

BONES- #221

"ERNIE SUMMERS"

SC.1

INT. KITCHEN

Ernie and Melissa spread rice and sprinkle it with vinegar mixture. The mood is light and playful.

~~START~~ →

MELISSA

Can we make California rolls?

➤ ERNIE

Say that again, I'll banish you from my kitchen.

MELISSA

What do you mean? I like -

➤ ERNIE

I make real sushi: authentic, Japanese -

MELISSA

Okay -

➤ ERNIE

- none of that grocery store, imitation crab-meat bull -

MELISSA

Fine! I apologize for my pedestrian tastes.

.(beat)

Snob.

➤ ERNIE

Plebian.

MELISSA

Fancy-pants.

➤ ERNIE

Triscuit-eater.

They both crack up.

MELISSA

I've missed you.

➤ ERNIE

I've missed you, too. A lot.

— STOP

He smiles at her; she turns away, pleased but uncomfortable.

CUT TO:

1/5

INT. SUSHI GROOVE RESTAURANT - LUNCHTIME

Booth and Brennan enter; Booth flashes his badge at ERNIE SUMMERS, one of the sushi chefs.

~~START~~ →

SC. 2

BOOTH  
Can we talk to you for a minute,  
Ernie?

➤ ERNIE  
(wary, but:)  
...I guess.

As Booth and Brennan sit at the sushi bar.

➤ ERNIE (CONT'D)  
Can I get you anything?

BRENNAN  
No. We're here to -

BOOTH  
If you have some toro left -  
(off Brennan)  
What? We have to eat lunch.

BRENNAN  
You knew your brother's wife,  
Melissa, before they met, right?

➤ ERNIE  
...Why are you asking about  
Melissa?

BOOTH  
Have you seen her recently, Ernie?

He puts down Booth's toro.

➤ ERNIE  
Why? What's going on?

BOOTH  
(eating the toro)  
Whoa, this is amazing. It's like  
butter, Bones.  
(off her look, then to  
Ernie)  
So, when did you see her last?

2/5

➤ ERNIE

Thursday. Last week. Did something happen to her?

BRENNAN

Do you serve Sea Urchin?

➤ ERNIE

Uni? Yeah. It's one of my specialties. You want some?

BRENNAN/BOOTH

No./Sure.

Brennan shoots Booth a look. He shrugs. As Ernie makes Booth's order:

➤ ERNIE

Is this about Chris? He found out Melissa was with me?

BOOTH

Why? What's going on between you and Melissa?

➤ ERNIE

Nothing. She wants to learn about Japanese cuisine, so I'm teaching her how to make sushi.

BOOTH

Secretly. So Chris won't find out. Why, because he hates Japanese food?

Ernie gives Booth the Uni.

➤ ERNIE

Because he's so jealous. Everyone loves Melissa. And it drives him crazy. He's threatened her a few times... he drinks. Melissa left him once.

BOOTH

Why'd she go back?  
(eating)  
This is delicious.

➤ ERNIE

Thanks. She went back because of the kids.

(MORE)

3/5

➤ ERNIE (cont'd)  
My brother may be a lousy husband,  
but he's a great father. What's  
going on? Is Melissa okay?

BRENNAN  
Melissa's dead, Ernie.

Ernie stops. He looks genuinely shaken.

➤ ERNIE  
Chris? That son of a bitch...

BRENNAN  
We don't know who it was. But she  
was stabbed, Ernie. And we found  
bacteria associated with Sea Urchin  
in her system. It can only enter  
the body through the bloodstream.

➤ ERNIE  
You think I killed her? Why would  
I kill Melissa?

~~BRENNAN~~  
~~(Dead)~~  
~~That's really none of his area.~~

BOOTH  
You love her, she says she'll leave  
Chris, she doesn't, you get mad...  
I mean, she's got a fish virus,  
you've got all these fishy knives -

~~BRENNAN~~  
~~Bacteria, not virus.~~

~~BOOTH~~  
~~Not the time, Bones.~~

➤ ERNIE  
Wait. Last time she was here,  
Melissa cut herself. It was pretty  
deep; I wanted her to get stitches,  
but she wouldn't.

Booth and Brennan exchange a glance - do they believe him?

BRENNAN  
I'd like to borrow your knives,  
Ernie, compare them to the injuries  
we found on Melissa.

7 ERNIE

A lot of people have knives like mine.

BOOTH

Are you saying no? That wouldn't look too good, would it?

**STOP**

Ernie looks at them, knowing he has no choice. Booth takes the last piece of sushi as Ernie looks down at his knife.

CUT TO: