

MARIA

Yes! I was never so sick. I still can't even smell the stuff.

BRANDON

Didn't you sleep in her bathtub?

MARIA

Oh my God, I did. Where did you sleep?

BRANDON

I didn't. I wasn't gonna take my eyes off you.

Maria's phone dings. She looks down.

MARIA

Oh shoot. I gotta get going.

Maria stands. Brandon stands.

BRANDON

Don't worry, it's on me.

MARIA

Very convenient.

BRANDON

See you later.

They hug. Maria leaves.

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INT. CORPORATE BUILDING, MAIN OFFICE SPACE - NIGHT

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Maria and Joey, looking glamorous and sophisticated, work the room of about ten people, making small talk and sipping cocktails. LARA (30ish, blonde, tall, fit) approaches.

LARA

Joseph.

JOEY

Lara. Hi. This is Maria.

The two ladies shake hands. Maria eyes the appetizer table, grabs a crostini and pops it in her mouth. She moans.

START

MARIA

Oh my God. These are to die for. Is this a goat cheese spread?

(MORE)

LARA

I'm not sure. I'm not with the catering crew.

MARIA

I know, I just thought--

JOEY

Maria's a bit of a cheese connoisseur.

LARA

Now, that's not something you hear every day. Me, I love cheese, but I stay away from such high-fat foods.

MARIA

Right. Everything in moderation.

LARA

Except cheese! **END**

JOEY

Maria doesn't know moderation. Her family owns an Italian restaurant.

Maria lets out a laugh.

LARA

That would be torture! You're lucky you're not that big.

MARIA

I work out a lot. I'm on a softball team, so that's pretty hardcore.

LARA

Joseph never mentioned that!

MARIA

How strange!

LARA

I love working out. I have a few certifications, no big deal. I teach Pilates on the weekends. You should come by. Book early though, my classes sell out.

MARIA

I'm sure they do.