

Romantic Comedy Scene # 2

INT. FIDELIO'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Within the 4-star Italian restaurant, AMANDA and BILL (two attractive 30-somethings) eat dinner together. Amanda's a beautiful blonde with heavy makeup and eye shadow. Bill sports a designer suit and tie, with a pair of thinly framed glasses to top off his upscale look.

As Bill gabs on incessantly, Amanda sips her wine and shoots him the occasional fake smile.

BILL

I've always been a fan of dry wine. I know it's an acquired taste, much like dark chocolate, but I personally am a huge fan. As a matter of fact, the dryer the better.

Bill delivers a haughty laugh. Amanda reluctantly chuckles along with him.

BILL

What is your opinion?

AMANDA

I think it's all right.

BILL

I've always loved the Bordeaux-style wines like Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon - that's a favorite of mine. What about you? Or are you a fan of the sweeter dessert wines?

AMANDA

I say whatever gets me boozed up the fastest.

Amanda laughs at her own joke. Bill doesn't seem at all amused.

AMANDA

I'm sure you would agree.

BILL

Why would I agree?

AMANDA

(giving up)

I don't know.

BILL

Well, I just revealed to you that I've been immersed in the glorious world of management accounting for the last five years. You never told me what you do for a living.

AMANDA

I didn't? I could've sworn we touched upon it.

Amanda takes a sip of wine as she shifts her gaze away from Bill.

BILL

No... as a matter of fact, I've been doing the majority of the talking throughout this evening, which is funny considering that women are often considered to be the more verbose of the two genders. I don't wholeheartedly share that sentiment. Personally, I feel like a good meal is incomplete without good conversation. It's like a seven-course dinner without an aperitif.

AMANDA

An aperi-what?

BILL

Are you in a related field?

AMANDA

Not really.

BILL

Are we playing 20 Questions? Come on!
Cough it up, sweetie.

(quietly)

You're in the CIA, aren't you?

AMANDA

Why? Would that upset you?

BILL

Not at all. Your secret is safe with me.

AMANDA

(leaning in closer to Bill)

What if I told you I was an assassin?

BILL

You're certainly the most fetching assassin
I've ever met.

AMANDA

Well, I did play an assassin in a movie once.

BILL

(perking up)

Oh, really? Which movie?

AMANDA

Silent but Slutty, Part 5.

Bill chokes on his wine.

AMANDA

Are you familiar with my repertoire?

BILL

Heavens no.

AMANDA

Should I take that as a "yes"?

BILL

Do I look like someone who would indulge in
that... tripe?

AMANDA

Presuming there's something dangling between those legs, I would say "yes."

BILL

What are you trying to say?

AMANDA

Look, there are two types of men in this world: men who watch porn and men who don't admit they watch porn.

BILL

I think I should head out soon.

AMANDA

So let me get this straight: You'd date me if I was an assassin, but not if I'm a porn actress.

BILL

(obviously hiding disgust)

I didn't say I won't date you.

AMANDA

No, but you implied it. What's wrong? Afraid you'll catch a disease just looking at me?

BILL

You are *entirely* jumping to conclusions. I'm just saying it's getting late -

AMANDA

It's 9:30.

BILL

I'm tired.

AMANDA

What are you, 75?

BILL

On second thought...

Bill slaps a stack of bills down on the table.

BILL (CONT.)

... This should take care of the bill. If there's anything left over, it's all yours.

AMANDA

Are you going to call me?

BILL

Probably.

AMANDA

Yes or no?

BILL

I'll talk to you soon.

Bill rushes away from the table. Amanda rises in anger and swigs the wine straight from the bottle.

AMANDA

Why's it so hard for me to find a man? All because I've gotten my ass double-fisted by men of all different races...

The CUSTOMERS surrounding her perk up and pay attention, most of whom stare in disgust.

AMANDA (CONT.)

... I have to be looked at like I'm damaged goods? I'm human too, you know!