

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.