

Granny and Granddad have three children who in turn have children themselves; the grandchildren. The eldest daughter, Isabelle has in years past always gone to great lengths to organise their wedding anniversary party. Now Isabelle's children see it as their role to take this on, complete with the traditions she has set up. The eldest, Anne-Sophie, is intent on single-handedly organising the grand 60th wedding anniversary celebration for her grand-parents. She has taken everything in hand. Her cousins do not see things in quite the same light.

Characters :

Anne-Sophie: is the central figure in the arrangements. Her parents are Isabelle and Pierre. Her sister is Sarah. Her cousins are Paul, Luca and Camille.

Paul: First cousin to Anne-Sophie and Sarah. Also (separately) cousin to Camille. His brother is Luca. Very opposed to his father. Vegan

Camille: Cousin to Anne-Sophie and Sarah and then also to Paul and Luca. Camille is very good friends with Paul. The name "Camille" is used for men and women and the character can be any gender.

Sarah: Anne-Sophie's younger sister. She is 17 years old.

Luca: Paul's elder brother. Cousin of Camille and of Anne-Sophie and Sarah.

Magdalena: Luca's wife, comes from Greece originally. They met as students and now live together in Italy.

Pierre: Isabelle's husband. Father of Anne Sophie, Sarah and their third child Thibault

Waiter: (m/f)

The scene takes place in the restaurant where Anne-Sophie has called the cousins to arrange the assistance she is going to need for the anniversary dinner.

Restaurant atmosphere – seated around a table : Anne-Sophie, Luca, Paul, Camille, Sarah, Magdalena. The waiter arrives.

Waiter: The kir is for...?

Anna-Sophie : Here

Waiter : And the beers...?

Anne-Sophie : That's one there, one for Camille, and one here I think? Was *yours* a beer?

Luca: Paul, was yours a beer?

Paul : Yep

Anne-Sophie : Ah. We've found it... and one there then! Good! So "To Grannie and Grandad- and most of all thank you everyone for helping with the arrangements.

The whole table is chinking glasses – we can hear two characters talking to one another catching up on news. Eventually, we hear Anne-Sophie in the background at the other end of the table talking about the making arrangements: "So we need to sort out payment for the shopping, how long it'll take to cook the meat, we've sorted the date. We need to follow the... Also buying the drink, I've worked out what we need and put down who's bought what so far.

The focal point is close to the characters of Camille and Paul who are sitting next to and talking to one other.

Paul: A dinner to organise a dinner, she's gone mad, no?

Camille: Well... you know how much she loves to stress.

Paul: Yeah that does seem to be her great hobby. So - Is there anything I need to know?

Camille: What?! - You haven't listened to her voice notes?

Paul: Hm..

Camille: Yeah, I know... there are loads, I can't repeat them all obviously.

Paul: That's fine. I can listen to them at double-speed.

Camille: Haha, we are so going to get caught. At least turn the volume down a bit.

Succession of sound clips. Paul starts the voice notes without listening to them all the way through. He can speed them up, interrupt them, and you can also hear the sounds of the app at the end of the notes.

The texts here can be shortened, they are suggestions for this very rhythmic, mixed and interrupted passage.

Voice note #1: Anne Sophie: *(using an influencer's online voice)* "Hey Guys! Hi cousins!!! This year Grannie and Grandad are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary aaand we all know it's a major event... As with all these events, everyone's view counts for the arrangements. Haha, let's just say that I am the mastermind of your little steering committee ahaha. Seriously though, to make sure that everyone's happy about the meal and also for helping one other out with the preparations, finding the accommodation for Nan and Grandad's 3 children and partners plus the 8 grandchildren and also now the new generation of 2 great grandchildren of all ages... "

Voice note #2: Sarah: "ahahaha Hey everyone, thanks "Anne-So"! This group is great. So - my task is going to be baby sitter, because like my sister said there are now the little ones. I can also help out preparing the food on the afternoon if needed. Ok! Can't wait to see everyone.

Voice note #3: Pierre: Thibault and I are on cake duty . What sort of cake does everyone want?

Voice note #4 Camille: "Bonjour!!! Of course I'll be there on the big day unless you go for the weekend of the 13th of March. Anyway, I have already given my dates to Anne-So...

Voice note #5: Pierre: "Hiya. No-one's told us what we're doing cake-wise."

Voice note #6: Camille: "Ok. Coming back to the vegetarian debate. I've got to say that I agree, it would be good to have a change from having "cold cuts with mayo". I never liked that as a child anyway...

Voice note #7: Sarah: "Yes, good idea to make a few changes, but hey if we've got people who like having the roast, we can still stick with the tradition a bit. And as Anne-So is the one who ...

Voice note #8: Sarah again: "Though if we had to choose only one meat, I'd rather duck. "

Voice note #9: Pierre: "That's sounds like a good idea. I just need someone to tell me; what type of cake everyone wants?"

Restaurant noise, Waiter is taking the orders.

Waiter: And for you, sir?

Paul: Are there no vegan dishes on the menu?

Waiter: There are two vegetarian dishes and a fish option too.

Paul: Right well, if there's a carcass, it's not vegetarian ... the pasta with asparagus, that is cooked with olive oil, right?

Waiter : Errr... I want to say yes?

Paul: Ok, well it's not really about what you want to say it is... I'm vegan so I don't want any animal products.

Waiter : Ok, I'll double-check before I put the order through .

Paul: Otherwise just get me a plate of chips...

Anne-Sophie (*from the other end of the table*): So you're also going to give us grief over the meat. We're never going to be done with this.

Luca (*interrupts Anne-Sophie*) : Actually Magdalena and I are also vegetarian. Magdalena has hundreds of Greek recipes...

The focus is again on the conversation between Camille and Paul.

Paul: (softly) But this thing goes on and on. The only ones I can listen to in full are your uncle's at 7 seconds.

Camille: All you need to know is that she wanted to invite everyone, and that the date they've gone for is also one that your father is free on, because that was the day everyone could do.

Luca's voice gets louder again and Camille and Paul stop talking. The focus returns to the centre of the table.

Luca: Paul and I have been vegetarian for a long while actually. And my wife too, you know. It would be nice for it to be our turn to introduce our recipes to the family this time. It's always a one way street.

Anne-Sophie : Yes, but then someone would need to have organised that. Others were welcome to get involved you know?

Magdalena: Anne-Sophie, we can go shopping. We had intended to.

Anne-Sophie: That's kind of you but it's not just the shopping that worries me. There needs to be something for everybody and some people will always like to have meat. I'd rather not take the risk.

Camille: Maybe we can do a vegetarian section?

Magdalena: Look, that's not really what we had in mind. It'll be a bit of a clash having such different dishes together but... well yes, there's always that.

Luca: It is bit unbelievable that there can't make any changes to the menu.?

Le.a Serveur.euse : The chicken burger is for who?

A few moments of hesitation, the dishes are placed on the table.

Sarah (*trying to change the mood*): So "bon appetit" everyone.

Luca: Even for those who don't eat meat?

Anne-Sophie : Right. Can we move on, now? Who's greeting the guests? Camille and Paul, since you're not in the shopping team or in the kitchen team, I thought you could do it?

Paul : Ummm no...

Camille: It would be better if Paul stayed to help with the vegetarian cooking.

Anne-Sophie: Right, so actually you've decided not to do anything we've asked?

Paul: And you have decided not to take account of anything we've asked for.

Anne-Sophie : I've just said you can have veggie options.

Paul: I'm talking about your inviting my father when I it made clear I would have liked you to choose a weekend when he wasn't free.

Sarah: We opted for the date that everyone could make. That does make sense.

Paul: Makes sense for you.

Anne-Sophie : What would we have said to him if he couldn't come?

Paul: That his behaviour in groups is beyond the pale? You would have told him that you're sick of him never lending a hand. Sick of everyone letting him do whatever he wants. That he's rude to people. Rude to women. And most of all he embarrasses his sons in public. You could, for instance, tell him that we've put it up with for far too long. That everyone always lets him get away with it, but that he creates a shitty atmosphere and that this year you could do without having an insufferable uncle at the other end of the table. I mean you know what he's like - don't pretend you don't know what I'm talking about.

Sarah: It's true - I have memories of my being really frightened of him from the way he shouted at you.

Anne-Sophie : Yes, ok, and what now? After all that was when we were children. We're going to stick with the 21st March. It's on the invitations and we've booked the hall. Granny and Grandad's anniversary party is the 21st of March 2020 and we're not going to change it for just anything. Especially not to stop one of their own children from coming. It's not just any old event is it?

Paul: And what am I meant to do for the whole party?

Anne-Sophie: Everyone's going to be delighted to have you there. It won't be just the two of you. You've all got to get out of your own bubble. People need to sort themselves out. That's just the way it is. The wedding anniversary is on March 17th 2020 and so we're celebrating it on March 21st. That's the date, and that's that. What's going on with your father is just life, there's nothing to be done about it. Every family has its issues. That's "the way of the world" and I don't see it changing any time soon.

