

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.

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.

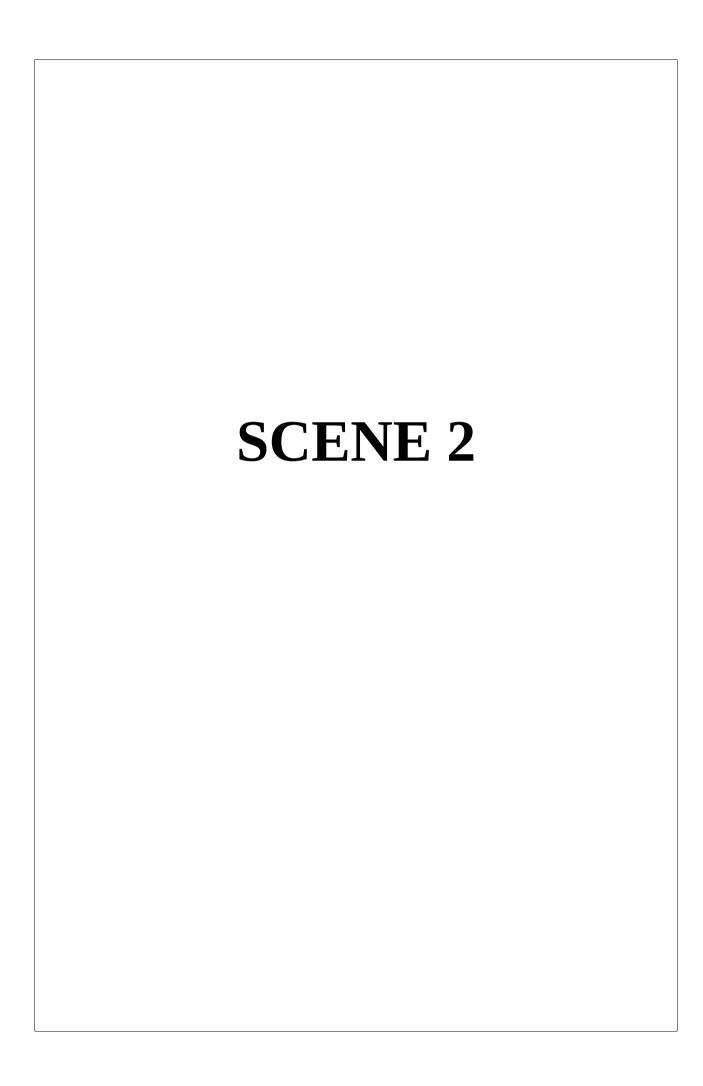
Angela is nervous. Max hugs her.

MAX (CONT'D)

We'll be OK.

ANGELA

It's a different world.



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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)

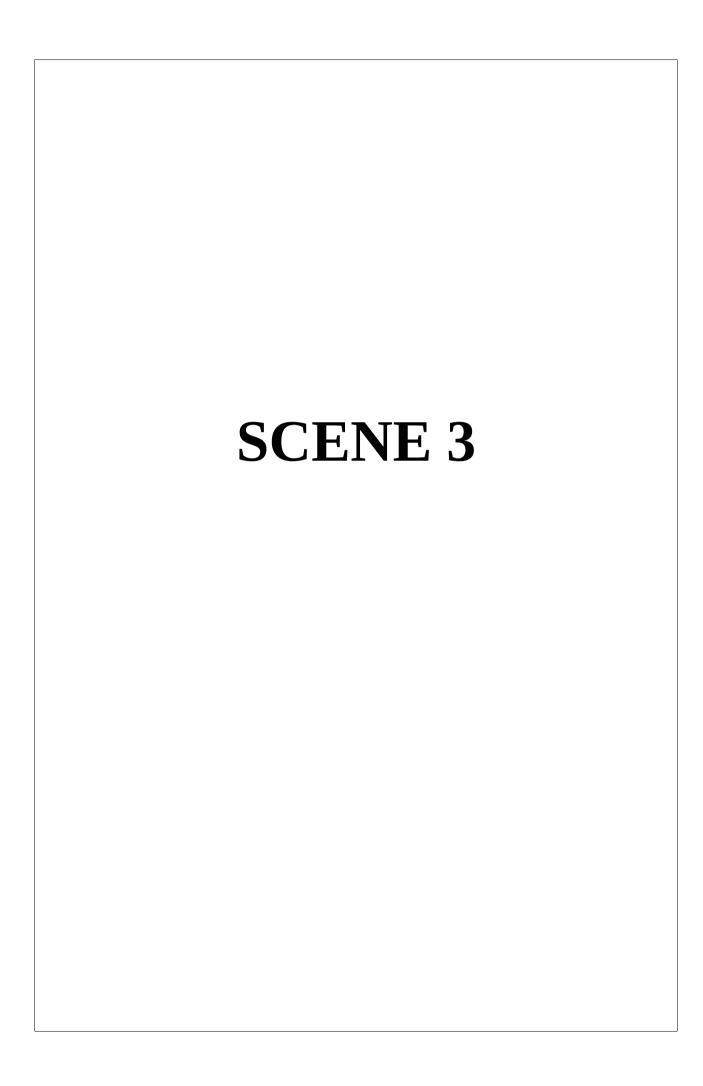
This is Emma.

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.



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.