

TITLE: PRINCESS. IN REVERSE.

FORMAT/GENRE: Female-driven Netflix-style single camera comedy

BASED ON: JAPAN TOOK THE J.A.P. OUT OF ME

LOGLINE: *A Beverly Hills Jewish American Princess gets a harsh dose of reality when she moves with her new husband to Japan for his job.*

COMPS: SCHITT'S CREEK/CRAZY EX-GIRLFRIEND

SETTING: Late 1990s Beverly Hills, California/Nagoya, Japan

ABOUT US: Lisa is a professional book author and teacher. David is a professional screenwriter. Having both grown up in Southern California, with long stints in Japan, they know the worlds of their story well. "PRINCESS. IN REVERSE." is the natural outgrowth of their Jewish humor and their shared "fish-out-of-water" experiences of living abroad.

The Concept

Late '90s. Clinton is in the White House, Sheryl Crow is on the radio, and life is good for Lisa Cook, a fun-loving Beverly Hills interior designer, newly married to handsome teacher Daniel. With no time for a honeymoon, Lisa moves with Daniel to Nagoya, Japan, where he has landed a job at a Japanese corporation. Lisa thinks she's trading L.A.'s high-end stores and great weather for gorgeous kimonos and stunning temples. *Wrong.* She arrives to start her new life in a 1970s no-frills Japanese apartment with no elevator and... get this... *no dryer!* While Daniel is at work, Lisa must relearn everything she thought she knew while navigating the tricky waters of being a newlywed and a very modern woman in Japan's extremely patriarchal and traditional society.

Welcome to the world...

LISA COOK (29) is a bright, witty interior decorator who loves her manicurist, great deli food, and best friend Stacey (maybe in that order). Lisa, who has a passing resemblance to Meg Ryan, has a distinctly Beverly Hills view of the world, and shops accordingly. She's great at throwing dinner parties, not so great at doing laundry. Oh. And she *definitely* doesn't do bathrooms.

DANIEL COOK (32), Lisa's husband. Teacher, writer. Smart, funny and patient, with enough bad boy qualities (former marine sergeant with Al Pacino-looks) that keep Lisa intrigued.

STACEY BENNETT (30) is a top Beverly Hills divorce attorney and Lisa's best friend. Stacey's got it all: great job and nice-looking husband. But oy, that husband! There's trouble in paradise!

(Mrs.) KEIKO SATO (50s) lives in Lisa's Nagoya apartment building. She becomes Lisa's mother figure, mentor and friend — and is as close to a feminist as Lisa will meet in Japan.

TOSHI (Video Guy) (20s) is the chic-nerdy manager of Lisa's local video store in Nagoya. Speaks some English, so Lisa pours out her frustrations to him. He nods, but doesn't really understand.

(MISS) AKIKO WATANABE (40s). Office manager at Daniel's company. Single, jaded. Teaches the wives of foreign employees how to use Japanese appliances. Might be fun if she could thaw out.

Pilot Episode (“I am NOT Meg Ryan!”)

After tearful goodbyes to her designer clothes and Beverly Hills condo, **LISA** leaves LAX with **DANIEL** to start his new job in Nagoya, Japan. On the flight, Lisa revels in Condé Nast images of Mt. Fuji, Yohji Yamamoto fashions and zen gardens. But upon arrival, they are ushered to “Chateau Nagoya”: a 1970s no-frills Japanese one-bedroom apartment, four flights up, no elevator and *no clothes dryer!* Lisa takes one look and is ready to bolt. Daniel convinces her to stay the night; if she feels the same in the morning, they can return. But the next morning, Daniel leaves for work and Lisa’s misadventures begin. After a joyless lesson from **MISS WATANABE** in how to use the washing machine, Lisa’s disastrous efforts leave her soaked and her clothes in a twisted knot. A visit to the dry cleaner’s is waylaid by screaming schoolgirls who think she’s Meg Ryan. The dry cleaner won’t clean wet clothes, but wants her red bra and panties (and also thinks she’s Meg Ryan). A moment of solace is had at the local video store, where she befriends manager **TOSHI** who bravely speaks English. Armed with videos, she returns, gives the washing machine another go, and it nearly explodes. In desperation she calls **STACEY**, who gives a much-needed pep talk about turning her dull apartment into a showplace. With visions of dinner parties in her newly renovated apartment, Lisa makes a last effort to wash clothes. Success! She hangs everything out on the balcony to dry — and boom! A summer storm erupts, snaps the line and blows *all* her clothes onto another balcony. Lisa screams; a crowd gathers below. She quickly tells them she’s Meg Ryan, filming a scene, and that she’s *supposed* to be screaming. Soaking wet again, Lisa decides if it takes an entire *day* to wash clothes in Japan, she’s gone! She grabs suitcases and writes Daniel a note: she’s headed to the airport! As she’s about to leave, **MRS. SATO** arrives with Lisa’s wet laundry, folded in a pretty bag, and sweets, tea, plates and utensils! Lisa hesitantly invites her in and soon realizes she has found not only a kindred spirit, but someone who may provide opportunities for her to use her creative talents. Also, with Mrs. Sato’s help, Lisa finally tames the damn washing machine! When Daniel returns home, he finds Lisa on the balcony, staring out at Nagoya — and her future. Clothes are now hanging beautifully in the summer sun; Lisa tells him she’s decided to stay. Overjoyed, he embraces her. Soon a crowd gathers below. She tells him they think she’s “Meg Ryan.” She shouts to the crowd that it’s the last scene of the film, “You know, rom-com!” Lisa and Daniel kiss passionately... and “Princess in Reverse” truly begins.

The Series

Each episode follows Lisa on a series of misadventures as she struggles to adjust to her new life in Nagoya. Be it cooking, housecleaning, shopping, transportation, teaching others (or being taught by others), Lisa’s Beverly Hills’ view is challenged at every turn. Yes, there are comic moments of cultural misunderstandings, but also sweet moments of realization as we watch Lisa grow from a spoiled rich girl to a young woman with a worldly view. In fact, all the characters in **PRINCESS. IN REVERSE.** also gain insights into themselves because of Lisa’s presence in their lives.