

WHEN IN ROME

Written by

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INT. ROOM

Three people are sitting at a dinner table. Two of them, GREG and TONY are interviewing a potential new member of their board, LISA. Greg is wearing headphones. BIG headphones. Like, noise cancelling. He's also eating ravenously with his head near his food. The potential board member, LISA is sitting anxiously. A lot is riding on this interview.

TONY

So, what do you think you would bring to the table, as far as collaboration within the company?

LISA

Well, I think I've always had a very collaborative mindset, so it comes naturally for me.

TONY

Perfect, perfect. Tell me again which branch you previously interviewed for again?

Greg looks up from his food.

LISA

Well a few years back, I actually-

GREG

(yelling at Lisa)  
What song is this?

LISA

What? I don't know, I can't-

GREG

(loudly)  
What?

LISA

You're wearing headphones, I can't hear what song-

GREG

(shouting)  
I've never heard it before. Sounds like Elton John.

Greg returns to eating. Tony is still looking at Lisa, waiting for her answer. He doesn't seem to notice Greg. Lisa tries to ignore what just happened.

LISA

Um, ok. I, uh... I interviewed for the Riverton branch.

TONY

Oh, ok! I have a few friends that work out there. So in our first quarter, we're trying to find ways to-

GREG

(Loud)

Hey, check this out.

Greg turns his phone to Lisa. On it is a video of a man talking. Again, the audio is in Greg's headphones. Lisa can't hear the video. Lisa tries to pay attention to Tony and Greg at the same time.

LISA

Um, I can't-

Greg bursts out laughing. Something funny had obviously happened in the video. Greg notices Lisa didn't laugh. Tony is still talking to her.

GREG

Wait wait wait, this is the funny part.

Lisa motions toward her ears to try and show Greg, again, that he's wearing headphones and she can't hear the video. Greg smiles.

GREG (CONT'D)

I know, right?

He points to Tony, who is still mid-sentence and does that finger on the temple motion to say someone is crazy.

TONY

So, what's your take on that?

Lisa realizes Tony had been asking a question.

LISA

Oh, um. Could you repeat the question?

TONY

(annoyed)

Uh, ok. Sure. Why choose our company, and not one of the many others in the same field?

LISA  
Well, I think your company is...

Lisa notices Greg is now clipping his fingernails over his food.

LISA (CONT'D)  
Gross!

TONY  
You think our company is gross?

LISA  
No no! That's not what I meant,  
it's just that... Your associate,  
he just seems to-

TONY  
My associate is not the issue here.  
I'm concerned about this interview.

Greg starts laughing at his phone. Lisa looks back at Tony.

TONY (CONT'D)  
I've been trying to ask you some  
simple questions to try and  
progress this interview.

Lisa looks back at Greg. His hand is over his mouth.  
Something is obviously very shocking or worrying on his  
phone. She looks back at Tony.

TONY (CONT'D)  
And you just seem very distracted  
right now.

Lisa glances at Greg once more. He's tearing up. It appears  
something sad is happening on his phone now.

TONY (CONT'D)  
What are you-

LISA  
(yelling)  
Ok, what could POSSIBLY be *that*  
engaging on your phone?

TONY  
(shouting at Lisa)  
HE CAN'T HEAR YOU. OPEN YOUR EYES.  
HE'S WEARING HEADPHONES.

Lisa is taken aback by Tony's sudden anger.

TONY (CONT'D)  
 (still shouting)  
 How, with those giant noise-  
 cancelling bad boys, would he be  
 able to hear a single puny little  
 word you spit out? IDIOT!

LISA  
 No, that's what I've been trying to-  
 Tony points to his ears aggressively.

TONY  
 (shouting)  
 HEAD-PHOOOOOOONES.

He angrily swipes everything off the table then storms out.  
 Greg takes off his headphones.

GREG  
 See, told you he was nuts. Here,  
 eat. Chi Mangia Benne Vive Bene.  
 Greg hands a second plate of his food to Lisa.

GREG (CONT'D)  
 You've got a level head on you,  
 Lisa. You start on Wednesday. Now,  
 let's eat.

Lisa looks to the camera and shrugs.

LISA  
 (to audience)  
 Well, when in Rome!

Greg and Lisa start eating and conversing. Italian music  
 fades in.

**FADE TO BLACK**