

Meet the Poppers

By

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FADE IN:

1 INT. RESTAURANT ON THE BEACH IN SPAIN - LATE AFTERNOON 1

NOTE: ENGLISH ACCENTS ARE NOTICEABLY STRONG.

KIM (45) looks like a well kempt-hurricane hidden behind her big-bug sunglasses and a floppy straw hat. Kim nudges the deep red sunburnt arm of STEVE (50) a noodle-looking man you could spot from a mile away due to his striking white hair color.

KIM  
Steve, please put that dictionary  
away  
(quieter)  
Everyone in here speaks English..

STEVE thumbs through the pages and begins to move his mouth in dramatic "Ooh's" and spicy "S" sounds

STEVE  
(practicing outloud)  
OON CUR-VAY-SA

KIM  
Steve -

STEVE  
(attempting to roll his r's)  
I'm just trying to immerse myself  
in the Spanish culture!

Steve smiles at Kim and squeezes her upper thigh. I forgot to mention Kim is wearing a bikini. A very small bikini you would not expect a mother of six to wear.

WAITER (SLIGHT SPANISH ACCENT)  
(dryly)  
Can I get you both something to  
drink?

STEVE  
Yes, what do you have on draft?

WAITER  
(counting his fingers while  
rolling his eyes)  
Cruz Campo, Mahou, San Migue-

STEVE  
San Miguel.  
(beat.)  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STEVE (cont'd)

Kim?

KIM

Small red wine please

Kim smiles and notices her daughter, SHEKI (25) entering the restaurant with her fiancé DOM (31). Sheki looks like a brunette barbie doll complete with bangs and twice the eye-makeup. Dom fumbles behind her and looks a bit like both Donkey Kong and Bowser combined. The power couple is walking briskly to the table without looking away from each other.

SHEKI(TO DOM)

(shouting)

You told me you weren't going to drink...

DOM

That's not what I said. I said, I wasn't going to get DRUNK

SHEKI(CONT.)

(shaking her head)

..And then I'll have to be the one to stay up with SEB

DOM

(louder)

Can we, for once, not argue in front of your parents?

Sheki rolls her eyes and crosses her arms as she walks.

DOM

(speeding up to Sheki)

C'mon Shek..

Dom slides a strong arm around Sheki's thin waist and pulls her closer. He lowers his hand to reach for her butt.

SHEKI

(Swatting his hand away)

Don't even think about it.

Sheki and Dom sit down at the table.

STEVE

Dom! You just missed the waiter. Would you like a pint?

(CONTINUED)

DOM  
(laughing)  
Hell yeah I would!

Sheki shoots Dom a look.

DOM  
(coughing) (quieter)  
..Hell yeah I would

YASMIN (12) trails into the restaurant holding a smiling SEB (1). Yasmin is dancing with Seb on her hip. Her iPod is blasting One Direction. She passes the waiter who makes a disgusted but pursed-lipped smile at the baby and then Yasmin. Yasmin and Seb sit down at the table.

Steve takes Seb from Yasmin and holds him in his lap.

SHEKI (TO STEVE)  
Don't hold him like that Steve.  
He's not a football.  
(fed up)  
Give him to me.

Steve pretends that Seb is a football he is about to pass halfway across the restaurant. No one is laughing with Steve. Steve laughs to himself and passes Seb to her.

YASMIN (TO STEVE)  
Hey dad, can I have a coke?

Steve doesn't hear her. Steve is a little drunk. It's barely 5PM.

STEVE  
Kim did you bring the cards?

KIM  
Yes I did. Should we wait for Maddie though?

YASMIN  
Maddie doesn't even like cards mum.

KIM  
True. Okay, well how about... Hey!  
(beat.)  
There's Maddie!

Maddie (18) walks in. She looks like a model and a mad woman. She is covering her face with her bag and cursing under her breath.

(CONTINUED)

MADDIE

(embarrassed)

Did you guys really have to choose  
the table in the center of the  
restaurant?

MADDIE (TURNING TO STEVE)

Steve, button your shirt up.

(beat.)

And a fedora? Inside? Really?

Steve makes one of those Donald Trump shrug/frowns.

KIM

Where were you Maddie?

MADDIE

(shrugging)

I was on a walk.

Maddie takes a quick mental note of the table.

MADDIE

Have you guys not ordered drinks  
yet?

STEVE

Sit down Maddie... stay a while.

Maddie rolls her eyes and sits down.

KIM

Okay.. who wants to play  
categories?

Kim passes around sheets of paper and an assortment of sad  
looking pens to the table. Every member of the family begins  
scribbling words on scraps of paper.

KIM

First category?

YASMIN

(quietly)

Boys names?

SHEKI

(speaking loudly over Yasmin)

What about names of countries?

Yasmin huffs in her seat as she turns the music on her iPod  
up louder.

Maddie scans the restaurant for the WAITER. She makes eye contact with him and walks over to him.

2

INT. BACK OF RESTAURANT - LATE AFTERNOON

2

MADDIE  
 (impatiently)  
 Could I order a drink please?

Lorenzo turns around and lets his deep-sparkling blue eyes trail all over Maddie. Maddie is holding a wine glass in her hands and tapping her foot on the ground. She looks insane. Like a blonde, beautiful mess.

WAITOR (SLIGHT SPANISH ACCENT)  
 Can I buy you a drink?

MADDIE  
 (taken aback)  
 I'm Mads.  
 (reaching her hand out)  
 I'm sitting with that nightmare of  
 a family over there

WAITOR  
 (wide-eyed)  
 Oh god, now I definitely owe you a  
 drink..  
 (smiling)  
 I'm Lorenzo.

Lorenzo shakes Maddie's hand and the camera lingers on them, as they lean against the wall at the back of the restaurant. Lorenzo is beaming down at Maddie. Their hands are still intertwined.

3

INT. BACK AT DINNER TABLE - LATE AFTERNOON

3

The Popper family members are reading their answers for the first round of Categories!

STEVE  
 Argentina!

KIM  
 How in god's name did you have  
 Argentina.. I had Argentina!  
 (beat.)  
 Steve were you cheating?

STEVE  
 (higher pitch)  
 I swear on my life!

(CONTINUED)

SHEKI

You can't blame 'em Mum. I think  
all men are natural cheaters.

(dryly)

It's in their DNA.

Sheki and Kim nod their heads in agreement.

Steve holds his chest dramatically.

STEVE

(playfully, higher pitch)

Excuse me!

Steve looks at Kim. Kim raises her eyebrows without looking  
away from her piece of paper.

DOM

(interrupting the tension)

Okay, my turn! Africa!

All the family members look at Dom.

SHEKI(TO DOM)

Africa?

(long beat.)

Africa's not a fucking country Dom.

DOM

(trying to explain himself as  
his voice gets higher and  
higher)

Yeah! I know! I meant the country  
with Africa in it!!

SHEKI

(pause.)

Do you mean South Africa?

DOM

Yeah! Exactly! I knew I wasn't  
going mad

SHEKI

Oh you're not GOING mad honey,  
you're gone.

DOM (TO SHEKI)

(speaking in a hushed tone)

Shek... Is it that time of the  
month for you?

Dom tries to reach over to pat Sheki's hand. Sheki pushes  
her seat back and stands up.

(CONTINUED)

SHEKI  
 (speaking far too loudly)  
 HA!

Guests at the other tables are starting to look at the Popper family.

SHEKI (CONT.)  
 No I'm NOT on my period, thank you very much! I cant believe I'm about to marry a complete and utter TOSSER who doesn't even know what flippin' South Africa is!

Seb, who is currently rocking on Sheki's hip, begins to cry loudly. People at the restaurant are talking and looking towards the table.

SHEKI(TO DOM)  
 Look at what you did now.  
 (rocking Seb back and forth)  
 Your stupidity made Seb cry!

STEVE  
 Who'd like a drink? I'll go get us some drinks.

KIM  
 I thought you said you weren't drinking anymore? Remember, I wanted you to drive..

STEVE  
 (laughing to himself and then at Kim)  
 Oh, c'mon Kim, I can't drive! I've been drinking since 10 this morning!

KIM  
 (enraged)  
 10 this morning!? But you told me you were going for a run!  
 (beat.)  
 ...Did you go to the bar instead?

STEVE  
 Kim! It's vacation! Lighten up. Now where's our waiter...

CUT TO:



4 EXT. BACK OF RESTAURANT NEAR SOME DUMPSTERS - SAME TIME 4

Lorenzo and Maddie are pressed up against the brick wall, wrapped in each other's arms, kissing.

5 INT. BACK AT DINNER TABLE - SAME TIME 5

Sheki and Dom are both standing up screaming at each other at this point. Kim is yelling at Steve who keeps making dramatic gasps and high pitch "Kim!'s" Yasmin looks around at all the people in the restaurant staring at her family. No one is paying attention to Yasmin.

KIM

(touching Steve's arm with frustration)

You look like a lobster.. Do you just choose not to listen to me when I tell you to put on sunscreen? You're lucky you don't have sun stroke..

STEVE

(chuckling to himself)

Lucky... yeah.

DOM (TO SHEKI)

Why don't you just calm down Shek, and let me get you a drink.

SHEKI

Newsflash Dom! Not everything in life can't be fixed with a drink!

DOM

(laughing to himself)

That's where we differ in our thinking

SHEKI

(shrieking)

Why can't you ever take what I'm saying seriously?!

Maddie and Lorenzo walk back in the restaurant holding hands. Maddie has a lit cigarette that is leaving a trail of smoke in the air as they walk over towards the table.

STEVE

Ah! The waiter!

(pause.)

Maddie? Maddie what are you doing with the waiter.

(CONTINUED)

MADDIE (ADDRESSING ENTIRE TABLE)  
Guys, this is my new boyfriend  
Loren-

KIM  
Maddie you can't smoke cigarettes  
inside.

MADDIE  
(rolling her eyes)  
Ugh. Fine.

Maddie puts her cigarette out in a glass of water. It sizzles "sss" and then goes out.

STEVE (TO LORENZO)  
Whatever happened to our drinks?!

LORENZO (SLIGHT SPANISH ACCENT)  
(making a motion around his  
ear like he can't hear Steve)  
My english not-so-good sir.

Steve is getting noticeably agitated. He looks at the waiter holding his daughter's hand. Steve gets up and inches towards the waiter threateningly.

LORENZO  
(backing up, nervously)  
I-I did bring a coke for the little  
girl. Mads told me their her  
favorite.

Steve blinks and looks at the coco-cola can and then at Lorenzo. Then looks at Yasmin's spot at the table. It's empty.

STEVE, KIM, MADDIE, SHEKI, DOM,  
Where's Yasmin?!

MADDIE  
(livid)  
Oh don't tell me you imbeciles lost  
her.

The Popper family jumps up from their seats and runs out of the restaurant, clamoring the entire way.

6

EXT. BEACH IN THE SOUTH OF SPAIN - DUSK

6

STEVE, KIM, MADDIE, SHEKI, DOM, LORENZO  
 (shouting)  
 Yasmin?!

The family members spread out and scour the shore line.

STEVE, KIM, MADDIE, SHEKI, DOM, LORENZO  
 Yasmin!!

SHEKI  
 This is all my fault.. if I had  
 only let her choose the first  
 category..

DOM  
 Oh really THAT'S what you're going  
 to apologize for? Not for calling  
 your fiancé a tosser?

MADDIE (TO DOM)  
 You are a tosser Dom.

STEVE  
 She'll be somewhere on the beach..  
 don't worry guys.

KIM  
 Steve! She can't fucking swim! God,  
 don't you remember anything about  
 your children?

STEVE  
 Of course I do!! This is  
 whats-her-face..  
 (attempting to touch Maddie's  
 face gingerly)

MADDIE  
 - Get your grubby fingers off of  
 me, Steve. God, can't you guys go  
 anywhere without making a fool of  
 yourselves? Now the sun is setting  
 and a little 12 year old girl is  
 going to dance her way into the  
 ocean..  
 (more anxiously)  
 I'm worried about her. If you guys  
 didn't flippin' fight so much, we'd  
 never be in this situatio-

(CONTINUED)

SHEKI

Well maybe if you had stayed at dinner instead of wandering off to taste some chorizo in the back of the restaurant we-

MADDIE

-Hey!

STEVE

(higher pitch)

Oh my....

SHEKI

It's true! You weren't watching her either!

MADDIE

(realizing)

Yeah, I guess you're right..

Maddie hangs her head. Sheki has tears in her eyes and beads of sweat are evident on her forehead.

SHEKI

This is all my fault

The entire family and Lorenzo roll their eyes. Sheki is crying.

SHEKI

It's true! I wasn't lying when I said I wasn't on my period.. but..

DOM

Aha!

MADDIE

- Shut up Dom

SHEKI

(dramatically crying)

I'm pregnant!

Steve, Kim, Maddie, Dom, and Lorenzo all stop and look at Sheki.

SHEKI(CONT.)

...And I was so selfish at dinner, I didn't even let Yasmin talk..

(CONTINUED)

KIM  
 (hugging Sheki)  
 We all were pretty wrapped up in  
 ourselves sweetheart.

SHEKI  
 Or someone else..  
 (laughing at Maddie softly  
 with tears streaming down her  
 face)

Maddie rolls her eyes and comes over to Sheki and hugs her  
 too. Steve joins and Lorenzo follows the hug-pile-on.

KIM  
 We've all gotta be more kind to  
 each other. We love each other.

DOM  
 (smiling at Sheki and touching  
 her shoulder)  
 And now we have a new little guy to  
 love

The Poppers and Lorenzo are in a football-type huddle, full  
 of tears and hugs.

YASMIN O.S.  
 A new Seb?

The crying stifles and they all raise their heads to see  
 Yasmin, dancing and bopping her head as she sips from a  
 coca-cola can.

STEVE, KIM, MADDIE, SHEKI, DOM, LORENZO  
 Yasmin!

Maddie grabs Yasmin and hugs her tightly. The entire family  
 huddles around her and hugs her.

KIM  
 Where were you Yas?

YASMIN  
 I was on a walk

MADDIE  
 No more walks, okay? None for me  
 either  
 (smiling)  
 I was worried  
 (squeezing Yasmin's arm)

YASMIN

I didn't think you guys cared. You were all yelling and screaming. Everyone in the restaurant was looking at us. Maddie was gone. I just wanted to dance.

Yasmin begins to do a little dance routine she has clearly been working on.

YASMIN (CONT.)

Then when I came back you guys had all left BUT my coca-cola was there!

KIM

We're all going to try really hard to stop fighting so much, okay?

YASMIN

(shrugging, sipping loudly on her straw)  
The food in there smelt awful anyway.

LORENZO

(cocking his head to the right in agreement)  
Yeah.. the food is pretty terrible.

YASMIN

Can we go get ice cream?

Steve and Kim look at each other and nod their heads.

STEVE

Of course we can, So-and-so

Steve scruffs up Yasmin's hair. Kim smiles at Steve. Dom is looking affectionately at Sheki with his hand on her belly. Sheki is holding Seb and resting her head on Dom's neck. Maddie and Lorenzo share a look

MADDIE

Welcome to the fam.