

INT. MARKET - NIGHT

HELENE

Hi. Have you been here all night?

ADAM

How'd you find me?

HELENE

Couldn't sleep, then I remembered sole bonne femme needs sole.

ADAM

Yeah, without skin.

HELENE

Sweeney's Irish, by the way, not Scottish. It's my ex-husband's name. Leon Sweeney.

ADAM

Didn't work out, huh?

HELENE

It could have done. We were really good for a long time, but... You know, we drank too much, and partied too much and... I could stay up for days, and he loved that about me. Then I got pregnant with Lily and, you know, I wanted to stop, and he didn't.

ADAM

Didn't or couldn't?

HELENE

What's the difference?

ADAM

Yeah. I worked in places like this all the time when I was a kid. I saved up a bunch of money, bought a one-way ticket to Paris. Lied my way into Jean Luc's kitchen. That's when Max was there, and Reece, and, uh, Michel came later. I didn't speak any French. Worked 20-hour days, six days a week. I was 19 years old. I loved every minute of it. The heat, the pressure, the violence, the fucking screaming. You know, all the cooks. That kitchen is the only place I've ever felt like I really belonged.

HELENE

Why? What happened in Paris?

ADAM

I just fucked it all up. Maybe it's... Maybe I just wanted it really bad, and then when I got it too early, I didn't know how to hold on to it. I tried to control everything. Then when I wanted to escape from it... Five o'clock's always the worst time for thinking things. I always think of things, like I make a list of, like, things and people I always think about right now. It's like my mom, my grandmother, Jean Luc. It's like a broken fucking record.

HELENE

That woman at the party was really pretty. Is she on your list?

ADAM

Nope.

HELENE

Her perfume was amazing.

ADAM

You smell okay.

HELENE

Thank you. What about Tony? Is he on your list?

ADAM

Yeah, he's there. I worry maybe I'm too hard on him. At about 6:00, I decide it's okay. And there's you.

HELENE

Wait, I'm on the list?

ADAM

Yeah, apparently so. It's getting to be a long list. No wonder I don't sleep.

HELENE

Why are you thinking about me at 5:00 a.m.?

ADAM

I just think you and I are exactly the same, you know? All we want to do... is just fry some fucking fish.