

LITTLE JAPAN IN BIG TROUBLE

By

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INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

STUDENTS gather their belongings and disperse as the PROFESSOR calls out pairs of student names.

ASANO (21) stares lost and dumbfounded across the room at COURTNEY (21), tall and attractive. She sits two desks in front of him. Asano is short, squirrely and Japanese. He wears glasses is dressed in business casual with a tie.

PROFESSOR
Asano and Courtney...

Asano jolts upright as Courtney turns and looks in his direction. She gets up, gathers her BELONGINGS and proceeds toward him. Asano looks up and freezes.

COURTNEY
You're Asano, right?

ASANO
(heavy Japanese accent)
Yes.

COURTNEY
I'm Courtney.

ASANO
Hello.

Courtney produces a PEN and NOTEPAD and scribbles a quick NOTE, which she hands to Asano. The note contains a PHONE NUMBER and EMAIL.

ASANO
Oh. I'm sorry.

Asano gives Courtney a NOTE with his contact information.

COURTNEY
So when do you want to start working on this?

ASANO
Uh...

Courtney removes a CELL PHONE from her PURSE and briefly glances at it.

COURTNEY
Shit. I gotta go.

Courtney looks over her shoulder at Asano as she proceeds toward the exit.

(CONTINUED)

COURTNEY

I'm free Mondays and Wednesdays.
Let me know what you wanna do.

Asano waves sheepishly as Courtney as she exits.

Something RINGS. Asano reaches into his pocket and produces a CELL PHONE. He jumps at the sight of it, turns off the ALARM and scrambles to stuff PAPERS into his BACKPACK.

He hastily exits.

INT. GYM - DAY

A moderately crowded gym.

Asano lies on a BENCH PRESS in gym clothes and furiously lifts massive weights more fit for football players than bookworms. Nevertheless, his body is toned and muscular.

Asano's cell phone RINGS. Asano sets down the weights, shuts off his cell phone and gets off the bench press.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

NOAH (23), broad shoulders, beer belly, sits on a dilapidated couch with two MEATHEAD friends, ZACH (20s) and WES (20s). Zach smokes MARIJUANA out of a PIPE. The room is already clouded in SMOKE. All three are visibly inebriated.

WES

Noah, dude. You sure that isn't going to go off?

Wes points at a SMOKE DETECTOR on the ceiling.

NOAH

Nah, man. Disabled?

WES

Isn't that, like, a fire hazard?

NOAH

You see a fire anywhere?

WES

No.

Noah shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

NOAH

That's right. Quit being paranoid.

No sooner have the words left his mouth does Asano enter and freeze at the sight of the three meatheads.

ZACH

Shit!

Zach shoves the pipe between his legs in a lame attempt to hide it. Noah nods curtly at Asano.

NOAH

Hey bro. You wanna smoke a bowl?

Asano erupts into an obviously COUGHING FIT and runs across the room to a closed door. He produces a pair of KEYS, unlocks the door and disappears behind it.

Noah turns to his friends as Asano's door slams shut.

NOAH

He's cool, dude. He never says a fucking word.

INT. APARTMENT - ASANO'S ROOM - NIGHT

A small, meticulously organized bedroom.

Asano sits at a desk typing away at a LAPTOP. His cell phone BEEPS. Asano stops typing. He turns off his cell phone and opens a new WINDOW on the COMPUTER SCREEN. His mouth drops.

A SERIES OF KNOCKS at the door. Asano opens it. NOAH stands on the other side.

NOAH

Yo man. Sorry about this afternoon.

Asano stares blankly at Noah.

NOAH

You know? The smoke? I sprayed the living room. It shouldn't smell anymore.

Asano nods curtly. Noah points casually at him.

NOAH

Not a big talker.

(CONTINUED)

ASANO

I talk.

NOAH

Dude, you've been here for three months and that's the longest sentence I've heard come out of your mouth. What's going on?

Asano glances at his computer then back at Noah.

ASANO

I just got an email. One of my classes has been post... I don't know the word. Post... The professor's had an accident. Post... Postponed? What does that mean? Canceled?

NOAH

It means it's been put off for a while. They don't know how long.

ASANO

Put off?

NOAH

In other words, you're free for a while.

ASANO

Yes. I don't know what to do with myself now.

NOAH

You can always come out to the bar with us.

Asano grunts apprehensively.

NOAH

Come on, dude. You've never been to a bar, have you?

ASANO

No but I have work-

NOAH

You just said you didn't.

ASANO

Yes but-

NOAH

Look, dude. There's no reason it has to be awkward every time we see each other but it's up to you. We hitting up this bar or what?

ASANO

Hitting up?

NOAH

Don't play dumb with me. I'm just trying to show you a good time.

ASANO

I don't know... Bars... Too many people...

NOAH

What are you, shy or something? I'll introduce you to some folk. What do you say, dude? Have a couple a drinks? Talk to some chicks? It's your call.

ASANO

Girls?

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Asano, Noah, Zach and Wes stand at the end of a LONG LINE outside the bar.

Courtney emerges from the bar with a GROUP OF FRIENDS. Asano jumps at the sight of her and waves.

ASANO

Courtney!

Courtney does a double take and spots Asano.

COURTNEY

Asano?

Courtney approaches him.

COURTNEY

What are you doing here? I didn't know you liked barhopping.

ASANO

Barhopping?

(CONTINUED)

NOAH

He's with us. We're trying to show him a good time for a change.

COURTNEY

You might try 17th and Montgomery then. That's where we're headed.

NOAH

Definitely.

ASANO

This is Noah. He's my roommate.

Noah steps forward with his hand outstretched. Courtney reaches for it.

COURTNEY

I'm-

BRADLEY (20s), a behemoth of a man, appears behind Courtney and puts an arm over her shoulder. Courtney abruptly retracts her hand.

BRADLEY

What's going on, babe? I thought we were leaving?

COURTNEY

We are.

Courtney smiles awkwardly at Asano as her boyfriend leads her off without a second glance.

NOAH

Holy shit, dude! Who was that?!

ASANO

That's Courtney.

NOAH

That broade is fucking smokin'! I didn't even know we had those kinda girls on campus!

Asano nods sheepishly.

NOAH

(laughs)

You know what I'm talking about!
How the fuck do you know her?!

(CONTINUED)

ASANO
She's from my class.

NOAH
Lucky bastard. I know where we're
going later.

INT. BAR

A packed, noisy bar.

The group makes their way through the CROWD toward the bar where they are greeted by a IRISH BARTENDER (30s), tall, red hair, red beard.

IRISH BARTENDER
What'cha having, Noah?

NOAH
Three Yuenglings and an Irish Car
Bomb, my good sir.

IRISH BARTENDER
(annoyed)
A Car Bomb? Really?

NOAH
For my Japanese friend. I can tell
you how to make it if you want.

ASANO
For me? Wait. What's a-

IRISH BARTENDER
(to Noah)
Once you start bartending, I'm
gonna come in and order a World
Trade Center, you asshole.

NOAH
You do that.

The bartender produces three Yuenglings, a Guinness and a shot of whiskey and cream. Noah passes the Guinness to Asano and hands him the shot.

NOAH
Okay. As soon as you drop the shot
in the Guinness, drink it. All of
it. Right away.

(CONTINUED)

ASANO
Why?

NOAH
Just do it.

Asano drops the shot into the Guinness and downs the entire glass. He sets it back down on the counter with a horrified expression on his face.

ASANO
(winded)
Why?!

NOAH
Need something to wash that down?

ASANO
Please.

Noah turns to the bartender.

NOAH
A shot of Patron Silver.

The bartender produces a tequila shot. Asano grabs it and downs it in one gulp. He retches and coughs.

NOAH
Sorry, dude. I was gonna say-

ASANO
Another.

NOAH
It's really strong.

ASANO
Another!

NOAH
You sure about that, buddy?

Asano nods. Noah nods at the bartender who produces another shot.

NOAH
Take it easy, dude.

Asano grabs the shot and gulps it down. He howls in a mix of excitement and exasperation. The group laughs in unison.

INT. BAR - LATER

Asano, Zach and Wes stand amongst the crowd with BEERS in their hands. Asano is considerably intoxicated and wobbles clumsily as PATRONS push past him, spilling beer all over the place.

He turns to Zach and yells in his ear.

ASANO
(slurred)
Why is it so loud in here? I can't even hear.

ZACH
It's a bar, dude.

Wes puts an arm over his arm over Asano's shoulder.

WES
So tell me more about this girl.

ASANO
We're project partners in class.

ZACH
Project partners. You must have her number then?

ASANO
Yes but-

WES
Lucky bastard. What do you say you send her a text message?

Wes winks secretly at Zach. He smiles.

ASANO
What kind of message?

ZACH
Ask her if she wants to hook up.

ASANO
Hey! I know what hook up means!

ZACH
Of course you do. I'm just fucking with you.

(CONTINUED)

WES

Ask her if she wants to make out.

ASANO

Make out? No. I don't think so.

WES

Of course not. Seriously though,
ask her-

ZACH

Ask her if she wants to get busy.

ASANO

No! That means-

ZACH

You got it all wrong, dude. Get
busy. Like work on your project.
Ask if she wants to get busy in
your room.

ASANO

I don't know. I usually go to the
library to study.

WES

Fuck the library. Ask if she wants
to get busy in your room. Get busy.
In your room. Got it?

ASANO

What's wrong with library?

WES

The library's boring.

ZACH

Come on, dude. Trust me.

ASANO

I don't know-

ZACH/WES

Do it!

Zach and Wes CHANT simultaneously. Asano looks uncomfortable at first but eventually smiles. Wes pats him on the shoulder.

WES

We're trying to help you out, dude.
If you like her, fuck the library

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WES (cont'd)
and tell her you wanna get busy in
your room. That's how you gotta
start.

ASANO
I... Okay. I do it!

The crowd CHEER Asano on as he produces a CELL PHONE and
sends the TEXT MESSAGE.

Zach and Wes suddenly burst into laughter.

ZACH
Holy shit, dude. I can't believe
you actually did it.

ASANO
What?

ZACH
Get busy doesn't actually mean get
busy. Get busy means...

ASANO
What?! What does it...
(realization dawns)
Oh no!

Asano turns to Wes.

WES
Don't look at me, dude. You didn't
have to do it.

Noah appears with two BEERS in hand.

NOAH
(to Asano)
I got you another beer. Guys don't
order Long Island Ice Teas.
Besides, I don't think you wanna be
puking up the place.

He extends the beer to Asano. Asano shakes his head.

NOAH
What's wrong? You wanna call it a
night?

ASANO
I made big mistake.

Zach steps forward, cracking up as he speaks.

(CONTINUED)

ZACK

He just sent a text message to that girl saying he wants to get busy with her in his room.

NOAH

Don't tell me. You guys put him up to it, right?

Zach and Wes chuckle. Noah frowns.

Asano's phone suddenly VIBRATES briefly in his hands. The crowd gathers around it as Asano opens a new TEXT MESSAGE. It reads YOU'RE FUCKING DEAD. Asano's mouth drops as the others glance at the message.

ASANO

Oh shit!

ZACH

(laughs)

Sorry, dude. Looks like you're fucked.

ASANO

No! We have to fix this!

WES

No man. You need to fix this.

ASANO

No! You guys made me do it! Please help me!

Asano turns to Noah. Noah looks from him to the other two then pats Asano on the back.

NOAH

Sit tight, buddy. We'll be there soon. Come on, guys.

Noah proceeds toward the exit. Asano, Zach and Wes follow.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A packed living room enshrouded in party lights. Chatter and music BLARES throughout.

Asano, Noah and his friends navigate through the CROWD.

Courtney stands against one of the walls. Asano nudges Noah and points at her.

(CONTINUED)

Asano approaches her. The others follow. She spots him.

COURTNEY

You! What are you doing here?!

ASANO

(slurred)

I'm so sorry! I didn't know what
get busy mean!

Courtney SHOVES him. Noah steps in and blocks her from doing
it again.

COURTNEY

Do you have any idea what you did?!

ASANO

I just wanted to work!

COURTNEY

What the fuck did you think was
going to happen?!

NOAH

It's not his fault!

COURTNEY

What?!

NOAH

We put him up to it! It was a joke!
He didn't know what he was saying!

Noah turns to Asano.

NOAH

I'm sorry, man.

Asano stumbles drunkenly forward. Noah catches him and helps
get him back on his feet.

ASANO

I just wanted to do work.

Courtney stares at them for a moment then speaks.

COURTNEY

That's good enough for me but it's
not going to be good enough for my
boyfriend.

NOAH

You told your boyfriend?!

COURTNEY

He grabbed my phone as soon as he saw the message! He's been looking for you guys! You have to get out of here before-

VOICE (O.S.)

Too late!

Asano whirls around. Bradley stands behind him.

COURTNEY

Leave them alone, Bradley! It was a mistake-

BRADLEY

You damn right it was a mistake!

Bradley grabs Asano by his shirt with both hands and effortlessly hoists him into the air. His SHIRT rips in the process.

Noah steps forward, ready to fight.

NOAH

You're about to make your own mistake!

COURTNEY

Let him go!

BRADLEY

No way!

Out of nowhere, Asano throws a misplaced PUNCH which pulverizes Bradley's NOSE. He releases Asano and stumbles back as BLOOD spurts from his nose. Asano falls to the floor. His GLASSES fly off his head.

The crowd is now aware of the fight and has gathered around the two fighters. They stare at Asano on the floor as they GASP and WHISPER.

COURTNEY

Oh my god!

ZACK

Holy shit!

(CONTINUED)

WES
No way, dude!

As Asano gets to his feet. His TORN SHIRT reveals his muscular body underneath his bookworm facade.

NOAH
Holy shit! Asano's fucking ripped!

BRADLEY
You little shit!

Asano looks around frantically.

NOAH
Kick him in the balls!

ASANO
The what?

Bradley lunges forward.

NOAH
Do it now!

Asano kicks Bradley him square in the NUTS. Bradley drops like a sack of potatoes. The crowd RELEASES a unified GASP. Noah and his friends burst into laughter.

COURTNEY
I think you guys better get out of here.

NOAH
Good thinking.

Courtney turns and places a hand on Asano's shoulder.

COURTNEY
I guess I'll see you later?

Asano lets out a drunken laugh as he nods.

NOAH
Come on, buddy. We gotta get your drunken ass home.

Noah and his friends carry Asano by his arms out of the party house as Courtney tends to her fallen boyfriend.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Asano and Noah sit in the backseat of a car.

ZACH

That was pretty ballsy move you pulled back there, bro. Like literally.

ASANO

Ballsy?

Everyone laughs.

NOAH

Dude, how the fuck did you get so strong? All you ever do is study.

ASANO

Fitness is very important to...

Asano trails off into incoherent mumbling.

WES

(laughs)

You still can't fight worth shit though. I mean you just don't kick guys in the nuts. We gotta teach you how to fight.

ASANO

I don't want to fight!

NOAH

You're probably right. Sorry for the shitty night, dude.

ASANO

Not shitty. Just ending was shitty.

NOAH

So you had a good time then?

ASANO

Yes. Now I get busy with Courtney.

Everyone laughs. Noah pats Asano on the back.

NOAH

So let me ask you something.

(CONTINUED)

ASANO

What?

NOAH

You ever smoke weed before?

FADE OUT.