LOVE LANGUAGE

Director: Rana Roy
Producer: Kenza Berrada Amor
Editor: Bo Wen
Cinematographer: Rebecca Richard
Production Design: Hayoun Kim
Screenwriter: Daniel Mistir

5 EXT. TOBI'S APT. BALCONY - AFTERNOON **(DESIRE)** 5

A single bulb lights the compact balcony. Tobi is in his element. He waters little pots of plants around him, put on racks. In his other hand, tea in a paper cup.

Next door, Amara (25) comes out to her balcony.

AMARA
Terrors surround me in quiet, Light alludes me in darkness, Only to open my eyes and find fire, a world alive and dying to-to...to...
(sees Tobi look over)

It gets charmingly weird. She sits and lights a cigarette.

Amara looks over a few times. Tobi waters a plant. Beat of just them as her smoke slowly blows over to some of his plants, an encroachment. He's not happy.

She takes a look. He tries to wave some of the smoke away.

AMARA
Those are thymes.
(Tobi looks, surprised)
Thymes aren't affected by smoke.

Embarrassed, he smiles. He finally looks at her. A real one. He starts to feel the awkward silence. She waves.

AMARA
Hi. (beat, laughs into)
We've done this a month now without a word.

He gives an awkward wave.

AMARA
I'm Amara.
(awkward, playful)
You don't say much, huh? Well, let me guide you. *Hello, I'm*--Insert your name here.

Tobi takes a second to decide. Then, he starts to SIGN (ASL).

AMARA
Oh. My. God. Oh my God.
(He shakes his head, fast)
Sorry. I didn't know you were deaf.

Tobi keeps it light. He softly wags his finger at her. He points to his ears and gives a thumbs up. He runs his fingers across his lips, zipping his mouth. She's intrigued.

AMARA
Are you...mute? Sorry...if that's not the---right word for it.

He gives her another thumbs up. The silence again...

AMARA
Still, wait, what's your name?

Tobi knows the drill.

TOBI
(makes a timeout sign)

AMARA
T...

TOBI
(Makes a circle)

AMARA
O...

Amara smiles and turns to him. He has her full attention.

TOBI
(throws the okay sign)

AMARA
P...

He shakes his head, and flips it. He's having fun. So is she.

AMARA
B...?

He nods. She laughs, and it's a geeky joyful one, and for Tobi, a heavenly tune. He puts one finger up.

AMARA
I...Tobi. Nice to meet you. You should've told me.
(he gives her a look)
Yeah, my bad. I'm learning.

He walks to the edge of the balcony and puts his hand out. Amara smiles and shakes it. She looks at his cup.

AMARA
Smells good.

He smiles, and looks at his cup. He offers his drink. Amara smiles. She takes it. Their eyes are locked.