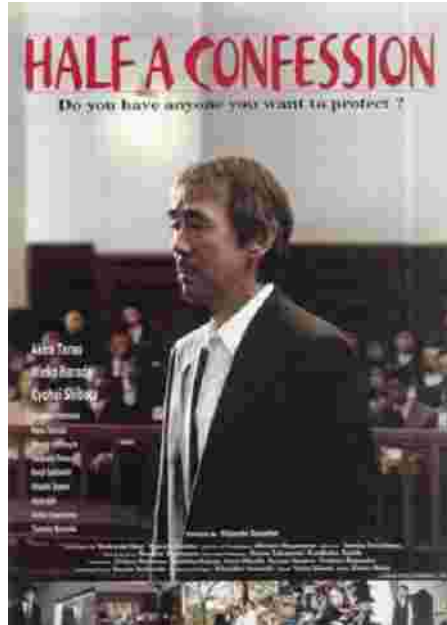


Half a Confession

Han-ochi 半落ち

Japanese Release: January 10, 2004

2004/ 35mm/ 122 min/ Color



Production Company: TOEI

Producers: Nakasone Chiharu/ Kojima Yoshihiro/ Kikuchi Tsutomu/ Hamana Kazuya/ Nagasaka Tsutomu

Director: Sasabe Kiyoshi

Screenplay: Tabe Toshiyuki/ Sasabe Kiyoshi

Cinematography: Naganuma Mutsuo

Music: Terashima Tamiya

Lighting: Yoshikado Sosuke

With: Terao Akira as Kaji Soichiro/ Harada Mieko as Kaji Keiko/ Shibata Kyohei as Shigi Kazumasa

Former police detective Soichiro (Terao Akira) turns himself in at his local police station and confesses to the murder of his wife (Harada Mieko) at her home, three days earlier. Under questioning by his former colleague Shigi (Shibata Kyohei), he explains that the shock of their son's death from leukemia brought about the onset of Alzheimer's disease in his wife, which ultimately led her to ask Soichiro to end her suffering. However, despite rigorous interrogation, he steadfastly refuses to explain his movements in the two days between his wife's death and his surrender. An ambitious reporter (Tsuruta Mayu) begins her own investigation, and the ensuing trial becomes a standoff between a zealous prosecutor Ihara Tsuyoshi and a young judge (Noshioka Hidetaka) with a personal stake in the defendant's plight. A verdict is reached, but it is only then that the sad truth of the missing two days emerges. Winner of Best Film and Best Actor at the 2005 Japan Academy Prize, this powerful and socially conscious drama was responsible for an unprecedented surge in marrow donor registrations.