

SCENE 3

Luisa
] #1

LUISA looks over Emily's job application. She slowly clicks a ball-point pen.

LUISA
I see you've never worked in a restaurant before.

EMILY
Thank you.

LUISA
For what?

EMILY
Sorry.

LUISA
Why are you sorry?

EMILY
I don't know.

LUISA
Are you okay?

EMILY
I'm nervous.

LUISA
Is that why you're sorry?

EMILY
It must be. I must be sorry because I'm nervous.

(Luisa stands.)

LUISA
Stand up.

(Emily stands.)

LUISA (cont'd)
Take a deep breath.

(Emily takes a deep breath.)

LUISA (cont'd)
Let it out through your nose.

(Emily lets out the breath.)

LUISA (cont'd)
Another deep breath.

(Another deep breath.)

LUISA (cont'd)
Let it out through your mouth ... Haaaaaaaaa.

EMILY
Haaaaaaaaa.

LUISA
Sweep your arms overhead.

(They both sweep their arms overhead.)

LUISA (cont'd)
Swan dive down.

(Emily watches Luisa sweep her arms down, bend over and touch her toes. She copies her.)

LUISA (cont'd)
Reverse swan dive up.

(They sweep their arms overhead, standing again.)

LUISA (cont'd)
Hands in prayer position at your heart.

(They lower their hands to their hearts.)

LUISA (cont'd)
My cousin's studying to be a yoga teacher. She practices on me and my kids. Have a seat.

(They sit.)

LUISA (cont'd)
Feel better?

EMILY
I do. I actually do.

LUISA
Good girl.

(Back to the application.)

LUISA (cont'd)
You've never worked in a restaurant.

Luisa
#1

Luigi
#1

EMILY
No, ma'am.

LUISA
Why do you think you'd like to work in a restaurant?

EMILY
I like restaurants. I like menus. I like waiting for the food to come and imagining what it'll taste like.

LUISA
Service is very important at The Melting Pot. We like to say that our customers don't just come for a meal, they come for an experience.

EMILY
I've never had fondue.

LUISA
Your family's never come to The Melting Pot?

EMILY
We're not from around here.

LUISA
Where you from?

EMILY
All over.

LUISA
Like where?

EMILY
I'm an army brat. We went wherever my father got stationed.

LUISA
Have you lived in other countries?

EMILY
Oh sure. Germany. Japan. Paris.

LUISA
You got to live in Paris?

EMILY
That's where my parents are now.

LUISA
I'm for sure going to Paris someday. What was the very best thing about Paris?

Luisa #1

EMILY
The food. Absolutely.

LUISA
You never had fondue in Paris?

EMILY
I'm lactose intolerant.

LUISA
What brought you to Huntsville?

EMILY
I always wanted to live in the South.

LUISA
Your mama must miss you.

EMILY
She's really happy in Paris.

(Luisa returns to the application.)

LUISA
You forgot to write your last name.

(She passes the application and a pen to Emily.)

(Emily writes a last name. She passes the application back to Luisa.)

LUISA (cont'd)
Smith. That's a good old-fashioned American name.

EMILY
Thanks.

LUISA
There probably aren't as many Smiths as there used to be.
Must make you feel less ordinary.

(Pause.)

LUISA (cont'd)
We lost three of our most experienced servers to the new Carrabba's in the mall. Mental health benefits and your birthday off. Bully for them. And then there's the kids who turn up in June and are out the door when school starts. You sure you didn't move here to start school?

EMILY
I don't have any interest in school.

Luisa