

Dinner for Four

By

Rebeca Gomez

INT. DINING ROOM -- EVENING

TAMMY, 20s, spunky and tough, enters the sparsely decorated room carrying a pile of clean dishes.

She walks over to the table and begins setting the dishes out for dinner.

DOUGLAS, early 30s, shy and bookish, enters. He is dressed nicely, in a shirt and a tie. He looks stiff and uncomfortable.

Tammy steps back from the table and examines it. Then she looks at her watch.

TAMMY

Dinner should be done in a couple of minutes.

Douglas starts to speak again, but Tammy cuts him off.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

I have to go change. Let him in if he gets here early.

Douglas swallows, nervously.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

And try to loosen up a little. You look like you're on your way to a funeral.

Tammy exits.

Douglas paces around for a few times. The doorbell rings.

Douglas looks over at the door, then over to the exit that Tammy passed through moments earlier.

The door bell rings again, followed by a loud knock. Douglas contemplates answering the door for a beat.

TOMMY (O.S.)

Hey, open the door!

Instead of answering it ,however, Douglas runs out of the room, through the same exit that Tammy just passed through.

INT. STAIRCASE -- CONTINUOUS

DOUGLAS runs up a flight of stairs and disappears.

All the while, Tommy continues ringing the doorbell and pounding on the door, loudly.

INT. HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

DOUGLAS arrives upstairs and begins knocking on a bedroom door, frantically. He is out of breath.

DOUGLAS

Tammy...Tammy...are you in there?

TAMMY (O.S.)

Douglas, what's the matter?

Tommy continues his knocking.

TOMMY (O.S.)

Tammy, answer the goddamn to door!

Tammy opens the bedroom door and joins Douglas in the hallway. She is now wearing a dress.

TAMMY

Tommy's here?

Tammy starts to walk down the hallway.

Douglas follows her.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

Why haven't you let him in?

There is more pounding on the front door. Tommy is getting increasingly worked up.

TOMMY (O.S.)

I can hear you in there. Answer the goddamn door!

Douglas cowers, he wants to run and hide somewhere.

DOUGLAS

I can't do this.

Tammy is clearly very frustrated.

(CONTINUED)

TAMMY

We talked about this Douglas.

DOUGLAS

(ashamed)

I know.

TAMMY

We both agreed that we were going to tell him tonight.

Douglas nods. He knows this, but it doesn't make it any easier.

DOUGLAS

I know. It's just that, I mean he's so big and scary. And his friends...

TAMMY

You're not going to start that crap again, are you?

DOUGLAS

I'm just saying that if we get him angry tonight, he has the connections to get us whacked.

TAMMY

For the millionth time, my brother is not in the mob!

DOUGLAS

Shhh. He could hear you. I don't want him to know that we're talking about him.

TOMMY (O.S.)

Are you guys going to answer this door or what?

TAMMY

Coming, Tommy.

Tammy reaches the stairs and starts walking down them towards the front door.

INT. STAIRCASE -- CONTINUOUS

DOUGLAS runs in front of her, blocking her way.

DOUGLAS  
You can't let him in!

TAMMY  
For Christ's sake, Douglas. He's standing outside the door. I can't just leave him out there.

DOUGLAS  
Okay, good point. So maybe we let him in, but we don't tell him anything, not tonight.

TAMMY  
Stop being a wuss, Douglas.

DOUGLAS  
It's just that...

TAMMY  
What, Douglas?

DOUGLAS  
He asked me to take care of you.

TAMMY  
So? You have.

TOMMY (O.S.)  
Tammy, what the hell is going on in there?

Douglas looks over at the door, nervously.

DOUGLAS  
He meant that he wanted me to watch out for you, keep you out of trouble and make sure you didn't end up with someone like me.

TAMMY  
Someone like you?

DOUGLAS  
You know, an evil man who wanted to steal your innocence and break your heart.

Tammy laughs.

(CONTINUED)

TAMMY  
(sarcastic)  
Yeah, that sounds like you.

Tammy kisses Douglas gently on the cheek.

DOUGLAS  
Tammy...

Tammy presses her index finger across his lips which prevents him from continuing his sentence.

TAMMY  
We're going downstairs now. We're going to open the door, we're going to have a nice dinner and then, when the moment is right, we're going to tell him all about us.

Tammy takes Douglas by the hand and leads him downstairs.

INT. DOORWAY -- CONTINUOUS

TAMMY and DOUGLAS walk over to the door together.

TOMMY (O.S.)  
Shit, that's no way to treat a guest. Invite them over and then pretend like you're not home when they get there. You better believe I'm telling mom about this, Tammy.

Douglas gives Tammy one last pleading glance.

Tammy squeezes his hand, reassuringly.

Tammy opens the door.

TAMMY  
Hi, Tommy.

TOMMY, a large, intimidating looking man, shakes his head indignantly.

TOMMY  
Jesus, Tammy. What the hell is going on? You can't answer the door when someone knocks?

TAMMY  
Sorry. I didn't want my big brother to see me until I was 100 percent ready.

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY  
And he couldn't get it?

Douglas stands frozen.

TAMMY  
I needed his opinion. I wouldn't  
let him leave until he gave it to  
me.

Tommy pauses and shakes his head.

TOMMY  
I should have known.

Tommy turns to Douglas.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Women, aye Dougie.

Tommy slaps Douglas on the shoulder and laughs.

The blow from the slap causes Douglas to lose his footing.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
So you gonna invite me in sometime  
today?

Tammy nods, and opens the door a little further, so Tommy  
can pass through it.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Hold on, I almost forgot something.

TAMMY  
What?

Tommy makes a "come over" motion into the darkness.

Tammy looks at Douglas and smiles, as if to say "see, it's  
not so bad after all".

Tommy steps aside to reveal NINA, 20's, provocatively  
dressed and with a very friendly smile, standing behind him.

TOMMY  
This is Nina.

TAMMY  
Hello, Nina. It's nice to meet you.

NINA

Likewise.

Tammy takes Nina by the arm.

TAMMY

So, Nina you're dating my brother?

NINA

Not exactly. It's more like...

Nina pauses to think of the right words.

NINA (CONT'D)

I owe him a favor and tonight he's collecting.

Tammy crinkles her eyebrows, curiously.

Douglas gives Tammy a smile, as if to say "see, I told you he is in the mob".

INT. DINING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

TOMMY sits down across NINA at the table. There is an empty seat next to Tommy and one next to Nina.

TAMMY heads into the kitchen.

DOUGLAS prepares to take the seat next to Tommy. Just as Douglas is about to sit, Tommy puts his hand on the chair preventing him from doing so.

TOMMY

Uh-uh. You sit over there.

Tommy motions towards the seat next to Nina.

DOUGLAS

Tommy, I think that I would rather sit next to you.

TOMMY

Don't be silly. Dougie, go sit by Nina.

Nina waves and smiles back at Douglas, flirtatiously.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Go on.

Douglas cautiously walks over and sits down next to Nina.

(CONTINUED)

He pulls the seat as far away from her as he can, but as soon and he sits down, she moves her chair right up against his.

Tammy enters with the lasagna.

Tommy smiles, pleased with himself.

Douglas looks over at Tammy, uncertain what to do.

She doesn't pay him any attention. She sits down next to her brother.

NINA

How long have you two been roommates?

TOMMY

Going on two years now.

They all begin to pass around the lasagna.

TAMMY

We really get along well.

Douglas looks over Tammy and smiles.

DOUGLAS

Yeah. We hardly fight at all.

TAMMY

It's actually pretty wonderful situation.

DOUGLAS

I really enjoy her company.

TAMMY

And I enjoy his.

NINA

Really?

Douglas is feeling much more comfortable now.

DOUGLAS

Really. And I think a lot of that has to do with the fact that we have so much respect for each other. I would never do anything to disrespect her or to cause her to feel any type of pain.

Tommy nods approvingly.

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY

I knew that about you. That's why I picked you to be her roommate. Cause I knew you'd look out for her. And keep her grounded, not like those crazy friends of hers.

Tammy glares in Tommy's direction.

Douglas is ready, or rather as ready as he ever will be, to tell Tommy their news.

DOUGLAS

I'm so glad to hear you say that because I have to tell something, and knowing that you feel that way will make it easier. Tommy, Tammy and I are...

TAMMY

Tommy, what makes you think that you have the right to tell me who I can be friends with, who I'm supposed to live with and who I can date?

DOUGLAS

Look Tammy I was just about to...

Tammy flashes and angry look in Douglas's direction.

TAMMY

Shut up, Douglas. I just asked Tommy a question, and I'm waiting to hear his answer.

TOMMY

Hey, I'm just looking out for you. That's my job. I'm your big brother.

TAMMY

It's not your job to tell me how to live my life.

TOMMY

Come on, Tammy, stop your bitching.

TAMMY

There you go again, trying to tell me what to do.

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY

Let's just relax. And let everyone  
try to enjoy their dinner.

Tammy glares over at Tommy, angrily.

Douglas sits in his chair, wondering what he should do.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER

TAMMY enters with a tray of desserts. She serves one each to DOUGLAS and NINA, but intentionally doesn't give one to TOMMY.

Nina is still hanging seductively on Douglas. Douglas looks at her, uncomfortably.

TOMMY

Don't I get one?

TAMMY

I figured you wouldn't like it.  
Since you weren't here to make sure  
I used the right ingredients when I  
made it.

Tommy shakes his head. He has no idea how to deal with her when she is like this. He decides to just ignore her for now.

TOMMY

So, Douglas. Did you know that Nina  
here is a professional dancer?

Douglas swallows, uncomfortably.

DOUGLAS

Yeah?

Nina moves in closer.

Douglas squirms around, uncomfortably.

Tammy notices Nina's behavior for the first time. She glares at Douglas.

Douglas tries to move away from Nina, but she follows him.

Douglas looks over at Tommy.

Tommy smiles at him, encouragingly.

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY

Dougie, You've been a good pal.  
You've watched out for Tammy for  
me, and I want to repay you. Why  
don't you take Nina for the  
evening?

DOUGLAS

Take her where?

Tommy rolls his eyes.

TOMMY

Upstairs, to your room. Consider  
her my gift to you.

Douglas shakes his head vigorously and gets up from the  
chair.

DOUGLAS

No thanks.

TOMMY

Come on, Dougie. Let loose and have  
some fun.

Nina rises and takes Douglas by the arm. She rubs herself up  
against him.

Douglas looks over at Tammy one last time.

Tammy jumps out of her chair.

TAMMY

Let go of my boyfriend you hussy.

Tommy looks up at his sister, perplexed.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

That's right, you heard me.

Douglas smiles. He wants to hug her so badly at this moment.

TOMMY

You're dating that...wimp.

TAMMY

He's not a wimp. He's sweet and  
sensitive. And he loves me.

Tommy turns to Douglas.

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY

Wait a second, you were supposed to take care of her, protect her for me. You sneaky little bastard!

TAMMY

Calm down, Tommy.

TOMMY

I trusted you with my precious little sister, and you went behind my back...oh my god have you two?

Tommy shakes his head with disgust at the thought of the two of them having sex.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

That's it, you're dead.

Tammy jumps in front of Tommy to prevent him from getting to Douglas.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Get out of my way, Tammy.

Douglas cowers in the corner. He wants to speak up, but he is too frightened at this moment.

Nina watches, uncertain what to do.

TAMMY

No, I won't let you hurt him.

TOMMY

This is bull shit, Tammy. I entrusted you to him. And he betrayed my trust. In my circles, that reason enough to kill a guy. Now get out of the way.

TAMMY

He didn't betray your trust.

TOMMY

Yeah he did. He made a move for my little sister. A little sister is a sacred thing.

Douglas tries to force himself up, but he just can't.

TAMMY

He didn't move for me, Tommy. I moved on him.

(CONTINUED)

Tammy smiles as she thinks back.

TAMMY (CONT'D)  
Pretty aggressively too. Poor guy  
didn't stand a chance.

Tommy shakes his head. This is another image that he doesn't want burned into his mind.

TOMMY  
I don't care who made the move. He  
went along and therefore he has to  
pay.

Tammy still won't move.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Tammy, move!

She shakes her head, steadfastly.

Douglas takes a breath to gather his courage. Then he stands, with resolve.

DOUGLAS  
Tammy, get out of the way.  
Your brother and I have something  
we need to discuss.

Tammy and Tommy both look over at Douglas, dumbfounded.

TAMMY  
Douglas, what are you doing?

DOUGLAS  
I'm doing what I should have done  
in the first place. I'm standing  
up.

Douglas looks up at Tommy, he immediately wants to sit back down, but he forces himself not to. As he speaks, he looks down at the ground a good deal of the time. But as he continues, he gradually becomes more confident.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)  
Tommy, we're in love, and we want  
to be together. And you are just  
going to have to deal with that. I  
know that I should have been more  
of a man and told you right away.  
And I'm sorry for that, but that's  
the only thing I'm sorry for. Tammy  
and I have decided that we're going  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
to be together. And that is going  
to happen whether you like it or  
not. You can beat me up, you can  
even put a hit out on me, but that  
won't change anything.

For a brief second, Tommy contemplates beating Douglas up  
for standing up to him, but then he looks over at Tammy.

She is staring at Douglas, doe-eyed.

TOMMY  
You love her?

DOUGLAS  
With all of my heart.

TOMMY  
And you love him?

TAMMY  
Yes.

TOMMY  
And you'll take good care of her,  
right?

Douglas nods a quick "yes" response.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Fine. But if you hurt her. I mean  
if you make her cry even once. You  
understand?

Douglas nods, vigorously.

Tommy shakes his head in disbelief.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Sisters.

He turns and takes Nina's hand.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
Come on, Nina. Let's go.

Nina gets up from the table and walks over to where Tommy is  
standing.

NINA  
It was nice meeting you all.

Nina turns to Tammy.

(CONTINUED)

NINA (CONT'D)

Sorry about the almost fucking your  
boyfriend thing.

TAMMY

That's okay.

Tommy walks over and gives his sister a kiss on the  
forehead.

TOMMY

I'll call you next week. You'll let  
me know if he steps out of line?

TAMMY

Of course.

Tommy holds a finger up at Douglas.

Douglas cowers.

Tommy and Nina exit.

Tammy turns to Douglas.

TAMMY

That was really brave the way you  
stood up to my brother.

DOUGLAS

I guess.

Tammy smiles, then hugs Douglas.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

We should clear the table now.

Douglas walks over and starts to clear the table off.

TAMMY

I think we should do something else  
instead. Something upstairs.

Tammy smiles seductively and attempts to lead Douglas  
towards the stairs.

He shakes his head and walks back over to the table.

DOUGLAS

I don't think so. If we let the  
food sit out too long it could go  
bad. Plus it will get stuck to the  
plates and then it just makes a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS (cont'd)  
bigger mess that we will have to  
clean up later.

Tammy shakes her head at the oblivious Douglas.

TAMMY  
No, I think there is something else  
that we should do upstairs first.

Douglas is clearing dishes and walking them into the  
kitchen.

Tammy is standing with her hand on her hips.

TAMMY (CONT'D)  
Okay, well I'm going upstairs, so  
whenever you care to join me you'll  
know where to find me.

DOUGLAS  
Okay.

Tammy shakes her head, and exits.

Douglas continues to clear the table for a beat until it  
dawns on him what she wants to do upstairs.

At that point he abandons the dishes and makes a run for the  
stairs.

THE END