

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.

MAX (O.S.)  
Can I ask you something?

Emma turns her head and sees Max holding a Hawaiian shirt in his hand.

MAX (CONT'D)  
What do you think?

He places the shirt to his body. Emma looks at his silly smile.

EMMA  
Sure, you'll look perfect in that convertible of yours, especially in this weather.

MAX  
Oh, you've noticed.

EMMA  
It was hard not to.

She puts the little dress in the cart and goes through other clothes.

MAX  
You must have kids.

Emma glances at him as she continues her business.

MAX (CONT'D)  
Anything for their father?

Emma stops.

EMMA  
He's not around. Any more questions?

MAX  
Just one.

Emma stares at him, waiting.

MAX (CONT'D)  
I'm having lunch at my friend's restaurant, right around the corner. Would you join me?

EMMA  
Really? Just like that?