

KAMINARIMON & ORANGE
By
ANNIKA ALFARO

PLAY BREAKDOWN

CHARACTERS

VALERIE	18-year-old who thinks she has everything in life already figured out. She knows what she likes and what she doesn't.
ANTONIO	47 years old. The father of VALERIE and ISABELA. He's a stubborn man through and through. It's not his fault that his ideas are always correct.
ISABELA	15 years old. She wants nothing more than to live a normal and peaceful life but often finds herself picking up after her dad and younger sister.
FEMALE VOICEOVER	She offers VALERIE some help.

SETTING

A decently busy intersection in Asakusa Tokyo. On the sidewalk of the street, there is a public bench, stoplight, and some lit-up storefronts. One of these storefronts is a convenience store that looks very inviting compared to the darkness of the urban jungle surrounding the cast of characters.

A residential street lined with apartments and a few relatively dim streetlights.

TIME

It's nighttime, maybe 7:30 ish. It's the late 2010s, anywhere between 2016-2019. April.

SYNOPSIS

The Rojas family is on spring break. Valerie, Antonio, and Isabela are hoping to finally relax and unwind on vacation. When all of their phones die they find themselves butting heads about what would be the best strategy to find their way back to the apartment they're renting for the week.

ACT ONE

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP on VALERIE, ISABELA, and ANTONIO standing on a street corner huddled around one smartphone

VALERIE

Well. There it goes.

ISABELA

Valerie's was the last phone with any charge. What are we going to do now...

ANTONIO

I can't believe that neither of you thought to bring a charger with you.

VALERIE

What about you, dad? Why didn't you bring one?

ANTONIO

Where would I have put a charger? I don't have a bag.

ISABELA

Guys. It's not that big of a deal. We don't need to be so-

VALERIE

-I'm just not sure why we're being blamed. That's all I'm saying. If dad was positive that we'd need a charger then he could have told us to pack one this morning. But he didn't sooo...

ANTONIO

Val, now is not the time to pick fights. We're on vacation, we should be relaxing.

VALERIE

Under her breath inaudible to ANTONIO, but ISABELA picks up on it.

What are you even talking about?

ISABELA

Dad is right. We made a mistake. Okay. We won't forget again. Right now we should focus on getting back to the apartment.

ANTONIO

I agree.

VALERIE

Well, lucky for you all, I brought a map. I knew something like this would happen.

ANTONIO

If you *knew* something like this would happen, why didn't you just bring a charger?

VALERIE

I don't know, *dad*.

ISABELA

When did you buy a map? I don't remember seeing you do that.

VALERIE

I got it before we left. Found it in Barnes and Noble, thought it would be helpful.

Digging through her tote bag until she pulls out a glossy map of Tokyo.

Isabela, can you hold this? I'm gonna go check what intersection we're at.

Valerie grabs her wallet, hands her tote to Isabela, and walks offstage.

ISABELA

(Shouting to offstage)

Wait! Do you want me to come with!?

Antonio places a hand on Isabela's shoulder, stopping her from chasing after her sister. He has an Iron grip.

ANTONIO

She'll be fine.

SCENE TWO

LIGHTS UP on VALERIE standing at the nearest intersection looking around for a street sign.

VALERIE

Let's see here. C'mon Val. Use those critical thinking skills. Hiragana.... Hiragana....mmm... is there anything written in hiragana? Oh, what does that say?....

VALERIE peers at a sign for a few moments. She's concentrating very hard.

I don't have a clue. All I've got is 'ka' and that's not very helpful. Should I maybe ask somebody? How would I say that?

Ok, this might be just a little bit hopeless... I should have done more Duolingo before we left.

Valerie paces around the stage looking at her surroundings while repeatedly checking the map.

Okay... So if that's the..... hmm. WAIT!

She paces some more.

There we go!

She marks her position on the map with her finger. It is not the right position.

Oh my god. I can't believe I did it. See, I don't need help. I can figure this out on my own. Ha... just like I've done with everything else.

FEMALE VOICEOVER

Excuse me? Are you lost?

Valerie looks to the audience as if they were the ones speaking to her.

VALERIE

No, I'm not lost. I know exactly where I am. My dad on the other hand, whew, is he clueless. HE'S definitely lost.

FEMALE VOICEOVER

Oh... Well if you don't need my help I'll be on my way-

VALERIE

That man has been such a nightmare this trip. Like, more than usual. But honestly, he's always been a control freak. I don't know why I expected this time around to be any different.

FEMALE VOICEOVER

Okay well-

VALERIE

-I'm sorry. I don't know why I'm telling you all this. Listen, I know I said I wasn't lost, which I'm not, but would you mind telling me what those street signs say? Just to verify, obviously.

FEMALE VOICEOVER

Yes, of course. Right now you are at Kaminarimon and Orange st.

VALERIE

Thank you so much! Thank you!...

Val runs off stage, exiting before the female voice gets a chance to respond.

SCENE THREE

LIGHTS UP on VALERIE returning to ANTONIO and ISABELA having just located their position on the map.

Valerie walks towards her dad and sister with determination and her map in hand.

VALERIE

I did it. I know where we are. Look. We're right here. Kaminarimon st. and Orange st. See, if you look down there that's the Skytree right? We crossed that bridge and walked a few blocks. And we could have taken this more major street, but it's almost better that we didn't because now Sensoji temple is-

ANTONIO

While you were gone Isabela and I came up with a plan. We're-

VAL

-A plan? But I thought we already had a plan?

ISABELA

No... you pulled out a map and ran off. I don't think that really counts as a plan to get back to the apartment.

VAL

Yeah, it does. The plan was that I was gonna use this map, which I spent 12 dollars on by the way, to lead us back! I thought that was clear. Context clues people c'mon.

ISABELA

I'm not sure if that's really the best idea Val.

ANTONIO

Listen, I don't want you getting us lost with that thing. I'll just run into that convenience store, get us a portable charger and we can use google maps. Easy breezy, okay? No need to stress.

VALERIE

We don't need google maps. We literally have a map right here. Dad, look at me. I need you to trust me. Just this once. I WANT to do this.

ANTONIO

Please don't make this difficult, Valerie.

VALERIE

No. I don't understand! Why won't you trust me? I'm asking you to trust me and you aren't listening! My sense of direction is great, it always has been. I can DO this.

ISABELA

Val, take a deep breath. It's really not the end of the world.

ISABELA reaches for VALERIE'S arm but is shrugged off by a pissy VALERIE. ISABELA speaks under her breath.

Or you can keep rolling your eyes at me, maybe you'll finally find a brain back there.

VALERIE

What did you just say?

ISABELA

Quiet but powerful.

You heard me.

ANTONIO

Both of you need to stop. We're in public, and I really don't want to be pegged as the loud Amerians right now.

VALERIE

God dad. That's really rich coming from you considering I've got a list of all the times it's been embarrassing to stand next to you from just this trip. We've been here for like what, four days?

ANTONIO

Why are you so stubborn?!

VALERIE

Why can't you let me live?! I'm just trying to help. It's not my fault what i've been saying has been falling on deaf ears.

ANTONIO

You are exactly like your mother.

VALERIE

No! I'm really not! *You* just can't stand to have anyone tell you that you're wrong! You didn't like it when mom did it and now you don't like it when I do it! Maybe if you'd gotten custody of me I'd be complacent like her. (*points to Isabela.*)

ISABELA

OH my god! This has nothing to do with me!

ANTONIO

We are NOT having this conversation right now. I'm going inside and buying the charger. YOU are going to sit here and wait for me to come back.

VALERIE

I'll do as I please, thank you very much.

Valerie rolls her eyes but goes and sits on the bench anyway. Antonio grunts in frustration and exits.

_____ *Valerie is now seated on the bench as Isabela stands behind her.*

VALERIE

Wait, come sit with me... I know you don't want to hear this, but I am SO sick of him.

ISABELA

Yeah. I can tell.

VALERIE

Every time we go somewhere it's always all about him. Remember that time in Austria when I started crying because he dragged us into that restaurant that totally felt more like a bar then refused to let us eat anywhere else?

Isabela moves to sit next to Valerie on the bench.

ISABELA

Yeah, we only left after I said that I was uncomfortable too. But-

VALERIE

--It's always a game of tug of war with him and quite frankly, it's exhausting. I'm exhausted! Look around Isabela. It's dark out, it smells like it's gonna rain, and I want to get dinner.

(BEAT)

I hope you know how lucky you are. I'm not sure why you never seem to fight back or question him, but god, it seems nice... I don't know. Maybe you know something I don't. I wouldn't doubt that.

Turns her back to Isabela. Wiping quiet tears from her eyes.

He always liked you more than me anyway... sorry... he'll be back any moment.

ISABELA

Isabela stares at her sister in utter disbelief.

Jesus Val. Grow up.

You aren't always the victim, you know that right? "I'm so sad my daddy doesn't love me!" Guess what? A relationship is a two-way street. You're always SO focused on yourself that you forget to ask how he feels. And you know what? Yeah. I do know things that you don't know. Because I listen to him and I talk to him. I give as much as I take, I know you can't say the same.

VALERIE

That's not fair.

ISABELA

Why? Why isn't it fair? It's the truth! Val, have you ever stopped to think about how your actions affect me? I'm tired too, tired of always cleaning up the trail of tears that follows you everywhere you go! And you're right, dad is going to be back any moment, so maybe shut your mouth for a few hours and let us enjoy our vacation. Do you think you can do that?

The two girls sit in silence on the bench as sounds of the street fill the stage.

VALERIE

You know what? I'm leaving.

Valerie stands up from the bench turning to look at her sister.

ISABELA

Don't be rash Val.

VALERIE

I'm not being rash! Stop doing that!

ISABELA

Doing what?!

VALERIE

Invalidating my feelings! So guess what, I'm gonna take this STUPID MAP, go see Sensoji temple, buy some dinner, and find. My. Own. Way. Home. BY MYSELF!

(Threateningly)

Oh and when dad gets back, tell him to buy you an umbrella. I think it's gonna rain and I'm taking this one.

Valerie balances the umbrella on her shoulder and pivots away from her sister. She saunters off stage knowing she got the last word. Isabela stares, frozen and in shock. As soon as Valerie walks off, Antonio enters from the opposite side holding a bag indicating his purchase.

ANTONIO

Isabela... where is your sister?

ISABELA

She.... She's gone.

ANTONIO

What do you mean she's gone!?!?!?

ISABELA

I don't know! She just got up and said she'd find her own way back!

ANTONIO

Oh my god. That girl!!!!!!

ISABELA

Hey dad?...

ANTONIO

WHAT?!

ISABELA

I think we need to buy an umbrella.

SCENE FOUR

LIGHTS UP on Valerie sitting in front

*of a residential apartment complex.
It's dark out and she's attempting to
read a book she had brought along
in her bag using the streetlights
above her.*

VALERIE

*Puts her book down in frustration. She has nothing better to do than to
speak her thoughts out loud to fill the silent darkness around her.*

I'm surprised they haven't arrived by now. I've been here for like 20 minutes and I
DEFINITELY took my sweet time. Hmmmmm. Who's lost now?

*In the distance Valerie spots who figures walking towards her.
(Shouting)*

Ohhh hohhhhhhhh!! Took you long enough! What was the hold-up?

ISABELA

Oh my god, you're here! You're alive! You absolute idiot!

ANTONIO

(monotone)

Your sister was sure that you'd be lost forever.

VALERIE

I'm here, I'm alive.

ANTONIO

Yeah... as much as I hate to admit it, I knew you'd find your way eventually.

VALERIE

Did you really?

ISABELA

No. He was freaking out for like a solid hour. And for good reason I'd say, you cretin.

VALERIE

I'm just surprised that I'm not being strangled alive right now. Cause...that was a big stunt. Even
for me.

ISABELA

Oh, don't get it twisted. I'm furious. But-

ANTONIO

-It was completely unacceptable, *(takes a breath)* but we don't need to delve into all of that right now. We'll save it for when we get home.

ISABELA

Here.

Isabela hands Valerie a plastic bag. Valerie takes it and opens it suspiciously. She pulls out something to eat (it doesn't matter what it is. Use your imagination)

Dad got some food for you.

ANTONIO

We-... *I* didn't know if you'd had any dinner. I got something just in case.

VALERIE

Wow, dad. Thank you.

Val looks at her dad. Something resonates in her and she smiles a little. Just a little. Antonio nods.

ANTONIO

Don't worry about it.

Antonio places hands on the backs of his daughters pushing them in front of him as they EXIT.