

LAURA
So how did you -

Laura is interrupted by a waiter arriving at their table.

BRENT
Good evening, my name is Brent and
I will be serving you tonight.

BRENT, (30s) puts out a basket of bread and lays an unmarked
bottle of oil next to the basket.

BRENT
Our specials today are Stuffed
Lobster Tail and our Four-cheese
Meat Lasagna. Now, shall I start
you off with a bottle of wine?

ETHAN
Thank you, Brent. Yes. Could we
start with a bottle of Cabernet
Sauvignon?

Brent passes the menus to Ethan and Laura.

BRENT
Of course, right away sir.

Brent leaves the table. Laura is looking through the Menu.
Ethan opens his briefly before setting it down on the table,
closed.

LAURA
You know what you're getting
already?

ETHAN
Absolutely, I get the same thing
every time I come.

LAURA
So you come here often?

ETHAN
No. Er, I don't know. I don't
really know why I said it that way.

Laura waits for Ethan to elaborate but he never does. There
is another awkward pause. Laura continues looking through her
menu.

LAURA
So what is it that you "always" get
here?

ETHAN
Spaghetti Pesto with Blackened
Chicken. It's incredible.

LAURA
Ooh that does sound good. I'm
actually thinking of trying the
lasagna daily special.

ETHAN
No! Don't do that. I mean...

Laura drops the menu down to look at Ethan.

LAURA
Oh is it not good?

ETHAN
No, nothing like that. I'm sorry. I
shouldn't tell you what to order.

LAURA
It's okay, but I'm curious why you
said I shouldn't get it.

ETHAN
I...well...I love to cook. And...
my favorite thing to cook is
Lasagna.

LAURA
Oh, I see. So you want to cook for
me sometime.

Ethan blushes, and tries to walk back what he said.

ETHAN
No! I mean, I would, but that isn't
what I meant.

Laura is starting to have fun watching Ethan squirm a bit.

LAURA
You don't want me to order it
tonight so that I can't compare the
two, huh? Yours can't stack up to
Bistro Romano, is that it?

Ethan smirks, understanding Laura's banter now.

ETHAN
The opposite actually. I don't want
you to feel like you didn't get
your money's worth here.

(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Because once you try my family's lasagna recipe there is no going back.

Laura smiles at the sudden confidence.

LAURA

Oh so you were actually being the nice guy by telling me what not to order.

ETHAN

I'm always the nice guy when I tell people what to do and not to do.

Ethan keeps a straight face for a moment before cracking a smile. Laura laughs.

LAURA

Okay then, tell me what to order Mr. Nice guy.

ETHAN

Oh no, haha don't do that to me!

LAURA

Well you were very clear on the lasagna.

ETHAN

Four cheeses is just...too many cheeses for a lasagna, don't you think?

LAURA

Oh so yours won't have four cheeses?

ETHAN

Absolutely not. That's absurd.

Ethan and Laura are both flirting a bit now.

LAURA

So how many cheeses will it have then? Three?

ETHAN

I can do with two cheeses, what normal chefs do with four.

LAURA

Haha oh, is that right?

ETHAN

You just stick around for a while.
You'll see what I can do.

Laura and Ethan share an intimate look as Laura realizes the weight of Ethan's request. Brent arrives at the table and immediately pours Laura a glass of Cabernet Sauvignon. He then begins pouring Ethan's glass.

BRENT

Are you two ready to order or would you like a few more minutes?

LAURA

I think we are ready?

Laura looks at Ethan, with a devilish smile

ETHAN

Are we? You sure you don't want another minute to think about it?

LAURA

Nope. You go first though!

Ethan smiles as he looks to Brent.

ETHAN

Could I get the Spaghetti Pesto with Blackened Chicken?

BRENT

Of course. Soup or salad?

ETHAN

Soup.

BRENT

Excellent. And for you miss?

LAURA

Hmm.

Laura looks over the menu quickly before looking at Ethan. She continues looking at him while asking Brent:

LAURA

And what were those daily specials again?

BRENT

Stuffed Lobster Tail and our Four-Cheese Meat Lasagna

LAURA
Ahh that's right, that's right.

Ethan looks at Laura, smiling but shaking his head.

LAURA
May I please have an order of
your...Pesto Spaghetti with
Blackened Chicken please?

BRENT
Of course. Soup or salad?

LAURA
Soup, thank you.

BRENT
My pleasure. I'll get that right in
for you and it'll be out shortly.

Brent walks towards the kitchen.

ETHAN
So no lasagna?

LAURA
Well... I need to feel like I get
my money's worth, right?

ETHAN
Right.

Ethan reaches for his glass of wine. Laura does the same.
When Ethan notices her about to sip, he raises his glass.

ETHAN
To new beginnings?

LAURA
To lasagna?

They both laugh and take a drink.

ETHAN
Smart choice with the order by the
way. You won't regret it.

Ethan reaches for the bread in the basket, putting a piece on
his plate before reaching for the olive oil. He offers the
basket to Laura.

LAURA
Maybe I just didn't want anyone to
be disappointed in my order.

ETHAN

Well, I hate to tell you this but that ship has sailed.

Laura is now pouring some olive oil onto her small plate for the bread she has grabbed from the basket.

LAURA

I thought Brent seemed fine with it?

Laura smiles as she dips the bread and then takes a bite.

ETHAN

Nope, he's definitely mad.

LAURA

Ah shoot. Because I was unoriginal?

ETHAN

No, no. It's because now he knows I can't do that super romantic thing where I am like, 'here try some of this' and give you a bite from my plate.

LAURA

Ohhh, I see. Poor Brent.

ETHAN

Yup. Poor Brent.

A moment passes as both Ethan and Laura eat some bread.

LAURA

So is that the go to move when you come here? Give your date a bite of your Pesto Spaghetti and then she swoons and falls in love with you?

Ethan sighs. He looks to Laura.

ETHAN

Hey...I don't want you to think I am some creep with a playbook that does the same thing with every girl that he dates. Yes, I have been here before. Many times. But usually with family or friends. Sometimes on dates. Once or twice alone even.

LAURA

Gotchya...

There is an awkward moment. Both Laura and Ethan want to break the ice but no one can find the words.

LAURA

So...did your friends and family
fall in love with you when you
shared your Pesto Spaghetti?

Ethan guffaws, caught off guard by Laura's sense of humor.

ETHAN

I'd say it's about 50/50

Laura laughs and then takes another sip of wine. Ethan follows her lead. Laura reaches for more bread.

LAURA

This bread and oil is amazing.

ETHAN

Yeah, it's pretty good right?

LAURA

Let me guess. You make homemade
bread?

ETHAN

I dabble.

LAURA

Well, I hope I get homemade bread
with my lasagna then.

ETHAN

Okay, but I draw the line at
homemade olive oil.

LAURA

That's fair.

Once again Ethan and Laura are looking into each other's eyes. Laura brushes her hair behind her ear. She looks down, and then back to Ethan.