

LILY, SC. 1

6.

15 INT. BISTRO - CONTINUOUS 15

~~A few tables hold chatty seniors. Like all the other Amaranth residents they exhibit a robust vigor.~~

~~PATSY VO (V.O.)~~

~~...for a quick bite there's also the bistro, or poolside cafe.~~

16 EXT. POOLSIDE CAFE - CONTINUOUS 16

PATSY and LILY sit at an umbrella'd patio table drinking ice tea.

A couple of senior men in swim trunks and Tommy Bahama shirts walk past them. They make no secret of admiring Lily.

PATSY

Keep movin boys...

(to Lily)

You'll need to get used to being the youngest chicken in the henhouse.

LILY

Pardon?

PATSY

Cut-off age for Amaranth residency is fifty-five; the standard for retirement communities.

LILY

We're grateful you made an exception...

PATSY

It seems Richard has some pull.

LILY

A couple of his old colleagues have been members for a while. Judge Peters? Maybe you know him? Or Ronald Freeman?

PATSY

Senator Freeman?

START
→

"THE AMARANTH"

→

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LILY, SC. 1 (cont.)

7.

cont. →

LILY

(embarrassed by name-drop)
After his stroke, Richard was looking for a way we could live independently with the medical support he needs and also make some new friends. He was none-to-pleased when I left my job to stay home with him. It wasn't long before our social circle shrank to just the two of us.

PATSY

No children?

LILY

Richard has two boys. They're thrilled about the move. Removes the guilt.

PATSY

And you?

LILY

I just thought that once Richard retired we'd travel...that we'd have more time before we...

PATSY

Landed in an old folks home?

Lily fumbles, concerned she's making a poor impression. Patsy reaches across the table and takes her hand to reassure her.

PATSY (CONT'D)

Give it a chance. There are endless opportunities here for you to pursue old interests, or develop new ones...

(pats Lily's hand)

and create lasting friendships.

A server starts to refill their ice tea. Lily stops her.

LILY

We should probably head back.

PATSY

Of course. After one last stop.

— END

CUT TO:

"THE AMARANTH"

2/7

Lily ISC. 2

30.

~~A woman's voice, a suppressed, angry hiss that grows louder as Lily backs away from the ladies room door and tracks it.~~

~~PATSY (O.C.)
Of all the stupid...~~

~~Lily comes around a corner and sees guest relations director Patsy scolding the coughing waiter. His head is bowed.~~

~~PATSY (CONT'D)
...What the heck were you thinking?
You know the rules...~~

~~Lily steps back, and Patsy doesn't see her, continuing with her tirade. The waiter fails to suppress a new attack, coughing loudly and wetly on Patsy. Who shrinks back, then slaps him. His face spins towards Lily.~~

~~It's Arthur.~~

~~Lily blinks.~~

~~It is not Arthur. It is the coughing waiter.~~

~~PATSY (CONT'D)
Get out of my sight.~~

CUT TO:

37

INT. RICHARD & LILY'S HOME - LATER THAT EVENING

37

Richard and Lily enter, debating what Lily witnessed.

RICHARD
It was more than a little cough. I mean, use some common sense, man...

LILY
You weren't there. I'm telling you, Patsy was abusive...

A shadowy figure inside the house watches them arrive.

CAMERA TRACKS WITH LILY AND RICHARD AS THE FIGURE APPEARS IN THE FRAME.

A NEW BUTLER(early 30s)stands in front of the fireplace, which contains a small blaze. He closes the screen.

NEW BUTLER
Mr. Kendrick, Mrs. Kendrick. I did not mean to startle you. I thought you might like a fire.

cont. →

3/7

"THE AMARANTH"

START →

cont. ↓

cont. ↓

Lily, sc. 2 cont.

31.

cont. →

LILY

(cooly)

That was very thoughtful of you.

NEW BUTLER

I also took the liberty of making some herb tea.

(He indicates a tray with some tea things)

Could I get you anything else? A nightcap perhaps?

RICHARD

That will be all.

NEW BUTLER

Very well. Good night, then.

The butler exits.

RICHARD

Still not warming to the new guy?

They make their way down to the sofa.

LILY

It's just weird. We come home from the hospital and it's he-e-ere's your new butler...

(she pauses, thoughtful)

Do you think we got Arthur fired?

RICHARD

How would we have done that?

LILY

Because he didn't respond to my calls the night of your attack?

RICHARD

You are over-thinking this thing.

LILY

Maybe he just didn't like us.

RICHARD

Not like me? Maybe. But not like you? Impossible.

He cups her head in his hands and kisses her in a tender and sensual way that seems to surprise them both.

LILY

Oh...

— END

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"THE AMALANTH"

LILY, SC. 3

36.

As he leaves he flicks his towel at Lily's backside. After he's gone.

HOLLY

Wow. What a difference a few months make.

LILY

Tell me about it.

They both watch the departing Richard, who has stopped to talk to an attractive woman (NAN CLANCY)

LILY (CONT'D)

I can't keep up with him.

HOLLY

I'm meeting some of the girls for lunch. You want to join us?

LILY

Sorry. Can't. I've got plans.

42 EXT. AMARANTH LOADING DOCK - DAY

42

Lily and Mia eat salads from plastic take-away containers.

MIA

...I asked around about Arthur. It seems he was denied an extension on his work VISA.

LILY

Oh, no. Is there anything I can do to help?

MIA

(shakes head)

I don't have to tell you how complicated the immigration problem has become for refugees.

LILY

And I was afraid he'd been fired.

MIA

Why would he be fired?

LILY

For missing the call when Richard had his heart attack.

(MORE)

Cont. →

5/7

"THE AMARANTH"

START →

LILY, SC. 3 cont.

37.

cont. →

LILY (CONT'D)

Given your status...and the possibility of labor abuse...I told you about the way Patsy laid into that waiter the other night.

MIA

Look around. These are old people. Do you know how many cases of pneumonia we see? If that waiter came to work sick, he was more than foolish. He was dangerous.

LILY

I suppose...

MIA

This world has compassion fatigue, Lily. There are too many like me. The problem is too great. But Dr. Campbell arrived in my camp five years ago with medicine. He performed surgeries. And he returns, year-after-year.

LILY

I had no idea.

MIA

He visits other camps too, all over the world. With financial and political support from the Amaranth, he helps qualified candidates get permits to work in the US. That's how I got here.

LILY

What about your family?

MIA

We gave a smuggler everything we had to get us to the west. The boat, if you could call it that, had barely room for six, but they piled in thirty. The sea was rough.

She shakes her head.

MIA (CONT'D)

A fishing vessel pulled me from the water, and brought us to the camp.

LILY

Us?

→ cont.

6/7

"THE AMARANTH"

Lily, sc. 3 cont.

38.

cont. →

MIA

I was pregnant. A daughter. She was born in the camp. My cousin takes care of her now.

LILY

You must miss her terribly.

MIA

She is everything I live for. Someday, inshallah, we will be together again. Where is your family, Lily?

LILY

It's just me and Richard. My mom passed away years ago. And I lost track of my father.

MIA

Lost track?

LILY

We haven't spoken in years. He was furious when I married Richard. My dad was a very opinionated university professor. He calls Richard 'the fascist.' I never gave him the grandchild he wanted. He blames Richard for that too.

MIA

You have no children?

LILY

Richard's boys were grown when we met. He wasn't sure about starting a new family...then...time just slips away doesn't it?

— END

They sit in a long, awkward, sad silence. Mia reaches over and takes Lily's hand.

CUT TO:

43

INT. RICHARD & LILY'S HOME - DAY

43

Lily, returns from her date with Mia.

LILY

Richard?

Richard comes out of the bedroom. He has dyed his hair.

7/7

"THE AMARANTH"