GIUSEPPE

Written by

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INT. CAR - DAY

ANNA (8) is in the backseat, cornered by piles of suitcases and bags. She stares out her window as the car winds through the tall summer pine trees. A frazzled MOM (43) is behind the wheel, definitely speeding and shouting on the phone.

MOM
...yeah Ma, are you sure you don't need me to pick anything up from the- okay, fine... No- I SAID MATT'S GOT ELI AND THE DOG. Ma, you really gotta get new hearing aids... Oh hi Dad! We'll be there in about twenty minutes. Yeah, Anna's with me. Yeah! Here, gimme one second-

Without taking her eyes off the road, Mom reaches the phone back towards Anna. She struggles because she's short.

MOM (CONT'D)
Hey- hey hon, say hi to Papa.

Anna grabs the phone and curls up in her seat.

ANNA
Hello?

GIUSEPPE
(in a Boston accent)
WAAOOWWW, you look bee-YOU-teeful today!

Anna giggles, a smile slowly creeps onto her face.

ANNA
But you can't see me!

GIUSEPPE
Ohh, yes I can! Don't ya know I got supah-vision? Hey, that's a nice hair-do ya got there!

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Anna laughs as the car drives by a sign that reads "WELCOME TO LAKE SUNAPEE, N.H."

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Anna jumps out of the car as soon as it pulls into the driveway.

She turns to see a big white house on the shore of a harbor. GIUSEPPE (76) is walking across the front yard holding a rusty, outdated toolbox. He looks up and smiles.

GIUSEPPE
Theyah she is, Miss America!

Anna grabs one bag and takes off, with Mom trudging behind carrying two full-sized cooler bags per arm. A truck pulls in next to the car, and DAD (43) and ELI (10) jump out to help.

ANNA
PAPA!

Anna jumps into Giuseppe's arms, and Mom, Dad and Eli follow to greet him.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The group walks inside to see GRAM (72) cooking away. The massive kitchen had every counter and table covered with food: chicken parmesan, chicken alfredo, meatballs, spaghetti, a whole pot of sauce, fresh bread and oil...

Mom's older sisters enter from the porch to greet the family. Through the huge window overlooking the lake are the other seven grandchildren, swimming and jumping off the dock with their fathers.

ELI
Dad, can I go swimming?

DAD
Sure dude, just bring your suitcase upstairs to our room.

Eli grins and runs into the living room. Anna trots behind.

ANNA
Can I come too Eli?

ELI
No way! You can't play with us, you're too young!

Anna stops and watches Eli grab his bag and make a beeline for the stairs. Gram comes up behind Anna and hugs her.

GRAM
It's okay hon, come help me with the salad.

Mom and sisters begin to gossip at the kitchen island.

SISTER 1
You remember Mary Pamerani, she'd drive us to school!

MOM
I thought it was cousin Mary Hilliard?

MOM
Ohh yeah, you're right.

SISTER 1
Nancy FLEMING, ya best friend from junior high.

SISTER 2
Nonono, it was NANCY Pamerani, her cousin.

SISTER 1
No sweetie, that's Ma-RIE.

SISTER 2
Who was I thinkin of then?

SISTER 2 (CONT'D)
OHHH NANCY! Oh, yeah...

SISTER 2 (CONT'D)
... she was a bitch.

The three laugh themselves to tears. Dad ushers Mom to the living room. Giuseppe reaches into the fridge.

GIUSEPPE
ANYONE WANT ANY AHRANGE JUICE?!

SISTERS, GRAM, ANNA
NOOOO PAPA!

GIUSEPPE
Anner, can ya go ask ya parents if they want any?

She excitedly turns around to be stopped in the threshold. On the other side of the living room, Dad marches up to Mom, pointing a finger in her face and aggressively saying something Anna can't hear. Mom replies with arms crossed, and Dad throws his hands up in the air, grabbing some bags by their feet and storming off up the stairs. Mom watches him, then notices Anna in the doorway. Mom sighs, grabs the rest of the bags and follows Dad.

Giuseppe watches from behind Anna, the kitchen still buzzing with loud conversation. Shaking his head, Giuseppe grabs Anna and swings her around.

GIUSEPPE (CONT'D)
(shouting)
ELI! HELP ME WORK THAT DAMN BLUETEETH SPEAKAH!

ELI
(Shouting back)
It's blue-TOOTH, PAPA!

Eli sprints back inside from the dock. Giuseppe and Eli huddle over Giuseppe's phone and start playing Louis Prima. Giuseppe starts dancing and singing very, very poorly.

GIUSEPPE
Ohhhh YES!! We have no bananas...
we have NOOOO bananas to-DAYYYY...

Giuseppe grabs Anna's hands and starts dancing around the kitchen. They both start laughing. The sisters cheer and Gram is pissed at the invasion of her kitchen. Giuseppe turns to her and hip-bumps her.

GRAM
Oh, JOE!! What are ya-

Giuseppe grabs her and spins her around, dips her and kisses her on the cheek.

GIUSEPPE
Just havin fun, my deah!

Once she's upright, Gram blushes and giggles, then smacks his stomach with her wooden spoon. Giuseppe jumps and laughs.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Everyone gathers around the table, kids wrapped in towels from swimming and adults just as giddy after downing a few bottles of wine. Out the window, the sun sets on the harbor.

Mom and Dad return to the group, both looking distracted. Mom half-heartedly searches the fridge and Anna approaches.

MOM
Hey hon, did you want something
earlier? A drink or something?

ANNA
(staring)
Oh, nothing. I'm-

Mom walks away with no response. Anna watches her go.

ANNA (CONT'D)
-fine.

Anna sits at the middle of the table across from Giuseppe. At one end, Eli and Dad chat with the other grandkids and fathers. At the other end, Mom sits among sisters and gossip, looking down at her plate. Anna stares out the window.

SISTER 1
Oh god, that trip was amazing. Papa, do you remember the Disney trip you took us all on?

GIUSEPPE
HA! Oh, was that a time... my favorite paht, though, was Anner.

Anna looked up. Giuseppe was watching her the whole time.

ANNA
Me?

GIUSEPPE
(smiling)
You were fowah years old when we went. Everyone had been spinnin' and flippin' on rides all day, and we were all about tah lose our lunches. Eli DID- behind the hah t dog caht!

ELI
(mouth full)
HEY I did!

GIUSEPPE
But we still hadn't seen the castle light up. So we went, and you were on your Uncle James' shouldahs... my god, the way ya face lit up with that castle and the fiyaworks... I'll nevah forget it.

Anna stared at him. Giuseppe smiled and paused for a moment, before suddenly getting up.

GIUSEPPE (CONT'D)
Anyone want any ahrange juice?

GRAM, MOM, DAD, SISTERS, ELI
No! No thank you!

ANNA
Yes, please!

Giuseppe turns around and winks. Anna smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.