

ROBERT

I know that all right. I never ate food like that in my whole life. Is there something you Italians know that the rest of us don't?

FRANCESCA

Maybe.

ROBERT

OK then. I accept. But just vegetables for me. I don't eat meat anymore. It's not a big deal. I just feel better when I don't. Tell me what I can do.

FRANCESCA

Just go out to the garden and pick whatever looks good. We'll make a vegetable stew with dumplings. And a salad. I'll get cleaned up and meet you right back here.

ROBERT

Sounds good.

As Robert goes out the door and Francesca goes to the shower, we see a neighbor woman looking out her window using binoculars.

At Marge's Window

MARGE

Charlie, come in here quick. I think there's a man picking vegetables in Frannie's garden. She told me this afternoon, a strange man came up her driveway in a blue truck. You don't think he's been there this whole time do you?

CHARLIE

Marge, would you look at yourself? Put down those binoculars. If Francesca wants to let a photographer have a few zucchini, that's her business. We're all of us givin' food away this time of year. Put down those binoculars.

MARGE

How did you know he was a photographer?

CHARLIE

Pete sat next to him at lunch in town. Said he was here to take pictures of the covered bridges, Pete told him where they were. Drives a dark blue pickup. Lives in Washington State. Asked Pete where he should stay, Pete told him the Motor Court.

MARGE

If Pete told him how to find the bridges, then why did he drive up in Frannie's driveway this afternoon when we were talking on the phone?

Marge #1
+ Charlie
Start

CHARLIE

Maybe he was lost. I saw his truck over at Roseman Bridge myself, so she probably told him the back way.

MARGE

If he'd have driven up my drive, I'd have told him where to go, that's for sure.

CHARLIE

I'll drive you over to Francesca's right now, if you want to make a fool of yourself and find out what's going on with all this vegetable picking.

MARGE

Oh no. I would never do that.

CHARLIE

Then stop talking about it and let's go. What time did the kids say? Did you make a pie?

MARGE

Yes I did. And a cake. And if we play any Bridge, you have to promise me you won't open with 5 clubs ever, ever again. I don't care if your cheating card shark thingamajig tells you to. Don't do it.

CHARLIE

What kind of pie?

MARGE

Your favorite.

← End

Back In Francesca's Kitchen

Robert is rinsing vegetables at the sink as she comes down the stairs. He has brought a beat-up acoustic guitar into the house with him and leaned it against a wall. She's wearing a clean pair of jeans and a white shirt, the sleeves rolled up, and sandals.

He turns around to look at her. He is knocked out by her beauty, and starts to say so. Then changes his mind. She still smells of the shower and he's doing good to speak at all.

ROBERT

You... you've got an amazing garden.

FRANCESCA

Thank you.

(then notices the guitar)

Oh good. You brought in your guitar. I saw it in the back of the truck. I was hoping you'd maybe play something for me. I never get to hear any real music.