

Techno-Loo

By

Chris Beadnell

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12 Peony Cct  
Little Mountain  
Queensland. Australia. 4551  
+61418731538  
cbeadnell@ymail.com  
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FADE IN:

EXT. NARITA AIRPORT RUNWAY- DAY

JAL Flight JL752, a Boeing 787, is landing at Narita Airport, Japan. The plane's tyres screech as it touches down on the tarmac.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT'S (O/S)  
(PA on- plane announcement)  
[Japanese dialogue]

The FLIGHT ATTENDANT's announcement is now heard in English.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (O/S)  
(slower and a bit broken)  
Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to  
Narita, Japan, where the local time  
is 8.10 in the morning.

EXT: NARITA AIRPORT TAXIWAY- DAY

About half a minute later the airplane now taxis towards the gate.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (O/S)  
We thank you for flying with  
JAL flight number 752, from  
Hanoi. And from all of us at  
Japan's national airline, we  
wish you pleasant stay in  
Japan.

INT- NARITA AIRPORT TERMINAL- DAY

The people from the flight all move purposefully and hastily towards the immigration counters, some on the travelator, many walking the long corridor, trying to beat the travelator passengers. Some of the more keener folk start to run.

Cutting through this seemingly endless moving assemblage we view a couple walking together. Both are wearing small day-packs.

JAMIE, male 25, is looking very much like the worn and weary Australian traveler, complete with his cliched backpacker tee shirt, camouflage- type cargo trousers. He has been unshaven for quite a while. His attempt at a beard is more patchwork fluff than hirsute. His face is pale and he grimaces as he walks, slightly bent forward with his hand holding his tummy.

(CONTINUED)

AMBER, female 26, looks infinitely more fresher, an attractive and fit Aussie woman who's clothing is far more presentable than her partner's. She is carrying both their passports and paperwork, filed together orderly in her right hand.

All of a sudden, JAMIE takes off his day-pack and hands it to AMBER. He starts to race quickly to a male toilet he spots, and right before the toilet entrance, he all but knocks down a small Japanese boy who was heading, albeit slower, in the same direction. JAMIE very quickly turns and gestures a form of apology, but just as quickly we see him turn again and disappear hastily into the facility.

INT- NARITA AIRPORT BAGGAGE COLLECTION- DAY

The bags are moving around the baggage carousel.

Amongst the patiently waiting crowd we see AMBER intently gazing across the carousel. JAMIE is not with her.

INT- NARITA TERMINAL ARRIVALS - DAY

AMBER waits outside another male toilet with both their backpacks and day-packs balancing evenly on each of her legs. She is flicking through a LONELY PLANET guidebook.

JAMIE appears from the toilet looking pasty and clammy. He slowly walks over and puts his backpack on with some considerable assistance from AMBER. In a caring gesture, AMBER rubs his arm and shoulder. They both walk to the downward escalator. We see the Japanese/ English sign above the escalator:

### **To Trains**

EXT- TRAIN STATION PLATFORM- DAY

At a train station platform somewhere between Narita and Tokyo the Japanese commuters are on the platform standing in orderly single file rows awaiting a train.

An announcement in Japanese is heard over the PA.

A guard looks both ways along the platform moving his arms along the yellow line ensuring no person is on the track side of the line. He steps back.

We see the NARITA EXPRESS train hurry by the station without stopping.

The commuters remain in their statuesque rows, seemingly oblivious to the passing train which rushes past.

INT- NARITA EXPRESS TRAIN- DAY

Inside the train we see a closed toilet door with a red indicator showing.

We then see JAMIE who is standing outside the door, leaning slightly forward in a cramped up position, hand across his tummy. His other arm is outstretched, propping him up against the wall.

JAMIE taps his right foot impatiently.

INT- TOKYO HOSTEL DORMITORY- DAY

JAMIE is sitting on the bottom bunk bed in the dorm. His hair is damp and ruffled as if it has been dried quickly with a towel. He is now wearing a different tee shirt and a pair of football shorts. His backpack is open next to the bed with his last change of clothes and a towel strewn untidily on top.

JAMIE takes two tablets from a crumpled IMMIDIUM packet and washes them down with a small gulp of bottled water. He then opens up his sleeping bag on the bed and climbs inside. He lays with his face towards the wall.

AMBER sits on the bed next to where JAMIE is laying, and strokes him softly on his head and face. She stands up, gives him a firm slap on the arse, then walks out the dormitory door, picking up her guidebook on her exit. She closes the door behind her.

EXT- GINZA STREET- DAY

It is now several hours later, mid afternoon. JAMIE and AMBER are walking along the footpath on a hustling street in the upmarket Tokyo suburb of Ginza. JAMIE is walking with much more ease and purpose, and looking far healthier. He now wears a casual buttoned shirt and jeans.

AMBER is looking at her guidebook then glancing around at the buildings on the street. She stops, then taps JAMIE on the shoulder and points to a building sign which has an Japanese and English sign which shows:

**Izakaya**

JAMIE and AMBER walk from the footpath into the building.

INT- IZAKAYA- DAY

JAMIE and AMBER are sitting in a small booth at the Izakaya (Japanese Pub). A waiter has just brought over their drinks and taken their food order. JAMIE has a beer in front of him, AMBER has a gin and tonic.

AMBER reaches over the table and touches JAMIE's hand

AMBER  
How's the tummy, Jay?

JAMIE  
Yea, seems OK at the moment. I think the nap did me a world of good.

AMBER  
Are you sure you're OK to eat?

JAMIE  
Yea, I gotta eat something soon. It's been 2 days and with all this moving around and spray painting the inside of every loo in every airport and every plane in south east Asia, I'm as weak as all shit.

AMBER  
Ha, ha, very punny.

JAMIE  
What?

AMBER  
Never mind. Anyway, at least we're now in a country with probably some decent hygiene standards.

AMBER taps the LONELY PLANET book placed next to her on the table.

AMBER (CONT'D)  
It reckon's the food here is pretty classy actually, and not too expensive.

JAMIE  
As classy as McDonald's I suppose?

AMBER  
OK, OK. Mister...  
(gestures inverted commas with her hands)

(CONTINUED)

"I have to live like a local". So wasn't a month on the Mekong enough local cuisine and culture for you?

JAMIE

Well I still don't believe it's right to be eating Macca's when you are overseas. It's just lazy.

AMBER

Well Jay- babe,

AMBER gestures a circle incorporating her and JAMIE.

AMBER (CONT'D)

which one of this this little travelling family came away from our one day in Phnom Pehn producing nice firm and well formed stools, huh?

JAMIE

Yea, Yea.

AMBER

And which one had to eat the river fish dish from the dodgy market because he's um, what is it? He's living it like a local, huh, huh?

AMBER points toward JAMIE.

JAMIE

Alright alright. That's enough. I don't want to think about that at the moment while I'm on the improve.

AMBER

(singing, similar to the McDonald's tune)  
"Bah, Bah, Bah, Bah Baaaah, I'm Lovin' it. F-i-i-i-irm Stooools".

JAMIE shakes his head and grins a little.

JAMIE

(mouthing)  
Bitch.

INT- IZAKAYA- DAY

About twenty minutes later the food is on the table, there are several plates of different small Izakaya- style meals and AMBER is obviously enjoying the fare. JAMIE however is now looking pallid again and seems not very interested in eating or drinking. He begins to lean forward and his face grimaces.

JAMIE  
(moaning)  
Ooooh.

AMBER  
(with mouthful of food)  
You OK babe?

JAMIE  
Ah, no, not really. I think the  
"Amok Trei Express" is pulling into  
the station once again.

AMBER  
Oh dear. OK, well I'm pretty sure I  
saw a bloke go to the loo before. I  
think it's over there...

AMBER points to behind the cashier desk.

AMBER (CONT'D)  
...on the right near that cash  
register thingy.

JAMIE  
OK, gotta go.

As JAMIE stands up and heads towards the toilet, he turns back to look at AMBER.

JAMIE (CONT'D)  
This is not going to be pretty.

AMBER smiles then raised her right hand and gestures like a steam train driver pulling an overhead cord.

AMBER  
Toot, toot!

INT- OUTSIDE TOILET- DAY

JAMIE approaches the toilet and notices there is a raised wooden floor and a rack with several pairs of slippers. On another shelf nearby there is a pair of lady's shoes.

JAMIE (V/O)

Ah. Must have to take off your shoes to go to the loo. Amber mentioned that on the plane.

JAMIE slips off his shoes and as he bends over to grab a pair of slippers he breaks a loud, very wet sounding fart and he quickly bolts himself upright again, grabbing at his bum with his right hand. He slowly glances over his shoulder to see if anyone saw or heard anything.

JAMIE

(softly to himself)

Fuck the slippers.

JAMIE, just wearing his socks on his feet, walks up to the toilet door and slides it open.

As the door slides open, JAMIE notices the very modern looking toilet seat lid is automatically opening as he moves inside. We see the door slide shut and hear the click of the the lock.

INT- INSIDE TOILET- DAY

The interior of the toilet is clean, modern and shiny. There can be heard some subtle piped music.

We see JAMIE rush to get his jeans off and sit down on the toilet. From almost before he completely sits, we hear the unmistakable and very loud sounds of explosive diarrhea continuing on for many, many seconds. JAMIE's face is a picture of relief with the occasional grimace and groan.

INT- OUTSIDE TOILET- DAY

A JAPANESE MAN walks up to the toilet door. He notices JAMIE's shoes are lying untidily on the floor. As he picks up the shoes he clearly hears the rectal symphony originating from inside. He places the shoes neatly on the shelf next to the lady's shoes.

The muffled sounds continue from inside the toilet.

JAMIE (O/S)

Oh, Ahhhhhh.

More disturbing noises emanate from behind the door.



The JAPANESE MAN looks aghast and promptly turns around and walks back towards the dining area.

INT- INSIDE TOILET- DAY

JAMIE sighs, as the expulsion noises become less frequent and fade out into a few small squeaky farts.

JAMIE (V/O)  
Fuck me! This stink could peel the  
paint off a purple Peugeot. Goddam!

We see JAMIE's facial relief and hear the use of copious amounts of toilet paper. Then JAMIE looks as if he might be dry retching once or twice.

JAMIE stands up and pulls up his underwear and jeans. He moves to flush the toilet but quickly realizes there is no button, no lever, nothing visible as to flush the toilet. His face now looks puzzled.

JAMIE  
What the?

JAMIE has another scan around and behind the toilet but again sees nothing. He then takes a peek into the toilet bowl.

JAMIE (CONT'D)  
Oh God!

He definitely has a dry retch and swiftly closes the lid.

JAMIE waves his hand in front of, and then over top of the toilet as if to activate some hidden sensor. But still no flush. JAMIE lifts the toilet lid slightly just to make sure, but closes it swiftly with his face screwing up.

JAMIE (V/O)  
OK. What the fuck goes on here?

JAMIE takes a step back and scans the room. There is a small hand basin, a hand dryer, a vase with fake flowers. Mounted on the left hand wall he sees a small rectangular electronic control panel.

JAMIE (V/O)  
Ah, didn't notice that before.  
Clever aren't they? Amber told me  
about the electronic dunnies in  
Japan. Cool, let's get rid of this  
shit.

(CONTINUED)

As JAMIE looks closer at the control panel he sees ten buttons on the front but all are in Japanese writing. He starts with pressing the biggest button on the device. Nothing happens.

JAMIE (V/O)  
(chuckling)  
I hope I don't set off a fire alarm  
or something.

JAMIE continues to push the buttons, one by one, but to his increasing visible frustration, there is no flushing of the toilet. After pressing all ten buttons on the face of the control panel, he starts again, pushing with more vigour and purpose. Same result.

JAMIE (V/O)  
No, No, No! What the fuck am I  
going to do? How the fuck does this  
fucking thing work? No dramas like  
this with the squat toilets in  
Cambodia or Laos. Actually wish I  
was back there right about now.

JAMIE pauses, his eyes look slightly upward and his face has a ponderous expression.

INT- OUTSIDE TOILET- DAY

[FLASHBACK]

As the door slides open, JAMIE notices the very modern looking toilet seat lid is automatically opening as he moves inside.

INT- INSIDE TOILET- DAY

JAMIE's face lights up.

JAMIE (V/O)  
Ah ha. What if? These buggers might  
be really clever. If they can make  
the toilet seat open when you come  
in, I reckon they'd be smart enough  
to make the fucker flush when you  
go out. That's gotta be it!

An expression of relief comes across JAMIE's face as he nods in agreement with his own thoughts.

INT- OUTSIDE TOILET- DAY

The same JAPANESE MAN as before has returned waiting outside the toilet door.

The door opens and JAMIE looks a little shocked to see someone waiting outside the toilet. JAMIE nods nervously at the JAPANESE MAN, who nods back at him. JAMIE then stands in front of the door whilst slowly sliding it shut behind his back.

JAMIE (V/O)  
I hope this thing is flushing in there.

The JAPANESE MAN steps to the side and politely gestures to JAMIE to walk past him, whilst bowing his head a little. JAMIE moves not one inch.

JAMIE  
Sorry, sorry. Me so sorry mate.

JAMIE now slides the door back open behind his back and then reverses himself back into the toilet. The toilet door locks.

JAMIE (O/S)  
(muffled but audible)  
Fuck!

The JAPANESE MAN turns his head left and right with a bemused expression on his face.

INT- IZAKAYA- DAY

AMBER is still at the table. Most of the food has been consumed and she has stacked the empty plates and chopsticks neatly on the side of the table. The beer remains on the table, flat.

AMBER looks at her watch and then casts her eyes towards the direction of the toilet. She notices the JAPANESE MAN and a WAITER engaging in a conversation near the cashier's desk.

A mobile phone text message tone is heard.

AMBER takes her phone out of her day-pack and reads the message:

**Jamie: Hey. Stuck in the loo and cant find how to flush it.**

AMBER laughs to herself and texts back:

**LOL!!**

INT- INSIDE TOILET- DAY

JAMIE is sitting on the toilet with the lid down when his text tone goes off. He reads the text and shakes his head, then starts furiously texting back.

A knock is heard on the toilet door. JAMIE jumps, a little startled.

WAITER (O/S)  
Sumimasen. Is orr OK sir?

JAMIE  
Um. Hai, yes. It's all OK. Just be few minutes. Sorry, sorry.

WAITER (O/S)  
OK, sir. Prease excuse me.

JAMIE  
OK, thank you, um ari, ari-gato.

JAMIE continues to tap at his iPhone keyboard.

INT- IZAKAYA- DAY

AMBER is holding her phone when the message tone is heard. She reads the text:

**Jamie: Not fucking LOL Im really in trouble. There r people waiting and they r knocking on the door. You have 2 find out somehow how to flush it and let me know!!**

AMBER grins and begins to text back. We see her message as she sends it. The message reads:

**OK Stinky!! [smiley face]**

AMBER walks up to the cashier's desk to where the WAITER and JAPANESE MAN are still conversing. She puts her hand up softly to attract the attention of the WAITER.

AMBER  
Um, konnichiwa. Do you speak English?

WAITER  
Yes, I speak a rittle Engerish.

AMBER  
Um sorry about this, but I think my boyfriend is in there...

AMBER points toward the toilet door.

(CONTINUED)

AMBER  
... and he cant seem to flush the  
toilet?

WAITER  
Ah, prease excuse me, I not know  
meaning of fa-rush, fa-rush?

AMBER  
Um, flush, like, water...

AMBER theatrically waves her hands like water going into a  
cistern.

AMBER (CONT'D)  
...water, whoooosh, whoosh!

WAITER  
(nodding)  
Ah! Nagasu, nagasu, Hai.

The WAITER gestures a rectangular box with his hands.

WAITER (CONT'D)  
Is a erectric, ah, sorry not know  
word. On side wall. He must push  
button for nagasu.

AMBER  
Cool, thank you, arigato. Can I  
speak to him?

WAITER  
(gestures to the toilet door)  
Prease, prease. Yes, yes.

AMBER  
Jay, can you hear me?

JAMIE (O/S)  
Yep I can. This is pretty damn  
embarrassing. Have you found out  
how to flush this fucken thing?

AMBER  
Sure have honey.

During this conversation we see the WAITER conversing with  
the JAPANESE MAN about what is transpiring. The JAPANESE MAN  
nods then has a very small chuckle, but then almost  
immediately becomes neutral faced.

(CONTINUED)

AMBER

Honey, apparently there's a little electronic box or something on the side wall. You just have to press the button on there, you dufus!

JAMIE (O/S)

(annoyed)

Amber. There's ten fucking buttons on this control panel and I've pushed each one of the fuckers fifty times each! It doesn't fucking work!

AMBER

OK, OK, hang on. Don't get shitty.

AMBER laughs out a little too loud at her joke. She walks back over to the WAITER.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Um, sumimasen. He say electric box, um has many buttons but no buttons work. No flush. No, um, naga, nagasu.

WAITER

Ah, OK. He push not good button. Ah nagasu button ah...

The WAITER runs his hand in a horizontal motion. AMBER appears not to understand.

WAITER (CONT'D)

... ah, sorry. Prease stay, I back soon.

AMBER

Oh, OK.

The WAITER rushes back to the dining area where he calls out in Japanese. A younger female WAITRESS moves across to him and they have a short conversation. The both walk briskly back to the toilet area, where AMBER is waiting.

WAITER

Prease, my correague will show you radies toilet, erectrical...

The WAITER gestures a rectangular box.

(CONTINUED)

AMBER

Oh cool, thank you. Arigato goz-  
goz-ia-ma-su.

WAITER

(smiling and nodding)  
Dō itashimashite.

The WAITRESS and AMBER move toward the female toilet.

INT- INSIDE TOILET- DAY

JAMIE remains sitting on the toilet lid.

JAMIE (V/O)

What is she doing? I hope they  
don't have to get an electrician in  
here to fix this panel. How fucking  
embarrassing would that be? Oh  
well, it's their problem if they  
want all this technological shit  
it's gonna fuck up occasionally. I  
can't be held responsible can I?  
They'll have to put up with the  
stench, I mean...

AMBER (O/S)

Jay-babe? Can you here me?

JAMIE

Yea, have you sorted out what's  
gonna happen? How are they going to  
fix this control panel? Can they do  
it from the outside?

AMBER (O/S)

No need honey. Tell me Jamie, how  
many buttons did you say were on  
the panel?

INT- OUTSIDE TOILET- DAY

AMBER is up close to the toilet door.

JAMIE (O/S)

Oh for fuck's sake Amber don't play  
around.

AMBER

You said ten right?

(CONTINUED)

JAMIE (O/S)

Yes, ten. One, two, three, fucking ten. Why on earth would you ask that? There's ten of the bastards and none of them work!

AMBER

Well Jay, I've just been to the girls loo and the control panel in there has twelve buttons.

JAMIE (O/S)

Oh well, that fucking helps me a lot doesn't it? There's probably two extra buttons in there for clam drying or something.

AMBER

Ah, no honey. Apparently that is one of the functions though. No, actually there are ten buttons on the front face of the panel, but if you have a little closer look you might see two extra buttons on the top of the panel.

Several seconds of silence.

INT- INSIDE TOILET- DAY

From JAMIE's (POV) we move in closer to the top of the control panel and see the two buttons.

INT- OUTSIDE TOILET- DAY

AMBER now smiles broadly.

AMBER

So Jamie, can you see the two buttons I'm talking about?

A muffled grunt comes from behind the door.

AMBER (CONT'D)

OK hon, listen carefully. You will see one button that looks like three vertical lines, that's the little flush. And you will see a button which looks like a stickman without a head. That's the big flush.

AMBER starts giggling.

(CONTINUED)



AMBER (CONT'D)

So babe, just a suggestion, you can choose whatever you want. But I reckon you might want to use the big flush, don't you think? That's the headless stickman honey. And perhaps use it more than once.

The sound of a toilet flush is heard from behind the door.

The WAITER, the JAPANESE MAN and the WAITRESS begin to politely clap their hands. AMBER starts to laugh harder and enthusiastically joins in on the applause.

AMBER

(fist pumping)

Woo Hoo! Man triumphs over technology. Haha!

The applause dies down and the toilet door opens with a rather sheepishly looking JAMIE walking out with his head slightly bowed. The JAPANESE MAN graciously hands JAMIE his shoes. The JAPANESE MAN then starts to take his own shoes off.

JAMIE quickly slips on his shoes.

JAMIE walks past the WAITER and the WAITRESS who both bow their heads at him.

WAITER

Konnichiwa Sir. Vely nice to meet you Sir.

AMBER walks up to JAMIE and throws her arm around his shoulder and with her other hand, ruffles the hair on his forehead,

AMBER

Good on ya, Jay boy. Living it up like a local!

AMBER continues to laugh as they walk together back towards the dining room. JAMIE looks less than impressed.

We now see the JAPANESE MAN enter the toilet, close the sliding door and we hear the lock.

We then hear the muffled sound of coughing and dry retching coming from behind the closed toilet door.

FADE OUT:

THE END