

The Knife Smith — narration script

A short craft documentary. First-person voiceover — the smith reflecting on the work while he makes a blade. Sparse, weighty, unhurried. A person who has made ten thousand knives and does not waste words. Read at low stability for reflection; long silences between lines, the forge breathing underneath.

1 — over the open (the coals, steel going orange)

People ask how long it takes to make a knife. Thirty years. And about a day.

2 — over the hammer

The steel tells you what it wants. You just have to be quiet enough to hear it.

3 — over the grinding

Every blade is a hundred small decisions. Most of them you make with your hands, not your head.

4 — over the quench (the line lands, then the hiss)

This part you can't take back. Get it wrong, and the whole day goes in the scrap.

5 — over the finishing (wiping the blade clean)

I've made ten thousand of these. I still hold my breath every time.

6 — over the payoff (the edge through paper, near silence)

You'll know it's done when it stops being metal. And starts being a knife.

Sound: narration is the master bed, mixed over the cut so the voice sits above the room. The forge's own sound — fire, hammer ring, the quench hiss, the whisper of paper — rides underneath, carried, never wall-to-wall. The lines sit with silence between them; the forge fills the gaps. The blade-through-paper ending lands on near-silence, then the cut.