

MISTAKEN FOR STRANGERS

by

Harman Bawa

6+1

bawastudent@hotmail.com

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FADE IN:

HARMAN, A TALL, SLENDER TEENAGER, FRANTICALLY MAKES IT TO A BART STOP IN SAN FRANCISCO. HE'S A LOS ANGELES NATIVE STAYING WITH HIS COUSIN AT BERKELEY. HE'S FATIGUED FROM A FULL DAY AT THE OUTSIDE LANDS MUSIC FESTIVAL. PHONELESS AND 10 LESS, HE LOOKS UP AT THE CLOCK ON THE PLATFORM FOR THE TIME. THE CLOCK DISPLAYS 11:25. HE'S OVERCOME WITH RELIEF, BART TRAINS STOP CIRCULATING AT MIDNIGHT, SO HE JUST MADE IT. BUT TO HIS DISBELIEF, THE TRAIN HE WAS HOPING TO TAKE BACK TO BERKELEY HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

INTERCOM (V.O.)

Those planning to take the 411 back to Berkeley, please changeover to the Red 257 then get off at MacArthur, then the Blue 329 back to Daly City, then the City Truck Rapid to Oakland International, and finally the Green 21 to West Berkeley.

HARMAN

(to himself)

Shit, shit.

He looks around and tries to get further clarification on what exactly he's supposed to do to get home. He approaches an Elderly Gentleman.

HARMAN (CONT'D)

(Politely)

Excuse me sir, did you just hear that intercom announcement?

ELDERLY GENTLEMAN

(Alcofly)

Sorry son, I'm just waiting here for someone.

Harman begins making his way around and sees all sorts of weird and funky characters. He notices several people there are donning apparel from the music festival and he begins to approach them. He comes up behind a man, who has a bag from the event, and taps him on the back. Only to find out the man is drunk off of his ass.

CONCERT-GOER #1

Rock on for life man, what's up my little homie?

HARMAN

Excuse me sir, are you headed out to Berkeley?

CONCERT-GOER #1

(Pointing to Schedule)

Yeah man! If I can read those glowing signs.

Harman, realizing this man is of no real use to him, begins to slowly and slowly walk away. As he walks away he sees Concert-goer 1 take his shirt over and walk closer and closer to the edge of the subway terminal. Harman seeing the potential of the situation runs over to grab the man before falling over. He walks over to maintain Concert-goer 1, and sees that another man has followed suit. This man John, a stylish, suit donning, muscular man of average height and at least 30 years, and Harman bring Concert-goer 1 to a bench, and give each another a nod. Harman feels as if he should ask John for help.

HARMAN

Excuse me sir, you wouldn't be planning on going out to Berkeley, would you?

JOHN

Yeah, me and my wife just live on the border of Oakland and Berkeley.

HARMAN

I'm from LA and I'm in town for this music festival, and I'm staying with some friends in Berkeley, and I have no idea about all the transiers and stuff.

JOHN

Well it's getting pretty late, we're pretty much going to the same stop, you can just hang tight with us on the train till the stop.

HARMAN

(Gratefully)

Thanks so much.

Harman and John walk back over to a bench, revealing John's wife, a petite Asian woman of about 30 some years.

WIFE

John, how out of it was that guy, huh?

JOHN
 (Chuckling)
 Yeah, He wasn't nearly as bad as that guy
 from yesterday Diane.

John impersonates someone who is drunk and turns over and
 pretends to puke.

DIANE
 Who's this young fella hun?

JOHN
 This is... Shit what's your name hahaha?

HARMAN
 (chuckling)
 Hi, I'm Harman.. I guess I never got your
 name either.

JOHN
 Well I'm John and this is my fabulous
 wife..

DIANE
 (interrupting)
 Diane.

JOHN
 He's gonna be riding with us on the BART
 back to Berkeley, he's from out of town,
 IA, and he has some friends he's staying
 with.

DIANE
 Cool, cool. I hope John hasn't given you
 the wrong impression of people from the
 Bay Area. He can be such a Character.

HARMAN
 No, not at all.

Their line of conversation is interrupted by an intercom
 announcement.

INTERCOM (V.O.)
 The Red 257 to MacArthur is now
 entering.

JOHN
 Well, that's us.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE OF BART TRAIN

The three of them are all seated comfortably on a BART train, getting to know each other a little better.

HARMAN

(Chuckles)

Well that's the last of those change overs.

Diane nods in recognition of the joke, but John's eyes are seemingly fixated on a poster and disregards Harman's joke. The poster is featuring ex-Golden State Warriors star, Baron Davis, promoting the new season.

JOHN

They really ought to take that down.

DIANE

You get so emotional about players sometimes.

HARMAN

Big Bay Area sports fan, John?

JOHN

Yeah, I also work in the front office for the Warriors.

HARMAN

No way!

JOHN

Haha, yep. In fact that's how we met. You're looking at an ex-Dallas Mavericks cheerleader over here. I managed to steal her away.

HARMAN

(Stunned in disbelief)

No way!

JOHN

Believe me, it's as cool as it sounds.

HARMAN

So you've met Kobe right?

JOHN

Haha a couple times, someone from LA I did meet a lot last season was Kate Hudson, because...

HARMAN

(interrupting)

She and Baron Davis went to high school together.

JOHN

Yeah, ha you're knowledgeable about a lot of things.

DIANE

(Curiously)

Where did you say you go to school again?

HARMAN

(Slyfully lying)

Oh, I'm a sophomore at UCLA. Born and bred in LA.

DIANE

You look so much older. And your parents were just cool with you coming up to San Francisco with your friends unsupervised.

HARMAN

(chuckles)

Yeah. I mean the Bay Area is a pretty safe place to roam around in. You did have that whole Zodiac killer deal for a while, and Oakland is just about as safe as Beverly Hills.

They all laugh together

HARMAN (CONT'D)

And I am doing one of the safest things in the world by traveling with strangers.

They all laugh together again.

HARMAN (CONT'D)

I mean, the next thing you know, you guys are going to do is invite me back over to your place.

Harman is the only person laughing.

DIANE

Well it is pretty late, and you said you haven't ate in hours, I would feel so bad if you didn't eat.

Before Harman can reciprocate any signs of apprehension, John gets up, and the train begins to slow down.

JOHN

Well, this is us, come on.

The three get off the train and walk out of the station.

CUT TO:

EXT. BERKELEY - NIGHT

DIANE

We just live around the corner.

HARMAN

I donno guys, this doesn't seem like the greatest idea.

JOHN

Stop acting like such a little kid, your in college.

Diane is a little bit ahead of John and Harman, and as the two turn the corner behind her. **Diane takes out a knife and stabs Harman multiple times!**

CUT TO:

EXT. BERKELEY NIGHT (SNAP TO REALITY)

The trio are walking again, as if the previous situation never occurred, John and Diane are quite ahead of Harman.

JOHN

Harman, hurry up it's cold as fuck.

HARMAN

Sorry.

DIANE

We just live right around the corner.

HARMAN

(Somberly)

Cool.

The three walk up to a shabby little duplex. And John struggles to find the keys.

DIANE

It's just a fixer-upper.

HARMAN

(Scared)

Oh, I really don't care.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM DUPLEX -

Harman is sitting by himself on the dining table, with Diane in the kitchen in the next room, and John in the bathroom.

DIANE

Harman, would you mind giving me a hand here?

HARMAN

Sure.

As Harman walks into kitchen, **a big steak knife comes rushing towards him.**

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM DUPLEX - (SNAP TO REALITY)

DIANE

Harman, wake up your soup's done.

Harman wakes up to a bowl of hot chicken, noodle soup in front of him.

DIANE (CONT'D)

I'm not so sure about you walking all the way to the Westside of Berkeley, who knows what type of people are outside. Me and John will drive you.

HARMAN

(resisting)

Really that's not necessary. You two have been--

DIANE

(Cutting him off)

Oh hush up, we'd more than happy to drive you.

Harman slurps his soup with a terrified disposition.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE OF CAR (BMW) - NIGHT

JOHN

Where do I go next?

HARMAN

Honestly, that's not necessary. It's only a few blocks away. I can walk the rest from here.

JOHN

Come on man, show us a little fucking respect, we took you in.

Harman just grabs the steering wheel, and swerves the car into the middle divider, though, avoiding oncoming traffic. Diane screams.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Get the fuck out of my car right now.

Harman bolts out of the car and heads into the night to his cousin's apartment.

DIANE

I told you to never pick up strangers!

END.