



ERFAN

That means it's not good enough.

THE PROTAGONIST

I don't know much about music.

ERFAN

Want something to drink? Tea? I've got mint tea, Jasmine,  
(go to cupboard)  
Camomile, Earl Grey. I also have some coke and beer in the fridge.

THE PROTAGONIST

I'd have Earl Grey.

Erfan goes to the kitchen and prepare the tea.

THE PROTAGONIST

So, you're a DJ?

ERFAN

Just my new thing. I'll host a rave next month. You should come.

The protagonist looks around.

THE PROTAGONIST

And what do you do exactly?

ERFAN

I press the buttons and hope for the best.

THE PROTAGONIST

(laugh a little)  
I mean what do you do for living?

Erfan comes back with a cup of tea for the protagonist.

ERFAN

I'm a scientist. That's why I live here. Very close to HKU.

The protagonist is holding the cup of tea.

THE PROTAGONIST

Do you have milk?

ERFAN

Ew.

THE PROTAGONIST

Why not?

ERFAN

It's disgusting.

Erfan goes to the fridge by the entrance door.

ERFAN (CONT'D)

Is this a colonial thing?

THE PROTAGONIST

It's a normal thing.

ERFAN

I am not judging.

Erfan pours milk into the protagonist's cup of tea.

ERFAN (CONT'D)

I am Erfan by the way.

CUT TO:

They have sex in missionary position in Erfan's bedroom. Erfan is on top, penetrating the protagonist slowly, who is sniffing a bottle of poppers. After that, Erfan goes harder.

THE PROTAGONIST

Fuck me.

ERFAN

You're making me cum soon.

They have sex passionately.

ERFAN (CONT'D)

I'm cumming.

THE PROTAGONIST

Cum inside.

Erfan reaches climax and slows down. Then he pulls out and lies next to the protagonist, kisses his nipple and touches his anus until he ejaculates too. We do not see it directly as Erfan's body is blocking his lower body. After that, they kiss. Then Erfan reaches for a towel to clean themselves.

THE PROTAGONIST (CONT'D)

Are you really a scientist?

ERFAN

That's what you've been thinking while we fucked?

THE PROTAGONIST

Maybe.

ERFAN

Yes, I'm a scientist. Tell me your secrets and ask me your question.

The protagonist looks at Erfan and smiles.

ERFAN (CONT'D)

And what do you do?

THE PROTAGONIST

Still figuring out.

ERFAN

Don't bull shit me.

A beat.

THE PROTAGONIST

I'm an actor.

ERFAN

Are you famous? Should I know you?

THE PROTAGONIST

No.

ERFAN

What have you done? I want to watch your works.

THE PROTAGONIST

They are just bad.

ERFAN

It makes me want to watch them even more. I love watching bad films.

THE PROTAGONIST

Please just forget about it.

ERFAN

What makes you want to keep on acting then if you hate it so much?

THE PROTAGONIST

Ummm, I like to observe people and pretend to be someone else.

ERFAN

Interesting.

THE PROTAGONIST

What makes you want to be a scientist?

ERFAN

You can tell so much in really small things.

THE PROTAGONIST

Like what?

ERFAN

I will bore you if I get into it.

THE PROTAGONIST

Try me.

ERFAN

Alright, so what I do is to develop a culture of bacteria and observe the generic trait of the whole population. And with the resolution nowadays, we can observe how an individual cell reacts differently within a population. You follow?

A beat.

ERFAN (CONT'D)

It's like people. I can tell the generic trait of Hong Kong people. They are shy. The general traits might be true but we can miss out all the details if we don't look closely. And we'll never get close enough. It's human nature we pretend to know shit but we don't know anything.

THE PROTAGONIST

And you study so much to understand that you don't know much after all.

ERFAN

Dude, some research findings have medical implications. Do you know that the first baby with DNA from three people was born already?

THE PROTAGONIST

Why do we do that?

ERFAN

Some people have genetic problems. Now we can replace that part of deficient reproductive cell with the genetic materials donated from a third person.

THE PROTAGONIST

So we can now mix DNA from many different people to produce babies.

ERFAN

We actually have done that for a long time with plants and animals.

THE PROTAGONIST

And now we do that to people.

ERFAN

With incurable genetic diseases.

THE PROTAGONIST

How about a gay couple who want to combine their sperms and put that into an egg?

ERFAN

That's against morality as of now, but yes we can technically do that.

THE PROTAGONIST

How exciting!

ERFAN

Well, I would want no babies. Ain't this world too fucked up right now?

THE PROTAGONIST

Too late. I'm pregnant already.  
(get up)  
I want to get a shower.

ERFAN

(points to a basket)  
Those towels are clean.

THE PROTAGONIST (CONT'D)

Thank you.

CUT TO:

The protagonist sits on the toilet for a while. Then he goes to the shower.

CUT TO:

The protagonist leaves the bathroom wrapped in a towel. Erfan, fully dressed, is preparing some food.

ERFAN

You were inside forever.

THE PROTAGONIST  
Because you cummed a lot.

ERFAN  
Should've warned you.

THE PROTAGONIST  
You're on prep, right?

ERFAN  
Of course. Would you want to have dinner here? I am cooking.

THE PROTAGONIST  
That's so nice of you. Can I help?

ERFAN  
You'll have to wash the dishes.

THE PROTAGONIST  
Sure.

ERFAN  
I'm making bibimbap.

The protagonist peeks inside the other bedroom.

THE PROTAGONIST  
Do you have a roommate?

ERFAN  
Of course. This is Hong Kong. How would I be able to live here alone?

Erfan puts the rice in the rice cooker.

ERFAN (CONT'D)  
I'm running out of jasmine rice.  
I'll mix it with the black rice.  
Hope you don't mind.

THE PROTAGONIST  
I don't.

ERFAN  
(switches the rice cooker)  
Now we have to wait for the rice.  
Do you smoke?

Both of them are smoking. Erfan is sitting on the couch and the protagonist is standing looking at HKU.

THE PROTAGONIST

Why did you choose Hong Kong in the first place?

ERFAN

Hong Kong chose me. I came for undergrad as it was fully funded. Then it's Covid so I stayed. Now I'm just gonna write up that doctorate thesis and leave.

THE PROTAGONIST

So you haven't graduated.

ERFAN

I'm 24. What do you expect?

THE PROTAGONIST

I assumed you're working at HKU.

ERFAN

PhD people are working in the laborious production of knowledge, and we get paid for that.

THE PROTAGONIST

But I don't believe you are younger than me.

ERFAN

Now I feel offended.

THE PROTAGONIST

What year were you born in?

ERFAN

Is this a math test? You're so not gonna believe in this. I was born on the day when Jesus's supposed to come back - 1st January, 2000.

THE PROTAGONIST

No way! Show me your ID.

ERFAN

It's downstairs, but you don't have to see God to believe in them.

THE PROTAGONIST

That's why I don't believe in God.

ERFAN

Do you want me to get it now?

THE PROTAGONIST

No. I believe you.

Erfan smiles triumphantly. The protagonist finds a skateboard under a table. He picks it up and tries to play with it.

THE PROTAGONIST (CONT'D)

Do you skateboard?

ERFAN

I don't. It's Jack's.

THE PROTAGONIST

Is Jack gay?

ERFAN

No, but he's a good straight, on top of being white. It's rare.

THE PROTAGONIST

You'd pass as white here as well.

ERFAN

Excuse me?

THE PROTAGONIST

You don't think so?

ERFAN

Now I really am offended.

THE PROTAGONIST

I'm sorry.

ERFAN

I'm Iranian for sure. You're blind.

THE PROTAGONIST

Sorry to offend you even more but we really do consider anyone more light-skinned than us white.

ERFAN

Bull shit! Japanese and Korean are more light-skinned than you.

THE PROTAGONIST

They are actually very white to us.

ERFAN

That's true though. But I'm not.

THE PROTAGONIST

Alright you're not.

6

**INT. ERFAN'S FLAT - NIGHT**

6

We close up on the cooked rice in the cooker.

ERFAN

Now it's all black rice. Like how anything mixed with white becomes non-white. That's white logic.

THE PROTAGONIST

But you're still white.

ERFAN

Bitch, say that again I'll throw you out.

CUT TO:

The protagonist is sitting at the dining table while Erfan brings the bibimbap over. They sit opposite each other.

THE PROTAGONIST

Bon appetite.

ERFAN

Would you want some beer?

THE PROTAGONIST

I thought you said you're from Iran?

ERFAN

Yes, and I just fucked you in the asshole.

Erfan goes to the fridge and comes back with two beer. Then he goes away from the table again to his cat's plate.

ERFAN (CONT'D)

I have to feed my cats first.  
Please dig in, or it gets cold.

The protagonist does not start eating. He watches Erfan feed his cats.

THE PROTAGONIST

I really want to get a cat.

ERFAN

Get two, so they have someone to play with.

THE PROTAGONIST

But I can't.

ERFAN

Why not?

THE PROTAGONIST

My boyfriend is allergic to cats.

Erfan comes back. The two starts finally eating.

ERFAN

You have a boyfriend!

THE PROTAGONIST

Yes, I'm in an open relationship.  
I've stated that on my profile.

ERFAN

I didn't notice. What did you think  
when you saw my love tattoo when  
we're fucking.

THE PROTAGONIST

What tattoo?

Erfan pulls up his clothes and shows his tattoo in the middle  
of his body that writes the Chinese character 'love'.

THE PROTAGONIST

I didn't even notice.

ERFAN

I'm just a joystick for pleasure.  
Fine, I get it.

CUT TO:

Erfan plays the piano and sings. The protagonist is listening  
besides him. When Erfan finishes, he claps.

THE PROTAGONIST

You have a great voice. You should  
consider becoming a singer.

ERFAN

I'm really glad that you didn't  
just say nice.

THE PROTAGONIST

I've learnt.

ERFAN

Come to my rave. It's even better.

THE PROTAGONIST

Let's see.

ERFAN

I mean, no pressure if you hate me  
and never wanna meet me ever again.

Silence.

THE PROTAGONIST

I normally just do one-off. See  
I've got a boyfriend.

ERFAN

I see.

THE PROTAGONIST

But I'm interested in coming to  
your rave. Is there gonna be drugs?

ERFAN

Not for me, but everyone comes up  
asking me for all kinds of shit.  
They all think I'm the Coke guy.

THE PROTAGONIST

You look more like the MDMA guy.

ERFAN

I'm the don't-do-any-drug guy. Got  
a natural high. That's my talent.

THE PROTAGONIST

You've got so many talents.

ERFAN

I can write you a poem in Persian.

THE PROTAGONIST

What else can you do?

ERFAN

Trust me. Persian is such a poetic  
language. Even mundane conversation  
would sound like poem.

THE PROTAGONIST

Alright, say I drink beer and fuck  
a boy in the ass in Persian.

A pause, Erfan gives a thought about it.

7

**EXT. TRAM - NIGHT**

7

The protagonist is taking the tram, looking at the streets.  
We hear the voiceover of Erfan reading a poem in Persian.