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THE BEAR

"Forks"
Episode #207

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THE BEAR

"Forks"
Episode #207

Full Blue Draft - 3/19/23

CAST LIST

CARMEN "CARMY" BERZATTO
RICHARD "RICHIE" JERIMOVICH
FAK

GARRETT
TIFFANY*
GM
CDC
COMMIS
SERVER #1
JESSICA
DINER
GUEST
CHEF ANDREA TERRY*

CHEFS+
STAFF+
BALD GUY+
JILL+
TIM+
SERVER #2+

+non-speaking character

THE BEAR

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SET LIST

INTERIORS

INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM
INT. RICHIE'S BATHROOM
INT. RICHIE'S CAR
INT. EVER/DINING ROOM*
INT. EVER/KITCHEN*
INT. EVER/BATHROOM*
INT. EVER/PREP KITCHEN*
INT. EVER/LOCKERS*
INT. PEQUOD'S PIZZA
INT. THE BEEF

EXTERIORS

EXT. RICHIE'S APARTMENT
EXT. LINCOLN PARK
EXT. EVER*
EXT. EVER/ALLEY*
EXT. ARMITAGE L STOP
EXT. STREET

1 AN ALARM CLOCK BUZZES FOREVER 1
5am. RICHIE finally hits it off, bleary eyed, lays there.

2 INT. RICHIE'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 2
Looks at himself. Tired. Getting older. Depressed. A picture of MIKEY tucked into the mirror.

3 EXT. RICHIE'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER 3
Richie, BEEF shirt and a parka, moves to his car.

4 INT. RICHIE'S CAR - MORNING 4
He starts it, it rattles, it's frigid. Blows into his hands. Lights a cigarette.

5 EXT. LINCOLN PARK - MORNING 5
Sun comes up over the Lake, over LSD...

6 EXT. EVER - EARLY MORNING 6 *

Richie stands outside the unmarked, NAVY BLUE building. It doesn't fit with the neighborhood, unique in every way.

RICHIE
Bullshit.

7 INT. EVER/DINING ROOM - MORNING 7 *

Richie enters. Silence. The most elegant dining room he's ever been in. He nervously steps through. Something hanging from the ceiling, A SMALL BLACK ORB, hits him in the head...

Richie dodges the other MANY ORBS HANGING FROM THE CEILING ABOVE TABLES and moves to --

8 INT. EVER/KITCHEN - MORNING 8 *

The kitchen, still no one. Bright WHITE hurts his eyes, until it doesn't. Gorgeous. Still. He looks at the Vacheron Constantin clock: It's 5:47 a.m. Underneath, a plaque reads:

EVERY SECOND COUNTS

He drags his finger across the pass. Acrylic. Smooth. He hears a door close. GARRETT, suited, half his age, enters.

GARRETT

Forks.

RICHIE

No, I'm Richie.

GARRETT

I understand. I'm Garrett, back wait staff. You're forks. Change your shirt.

9 INT. EVER/BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 9 *

Richie puts on a CHEF'S SHIRT. Slowly buttons it OVER THE BEEF logo. EVER stitched in NAVY on the right breast. *

CUT TO:

A FORK

Polished. Each TINE SCRUBBED.

10 INT. EVER/PREP KITCHEN - MORNING 10 *

Richie polishes. Blue apron. FORK after FORK. Over and over.

11 EXT. EVER/ALLEY - AFTERNOON 11 *

Richie smokes a cigarette. Garrett pops his head out.

GARRETT

Can you take your coat off when you smoke? The smoke sticks to it and it smells. Thank you.

RICHIE

Got it.

Garrett exits. Richie exhales, takes his jacket off, walks...

12 EXT. ARMITAGE L STOP - MOMENTS LATER 12

Richie smokes, watches the trains above roll over him. His phone buzzes, TIFF. He grabs it. *

RICHIE *

Hey. *

TIFF *
Hi, how are you? *

RICHIE *
I'm ah... I'm great I'm just at *
work, what's going on? Eva okay-- *

TIFF *
Yeah, she's great-- *

RICHIE *
Unc's working on T Swift tix-- *

TIFF *
Oh amazing, she'll be so psyched-- *

RICHIE *
Yeah, I know... *

TIF *
Look, I know you're busy I um... I *
wanted to tell you something that's *
kinda hard and... *

RICHIE *
Are you alright? *

TIFF *
Yeah, fine, I just... I wanted you *
to hear it from me first-- *

RICHIE *
Hear what from you first-- *

TIFF *
Um, that Frank proposed to me. *

Richie nods. After a moment, laughs to himself. *

RICHIE *
Of course he did. And you said? *

TIFF *
I said yes, Richie. *

RICHIE *
Of course you did. *

TIFF *
He's a good person. *

RICHIE *
Of course he is. *
(then) *
(MORE) *

RICHIE (CONT'D)

That's... really great. I'm really
happy. Truly.

(then)

Congratulations.

*
*
*
*

13 INT. EVER/PREP KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

13 *

Right back at it, slower than everybody else and this kitchen is FAST, like highest-level-there-is fast. It's also silent, save for the ever-present clock ticking. Garrett approaches--

GARRETT

Chef. Done with the forks?

RICHIE

Chef. Almost. Every stage shine fuckin' forks on their first day?

GARRETT

First week.

RICHIE

First week?

GARRETT

First week is forks. If you're lucky, you'll make it to spoons. Can we cut down on the "fucks" too please?

RICHIE

How long am I supposed to be here?

GARRETT

A week.

RICHIE

Great. You want me to fork, I'll fork. I'm not gonna give Cousin the satisfaction of comin' back early. Kid's tryin' to punish me? I'll punish his ass.

GARRETT

He's punishing you by making you work at the best restaurant in the world?

RICHIE

He's punishing me for being ancillary.

GARRETT

Great, then here's a purpose: dry those properly. See that streak? That's bad.

RICHIE

Got it. Where's the boss?

GARRETT

Which boss?

RICHIE

Big Boss. Terry. *

GARRETT

Chef Terry is always around, always watching. *

Garrett tears off. The young worker bees keep stinging. Richie older, lost. Stares at a STREAK on the fork...

RICHIE

Fuck you, Cousin.

... puts it in the "clean" bin anyway.

SLAM OUT. Music.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A THREE STAR MICHELIN RESTAURANT.

- 14 INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14 *
- We've heard Carmy and Sydney's stories. But now we see it. FAST. VIBRANT. ELEGANT. ON REPEAT-- *GREEN THYME LEAVES* individually pulled. Delicate. Perfect. Repetition. Ritual. PRODUCE BROUGHT IN. CLEANED. PREPPED. Wrapped in damp paper towel, stowed in DELIS. LABELED with green tape.
- 14A INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14A *
- Richie drying forks.
- 14B INT. MONTAGE - RICHIE'S BEDROOM 14B
- Richie wakes up.
- 14C INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14C *
- EGG SHELLS* SAWED, yes SAWED, across the top, in perfect straight lines.
- 14D INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14D *
- Clock ticking. *SILVERWARE* polished. Wipe wipe wipe. Shine. And more forks...

- 14E INT. MONTAGE - RICHIE'S BEDROOM 14E
Richie wakes up.
- 14F INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14F *
- Richie cleans his forks, watches *TABLE LINENS* ironed, steamed. *KITCHEN LINENS* taped down over the pass, with cut green tape.
- 14G INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14G *
- BRIGHT SAUCES. FISH prepped, cleaned, cut.
- 14H INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14H *
- Clock ticking. *THREE SILVER STARS* hung over the kitchen, shined and wiped. And more forks...
- 14J INT. MONTAGE - RICHIE'S BEDROOM 14J
Richie wakes up.
- 14K INT. MONTAGE - RICHIE'S BATHROOM 14K
Richie looks in mirror.
- 14L INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14L *
- TABLES SET, NAPKINS CREASED AND FOLDED. BURNERS ON. SOUS VIDE BUBBLES. INGREDIENTS. ETC.
- 14M INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14M *
- All intercut with Richie polishing over and over and over. And more forks.
- 14N INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14N *
- CHEFS coming around CORNERS, THROUGH THE PASS, DUSTING THE DINING ROOM. SEEMINGLY THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYEES.

14P INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14P *

BUTTER SIZZLING. FOIE being cleaned, wrapped. EGG WHITE.
WAGYU. CAMEL.

14Q INT. MONTAGE - EVER 14Q *

And more forks. EVERY. SECOND. COUNTS.

15 INT. EVER/KITCHEN - NIGHT 15 *

Richie polishing, again. Garrett too, beside him. Silent.

RICHIE

(whispers)

Garrett... yo... Chef... I've been
doing this forever, can I wash
dishes or something?

GARRETT

We have the best dishwashers in the
world, you would slow them down.

Richie gives the fork a half-hearted wipe and throws it in
the "polished" tray. Garrett picks it back up--

GARRETT (CONT'D)

That wasn't clean.

RICHIE

I've been at this for 9 hours I
know what's clean.

GARRETT

I'm telling you it wasn't clean and
neither is this one--

RICHIE

They're god damn forks, bro--

STAFF turns, eyes Richie.

GARRETT

Outside.

16 EXT. EVER/ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER 16 *

Garrett and Richie step out --

GARRETT

You think this is below you?

RICHIE

I think I'm 45 years old polishing forks.

GARRETT

No one's begging you to be here. I don't think anyone even remembers your name--

RICHIE

Yeah nice try, you think I don't know it's a fuckin' bitch hiring people right now--

GARRETT

We don't have that problem.

RICHIE

Why don't you have that problem?

GARRETT

We have an awful lot of forks.

RICHIE

(breathes, beat)

You drink this kool-aid huh?

GARRETT

I do.

RICHIE

How come?

GARRETT

Because this restaurant opened twelve years ago and was voted best restaurant in the world the same year. It's retained three stars since the doors opened with a waitlist that's long, like really long, like 5000 people at any given moment. It's outrageously expensive because we set standards that are so outrageous it takes the toll and the time from a team of 200 people to keep it in orbit because at any given moment, one of those 5000 people might be given a chance to spend a large amount of their time and money here and they will have outrageous expectations.

(then)

So we're gonna need to have forks that don't have streaks on them.

Richie is actually listening.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

You don't have to drink the kool-aid, but if you're going to stay you need to have some respect for me, the rest of the staff, for the diners and for your self.

Richie calculates, then:

RICHIE

... Respect. I can do that.

GARRETT

Lovely, come back in.

17

INT. EVER/DINING ROOM - EVENING

17

*

PRE-SHIFT LINEUP. It's intense. Everyone is at laptops and scribbling notes. Like GROUND CONTROL about to launch a rocket. One BALD GUY is just sweating, folding napkins. Richie watches all of it.

GM

Tonight's PONs include...

RICHIE

(to Garrett)
What's PON?

GM (CONT'D)

... District Attorney...
Assistant Coach of the
Bulls... Dan Levy.

GARRETT

(whispers)
Person of Note.

GM

(reads off dossier)
On 29 at 7:15 we have Jill and Tim Perry. They're both teachers at Elmhurst High School. According to her Instagram, Jill's dream has always been to dine at a three star Michelin restaurant and they have been quote "saving up for this". They're reservation claims no allergies. I want to go above and beyond tonight.

(MORE)

GM (CONT'D)

Every supplement and caviar please, extra attention and a kitchen tour plus champagne in the Gallery and we're not gonna let these people spend a dollar, don't drop a check, let's blow their fucking minds.

ALL

CHEF.

Richie looks up, this sticks with him...

GM

Let's take all the brand-new candles and burn them down a bit before service please so they no longer look brand-new. Let's also watch the center doilies, make sure we're holding the steamer six inches away, I don't want to see any burns. Last thing... STILL no one owning up to the smudge... I want to clarify that it wasn't so much the smudge itself but rather the fact that no one claimed responsibility for the smudge in question. It's okay to make mistakes, we're not children, it's okay to smudge things, but we need to address the mistakes and the smudges immediately with honesty and integrity. Anybody wanna talk anymore about the smudge?

Then. The CDC ENTERS. Out of breath. Pissed.

ALL

CHEF.

Richie looks at the chef's shirt, different than his. Pissed. ELEGANT. His INITIALS on the CUFF.

CDC

Quick menu updates, per Chef Terry the duck roulade will now be served with a Concord grape reduction instead of the cherry. We're also adding a dish. Course 6 will be a Dungeness crab with grapefruit and champagne.

(to GM)

Did you talk about the smudge?

*

GM

Only a lot.

CDC

I understand this sounds ridiculous, I'm aware I've had to say smudge like twenty times in the last two days but we had to reset the plate with the smudge because the persimmon glaze was smudged and it fucked the set which was for a four-top, which means all three plates had to be reset to match the smudge plate and it set us back around 45--

GM

47--

CDC

47 seconds. You cost us that kind of time you sure as shit better own up to it, because we're sure as shit gonna pay for it. Let's go to work.

*

ENTIRE FOH

SERVICE.

18

INT. EVER/PREP KITCHEN - NIGHT

18

*

Richie gets a rhythm, moves quicker. Looks at a COMMIS chef down the line. She plates a dish Richie can't quite figure out, a small pin WITH PAD of butter on it is stuck over a small cup of potato--

RICHIE

What's that?

COMMIS

"Hot Potato/Cold Potato".

RICHIE

What's on the stick?

COMMIS

Frozen butter. When you pull the pin out, it falls into the hot potato and you take it like a shot.

(then)

Try one.

RICHIE

Word.

(grabs one)

Just pull the...

COMMIS

Correct.

Richie pulls the pin. Shoots it. Smiles.

COMMIS (CONT'D)

Delicious right?

RICHIE

(mind blown)

That shit... is... FII-REEE.

(smiles)

Thank you.

Richie double takes the fork he's working on, holds it up to the light. Sees a streak, tries to get it off--

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Is there any more polish, Chef?

COMMIS

Near expo.

Richie threads through the line, stays close to the wall. opens a drawer near the kitchen doors, grabs a fresh SILVER polish...

He glances up, can see the dining room--

18A INT. EVER/DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

18A *

Richie sees JILL & TIM as GM explains their check is comped. They are elated, she is near tears. GM is smiling genuinely.

Richie takes this in.

19 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

19

Richie heads to car for the night. Hears the train roaring above him. Turns, watches it, listens for a moment.

20 INT. RICHIE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

20

Richie warms up, calls CARMY...

RICHIE

Cousin... yo... you're breaking
up... day five, crushing this shit--
looks like your punishment ain't
working, doggy, you might have to
turn the heat up a few levels, my
friend-- I can't hear you... FAK
SHUT THE FUCK UP... what?... hello--

He hangs up. Blows into his hands. Breathes.

21 INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING 21

The alarm goes off, Richie turns it off right away, jumps out of bed.

22 INT. RICHIE'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 22

He combs his hair, looks more rested.

23 INT. RICHIE'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER 23

He heads out for the day, stops at his MESSY coffee table. Gives it a quick straightening.

24 INT. EVER/PREP KITCHEN - MORNING 24 *

Richie moves to his station, his FORK BIN is gone. In its place, a SPORT COAT. Garrett enters--

GARRETT

You're trailing today. Get changed.

RICHIE

No more forks?

GARRETT

No more forks.

25 INT. EVER/LOCKERS - MOMENTS LATER 25 *

Richie puts on the sport coat, shirt and tie. They fit slightly off, but nice. He looks at himself, likes it.

GARRETT

You look good.

RICHIE

Feels kinda like armor.

GARRETT
That's kinda the point.

26 INT. EVER/DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON 26 *

Garrett and Richie pace through the dining room.

GARRETT
(pointing)
Table 1, 2, 3, 4... so on. We stagger reservations by 15 minutes so we don't stack the kitchen. We start with two tops, then move to four and so on. It's up to the servers to take the temperature of the room and communicate with each other.

RICHIE
How do they do that if they can't talk to each other?

27 INT. EVER/KITCHEN - NIGHT 27 *

SERVER #1 stands with their hands behind their back--

SERVER #1
... it's a Dungeness crab with grapefruit and champagne...

ANOTHER SERVER (SERVER #2) passes behind and elegantly takes a note from SERVER #1. SERVER #2 passes the note to GARRETT. Garrett opens the note, moves with Richie to the kitchen--

GARRETT
19 are bunch of assholes.

28 INT. EVER/KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 28 *

Richie passes a note to JESSICA, expo, at the pass--

JESSICA
BOGIES ON 19. WALK EVERYTHING FAST.

ALL
CHEF.

Beside Jessica's iPad/expo station are gridded sheets of color coded paper and intensely organized data.

RICHIE

What do the colors mean?

JESSICA

Orange is a dietary restriction,
Yellow is out of town, Green is a
VIP. Blue means kitchen tour.

RICHIE

What are those notes?

JESSICA

Table 15 likes to eat faster so we
speed up their tickets. 23 likes it
slower so we add an extra amuse to
not back up the kitchen. 22 doesn't
like people to speak to them.

RICHIE

Air traffic control shit. How do
you know all that?

JESSICA

All what?

RICHIE

All about the people eating.

JESSICA

We have a dedicated staff member
that researches each guest.

RICHIE

Wiretap those motherfuckers. What's
all the ticking?

JESSICA

Waitlist. Minute somebody no-shows
or cancels we pull somebody up.

RICHIE

How do they get here that fast?

JESSICA

We'll send a car.

RICHIE

Gangster. This is wild, how can you
do this all day?

JESSICA

I need you to stand in that corner
and get the fuck out of my way for
one minute.

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(he does, she calls out)
FIVE distillation. Eyes on 4.
(she hits a timer)
24 walking in 5--
(hits the timer again)
2 tasting amuse on deck, get them
out fast please thank you, walking
12, holding on 24 please, let's
pick it up EVERY SECOND COUNTS--
(hits the timer again)
3 going to 21, order fire 19, 8
walking in 5--
(hits a timer)
TRIPLE CHECK 5 please. White
chocolate allergy.

ALL

CHEF.

JESSICA

Every night you make somebody's
day.

RICHIE

What?

JESSICA

You asked me how I can do this.
That's how I can do this.

Richie stands riveted.

RICHIE

I can see the pattern.

JESSICA

Very happy to hear that.
(passes note to Server)
Thank you. 3 walking out. One
minute. Table dessert please. 19
go. 20. go. Hold 18--

ALL

HOLD 18 CHEF.

JESSICA

4. Go. 6. Go. 29. Go.
(note passed to her)
We have a birthday on 24, fire a
cake and four balloons please.
(slides a plate out of her
way)
Toss that, two minutes early,
remake please, walking in two.
(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

31 fire. Richie I'm talking to you
get that fuckin' plate outta my
face.

RICHIE

Yes, Chef.

JESSICA

Kill 31. 33 Go. Fire black cod
please. 19 walking in four--
(hits the timer)
Table 305. Hands please.

RICHIE

My hands?

JESSICA

Your hands. Please. Go to Garrett.

RICHIE

Yes, Chef.

JESSICA

Don't smudge.

Richie runs a gorgeous dish out to the dining room...

29

INT. EVER/DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

29

*

Garrett serves a TWO TOP. Richie softly hands him a plate.

GARRETT

This is your "Reuben". Rye with
veal and fermented pear.

The plate is stark, a strip of VEAL, rye seed, nothing else.

DINER

Beautiful. Is the pear underneath
the veal?

GARRETT

No, sir.

Garrett reaches above him, pulls on THE BLACK ORB that hit
Richie in the head originally, disconnects it from the
ceiling. Another SERVER wheels a cart over, Garrett slices
the ORB in half to reveal a beautiful BRIGHT RED FERMENTED
PEAR inside. He spoons it onto both slices of veal. Diners
impressed. Richie, hands behind his back, nods, smiles.

RICHIE

Fuck me.

GARRETT

Language.

DINER

Took the words right out of my
mouth.

THEN. A SERVER PASSES, PUTS A NOTE IN RICHIE'S HAND.

30

INT. EVER/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

30 *

Richie opens the note, reads it, moves to Jessica.

RICHIE

(screams)

CHEF.

JESSICA

Relax.

RICHIE

(calmer)

Chef.

JESSICA

Go.

RICHIE

Guest on 9 is heading out of town.
We overheard her tell her family
that she's really bummed they
didn't get to try a deep dish pizza
while she was in Chicago.

JESSICA

Got it. Thank you. They're on
course 6.

(hits timer, to kitchen)

Walk 7 for table 9 in two please.
Slow down course 8 and 9 surprise
on 10.

ALL

SURPRISE ON 10 CHEF.

RICHIE

What's the surprise on 10?

JESSICA

Take a wild guess.

RICHIE

You gonna make them a deep dish?

JESSICA

Nope.

31 EXT. LINCOLN PARK - NIGHT 31

Richie WHIPS AROUND A CORNER, runs down the street. Super Bowl. He turns into PEQUOD'S PIZZA.

32 INT. PEQUOD'S PIZZA - MOMENTS LATER 32

Richie at the counter --

RICHIE

I NEED A CLASSIC CHEESE STAT!

33 INT. EVER/KITCHEN - NIGHT 33 *

Richie runs the pizza into the kitchen--

RICHIE

CORNER. BEHIND. HOT.

CDC opens the box, takes the pizza out, goes to work. Richie's eyes wide in excitement, riveted, he looks to Jessica--

RICHIE (CONT'D)

Can I bring it out to them, Chef?

JESSICA

(smiles)

Go get 'em, Richie.

34 INT. EVER/DINING ROOM - NIGHT 34 *

Richie nervous, moves slow, brings the PLATE to table 9. Breathes, then, he hides the plate behind his back.

RICHIE

(turns on the charm)

Alright, alright, look alive, team. I hope the meal has been awesome and you've had a great time eating a bunch of weird shit--

(diners laugh)

Am I right or what? Can you believe this place? Pulling shit out of the ceiling, *like what is happening???*

(more laughs)

(MORE)

RICHIE (CONT'D)

And I know it's very fancy and it's very serious and you've waited a long time to come here, but I just couldn't live with myself if I let this beautiful family leave Chicago without one of my favorite dishes, the Pequod's deep dish. Mangia, baby.

He reveals: A SLICE OF DEEP DISH PIZZA, served on its side, re-grilled and freshly sauced. Exquisite. The GUESTS blown away. Richie takes in the moment. It's powerful.

GUEST

Oh... my... God... You all are wonderful.

RICHIE

Our pleasure. Enjoy.

He watches the family. Joy. There it is. Purpose.

35 INT. RICHIE'S CAR - NIGHT 35

Richie drives home, PUMPED, SINGS ALONG, LOUDLY, TO MUSIC IN HIS CAR. HAPPY.

36 INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING 36

4:57. He beats the alarm clock. Hops out.

37 INT. RICHIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING 37

He finishes cleaning his place. Coffee table now organized.

38 INT. RICHIE'S CAR - MORNING 38

He cleans the car, tosses ARBY'S CUPS.

39 INT. EVER/KITCHEN - AFTERNOON 39 *

Jessica, Richie and Garrett taste sauces, a line of tiny saucers, all with their own tiny spoons.

JESSICA

Go...

RICHIE

... Hold...

JESSICA

Four seconds... three seconds...
come on, Every Second Counts!!

RICHIE

Apple cider gastrique!

GARRETT

Correct!

RICHIE

BOOM. Hit me again, baby.

GARRETT

This one.

Richie dips a tiny spoon into it and tastes.

RICHIE

Easy. That's the... Bercy? Wait no--
definitely a velouté derivative. Is
it the Allemande?

JESSICA

Sure is.

Richie grins. The rest of FOH move in, wait with bated
breath, all crowded around.

GARRETT

Alright buddy... the finale...

Richie dips into the final sauce. He tastes and considers:

RICHIE

That would be the... is that uh...
wait... fuck me-- sorry... is
that... No, it couldn't be... are
you messing... I'm just gonna say
it... No judgment... That is
McDonald's barbecue sauce!

Everyone laughs and claps. Garrett is particularly proud.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

I know that shit!

JESSICA

Alright. Speed round.

Rapid fire questions now.

GM

What year did the restaurant open?

RICHIE

2012.

JESSICA

Correct. And when did we get our third star?

RICHIE

Trick question also 2012.

JESSICA

YES! What was the restaurant called before Chef Terry took over? *

RICHIE

The Mandolin Café.

JESSICA

Correct. Lastly, what are tonight's specials?

RICHIE

Another trick question. We don't have specials but we do have supplements including a caviar pairing. UP. YOUR. ASS!

The team applauds. Richie nods, smiles, waves to the room. He is clearly the oldest one there.

40

INT. EVER/KITCHEN - LATE NIGHT

40

*

Garrett and Richie finish cleaning their stations.

RICHIE

Am I the oldest stage that has ever staged here?

GARRETT

Probably.

RICHIE

How old are you, Garrett?

GARRETT

You're not supposed to ask that.

RICHIE

Oh.

(then)

How old are you, Garrett?

GARRETT
(laughs)
30.

RICHIE
Fuck.

GARRETT
What are you, 50?

RICHIE
45 motherfucker.

GARRETT
You're for sure the oldest.

RICHIE
(then)
Were you ever a chef?

GARRETT
What?

RICHIE
Like did you cook?

GARRETT
Never.

RICHIE
Why work in restaurants then?

GARRETT
I guess... all of my favorite memories as a kid were in restaurants. Like special occasions and seeing family and stuff. And a couple years ago I had, uh, well this is probably too personal but I had a little bit of drug issue, and it's fine, I'm sober now and feel healthy but... I learned a lot about acts of service and...

RICHIE
(nods)
Service.

GARRETT
Exactly and... I realized I like creating atmosphere for people, taking care of people.

(MORE)

GARRETT (CONT'D)

I had a boss once that said taking care of people at the highest level can be as valuable as medical caregiving, like in a *hospital*. That's why we use the same word.

RICHIE

Hospitality.

GARRETT

Hospitality.

Quiet. They continue cleaning.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Thanks again for everything.

RICHIE

Dude. Thank you man. Excited for more...

GARRETT

Oh yeah... I just meant like this was a really fun week and like we'll miss you.

RICHIE

Wait am I done?

GARRETT

Yeah I mean there's half service tomorrow morning... but yeah...

Richie's floor drops out...

RICHIE

Fuck.

(beat)

I was getting the hang of it.

GARRETT

Totally...

RICHIE

(beat)

What if...

Garrett looks straight ahead, "please don't..."

RICHIE (CONT'D)

We got a good thing here... what if ... maybe there's a job here there--

GARRETT

Dude, I would love that... but...
you know... it's not my call... We
have another stage starting
tomorrow afternoon.

RICHIE

Oh...

(heartbroken)

Shhh, totally, I mean I got a job
anyway and.... Totally.

They go back to work in silence.

41 EXT. EVER - NIGHT 41 *

Richie walks, quiet, sullen.

42 INT. RICHIE'S CAR - NIGHT 42

Richie calls Carm.

RICHIE

Cousin.

INTERCUT

43 INT. THE BEAR - NIGHT 43 *

Carm, phone to his ear, eyes FAK fiddling with wires--

CARMY

Fak, chill with that shit--
(into)
Cousin, what's up.

RICHIE

What are you doing?

CARMY

Watching Fak do something--

FAK

I'm recalibrating!

CARMY

Watching Fak recalibrate. We failed
another gas suppression test.

RICHIE

Dude another one?

CARMY

Dude another one. We got one last shot at it.

RICHIE

How bad is it if we fail that one?

CARMY

Bad. What do you need?

RICHIE

I was just calling um, I finished the stage, I'm all done.

CARMY

How did it go?
(to Fak)
Bro you're gonna fuck yourself--

RICHIE

That's what I wanted to tell you. I know you just did that to like, you know get rid of me--

CARMY

Get rid of you? Fuck are you talkin'--

FAK shocks himself--

FAK

MOTHERFUCKER--

CARMY

I TOLD YOU, FAK--

RICHIE

-- I'm just saying I knew you were annoyed at me and like you needed me out of your hair--

CARMY (CONT'D)

Cousin that's not--

CARMY (CONT'D)

Fak stop that---

RICHIE

I get it--

CARMY (CONT'D)

Cousin, I sent you there--

RICHIE

Yeah you sent me to one of the best restaurants in the world to embarrass me--

CARMY FAK
 What the fuck are you talking (shocks again)
 about? GOD DAMMIT--

CARMY (CONT'D)
 FAK.

RICHIE
 We'll talk later whatever.

Richie hangs up. Carmy stares at his phone.

FAK
 Carmy, I really hurt myself.

44 INT. RICHIE'S CAR - NIGHT 44

He sits quietly.

FADE IN:

Black. An alarm clock blares.

45 INT. RICHIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING 45

6:53. He wakes up groggy, slow. Turns it off. lays.

46 INT. RICHIE'S BATHROOM - MORNING 46

He stares at himself.

47 INT. RICHIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING 47

Back in his Beef shirt. He exits his now-clean apartment.

48 INT. EVER/PREP KITCHEN - MORNING 48 *

Richie, alone, shines his last bin of forks. JESSICA enters-- *

JESSICA
 Hey, I'm gonna go over staff
 reviews, wanna observe?

RICHIE
 I'm good, I gotta get through this
 last bin.

JESSICA

K. We loved having you here. Thanks
for everything.

RICHIE

Back atcha, Jess.

She smiles, exits. Looks back at him one last time. Richie uses the last of his polish. He moves toward the supply closet. He looks at pictures lining the hallway. We see CHEF DAVID (Carmy's tormentor from EPISODE 2) in the kitchen. Richie stops at one photo in particular... *

LUCA from Copenhagen, next to his competition, his number 23... Carmen Berzatto. Richie looks at Carm, knowing what it takes to be in here...

RICHIE (CONT'D)

(in quiet awe)

God damn, Cuz.

He turns toward the closet, a WOMAN with her back turned, rinses, trims a MUSHROOM over the sink--

RICHIE (CONT'D)

You know where the polish is? This
bullshit keeps movin'.

WOMAN

Try that drawer.

RICHIE

Got it. Thanks.

Richie looks at A MUSHROOM BEING TURNED. The woman holds the knife nearly backward, an intense angle, and short curves carved into the top. Extremely difficult, extremely elegant. It looks like a mess of MUSHROOM WRAPPER but when she wipes away the shavings, a PERFECT swirl pattern is revealed on top. Done with complete, and expert, ease.

Richie looks up her wrist, closer at her ROLEX WATCH, then the CUFF above it: "AT" STITCHED IN NAVY.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

What are you making?

WOMAN

Turning mushrooms, for the Lamb des
Tournelles.

RICHIE

Turning?

The WOMAN turns. REVEAL. CHEF ANDREA TERRY (50). OWNER. HEAD *
CHEF. THE OG. Perfect hair. Crisp shirt.

CHEF TERRY *
Turn the top. It's decorative. Fun
detail. When the diners see it,
they know somebody spent a lot of
time on their dish.

RICHIE
Fire.

CHEF TERRY *
Here.

Passes him a knife and her chef's towel.

CHEF TERRY (CONT'D) *
Wipe a damp towel over the top,
give it some tread. Hold the knife
like this. 1300. Then turn. Go
slow.

Richie does.

RICHIE
1300. You serve?

CHEF TERRY *
Father did.

RICHIE
Same. Staff Sergeant.

CHEF TERRY *
Corporal.

RICHIE
A lot of standards.

CHEF TERRY *
Turns out I like standards.

RICHIE
You move around a lot?

CHEF TERRY *
(nods)
You?
(Richie nods)
I know Carmen.

RICHIE

I know, I'm sorry he pulled a favor.

CHEF TERRY

I don't do favors. *

RICHIE

(off mushroom)
This look right?

CHEF TERRY

Looks right. *

RICHIE

Hit me with another.

They start turning mushrooms together.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

(off mushroom)
Why are you doing this?

CHEF TERRY

I do it for a living. *

RICHIE

No but don't you have like some stages do this shit.

CHEF TERRY

I like starting the day with it. *

RICHIE

Why?

CHEF TERRY

Respect. Feels attached. Time spent doing this is time well spent. *

RICHIE

Time. That's what it's all about?

CHEF TERRY

I think so. *

RICHIE

When did that start?

Beat. She looks at him. Opens up.

CHEF TERRY

I tried to open a giant place years ago. *

(MORE)

CHEF TERRY (CONT'D)

Had all these accolades, I was younger, I was on fire, I was arrogant, tried to go too fast. Couldn't keep it open. Market crashed. I got killed.

RICHIE

Public wipeout?

CHEF TERRY

The most public wipeout.

*

RICHIE

How'd you find this place?

CHEF TERRY

It was my 38th birthday. I was walking around all night, unemployed, angry and depressed and blaming everybody else for all the time I had lost and the money I lost. All of it. I was lost, really lost, literally lost. It was raining and I was walking through Lincoln Park, my phone died, and I stood under this awning waiting for the rain to let up. I stood and stared. Sun came up eventually. Turns out I was right there.

*

(points to back door)

Walked around front, saw the sign, an actual sign, a "restaurant for lease" sign.

RICHIE

Never too late kinda thing.

CHEF TERRY

Never too late to start over.

*

RICHIE

Where'd you get the money?

CHEF TERRY

Dad died the summer before. Only child. My mom sold their house, put it in here.

*

RICHIE

Family business. Close with your ma?

CHEF TERRY

She's my best friend. You?

*

RICHIE

(shakes head)

My best friend's ma was like my ma.
Close with your father?

CHEF TERRY

(shakes her head)

You close with your father?

(Richie shakes head)

I learned the most about him when I
was packing his house up, all his
belongings, all his life. I found a
stack of these pocket notebooks,
must have carried them with him
when he was on tour. He would write
about some palm trees he saw,
escargot he tried, this time the
ocean looked purple, all these
little details. The way he wrote
them, felt more like a reminder.
Like don't forget this moment,
don't forget this strange
interesting thing. There were
hundreds of these entries, he'd
would always sign off the same way--

GM

(enters)

Chef.

CHEF TERRY

Yes, Chef.

GM

Arnaud upstairs.

CHEF TERRY

Thank you, Chef.

GM

Don't be a stranger, Richie.

Richie nods. GM exits. Terry wipes her hands on the towel.

CHEF TERRY

Say hello to Carmen for me.

RICHIE

Will do.

CHEF TERRY

He believes in you.

RICHIE

What makes you say that?

CHEF TERRY

Because he said so. Said you're good with people. He's not wrong.

RICHIE

Nice talking to you, Chef.

CHEF TERRY

Likewise, Chef.

Terry exits. Richie looks at his mushroom, wipes away the shavings to reveal... it's beautiful.

RICHIE

Oh shit, Chef, what did he sign off with?

(moves to the hall)

Chef, what did your dad...

She's long gone. So is everyone else. It's silent. He stands. Alone. Takes in the gorgeous kitchen. Then.

A timer beeps near the stove. Richie looks to the clock. Then underneath it, at the plaque.

EVERY SECOND COUNTS