

PASTA LA VISTA

Written by

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EXT. OUT OF PARM'S WAY - NIGHT

A MID-SPRING evening. A WOMAN jogs on the sidewalk past an OLD MAN walking his dog. It is relatively quiet.

JAZ JULIANI, a DARK-HAIRED TEENAGER, about 17, drags a trash bag out into the street in front of OUT OF PARM'S WAY, an Italian restaurant. She claps her hands together to get the dirt off before entering the restaurant.

INT. OUT OF PARM'S WAY KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jaz walks into the restaurant's large KITCHEN. Dirty POTS and PANS crowd the stove and DISHES sit piled next to the industrial-sized dishwasher.

CLAIRE JULIANI, also a DARK-HAIRED TEENAGER, about 15 with identical features to her sister, sits atop a wooden table with papers surrounding her. Jaz dries the dishes with a rag and walks around the kitchen, putting the dishes away. The girls' mom, LINDA JULIANI, a WOMAN about 45 years old, unties her apron from around her torso.

LINDA

Alright sweeties, like I said, I have another meeting tonight. Can you finish up around here?

Claire and Jaz both nod.

JAZ

Yes, of course.

Linda flashes her daughters a grateful smile.

LINDA

Thanks, loves. I'm sorry I haven't been around very much lately. I'll see you at home.

Linda kisses Jaz and Claire's cheeks and quickly walks out of the backdoor. Jaz peers at the colorful paper Claire is holding.

JAZ

Claire, why do you have a Pasta La Vista menu?

Claire looks around nervously, avoiding her sister's accusing eyes and bites her lip.

CLAIRE

Well, I...

Jaz doesn't wait for her sister to respond and begins pacing dramatically around the kitchen.

JAZ

It's bad enough all of the county is going to Pasta La Vista instead of Out of Parm's Way. Not to mention my own blood! The amount of business we have lost since those knock-offs came to town and set up shop is insane. You know that!

Jaz shakes her head before glaring at her sister.

CLAIRE

I know, I know. I understand. But Antonio is going to do a review of Pasta La Vista on Thursday and he asked me to scope out the place.

Claire gestures to the menu while looking slightly guilty.

CLAIRE

You know how important this internship with the paper is to me. I'm the youngest intern they've ever had. I couldn't pass it up.

JAZ

Ugh, Antonio is going to review that place? Everyone reads his food critiques. We're going to lose even more business.

Jaz groans and looks off into the distance. She sits down next to her sister. Claire puts a consoling hand on her shoulder.

CLAIRE

It's not gonna be that bad, I promise. Out of Parm's Way has been around for ages.

Jaz looks at her hands.

JAZ

We can't just sit here and let our restaurant be bulldozed over by some imposters. You've seen how stressed mom has been lately. I'm coming up with a plan. And, you know what? It starts with me getting a new job.

Jaz nods, looking determined while Claire looks confused.

CLAIRE

Um...what do you mean plan? You already have a job. Jaz, I thought you said that you would stop with the scheming! It never, ever works out for you. You know that.

Jaz doesn't seem to be paying attention.

JAZ

Everything will be fine. Now lets finish cleaning this kitchen, okay?

Jaz piles more dishes into her hands and smiles slyly.

EXT. PASTA LA VISTA - AFTERNOON

Jaz looks up at the freshly-painted Pasta La Vista sign and opens the door with a determined look in her eyes.

INT. PASTA LA VISTA - AFTERNOON

Jaz surveys the restaurant, taking in the WHITE TABLECLOTHS, DARK LIGHTING, and QUIET JAZZ MUSIC. She walks up to the host station to CHRIS, a tan man with greying hair, about in his early 50's. He gives Jaz a genuine smile.

CHRIS

Hi! What can we do for you today?

JAZ

Hello, I'm Jaz. I'm looking for the owner.

CHRIS

You're looking at him! I'm Chris. Welcome.

JAZ

Oh, okay, great. I noticed that Pasta La Vista is new in town and I was wondering if you have any job openings.

Without letting Chris answer, Jaz continues confidently.

JAZ

I have previous experience in the restaurant industry and I just think Pasta La Vista is extraordinary. I would love to work here, whatever I could do.

Jaz shoots the man another charismatic smile. He seems surprised at her initiative.

CHRIS

Well...to be honest the only opening we have right now is in the kitchen. I'm not sure if that's what you're used to doing but...

JAZ

I would love to work in the kitchen. When can I start?

Chris smiles and shakes his head slightly.

CHRIS

Actually, you came at just the right time. We just had someone quit today. Is there any chance you could start tonight?

JAZ

Definitely!

CHRIS

Great. Matt can train you. I'll take you to the back.

Chris leads Jaz through the dining room to the kitchen. She follows him and silently fist-pumps the air, triumphant.

INT. PASTA LA VISTA KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Jaz follows Chris into the kitchen, who points out where things are along the way. The kitchen is bustling, WORKERS are preparing for the dinner rush. Chris stops when he reaches a tall, brown-haired TEENAGER, MATT.

CHRIS

This is Matt. He will be training you and showing you how we operate at Pasta La Vista. Let me know if you need anything.

Chris walks off into a side room. Jaz turns towards Matt with a smile on her face.

JAZ  
Hey, I'm Jaz!

MATT  
Hey Jaz! You go to Jefferson High,  
right?

JAZ  
Yeah! I'm a junior there.

MATT  
Oh, cool. I just started there two  
months ago. My family's new in  
town. We're still getting used to  
things around here.

JAZ  
Oh, your family works here?

MATT  
Yeah, my Dad owns it.

JAZ  
Oh, Chris didn't tell me you were  
his son. I thought this was more of  
a chain restaurant.

Matt smiles and shakes his head.

MATT  
Nah, far from it! We're the only  
Pasta La Vista. My dad has had a  
dream of starting an Italian  
restaurant since before I was born.

Jaz shoots Matt a half-hearted smile, clearly not expecting  
this news.

MATT  
Well enough of me blabbering. Let  
me show you around the place.

Matt hands Jaz an apron and walks her to a table full of  
ingredients at the corner of the restaurant.

MATT  
So, why don't I start by teaching  
you how to make pizza?

Jaz nods and Matt slowly shows her how to make the pizza  
dough.

INT. OUT OF PARM'S WAY KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Jaz and Claire are making pasta in the back corner of the kitchen as Linda diligently works on paperwork at the large wooden table. Claire turns to Jaz and whispers quietly so their mom won't hear.

CLAIRE

Hey so how's your newest operation going? Would you mind actually explaining it to me instead of letting me fear the worst?

JAZ

It's going fine...I think.

She kneads the pasta dough a little bit harder.

JAZ

So I got a job there in order to, you know, sabotage the place.

CLAIRE

Um. No, no I don't know. What do you mean sabotage the place? Set it on fire?

JAZ

No, no, nothing like that. Although that wouldn't be a bad last resort.

Claire abruptly stops kneading the dough and gives her sister a pointed look.

CLAIRE

No pyrotechnics. Period.

Jaz shoots her a grin.

JAZ

I know, I know, I'm kidding... Sort of.

Claire gives Jaz another look, as if warning her.

CLAIRE

Plus, you know Mom needs us around here more than ever lately. She's been so MIA lately with meetings.

Jaz nods and shrugs a bit.

JAZ

Yeah, but this is gonna help in the long run. Anyway, so the plan is to just make some minor adjustments to the restaurant. Nothing major, just a few things to maybe send a few extra customers our way.

CLAIRE

Jaz. I don't know about all this.

Jaz stops kneading the dough and grabs her sister's shoulder, beckoning towards the dining room.

JAZ

Claire. Take a look at the empty dining room. You've seen how much business we've lost since these pun-imposters came to town.

Jaz looks at her hands.

JAZ

I don't know if I ever told you this but one day I hope to run this place. Ever since Grandma taught me how to make pasta when I was 5 it's been a dream of mine.

Jaz's eyes narrow and her expression hardens.

JAZ

That's why I can't let this new restaurant - who do they think they are with the name "Pasta La Vista" anyway -

Jaz rolls her eyes and shakes her head in disbelief.

JAZ

-Run Out of Parm's Way to the ground. I just can't.

Claire gives Jaz a loving smile.

CLAIRE

I understand. I love this place as much as you do. And you know what? This scheme of yours might actually work. How did it go yesterday?

JAZ

I found out they're actually a family restaurant, kind of like us.

(MORE)



JAZ (CONT'D)

The owner's really nice and his son  
Matt is pretty cute...

Jaz shakes her head and narrows her eyes.

JAZ

But that's all besides the point. I  
think I have a few things up my  
sleeve. And when Antonio comes for  
the critique, that's when the  
scheme is really going to be put  
into action.

INT. PASTA LA VISTA KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Jaz walks in the bustling kitchen. She looks around before  
covertly taking something out of her coat and quickly  
sticking it in her apron. She then surveys the kitchen.

MATT

Jaz! You came back! I'm glad my  
crazy family didn't scare you away  
yesterday.

JAZ

Of course not. So what are we  
working on tonight?

MATT

We've gotten a ton of pizza orders  
so we're gonna start making those.

JAZ

Cool.

Matt leads Jaz over to a table in the corner.

MATT

Do you remember what I taught you  
yesterday?

JAZ

Yeah, I think so.

Jaz expertly rolls the dough and twirls it around on her  
fingers, quickly making a perfect circle and seeming to  
forget that she wasn't in her own family's pizza kitchen.  
Matt stare at her in disbelief.

JAZ

Uh...I guess you were a pretty good  
teacher!

Matt looks at her and nods.

MATT

Alright well, I'm gonna run to the restroom real quick. Be right back.

Jaz is left alone at the table. She stealthily looks around to see if any of the other workers are paying attention to her. She pulls out a bottle of hot sauce from her apron and pours it on top of the pizza sauce, covering each pizza. She quickly mixes the pizza and hot sauce together, making it impossible to tell that hot sauce is on the pizza. She quickly stuffs the bottle in her apron before anyone sees it.

INT. PASTA LA VISTA KITCHEN - LATER

Matt takes the pizzas out of the oven and quickly puts them into boxes.

MATT

Alright, I'm gonna go deliver these puppies.

JAZ

Okay!

Matt grabs the boxes and puts them in a pizza delivery bag.

MATT

I'll see you in like half an hour.

Jaz continues making pizzas. She doesn't dare take out the hot sauce again as many employees are buzzing around her.

INT. PASTA LA VISTA KITCHEN - LATER

Later, Matt joins Jaz again. She tries to be nonchalant and props her elbow up on the table casually.

JAZ

How'd the delivery go?

MATT

Not bad. Alright let's-

Matt is interrupted by the phone ringing. He picks it up.

MATT

(on phone)

Pasta La Vista! How may I help you?

Matt begins walking towards his dad's office.

MATT

Of course you can talk to the owner.

Matt hands Chris the phone and walks back to the pizza ovens.

MATT

I wonder what that could be about. It was the family I just delivered all those pizzas to.

JAZ

Huh.

Jazz secretly smiles to herself, trying to contain her satisfaction. Chris then walks over to the group with a smile.

CHRIS

Well guys, that was about the delivery order you just made...They said it was the best pizza they ever had!

Jaz's mouth drops open.

CHRIS

Yeah, they said something about how they loved the extra flavor...Well done!

He pats the two on the back and goes back into his office.

MATT

That's awesome! Looks like you're our lucky charm, Jaz.

He winks at her and goes back to the pizza he was making. Jaz gives him an unconvincing smile and widens her eyes, looking away.

INT. OUT OF PARM'S WAY KITCHEN - MORNING

Claire and Jaz are making pasta again.

JAZ

-And they said it was the best pizza they ever had. The best they ever had! Do you believe that? I covered it in hot sauce.

CLAIRE

I guess they must be into spicy food?

JAZ

I guess they're crazy! I need to do something big. And it has to be before Thursday when Antonio comes.

The two stop for a second as Linda walks in the kitchen, panting.

LINDA

The squirrels in this town are crazy. They're honestly not afraid of people at all anymore! I was taking the trash out and a squirrel jumped out of the trash can and scared the hell out of me.

Jaz smiles slyly.

JAZ

(to Claire)

Hmm. I know exactly what that something big could be.

The two girls quickly get up to help their mother.

EXT. PASTA LA VISTA - AFTERNOON

Jaz stands outside of Pasta La Vista with a few pieces of bread in her hands. She waves the bread in front of a nearby squirrel in a bush and catches its eye.

JAZ

Perfect.

Jaz smiles to herself as the squirrel takes the bait. It comes closer to her, interested in the bread. She waves the piece of bread in front of it, teasing the squirrel. She quickly makes a trail of crumbs leading to the entrance before stealthily opening the door and throwing the bread inside. The squirrel runs into the restaurant. Jaz hastily shuts the door and walks to the back door of the restaurant.

INT. PASTA LA VISTA KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Jaz walks in the kitchen and sees Matt.

JAZ

Hey Matt!

MATT

Hi Ja-

Matt is interrupted by shrieks coming from the dining room. He runs to the dining room. Jaz tries to contain her excitement and walks into the dining room.

INT. PASTA LA VISTA DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jaz sees Matt and other employees scramble to chase after the squirrel, which was now running through the restaurant. Jaz has a wry look on her face as she's looking at Matt. Clearly she's a little guilty about what she's done. Matt corners the squirrel and backs it towards the door. Chris quickly opens the door and the squirrel escapes. The restaurant is a mess. Tables are knocked over, chairs are overturned, and food is all over the floor. The customers look horrified. Chris turns around and addresses the room.

CHRIS

I'm so sorry about all of this.  
Your meals will be on the house.

Chris looks distressed and makes his way into the kitchen. Matt and Jaz follow Chris into the kitchen.

INT. PASTA LA VISTA KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

MATT

I-I can't believe that just happened. The restaurant is a wreck. My family really didn't need this today. Things are already bad enough.

Jaz looks at him, confused.

JAZ

What do you mean?

MATT

Well, it's been hard on my family keeping the restaurant afloat.

JAZ

Pasta La Vista is always busy. What are you talking about?

MATT

Yeah, we've been getting great business lately.

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

But it just doesn't cover the costs of buying this restaurant and starting from scratch. I guess we didn't know what we were in for...

Jaz's face twists into a frown. She opens her mouth to say something but the kitchen door opens and the room is flooded with the loud noise coming from the dining room.

MATT

Alright well let's start cleaning this mess up, yeah?

Matt hands Jaz a trash bag and they walk into the dining room.

INT. OUT OF PARM'S WAY KITCHEN - MORNING

Jaz and Claire walk into the kitchen and see Linda looking distressed, surrounded by paperwork. Linda's phone rings.

LINDA

(on phone)

Hello? Yes, I think we can make the announcement on Thursday...

Linda grabs a manila folder and walks into her office. Claire turns to Jaz.

CLAIRE

I hate to see her like this. How's your sabotage going?

Jaz frowns.

JAZ

The squirrel thing worked out perfectly.

CLAIRE

Yes! I can't believe one of your schemes is actually working. Don't forget, Antonio's coming tonight.

JAZ

That's the thing. The sabotage worked out perfectly. But Chris looked so heartbroken when he saw the restaurant, I don't know, it kinda reminded me of Mom. And Matt. Matt was so sad, and it felt wrong.

Claire looks at her sister pointedly. She raises an eyebrow.

CLAIRE

Are you serious? Jaz Juliani doesn't let a boy get in her way, remember? Jeez, the first one of your crazy schemes that actually works and you start chickening out.

JAZ

It's just that Pasta La Vista is having the same type of troubles that we are. It'd be like someone sabotaging Out of Parm's Way.

Jaz narrows her eyes and looks at her mother's office door.

JAZ

But, I need to remember why I decided to do this in the first place. For our family.

INT. PASTA LA VISTA KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Jaz is making pizza dough. She looks at her phone and reads a text from Claire that says "Antonio arriving now". Jaz walks to the kitchen door and peers out of the small window. She sees a hostess seating ANTONIO, a large bald man. She watches from the door as a WAITER takes his order and walks into the kitchen.

WAITER

TORTELLINI WITH PESTO SAUCE!

The waiter walks back into the dining room and Jaz sees Matt begin to make the order. She walks over to him.

MATT

Jaz! Hey! Wanna make some pasta with me?

Jaz smiles at Matt, forgetting the heaviness of the day.

JAZ

Yeah, of course.

She joins Matt at a table in the back of the kitchen. When he's not looking, she quickly adds large amounts of various spices to the sauce. Matt finishes cooking the pasta and adds it to the sauce. He looks at Jaz and pokes her side, smiling.

MATT

Hey, you okay? You seem a bit preoccupied today.

JAZ  
Yeah, I'm okay. Thanks for asking.

MATT  
Yeah, no problem. You know if you need anything, I'm always here. I'm really happy we met, Jaz. I've been meaning to ask you-

Matt is interrupted by the waiter walking in.

WAITER  
Where's that pesto pasta?

MATT  
Two seconds and it'll be ready!

Matt puts the pasta on a plate as Jaz stares at him with wide eyes. She snaps into action and hits her elbow directly into the pasta plate, knocking it to the ground.

JAZ  
Oh man, I'm so sorry! Clumsy me!

The waiter rolls his eyes, looking annoyed.

WAITER  
Get me a new dish on the fly.

He turns on his heel and exits the kitchen. Matt quickly begins making a new dish. Jaz turns to him.

JAZ  
Listen Matt, there's something that I need to tell you.

The two are interrupted by the sound of laughter coming out of Chris's office. Linda and Chris exit the office, smiling.

JAZ  
Mom?

Linda looks surprised to see her daughter in the kitchen.

LINDA  
Hon, what are you doing here?

Jaz looks around nervously, appearing guilty.

JAZ  
I-I, um. I just wanted to check out our competition from the inside.

Linda looks at her daughter in disbelief.



LINDA

Why would you do such a thing?

JAZ

Well, I know how stressed you've been lately and I know the restaurant hasn't been doing so well and...

Jaz trips on her words and trails off.

LINDA

Jaz, I've been so busy because I have been meeting with Chris. We're actually old friends and, well, we're going to merge Pasta La Vista and Out of Parm's Way.

Matt looks at his dad with surprise as Jaz looks at her mom with the same expression on her face.

MATT

Dad? Is this true?

CHRIS

We've been talking about this for weeks. This town is just too small for two Italian restaurants.

Chris and Linda smile at each other.

LINDA

We've both always had a love of puns and Italian food. We thought it'd be a win-win to combine our restaurants.

The group is interrupted as the waiter storms towards them.

WAITER

Matt! Where's that pesto!

Matt quickly drains the pasta as Jaz grabs heavy cream from the fridge and a few spices from the counter.

JAZ

Here, add some of this to the sauce. It's an Out of Parm's Way specialty.

Matt mixes the sauce and adds the pasta to it. He puts the mixture on a plate and the waiter leaves the kitchen with it.

CHRIS

See, this is already working out  
for the best!

LINDA

Now Jaz, we need to have a  
conversation about your scheming  
problem.

Jaz shoots her mom and Chris a guilty smile.

JAZ

I'm really sorry guys.

CHRIS

It's okay Jaz, I understand why you  
did it.

Chris turns to Linda.

CHRIS

Now, let's finish filling out this  
paperwork and make this merger  
official!

The two walk over to his office. Jaz turns to Matt.

JAZ

I hope you can forgive me for not  
telling you the truth about why I  
started working here.

Matt looks up from dipping a piece of bread into the leftover  
pesto sauce. He smiles at her.

MATT

I will if you teach me how to make  
this sauce! And if you'll come to  
the Spring Fling with me.

JAZ

Of course I will.

The two smile at each other and Jaz begins teaching Matt how  
to make the pesto sauce.

FADE TO BLACK.