

# 'ESME'

68.

INT. CULLEN HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Scene #1

Verdi's opera BLASTS Bella and Edward who enter to find the kitchen in full swing. Dr. Cullen, Emmett, Rosalie, and ESME prepare elaborate platters of Italian pastas and antipasti.

They move at a dizzying but graceful speed. Esme rolls out a pizza dough and fans tomatoes around it in an instant. Dr. Cullen FLINGS a knife to Emmett who barely looks up to catch it, as they chop veggies blindingly fast. Only Rosalie stirs a pot at normal speed, disinterested.

Esme sees Bella and stops, emanating maternal warmth. Her heart-shaped face and billows of hair are reminiscent of the silent-movie era.

Start →

ESME

Bella, Bella, Bella! We're making Italiano for you.

EDWARD

This is Esme, my mother for all intents and purposes.

BELLA

Bon giorno?

ESME

Molto bene!

DR. CULLEN

You've given us an excuse to use the kitchen for the first time.

ESME

I hope you're hungry.

BELLA

Oh, absolutely --

EDWARD

She already ate.

Bella shoots him a look, but something SHATTERS. Rosalie has thrown down a bowl and now strides out --

~~ROSALIE~~

~~Perfect~~

INT. LIVING ROOM (CONTINUOUS) - DAY

-- Bella exits behind Rosalie, trying to explain. The other's follow --

BELLA

I just assumed -- because you don't eat, you know...

ESME

Of course. That was very considerate of you.

~~EDWARD~~

~~(to Rosalie)~~

~~Ignore her. I do.~~

ROSALIE

Yes, let's keep pretending this isn't dangerous for all of us.

~~BELLA~~

~~I would never, ever tell anyone.~~

~~DR. CULLEN~~

~~(reassuring)~~

~~She knows that.~~

EMMETT

The problem is, you two have gone public now, so...

ESME

Emmett.

**END**

ROSALIE

No, she should know!

(to Bella)

The entire family will be implicated if this ends badly.

BELLA

... Badly?

This hangs in the air, uncomfortably. Edward can't look at her.

BELLA

(realizing)

Oh. Badly. Like, where I become a meal.

Esme chokes back laughter. Edward grins. Wraps his arm around Bella. Even Emmett has to chuckle.

Rosalie, exasperated, heads back into the kitchen. Emmett shrugs, goes after her.

ALICE (O.S.)

Hi, Bella!

He moves to her, taking her hand, then he starts to turn her in a pirouette, dancing with her - but she breaks off and backs away.

BELLA  
No dancing.

EDWARD  
Ever?

BELLA  
No tripping, no falling, no derision.

EDWARD  
(mischievously)  
I can always make you.

BELLA  
You don't scare me.

EDWARD  
You really shouldn't have said that.

He grins, a low GROWLING SOUNDS in the back of his throat. She laughs and backs out the door, onto --

EXT. EDWARD'S ROOM - DECK (CONTINUOUS)

-- Bella backs up to the rail. Edward appears in the doorway, shifting into a half-crouch, about to pounce.

BELLA  
Don't you dare --

Suddenly, she's airborne as he tackles her and they FLY OFF THE DECK... then she finds herself --

IN A TREE - in his arms. When she realizes where she is, she laughs, delighted. It's infectious, he laughs heartily, too...

CUT AWAY TO:

INT. CULLEN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Esme and Dr. Cullen look out the window. Edward's LAUGHTER filters inside to them; Esme, in turn, smiles.

Start → ESME  
She's brought him to life.

DR. CULLEN  
He's been alone too long... but this. It won't end well.

ESME  
Alice has been wrong before.

DR. CULLEN  
Not often.

Esme turns to Dr. Cullen, gentle but absolutely firm.

ESME  
Carlisle. Bella is what he wants.  
It will work out. Somehow.

END

Dr. Cullen smiles at her with love, then takes her hand as they look back out the window...

EXT. TREE - SAME

Edward looks Bella in the eye.

EDWARD  
Trust me?

BELLA  
No.

EDWARD  
Then close your eyes.

She does, warily. He grips her more firmly, then LEAPS them to another tree like a flying squirrel! Then, again, to the TOP of another tree. He easily gets a foothold, while holding Bella.

EDWARD  
Open.

She does... to the most astonishing bird's eye VIEW of the valley, river, and the mountains beyond. CAMERA whirls around them allowing us a 360 degree view of their surroundings. Off Bella's intoxicated face...

CUT AWAY TO:

CLOSE ON A GERMAN SHEPHERD

Moving fast, tracking. INCLUDE CHARLIE holding the leash --

EXT. FOREST - DAY

-- It's a hunting party, several dogs, half a dozen armed men.

DEPUTY  
Chief, we got something --

Charlie hurries to the Deputy. They gather around --