

SAMURAI DUDE

Written by

Josh Olatunji

When a man dressed as an edo-period Samurai enters a coffee shop,
a shy employee must hide their shared secret from his coworker.

Olatunji@chapman.edu
781-364-4543
Submitted: 2-14-25

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

A man gracefully shoots a munchkin into a far away trash bin. This is AYO(18, trying to hide his boyishness, employee).

AYO

Cash.

Next to him is CALEB(20, unabashedly confident and charismatic), who winces at the sight.

A mopped floor, near empty pitchers, and a few, lonely cups decorate the store around him. It's almost closing time.

CALEB

I'm gonna hoop with some friends tomorrow. You down?

Ayo's eyes brighten, like he's been waiting for this invite but didn't think it would come.

AYO

Yeah, I'll be there.

CALEB

Bet. Kobe!

He shoots and misses. Badly.

CALEB

(before Ayo can speak)
Just go and let me close in peace, okay? We'll see if you can hoop for real tomorrow.

AYO

Okay, peace.

Ayo turns to leave. Caleb looks at Ayo and gets concerned about something.

CALEB

Oh, Ayo?

AYO

Yeah?

CALEB

Maybe don't bring that big-ass bag with you. It might freak people out.

Ayo looks back at his BIG-ASS BACKPACK and starts to squirm.

CALEB

I'm kidding, bro. You can take off.

Ayo nods. Before he can turn to leave, the bell at the door RINGS.

Ayo and Caleb turn to look at the customer.

Is...is that a fucking SAMURAI?!

Ayo and Caleb stare in disbelief as what appears to be an edo period SAMURAI(30's, unbothered by his own ridiculousness) rocks up to the counter, fully clad in a kabuto helmet, a dazzling red kimono, and an elaborate sword scabbard. Is this a real samurai?

He finally arrives at the counter. He pulls off his helmet like a warrior returning from battle. No, not a real samurai.

CALEB

How may I help you?

SAMURAI DUDE

Two large hot coffees with cream and sugar, please.

So, he's not gonna bring up the costume.

CALEB

Of course.

SAMURAI DUDE

Arigatou.

CALEB

What?

SAMURAI DUDE

Arigatou.

Caleb doesn't know what that means, so he ignores it.

Ayo doesn't respond. His eyes are locked on the samurai.

CALEB

Ayo, do you mind helping me out?

AYO

Yeah, I gotchu.

He walks to the cups, and they get started on the coffee.

Meanwhile, the samurai sits on the floor in a seiza position while he waits.

He locks eyes with Ayo for the first time. The sheer cringe starts to irritate Ayo. Samurai Dude doesn't seem to mind.

SAMURAI DUDE

Have we met?

Ayo nervously looks at Caleb, who smirks as he pours into the cup.

AYO

Nah.

The samurai nods, but he seems unconvinced. Ayo works with his head down.

CALEB

So, tell me, "Samurai Dude", what's a warrior like yourself doing here?

SAMURAI DUDE

Oh, this? I'm heading to a "make your own" costume party, so I put this together.

CALEB

A cosplay veteran, huh?
Interesting.

SAMURAI DUDE

No, actually. My son introduced me to it. We play swords sometimes.

CALEB

Is that it?

SAMURAI DUDE

What?

CALEB

You wear that shit in public just for your kid?

Ayo stops what he's doing. He glances up at Samurai Dude, anxiously awaiting his answer.

Samurai Dude thinks it over.

SAMURAI DUDE

No. My wife thinks it's sexy.

Ayo looks like he's seen a ghost.

AYO

Bullshit.

They both look at Ayo.

AYO

Your wife, like, a woman, thinks
that shit is sexy?

SAMURAI DUDE

Women find all kinds of things
sexy. You should try talking to one
sometime.

Caleb laughs. Ayo, isn't so amused.

CALEB

Oh my goodness, Ayo. Fight back.
Please.

Ayo shoves the cup in Samurai Dude's face.

AYO

Here's your coffee.
(to Caleb)
I'll catch you.

Ayo storms out of the store.

Caleb notices Ayo's backpack still on the floor, and picks it
up.

CALEB

Oh, he forgot this? Damn, this
shit's heavy.

Samurai Dude looks at the bag, pondering.

EXT. DUNKIN DONUTS - PARKING LOT - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Ayo stops.

AYO

(realizing)
Fuck.

He starts back toward the entrance. There he finds Samurai
Dude, who wears Ayo's backpack.

SAMURAI DUDE

Forget something?

AYO

Right, thanks.

SAMURAI DUDE

Where you swinging off to so fast?

Samurai Dude walks to his car and puts his trays on the hood.

AYO

(glaring)

None of your business, weirdo.

SAMURAI DUDE

Actually, I think it is. Need a ride?

AYO

Thanks for the bag.

Before Ayo can reach for the bag, Samurai Dude puts his sword in between them.

Ayo twitches.

AYO

What's your problem?

SAMURAI DUDE

You are. Just who do you think you are, questioning my sex appeal?

AYO

Will you fuck off already, bro, you're embarrassing yourself.

SAMURAI DUDE

Yeah? Well, look who's talking.

Ayo glares at Samurai Dude, eyes narrowed.

Samurai Dude inches toward Ayo.

AYO

Back up, man.

SAMURAI DUDE

(thwips like Spider-Man)

Or what? You gonna go 'thwip thwip' and web me up?

Ayo shoves Samurai Dude back.

AYO

Give me my backpack.

SAMURAI DUDE

Fine, you want it so bad?

Samurai Dude flips the bag upside down and dumps it. Out comes a CUSTOM SPIDER-MAN SUIT, primarily black with a green spider symbol. Think of Miles Morales' costume, but with green ambience throughout.

The secret's out. Ayo's eyes sink: he's ashamed.

AYO
(stumbling, last effort)
It's my little brother's, he-

SAMURAI DUDE
Save it. I saw you at a convention
last week, asshole.

Samurai Dude tosses Ayo the costume.

SAMURAI DUDE
I know we're going to the same
party, so I guess I'll just see you
there.

He strolls over toward his car.

AYO (O.S.)
What are gonna tell your son?

Samurai Dude stops.

AYO
When he grows up and he starts
getting roasted. When playing dress
up stops being cute. What are you
gonna tell him?

Samurai Dude's expression changes, like something finally makes sense to him.

SAMURAI DUDE
My son's twenty-three.

Ayo's eyes widen. Samurai Dude continues walking back to his car, leaving Ayo alone.

Ayo picks up his costume, contemplating Samurai Dude's words.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - MEN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ayo comes out of the stall in his costume. He looks at himself in the mirror, fighting his own self-doubt.

Finally, he takes a deep breath, and marches out into the battlefield.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Caleb counts money at the register. FOOTSTEPS approach him. He looks up to find Ayo standing in front him, awkwardly posing like Spider-Man.

Caleb is surprised. They both wait for the other to say something.

AYO
I make cosplays.

CALEB
I see that.

Another awkward pause.

AYO
Well, I just figured you should know.

Ayo turns to leave, cringing at himself.

CALEB
Ayo.

Ayo stops, but doesn't turn around.

CALEB
I'll see you tomorrow.

That line soothes Ayo. He smiles, genuinely.

AYO
See you then.

Ayo dons the mask and walks out the door. An origin story completed!

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Ayo sits at the bus stop. His mask is still on.

A CAR drives up to them. The window rolls down, revealing Samurai Dude.

Samurai Dude nods. Ayo nods back.

SAMURAI DUDE
Need a ride?

Ayo is surprised at first, but quickly nods and hops in the passenger seat. Samurai Dude drives off.

INT. SAMURAI DUDE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Ayo looks around, not knowing what to say.

SAMURAI DUDE

So, how'd you make your costume?

Ayo's face lights up through the mask.

AYO

Well, Miles Morales has my favorite Spider-Man costume, and green is my favorite color because of the Celtics, so I thought I'd combine the two...

FADE TO BLACK.