

## Part III: The Main House Chapter 3

The chapter begins by illustrating the gradual and natural transition of the characters Sophie, Elise, and Sheba from the guest house into the main house. This shift unfolds effortlessly, like water spreading across a surface, highlighted by a shared morning after a night out, where they gather over simple food and sparkling Perrier. Their day inside, wrapped in comfort and watching a poignant film, symbolizes a new phase of connection and domestic intimacy. The narrative emphasizes the significance of space and belonging, particularly as Sophie experiences a rare moment of privacy and personal space in the main house, contrasting with her previous shared and transient living arrangements.

As the summer progresses, the main house becomes a sanctuary marked by careful attention to detail and comfort. Elise and Sheba take pride in the elegant and personal touches of Helen and Holly's room, with its luxurious linens and scenic views, creating a nurturing environment. The domestic order maintained in the main house, from the pristine fridge to the folded laundry, contrasts with the unnoticed presence of the housekeepers, hinting at unspoken boundaries and social dynamics within the household. This setting underscores a sense of stability and care, even as some aspects remain quietly invisible or unacknowledged.

The arrival of the wealthy summer visitors introduces a stark contrast to the domestic calm. Sophie's demanding job catering to billionaires at the Lunch Counter exposes her to relentless physical exhaustion and emotional strain. Despite the glamour of the island's affluent visitors, Sophie's experience is one of weariness and overwork, which deeply concerns Sheba. The chapter conveys the toll of service labor amid luxury and the social disparities that underpin their daily lives. Meanwhile, the exhaustion and strained schedules contribute to a fading communication routine with Gilda, highlighting the emotional distance and pressures faced by the characters.

Gilda's storyline offers a poignant counterpoint, focusing on her personal journey and family reconnection in Brazil. Busy with her new job and a recent family reunion, Gilda's thoughts drift to her daughters and the emotional weight of *saudade*. She prepares to meet her estranged father, Manuel, in a quiet and private setting, reflecting on how to present herself and the complex feelings surrounding their reunion. This narrative thread weaves themes of memory, identity, and reconciliation, enriching the chapter's exploration of family ties and emotional landscapes across different geographies and generations.