

MAX

Yeah, just like that. I can't promise you'll like the company. I can be hit or miss, but you'll love the food.

Emma shakes her head and is about to give him an answer.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'm sure you have plenty of reasons to say "no", but trust me, none of them are as good as my friend's pasta. Please.

Emma grins.

MAX (CONT'D)

See, first smile. It's a good sign.

EMMA

What's your name?

MAX

Max. Yours?

EMMA

Emma.

MAX

Emma? It's beautiful. Shall we?

She glances at her watch.

EMMA

I need to get my daughter at 3.

MAX

We'll be done by two-thirty.

She grins as she shakes her head.

EMMA

OK, give me a minute.

She rolls her cart to a cashier.

INT. "POMODORO" RESTAURANT - DAY

It is a small traditional Italian restaurant with red-checkered cloths covering tables. A small Christmas tree stands on a bar. There are a few customers eating lunch.

INT. TAXI - DAY

Manhattan. Angela and Max look at the high-rises and myriad of people walking on the streets. Max looks at the guy.

MAX

Hey man, if we need to spend a night, where do we go?

GUY

How about a hotel?

MAX

I don't think I have enough money for that. Any other option?

The guy looks at him as he thinks.

GUY

I guess Grand Station would be another option. It's warm inside.

MAX

Thank you.

GUY

Sure.

EXT. STREET, MANHATTAN - DAY

The taxi stops by a building, the trunk pops up. Angela and Max get out from the car and get their luggage. The taxi drives away.

Max looks at the address in his notebook and then glances at the building's number.

MAX

Yep, we're here.

Angela looks at the tall buildings around her.

MAX (CONT'D)

We're in America, baby.

Angela is nervous. Max hugs her.

MAX (CONT'D)

We'll be OK.

ANGELA

It's a different world.

A HOSTESS, wearing a red Santa's hat, brings Max and Emma to their table.

MAX
(to the Hostess)
Thank you. Could you please let
Giuseppe know we're here?

HOSTESS
Of course.

As she walks to the kitchen, Max pulls out a chair for Emma.

EMMA
Thank you.

She sits down. Max sits across.

MAX
This's my favorite place. Giuseppe
is a magician and here he comes.

GIUSEPPE (60), in a white chef's jacket, walks to their table. Max stands up and offers him a handshake.

MAX (CONT'D)
Hello, my friend.

Giuseppe smiles widely and grabs Max's hand.

GIUSEPPE
We missed you on Sunday. Brunch was
amazing.

MAX
Sorry, something came up.

He points at Emma.

MAX (CONT'D)
This is Emma.

Giuseppe turns his head to Emma and freezes for a second. His smile disappears as he stares at her. Then, he turns his surprised eyes to Max. Max nods his head slightly.

MAX (CONT'D)
We just met. And I told Emma that
you are amazing. Please don't let
me down.

Giuseppe looks at Emma again. She smiles.

MAX (O.S.)
Can I ask you something?

Emma turns her head and sees Max holding a Hawaiian shirt in his hand.

MAX (CONT'D)
What do you think?

He places the shirt to his body. Emma looks at his silly smile.

EMMA
Sure, you'll look perfect in that convertible of yours, especially in this weather.

MAX
Oh, you've noticed.

EMMA
It was hard not to.

She puts the little dress in the cart and goes through other clothes.

MAX
You must have kids.

Emma glances at him as she continues her business.

MAX (CONT'D)
Anything for their father?

Emma stops.

EMMA
He's not around. Any more questions?

MAX
Just one.

Emma stares at him, waiting.

MAX (CONT'D)
I'm having lunch at my friend's restaurant, right around the corner. Would you join me?

EMMA
Really? Just like that?

EXT. CARSON BEACH - DAY

Patches of snow cover the beach. There is no one there but Max. He sits on a rock drinking Dunkin Donuts coffee from a paper cup and looking at the ocean. A commercial airplane descends toward Logan Airport. As Max watches the plane touching down the runway, his vision blurs.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JFK, DECEMBER 2010 - DAY

Light snow falls on the runway as an "AEROFLOT" plane touches the ground.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Staring outside from a small window is Max (25), and his wife ANGELA (18), a beautiful woman closely resembling Emma. Max kisses Angela on the cheek.

MAX
At last. Excited?

ANGELA
More like scared.

She snuggles closer to him as she looks outside.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Sound of airplanes, landing and taking off, mixes with the noise of the crowd waiting for busses and taxis.

Max and Angela drop their suitcases on the floor near a phone booth. Max gets a notebook from his pocket.

ANGELA
What if they don't remember you?

MAX
I did a huge favor for them, they must.

He picks up the phone, throws a few quarters in and dials a number. After a few long beeps, someone picks up the phone.

SARAH (V.O.)
Hello.