

LISTEN TO YOUR VEGETABLES AND EAT YOUR PARENTS
"RICE"
Episode 109

Written by Lyric Lewis

1

OPENING CREDITS

1

Waffles and Mochi walk through a side-scrawling, animated version of the world, taking us from the blues of The Land of Frozen Food through to the bright greens, reds, and yellows of the fresh produce at the grocery store.

WAFFLES

Ready, Mochi?

MOCHI

Yippee! // Meep!

WAFFLES

Let's go!

They pass through animated illustrations of noodles, soups, dumplings, and all kinds of tasty dishes.

KIDS

Freeze!

Now, a FEMALE SINGER chimes in to sing:

FEMALE SINGER

*Listen to your vegetables / And eat
your parents--*

Hey, there's Steve the Mop! And BUSY! And MAGICART! As Waffles and Mochi fly through more food illustrations.

FEMALE SINGER (CONT'D)

--with Waffles and Mochi!

TITLE: WAFFLES & MOCHI

Our li'l illustrated bubs stand proudly among the vegetables! We hear the CHIME of Waffles' wink!

As the episode title appears - RICE - the kids' voices shout it out.

KIDS

Rice!

2

EXT. GROCERY STORE - ESTABLISHING

2

Another perfect day in grocery town, baby! Some delicate BUTTERFLIES float by!

MRS. OBAMA (PRE-LAP)

Think I'll use some of the green.

3

EXT. MRS. OBAMA'S GARDEN - DAY

3

As CUSTOMERS and EMPLOYEES mill about, BUSY and MRS. OBAMA are at the picnic table constructing cute FAMILY TREES on poster board displayed on EASELS, replete with pictures (or pictograms) of their various family members.

BUSY

Oh yes?

MRS. OBAMA

Yeah, a little more green on yours.

BUSY

A touch more green would be great.
I need a few more leaves, actually.

As they work, WAFFLES comes cruising into the garden, with MOCHI in her hand, as always.

MRS. OBAMA

Maybe one more leaf would do it...

Waffles and Mochi finally reach the picnic table, which has some MARKERS and other CRAFT MATERIALS strewn about.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Hey, hey! // Meep!

MRS. OBAMA

Well, what a nice surprise! What are you doing here on your day off?

WAFFLES

We're spending it at our favorite place in the whole world: the supermarket!

MOCHI

Yeah. // Meep.

Sure, okay, that tracks! Mrs. Obama does a little dance.

MRS. OBAMA

The supermarket!

BUSY

Ha ha ha!

Waffles notices the family tree posters behind Busy and Mrs. Obama.

WAFFLES

Hey, what's that?

MRS. OBAMA
Oh, well, we're making family
trees.

BUSY
Yes!

MOCHI
Huh! // Meep!

WAFFLES
Whooooa, cooooool! Wait, uh...
what's a family tree?

A great question.

MRS. OBAMA
Well, a family tree shows how you
and your family are all connected
to each other.

MOCHI
Oh, I see. // Meep.

WAFFLES
Wow!

BUSY
This is Mrs. Obama's family tree!

We get closer to Mrs. Obama's family tree as she points out
the various family members on her poster.

MRS. OBAMA
Yeah! Here's me, right here in the
center.

WAFFLES
Yup.

BUSY
Look at her!

MRS. OBAMA
And then, this is my mom, isn't she
beautiful?

Mrs. Obama points to a picture of her MOM.

WAFFLES
Yeah!

MRS. OBAMA
And my dad.

MOCHI
Wow! // Meep!

BUSY
Lovely.

MRS. OBAMA
And you can go up to the next limb
and you see my Great Aunt Robbie.

Next, Mrs. Obama points at the roots portion of her tree, where there are two baby pictures of MALIA and SASHA, as well as two "baby pictures" of the Obamas' dogs, SUNNY and BO!

MRS. OBAMA (CONT'D)
And these are my babies down here.
And my dog babies!

Busy giggles some more.

WAFFLES
You have dogs?!

MRS. OBAMA
They're part of my family tree too.

BUSY
Who's that man next to you in that?

Mrs. Obama points to the portrait of BARACK OBAMA on her family tree poster.

MRS. OBAMA
Oh, well this is my husband.

BUSY
Oh yes, that's right!

MRS. OBAMA
Yes.

MOCHI
Neat! // Meep!

WAFFLES
Wow, that's amazing!

BUSY
Yes, oh, and of course, here's my
family!

Busy's family tree is... well, busy. There are DOZENS of cartoon BEES drawn into the branches of his family tree, culminating in a big portrait of the QUEEN BEE at the roots.

BUSY (CONT'D)

This is Beatriz, the Queen Bee herself.

He flits a little higher to point out his branch.

BUSY (CONT'D)

And then there's me, up there. And then all of my brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles and cousins, of course. There's my brother Bart, and his wife, Bedelia--

MOCHI

Oh, brother. // Meep.

BUSY

--And their children, Benetrick, Beatrice. And then of course we have Betty--

MOCHI

He's still going?? // Meep meep??

BUSY

--and Banksy, the billionaire of the family--

MRS. OBAMA

--it goes on and on and on.

BUSY

Oh, it goes on and on, yes.

MRS. OBAMA

Oh my gosh.

BUSY

I think I'm gonna need a bigger poster board, quite frankly.

MRS. OBAMA

You do.

MOCHI

Hmm. // Meep.

Waffles considers the family trees.

WAFFLES

Well, my mom's family are yetis.

Waffles gives her fuzzy fur a little brush of the hand.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

And my dad's are waffles!

Waffles pats her tummy waffle.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

Yup, that's my family tree!

MRS. OBAMA

Ohhh, that's pretty cool!

WAFFLES

Yeah!

MRS. OBAMA

Mochi, what about you? What's your family tree?

Oh god, you better go get your tissues, folks, I'll wait here until you come back!!!

MOCHI

Me? I... well, I don't have a family. // Meep? Meep meep.

Mochi even deflates a little on the picnic table!

MRS. OBAMA

Awww.

BUSY

Everyone comes from somewhere!

MOCHI

Really? // Meep?

MRS. OBAMA

Yeah, that's right! Everybody's got roots.

MOCHI

Phew! // Meep!

WAFFLES

Roots? Wait, wait, wait... Mo-mo-Mochi comes from the GROUND?!

MOCHI

Wait, WHAT?! // Meep?!

MRS. OBAMA

Not exactly. "Roots" is another way of saying "where you come from."

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Oooooohhhh. // Meeeeeep.

MRS. OBAMA

You know, just like roots in the ground helps the tree grow? Well, your family kinda helps make you who you are today.

MOCHI

Oh, I see now. // Meep.

BUSY

Yes, your parents, grandparents, great grandparents--

WAFFLES

Hmmm...

BUSY

--All the way back to your oldest ancestors!

Waffles touches her chin in thought - this is all new news!

MOCHI

You don't say! // Meep!

WAFFLES

Hey, Mochi.

MOCHI

Yeah? // Meep?

WAFFLES

You know what we should do on our day off?

MOCHI

Mani-pedi? // Meep?

WAFFLES

We should figure out where you come from, li'l bud!

MOCHI

Oh, that's a MUCH better idea! // Meep!

WAFFLES

Yeah, yeah! And then, after? We can make a family tree for you!

MOCHI

Let's go, I can't wait! // Meep!

Now, wait just a minute here, Moch.

BUSY

M-m-m-Mrs. O, I kinda feel like this is our thing! And besides, we don't have enough glue!

Mrs. O calms Busy's little green envy!

MRS. OBAMA

We have plenty of glue, Busy.

BUSY

Ugggghhhh!

WAFFLES

Oh, great!

MRS. OBAMA

I think this is a great idea. Can't wait to see what you find out!

MOCHI

Us too! // Meep!

MRS. OBAMA

Go to it!

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Okay, let's go! We're doing it! // Meep meep meep!

MRS. OBAMA

Okay, guys, good luck!

MOCHI

Thank you! // Meep!

Waffles and Mochi bounce off towards MagiCart. Mrs. Obama turns back to Busy.

MRS. OBAMA

That's a good project for 'em on their day off.

BUSY

I think it should keep them busy for at least a FEW hours.

MRS. OBAMA

Yeah.

4

EXT. MAGICART - LAUNCHPAD - CONTINUOUS

4

Our standard launch sequence: MAGICART on the launchpad, the MagiCart display screen, Waffles climbing in as she grabs her goggles, Waffles putting on her goggles, Waffles buckling her seatbelt, Mochi in his helmet rising into frame as his seatbelt buckles.

MOCHI

Wait... what do we set MagiCart for?! // Meep meep meep?!

WAFFLES

Well... I don't know what to set it for either.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Hmm.... // Meeeeeep...

Waffles has an epiphany!

WAFFLES

Oh! How about we try scanning you?

MOCHI

Math checks out to me! // Meep!

Waffles grabs Mochi and gently holds him in front of MagiCart's screen. MagiCart's SCANNER function scans Mochi.

MAGICART

Scanning, scanning, scanning... scan complete!

MOCHI

It tickled! // Meep!

Now, there is a picture of MOCHI on MagiCart's screen. MagiCart gasps!

MAGICART

I know where we should go!

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Yeah! // Meep!

From high up on the garden wall, INTERCOMMY kicks us off.

INTERCOMMY

Three... two... yum... BLAST-OFF!!!

With a gust of wind and exhaust, MagiCart is up, up, and away with our fuzzy friends!

Mrs. Obama waves from the picnic table as the customers and employees look on!

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Listen to your vegetables! //
Meep!

And with that, MagiCart is outta there.

INTERCOMMY
And eat your parents!!!

5

EXT. MAGICART - FLYING - MOMENTS LATER

5

We are at cruising altitude.

WAFFLES
So, MagiCart, how are we gonna
figure out Mochi's family tree?

MAGICART
Well, I thought Mochi could speak
to an expert. Someone who knows
about genealogy--

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Ooohhhh! // Meep!

MAGICART
--or how to trace your roots and
find your relatives. He has his own
TV show!

WAFFLES
Sounds like an expert to me!

MOCHI
Me too! // Meep!

MAGICART
Prepare for landing!

WAFFLES
Whoooooaaaaa!

MAGICART
And prepare to be on the next
episode of... COMMON ROOTS!

The miniature MagiCart soars towards their destination.

6

FAUX-PENING CREDITS OF: COMMON ROOTS

6

An homage to the opening credits of other ancestry exploration docuseries, featuring v. classy trumpet music.

A MAN looks at an old photo with a magnifying glass. Next, that photo falls into place in a graphic of a FAMILY TREE.

Our host, MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD, speaks over these credits.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD (V.O.)
I like to help people fill out
their family trees.

Next, we see a FAMILY holding hands against a sunset, followed by a stream of OLD, HANDWRITTEN DOCUMENTS.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD (V.O.)
By showing them their relatives
from a long time ago.

Hands shuffle through ANTIQUE FAMILY PORTRAITS. A DNA double helix against a SEQUENCED GENOME.

7

INT. TELEVISION SET OF 'COMMON ROOTS' - A BIT LATER

7

In a luxuriously appointed room that, yes, probably smells of rich mahogany, our genealogy tv show host, Mario Winston Rutherford, explores the ROOTS of a TULIP BULB growing in a vase from behind his DESK.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD
Why, look at your roots growing in
nice and strong!

Mario puts down the vase as Waffles and Mochi bound onto the scene. Mochi hops up onto Mario's desk.

WAFFLES
Hi!

MOCHI
Hello! // Meep!

WAFFLES
I'm Waffles, and that's Mochi.

MOCHI
A pleasure. // Meep.

WAFFLES

Yeah, he wants to know all about his family and where they come from.

MOCHI

It's true. // Meep.

WAFFLES

Can you help us?

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

Well, I think I can!

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Oh, yeah! // Meep!

Mario pulls out a conveniently prepared PHOTO ALBUM.

MOCHI

Wow, is that mine?? // Meep meep meep??

When he puts it down, we see a SCHOOL PORTRAIT of Mochi on the cover - these are Mochi's roots!

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

Inside this photo album are your relatives, Mochi.

MOCHI

Really? // Meep?

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

Or as I like to say: your roots!

MOCHI

Let's check em out! // Meep!

WAFFLES

Wow!

Mario flips the photo album open to the first page.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

Did you know you're from Los Angeles?

MOCHI

Me? // Meep?

In the photo album, we see a black and white photo of MOCHI ICE CREAM TREATS prepared at the Mikawaya Mochi Factory.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

Where mochi ice cream treats were
invented!

WAFFLES

Wait. Wait wha-wha-wha-wha-wait.
Wait-wha-wait. Wait.

MOCHI

Hmm? // Meep?

WAFFLES

Wait.

No, she's not done, thank you for asking.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

I'm waiting!

WAFFLES

WAIT!

Mario waits silently, as instructed.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

Did you just say... Mochi is
part... ICE CREAM!?!?

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

Yes!

Oh, Mario. What hath thou wrought?!?!

WAFFLES

Mochi, Mochi, you're ICE CREAM!

Mochi full on loses it, he's bouncing all over the desk!

MOCHI

YEAH YEAH YEAH YEAH YEAH!!! //
MEEP MEEP MEEP MEEP MEEP!!!

Waffles and Mochi dance as Mochi continues to celebrate the
best news of his life.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

Mochi treats often have a delicious
frozen filling! And that part of
your family, Mochi, comes from a
long line of strawberry.

Mario flips the page to a sepia-toned picture of a
STRAWBERRY.

Waffles and Mochi are... less enthused about the strawberry.
The music CUTS.

MOCHI
...That's it? // ..Meep meep?

Mario flips the page to a sepia-toned portrait of a personified STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM CONE - this li'l guy has a bowler hat and a monocle!

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD
...Ice cream!

Oh, THAT'S the stuff. Waffles and Mochi break into a major celebration again after hearing "ice cream."

MOCHI
I AM PUMPED! ICE CREAM!!! //
MEEP! MEEP MEEP MEEP!!!

Mario laughs as Waffles and Mochi practically vibrate with excitement.

WAFFLES
It makes sense, Moch! You're sweet,
and you look like that pink ice
cream!

MOCHI
Aw! // Meep!

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD
But you're not JUST ice cream,
that's only one side of your
family.

MOCHI
There's MORE?! // Meep?!

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD
You also come from...

As Mario speaks, he flips the page in the photo album to an old-timey photo of... a PILE OF RICE.

MOCHI
What's that? // Meep?

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD
Rice!

MOCHI
Rice?! // Meep?!

Now this? This is a real mind-blower. Waffles and Mochi look at each other.

WAFFLES

Rice?

MOCHI

But how?? // Meep??

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

Oh, yes.

WAFFLES

What is rice anyway?

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

See for yourself!

MOCHI

Okey dokey! // Meep!

We zoom into a page of the photo album, which turns from a black & white PHOTO of a rice field into a video package!

As Mario speaks, we see stock footage (or should I say... stalk footage) of: rice stalks shoot out of the shallow water of the rice field, a close-up of a rice plant, husked rice grains.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD (V.O.)

Rice is a plant, but, it's actually the seed of a special kind of grass.

MOCHI (V.O.)

Wow! // Meep!

Next, we see an overview of a RICE FARM, which looks like a series of square ponds.

WAFFLES (V.O.)

But, I don't get it. Where's the grass? That looks like a lake.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD (V.O.)

Rice grows in water, Waffles!

Next, we see: rice plants in water, a FARMER walking the dirt ridges between plots of rice.

WAFFLES (V.O.)

But... how do you plant the rice in the water if there's no dirt?

Next up: a BRIGHT YELLOW PROP PLANE, or an "air tractor," and footage of planes dropping RICE SEEDS over fields of rice.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD (V.O.)

That's the fun part! Some farmers drop seeds from planes. They call them "air tractors."

WAFFLES (V.O.)

Air tractors?!

WAFFLES & MOCHI (V.O.)

Cool! // Meep!

Back in the studio, Mario pours some RICE into his hand from a little PINCH BOWL to show Waffles and Mochi.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

After the rice is processed, it looks like this.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

All right, cool. // Meep meep.

Waffles is still stumped.

WAFFLES

Hmm. But, none of this looks like Mochi.

MOCHI

True. // Meep.

WAFFLES

Rice grains are so hard and pointy at the end. Mochi is soft and round.

MOCHI

You flatter me! // Meep meep!

WAFFLES

And a little squishy, like me! See?

Waffles gives herself a few pokes, demonstrating said squish.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

Mm, mm. Squeesh, squeesh.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

You have to cook the rice before you eat it.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Really! // Meep!

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

That's what makes it soft.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Whoa. // Meep.

MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD

And once the rice is cooked, it even gets bigger in the pot.

MOCHI

How about that! // Meep!

WAFFLES

Ohhhhh, so you're saying that cooked rice is softer and bigger.

Mario nods.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

Well, that sounds like Mochi!

MOCHI

Sure does! // Meep!

We see an ANIMATED VERSION of a mock-up of Mochi's family tree. On the right, the milk, strawberry, and strawberry ice cream illustrations. On the left, there are three question marks where we need more information.

WAFFLES

So, Mochi's part ice cream, which makes sense, I mean we're from the Land of Frozen Food. But the rice side of Mochi's family tree? That's what we have to figure out. To rice, Mochi!

Waffles starts to run off, but Mochi's meeping draws her back to the desk.

MOCHI

Wait a sec! One thing before we go?
// Meep meep meep meep!

WAFFLES

Yeah!

MOCHI

Snap a pic of me with Mario? //
Meep meep meep?

WAFFLES

Of course! I can take some photos
of you... with your new friend!

Mochi hops up on the desk to get closer to Mario while
Waffles gets situated with her PHONE - featuring a waffle
phone cover, of course!

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

Okay.

MOCHI

Can I get a hand? // Meep?

Mario holds out his palm. Mochi hops in, and Mario lifts
Mochi higher into the frame.

WAFFLES

All right. Everybody say... Mochi!

MARIO & MOCHI

Mochi! // Meep meep!

CLICK!

INSERT of a phone screen against a ~groovy background~
showing the snap of Mario and Mochi. Vertical orientation.
Come on, Waffles!

A RICE BADGE transitions us into...

8

INTERSTITIAL - ANIMATED MUSIC VIDEO - RICE ON FIRE

8

A stop-motion animated music video!

A tiny POT on a cardboard STOVE is bubbling over. Cotton
STEAM bubbles out as paper FLAMES rise.

SINGER

*It's our shot. / We're in the pot.
/ Start the fire!*

From above, we see more of the papercraft kitchen - tiny
bowls of ingredients, spoons, etc.

SINGER (CONT'D)

*Turn it up! / Takin' it higher /
Start the fire!*

Some RICE crawls out of a pot and onto the plate of a waiting
SMILEY FACE GUY, who is eating with a tiny Mochi!

SINGER (CONT'D)

*This is our moment. / We gotta own
it. / It's time for the big show. /
Go! Go! Go! Go!*

We see many types of RICE GRAINS in jars and bowls.

CHORUS SINGERS

Rice!

FEMALE SINGERS

Savory or sweet now!

An overview of tiny rice dishes.

CHORUS SINGERS

Rice!

FEMALE SINGERS

So many ways to prepare.

A RICE DISH pops out of a tiny oven.

CHORUS SINGERS

Rice!

FEMALE SINGERS

Just spin the globe now.

CHORUS SINGERS

Rice!

FEMALE SINGERS

And you'll see us there!

On a spinning globe, tiny piles of RICE emerge from their countries of origin, as well as more PAPER DOLL PEOPLE.

SINGER

*It's our shot / We're in the pot /
Start the fire!*

The rice crawls back into the pot on the paper stove. Jars of rice fill the screen! Uh oh, here comes the bridge!!

FEMALE SINGERS

*Rice is good / Rice is fun / We're
enjoyed by everyone.*

The rice varieties mentioned magically fill up tiny CUPS!

FEMALE SINGERS (CONT'D)

*Black, brown, jasmine or white /
You will love every bite!*

SINGER

Ahhhh!

Hey, that was tiny Mochi among the rice jars!

FEMALE SINGERS

*Rice around the world! / For every
boy and girl.*

It WAS Mochi, and now a tiny Mochi spins around the globe,
followed by paper doll people dancing in piles of rice.

FEMALE SINGERS (CONT'D)

*There's no place we won't go / And
we're here to tell you so!*

As the singers do something of a call-and-response, the paper
dolls continue dancing.

FEMALE SINGERS (CONT'D)

Rice all around the world!

CHORUS SINGERS

Hey!

SINGER

Rice all around the world!

CHORUS SINGERS

Hey hey!

SINGER

Rice all around the world!

CHORUS SINGERS

Hey! Hey hey hey, rice every day!

As the gentle food rap envelops us, a PICTOGRAM of the
country mentioned pops up, followed by a teeny tiny version
of the DISH mentioned.

FEMALE SINGER

Let's to China for--

MALE SINGER

Fried rice!

FEMALE SINGER

Hawaii for--

MALE SINGER

Loco Moco!

FEMALE SINGER

Korea for--

MALE SINGER

Bibimbap!

FEMALE SINGER

Italy for--

MALE SINGER

Risotto!

FEMALE SINGER

Venezuela for--

MALE SINGER

Criollo!

FEMALE SINGER

India for--

MALE SINGER

Nasi biryani!

FEMALE SINGER

Ghana for--

MALE SINGER

Jollof!

FEMALE SINGER

Denmark for some--

MALE SINGER

Risalamande!

When we get to the pictogram of LOUISIANA, Mochi points out the STAR over New Orleans with a toothpick-turned-pointer!

FEMALE SINGER

Jambalaya in--

MALE SINGER

New Orleans!

FEMALE SINGER

Xoi ngu sac in--

MALE SINGER

Vietnam!

FEMALE SINGER

Coconut rice in--

MALE SINGER

Colombia

FEMALE SINGER

Uzbek plov in--

MALE SINGER

Uzbekistan!

FEMALE SINGER

Kedgeree in--

MALE SINGER

England!

FEMALE SINGER

Arroz doce in--

MALE SINGER

Portugal!

FEMALE SINGER

Rice pudding in--

MALE SINGER

Sweden!

FEMALE SINGER

Rice is everywhere you go! Yeah!

The paper doll dancers are back, dancing in their rice piles.

Now, tiny Mochi enjoys a tiny, tasty plate of food. He winks!

MALE SINGER

Here we go!

Back in the papercraft kitchen, we see the boiling pot.
Overhead, multiple pots on the BURNERS wiggle around

MALE SINGER (CONT'D)

*It's our shot / We're in the pot /
Start the fire! / Turn it up! /
Takin' it higher.*

The camera moves through the rice jars to a bright light

MALE SINGER (CONT'D)

Start the, start the... FIRE!

BOOM! The pots on the paper oven EXPLODE with rice!

A rice badge transitions us to:

9

EXT. MAGICART - FLYING - LATER

9

Waffles and Mochi are floating along in MagiCart.

WAFFLES

All right, MagiCart. We know Mochi comes from ice cream and from rice, but we need help finding where the rice side of his family comes from.

MagiCart displays Mochi's question-mark-filled family tree.

MOCHI

Help me, MagiCart, please! //
Meep!

MagiCart displays a picture of MICHAEL TWITTY.

MAGICART

Okay. I'm gonna take you to our friend Mashama Bailey's restaurant in Savannah, Georgia to meet Michael Twitty! He knows all about the history of rice, so he can help Mochi figure out where the rice side of his family comes from.

MOCHI

This sounds dope. Let's do it! //
Meep meep meep!

An animated, MINI WAFFLES & MOCHI in a MINI MAGICART fly towards Georgia on a Claymation globe!

10

EXT. SAVANNAH, GEORGIA - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY

10

CHYRON: SAVANNAH UNITED STATES

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Savannah! // Meep!

Waffles and Mochi walk along a path in Forsyth Park!

WAFFLES

Ahhh, back in Savannah!

Tons of folks are out on the path enjoying the sunshine.

Waffles and Mochi stop for a drink from a WATER FOUNTAIN.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

Glug, glug, glug, glug, glug.

On another street, Waffles waves to a passerby.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

Hi!

Next, Waffles reassures Mochi on a different street.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

I'm hungry.

MOCHI

Me too! // Meep!

As a TROLLEY passes them, Waffles and Mochi finally arrival at:

11 **EXT. THE GREY RESTAURANT - ESTABLISHING** 11

The Grey! A moped drives by!

12 **INT. THE GREY RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER** 12

Waffles and Mochi join food historian MICHAEL TWITTY at a table in Chef Mashama Bailey's restaurant, The Grey.

Michael has a few PINCH BOWLS of different types of RICE set out in front of him.

WAFFLES

Hey!

MICHAEL TWITTY

Hello!

WAFFLES

How are you?

MICHAEL TWITTY

How are you today? My name is Michael Twitty, and I'm a culinary historian!

MOCHI

Oh, wow! // Meep!

MICHAEL TWITTY

I study the history of food and where it comes from.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Whooooaaa, cool! // Meep meep!

Let's get down to brass tacks.

WAFFLES

Well, we just found out that Mochi comes from rice?

MOCHI

Mm-hmm! // Meep!

WAFFLES

But we really don't know how!

MICHAEL TWITTY

I know a lot about rice--

MOCHI

Oh, boy! // Meep!

MICHAEL TWITTY

--and how it connects us all.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Aw, yeah! // Meep!

Michael gestures to the bowls of rice grains on the table.

MICHAEL TWITTY

So, in front of us, we have part of your family tree!

Mochi surveys the bowls in front of him.

MOCHI

I see. // Meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

There are thousands of different types of rice.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Whoa! // Meep!

Michael picks up a pinch of some white rice. Animated rice grains punctuate his point.

MICHAEL TWITTY

Rices from Asia, like this basmati.

Michael picks up a pinch of some black rice. Animated black rice grains explode out of his hand like exclamation points.

MICHAEL TWITTY (CONT'D)

And then a short-grain black rice.

MOCHI

Oh, neat! // Meep.

Michael picks up a pinch of a different white rice, accompanied by the animated rice swirl.

MICHAEL TWITTY

And the Carolina Gold, which was the rice that they grew on the plantations in the South, looked more like this.

WAFFLES

Hmm! // Meep!

Michael picks up a pinch of a reddish, brownish rice, also punctuated by an animated swirl.

MICHAEL TWITTY

The rice in West Africa looks a lot like this Jefferson Scarlet rice.

MOCHI

I see! // Meep!

MICHAEL TWITTY

So, see how the rices have all the different colors of humanity.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Mm-hmm. // Meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

And my story is connected with rice also!

MOCHI

Wow! // Meep!

Mochi looks to Waffles - this guy rules!

MICHAEL TWITTY

My rice connection goes like this.

WAFFLES

Mm-hmm.

Michael holds up a SIMPLE WORLD MAP. As Michael speaks, we see historical photos and maps.

MICHAEL TWITTY

My people were the Mende people in a place called Sierra Leone.

MOCHI

What's that mean? // Meep?

MICHAEL TWITTY

Sierra Leone means The Mountain of the Lion.

MOCHI

Awesome. // Meep.

As Michael speaks, a dotted line representing the Slave Passage spans the map from Sierra Leone to the US South.

MICHAEL TWITTY

So, a long time ago, people from Sierra Leone were brought to the United States of America to the South to grow rice by force.

MOCHI

Oh, no. // Meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

Unfortunately, my great great great, great great GREAT - if you can imagine.

MOCHI

That's a lotta greats! // Meep!

MICHAEL TWITTY

That's a lotta greats! Grandmother was enslaved.

MOCHI

Aw. // Meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

Which meant that she was separated from her family and her home and had to work by force for free.

MOCHI

Why? // Meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

And why? Because she knew how to grow and process rice.

MOCHI

Wow. // Meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

So, my people grew rice during slavery and after slavery. And rice was a common part of our diet and our identity. So!

WAFFLES

Mm.

MICHAEL TWITTY

I want your help.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Okay! // Meep!

MICHAEL TWITTY

Sing it with me.

MOCHI

YES, we love helping people!! // Meep meep!

WAFFLES

Yeah, we're good at helping. We do! We love helping.

MICHAEL TWITTY

So, there is a song that was passed down from the days of enslavement. It's a really - it's a really cool song, it's a work song, but it's also a cooking song!

MOCHI

Wow! // Meep!

WAFFLES

...Huh??

MICHAEL TWITTY

This song is based on what we call, "call and response."

WAFFLES

Okay!

MICHAEL TWITTY

So, in this case, every time I stop, you're gonna go: *uh-huh*.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

Waffles and Mochi might have perfect pitch! (They do not.)

MICHAEL TWITTY
Very nice!

WAFFLES
Oh, cool!

Michael begins singing the call-and-response.

MICHAEL TWITTY
I'm gonna cut that rice.

He gestures to Waffles and Mochi for their response.

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

They continue singing back and forth.

MICHAEL TWITTY
I'm gonna cut it good.

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY
I'm gonna cut that rice.

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY
Can't wait 'til my belly full.

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY
Oh, when I get through.

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY
I'm gonna cook that rice.

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY
I'm gonna cook that rice.

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

I'm gonna cook it 'til the pot is full.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

When I get through.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

I'm gonna eat that rice.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

I'm gonna eat that rice.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

I'm gonna eat it 'til my belly's full.

Waffles, of course, has her own style.

WAFFLES

I'm gonna eat it 'til my waffle's full!

Michael, Waffles, and Mochi giggle together.

MICHAEL TWITTY

Very nice!

Michael slaps the table in happiness!

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Ha ha, yeah! // Meep!

MICHAEL TWITTY

Very cool.

WAFFLES

Wow, wow, I like that call-and-response song.

MOCHI

Me too! // Meep!

MICHAEL TWITTY
It brings everybody together!

WAFFLES
Sure does, yeah.

MOCHI
Yeah! // Meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY
It makes everybody a family. That
song was passed down for two
hundred and fifty years.

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Wow. // Meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY
Yeah.

Just then, CHEF MASHAMA BAILEY joins the group from the
kitchen! She brings over a BOWL of "Hoppin' John," a classic,
Southern-style rice and pea dish.

CHEF MASHAMA
Hi, Michael!

MICHAEL TWITTY
Hi!

MOCHI
Hi again! // Meep meep!

WAFFLES
Hi!

Chef Mashama waves.

CHEF MASHAMA
Hi!

MOCHI
We're learning about rice! //
Meep meep meep!

CHEF MASHAMA
Hi!

We take a closer look at the bowl of Hoppin' John.

CHEF MASHAMA (CONT'D)
This is one of the rice dishes we
cook at The Grey, and we have
Carolina Gold rice--

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Wow! // Meep!

CHEF MASHAMA

--with Sea Island Red Peas. It's called Hoppin' John.

MICHAEL TWITTY

Whoa!

WAFFLES

Hoppin' John.

MICHAEL TWITTY

This is a very special dish, guys.

Mochi is meeping a lot - he wants to get in on that Hoppin' John.

MOCHI

That dish looks amazing! // Meep!

MICHAEL TWITTY

And this is the ultimate rice dish in not just West Africa, all over the Black world! Brazil, Haiti, South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Jamaica. We all eat rice and beans!

CHEF MASHAMA

Yes.

MOCHI

Mmm. // Meep.

Waffles grabs a fork and digs right in to the Hoppin' John. Waffles takes a big ol' bite, giving it a chew and a think.

WAFFLES

Mmmmmmmmm, oh!

MICHAEL TWITTY

You like that?

WAFFLES

I do! Wow.

Michael turns his attention back to Mochi.

MICHAEL TWITTY

So, Mochi.

MOCHI

Yeah! // Meep.

MICHAEL TWITTY

I have an idea.

MOCHI

An idea you say? // Meep meep?

MICHAEL TWITTY

I happen to know that mochi is a Japanese food and delicacy.

Waffles and Mochi exchange a look - Japanese?! Who would've thought!

MOCHI

Really!? // Meep?!

MICHAEL TWITTY

So it seems like, Mochi--

MOCHI

Yeah?? // Meep??

MICHAEL TWITTY

That your roots are probably with Japanese rice.

MOCHI

Imagine that! // Meep.

WAFFLES

Japanese rice!

MOCHI

Crazy, right? // Meep meep?

Michael consults his map and points out Japan. An animated RICE OUTLINE of Japan overlays the scene.

MICHAEL TWITTY

But I guess you gotta go here to figure out the rest of the story.

WAFFLES

Wow. Japan!

MOCHI

Michael, can we take a pic together? // Meep meep meep?

MICHAEL TWITTY

Yes, absolutely!

Mochi hops over to Michael's side of the table.

WAFFLES

Oh, you want another picture with another new friend.

Mochi climbs up to Michael's shoulder.

MOCHI

Sure do! // Meep!

This time, Waffles has her Waffle phone in a SELFIE STICK, which she hesitantly hands to Michael.

WAFFLES

Here you go, Michael.

MICHAEL TWITTY

Okay, awesome!

Michael snags the selfie stick.

WAFFLES

Yeah, I'll just wait here while you guys take a picture.

MICHAEL TWITTY

Awesome!

WAFFLES

'Kay.

Michael holds up the selfie stick and phone.

MICHAEL TWITTY

Say, "Mochi!"

MOCHI

Mochi! // Meep!

INSERT: a phone screen with Michael and Mochi's selfie superimposed. A horizontal phone. Nice work, Michael!

WAFFLES

Hmm.

13

EXT. MAGICART - FLYING - A BIT LATER

13

Waffles and Mochi are in MagiCart, on their way to Japan.

WAFFLES

Wow, Moch, everyone's loving your journey to find your roots. So cool! It must be so exciting to be on a journey of self-discovery.

Mochi checks out the Waffle phone - the LIKES are streaming in, as evidenced by the exploding LIKE COUNT on the phone.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

I'm definitely not jealous.

MOCHI

Thanks, I know! // Meep!

MAGICART

What an epic adventure this must be for you!

Finally, someone to acknowledge Waffles' journey!

WAFFLES

Yeah! We went to Savannah, and I ate something called Hoppin' John--

MAGICART

Oh, sorry, I was talking to Mochi about his adventure.

Beat.

WAFFLES

Oh. Right.

Switching gears!

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

Ay yai yai, are we there yet?!

MAGICART

Of course we are! ...not. It's a long trip to fly all the way to where Mochi's rice ancestors come from!

MOCHI

Oh, sorry! // Meep!

MAGICART

But-but-but: it'll be worth it. Rice isn't just popular in Japan, it's sacred!

MagiCart's display shows a photo of a BOWL OF RICE being used in a Japanese ceremony.

MOCHI

Sacred?! // Meep?!

MAGICART

Let's call your old friend Momoko,
who's such an expert on the subject
that people call her Rice Girl!

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Wow! // Meep!

MOMOKO, our handy dandy guide to Japan(dy) pops up on
MagiCart's screen for a videochat.

MOMOKO

Hi!

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Hey, Momoko! // Meep meep!

As Momoko speaks, stock footage fills MagiCart's screen: a
Japanese girl eating rice at home, followed by a baby messily
scooping rice into his mouth.

MOMOKO

Rice is the fundamental staple of
Japan. It is found on the dinner
table every single day. It is...
comfort, it is love, it is family.
It is part of who they are!

WAFFLES

Wow, sounds like we're going to the
right place, Moch!

MOCHI

You said it! // Meep!

Off they fly over a beautiful, verdant valley, where we can
just see a CLASSIC TEMPLE breaching the treetops!

14

EXT. ONIGIRI SHOP - DAY

14

CHYRON: KYOTO JAPAN (in Japanese characters)

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Japan! // Meep!

We are outside of a tiny ONIGIRI SHOP in Kyoto. Folks on
BICYCLES speed by.

15 **INT. ONIGIRI SHOP - DAY**

15

Inside, onigiri chef TOSHIHIRO "AO" AOMATSU and his son, KANCHAN, prepare traditional, Japanese onigiri - balls of rice and fillings.

Ao scoops rice in a large POT with a big, wooden PADDLE.

AO

This place is in Japan, in Kyoto.
It's an onigiri shop.

Kanchan joins. Ao gives him a high five. Ao lifts Kanchan to a stool so he can help prepare onigiri.

AO (CONT'D)

For Japanese people, onigiri is something everyone eats from childhood. I could say it's... soul food.

Kanchan grabs a big platter of various FILLINGS.

AO (CONT'D)

The classic ingredients like salmon or pickled plum are good.

Ao points to some of the fillings.

AO (CONT'D)

This is salmon. What's this one?

KANCHAN

Pickled plum!

AO

That's right!

Kanchan guesses the next one.

AO (CONT'D)

What about this? This is a vegetable called butterbur!

KANCHAN

You put these in my lunchbox?

Ao laughs.

AO

Right, we put these in the lunchbox. You make it by hand, and eat it by hand.

Kanchan washes his hands as Ao starts rolling onigiri.

KANCHAN

I want to eat.

AO

You eat it when it's done. Okay?
Let's do it!

Together, Ao and Kanchan roll the rice into balls.

AO (CONT'D)

It's just me, onigiri, and these
hands.

KANCHAN

I want a big one.

AO

A big one?

Ao coaches Kanchan through the formation of the onigiri.

AO (CONT'D)

Make a triangle. Squeeze. Squeeze.
Squeeze and roll. First squeeze.

Kanchan successfully makes an onigiri.

KANCHAN

Is it good?

AO

Yes, put it down! Put salmon in
there.

Kanchan places a pinch of SALMON into the center of the onigiri ball. Next, Ao grabs some NORI, sheets of dried seaweed.

AO (CONT'D)

Small nori or big nori?

KANCHAN

A big one!

AO

Okay.

Ao lays out sheets of nori.

AO (CONT'D)

Put the onigiri on the nori.

Kanchan does! Together, they wrap the onigiri in nori.

AO (CONT'D)

Just like my mother made it for me,
I make it for Kanchan. And Kanchan
can make it for his friends or his
grandmother. I think it's important
to have memories of making onigiri
together.

The onigiri are ready! Kanchan begins lining the finished
onigiri up on PLATTERS across the cook space's counter.

AO (CONT'D)

Okay. Okay! Now, the salmon.

Ao lifts Kanchan up to place the last onigiri. Perfect!
Kanchan is more than ready to dive in!

KANCHAN

It's done!

AO

Good.

Ao and Kanchan inspect the onigiri, comparing those rolled by
Ao to those rolled by Kanchan.

AO (CONT'D)

Which one is better? Kanchan's? Or
Dad's?

Kanchan takes a big bite, then points at the onigiri he's
holding - his own!

AO (CONT'D)

This one is better?! Kanchan is
better at it??

Kanchan stuffs a GIANT bite of onigiri into his mouth!

AO (CONT'D)

Whoa!

KANCHAN

It was good!

AO

You eat a lot, Kanchan! Are you
going to eat more?

Kanchan grabs another plate of onigiri - yeah, he's
definitely going to eat more. Kanchan grabs a little pinch of
onigiri to show Ao.

KANCHAN

Kanchan's is the best. Everything
is good.

Now, Waffles and Mochi join Ao and Kanchan to goof around!

KANCHAN (CONT'D)

Hello!

WAFFLES

Okay.

Kanchan feeds Waffles a bite of onigiri. Waffles takes a
mondo bite as Mochi coos.

AO

She eats a lot! Kanchan ate three,
and so did Waffles!

Waffles gasps in awe - onigiri is delicious!

WAFFLES

Whoa! Oh wow, that's good!

Kanchan takes one more giant bite of onigiri to send us out!

16

EXT. JAPAN - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - LATER

16

Bright and bustling Japan!

Waffles and Mochi take a float in a boat! As their boat
cruises by a second boat, Waffles waves - using the hand
holding Mochi!

MOCHI

Whoa whoa whoa! // Meep!

Crowds, statues, women in kimonos taking selfies, and...
monkeys?!? An errant monkey comes right up to Mochi and gives
him a sniff. NOPE! The monkey darts away.

MOCHI (CONT'D)

Teehee, that tickles! // Meep!

A bit later, Waffles and Mochi walk a crowded city street.

WAFFLES

Wow, Japan! Oh Mochi, this is how
we can finally find out how they
turn rice into mochi, like you!

MOCHI

I can't wait! // Meep!

A store front catches Waffles' eye.

WAFFLES

Whoa, Mochi, look over there!

We see that the storefront is a MOCHI POUNDING SHOP. Two men with giant HAMMERS are making mochi as they speak!

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

That's where we're supposed to meet our friend, Momoko! Let's go!

MOCHI

Lead the way! // Meep!

17

INT./EXT. MOCHI POUNDING SHOP - CONTINUOUS

17

Waffles and Mochi stand just inside the mochi pounding stall - it's teeny tiny, so they are at once inside and outside!

They greet our old friend, Momoko!

WAFFLES

Hey, Momoko! What's going on?

MOMOKO

This is how we make mochi!

WAFFLES

Mochi!!!

Mochi hops up onto the counter.

MOCHI

That's me! // Meep!

MOCHI CHEF #1 greets Mochi and gets ready to explain the mochi making process.

MOCHI CHEF #1

Yes, hello!

MOCHI

I'm wondering... how do you make, well... me?! // Meep meep meep meep!

The Mochi Chef shows Mochi a wooden box filled with COOKED RICE.

MOCHI CHEF #1

Mochi is made of rice like this.

MOCHI

Oh, I see. // Meeeeeeep.

MOCHI CHEF #1

We pound that steamed rice with this.

The Mochi Chef holds up his giant WOODEN MALLET and lightly demonstrates how he uses it to crush the steamed rice.

MOCHI

What a hammer. // Meep meep.

Next, the Mochi Chef grabs a bundle of GREEN MOCHI. He STRETCHES the mochi wide to show Mochi.

MOCHI CHEF #1

By pounding it, it becomes stringy mochi like this.

MOCHI

So stretchy! // Meep!

Waffles watches on with Momoko from a bit further back.

WAFFLES

(ADR)

Wow, they've made mochi like this for centuries, huh?

MOMOKO

Yeah!

WAFFLES

Mochi must be really important in Japan... oh! They're starting!

Momoko claps, and Mochi takes his spot back on Waffles' shoulder so they can watch the mochi pounding together.

In an intricate process, the Mochi Chefs drop a big MOUND of stretchy mochi dough into a large wooden BARREL of sorts. Next, the chefs alternate between pounding the dough with the big mallet, or slapping the dough with their bare hands. It's exhilarating!

As the chefs pound the mochi dough, they accentuate each hit with a "hai!"

MOCHI CHEFS

Hai, hai, hai, hai.

Waffles and Mochi watch on in jaw-dropping awe.

MOCHI CHEFS (CONT'D)

Hai, hai, hai, hai.

Waffles' head whips back and forth as she tries to follow the action. One of the chefs repositions the dough with his bare hands while the other chef continues pounding with the hammer - it looks dangerous.

Waffles gets a case of "spaghetti arms" - she can't even control her reaction to this crazy process!

WAFFLES

Whoa, whoa!

MOCHI CHEFS

Hai, hai, hai, hai, hai!

WAFFLES

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa!

PHEW! With a final flourish, the chefs THROW the mochi dough down into the wooden barrel. Finally, the mochi pounding is done, and the mochi is ready to be served!

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Oh, wow! Wow! // Meep meep!

The Mochi Chef shows off a completed ball of GREEN MOCHI to our Mochi.

MOCHI CHEF #1

Here's the finished product. This is mochi, and you're mochi too!

MOCHI

I can't believe it, that looks like me! // Meep!

The Mochi Chef picks up Mochi and places him in a DISPLAY TRAY of other, inanimate balls of mochi.

MOCHI (CONT'D)

Ok, whoa, hold on a sec. // Meep meep meep.

We see Mochi sitting next to the other mochis.

MOCHI (CONT'D)

Oh, these are round like me! // Meep!

WAFFLES

Wow, Mochi found a bunch of new friends.

MOCHI

Finally, something that looks like
me! // Meep meep meep!

Waffles is on the verge of an existential crisis.

WAFFLES

I'm so happy for him. Really,
really happy.

Just then, two JAPANESE WOMEN approach our Mochi in the mochi
display tray. Mochi is so cute that the Mochi Chef hands him
to the women so they can take selfies with him!

MOCHI

Whooooooooaaaaa! // Meeeeeeeep!

WAFFLES

Wow, people here REALLY like you,
Mochi!

MOCHI

Kinda crazy, huh? // Meep meep?

The women are delighted by tiny Mochi! In semi-slow-motion,
the girls ogle Mochi. Waffles is wistful in the background.

MOCHI (CONT'D)

New friends! // Meep!

The women hold up a phone to take selfies with Mochi.

WAFFLES

Wow, Mochi. You have so many new
friends here!

Mochi poses for a photo.

MOCHI

Say Mochi! // Meep meep!

INSERT: A B&W photo of Mochi and the Japanese women.

Waffles is really starting to feel that left out feeling now,
watching glumly as Mochi takes more selfies.

WAFFLES

Uhhhh.

MOCHI

Cheeeeeese. // Meeeeeeeep.

INSERT: Another photo of Mochi and the gals.

MOCHI (CONT'D)
I feel accepted! // Meep!

WAFFLES
Oh, they're taking you to meet even
MORE friends in Japan.

As the women take Mochi away to go meet a few more friends,
Waffles sighs and goes on her own journey... of mild
depression.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)
Ugh.

MOCHI
Later, Waffles! // Meep, Meeples!

WAFFLES
That's cool. I guess I'll see ya
later.

18

EXT. JAPAN - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - MUSICAL MONTAGE

18

Music Cue: "Better With You"

As our *An American Tale*-esque song of longing kicks in, we
follow our two heroes on their separate journeys.

FEMALE SINGER
*The adventure of a lifetime / is
happening to me. / I'm exploring a
world / I never thought I'd see.*

- Waffles wanders down a sunny path, sighing.

WAFFLES
Ugh.

- Waffles takes in a boat float - alone!!

- Waffles stares out across the water.

FEMALE SINGER
*But when night starts to fall / I
look at the stars / I can't help
but wonder / just where you are.*

- Meanwhile, Mochi is in a JAPANESE CLASSROOM, making friends
with a group of GIRLS. One of the girls gives Moch a poke!

MOCHI
That tickles! // Meep!

- The girls balance Mochi on their heads!

MOCHI (CONT'D)
Cheeeeeese! // Meeeeeeep!

- Waffles wanders a crowded Japanese street, alone. A tiny, animated MOCHI floats by.

- Waffles holds up two CHOCOLATE COVERED BANANAS. Pictures of Waffles and Mochi have been drawn on in SPRINKLES even.

WAFFLES
Hey, Moch! Look, look what I got
us! I-- oh. Hmm.

FEMALE SINGER
*And even though it's been a dream
come true. / This would have been
even better with you.*

- Mochi hangs out in a new Japanese classroom with more JAPANESE KIDS. Is he... maybe starting to miss Waffles a bit too??

MOCHI
Waffles would like this. // Meep.

- A LITTLE GIRL gives Mochi a little squeeze.

MOCHI (CONT'D)
Waffles likes hugs too. // Meep.

- Waffles stares down a MONKEY on the other side of a dirt path, maybe a little frightened!

WAFFLES
Hmm?!

- Then, the monkey cuddles with a BABY MONKEY. Aw!

WAFFLES (CONT'D)
Hmm.

- Waffles decides to chow down on her chocolate banana.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)
Well, I guess there's more for me!

MALE SINGER
*I'm out here in the world now, /
growing every day. / Learning brand
new things / in a whole different
way.*

- Mochi takes a still photo with a young JAPANESE GIRL as she holds up a drawing of the show!

MOCHI
Cheese! // Meep!

- Mochi takes another still photo with a different LITTLE GIRL and her drawing!

MOCHI (CONT'D)
Cheese again! // Meep meep!

- Waffles chats with a group of WOMEN IN KIMONOS, along with their DAUGHTER. They comfort poor Waffles!

WAFFLES
And then he said he needed to be...
with his new friends!

- Waffles looks out at the river from the shore, observing the many COUPLES spending time together along the water. Everybody has a buddy but Waffles!!

MALE SINGER
*But it's bittersweet / when I think
of you. / And I can't help but
wonder / if you miss me too.*

- Mochi takes a photo with the class of Japanese girls, posing on one of their heads.

EVERYONE
Mochi! // Meeeeeeep!

- Waffles walks, contemplatively.

MALE SINGER
*Even though it's been a dream come
true,*

BOTH SINGERS
*This would have been even better
with you.*

- Mochi takes an even more enthusiastic photo with the class.

EVERYONE
MOCHI!!! // MEEEEEEP!!!

- Waffles: still walking, still contemplative, still sighing.

- Finally, our montage takes us to:

19

EXT. JAPANESE LAKE FRONT - LATER

19

Waffles, sitting on a LOG BENCH, staring at a beautiful lake, as our song closes out.

BOTH SINGERS

*This would have been even better
with you.*

Waffles sighs, resigned to a Mochi-less life.

But then, the Japanese women return with Mochi! He's back!

MOCHI

I'm back. // Meep meep.

WAFFLES

Oh. Hey.

MOCHI

Can you take a picture? // Meep
meep meep?

WAFFLES

I can take a picture of you and all
your cool, new friends.

Waffles reaches for one of the women's camera.

MOCHI

No, a picture of you and me! //
Meep meep meep!

Gasp! A plot twist!

WAFFLES

Oh. Oh! You want to take a picture
with me?

MOCHI

Yes, we're family! // Meep!

WAFFLES

What do you mean we're family?

MOCHI

Friends can be family too, it's
basically The Olive Garden! //
Meep meep meep meep!

When you're with Moch, you're family!

WAFFLES

Best best BEST friends can be
family!

MOCHI

Of course, best bud! // Meep!

Waffles is nearly overwhelmed with big, big feelings.

WAFFLES

Oh, Mochi! Let's do it!

Mochi hops down from the hands of the Japanese women and over
to where he belongs: with Waffles.

MOCHI

Hooray! // Meep!

Waffles and Mochi pose in front of the lake as one of the
women take their picture together at last!

WAFFLES

It's you and me, ready?

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Mochi!!! // Meeeeeep!!!

INSERT: the photo of Waffles and Mochi together. It's great!

20

EXT. MAGICART - FLYING - LATER

20

Waffles and Mochi fly passed Mount Fuji in MagiCart.

WAFFLES

Let's head home!

Mochi sings a little bit.

MOCHI

To be together forever with you!
// Meep meep meep meep meep!

21

EXT. MRS. OBAMA'S GARDEN - LATER

21

We join the scene in progress. Mrs. Obama and Busy scroll
through the camera roll on Waffles' waffle phone. They see
photos of GRAINS OF RICE.

The picnic table still has craft supplies everywhere for
family tree making.

BUSY

These are all your relatives,
Mochi?!

MOCHI

Yes, look how many relatives I
have! // Meep meep meep!

Mrs. Obama scrolls passed photos of a BOWL of STRAWBERRY ICE
CREAM.

WAFFLES

Yeah, it's true! Mochi comes from
rice - and a long line of ice
cream.

MOCHI

Cool, huh? // Meep.

Mrs. Obama scrolls passed more pictures of RICE GRAINS,
laughing and smiling.

BUSY

Take a look at all these kinds of
rice, Mochi. You have quite the
family!

MOCHI

Oh, thank you! // Meep meep!

Mrs. Obama points to a photo of MARIO WINSTON RUTHERFORD on
the waffle phone.

MRS. OBAMA

Who's that?

WAFFLES

That's our new friend! He showed us
what rice is!

Next, Mrs. Obama points at a photo of MICHAEL TWITTY.

MRS. OBAMA

Who's that there?

WAFFLES

That's Michael Twitty. He told us
where rice comes from. And he
taught us a song!

Waffles and Mochi demonstrate how to sing the call-and-
response song with Mrs. Obama and Busy.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

(singing)

We're gonna make that rice, and a --

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

WAFFLES

We're gonna eat it good.

EVERYONE

Uh-huh. // Meep meep.

WAFFLES

Yeah, that was the song!

MRS. OBAMA

That's so cool!

MOCHI

It was inspiring! // Meep meep!

Mrs. Obama points to a photo of the MOCHI POUNDERS on the phone.

MRS. OBAMA

What's going on here?

WAFFLES

Oh, they are the mochi pounders!

MRS. OBAMA

Oh!

WAFFLES

Who showed us how rice becomes mochi. They were really loud!

Mrs. Obama laughs, and Waffles demonstrates how the mochi pounders sounded.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

They were like POW! Do, do, do, dah, do, dah. // Meep meep meep meep meep.

BUSY

Just imagine, Mochi. You started the day not knowing where you came from.

MOCHI

I know. // Meep.

BUSY

And now you know you have roots all
over the world!

MOCHI

It's true! // Meep!

MRS. OBAMA

That is so true. What a great
adventure you've been on!

WAFFLES

Did you know he's huge in Japan?

MRS. OBAMA

Is he really!

MOCHI

Not to toot my own horn, but: toot
toot! // Meep meep meep!

WAFFLES

Mm-hmm! They even gave him his own
emojis!

Ahem!!!

MOCHI

I think you mean "*emochis!*" //
Meep meep meep!

WAFFLES

Oh, yeah, heh heh. *Emochis!*

Mrs. Obama checks out some of the EMOCHIS on the waffle phone
screen - they are CYOOOOOOT.

MOCHI

Like I said: toot toot! // Meep
meep!

Mrs. Obama gasps and smiles - this may be Waffles and Mochi's
most successful mission yet.

WAFFLES

Oooh, and guess what?

MRS. OBAMA

What?

WAFFLES

I discovered some family too.

MRS. OBAMA

Really!

BUSY

You did?

MRS. OBAMA

Who is that?

WAFFLES

Mochi!

MOCHI

Awwww. // Meeeeeep.

It's legit too much, hold on to your heartstrings, folks.

MRS. OBAMA

Aw!

WAFFLES

Cuz best best friends can be family too.

MOCHI

Found family! // Meep!

MRS. OBAMA

Waffles, that's a great point. Family comes in all shapes, sizes and colors, right? It's not always the people who were born in your family.

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Hmm, yeah! // Meep meep.

MRS. OBAMA

But it's the people who make up your community. Like, the people you go to school with, or the people you go to work with.

BUSY

Yes.

MRS. OBAMA

Or even the people in our supermarket!

MOCHI

That's right. // Meep.

As Waffles speaks, the screen fills with a graphic representation of Mochi's family tree featuring all of the friends Mochi made today - including Waffles, of course!

WAFFLES

Yeah! Usually we think of family as moms, dads, grandmas, and baby sisters, but family can mean all the other people you love! The friends you help, and the friends who help you!

MRS. OBAMA

And you know what? You guys are like my family.

MOCHI

US?!?! // Meep?!?!

Waffles is touched!

WAFFLES & MOCHI

Awww! // Meep!

MRS. OBAMA

Yeah.

Even BUSY is touched!! He's crying, the ol' soft serve!

BUSY

Oh, this is very, very moving, and I wasn't prepared to be moved!

MRS. OBAMA

Busy?

MRS. OBAMA (CONT'D)

Oh my goodness.

BUSY

Oh dear, I'm precipitating--

MRS. OBAMA

Are you okay? I- I--

BUSY

I'm all right, but would you mind just a tissue?

Mrs. Obama holds up a TISSUE for Busy to blow his nose in.

Busy blows his nose. Vigorously. Extremely vigorously. Waffles is startled by how much Busy blows.

He's still blowing. Finally, he's all blown out.

Ah. BUSY (CONT'D)

Ew. WAFFLES

Mrs. Obama grabs a MINI BOTTLE of HAND SANITIZER.

MRS. OBAMA
You know, let me just get a little
hand sanitizer here.

Oh. BUSY

WAFFLES
That's a good idea!

BUSY
You know, if you have dogs on your
family tree, I suppose I could put
Waffles and Mochi on mine!

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Oh, cool! // Meep meep!

WAFFLES
I'm gonna put you on my family tree
too.

MRS. OBAMA
You guys are all a part of our
family.

MOCHI
Wow! // Meep!

MRS. OBAMA
And it's time for your Rice Badges!

Mrs. Obama grabs some RICE BADGES from the picnic table and
holds them up.

WAFFLES & MOCHI
Yeah! // Meep!

CUT TO:

22 **INT. GREEN SCREEN - FANTASY**

22

Waffles and Mochi pose proudly on a ROTATING PLATFORM as their Rice Badges appear on their APRONS. They spin on the platform as ANIMATED FIREWORKS shoot off. A disambiguated TECHNO VOICE speaks.

TECHNO VOICE

Rice!

DING! Mochi winks!

CUT TO:

23 **EXT. MRS. OBAMA'S GARDEN - CONTINUOUS**

23

Now with badges pinned proudly to their respective forehead and scarf, Mochi and Waffles are ready to get their family tree on.

MOCHI

Hey, are we gonna BE trees, or are we gonna MAKE trees?! // Meep meep meep meep!

WAFFLES

Oh yeah, the family tree!

MRS. OBAMA

Let's get to work on that family tree!

BUSY

Oh yes.

WAFFLES

Yeah! Okay, okay.

Waffles holds up a piece of PINK CONSTRUCTION PAPER.

WAFFLES (CONT'D)

That's your color, Mochi!

MOCHI

I love pink! // Meep!

WAFFLES

Let's use it right there.

BUSY

What about these pom-poms?

WAFFLES

Oh yeah, pom-poms!

MRS. OBAMA

Great idea!

BUSY

They look like little mochis, don't
they?

Mrs. Obama adds some Mochi-esque POM-POMS to the soon-to-be family tree.

As the banter and crafting continues, the camera flies up and out of this little scene as a flock of BIRDS cross the sky.

24

END CREDITS

24

END OF EPISODE