

EXT. FOOD TRUCK RALLY - DAY

JARED and TINA arrive at a food truck. Jared instructs Tina what to order for him and goes to the bathroom. He washes his hands, walks out of the bathroom and sits down at the table with Tina.

JARED

What did you get?

TINA

The chicken fajita salad.

JARED

Oh. Cool. What about the brisket nacho fries? I thought you were gonna get those with the grilled chicken.

TINA

(laughs)

Well you seemed pretty excited about them but I wanted to keep it a bit lighter for now. Yours looks really good though.

A shot of Jared's food shows a cheesy, meaty platter.

JARED

...alright.

They begin to eat and Tina shows Jared her phone.

TINA

Look at that. Jasmina's in Sicily. We have to go soon.

JARED

Oh yeah. Cool.

Tina looks at her phone. Jared looks at her and takes out his phone.

TINA

Oh, I was thinking. After Target we should run by the mall. I want to pick up something nice for

Steph. Make her feel welcome,
y'know?

JARED
(looking down at phone)

TINA
..Jared, hello?

JARED
One moment please.

Tina looks impatiently at Jared.

JARED
(puts away phone and looks up)
Ok, you had a request or
something?

TINA
Can we stop by the mall after we
eat? I want to pick up something
for Steph.

JARED
Huh? The mall?

TINA
Yeah, can we go?

JARED
Well, it sounds like we're going.
I mean, do I have a choice?

TINA
Of course you do.

JARED
(flatly)
Yeah, let's go. Sounds great.

TINA
Are you upset about something?

A pause in the conversation. Jared looks up as if in deep
thought.

JARED

Do you have a problem with the way
that I eat?

TINA

You can eat whatever you want.

JARED

Last night, you didn't want to eat
Detroit style pizza with me. And
then we came here specifically
because they are known for their
brisket nacho fries and you got a
salad.

TINA

You ordered it at midnight, I was
trying to go to sleep. If you
haven't noticed, I kind of have a
lot on my plate at the moment.

JARED

It wasn't midnight.

TINA

If it's late at night I'm not
going to eat Detroit style pizza.
I probably wouldn't have it for
lunch either. Is this that
important to you?

JARED

...I guess not.

TINA

(dismissive)

Well, I didn't mean to hurt your
feelings and sorry if I did.

A pause.

JARED

Can we talk about it?

TINA

Sure, but there's not much to talk about. I'm not going to eat pizza with you when I'm trying to sleep.

JARED

I think we should be able to talk about difficult topics.

TINA

But I'm not...

JARED

Like your sister staying with us. I didn't want to talk about it last week, because it's an emotional topic for me. I'll admit, I get triggered when you tell me that your sister is going to stay with us for an unknown period of time, but...

TINA

What do you mean, an unknown period of time? Why are you saying it like that?

JARED

I'm just saying, you're right to have the conversation. And I think we actually feel closer after having those tough conversations.

JARED looks around, exhales. He's trying to find words to express this difficult feeling.

JARED

...we're not...I'm not feeling...I think we should eat more of the same foods.

TINA

Why?

JARED

Just the tone of the moment. If I'm eating an ice cream cone and

you're eating a carrot, it's like we're in different realities. When people eat the same food, on the same schedule, over time, they start to share a reality and even become biologically similar.

TINA

What does that mean?

JARED

Basically more "in sync". There are scientific studies about this. Much of early tribal cooperation was built around eating the same food. They found there are a ton of biological indicators that point towards shared diets affecting mental and emotional states.

TINA

What did you mean, an unknown period of time? We agreed on how long Steph is staying with us.

JARED

I didn't mean anything. What I'm saying is a shared diet is scientifically foundational to bonding.

TINA

Shouldn't we figure out what will work for us? I'm pretty sure there are loads of great relationships out there where people have different diets. Like Derek and Rica.

JARED

Derek and Rica? No...

TINA

What?

JARED

No, no. You can't use Derek and Rica as an example.

TINA

Why not?

JARED

...no no. You can't use them.
Honestly, anyone but them and it may have worked.

TINA

Whatever. Ok, why can't you eat my food then? Have a salad once in a while.

JARED

I need more calories and a higher fat intake than what that's going to give me. I have to get nutrients in volume. And so do you.

TINA

But the stuff you eat is kind of junk. Like those cheeseburger egg rolls for lunch yesterday. Let's be honest, you got those things because you were super stressed about work. And sometimes you eat so late at night...

JARED

Ok, ok, too many things at once. One, the cheeseburger egg rolls are super high in protein and fat. I wouldn't call them junk. Two...

TINA

Yes, "high in fat"!...

JARED

Hey! Don't interrupt me. Let me make my points, or I'll forget.

TINA

ok, ok...

JARED

Two, they are delicious. Food should be a fun, pleasurable experience.

TINA

Always? I don't think so..

JARED

Look, you said like 10 things I disagree with. I have to go through those 1 by 1 now and explain why. If you are going to set all these little fires, then I have no choice but to go through and put them out 1 at a time. Or else we're not going to get anywhere.

TINA

Fine. Go ahead.

JARED

What was I on? Two, food should be pleasurable. What was it... yeah, society has labeled certain foods junk, especially when they are highly pleasurable which likely has to do with the guilt ridden culture we live in. Alright and what was the other thing...see I forgot...hang on...Oh right, stress. Three, People do all sorts of things to handle stress. They take drugs, have affairs, run up credit cards. My food actually works as a destresser and I think eating great food is a fantastic way to handle stress.

TINA

Are you done?

JARED

I think there was something else...but I can't remember.

(inquisitive/suspicious) Have you been eating more fish lately?

TINA

No.

JARED

...so your sister is going to live with us for a while. That's ok, and like we talked about, I think that we should be there for her now, when she *needs* us. So with this...all I'm asking is that you hear me out and give it a try.

TINA

Jared, that's different though, her husband is leaving her! It is the most significant moment of her life, maybe of all of our lives. I don't think the food you eat makes you the person you are. Tons of people go on diets and they don't all of a sudden change their entire personality. That doesn't make...

JARED

No! No! They do! They do! It actually does change their personalities. They've done studies on this. We've got a lot of data on this. There's over 2000 peer reviewed papers on how diet affects personality traits. Look, it's fine to have an opinion but you don't know anything about this. Have you ever looked into it? Have you read the studies? Have you analyzed the raw data?

TINA

No.

JARED

Ok, well I have. And your diet affects your entire personality. Here's one example: eating higher amounts of mercury, like in fish, will actually make you more disagreeable. It's hypothesized that the negotiation culture found in coastal cities around the world started in fish markets hundreds of years ago because everyone was eating tons of fish, thus having extremely high levels of mercury. It causes an increase in disagreeableness because of how it impacts the prefrontal cortex over time...but, let's not get into the weeds here. So did you know that? Did you know that mercury is tied to disagreeableness?

TINA

(shakes her head)

JARED

Ok, so I know about this and you don't. Now you know. And honestly, we can talk about how disgusting I am and that's great, I mean, I'm learning a lot about what you actually think of me, but I'm starting to see a pattern. You have really strong opinions about stuff you don't know anything about. That's dishonest. And maybe someday we can talk about that.

Jared looks away from the table. Tina is stunned and starting to feel guilty.

TINA

Jared.

Jared avoids making eye contact and eats his food.

TINA

Ok, you're right, I've never looked into how diets affect personality...you said you've seen a pattern in my behavior. What other times was I dishonest?

Jared exhales, leans his head back, squints his eyes.

JARED

Uhhmmm. I don't know. It's fine. There's no pattern. Whatever you say. Just tell me what to say. What should I say?

Tina finally cracks. A few tears stream down her face. She turns back to Jared who is eating his lunch.

TINA

I'm sorry. There's just so much going on...I'm letting everyone down...Steph getting divorced...and now you...

Jared looks at Tina for a few seconds. He debates his next move and ultimately decides to comfort her.

JARED

(consoling)

Oh baby, baby, baby. No, I'm sorry. I'm just a weirdo about this stuff.

Jared moves over to the same side of the table as Tina. He rubs her back. Tina begins to sob and puts her head on his shoulder.

JARED

Here, have some water. You're dehydrated.

Wide shot of the couple at the food truck rally.

JARED

I'm sorry baby. It's ok. Don't worry about that.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jared drives the car and Tina sits in the passenger seat.

JARED

Can you believe that? Just comes
right over with no signal. Jesus.

TINA

It is insane how people drive
here. They have a death wish or
something.

INT. AISLE AT TARGET - DAY

Jared and Tina look at soaps and bath bombs, comparing them
to each other carefully.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jared and Tina cuddle on the couch watching TV. A large bag
of chips rests beside Tina.

JARED

(acting like a dog)

Woof! woof!

Jared leaves his mouth open and directed towards Tina.

TINA

Down! Down boy! Stay!

Finally, Tina feeds Jared a chip and he makes a satisfied
dog-like noise.

INT. APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

Tina is asleep on the couch, the TV is still on. Across the
room at the kitchen table, Jared is on his phone scrolling
a food delivery app. He pauses on a picture of spicy fried
chicken. He looks over at Tina asleep and back to his
phone. He looks at the add to order button.