doesn't use money neither. You don't know who wants to give a birth at the next door. You can't go out. You have to

watch 24 hours. You might wake up just after you hit a bed. So, you don't have many ways to spend cash. That's why she has them. Besides, she only had one assistance, not like a big hospital.

English Literature Major

**Have you been to a university in Japan?**

Kinjo junior collage. It was the most popular in Nagoya.

**That's great. What did you study?**

English literature. You know I'm like 5 year older than my friends. They came here just after high school. I came here after junior collage and working in a company for 4 years.

**You don't study English literature anymore. You didn't like it?**

Yes, I did like it. I wanted to study in English. I hate an idea of studying English without getting any degree, so I thought it's good to go a collage and study it. I also like the sound of it. "Eibun-ka" (English Literature) I wasn't attracted something like Human relation major or Library information processing major. What were they anyway? However, I regret that people outside doesn't understand how my major was on a high level. For instance, it is totally different standard exam scores between Food/Nutrition Major and English literature. But, it's same for someone outside. English literature was so difficult, and so many homework. I thought I was cheated because everyone else at Kinjo junior collage went out weekends.

**Have you had constant interest on English since you were younger?**

I had. I had a tutor who were good at speaking in English. He taught me so much. He was extreme. He made me remember an entire text book. So, my English was standing out despite of bad score in other subject. That was my sustenance in my life. If you can get a high score, you will like that subject. If you are not, you will hate even though you thought you like the subject.

**Did he study at oversea?**

I think so. He was in France before he studied at Nansan university in Nagoya. No, it wasn't France, it was Canada. He was super. He can speak English and French.

**Well, is your family rich?**

Not at all. But a family in suburb spends a lot for education. They didn't care money for that. Also, he was just a collage student at that time. So, it's not like asking a student from top university like Tokyo University or Keio University. He was cheap.

**Anyway, I didn't know you went to study for English Literature.**

Two years and half. I missed a paper at the end. I went to a graduation trip without turning in the paper. My teacher was upset when I returned. It was only me who remained the same class in junior collage. I was the historical one. . .

**Where did you go for the graduation trip?**

I went to East coast in U.S.A. I visited New York for the first time. I went to Canada, I saw drift ice at Niagara fall. That was awesome. Then, I came to New York. I was scared, and then, Florida. I was wearing down jackets at the airport. Suddenly, there are so many Mickey mouse and everyone is in a tank top.

**Were you 21 year old?**

I was 20. Ten years ago. You know how the same thing looks different up to your mind? I was a just naive girl who just came up from small town in Japan. I was scared by just seeing black people. Now I don't get scared unless I go to somewhere like Bed-Stuy.

**Where is that? (laughter)**

Bed-Stuy. In Brooklyn. Like Crown Heights. It is far from Mari-chan's place. So ghetto. I don't have something to do there. I don't go because it's dangerous. When I was younger, all black people I know were MC Hammer, Bobby Brown, Mike Tyson, and Carl Louis, that's it. I didn't think we were the same people at that time. Maybe it was different if I were in Tokyo., but only non-Japanese people I could see in my town was super-rural White people who came to Japan to promote Mormonism. I was like, oh my god he's like a prince. They are so out if I saw them now.

## Donald Trump Project

### **What is Trump project?**

Real estate. Call me cash grabbing bitch or whatever, I didn't do anything wrong. I just want to start real estate. No, it's not cash grabbing bitch. Do you know my work now? They pay me really small, almost nothing. If I use it for my rent and food, I'm like I can't buy even toilet paper. Eventually, I have to apply Visa, and it costs like \$3000. I really don't have money, or I will be broke in the future. That's why I have to do side business, you know what I mean? Then, this Haitian guy who introduced my apartment, he lives in a neighborhood and he is very kind. He took me to the Haitian bar, or showed me voodoo lounge.

### **Really?**

Just kidding. Anyway, he is a good person. He suggested that I should do a business for Japanese students. You know, I have so many Jewish landlords in my neighborhood. They want to contract with Japanese students because they pay on time and quiet. When Mari went to see the apartment. He was so enthusiastic about letting her in even before he checked her identification. So, I had no problem to move in this apartment too. He has 3 vacant rooms in my building, and I am helping because Haitian landlord wants to find Japanese students.

### **How much you can get?**

Well, it's actually secret. But I can have half of fee. But, problem is I can't take it from my friends. So, I have to find someone I don't know by putting adds on the store.

### **I think that's good idea.**

Yeah, I can work only for weekends as I like. I just have to call someone. Also, his estate is all near here. I can survive if I could make at least one contract a month.