

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

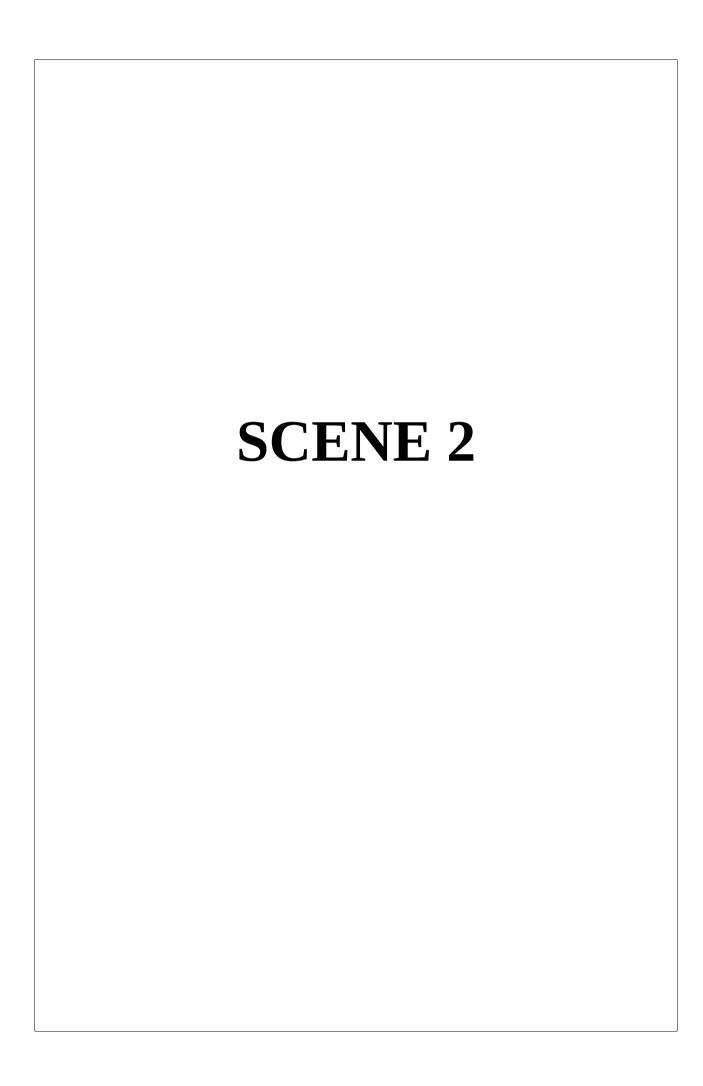
Emma, I tell you this; you come here any time you want and I'll take care of you. OK? Now I have to cook.

(to Max)

I'll bring appetizers and the usual.

MAX

Thank you, Giuseppe.



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(to Max)

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MAX

Thank you, Giuseppe.

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.