

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The family, minus Bren, are all sat eating around the dining table. A varied spread of food before them. An awkward silence lingers as they eat.

Tammy and Jake exchange venomous glances across the table.

Grandpa and Troy ignorantly stuff their mouths.

Gloria is visibly uncomfortable about the entire dinner.

JAKE

Bren?

GLORIA

Sick.

Jake nods. The awkward silence returns.

Ana looks curiously at the barred windows and door that lead out onto the back yard.

She turns and smiles at Gloria.

ANA

The food's delicious, Gloria.

GLORIA

Thank you, Ana. Apparently you're all enjoying it too much to even talk.

Continued silence.

ANA

I've gotta ask, what's with all the bars on the windows?

Nervous glances are exchanged between the others.

JAKE

Well, look around, babe. Nothing but forest for miles in every direction. Gloria's gotta keep the wildlife out somehow.

ANA

Really? You get much in the way of dangerous wildlife around here?

TROY

Oh yeah. Badgers, raccoons,
squirrels, field mice, all of these
coming of course in both your
standard and homicidal varieties --

GLORIA

We had a, uh, incident, at our last
home. A break in...

Grandpa senses Gloria's unease at the question.

GRANDPA

We'd just rather be safe than
sorry.

ANA

Oh... well I'm sorry to hear that -
about the break in I mean. People
can be real monsters sometimes.

Gloria feigns a smile.

GLORIA

So, Ana, tell us what you do?

ANA

Oh I uh, work at a bar.

TAMMY

Titty bar?

Troy almost chokes on his food trying to stifle a laugh.

Gloria kicks Tammy under the table.

Tammy shoots Gloria a severe look.

ANA

Nope, just a regular bar.

GLORIA

That where you and Jake met?

ANA

(smiling at Jake)

No, actually, I was out for a run
and we just sorta bumped into each
other. That was, what, three months
ago, babe?

Jakes smiles back and takes her hand.

JAKE
Love at first sight.

Tammy takes a sip of her wine.

TAMMY
(not so discreetly)
First sight of her ass.

'Uh oh' glances exchanged around the table.

JAKE
What was that?

Gloria seems desperate to diffuse the situation.

GLORIA
Steph and Vaughn send their
regards. They planned to come, but
apparently Billy's got fleas and
they thought it best to stay away.

Jake lets Tammy's insult slide.

JAKE
Fleas, huh?

TAMMY
Yeah, Jake, ya know, those little,
good for nothing, blood sucking
parasites that make you wanna pull
your own hair out.

JAKE
Oh trust me, I know what it's like
to live with a parasite... put up
with one for six years.

Tammy slams her cutlery down.

Gloria coughs on her food.

Troy snort-laughs.

Gloria kicks Troy under the table.

TROY
Ow!

GLORIA
Um, maybe --

TAMMY
You put up with *me*?!

JAKE
Here it comes.

TAMMY
You arrogant fuck!

GLORIA
Tammy!

Grandpa snort-laughes.

Gloria kicks Grandpa under the table.

GRANDPA
Hey!

TAMMY
I was the one who put up with *your*
shit for six years!

JAKE
Oh yeah, how'd you figure
that, Tammy? Please, explain
it to me! Cos by my
recollection you were an
incessant alpha bitch --

JAKE
Preoccupied with your own
shit to even notice --

JAKE
Always on my case!
Suffocating me! Never giving
me a minute to breathe --

JAKE
I pulled my weight! Don't
make out like I didn't! I
sacrificed my career to be
with you! What a huge fucking
mistake that was --

TAMMY (CONT'D)
Day in day out all I got was
disrespect! Never any
consideration for *my* needs!
Not even a scrap --

TAMMY (CONT'D)
Lazy! Unhelpful! Selfish!
Womanizing --

TAMMY (CONT'D)
Sitting around on your ass
like a bum, while I went out
and worked --

TAMMY (CONT'D)
Couldn't even have dinner
cooked for us when I got
home! I mean how hard is it
to throw something in the
microwave --

Gloria stands whilst slamming her hands down onto the table,
silencing the bickering pair.

Everyone turns to Gloria.

GLORIA
(cordial)
Who's for cake?

Troy and Grandpa raise their eager hands.

GRANDPA
Mm-Mmm!

TROY
Right here.