

Chief Chef
by
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INT RAM'S RESTAURANT - EVENING

A classy restaurant with slightly dimmed lighting is filled with patrons and the constant inaudible buzz of chatter. The patrons are a wide variety of animals that are all well dressed walking, sitting and talking as bipeds.

Weaving through the restaurant a loud abrasive sound of the head chef GORDY RAMSLO is berating his staff. Gordy is a thin ram with curled horns. Gordy is the only one in the kitchen wearing black pants, instead of white. He has a white shirt with his sleeves rolled up to the elbow. His golden blond fur is stiff with mousse and rarely moves as he quickly darts between the various cooking stations, intimidating the sous chefs.

After Gordy samples a taste from a few stations he throws a bowl down that lands with a CRASH and begins to YELL and PULL the hair on the side of his head.

GORDY RAMSLO

Must I do everything here? What
is it that I pay you all for?

Gordy approaches a Pelican who is visibly shaking yet trying not to make eye contact and continue dicing onions on a cutting block in front of him.

GORDY RAMSLO

Are you crying?

PELICAN SOUS CHEF

No Chef.

GORDY RAMSLO

Well it looks like it.

PELICAN SOUS CHEF

It's the onions sir.

GORDY RAMSLO

The onions. Really?

PELICAN SOUS CHEF

Yes Chef.

Gordy gets frustrated and asks aloud to the various other Sous Chefs in the kitchen.

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GORDY RAMSLO

Can anyone tell me how you cut an onion without crying into one of my famous dishes?

The kitchen is silent and everyone continues to complete their tasks, hoping that someone else will answer.

GORDY RAMSLO

Anyone?

ROUX, a large brown female kangaroo peers from behind the opened refrigerator door. She is placing items in her pouch as she sheepishly begins to answer.

ROUX

Yes Chef. You should cut out the core without disturbing the root, as the gas in the root is what burns your eyes, making you cry.

Gordy looks around for the voice that answered.

GORDY RAMSLO

Who said that?

Roux closes the refrigerator door and begins to walk to her station with her eyes down low looking at the floor.

ROUX

I did Chef.

GORDY RAMSLO

Are you sure about that?

ROUX

Yes, Chef.

GORDY RAMSLO

How do you know that?

ROUX

My father told me when I was a little girl to help keep me from burning my eyes.

Sarcastically responding to belittle his position.

GORDY RAMSLO

Your father? The line order cook?

ROUX

Yes Chef.

(CONTINUED)

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Gordy begins to walk around the kitchen showing his disgust.

GORDY RAMSLO

So you mean to tell me that of all the sous chefs that I have here, the only one that could give me an answer is the daughter of a line order cook?

ROUX

My father is a really good cook.

Gordy stops in his tracks immediately as he is offended that she responded and defended her father. He stops and turns as everyone in the kitchen stops what they're doing to see what he will do next.

GORDY RAMSLO

Did you say something?

He begins to walk towards her.

ROUX

I just said that my father is a really good cook.

GORDY RAMSLO

So you think he's a good cook?

ROUX

Yes Chef.

GORDY RAMSLO

So good a cook that he decided to never become a true Chef?

ROUX

He loves what he does.

GORDY RAMSLO

And what is that? Serving mediocre food in a mediocre restaurant to mediocre customers?

ROUX

He taught me everything I know.

GORDY RAMSLO

Is that why you are here working for me now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ROUX

No Chef.

GORDY RAMSLO

So why is it that you are here?
What is it that you want?

ROUX

I want to become a chef and run my
own kitchen one day.

GORDY RAMSLO

A Kangaroo? --Running a
restaurant?

ROUX

Yes Chef.

GORDY RAMSLO

So you want to be a Chef? How are
you ever going to get your own
restaurant?

ROUX

I am going to win the Chief Chef
competition one day and then I'll
have my own restaurant.

Gordy begins to chuckle sarcastically.

GORDY RAMSLO

You and your dreams are hilarious.
I love it. You'll have to know
more than how to dice up an onion
without crying to become a Chief
Chef. That is only for the best
of the best. And in case you
didn't know --There has never
been a Kangaroo Chief Chef. The
thought of a rodent preparing food
gives

ROUX

First of all Kangaroos are
marsupials not rodents. And there
isn't any reason why

OCTAVIOUS, a long gangly octopus asks for assistance to
help take Gordy's focus off of Roux, his best friend, as
he can see that she is reaching her limits.

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CONTINUED: (4)

OCTAVIOUS

Chef, can you please test my scallops.

Gordy loses his focus on Roux and turns to Octavious.

GORDY RAMSLO

Test your scallops? Are you in training? I thought you were supposed to be one of my best.

OCTAVIOUS

I'm not in training Chef. This is one of your most magnificent dishes in my opinion. I don't trust my judgment on this one just yet. I would like your opinion so I can meet your expectations. I want them perfect.

GORDY RAMSLO

That's the first logical thing I've heard all night.

Gordy samples the scallops, closing his eyes finding the taste magnificent.

OCTAVIOUS

Chef? Are you OK?

GORDY RAMSLO

Good. --But not great.

OCTAVIOUS

It can always be better Chef. What could I do to make it better?

Gordy looks around somewhat puzzled as he tries to think of something to complain about.

GORDY RAMSLO

I doubt you could do anything to make it better than have me prepare it for you.

He quickly begins to walk out of the kitchen before anything else can be said.

OCTAVIOUS

Yes Chef.

As Gordy begins to walk away Octavious looks to Roux and a smile grows on his face.

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CONTINUED: (5)

ROUX

Why do you let him talk to you
that way?

Ignoring the question, Octavious continues working.

OCTAVIOUS

Do you have a potato peeler?

Roux begins to dig around in her pouch like it's a large
purse retrieving a shiny Potato Peeler.

ROUX

Never leave home without it.

OCTAVIOUS

That sure comes in handy.

ROUX

Good try. You still didn't answer
the question. Why do you put up
with him like that?

Octavious rests two of his tentacles on the counter while
the others continue to work as he props himself up.

OCTAVIOUS

The same reason everyone does; --
to learn from one of the best. --
I don't let it bother me.

They both return to preparing their food.

ROUX

He likes you. He hates me and he
does everything he can to make me
quit.

OCTAVIOUS

Are you kidding me? If it weren't
for my appendages and ability to
breath out of water for a little
bit he would gladly serve me up
with all the other sea creatures
on the menu. I'm sure he likes
you a little more than me, at
least mammals and birds don't have
to worry about being served up.

Octavious takes one of his spray bottles and sprays
himself down so he can stay wet.

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CONTINUED: (6)

ROUX

Maybe things will change one day.

OCTAVIOUS

What, everyone becoming vegan as opposed to quasi vegetarians? I don't see that happening anytime soon. I was one step away from being an appetizer myself.

ROUX

Hey, well I don't eat anything aquatic.

Octavious looks around quickly before whispering.

OCTAVIOUS

I can't say the same. It's totally delicious.

She imitates Gordy's voice and mannerisms.

ROUX

Hey focus on what you're doing before you overcook those scallops and bring the wrath of Ramslo.

They both begin to laugh at her attempt to mock him and others in the kitchen smile and chuckle as well.

INT RAM'S RESTAURANT KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The restaurant is moderately crowded as Gordy walks into the kitchen.

GORDY RAMSLO

Everyone be ready, the evening is just about to get started. You know your job, and I expect you

The restaurant host, a penguin comes waddling into the kitchen very frantically and interrupts.

PENGUIN

Gordy!!! Gordy!!!

GORDY RAMSLO

Can I help you?

PENGUIN

Chef, it's--

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He waddles over to Gordy and begins to whisper in his ear. Gordy's eyes grow wide with excitement.

GORDY RAMSLO

Chop-chop everyone. To your stations. Prepare to be at your very best.

He goes over to the pick up window zooming in on the world famous food critique Gretta Ray.

PENGUIN

Gretta Ray is here and she said that she is looking to fill an opening in the Chief Chef competition.

PELICAN SOUS CHEF

Who is Gretta Ray?

The deer sous chef across from him drops his cooking utensils and freezes with the deer in the headlight look with his mouth and eyes wide open.

OCTAVIOUS

You don't know who Gretta Ray is?

ROUX

She is only one of the most famous food critiques in the world. She can launch a restaurant into immediate success with a glowing review.

Gordy is washing his hands, checks himself in the reflection from the refrigerator's stainless steel. Yanks a fresh apron from the hand of a sous chef who was just about to put it on.

Gordy uses it to dry his hands and tosses it back into his face.

GORDY RAMSLO

Tonight is the night you all have dreamed of. The night that the dish you prepare will dance on the velvety tongue of the most elite and discriminating taste.

He takes a glass of water from the hand of a bus boy, drinks some, gargles the rest and spits it back in the glass, handing it back to the bus boy.

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CONTINUED: (2)

GORDY RAMSLO

Tonight we will prepare my signature dish. Octavious?

OCTAVIOUS

Yes Chef.

GORDY RAMSLO

Seared scallops with a creamy polenta for an appetizer.

OCTAVIOUS

Yes Chef. It will be my best.

Gordy puts his arm around the Deer Sous Chef and tries to use a calming voice to help him regain his focus.

GORDY RAMSLO

Something simple. Just a grilled asparagus with a touch of olive oil, lime and a nice Mediterranean blend of spices. Can you handle that?

DEER SOUS CHEF

It will be my pleasure chef.

ROUX

What would you like for me to do Chef?

Gordy steps to the center of the kitchen to ensure all will hear his response.

GORDY RAMSLO

This isn't time to play. No Shoe Chefs tonight. I will prepare perfection for her.

ROUX

I'm ready chef. --I would be honored to make a desert that will bring a smile to her face.

Gordy ignores her continuing to address the team.

GORDY RAMSLO

Oh, but she will have a smile on her face. --She will be engulfed in pleasure from the sound of the dish sizzling as it arrives. The sight of a work of art masterfully placed on her dish.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GORDY RAMSLO (CONT'D)

The scents that will tickle her fancy and the various textures from each bite that will play in her mind well after she is gone -- Oh -- and a taste -- a taste that will leave her wanting more.

Gordy walks to Roux and puts his arm around her as he walks her to the sink of dishes and hands her a wet towel.

GORDY RAMSLO (CONT'D)

--This is not a night for dreamers. This is a night for perfection, glorious perfection, no meticulously standard deserts. No this will come from my fingers with a pride and joy you couldn't understand.

Gordy pats her on the back and heads out to meet Gretta.

Octavious reaches over to her with one of his tentacles while the other tentacles continue to work expertly preparing the scallops.

OCTAVIOUS

Do me a favor. Make us one of your Eggplant Parmesan dishes with a side of the four cheese stuffed shells so we can try that new smoky marinara you were raving about.

ROUX

I was hoping to prepared it for Gordy to see if he would add it to the menu.

OCTAVIOUS

Trust me, this will be the best chance you have to get him to consider something new.

She looks to him with a sad, confused look.

OCTAVIOUS

Give me your best. Put your heart in it and don't hold back.

He winks at her, returning his focus to preparing his dish.

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CONTINUED: (4)

Roux looks inspired as she stops washing dishes and begins preparing her dish.

INT GRETТА TABLE - CONTINUOUS

GORDY RAMSLO

Gretta, it's a pleasure to meet you in person and I honestly look forward to serving you with a personal favorite.

GRETТА RAY

I can't wait to taste it. I have heard so much about your restaurant that I had to come see it for myself.

Gordy sits a little taller and his chest fills with pride at the compliment.

GORDY RAMSLO

I assure you, this will be a meal you will not forget.

GRETТА RAY

I honestly hope so as we're trying to fill the final spot in our Chief Chef competition in New Yak.

GORDY RAMSLO

What an honor it would be to be considered. I will give you my absolute best tonight.

Gordy graciously bows his head, his horns reflecting light off an edge.

INT RAM'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Gordy walks back into the kitchen.

GORDY RAMSLO

Octavious? Where are we with those scallops? How much more time do--

OCTAVIOUS

I was just waiting for your approval before I presented my dish Chef.

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Gordy tastes the scallops and is overwhelmed by the perfection.

GORDY RAMSLO

And I thought you couldn't do any better with the scallops. Perfection Octavious, sheer perfection.

Gordy pats him on the back as Octavious exits to the restaruant with his dish. He walks over to Gretta.

INT GRETTA TABLE - CONTINUOUS

OCTAVIOUS

I would like to present you with our signature appetizer of seared scallops with a creamy polenta sauce.

She closes her eyes as the smells waft to her nostrils.

GRETTA RAY

Oh this smells delicious. I almost hate to eat it, as it looks so amazing. It looks like you poured your heart into it.

OCTAVIOUS

My feelings would be so crushed if you didn't taste it. Seeing you eat it will be reward enough.

GRETTA RAY

Wonderful.

She slowly brings the fork to her beak, opens and places the morsel in her mouth and pulls a clean fork out.

Octavious and the patrons sitting near watch on with amazement and anticipation.

PENGUIN

And?

GRETTA RAY

This has to be the most wonderfully prepared scallop that I have tasted. How could you make something so simple taste so amazingly delightful?

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CONTINUED:

OCTAVIOUS

It's a long story.

GRETТА RAY

Please sit down and tell me. But first, I must know the name of the individual that created such a joyful dish.

OCTAVIOUS

My name is Octavious

Camera pulls away as he takes a seat and they begin to talk.

INT RAM'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Octavious stops to talk to the penguin before returning to the kitchen.

OCTAVIOUS

Gretta said she doesn't have much time to spare and that she really wanted to try a pasta dish, as that is what they're hoping to enter into the contest.

PENGUIN

But we don't have a

Meet me at the window; I have something to hold her over until Gordy is ready.

PENGUIN

Oh thank you so much. I didn't want to deliver the bad news to Gordy.

Octavious walks into the kitchen as Gordy looks up.

GORDY RAMSLO

How did she like it?

OCTAVIOUS

She said it was one of the best scallop dishes she ever had.

Octavious assumes his place back beside Roux.

ROUX

Oh I am so proud of you.

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OCTAVIOUS

Are you done with your plates?

ROUX

Just putting the final touches on them. -- Bad thing is it'll be cold by the time we're able to eat it.

OCTAVIOUS

You're probably right. Maybe we can make a fresh one together.

Octavious takes one of the plates and walks it over to the window, handing it to the Penguin.

OCTAVIOUS

I promised Gretta that she would have these immediately and I would introduce Roux to her in a moment.

PENGUIN

Great job! Thank you.

He takes the dish from the window to deliver them.

OCTAVIOUS

(to himself)
Thank you.

Roux waits for Octavious to ask a question.

ROUX

What are you doing?

OCTAVIOUS

Oh, I told Gretta that the best cook in the restaurant was going to present her with a special pasta dish. I think you need to go out there before it's too late.

Roux begins bouncing in place.

OCTAVIOUS (CONT'D)

Well what are you waiting for? Go introduce your dish before she eats it all.

Roux takes off her apron and straightens herself up. She begins to walk out of the kitchen passing by the frantically working Chef Gordy doesn't notice her.

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CONTINUED: (2)

GORDY RAMSLO
Time? --How much more time?

VOICE (O.S.)
Five minutes.

GORDY RAMSLO
Quickly, quickly.

INT GRETТА TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Roux is walking to the table as she sees Gretta is already indulging in the dish. She has taken a bite from the four cheese stuffed shells and has just taken a forkful of the Eggplant Parmesan.

Roux continues to approach but much slower as she is getting nervous as all the patrons are watching and waiting to see her reaction. The penguin host is still standing by her side monitoring. As Roux gets a few feet away she stops and stands in front of the table.

The look on Gretta's face is blank almost as if she is at a loss of words.

PENGUIN
Would you like something
different?

There is no response from Gretta. She continues to chew slowly in silence before she opens her mouth to take another bite.

GRETТА RAY
I thought I had tasted the most
wonderful dish just minutes ago.

She continues to chew in an effort clear her mouth so she can speak more clearly. She dabs her beak with her napkin.

GRETТА RAY
But then I tasted these two dishes
and realized that I was eating
something straight out of heaven.

INT RAM'S KITCHEN

Gordy takes a small slice from his dish. He looks around the kitchen.

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GORDY RAMSLO

Roux. -- Where is Roux?

No one answers.

GORDY RAMSLO

I need her sauce. It will be the final touch. Where is she?

The Penguin walks into the kitchen smiling.

GORDY RAMSLO (CONT'D)

Can anyone tell me where Roux is?

The Penguin looks baffled as he approaches Gordy.

PENGUIN

She is sitting with Gretta. She loved the dish she made. She said

Gordy grabs him and pulls him close.

GORDY RAMSLO

She what?

The penguin is answering in fright and confusion.

PENGUIN

She was in hurry. She asked for a pasta dish and I gave her one.

Gordy rushed out into the restaurant.

GORDY RAMSLO

You idiot.

As Gordy enters the restaurant he sees Gretta walking out of the front door.

Gordy tries to make his way through the crowd but the evening rush has just made there way in and he is unable to maneuver through in time.

Gordy watches through the window as Gretta enters the a fancy stretch limousine and drives away.

INT RAM'S KITCHEN

As Gordy enters the kitchen he is upset and stupefied by all the celebrating that is going on.

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CONTINUED:

GORDY RAMSLO

What in blazes is going on in here?

PENGUIN

I was trying to tell you--

GORDY RAMSLO

Tell me what?

The penguin hands Gordy a gold envelop that he opens.

GORDY RAMSLO

Is this real?

ROUX

Very real. She said it was the best combination of an appetizer and entree that she has ever tasted. And she said we won the final spot in the Chief Chef competition.

The group cheers but Gordy stands with a sneer on his face while looking at the invitation.

INT. RAM'S KITCHEN - CLOSING TIME

Closing time and everyone is convening in the kitchen as Gordy walks in holding the Chief Chef Invitation.

GORDY RAMSLO

Fortunately tonight we were lucky and dodged a bullet. We got an invitation to the Chief Chef competition.

Everyone begins to claps and celebrate except Roux and Octavius.

GORDY RAMSLO (CONT'D)

The bad thing is we are only allowed to have three on the team.

Roux leans towards Octavius and quietly speaks.

ROUX

So who is he going to bring as the third cook?

OCTAVIOUS

Beats me.

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ROUX

Man that's going to be a hard one, who do you bring, someone who is average in everything --or someone that is really good at a couple of things. Oh, or a desert specialist. That's what I would do.

GORDY RAMSLO

Roux, while we are gone you will take the lead on the appetizers and deserts.

ROUX

What?! What do you mean while you're gone at the competition--

GORDY RAMSLO

You didn't honestly think that I was taking you did you? --What just because you cooked one of your out of the box meticulously measured dishes that tastes EXACTLY the same as every other at home, do it yourself cook?

Roux starts to look embarrassed.

GORDY RAMSLO (CONT'D)

You were fortunate that she hadn't tasted that dish ten more times until she realized no matter how many times you prepare a dish it's the exact same. If this were a fast food restaurant for kids that would be WONDERFUL. But this is a restaurant that sells an experience. THAT is why you are not going to the competition and that is WHY you will NEVER be a real chef in a real restaurant. You will be lucky if you are doomed to create dishes like your father.

Roux covers her face as she storms out of the kitchen.

OCTAVIOUS

Roux!

INT ROUX HOME BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Roux is lying on her side in her bed hugging a pillow tightly, sobbing. The soft sound of Kairoo's FOOTSTEPS are heard getting closer. There is a pause outside of her door before a light KNOCK, KNOCK is heard.

KAIROO

Honey?

Kairoo slowly turns the doorknob and the CREEK of the door slowly being opened cracks the silence of the house. Kairoo barely opens the door.

KAIROO (CONT'D)

Roux, I'm coming in.

Roux wipes her face and sits up in the bed.

Kairoo walks over to her and sits down beside her. He leans over puts his arm around her.

KAIROO

I so wish I could protect you from all the unfairness of the world.

ROUX

I worked so hard for that opportunity dad. I had my dream right in the palm of my hand and it was taken away.

KAIROO

Don't ever let anyone take your dreams. If something temporarily stops you, you find another way. You never stop. You never give up.

Roux looks up to look her dad in the eyes.

ROUX

Be honest dad. You still have faith your dreams will come true?

Kairoo kisses her on the forehead.

KAIROO

I put my dreams on hold. But with time and life you will find that some of your dreams will change.

(MORE)

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KAIROO (CONT'D)

Not that you gave up, but that your priorities change and that determines what's important to you. That shapes your dreams.

ROUX

So you don't feel like you gave up?

KAIROO

Not at all. I still believe that we're going run our own restaurant one day. I have no doubt about that. And I don't feel that this is a setback.

ROUX

But how--

KAIROO

You've already been planning on moving out, getting a new job and chasing your dreams. Maybe this was just a way of expediting that plan.

ROUX

But I haven't heard back from any of the restaurants.

KAIROO

Go. Go apply in person. Show them your passion, beg them to taste your cooking. Think outside the box. Stop playing it safe.

ROUX

You mean just go out somewhere and apply in person?

KAIROO

That's how we used to do it back in the day before there was the Internet.

ROUX

And run the risk of being rejected to my face.

KAIROO

Or getting accepted.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ROUX

Again, getting rejected in person.
That would be so heartbreaking.

KAIROO

Honey, if you never put yourself
out there -- you'll never know
what could've been. Don't live a
life of regret wondering what
could have happened, what should
have been.

ROUX

I can't go back to work tomorrow
dad.

KAIROO

I wasn't expecting you to. We've
been saving up for our restaurant
for quite some time. I think it's
time to use some of that money on
your dream.

ROUX

We can't. That's for our place.

KAIROO

Let's call it an investment in our
place, our future. I have faith
in you Honey. Plus I promised
your mom I would give you a better
life than we had.

Roux stretches her neck to kiss Kairoo on the cheek and
rests her head back on his shoulder with a satisfied
smile.

ROUX

I'm going to make you proud dad.

KAIROO

Remember the time that we totally
burned that

The discussion becomes inaudible as the scene fades.

FADE OUT.

INT CAB - AFTERNOON

Roux is in a cab driving away from the airport.

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CONTINUED:

CAB DRIVER

So welcome to New Yak. Ya first
time visitin' here?

He looks in the rear view mirror so he can see her as she
responds.

ROUX

Oh yes! I'm very excited.

CAB DRIVER

So where ya from?

ROUX

New Orleans. This is my first
time away from home.

CAB DRIVER

So what brings you here?

ROUX

Chasing my dream.

CAB DRIVER

So what, you an actress or singa
or somefin'?

Roux begins to chuckle and blushes at the thought.

ROUX

Oh no. -- I'm here to work as a
chef in a restaurant and hopefully
get a chance to compete in a
contest for Chief Chef one day.

CAB DRIVER

Well you came to the right place.
You're going to the famous
Restaurant Row, known around the
world for having some of the most
famous restaurants.

Roux is clinching her apron in her hands, smiling.

EXT CAB - CONTINUOUS

The cab slows to a stop along the curb. Roux stands on
the curb as he retrieves her suitcases.

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CAB DRIVER

Hey now, you be safe and I wish
you the very best. Make your
daddy proud.

ROUX

Thank you, I'll do my very best.

She looks around at all the restaurants. Takes one last
glance at the address on the paper, picks up her bags and
begins to walk to the building.

ROUX

You made it Roux. Now it's time
to make our dreams come true.

Roux sees a sign in the window.

ROUX

Closed for business? What are
they talking about?

She goes to the door of the restaurant and looks inside.

It's old, dusty and it's obvious that it hasn't been used
as a restaurant in quite some time.

ROUX

No! No! --This can't be.

She bangs on the glass. She waits a briefly before she
tries the doorknob.

ROUX

Hello! Hello! Is anyone there?

She backs away from the restaurant looking up to the
windows above.

ROUX

Hello? Is anyone there?

From behind, PETEY, a stocky peach and gray pig walks up
to her.

PETEY

Excuse me. Can I help you?

ROUX

Well I don't know. I -- I came
all the way from New Orleans to
work here at this restaurant and

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Petey interrupts her.

PETEY

Oh that's going to be a problem.
This place hasn't been open in
months.

ROUX

But I applied for a job posting
that they had posted. -- I even
sent them a deposit for the room
above the restaurant.

PETEY

Ewww. --That's gotta sting.
You're about the third one that
they've caught with that scam.

ROUX

What about my money? Where am I
going to stay?

PETEY

Well it's a weird coincidence.
But I have place just like this
and I have a room available if
your interested.

ROUX

Well I guess I don't really have
many options. I've been looking
for a place and a job for quite
some time. I should have known it
was too good to be true.

Petey moves to pick up her bags and realizes just how
heavy they're. But he refuses to ask for help.

He struggles to talk, and walk with the bags.

PETEY

Good thing for you. my place is
just a . few doors down the block.

ROUX

Do you need any help carrying
those?

PETEY

Oh no. I. I got 'em.

Petey wobbles down the street struggling. They look like
an odd couple as she towers over him as they walk.

EXT PETE MOSS RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Petey stops, placing the bags down. He digs in his pockets and begins to unlock the door.

PETEY

Well this is home sweet home for me. If you would like to see it first, you're welcome to go inside and have a look around.

ROUX

This place is yours? You're the owner of Pete Moss? --You know this place is famous. It's known for being the best all around the world.

Petey modestly nods and blinks slowly

PETEY

Well, it was world famous. I closed it after my wife died. Just had too many sad memories.

Petey's shoulders drop and he takes a deep breath.

PETEY (CONT'D)

I'm actually thinking about selling the place and traveling the

ROUX

You're thinking of selling? If you don't mind. May I ask how much?

PETEY

Well I have been entertaining offers from chefs and investors that see this as an opportunity to make money. I want to sell it to someone that is cooking for the love of it --cooking to make others happy.

ROUX

You just described me to a tee. I love cooking. I love everything about it. Cooking, cleaning, watching, smelling and tasting. I can't get enough.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PETEY

Well in that case. For you?
Anywhere close to a million
jumbies. Does that sound fair?

ROUX

Yeah, that definitely seems fair
for the location the history and
everything.

PETEY

So how far away from that are you?

ROUX

Hmmm, let's see. After I lost the
deposit on the apartment.

Roux is doing math on an imaginary chalkboard, counting
on her fingers and finally using an invisible calculator
in her hand.

ROUX (CONT'D)

Oh. gotta carry the one, round up
since it's over five and cha-ching
--

Petey is confused as he watches on.

ROUX (CONT'D)

I'm only about nine hundred and
fifty thousand jumbies -- give or
take about ten thousand with a
heavy lean on the take side.

Roux is standing there smiling while Petey laughs and
shakes his head.

PETEY

Well if you are still interested I
can show you the inside.

ROUX

I don't need to see anything. I
would love to stay here. This is
amazing.

PETEY

What's so amazing about a closed
restaurant?

ROUX

Everything! Can we go inside?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Petey shrugs his shoulders, and follows her inside.

Once inside, he turns on the lights to show it is empty and lifeless.

ROUX

I don't have much money, and now I am going to have to find a new job.

PETEY

I have a daughter that looks like she would be a few years older than you. My wife would scorn me if I just left you out on the street like this.

ROUX

I promise you I won't take advantage of your kindness. I truly appreciate your help.

PETEY

Maybe you can help me get things cleaned up so I can sell it. Only reason I haven't sold is I needed some help.

Roux turns to him with a bright smile and reaches out to shake his hand.

ROUX

Deal.

PETEY

I'll take your bags up to your room. It's the room to the right once you go up the stairs. Feel free to acquaint yourself with the place.

Roux continues to walk through the restaurant imagining the possibilities that flash in her head.

ON SCREEN show waiters serving dishes to a jam packed restaurant, talking, movement and smiling faces.

INT PETE MOSS KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Roux is in the kitchen and doing an inventory check.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROUX

Everything is still here. It just needs a good cleaning and some reorganizing.

Pete stands in the middle looking around.

PETEY

My wife and I had some wonderful memories here. We spent the majority of our lives making dishes that brought smiles to faces from around the world.

ROUX

Does everything still work?

PETEY

I would think so. Might take a little elbow grease but we can worry about that tomorrow.

Petey reaches out to give her the keys.

ROUX

Sure, I look forward to it.

PETEY

I live a few blocks away. My number is on the board. I'll see you bright and early in the morning.

Petey walks out of the kitchen. Roux continues to look around the kitchen.

ROUX

What if this were my place? What would I do?

EXT PETE MOSS RESTAURANT - NEXT MORNING

Petey is walking up to the entrance of the restaurant and notices that the windows are crisp and clean with a ray of light reflecting off of it onto a flower near the sidewalk.

INT PETE MOSS RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

He unlocks the door, immediately stops in his tracks as he is in awe at the bright airy feel of the restaurant.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He begins to walk again, slowly soaking everything in when a visible scent begins to waft through the air and tickle his nose.

Petey closes his eyes and inhales deeply as his chest fills with the scents of breakfast. He licks his lips and follows the scents into the kitchen.

INT PETE MOSS KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

PETEY

Good morning! I hardly recognized the place. I haven't seen it look like that in years.

Roux looks over her shoulder and as she continues to finish cooking.

ROUX

Oh, good morning to you too! I didn't hear you come in. Hope you brought an appetite; I wanted to test out the kitchen.

Petey continues to look around at how nicely the kitchen is cleaned up and sneaks a piece of food off the various dishes that have been prepared.

PETEY

Did I bring my appetite? I'm a pig. I can't go anywhere without it. That's why I became a chef. I love to cook.

As he is walking he can't help but see how many measuring cups and measuring spoons she has lying around the kitchen.

ROUX

Well that's one thing we have in common. I love cooking more than almost anything in this world. My dad loved to cook and I think he passed it on to me. He loved cooking so much he named me Roux.

Roux finishes her last dish and turns to place it beside the others on the island behind her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PETEY

Well it is obvious that you do more than love cooking. You appear to have been trained.

They take their seats to eat and continue to talk.

ROUX

My dad taught me how to cook when I was just a little girl. Then I went to culinary school as our dream was to one day run our own place together.

PETEY

I have to say I am very impressed. By the looks and smell of everything I can't wait to see how it tastes.

ROUX

Please, go ahead and help yourself.

PETEY

I can't figure out where to begin. It all looks so good.

Petey takes a cloth napkin from the table and snaps the two corners in the air, whiting out the screen.

WHITE OUT

INT PETE MOSS RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

They're done eating and looking pleasantly stuffed.

PETEY

Oh that was so wonderful. I feel like a stuffed pig.

He pauses at the thought of what he just said and Roux begins to laugh at his expression.

PETEY (CONT'D)

I guess I resemble that thought.

ROUX

You remind me so much of my father. He loves to cook but he loves to eat even more.