

The Pot vs The Glove

- Robin is preparing for his next trip, looking at his laptop screen and trying to find some good airline flight deals. All the while, he is discussing his intentions with his best friend Ruben, who grew up helping his parents with their business.
- After hearing what Robin planned, Ruben decided to take a break from work and tag along with his friend on a tour through Eurasia, going from east to west.
- While traveling through all of Asia, they decide to go to Japan, where they meet Theodosia, who has lived in Japan for 3 months on her own without even being able to speak an ounce of Japanese.
- Theodosia is an amiable person and offers them a tour of the capital city; Tokyo. She also offers them a place to stay during their visit.
- After their adventurous escapades in Japan, Robin and Ruben were ready to travel to a new country. They decided to repay Theodosia's hospitality and generosity by including her in the remainder of their tour.
- Theodosia accepts their offer and they all travel to France. With Robin's seasoned experience traveling solo via rail throughout Europe, he leads the pack to explore other countries on the continent.
- Finally, to round up their Europe tour, the three musketeers decide to visit Spain, specifically Madrid. Upon arriving in Madrid, they take a bus to Granada. On the bus, they run into Michael Marichal, who embarks on this journey because he needs to see his uncle that lives in Granada.
- Robin, Ruben, and Theodosia introduce themselves to Michael and a conversation ensues. Michael shows them his prized possessions; a bat and a glove both signed by a pro baseball player, Ichiro Suzuki.
- Robin remembers that he has not purchased a single souvenir to commemorate his trip to all of these beautiful places. He comes up with an ingenious plan which he whispers to Ruben while Michael converses with Theodosia.
- With a smirk running across his face, Ruben reaches into his bag and pulls out a pot he had been using to prepare some of the native cuisines of the countries they had visited because he loves to teach himself how to cook.

- After years of working at his parents' shop, Ruben is now a sly businessman so he fabricates a lie about the pot containing this special alloy that makes everything that is cooked in it simmer to perfection which he shares with the group. Theodosia makes a face of bewilderment at such a thought, while Michael becomes engrossed in the description.
- By the end of Ruben's pitch, Michael is fixated with the pot and will do anything to get it so he asks what he can trade for it. Ruben hesitantly says, "the glove signed by Ichiro Suzuki."
- Robin and Ruben discuss storing the glove in Ruben's shop because it would be mutually beneficial. The signed glove would help to bolster foot traffic in Ruben's parents' sports shop while Robin would have the opportunity to take home a valuable souvenir.
- Michael eagerly hands over the glove to Ruben and Ruben gives the pot to Michael in exchange.
- Theodosia knew for sure that the story that Ruben and Robin came up with was a lie but decided to remain silent since she did not want to break the harmony they had built during the trip.
- At the end of the trip to Granada, everyone went back to their normal lives. Theodosia kept thinking whether she should have told Michael the truth or not. If she told Michael, he would not forgive her for not telling him earlier. However, what Theodosia, Robin, and Ruben did not know was that the signed glove they traded for the pot was fake.

Brainstorm/Facts

Ruben: I grew up helping my parents in their business since I was a kid. I self-taught cooking and baking. Half Panamanian and half Chinese.

Michael: I've visited Spain a couple of times to visit family I have living there. I've played baseball for most of my life, up until two years ago, and got to have get a replica of Ichiro Suzuki's bat signed by him.

Theodosia: I have lived in Japan for 3 months all on my own without knowing how to speak Japanese

Robin: Philosophy Major. I've been to four of five major continents, except for Africa. Travel solo across Europe by rail without knowing any of the European languages.