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## Kanami

by Sho Botham

Kanami stepped into the Asakusa sunshine. She looked towards Senso-ji Buddhist temple and already it was looking busy. She had visited it many times before but this time was special. She had only been back in Japan for a few hours. It was her first trip home since leaving a year ago to study in England. This was the first of three things she had to do before getting the train to Atami in the evening where she was staying with her parents.

From Asakusa she could get the Metro to Ginza, the best shopping area in Tokyo. She wanted to buy an outfit for the Sakura or cherry blossom party her friends were having at the weekend. It would be at the Sakura lined river walk in Ito about 20 minutes by train from Atami.

The third thing Kanami had to do before leaving Tokyo was to hire a relative to take her to the Sakura party. Everyone invited had to bring a fake relative for the video. It could be a brother or sister, a cousin, anyone but no parents or grandparents. It was strictly under 25s only. Kanami had to decide what kind of relative she wanted. Her appointment at Family Fakes was at 5.45pm.

After her busy day Kanami found herself standing in front of Family Fakes. A young man opened the door. He bowed and waited for her to enter. The room was light, spacious and minimalist. White benches sat in the middle of the floor. A single line of black-framed portraits hung on the walls.

"Please sit," he said. Kanami sat on a bench gazing at the portraits. "I think a fake cousin," she said bowing slightly as she sat. "Please look around. You might find someone suitable on the wall but I will give you an iPad to look through our full list." A white screen moved silently and a woman dressed in an everyday kimono brought in a tray of green tea and presented it to Kanami with a bow. "Welcome to Family Fakes," she said.

"Domo arigato," said Kanami smiling, pleased to be back in familiar territory.

As the Shinkansen speeded towards Atami her mind thought about her newly hired fake cousin. He was rather special, Kanami thought. Black glossy hair just touching the collar of his jacket. Slim but strong looking and a beautiful smile. That was the other thing Kanami wanted to do during this holiday – find a boyfriend. She was hoping when she met her fake cousin in two days time he just might be the one.