

83

way! I'll make him say my name! (opt up)

way!

SCENE 7: LATER THAT NIGHT

(#24 – **THE DINNER PARTY** begins. Cross-fade to—
Night. We hear the deafening CHUKKACHUKKACHUKKA
of a helicopter. A large dining table has been set up.
CHARLES, in a tux, enters. Anxious. Careening.)

CHARLES

(to the CATER-WAITER)

Where's the shrimp? Get the shrimp! Maxie Dean loves shrimp!

(calling off)

He's here! Delia!?

(The doorbell chimes. DELIA comes down the stairs in an
over-the-top gown.)

(CHARLES)

(suddenly panicked)

Where's Lydia?

DELIA

Still locked in her room.

CHARLES

(heading to the door)

All right. We'll just have to do this without her.

(CHARLES opens the door to reveal the mythic MAXIE
DEAN. Behind him looms his model-wife, MAXINE.)

MAXIE

Chuuuuck, you old dog! Put 'er there!

CHARLES

Maxie! So glad you could make it. Welcome... to our model
home.

(A cadre of LAWYERS enter.)

Start

LAWYERS

Charles. Mr. Deetz. Hello.

CHARLES

You brought your legal team?

MAXIE

I never leave home without 'em. Oh! Have you met my fourth wife!?

(MAXINE laughs way too hard.)

MAXINE

I'm his fifth wife.

CHARLES

I see. I'm um, I'd like you both to meet my fiancée, Delia.

DELIA

(bowing)

Na-mas-te.

MAXINE

Tira-mi-su!

CHARLES

Why don't we eat?

(They all cross to the table.)

LYDIA

(offstage)

Oh Father, dear? Did I hear the dinner bell? **End**

(#25 – DINNER BELL begins. LYDIA appears, beautiful and cheery in the bright-yellow dress DELIA got for her. CHARLES is stunned—)

CHARLES

Lydia...?

DELIA

Life coaching! Yes! It's NOT a fad! DO THE RESEARCH.

LYDIA

So sorry I'm late, everyone!

CHARLES

Your dress... You look—

LYDIA

Wow. This is going to be SUCH an interesting night.