

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.

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.