

*“Food is symbolic of love when words are inadequate”*  
- Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt





# Love Order

STORY: Jae keun Shin, Sesame ART: Sesame

GENRE:  
ROMANCE

COMPLETED  
COMIC

17  
CHAPTERS

PERFECT FOR A:  
FEATURE FILM

TONE:  
SWEET

ADULTS  
18-34

RIGHTS  
MANTA/RIDI

- *"Food is symbolic of love when words are inadequate"*

*He suddenly looks like a snack!*

Just dumped, Eva turns to the comfort of food to heal her broken heart. But little does she know that her childhood friend, James, may just be the comfort she needs! Can James help Eva cook up a cure for heartbreak? Or will it be a recipe for disaster?



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**STATS:** ~1M Views

COMPS  
*Julie & Julia*

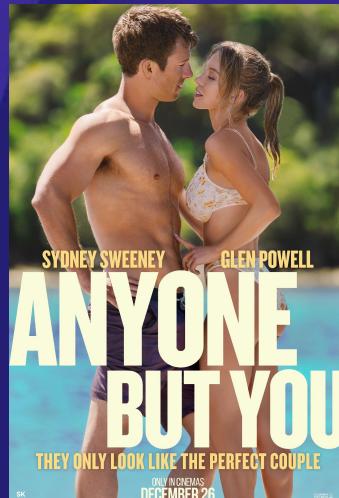
LOVE ORDER is a sweet confection that uses culture and cuisine as a recipe for a “new adult” (mid-twenties) romantic comedy.

What happens with a broken-hearted Korean-American woman decides to drown her sorrows in all the food and drink Seoul has to offer over a wild New Year’s Eve week – only she’s followed by her best friend from New York, a guy as white as Wonder Bread, with the taste buds to match?



LOVE ORDER gives us an opportunity to use the rom-com hijinks of *Anyone But You* to dive into the Korean Wave (aka Hallyu), the nickname for all the Korean-originated trends in food, fashion, beauty, music and entertainment that has taken America by storm in the last few decades.

In the same way *Mamma Mia!* celebrated Greece or *Under the Tuscan Sun* had moviegoers booking travel to Italy as they left the theater, LOVE ORDER will make Western audiences experience Korea through all of their senses, in a way more romantic (and delicious) than even the most idealized K-Drama.





A huge aspect of LOVE ORDER is telling a love story through FOOD. Most Korean food is still becoming known to most Americans, but, due to the close relationship between the US and Korea, there's a lot of overlap. Korean food is easy to love, something we'll prove with scrumbsciously attentive photography of the sensory delights that drive our characters' emotions. This will imbue our rom-com with shots more common to food and travel docuseries, vividly bringing the character of Korea into the story.

# *The Story*

For Eva, a Christmas miracle turns into a Christmas nightmare!

The twenty-something New York scenester finally secures reservations for two at a hotter-than-hot French restaurant for Christmas Eve.

A foodie at heart, Eva tells her friends Joy and James that this is an omen for her long-term relationship with her long-distance boyfriend, Noah. Since he's been sluggish to take things to the next level, Eva decides that SHE will propose marriage to HIM.

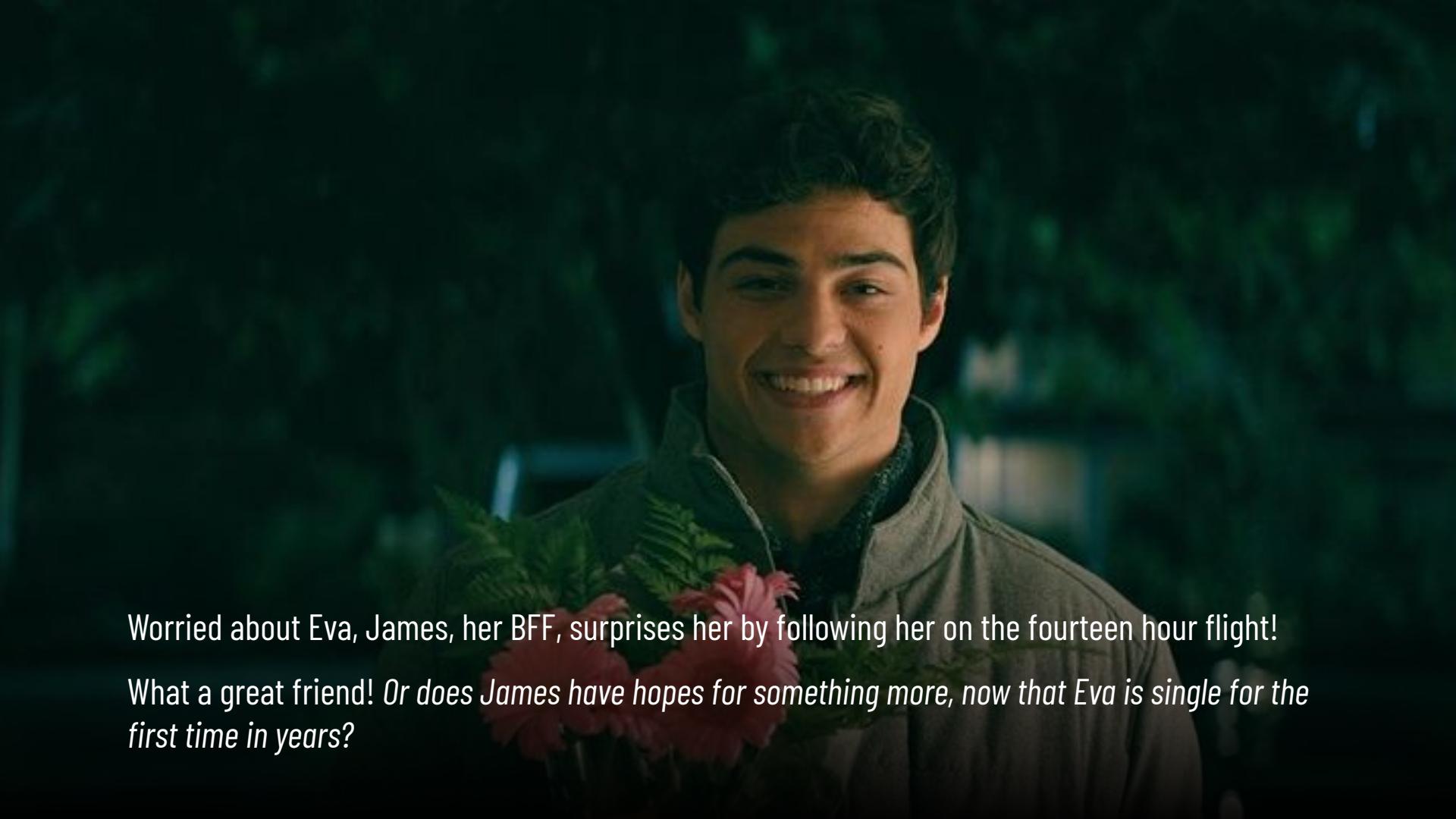




But before she even gets a bite  
of this Michelin-star-worthy food  
in her mouth she finds out why  
Noah has been so reluctant –  
he's been dating someone else  
and he only came to New York to  
break up with her in person!

Devastated, Eva bolts out of town, to nurse her wounds in her native Korea, where she lived until she was ten. She hopes the comforting echoes of childhood memories, especially during New Years, will help heal her broken heart.



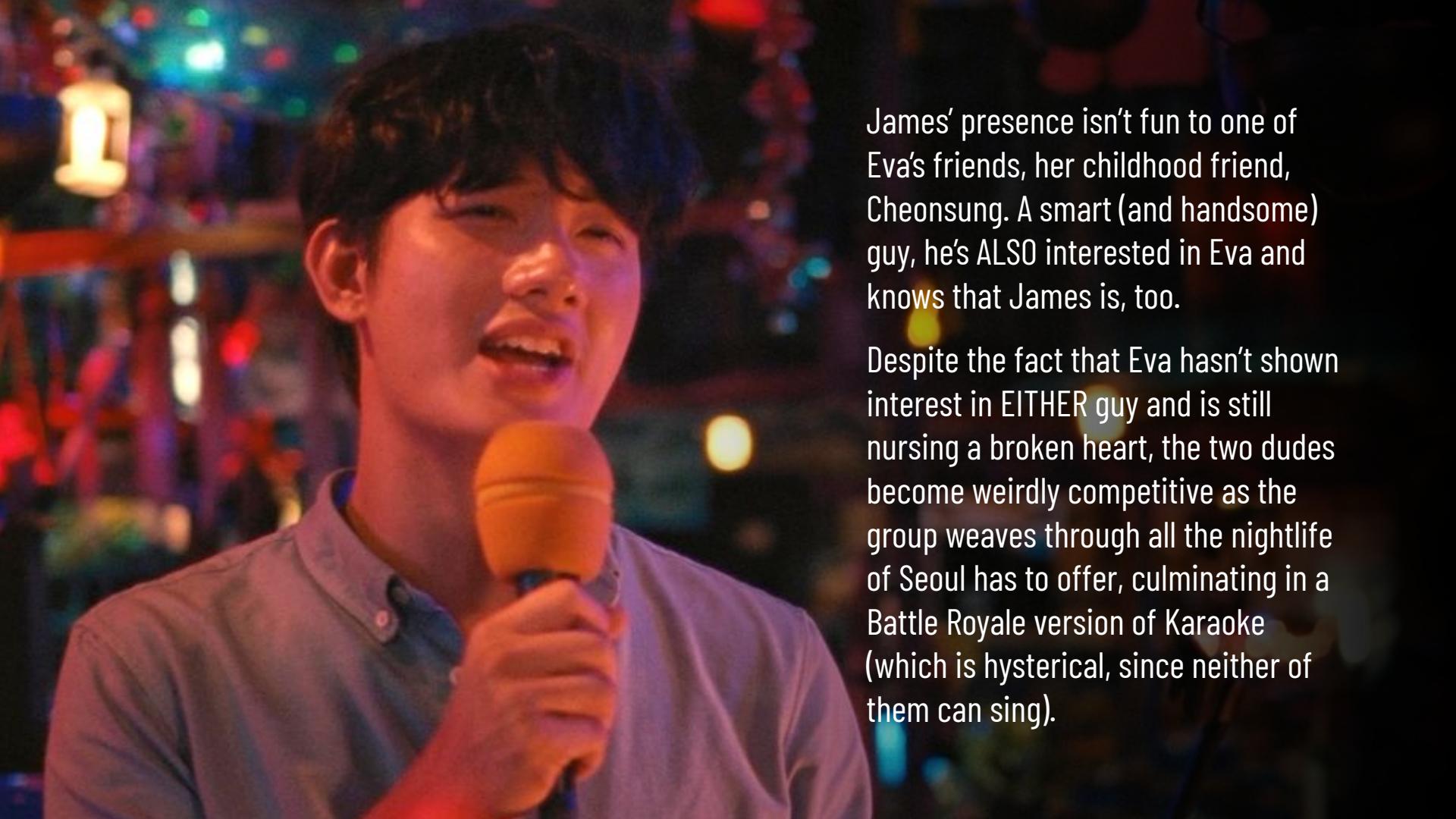
A close-up portrait of a young man with dark, wavy hair, smiling warmly at the camera. He is wearing a dark-colored zip-up hoodie. In his arms, he holds a vibrant bouquet of pink carnations and green foliage. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an evening or nighttime setting.

Worried about Eva, James, her BFF, surprises her by following her on the fourteen hour flight!

What a great friend! *Or does James have hopes for something more, now that Eva is single for the first time in years?*

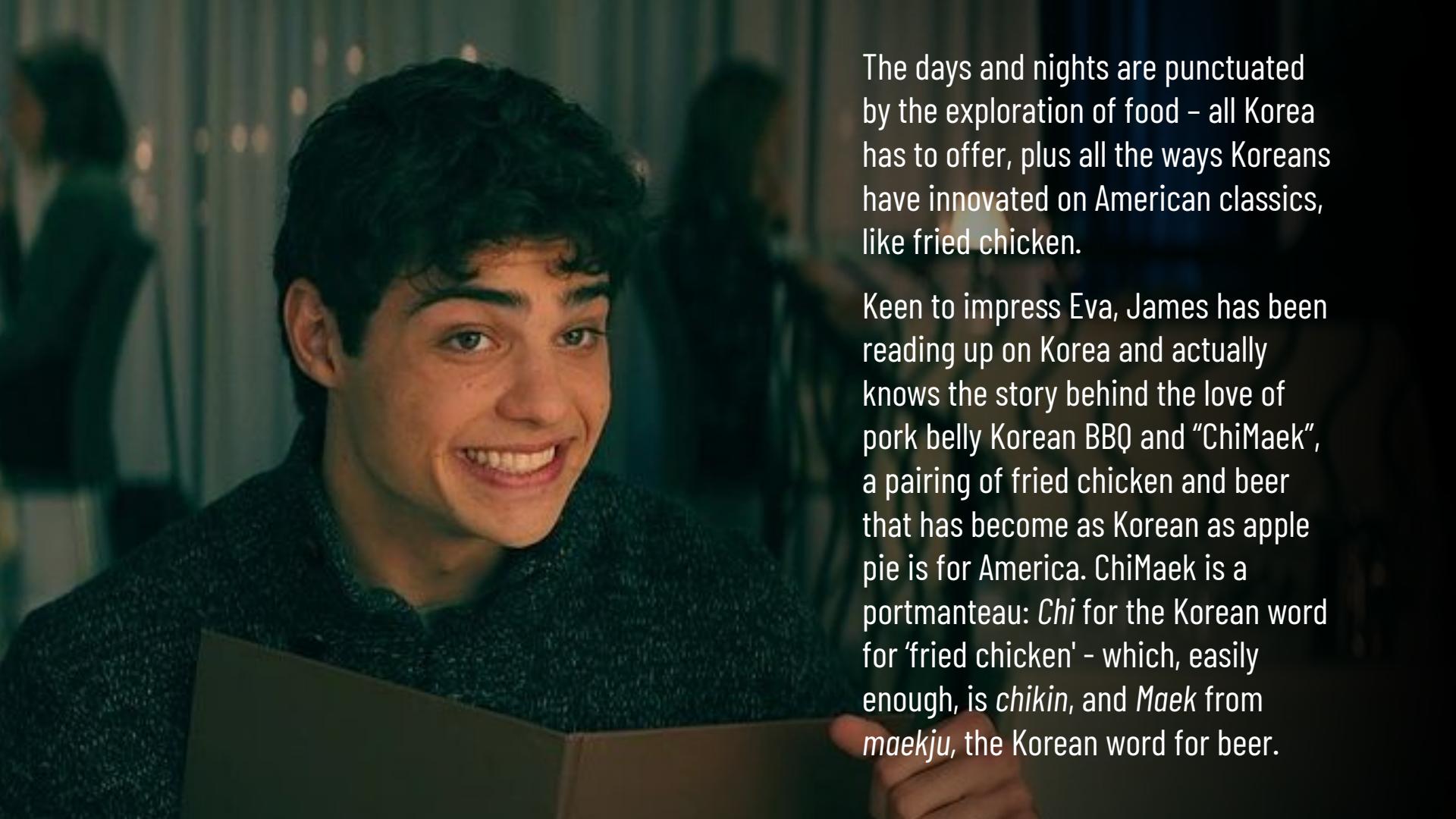


As the token white guy, James tries to integrate with Eva's Korean friend group, as some treat him as a novelty, others treat him with suspicion and still others as a comic relief. He's easily duped by misinformation and tricked into trying spicy food he can't handle or "exotic" (to James) food that grosses him out (but he can't admit as much to Eva, at risk of offending her). It's so fun watching him squirm.

A young man with dark hair and a light beard is singing into a yellow microphone. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt. The background is a blurred night scene with colorful lights, including red, green, and blue bokeh effects.

James' presence isn't fun to one of Eva's friends, her childhood friend, Cheonsung. A smart (and handsome) guy, he's ALSO interested in Eva and knows that James is, too.

Despite the fact that Eva hasn't shown interest in EITHER guy and is still nursing a broken heart, the two dudes become weirdly competitive as the group weaves through all the nightlife of Seoul has to offer, culminating in a Battle Royale version of Karaoke (which is hysterical, since neither of them can sing).

A close-up photograph of a young man with dark, wavy hair and blue eyes. He is smiling warmly at the camera, showing his teeth. He is wearing a dark, textured sweater over a collared shirt. In his hands, he holds an open book, which is partially visible at the bottom of the frame. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting like a library or bookstore.

The days and nights are punctuated by the exploration of food – all Korea has to offer, plus all the ways Koreans have innovated on American classics, like fried chicken.

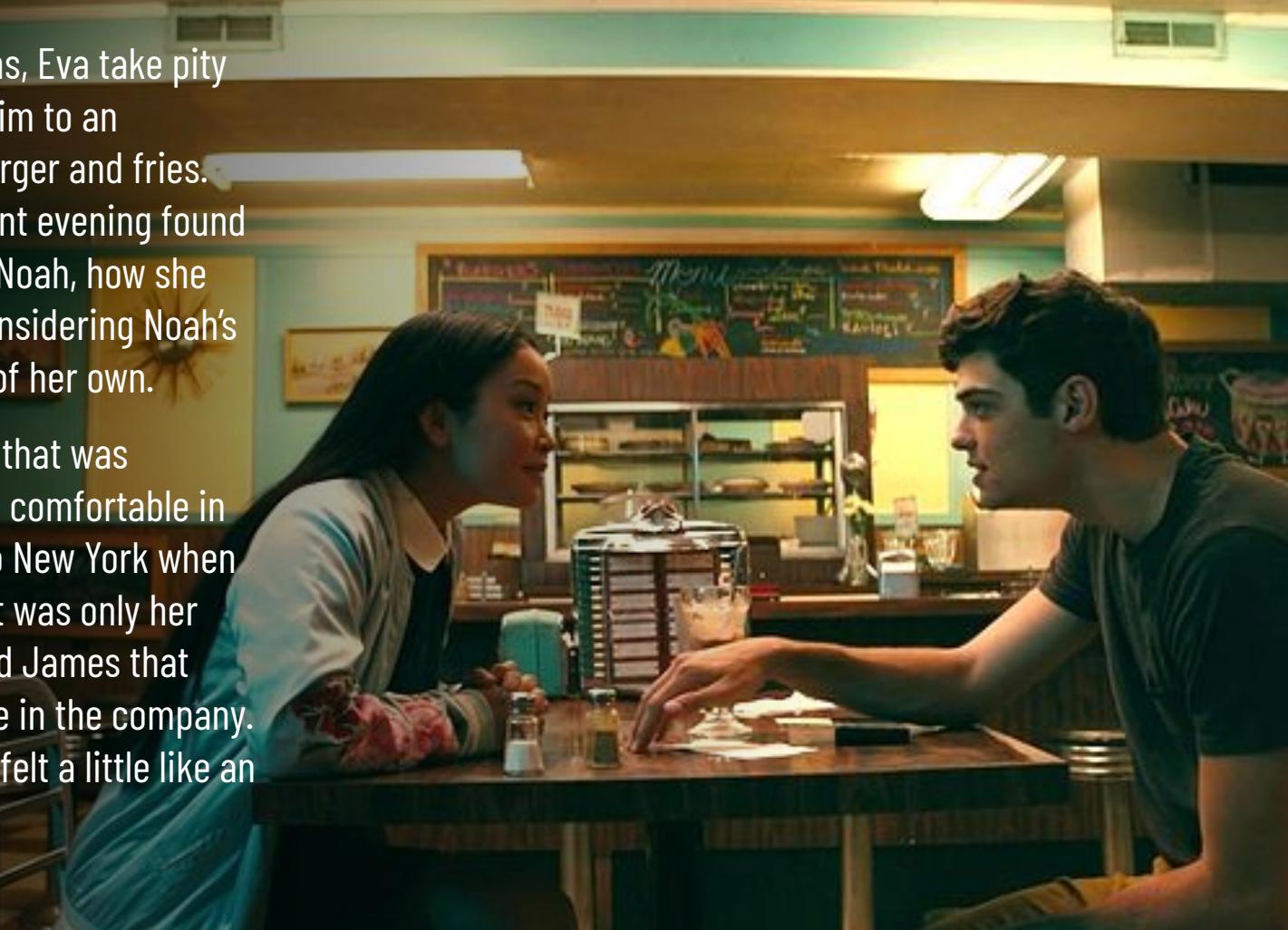
Keen to impress Eva, James has been reading up on Korea and actually knows the story behind the love of pork belly Korean BBQ and “ChiMaek”, a pairing of fried chicken and beer that has become as Korean as apple pie is for America. ChiMaek is a portmanteau: *Chi* for the Korean word for ‘fried chicken’ - which, easily enough, is *chikin*, and *Maek* from *maekju*, the Korean word for beer.



Their Korean adventures make Eva see James in a new way. She confides in her female friends in Korea and then on a Zoom with Joy, back in New York, that she's not sure where her heart lies. More than anything, she's afraid if things go south (like they did with Noah) and they have a messy breakup, her most significant friendship will be sacrificed.

As New Years Eve looms, Eva take pity on James and treats him to an American-style hamburger and fries. Their resulting indulgent evening found Eva opening up about Noah, how she felt she was always considering Noah's needs at the expense of her own.

She wonders if part of that was because she never felt comfortable in America. She moved to New York when she was ten. In truth, it was only her friendship with Joy and James that made her feel welcome in the company. Otherwise, she always felt a little like an outsider.



A photograph of a young woman with dark hair tied up in a bun, wearing a light-colored hoodie with dark stripes on the sleeves and a red rose patch on the chest. She is sitting cross-legged on a textured, light-colored floor, looking down at a small object in her hands. To her left, the edge of another person's clothing is visible, featuring a colorful, patterned fabric. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

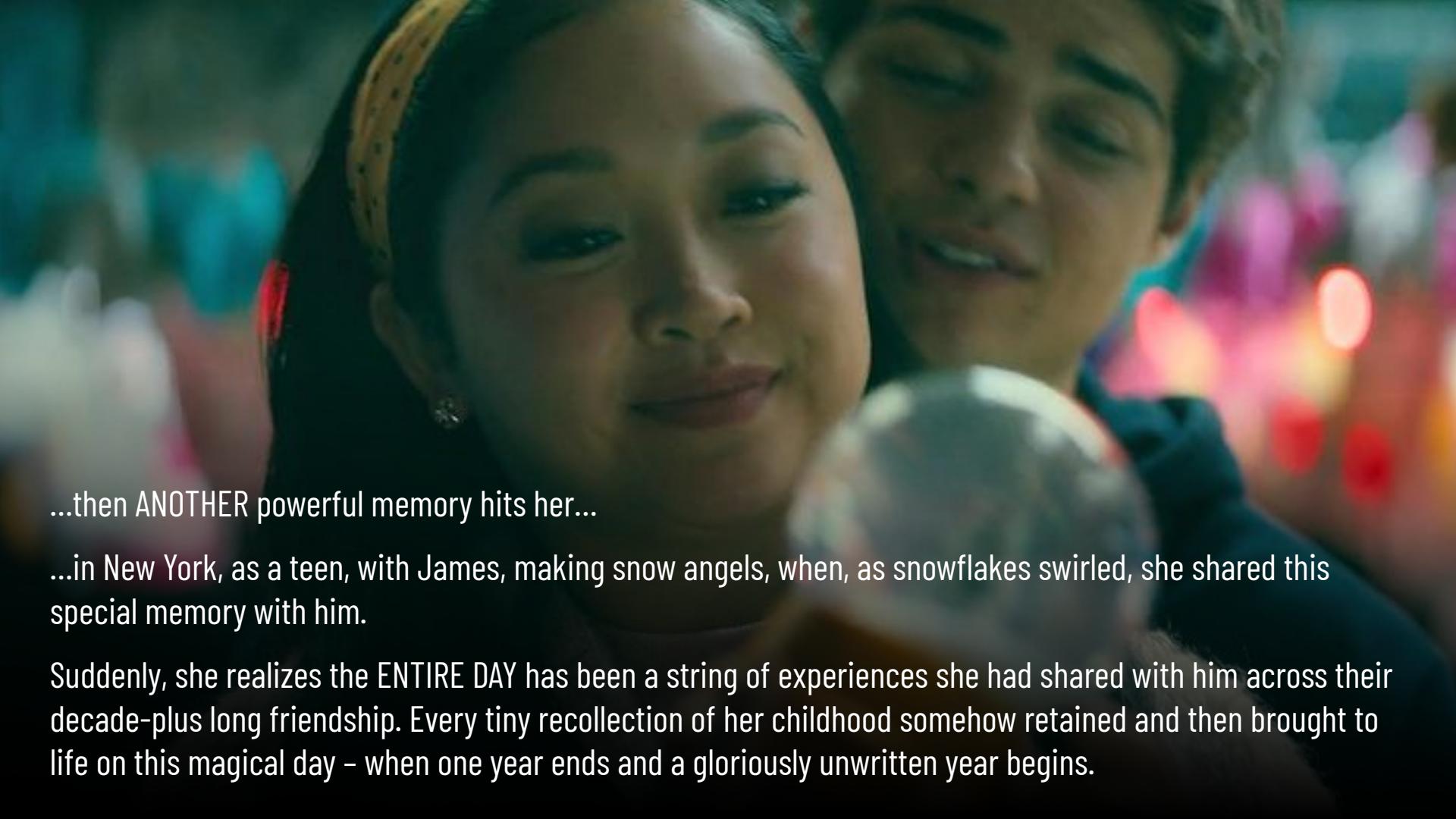
That night, neither get sleep.

Divided by only a wall, they both stare at the ceiling, each wondering how their storm of feelings would be received by their friend.



The next day, James tells Eva that he wants to take her someplace special - which seems weird to Eva, since Seoul is HER turf and HE's the newcomer.

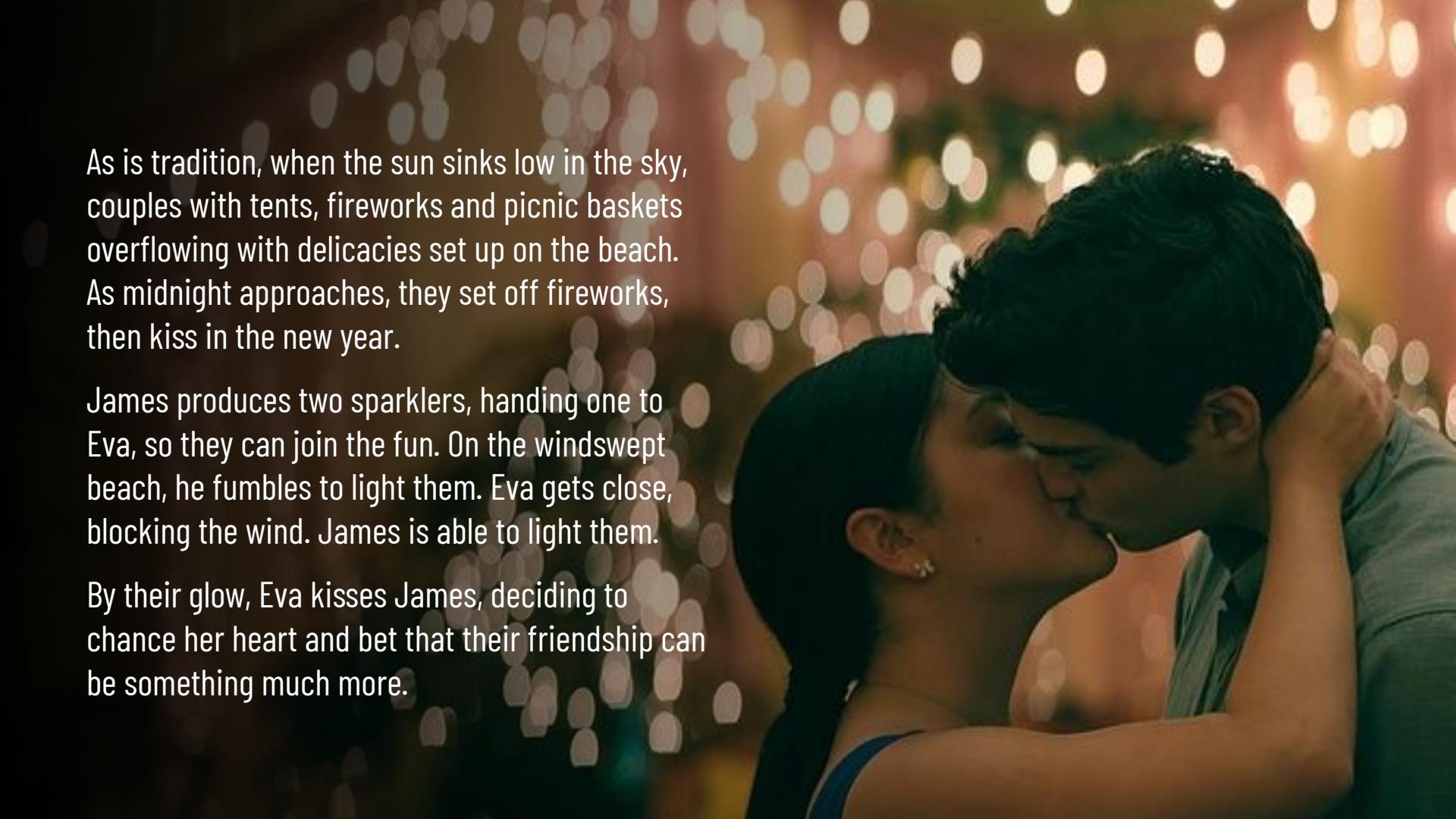
But despite his lack of language skills and hapless demeanor, he leads her through an entire New Year's Eve Day itinerary full of food, fun and childhood memories, ending with a picnic staring out at the winter sea. She tears up, telling James that this was her most powerful winter memory with her family before leaving Korea...



...then ANOTHER powerful memory hits her...

...in New York, as a teen, with James, making snow angels, when, as snowflakes swirled, she shared this special memory with him.

Suddenly, she realizes the ENTIRE DAY has been a string of experiences she had shared with him across their decade-plus long friendship. Every tiny recollection of her childhood somehow retained and then brought to life on this magical day - when one year ends and a gloriously unwritten year begins.

A close-up, low-angle shot of a man and a woman kissing. The man, with dark hair, is on the right, wearing a green t-shirt. The woman, with dark hair, is on the left, wearing a blue top. They are positioned in front of a blurred background of warm, glowing lights, likely from fireworks or a city skyline at night.

As is tradition, when the sun sinks low in the sky, couples with tents, fireworks and picnic baskets overflowing with delicacies set up on the beach. As midnight approaches, they set off fireworks, then kiss in the new year.

James produces two sparklers, handing one to Eva, so they can join the fun. On the windswept beach, he fumbles to light them. Eva gets close, blocking the wind. James is able to light them.

By their glow, Eva kisses James, deciding to chance her heart and bet that their friendship can be something much more.

In a TAG, Eva, having resumed life in New York, surprises James and Joy with a New York-style pizza! They Zoom with her Korean friends. Even Cheonsung wishes them well (having started dating one of Eva's other friends, Yuee). From a place of friendship and food, love was made to order!





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# *Love Order*

Stories worth the binge

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