

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

JUN, 22 and TAKASHI, 13 are sitting at the table.

SOMETHING scampers across the kitchen floor. Takashi clocks.

He sighs, goes to the shoe cupboard and returns tapping a HEAVY BOOT in his hand. Jun anxiously gets up.

JUN
What you doing?

TAKASHI
Stupid cat brought in a rat again.

JUN
No, I mean with the boot.

Takashi spots something in the corner and --

WHAM! -- He smashes the boot into the floor.

Takashi swears silently to himself.

JUN (CONT'D)
Why don't you just use the
Celebrations box to catch it?

Takashi is preoccupied, scanning the floor for any movement.

TAKASHI
This is easier.

Jun leaves and comes back with a Celebrations box and a flat piece of cardboard.

JUN
Use this instead.

TAKASHI
Why do you wanna save it so much?

JUN
Why do you wanna kill it so much?

TAKASHI
Rats are dirty, carry diseases, and
just don't belong here.

JUN
Yeah, but so do other rodents like
mice, and you let that mouse go the
other day.

TAKASHI

Mice are different. They're actually kinda cute.

JUN

That's only because of the way they're presented in the media. People made the decision, oh let's make these guys over here look cute and innocent, but fuck those guys over there, they're disgusting, dirty and disease spreading. It's all subjective!

TAKASHI

There's an element of truth to all stereotypes. They've caused nothing but problems for people. They should just all be exterminated.

Takashi lifts the boot over his head, readying it.

JUN

Why would you wanna kill another living thing just based on your preconceptions of it?

Takashi scans the floor.

JUN (CONT'D)

What has it ever done to you?

Takashi hesitates.

JUN (CONT'D)

Cmon, stop tryna be hard. It'll be less mess to clean up, you won't have to mop rat blood off the floor.

Takashi sheepishly brings the boot down.

Jun sees something out of the corner of his eye, and --

CLAMP! -- He throws down the Celebrations box, grinning.

Jun carefully slides the cardboard underneath the box, and lifts it up. He places it on the table.

Jun goes to get his shoes on. Takashi stops him.

TAKASHI

It's okay. I'll take him out.

JUN
(grinning)
Take him outside, don't 'take him
out', yeah?

EXT. STREET - DAY

Takashi walks down the street, looking at the box with a newfound sense of duty. He glances across the street at a WHITE DAD and WHITE SON off-screen.

WHITE DAD
...That's why I need you to be
careful and stay away from those
Chinese at school. They're the ones
that got the virus.

WHITE SON
Is it because of them we're in
lockdown dad? And we can't go
Tenerife this summer?

Takashi picks up his pace, walking faster.

WHITE DAD
Yes Ryan, they're dirty and--

They spot Takashi, their icy glares boring into him.

Takashi turns a corner, away from the White Dad and Son.

He stands for a moment, taking in everything he just heard.

He opens the box and stares at the rat inside.