

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

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.