

Spaghetti with a Twist

By

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1 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT 1

VAL, 34, short, brown hair, brown eyes, in full chef uniform; she is poised, opinionated, and dominates the room as the master chef.

2 KITCHEN 2

Val dips her spoon into one of the sauces that her sous-chef Melissa is making, instantly spit it out on Melissa's shoes.

MELISSA, 24, blonde, short and stubby. Has zero confidence.

VAL  
Bleh!h!

Melissa is terrified.

VAL  
What the hell did you hear me say  
that possessed you to put ginger  
into my sauce?!

Everyone in the kitchen stops what they're doing and stares at Melissa and Chef Val.

Melissa studders.

MELISSA  
I-I-I thought you said ginger.

VAL  
Ginger? In a pasta sauce. You  
thought I said Ginger.

MELISSA  
Yes Chef.

Val yells to the whole kitchen turning her back on Melissa.

VAL  
Did any single one of you learn to  
to put GINGER in your pasta sauce  
in school? Huh? Anyone?

The room is silent, filled with strait faces. Val turns back around to Melissa.

VAL  
I said garlic, not ginger, garlic.

Melissa still terrified.

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA

Im so sorry Chef, I'll make a new  
batch. I'll-

Val interrupts.

VAL

Dont.

MELISSA

It's no problem, I-

Val interrupts.

VAL

Just pack your things and leave,  
please.

MELISSA

Please Chef-

Val interrupts.

VAL

Thank you.

Melissa walks out the door. Val turns to face her stunned  
kitchen of sous-chefs.

VAL

I have very little patience for  
uneducated chefs here. Know your  
pallet and use your brains.

No one replies.

VAL

Yes?

EVERYONE

Yes Chef.

Val turns her head again, as everyone in the kitchen  
continues their previous work. Val walks through the  
restaurant, with a slight dip in her mood, until she gets to  
the hostess table.

3        HOSTESS TABEL

3

Val speaks to the hostess in a hushed tone.

VAL

What table is he at?

The hostess points around the corner to the center round table in the restaurant dining room (beautifully lit with chandlers and red table cloth).

HOSTESS

Tabel 7.

Val nods and walks back to the kitchen, her confidence is restored.

CUT TO:

4        DINING ROOM

4

The Waitress walks back to the kitchen from waiting on the special guest at table 7, still unseen. An order in hand. The Waitress approaches Val outside the kitchen doors.

VAL

What, what is it?

Anxiously, the Waitress stutters.

WAITRESS

He wants the spaghetti with the house vodka sauce.

VAL

Thats it?

WAITRESS

Yes Chef.

VAL

No duck, veil, butternut squash risotto, filet? Nothing...

WAITRESS

I tried to recommend but..

Val interrupts her.

VAL

He wants spaghetti with vodka.

The waitress nods yes, as Val grabs the order from her hand.

(CONTINUED)

VAL

Mmkay.

Val walks back into the kitchen.

FADE TO:

5

KITCHEN

5

One of the many sous-chefs, Aaron, who was missing from the kitchen during the earlier ordeal, is working on dicing vegetables at his cutting board station (an unseen picture hangs above it).

Val notices his presence within seconds of walking into the kitchen.

VAL

Aaron.

AARON, 32, short, pale, brown hair with dark brown eyes male, fully dressed in a white chef's outfit. He is talented, yet quiet.

Aaron pulls back from his board and puts his knife down.

AARON

Yes Chef.

VAL

Your late.

AARON

I know, I'm sorry Chef.

Val's usual stern face fades as she leans in closer to Aaron's space. She Whispers.

VAL

Is everything alright?

AARON

Yes Chef.

VAL

Are you certain?

Aaron takes a deep breath.

AARON

Yes Chef, She's doing well, I'm sorry for being late.

(CONTINUED)

Val takes a step away from Aaron, returning to her loud stern self for the whole kitchen to hear.

VAL  
Well don't be late again or you'll  
be out of a job.

She leans back into Aaron's space and whispers to him.

VAL  
I'm glad to hear so.

Aaron continues to chop vegetables while listening to Val's response. He accidentally cuts himself and begins to bleed a bit. Val sees this.

VAL  
Stop.

Aaron freezes.

VAL  
Drop the knife.

Aaron drops the knife covering his wounded finger with his hand and starts to speak in a panic.

AARON  
I-I, its just a small cut.

Val hears commotion at the other end of the kitchen... she starts to walk away.

VAL  
Throw out the food. Wash the knife.  
and put a Band-Aid on it.

CUT TO:

6 DINNING ROOM- TABLE 7

6

Elevator music play's. The Waitress assigned to table 7 is pouring a glass of wine for the man sitting alone at the table.

CUT TO:

7

KITCHEN

7

Val is standing over a pan bubbling with pink vodka sauce as she pours the pasta in.

VAL

Aaron! Come here!

Aaron runs over.

AARON

Yes Chef?

Val's hands are too busy making the pasta for table 7. She looks at Aaron, down to the Band-Aid on his finger. He follows her eyes, and looks down at the Band-Aid as well.

VAL

Grab the fresh parsley that Joe picked up from the market this morning. Chop it fine, and bring it here.

Aaron nods and rushes to follow orders.

VAL

Parsley Aaron, not freaking parmesan like your old colleague Melissa would have thought.

Aaron turns to another sous-chef and whispers.

AARON

Melissa?

The sous-chef nods his head back and fourth in a "no" motion. Aaron gets the point.

Val proceeds to take a spoon to the sauce and tries it. Eyes closed as she indulges.

VAL

Mmmmmmm.

Her eyes open as she looks around for Aaron.

VAL

Aaron! I need those greens, stat!

Aaron, at his station, pushes the herb to the end of his board into a small glass bowl and rushes over to Val.

(CONTINUED)

AARON

Here!

The Waitress from table 7 walks into to the kitchen. Val goes to engage with her.

VAL

Aaron! Grab a thin white bowl from the China under the bar and plate the pasta for table 7.

Val begins to walk away, but turns around quickly seeing Aaron in a rush.

VAL

Nicely, Aaron! Nicely!

Val is in the corner of the kitchen talking to the waitress. Aaron is plating the dish. Close up of his hands plating the pasta in a perfectly symmetrical round circle. Band-Aid on his hand.

Aaron sprinkles a few parsley flakes over the dish and carries it slowly through the mayhem of the kitchen to Val and the Waitress. No Band-Aid on his hand. He passes the plate to Val.

VAL

Thank you.

Val hands the plate to the Waitress, and follows her out the kitchen doors.

FADE TO:

8 DINNING ROOM

8

Val stands near the kitchen doors to see the special guest receive his food. In the same moment Aaron looks down at his finger to find no Band-Aid. He rushes to Val.

AARON

Chef?

VAL

Not now Aaron.

Aaron is sweating profusely and nervous as hell. The waitress is half way to the table.

AARON

But Chef!

Val getting frustrated, yells.

(CONTINUED)



VAL  
 Jesus Christ Aaron what?! First  
 Melissa now you, what do you want?

AARON  
 My Band-Aid, it's- it's-

VAL  
 It's what Aaron!

He holds up his finger in front of her, and nervously speaks in a loud voice to get her attention.

AARON  
 Its not here!

Val, utterly shocked. Aaron is ranting in the background, Val oblivious to his chatter, her face frozen.

Aaron butts in as the Waitress is about to reach the table.

AARON  
 Chef!!!

Val looks at Aaron with a strict face, and then darts for table 7. Aaron, with frustration, throws his towel on the floor. The Waitress arrives at the table, as Val does seconds later.

FADE TO:

9 DINNING ROOM- TABEL 7

9

The man turns around recognizing Val's presence, finally seeing his face.

LIONEL RICHARDSON, 54, famous food critic, sits at the table with his silver fox hair, deep under-eye bags, wearing a beautiful blue suite. Next to him... a yellow striped note pad and pen.

Val's usual rugged attitude instantly switches to sweet.

VAL  
 Hello Mr.Richardson, we are so  
 extremely happy that you could join  
 us tonight.

Lionel reaches his hand out for a hand shake and a soft smile.

(CONTINUED)

LIONEL

It's very nice to meet you Chef,  
I've heard only great things.

The Waitress puts the dish on the table and walks away. In the background Aaron is waving frantically to the Waitress, she looks confused and walks back to him.

Val takes a seat at the table, pulling out the chair.

VAL

Do you mind?

LIONEL

Not at all, please join.

Lionel has yet to touch his food.

The Waitress walks back to the table after her conversation with Aaron.

WAITRESS

Can I offer you some more wine sir?

LIONEL

Thank you very much!

VAL

Thank you, Polly.

The Waitress and Val look at each other, both understanding the situation at hand. Val continues to speak, trying to prolong his first bite.

VAL

Polly, is one of our best waitress,  
she has been with us for 4 years at  
our other restaurants, so you are  
very well taken care of.

LIONEL

Well, it all smells delicious.

Lionel takes his fork and spoon, and begins to stir the pasta in his spoon, very slowly.

VAL

It's very good.

Val starts to speak fast.

(CONTINUED)

VAL

Well I'm surprised you didn't want to try any of our other dishes.

Lionel is holding the spoon of pasta close to his face, waiting to take his first bite, but Val will not shut up.

VAL

We have so many different seasonal options this fall. You know squash is being harvested right now and...

Lionel puts his spoon down, a bit frustrated, but is still politely listening. Val goes in near the dish, to get a whiff of the smell of the pasta.

VAL

Mmmmm, smells delicious.

LIONEL

I know.

Lionel takes a bite. Val closes her eyes and drowns in defeat. Lionel is chewing for a long period of time. Both the Waitress and Val are staring, and quickly look at each other, then back to Lionel.

LIONEL

Mmmmm, very good.

He didn't get the Band-Aid yet. Val and the Waitress both shocked.

VAL

Well I can tell you all about how we prepared your meal today.

Val slides the plate from under him to under her. She grabs a fork and starts to pick through the entrée. Lionel is taken back, but goes along with it.

VAL

Well, we used a house made spaghetti ...

Still rummaging through the pasta, Val is ruining the plating, going on a rant...

VAL

And the sauce, well we get a very nice distilled vodka from Italy which matches nicely with the cream and cheese we get from local farms here and...

(CONTINUED)

Val finds the Band-Aid... same color as the sauce. Val looks up at the waitress. Lionel is confused and looks at both of them.

VAL  
And it's all just very fresh you know. Wow, I'm hungry, all this fresh farm talk really does it for me.

Val smells the pasta again.

VAL  
Mmmmmmm.

Lionel is confused, and moves his face closer to Val ...

LIONEL  
Uhm ... would you like a bite?

Val looks down at the Band-Aid in the dish, and gulps.

VAL  
Well, you know what? I might take you up on that offer.

Val puts a hunk of the pasta in her mouth, which includes the Band-Aid from Aarons finger. The Waitress immediately puts her hand over her mouth and gasps. Val is chewing with a horrible face.

VAL  
Mmmmmmm...

Val smiles at Lionel, he is utterly confused. Val swallows.

VAL  
Uhhh.

LIONEL  
Was it good?

VAL  
Just delicious, thank you.

Val shakes, as a cold drift comes over her body. She begins to stand up from the table.

LIONEL  
Uhm, okay.. your welcome Chef.

VAL  
 It was so lovely to meet you,  
 please enjoy... Polly, get him  
 another glass of wine, on the  
 house.

The Waitress, Polly, nods- grossed out but with a smirk on her face.

Val walks back to the kitchen.

CUT TO:

10

KITCHEN

10

Aaron is standing there scared shitless, as Val approaches him.

AARON  
 Chef-

Val with her mouth closed.

VAL  
 Mnnnnnn.

AARON  
 I am so so-

VAL  
 Mnnnnnnn-

AARON  
 I- I- I-

Val opens her mouth, with disgust on her face, fishes the Band-Aid from the roof of her mouth, and places it in Aarons hand.

Before Val exits from the kitchen, she takes a swig of the vodka used for the pasta, and spits it into the sink.

Aaron, head bowed, begins to pack his knife set at his station. A picture of him with his two daughters, one in a wheelchair, is taped to his station.

CUT TO:

11 DINNING ROOM- TABEL 7 11

The Waitress, at table 7, pouring Lionel a glass of wine. Lionel is writing on his yellow note pad, while eating.

CUT TO:

12 VAL'S OFFICE 12

A small dark wood room, with recipes, awards, and cook books everywhere. Val takes a seat as her permanent strait face turns into a soft smile. She covers her mouth and starts to laugh uncontrollably.

Val looks up at a doodled drawing on a piece of paper taped above her desk. It shows (in a child's handwriting) a young girl in a wheel chair, a dad in a chef's hat, and another young girl, with the phrase scribbled "Merry Christmas Chef Val, Love Annabelle" on it.

Val exits her office to the kitchen.

CUT TO:

13 KITCHEN 13

Aaron is finished packing his knife set.

CUT TO:

14 HOSTESS TABEL 14

A party of 20 walks in.

CUT TO:

15 KITCHEN 15

Aaron, walks up to Val.

AARON

I am so so sorry Chef.

Aaron walks away. Val see's the large party coming in in the distance.

VAL

Aaron!

Aaron stops walking and turns around.

(CONTINUED)

AARON

Yes Chef?

VAL

Put a freaking glove on that hand,  
and start chopping.

AARON

What?

VAL

You heard me, are you losing your  
hearing like Melissa? Do I have to  
send you home too?

AARON

No Chef! Yes Chef! Thank You.

Val smiles for the first time in front of her staff as she speaks to the whole kitchen.

VAL

Listen up everyone, there is a  
large table sitting in the back,  
group of 20 ... Sous - 1 through 4,  
you're on them... Aaron you help.

Aaron puts his knives back down and begins to help as he tapes his picture back on his station.

Val looks through the doors at Lionel finishing his meal,  
and gets the chills again.

FADE TO:

16

EXT. NYC NEWSSTAND- DAY

16

Val, walks up to a side newsstand, hands the man a 5 dollar bill and grabs a newspaper. She takes a few steps until she comes to a bench. Sitting down, Val opens the paper.

As the CREDITS ROLL, we watch her read. ZOOMING OUT, the words:

LIONEL V/O

What can I say about my experience  
dining at Chef Val Creveto's new  
Upper East Side restaurant. The  
ambiance and service was  
phenomenal. As I dived into the  
complex menu of seasonal favorites,  
I was tempted to order something  
wildly complex, a quality the Chef

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LIONEL V/O (cont'd)  
shows off on her exotic menu.  
However, I was overwhelmed with the  
decision to order a simple classic,  
pasta ala vodka sauce. I was  
surprisingly joined by the Chef  
herself during my meal. Chef Val,  
although she knows a tremendous  
amount about the culinary arts, I  
wouldn't recommend her as a dinner  
date, seeing as she was so  
infatuated with her delicious  
cooking she shared the meal with  
me. My unwillingness to want to  
share with the master Chef, is a  
true testament to how powerful and  
brilliant she is in the kitchen. I  
look forward to returning to the  
restaurant very soon, for another  
delicious meal.

FADE TO BLACK.

END.