

Act 1 Scene i

*The front door opens, the keys are placed in the small glass bowl, and the lights are turned on. TANYA immediately pulls out a water bottle from her bag, sits down on the couch, propping her legs up, and closes her eyes.*

TANYA

(with a deep sigh)

Oh, my goodness. When can I stop working at that damn office? I'm exhausted. When I finally make enough money, I will go to culinary school and become a chef.

(takes a long sip of her water bottle and places it down on the nightstand)

I mean it will take a few years, but I know my dreams will come true. They must. That's what the American Dream is all about, just like PAPA always says. Oh well, I might as well read today's news.

(pulls out the newspaper from her bag, skims through it before gasping in shock)

Huh? What's this? A cooking internship in New Orleans and one chef will be chosen with the best dish! Ay dios mio! It's like my prayers have been answered. I have faith I will win this competition. The judges will like me. I know they will. I just have to give it my all.

Act I Scene ii

*The door opens. MEGAN is walking through the front door of her grey mansion. She sets her Prada purse down on the counter and sinks down to her blue recliner. As she pulls out the newspaper from under the seat that she left behind in the morning, she begins to look through the paper. She then catches a glimpse of a topic that catches her eye.*

MEGAN

Huh? What's this? A chef's internship in New Orleans? Sounds like my kind of game.

(leans back in her recliner)

All I need to do is find the stupid application and I will be on my way to New Orleans in no time.

(stands up from the recliner to grab a cup of orange juice)

I think I've got this whole internship in the bag.

(Landline rings and MEGAN goes to retrieve it)

MEGAN

Hello? Oh, hi DADDY. No everything is fine. How's mom? Nothing much. Just looking at an application for an internship for chefs. Yeah, it's in New Orleans. No worries DADDY. I will win. I know it. Aww love you too good night.

(takes a sip of her juice)

I know that I've got this internship in the bag. I know it.

(silence)

Act I Scene iii

*MEGAN is walking away from the Cordon Bleu school in Pasadena, California when suddenly she is knocked down to the ground.*

TANYA

Oh, my goodness! I'm so sorry Miss! I swear I didn't see you.

(raising a hand to help MEGAN up)

MEGAN

(lifting an eyebrow and giving a hand to TANYA)

Uhh, sure it's fine.

(wipes dirt off of her dress as she stands up)

TANYA

Please. Let me make it up to you. I noticed you were also inside the Cordon Bleu for the internship in New Orleans. I know we just ate, but could I buy some coffee and doughnuts?

MEGAN

I don't eat doughnuts. They are too fattening. I also don't trust strangers.

TANYA

Well, then just coffee and a scone then. Please Miss, allow me to make it up for accidentally pushing you down.

MEGAN

Not "Miss." My name is MEGAN and really, it's fine.

TANYA

Please. I insist. My name is TANYA by the way.

MEGAN

(with a deep sigh)

Sure. Why not? Oh, and I should also mention I only drink my coffee with almond milk.

TANYA

(giving a soft smile)

Almond milk it is. Shall we go to the nearest bakery MEG?

MEGAN

(surprised at the nickname)

Huh. My father calls me that.

(with a small smirk)

Well then, lead the way TANYA.

(The two women then head into a nearby cafe and end up talking for several hours about their aspirations to become famous chefs)

Act I Scene iv

*Lights up in MEGAN's apartment. MEGAN is sitting on the couch in the living room as she skims through a magazine.*

*Her father KEVIN enters from the kitchen drinking a glass of wine before sitting down on the couch next to MEGAN.*

KEVIN

(sets wine glass down on the coffee table and snatches MEGAN's magazine out of her hands)

You aren't demonstrating your true potential as a chef. You are choosing to slack off on boys, sleeping, and crap like this!

(raises the magazine to MEGAN's face and throws it to the ground)

MEGAN

(with a look of surprise and fear)

I'm sorry DADDY! I don't know what more you want from me. I'm a chef and applying for the internship in New Orleans. I'm trying here DADDY. I am!

(stands up from the couch and slams her foot down on the ground)

KEVIN

(with a bewildered look)

Ha! You've been trying? You think you've been trying anything. You're just a failure.

(stands up and paces around the living room)

I mean honestly. Sometimes I wonder why me and your mother even paid for culinary school if you were just going to end becoming just some ordinary cook!

(looks at Megan up and down while rolling his eyes)

MEGAN

(with tears in her eyes and a broken voice)

I'm not ordinary DADDY!

(sniffles)

I- I - I am Megan, the famous chef from Cordon Bleu. I am someone and you know that better than anyone because I-

KEVIN

(guffaws)

You are nobody MEGAN! An absolute loser who's been a good for nothing ever since she was born. I knew it and your mother knew it! You could never make us proud.

MEGAN

Don't say that DADDY. You should know I've worked really hard to be a chef. I mean yes, I did it at first to get CHAD to like me but overtime I've proven my self worth DADDY!

KEVIN

The only way you could ever prove your self-worth is if you crush that other girl's chances of ever getting into that internship. What's her name? Robin? Tasha?

MEGAN

You mean Tanya?

KEVIN

Yeah... Tanya. You need to destroy her chances of ever getting into that internship young lady! If you want a chance to redeem yourself in my eyes, you need to crush her!

MEGAN

(with widen eyes)

But how can I do that DADDY? I barely know her. I mean what am I supposed to do just so she doesn't get it?

KEVIN

(rapidly swinging his arms)

Uhh... I don't know. Poison her food or something. I don't know! But you need to think of something if you ever want to call yourself my daughter!

MEGAN

(with tears running down her eyes)

Please don't disown me DADDY! I promise I'll do whatever you say! Just don't leave me alone.

KEVIN

(with squinted eyes)

Oh, don't worry my darling girl. I won't leave you alone unless you do just what I say and come with up with the creativity on your part.

(laughs)

You've disappointed me enough times MEGAN. I'd hate to see that happen another time sweetheart. Make me proud MEGAN.

(pinches MEGAN's wet cheek).

MEGAN

(silence)

I promise you DADDY that I will make you proud of me. I will get that internship one way or another.

Act I Scene v

*Hurried footsteps rush into the Cordon Bleu kitchen. Panting with shallow breaths, MEGAN runs inside as she quickly pulls out a small Tabasco hot sauce bottle.*

MEGAN

(places a hand on her chest as she tries to calm her fast beating heart beats)

Come on. You can do this because you promised DADDY. You already did it once. No one caught you.

(repeats mantra)

You can do this. Just a little hot sauce. You can do this. Just a little hot sauce You can do this.

(walks around the kitchen, searching for TANYA'S chicken dish under her name)

Okay. Now just do it and get it over with. Goddamn.

(takes a deep breath as she opens the hot sauce bottle and slowly pours tiny drops inside TANYA'S chicken dish)

There. That's it and now no one will know. That way stupid TANYA won't stand in my way, she's only trying to stand in my way just like DADDY said.

(quietly walks out of the kitchen in silence when she Suddenly jumps)

TANYA

(with wide eyes)

MEGAN! That's my dish. What the hell are you doing to it?!

MEGAN

Uhh- see I-- uhh. There's a good explanation.

TANYA

(folds her arms)

I'm waiting.

MEGAN

(takes a deep breath)

Okay, well TANYA... I guess it's time that you know the truth.

Act I Scene vi

*Sickened and hurt by twenty-seven-year-old Megan's cruel sabotage of her dish during a "friendly" dual cook off, twenty-three year old Tanya confronts the betrayal. She attacks Megan's behavior from the moment they met, belittles her distinct background to hers while confessing a secret.*

TANYA

(with a raised voice and anger in her tone)

How dare you! How absolutely dare you! I thought you were my friend and I believed you when you kept saying we support one another not bring each other down. You have only ever viewed me as an enemy and didn't even want to take the chance to get to know me before you decided to judge me because I'm some poor immigrant from Columbia. What, you think that because you were born in some rich ass family with servants and a sports car that mommy and daddy still pay for to this day that your better than me?

MEGAN

(with wide eyes)

It's simple as that TANYA. I was always the better chef and you needed to know that one way or another. I am better than you TANYA and you should accept that.

TANYA

Ha! You have never had to struggle to fight for what you want. Unlike you, I've never been able to just say I want something and just had it given to me. Unlike you, I know how to look past someone's background and actually getting to know the person beneath.

(Begins to walk around in a circle while moving her arms around before resting them on her forehead)

MEGAN

I am not some bratty little girl you think I am. I know how to be kind to others. You just weren't my cup of tea that's all.

TANYA

(jaw dropping)

I just wasn't your cup of tea? Are you freaking kidding me?

(yells)

I mean, god damn it Megan! You just deliberately put hot sauce in my chicken casserole recipe and nearly caused me to lose a competition YOU so nicely asked to help me out with! You said "it's just a nice cook off between friends. No pressure and just think of it like a barbecue." You lied to me. I should have known it was you who set the timer longer when I was baking my chocolate soufflé. It was you who added cumin to my meatballs when you and I know very well that one of the judges was allergic and he ended up getting sent to the hospital! And it was you who tricked me into ever believing you were my friend

only to stab me in the back, but you never really were a friend because you have never liked me ever right?

MEGAN

(with a light scoff)

You know, despite what you may think. I did like you in the beginning. It was just until a little voice in my head told me that you were the enemy and rivals don't get the nice me, they just get hell.

(chuckling)

TANYA

You have no idea how much I trusted you. I let you in my home even though I was nervous to show you my apartment because it's small and what did you tell me? "Oh no worries, I love any humble home. It's much cozier than the mansion I grew up in. How could you use me? You have absolutely no idea how much I have grown to care for you. I mean *really* care for you that it became really hard to imagine my life without you.

MEGAN

(with a sharp gasp and holding her hand to her chest)

Yo-- you-- you're not saying...

TANYA

Yes MEGAN. You are hearing me right and you will hear me say it now. I love you. I love you because I thought I finally had

someone who wouldn't EVER deem me a simple stupid girl with a dream to make a new life for herself.

MEGAN

(with a shocked expression and beginning to stutter)

Oh my... god. TANYA. I--I-- I don't know to say.

TANYA

(tears now streaming down her face)

It doesn't matter now. You have shown me that you are nothing more than a spoiled little rich girl who doesn't give a crap about anyone else other than herself. I never want to see you again because your dead to me. Goodbye Ms. Hart.

(with squinted eyes giving a teary final glare at Megan, walks away from her)

MEGAN

(stunned)

Oh man. TANYA loves me. I- I can't believe this. But I won't stop her. She is still my enemy set to destroy me just like DADDY said. Just focus on that okay MEGAN? That's all.

(closes her eyes and trying to steady her shaky breathing)

Act I Scene vi

*Pacing back and forth in her living room as her father continues to glare at her, MEGAN suddenly stops in her pace and looks at her father who is standing a few feet away from her with tears in her eyes.*

MEGAN

I did everything you told me to do DADDY! What more can you possibly want from me?

KEVIN

(folds his arms close to his chest as he raises an eyebrow)  
Oh, you know very well what more I want you to do. Destroy that slut's chances of beating you for the internship one way or another. What exactly do you not understand MEGAN?!

MEGAN

(crying and with a broken voice)  
Like I told you DADDY I did everything. Everything you ever asked me! Is it too much for you to just trust that I can beat TANYA with my skills and talents as a chef?

KEVIN

(guffaws)  
Huh! Skills and talents as a chef? What qualities could you possibly possess for anything MEGAN? I swear you know how to make me laugh sometimes.

MEGAN

(with a gasp and clutches her hand to her chest in shock)

You don't have faith I can win this competition at all DADDY?

KEVIN

Just do as I ask and everything will be fine.

MEGAN

No.

KEVIN

Excuse me?

MEGAN

(wipes her tears away with her sleeve)

No. I won't do anything else until you tell me just why you want me to destroy her chances so bad.

KEVIN

Because you need to have a reputation

MEGAN

No. That's not it. Tell me DADDY!

KEVIN

(with a deep voice)

Leave it alone MEGAN.

MEGAN

Tell me why DADDY.

KEVIN

(with a harsher tone)

You don't want to push my buttons MEGAN.

MEGAN

(growing frustrated with her father's attitude and with a slam of her fist on the coffee table)

Goddamn it! Tell me the fucking truth already DADDY!

KEVIN

(taking rough breaths and tightening the grip on his shirt)

Because her mother doesn't deserve to have a happy daughter!

MEGAN

(taken aback and takes a few steps towards from her father)

What? What does TANYA'S mother have to do with this?

KEVIN

(with a deep breath and stares at MEGAN directly in the face)

Her mother was my lover. Long before I met your mother, I went on a senior trip to Columbia and I met and fell for a woman with beautiful brown eyes and shiny hair. But she chose someone else.

MEGAN

(with a soft chuckle)

So... all of this has been about an old love affair? Really DADDY?

Must you have been so stupid?

KEVIN

(angered at her words and rapidly raises his hand to slap

MEGAN)

I am your father and that will be the last time you ever call me stupid. I may not be the same as some shithead twenty-year-old but I am still strong enough to knock out your teeth! The only stupid one here is you! You, MEGAN are the only one to blame because you still question me and doubt my words.

MEGAN

(holding on to her red cheek while slowly turning to her father)

You... hit me. You hit me DADDY.

KEVIN

You deserved it.

MEGAN

No, I didn't. What I deserved was you being honest with me from the beginning instead of critiquing me and judging me as you have my whole life. I have never been enough for you and all you can think about is some stupid revenge plot.

(scoffing softly)

And I was the stupid one to ever believe you knew what was best for me. When TANYA has been nothing but kind to me. She trusted me. How could I have been so-

KEVIN

Don't you dare give up on our plan!

MEGAN

No DADDY. I'm giving up on you! You don't deserve to have me as a daughter. I'm worth more than that. I deserve a family.

(taking a deep breath to steady her breathing)

And with that...

(walks to her front door and opens it)

I'm afraid I must ask you to leave.

KEVIN

(with wide eyes and his jaw dropping)

I am still your father. Remember that. You can't get rid of me so easily.

MEGAN

(still holding on to her door)

No. You are just someone I used to know. Please leave.

KEVIN

You need me MEG. Don't forget that.

MEGAN

Forget about me and no worries I will make do what I have.

Goodbye... Kevin.

KEVIN

(with a surprised gasp)

So, it's like that now?

MEGAN

This is how it will always be. Goodbye Kevin and now please leave. You have overstayed your welcome.

KEVIN

(walks out the door)

MEGAN

(quickly slams the door behind him. She begins to rub her  
arms back and forth before sliding down the back of the  
door

and begins sobbing).

Oh my god TANYA. All I can ever hope is that you forgive me one  
day.

(silence).