

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN SET - DAY

Two well-dressed, middle-aged men and a petite woman with quirky glasses sit on a raised platform that faces a large industrial kitchen.

TELEVISION CAMERAS surround them. People hold LIGHTS and BOOM MICROPHONES behind the cameras - they are filming a reality cooking competition.

The woman, DENISE THOMPSON (35), has a huge smile on her face as she holds up a large glossy COOKBOOK. The cover shows two steaming human breasts that rest on a bed of lettuce.

DENISE

Before we meet our contestants, I want to proudly announce the launch of my new book titled "Who's For Dinner?" that will be in stores soon! A huge thank you to Chrissy Teigen for making this all possible!

The men on either side of her applaud. Their smiles are massive and eerie.

One of the men, RICHARD JOHNSON (48), picks up another copy of the book that sits on a SIDE TABLE next to him, and flips through it with intense enthusiasm.

The other man, LARRY STEVENS (50), LAUGHS with intensity and turns to the camera.

LARRY

Now then, Jim, would you like to introduce our contestants?

JIM WESTON (40), the shows host, walks into frame in front of the panel of judges in a designer suit and slicked hair, with a long skinny MICROPHONE held to his lips.

JIM

Oh, it'd be my pleasure, Larry!

Jim hops off the platform flamboyantly, and dances his way over into the kitchen where three contestants wait.

He stops at a very plump woman in an APRON that looks like she stitched it herself. Her NAME TAG reads THERESA (40).

JIM (CONT'D)

Our first contestant, Theresa, is from Kansas City. She enjoys knitting, Dancing with the Stars, and barbecuing for her family on the weekends!

Jim places a hand on her stomach, pats it, and leans into the camera.

JIM (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Clearly a little too much if you know what I mean!

He laughs obnoxiously. Theresa frowns and looks around awkwardly in the background of the shot.

He moves onto the next contestant whose NAME TAG reads ISAAC (21). He is tall and lanky. His T-SHIRT leaves his tattooed arms on display. His NOSE RING dangles just below his nostril.

JIM (CONT'D)

And here we have our friend Isaac, a young fellow from New Jersey who just graduated culinary school!

Jim smiles and gives Isaac a congratulatory pat on the back. He moves his microphone in front of Isaac's mouth.

ISAAC

That's right, Jim! Ever since I was a little boy, I dreamed of -

Jim takes the mic away, and shimmies over to the last contestant, a man whose NAME TAG reads DOM (28). He's short and very fit. His bald head gleams under the studio lights.

JIM

And finally, we reach Dom. Dom, has anyone ever told you that you look like Mr.Clean's short cousin?

Jim SNORTS and rubs Dom's head. He puts the microphone in front of Dom, who just stares into the camera like a deer in headlights. Sweat forms on his forehead.

JIM (CONT'D)

Uh-Yeah...Anyway...

Jim twirls out of the kitchen and makes his way back to the judges.

JIM (CONT'D)

We want to thank you three for being on the show today! We have some hungry judges here who are looking forward to seeing who will...

THE JUDGES

Cook or be cooked!

ISAAC

Wait, what did they say?

The judges all CLAP and look at each other with excitement.

JIM

That's right folks! Denise, why don't you tell our little chefs what's on the menu today!

DENISE

Yes - you will all be preparing fall off the bone pork back ribs with a side of slow cooker collared greens, as well as your rendition of classic macaroni and cheese!

Richard licks his lips, his eyes wide.

RICHARD

Yes, fatten them up!

ISAAC

(panicked)

What did he say?!

Theresa takes a deep, nervous BREATH.

Dom is still in a frozen state of shock in front of the camera.

Isaac looks around frantically for a way out.

LARRY

You all know the drill. Once the dishes are complete, myself, Denise and Richard will do a taste test and rate you on presentation. Whoever we deem the winner will walk away with a cash prize of a \$30 Walmart gift card!

ISAAC

And the losers?

Jim LAUGHS and rolls his eyes.

JIM  
Judges? What's our show called?

THE JUDGES  
Cook or be cooked!

Isaac GULPS.

DENISE  
Alright folks, your five minutes  
start...Now!

THERESA  
Five minutes?!

JIM  
Four minutes and fifty-eight  
seconds now, slow poke!

The judges and Jim all CACKLE in unison.

Theresa and Isaac scramble around the kitchen, determination on Theresa's face, and terror on Isaac's.

The camera focuses in on Dom who is tries and fails to start the STOVE.

JIM (CONT'D)  
While our chefs are hard at work,  
let's check in with our judges!

Jim wedges himself between Denise and Richard, his arm around Denise.

JIM (CONT'D)  
Judges, who is our prospective  
winner so far in the competition?

The judges all smile into the camera.

DENISE  
I speak on behalf of all of us when  
I say we just hope it isn't  
Theresa. We are really hungry  
today, and Isaac just isn't gonna  
cut it.

LARRY  
We like a little meat on our bones,  
Jim.

They all LAUGH.

JIM  
That you do, that you do!

Jim makes his way to the front of the camera.

JIM (CONT'D)  
And...time!

The contestants look at Jim with horror.

Theresa just got the oven on, Isaac's POT of macaroni is barely al dente and bubbles over, and Dom is on his phone. The camera pans over his shoulder to see what he looks at.

INSERT: DOM'S PHONE SCREEN

Dom google-searches "What are collared greens?"

END INSERT

THERESA  
That was, like, three minutes!

Jim drops his smile with speed, and whips his head over to Theresa.

JIM  
(demonic voice)  
Time is a construct!

His smile returns as he faces the camera.

JIM (CONT'D)  
Alrighty, folks! Let's see how our little chefs did!

Jim walks into the kitchen and looks at their stations.

JIM (CONT'D)  
Yeah...I see nothing. Judges, what do we do?

The judges all look at each other. Their smiles grow until their maniacal LAUGHTER takes over the studio.

Denise throws her head back and slaps her knee.

INT. KITCHEN SET - NIGHT

There's a warm glow through a small window. Otherwise, the screen is shrouded in darkness.

We hear FOOTSTEPS approach from the shadows. The window lowers, and we realize we are inside an OVEN. Steam shoots out of the door, and once it clears, we see:

Denise, Richard and Larry. They stand with their heads close, right outside the oven. They stare into the camera, with evil grins on their faces.

It turns into a frozen black and white image.

INSERT: FINAL IMAGE

THE END appears written on the screen, and drips in red BLOOD.

END INSERT

FADE OUT.