

NELLIE (CONT'D)  
Just escape? Go somewhere no one  
knows us, explore, be crazy.

He stops, looks at her seriously.

DAMIANO  
No.

He walks back to the dresser, keeps applying his products.

DAMIANO (CONT'D)  
I hate traveling. And you hate  
airplanes.

NELLIE  
What? No I don't.

DAMIANO  
That's because you're never been on  
one. If you did, you'd hate it, I  
assure you. You're afraid of  
heights. And closed spaces. And  
people you don't know. And  
commitment.

NELLIE  
You always know just what to say.

He smiles and walks back into the bathroom. He tosses a black  
strappy dress at her.

DAMIANO  
Hurry up okay, they're here.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

**Nicole & Milena Scene  
START**

Damiano's laugh brings us into a family dinner with Nellie's  
dad EDUARDO (50's), Damiano's sisters MILENA and NICOLE  
(20's), and Damiano. A TV plays "Gulliver's Travels (1939)"  
in the background. Nellie wears a black strappy dress,  
secretly scrolls her travel feed under the table.

MILENA  
(gags)  
Jesus, who cooked this?

DAMIANO  
I thought you liked it a little  
bloody.

MILENA  
A *little*. This is still twitching.  
Is it even Wagyu?

DAMIANO

Kobe. Sorry it's been a rough week. Nellie decided to save the world by going vegan, so we had to pretty much empty out the fridge. Bit of a culinary apocalypse. Right babe?

He squeezes her leg. She manages a curt smile.

MILENA

Hey I get it. We all need to feel like we're doing something. Nicole reposts inspirational quotes, for example. I'm sure she's saved countless lives.

Nicole doesn't look up from her phone, just raises a middle finger. Eduardo interjects some civility.

EDUARDO

Damiano, thank you again for your hospitality. Your home is beautiful and the food is delicious as always.

DAMIANO

The pleasure is truly mine, sir. You and Nellie are like family to us, you're always welcome. Now if you'll all excuse me, I have to grab something... important.

He gives Nellie a wink, then exits. In his absence, it gets quiet.

MILENA

So Nellie, how's school? Did you pick a major?

NELLIE

Not yet.

EDUARDO

Math.

NELLIE

Actually I was thinking of taking a year off. Maybe do some traveling.

Eduardo laughs, then realizes she's serious.

EDUARDO

Really.

MILENA

Oh nice. Where would you go?

NELLIE

I don't know. Everywhere. Paris.  
Fiji. Australia. Antarctica. As  
many places as possible.

Milena suppresses a laugh.

MILENA

Sorry. No that sounds amazing. And  
insanely expensive. And just awful  
in every way. No offense.

NICOLE

I think it sounds cool.

She waits for them to get the pun. They get it, but no one  
laughs.

MILENA

Seriously though, do you know how  
cold Antarctica is? Colder than the  
surface of Mars. I mean I'm sure  
it's fascinating and all, but don't  
you think it might be a little  
safer to just, like, watch a  
documentary? Less chance of a  
horrible death?

NELLIE

I'm not worried.

MILENA

Alright, I'm just saying, do your  
research first. It's way more  
dangerous traveling as a woman.  
Kidnapping is a huge problem, you  
should Google it.

**END SCENE**

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EDUARDO

What about Damiano? He just got  
promoted, the hospital isn't going  
to let him leave for at least a  
year.

NELLIE

Actually I was thinking I might go  
alone.

There's a long silence.

EDUARDO

Really.