

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.

She touches her leg.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Morgan wake up, we're home.

MAX

Let her sleep.

He turns the engine off.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'll bring her up.

**EMMA** 

Thank you.

Max nods and gets out.

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

A nightlight is on. Morgan sleeps soundly on the bed. Emma covers her with a blanket and gives her a kiss. Max watches them. Emma stands up and looks at him.

**EMMA** 

Thank you.

MAX

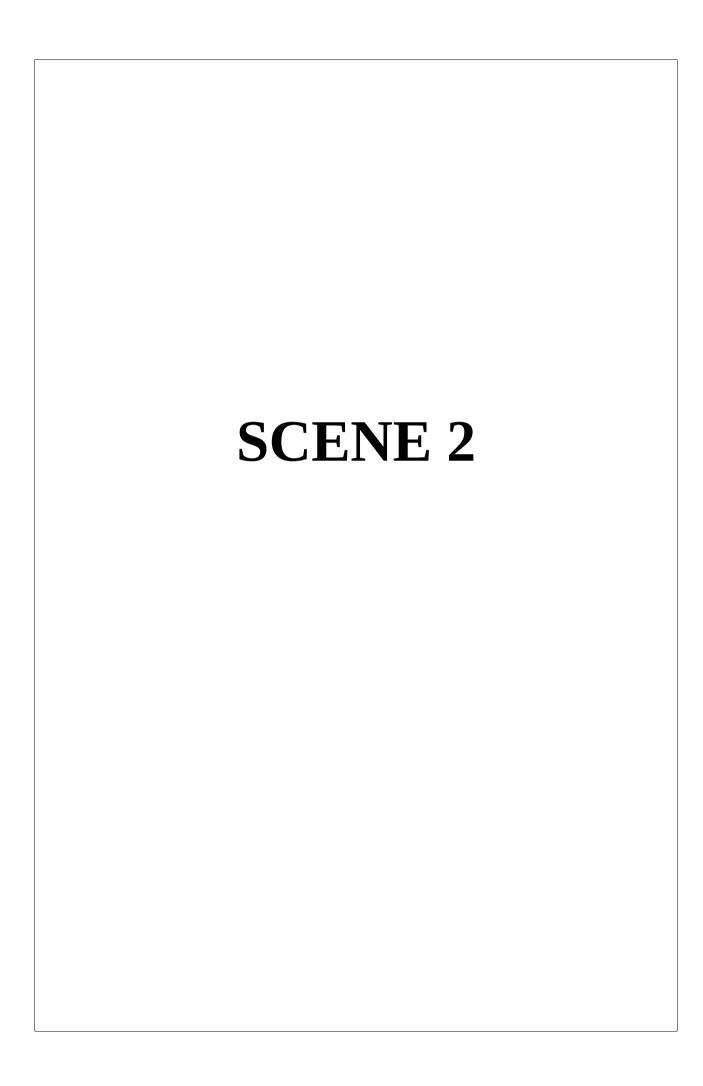
We're welcome.

Emma gets closer, puts her hands on his shoulders and kisses him. Max stares into her eyes and gently wraps his arms around her. She kisses him again and again until Max lets his guard down. He kisses her more and more passionately as he leads her out of Morgan's room.

INT. EMMA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Max is in the bed, sleeping. Rays of sun break through the curtains and fall on his face. He opens his eyes and looks around. Emma is not there.

Max gets up and puts his clothes on. He takes a step toward the door and sees a visualization board hanging on the wall. There are pictures of a fancy house, a Range Rover, a beautiful tropical beach, an engagement diamond ring and other things. Max smirks as he looks at the pictures and walks out of the room.



**EMMA** 

Nice to meet you.

GIUSEPPE

Have you ever tried my famous Ossobuco?

Emma shakes her head.

EMMA

I have never been here before.

She looks around.

EMMA (CONT'D)

It's very nice.

GIUSEPPE

Thank you. Let me prepare the Occobuco for you. It's my mother's recipe.

He looks up.

GIUSEPPE (CONT'D)

Rest in Heaven, Mama.

He looks at Emma again.

GIUSEPPE (CONT'D)

If I don't eat it at least once a week, I'm depressed.

**EMMA** 

Now I'm afraid to try it.

GIUSEPPE

What's your name again, child?

**EMMA** 

Emma.

GIUSEPPE

Emma, I tell you this; you come here any time you want and I'll take care of you. OK? Now I have to cook.

(to Max)

I'll bring appetizers and the usual.

MAX

Thank you, Giuseppe.