

THE DUEL

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FADE IN:

EXT. PARK

A SAMURAI and a COWBOY are in a standoff, staring intently at one another.

SAMURAI

(in a racist accent)

There may have been a
miscommunication here.

COWBOY

Dude, no. Just... no.

SAMURAI

(in his real voice)

Oh, is it because I'm Mexican???

COWBOY

Yes.

SAMURAI

Fine. I think there's been a
misunderstanding.

COWBOY

You said "duel." You didn't say
which kind, so I assumed you meant
the most common kind.

SAMURAI

So it's my fault you're a normie?

COWBOY

As if it's my fault that you're a
weeb? Look man, if you can't
specify which duel you want to have
over a girl, I'd hate to see the
sign you'd ask her with if you won.
Think of what--

SAMURAI

Don't say her name. You haven't
earned it. We fight first.

COWBOY

(checking his watch)

Where's Tanner? You said he was
gonna be here for the same reason
we are.

SAMURAI

He said his mom got stuck in traffic. Look man, are we doing Kurosawa or a western? Because, as is, this doesn't seem fair.

COWBOY

Why not?

SAMURAI

Because...

Samurai points to his sword, and motions to the cowboy's gun. Cowboy doesn't get it at first, so Samurai does more motions to mime it out. Cowboy nods, he finally gets it.

COWBOY

So?

SAMURAI

You're basically guaranteed to win.

COWBOY

I'm not seeing the issue.

SAMURAI

Did you at least bring an extra gun?

COWBOY

That's a stupid question, of course I did.

SAMURAI

Can I have it?

COWBOY

That's an even stupider question. Did you bring an extra sword?

SAMURAI

Alright, fine. We duel as is. At least I'll keep my honor. Can we at least agree that the other guy is out of the running?

COWBOY

Tanner?

Samurai nods.

COWBOY (CONT'D)

Yes, definitely.

They take their battle stances. The samurai unsheathes his sword and runs at the cowboy. The cowboy draws his gun.

COWBOY (CONT'D)
Stacy's mine!

The samurai stops.

SAMURAI
Wait, wait, wait.

COWBOY
What now?

SAMURAI
Did you say Stacy?

COWBOY
Yeah. We both wanna ask her to homecoming. That's why we're here.

SAMURAI
I wanna ask Amanda.

COWBOY
What?!

They stare at each other, processing this.

COWBOY (CONT'D)
(sighing)
You gotta be more specific, man.
This stoic samurai thing you have going on is not working.

Samurai nods, and sheaths his sword.

COWBOY (CONT'D)
Because when samurai's don't speak, it's because they choose their words carefull--

SAMURAI
I get it!

Beat.

COWBOY
Wait. So then, who does Tanner want to ask to homecoming?

SAMURAI
Beats me. Oh, there he is!

TANNER enters. He's in a powdered wig and carrying and flintlock pistol.

TANNER
(holding up the pistol)
I'm here. Let's do this. Emma's mine!

COWBOY
(to Samurai)
Dude--

SAMURAI
I know, I know. I gotta be more specific.

COWBOY
Wanna get some sushi and grits?

He looks at tanner.

COWBOY (CONT'D)
And... uh... some turkey?

SAMURAI
Sure, but it can't take too long. I gotta re-do my homecoming sign later.

They walk off into the afternoon sun.

CUT TO:

INT. SAMURAI'S HOUSE

Samurai throws down some MARKERS and a POSTER BOARD. Then he picks up a different SIGN and takes it outside.

EXT. SIDE YARD

Samurai puts the sign next to some trash cans. It reads: 'Girl, will you go to the dance with me?' In an uncreative font.