

MAFIA DAUGHTER

By

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Inspired by Erin Cohenour

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## Cast of Characters

<u>Vincent Angelina Sr:</u>	Father, Mafia Boss
<u>Vinnie:</u>	Eldest Son, Heir to the Family Business
<u>Paulie:</u>	Second son, Artistic type
<u>Angelica:</u>	Daughter, a blossoming young woman
<u>Tom Raines:</u>	Suitor, IRS agent
<u>Chops Jefferson Hayes:</u>	Car shop mechanic, suitor
<u>Eddie Roseatti:</u>	Suitor, school friend, snitch
<u>Rosa Roseatti:</u>	Tommy's mother, has an affection for Vincent

ACT I

Scene 1

*Lights up on VINCE and PAULIE seated center stage at the dining room table in a modest N.Y. city townhouse. The year is 1958. VINCE is dressed casually in a T-shirt and slacks. PAULIE is dressed up a bit more in a suit coat. They are awaiting their father, VINCENT Sr. to return from the cemetery. ANGELICA, a shy wallflower, is setting the table for dinner.*

VINCE

Well? Where the fuck is he?

PAULIE

Vince! Show some respect, you piece of shit!

VINCE

Not Pa! I meant your friend. The manico. When is he supposed to be coming over for supper? What time is it anyway? Pa's been out at the cemetery a long time. Angelica! What time is it on the clock? Make yourself useful, huh? Go in the kitchen and take a look at the Elgin.

PAULIE

Wanna take it easy? Momma's only been laid to rest a couple of days now. *(They both make the sign of the cross)* You know Angelica is sensitive. Be nice.

VINCE

This mourning shit is for the birds. It cuts into business. *(To the kitchen)* Angelica! Uncork a bottle of the red, let it breathe. *(To PAULIE)* Speaking of business, did you see Don Ronampala make that face at the cemetery.

PAULIE

Don Ronampala?

VINCE

The *imbecile* who wears a white suit at a funeral.

PAULIE

Ah... him. What face did he make?

VINCE

What face? Paulie! That stupid fucking face he makes when he can't find nothing to say. Looks like the cross between a seizure and a gorilla taking a stroonz. It was a sign of disrespect, I'm telling you. To Pa and the entire family! That fucking finnoch!

(CONTINUED)

PAULIE

What the hell are you talking about? (*Beat*) Oh! You think?

VINCE

He dresses like a finnoch. He probably likes it up the culo. Hey! Maybe that's how he learned to make the face.

ANGELICA

(*Entering with a bowl of spaghetti, meekly*) It's 5:52. Papa is still out at the cemetery.

VINCE

Thanks for the news update, Huntley Brinkley.

ANGELICA

Mrs. Scarmato let me pick out the flowers at their shop so Papa could take them to the cemetery. Pink roses, Mama's favorite. Remember? They were very very pretty.

VINCE

Were they now? That still doesn't get old man Scarmato off the hook for the 500 beans he owes me.

ANGELICA

I like lavender. I think they're pretty and smell pretty, too.

PAULIE

Angie? Why didn't you go with Pa out to the cemetery? It was such a nice day to get outside.

ANGELICA

I kinda felt Mama would have wanted me to stay home and make supper.

PAULIE

That's nice, Angelica. Very special. Hey look, Angelica. I just want to tell you that we... I kind of invited this friend over tonight. He's a real nice guy. We all went to school with his sister. Gena Raines. You remember her? Well anyway, she's gotta a brother named Tom and he's kinda been asking about you. I guess he ran into you at the Festival last fall went gaga. He wanted a chance to get to meet with you, so I invited him over to eat with us tonight.

VINCE

She knows that already, you stroonz! That's why she put out the extra plate. (*Awkward*) Right?

(CONTINUED)

PAULIE

I wouldn't have invited him over if I didn't think this guy would pan out. You know, make nice? Check him out. If you like him... maybe the both of you can go out for sciallotti later on.

ANGELICA

(Meekly) What's he look like, Paulie?

VINCE

He's got two heads like the War of the Worlds. He's just a guy.

PAULIE

Tall. Blond. Works downtown. Drives a nice car. I asked around and checked him out. He's OK. Seems like a real nice guy. Bel ragazzo.

ANGELICA

And... he asked about me?

VINCE

*(Takes ANGELICA in his arms and starts to mock dance with her)* Sure he did. He asked who was the Cinderella princess at the Festival of San Gennaro? Colpo di fulmine. She left before she could even tell me who she was... and if her father really runs the entire East side and the 2 Upper Boroughs? *(He dips her)* Would you do me the honor of accompanying me on a picnic in the park? You will? *(He dips her again)*... And will you pack some of those delicious canolis? You will?... And will you be packing heat like the rest of your family? *(He pulls out a gun)*

PAULIE

Vince! Put that away.

ANGELICA

Vince! Papa said no guns at the dinner table.

VINCE

I just bought it. You like it? Ralphie Macaluso heisted a shipment of World War 2 crap heading off to D.C. What the hell! Could have belonged to the great man Patton himself.

ANGELICA

Really? That was General Patton's gun?

VINCE

Who the fuck knows? Must have belonged to someone high up in command. Ain't no buck private was ever requisitioned something like this!

(CONTINUED)

PAULIE

And now you have it.

VINCE

Yeah! I think look pretty good with it, huh? Oh, shit!  
Papa!

*Noise at the door has everyone scrambling back to the table like little children. VINCE hides the gun on the seat next to his own. ANGELICA goes to the kitchen to bring out the rest of dinner. VINCENT ANGELINA Sr enters. He is a big burly man taken aback by the recent loss of his wife. VINCENT hangs up his coat and walks to the dining room from the doorway. The house is quiet until he sits down.*

PAULIE

Nice weather huh, Pa? You couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day.

VINCENT

Molto bello. (He kisses Angelica as she serves him spaghetti) In fact it was so nice... I decided to ride out on the train.

VINCE

Yeah, right! YOU rode on the train? Only tourists and mulunyanans ride the train. (He backs down quickly)  
Sorry, Pop!

VINCENT

There were a lot of flags out there today. They place a lot of those little American flags on the soldiers' graves. Sign of respect. Rispettoso.

PAULIE

I got a question. When they bury them soldiers... they bury them in uniform? You know, bury them with things like... their gear? Guns and stuff like that? How about Patton? You think General Patton was buried with all his things?

VINCE

Shut the fuck up, Paulie!

VINCENT

*(Smacking VINCE on the back of the head)* Hey Boccalone! Watch your language. In front of your sister even. Your beloved mother did not allow that language in this house and it's not gonna to start now! Especially at the table.

ANGELICA

Papa? How did the flowers look?

VINCENT

Bella. They were beautiful. Just beautiful. Be sure to thank Mrs. Scarmato next time your down the street.

VINCE

I was telling Paulie that the old man Scarmato still owes 5 C's on that thing...

VINCENT

We do not discuss! We do not discuss! (*Notices ANGELICA serving everyone*) Angelica! Honey! Sit down and eat! Manga.

VINCE

She can't sit down. She's as nervous as a mouse. We're expecting a visitor. She's got a gentleman caller coming over for dinner tonight.

VINCENT

Is this true?

PAULIE

Oh yeah, Pop. His name is Tom Raines. He is from the old neighborhood. We all went to school with the family. I think Vince even used to date his little sister Gena for awhile.

VINCE

'Til I found out she didn't put out. Bel niente. (*Gets an evil look from VINCENT*) What? I didn't say nothing!

VINCENT

(*To VINCE*) That's one!

PAULIE

I ran into him last Friday. Downtown... after I took care of that thing. He was having lunch at the Carnegie Deli. Funny thing was we had both been trying to buy tickets to that West Side Story.

VINCE

I got a west side story for you and he wears a bright white suit. (*VINCE makes the face*) Ba-bang.

ANGELICA

Oh! I'd love to see that. I hear it's wonderful. That and that other show... the Music Man. I hear they've got lines are around the block.

(CONTINUED)

VINCENT

You need tickets for these shows?

PAULIE

No offense Pa, but whenever we get those special favor tickets, they put us right in the front row and... well... them actors... they tend to get a little bit shaken.

VINCE

It's true, Pa. I remember Celia Nevala wanted me to take her to see that Peter Pan show. I swear when Mary Martin took one look at me, she crapped her tights and changed her flight plan over to Newark. Hey, come to think of it, that was the same night I gave Celia her nickname.

ANGELICA

You were the one who started up the Celia Never Neverland?

VINCE

It's about the only thing I ever started up with her.

PAULIE

Anyway... I guess this Tom Raines remembered Angelica from the old days and wanted the chance to meet up with her again. He called just a little while ago to say he was on his way over. I mean, that's OK? Right, Pop?

VINCENT

(Pause) Just a couple questions. This mystery dinner guest... what does anybody know about him?

PAULIE

He's some accountant type. A Bean counter. College graduate. Works at an office downtown somewhere. Never married. Seems like a hard working guy.

VINCENT

My next question is... why do we eat before this man gets here?

PAULIE

Well... to be honest, Angelica didn't know he was coming over tonight.

VINCENT

This is true?

ANGELICA

Yes, Papa!

(CONTINUED)

VINCENT

Then explain this to me! You go out and make this date for your sister. Invite him to the house. But you never plan to tell her about this? (*Blows up*) Angelica, go upstairs and get me the clothesbrush.

VINCE

What? Oh no! Not the clothesbrush.

VINCENT

That's one for you Paulie! For taking advantage of your little sister. Two for Vincenzo!

VINCE

Hey! I didn't know nothing about this guy coming over.

VINCENT

Two... because you should have. You boys should be protecting and looking after your little sister. Not treating her like some donnina. With your mother gone, it's now your job to look out for her. Angelica, I want you to obey me and bring down the clothesbrush.

ANGELICA

But Papa. Please.

VINCENT

Bring down the clothesbrush! (*ANGELICA leaves through the kitchen door*) What's the matter with you two? I like the idea of Angelica going out with a civile, but I don't want you to bring anyone or anything into this house that might cause... problems. Capise? Have you not seen these American Senate Committee broadcasts on the television?

PAULIE

On organized crime? Sure, Pa! But it looks like those traditores are just sweating it like on them game shows. More sweating than singing.

VINCE

They're sweating cause they know what they've got coming! Here's a \$64,000 question, which of you squealing rat bastards can tell me how deep the East River is? (*VINCE flashes PAULIE a peek at the gun*)

VINCENT

Silenzio! The government plants informants everywhere these days. No one can be too sure. And right now I will not have this stronzata. Capise? (*Pause*) Angelica? Angelica? Where is your sister? Both of you stay... Stai qui en non muoverti! (*He leaves.*)

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

Mamaluke! What the fuck? Since when did he become so paranoid?

PAULIE

Since he lost his wife... your mother, you Saputo! Maybe he doesn't want anything to happen to the family.

VINCE

*(Pause)* I think I am too fucking old to get spanked! Aw... he's getting delusional. I think he must think we're 7 years old again.

PAULIE

Well! They say age is relative.

VINCE

Faccia di merda!

PAULIE

Hey! Faccia di stronzo!

*They start to fight. VINCENT walks in with long clothesbrush.*

VINCENT

Your sister will be downstairs after she finishes... *(sees fight)* Basta! That's it! Break it up. Break it up. *(He tosses both sons to either side of the table. Gun falls off chair onto the floor)* Oh! Santa Maria! Pick it up! Pick it up! What did I tell you about guns at the table? What did I tell you? That's it! Bend over. *(To VINCE)* You bend over now!!! I swear when I get through with you...

*Doorbell rings*

ANGELICA

*(From offstage)* The doorbell! *(Louder)* The doorbell!

VINCENT

*(To VINCE)* Put the gun away! *(To PAULIE)* You answer the door. If it's your friend, let him in. If it's anyone else, send them away.

ANGELICA

*(Entering in a new outfit, acting coy)* Was that the doorbell?

VINCENT

Vincenzo! Open fresh bottle and bring out a glass. *(Notices the gun stuffed in the back of VINCENT'S pants)* And take that pistole and put it away! Let's

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VINCENT (cont'd)

just get this thing over with. (*ANGELICA starts to pout*) I apologize, mia cara! (*He takes ANGELICA aside*) Ti amo, mia cara Angelica! I want you to have a nice visit, huh? D'accordo? (*She nods*) Bene! And as for Mr. Mutt and Jeff, there will still be a little unfinished business dopo aver mangiato. (*He smacks brush on the palm of his hand.*)

*Lights out*

*Music up.*

Scene 2

*After dinner. TOM RAINES is sitting with the family in the living room stage left. He sits on the sofa next to PAULIE. VINCENT is in a comfortable chair. VINCE is sitting on the back of the sofa. ANGELICA enters with a coffee pot. She pours TOM a cup and then almost embarrassingly sits next to him on the sofa. VINCE is telling a story.*

VINCE

...So your sister Gena looks over at me and asks if she can drive the car. And I figure, you got... what? 6-7 kids in your family? And being the youngest, I figured one of you must have taught her how to drive sometime. So I said 'sure, go ahead'. She didn't even get out the car. She just climbed over me and grabbed the steering wheel like she was at Coney Island. When she hit the gas it was almost 10 blocks before I could say something. I'm was just sitting with my back pinned to the seat counting all the red lights we just run through.

TOM

You're lucky you weren't killed. You know, she never ever learned to drive... to this day even!

VINCE

Oh! It gets better than that. When she finally decides to slow down, I get to thinking... what would happen if I just jump out? I'll probably only be laid up at St V's a couple a weeks. Couple broken bones. Might be worth it.

PAULIE

If you got lucky enough to land on your head.

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

Well! Now she can tell that I am not... what I should say... happy with her driving. So she starts to get all puffy and finally decides to pull over. But when she's doing that, she turns right into a car coming down a one way street. This stroonz jumps out and starts screaming at us. Gena starts with the water works... and I am left to take care of the situation.

PAULIE

Which probably put the Boccalone in St. V.'s for a couple weeks.

VINCE

Nah! It gets better than that. This guy's screaming and yelling that he's 'supposed to be meeting the Archbishop this morning'. Turns out the guy was a man of the cloth. A priest! And here he has just been screaming more cuss words then I ever learned on the playground at St. Joe's. I swear on my mother's... well... I just swear.

TOM

Gena ran a car into a priest? I don't remember anything about that.

VINCE

I'm getting to that. The Padre's getting all red faced yelling at your sister and Gena's in the car balling her eyes out. So I decide to take the Monsignor off to the side of the road. "You say you wanna meet with the Archbishop? How about you meet up St. Peter instead?"  
(VINCE pulls out the pistol)

ANGELICA

Vince!

PAULIE

Put that thing away!

VINCE

(Still into his story) Not only did he clam up, but he takes out *his* wallet to pay for the damage to *our* car. And I gotta tell you, it must have been a pretty good week with the collection plate... what? (Room is quiet)

VINCENT summons his son over and takes the gun.

VINCENT

That makes five.

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

I'm sorry, Pa!... What? Five?

VINCENT

Whose car did this young girl drive?

PAULIE

Pop, don't be too upset. After Chops worked on your Cadillac down at his shop, you could hardly tell the fender came off at all.

TOM

Gena was driving Mr. Angelina's Cadillac car?

VINCENT

We will discuss... (*Doorbell rings. VINCE leans down and his father whispers to him*) Angelica! Come and take this and put it away in a safe place.

TOM

Excuse me, but can I have a look at that?

VINCENT

(*Looks to see if the gun is loaded, then to ANGELICA*) Come desiderì.

TOM

Wow! An ivory handled Smith and Wesson. Did you know General Patton had one like this?

VINCE

(*Puts both hands on the back of ANGELICA's shoulder, to TOM*) He had two! (*VINCE exits to small hallway that leads to front door*)

TOM

It's quite a handgun. Should be in a collection. (*TOM hands the gun to ANGELICA who crosses the room and opens a cabinet*)

PAULIE

(*Stands*) Angie! Maybe it would be better if you put that away someplace else... (*a large stack of bills falls to the floor*)

VINCE

(*Walks back into the room accompanied by EDDIE and his mother ROSA ROSEATTI. Mrs. ROSEATTI is carrying a covered plate of food. VINCE and EDDIE see the cash all over the floor*) Pezzo di Merda!

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE

Cazzo! What did you do? Hit the numbers?

ROSA

Eddie. Your mouth. You are a guest in this house!

PAULIE

*(Covering)* It's nothing. This money? Pa was moving some of Ma's assets from her bank to his account downtown. Uh... and well... you know the bank's closed over the weekend. Angie must have forgot not to open the cabinet. *(PAULIE helps ANGELICA put the money and the gun away in the cabinet. They lock it)*

EDDIE

*(To ANGELICA)* Your Ma was loaded, huh? Why didn't you dress better when you were at Sacred Heart?

ANGELICA

We all wore uniforms, imbecile.

EDDIE

Everybody? Well maybe I must have just noticed yours.

ROSA

Vincenzo, I apologize for my son. He's at that age. I beg your forgiveness. The reason I wanted to stop by was to bring over a plate of manicotti for you... and for your family. I made it myself. I didn't know if anyone was cooking for you... all of you... after... well after...

PAULIE

Mrs. Roseatti. Angelica has been doing the cooking.

EDDIE

She has? Anything good or edible?

ROSA

Eddie! This is not the time!

TOM

Angelica's a wonderful cook. As a matter of fact we just finished the best linguine I have had in a very very long long time. It was absolutely top notch, Angelica!

EDDIE

What's the suit doing here?

VINCENT

Vincenzo... Paulie! Maybe you would like to take our young friend here down the street for a soda pop.

(CONTINUED)

ROSA

Aw... that would be nice.

VINCENT

Bring me back a newspaper and a cigaro.

VINCE

Hey! While we're down there, Pop... Maybe we can stop in and say hello to our friend Mr. Scarmato? I'm pretty sure Eddie would appreciate the opportunity to see just how we all get along with the neighbors. Is that ok with you, Pa?

VINCENT

Tutto bene.

ROSA

Is his flower shop open this late?

VINCE

Sometimes we like to drop in unexpected like. (*To EDDIE*) You coming?

EDDIE

Ma! I'm going with them.

PAULIE

(*To TOM*) Are you going to be ok?

ANGELICA

I'm ok, Paulie. You don't have to worry about me.

*EDDIE, PAULIE and VINCE leave through the hallway to the front door.*

ROSA

Vincenzo, please let me put this manicotti away. Do you have room in the icebox?

VINCENT

We can look and see. The kitchen is through this way. Would you care for glass of vino?

ROSA

That would be nice.

*ANGELICA and TOM are left alone in the living room*

TOM

Your brother Vince... He's quite a character. (Pause) And Paulie... he's a pretty sharp guy himself. Your whole family. (Pause) Well, I guess you already know the reason I asked to come over but I thought I'd tell

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TOM (cont'd)

you just the same. I saw you at the Festival last fall. I hardly recognized you from the old days. I mean you've grown so tall... and pretty. I couldn't stop thinking about you. I remember just seeing you standing there next to the shooting gallery, holding all those stuffed dolls. You were under that long string of lights and I thought to myself... Well, I thought you looked like an angel. A real angel, Angelica.

ANGELICA

You did.

TOM

So now last week I run into Paulie downtown. He was coming out of the Actors' Studio building. I thought maybe if I buy him lunch I could talk to him in maybe fixing us up. Maybe he could invite me to come over and sit with you. We could have dinner... or just talk.

ANGELICA

You did... Wait! You saw Paulie coming out of the Actors' Studio?

TOM

Yeah. Right off of Times Square. Do you like the theater, Angelica? Would you like it if I took you out to a show sometime? I work downtown, you could ride down on the train... or I could come pick you up. Whichever's easiest.

ANGELICA

That'd be nice. I would like that.

TOM

I'm sorry to hear about your Mom. Must have been rough with her being sick for so long. I guess you miss her, huh?

ANGELICA

Terrible. But I still feel her all around me. Especially here in the house.

TOM

I gotta tell you, by the looks of it, she must have left you pretty well off, huh? Well, if you ever have a problem with the estate, have your dad... or you... call me and I can help you with the government taxes.

ANGELICA

I don't know. I think my father has people...

TOM  
I'm just offering... in case you need.

ANGELICA  
Thank you.

*They sit quietly together. Lights dim and then out.*

*Music up.*

Scene 3

*ANGELICA, TOM, VINCENT and ROSA are at the dining room table. They are having dessert and wine. ROSA is a bit tipsy.*

ROSA  
This wine is wonderful, Vincenzo.

VINCENT  
Grazie!

TOM  
Angelica, you are a wonderful cook. I live alone and dine out most of the time, but I rarely eat this good. I mean, homemade cannoli. Just wonderful.

ANGELICA  
Thank you.

VINCENT  
We have a family vineyard in Sicily.

ROSA  
What part?

TOM  
What show?

ROSA  
What part of Sicily?

TOM  
What show would you like to see?

ANGELICA  
West Side Story.

VINCENT  
Palermo. From the mountains to the ocean.

ROSA

I'd love to go there and see it sometime.

TOM

I'll make the plans for us to see it.

ROSA

I have never had the opportunity to visit the Old Country.

TOM

It seems like I'm always downtown. I can pick up the tickets for anytime you'd like.

ROSA AND TOM

It gets kind of lonely living alone. Oh, I know I have...

ROSA

...Eddie

TOM

...a mangy old cat

ROSA AND TOM

But when you find times like this when you can just reach out to someone...

ROSA

(Turns to TOM) You're Gretchen Raines boy, aren't you?

TOM

Yes, Ma'am!

ROSA

I think my Eddie knows you or has talked with you once or twice... or maybe it was your brother.

ANGELICA

He has 4.

TOM

There were 7 children in our family. And we aren't even Catholic, if you can believe that. I mean, no disrespect.

ROSA

I just have my Eddie. His father left for work one day and never came back. You remember Eddie Rosatti? My Eddie? Don't you, Vincenzo? He was a good man. But I look at it this way, he liked to spend most of his time at the horse track, probably met some floozy out there and ran off with her. What do you do? Eddie and I had

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROSA (cont'd)

to make do on the money I made sewing for Gimbels department store. But I'm not complaining. We did OK. But oh, do I remember it like it was yesterday. Eddie Sr. came home late from the track, woke up the next morning, got dressed, had breakfast and left for work. Then, he just never came back. After all these years, I just say good riddance. I mean, what did I owe him? He owes me for all the suffering, the worrying and worst of all... the shame.

VINCENT

A man like that can owe a great debt. Angelica! Go to the kitchen and bring out another bottle of vino.

*ANGELICA stares at her father. He stares back but doesn't break*

TOM

I'll help you, Angelica. And let me get the rest of these.

*ANGELICA never takes her eyes off her father as she leaves the room. TOM clears the dining room table of plates and follows her in the kitchen.*

ROSA

He seems like such a nice boy. Not like my Eddie. Oh, Vincenzo, what do you do with such a boy like my young Eddie? He's turning into his father with the late nights and now the gambling. I know all he needs is just a bit of straightening out. But what's a mother to do? All I can do is to apologize for his behavior.

VINCENT

Sometimes things have a way of working themselves out.

*Door opens and VINCE, PAULIE and EDDIE return. They head for the dining room. EDDIE's attitude has changed a quite bit.*

VINCE

Hellooo? Where is everybody? *(Enters dining room)* Oh, here you all are. Hey, I hope we ain't interrupting nothing.

ROSA

Don't be silly. Your father and I were having a nice visit!

EDDIE

*(Rushes to his mother's side)* Mama!

ROSA

Why hello, Eddie! You boys missed a wonderful dessert.

PAULIE

*(Holds up a paper bag)* Mr. Scarmato gave us dessert.

ROSA

I hope you thanked him.

VINCE

We all thanked him. Quite a few times, in fact. Right, Eddie?

*EDDIE moans low*

ROSA

Eddie! Look at your arm. You have spilled cherry Nehi soda all over your shirt sleeve. Do you know how hard red stains are to get out?

*EDDIE moans again*

PAULIE

Where's Tom? Did he leave?

VINCE

*(Peeking in the kitchen)* You won't believe this, he's helping Angelica do the dishes. He's wearing Mom's apron.

PAULIE

He's a guest. He doesn't need to be doing that *(Exits to kitchen)*

ROSA

Doing chores is a sign of responsibility.

VINCE

I agree, Mrs. Roseatti. Doing a chore or running an errand can turn out to be very rewarding.

ROSA

Eddie, are you feeling ok?

EDDIE

My stomach is just a little upset. I think I want to go home.

ROSA

I think maybe you had a little too much of that cherry Nehi.

VINCE

I got to admit... there was a lot of cherry Nehi.

*TOM, PAULIE, ANGELICA join the others in the dining room*

ANGELICA

Don't worry, Tom. I will take care of all those dishes later. Come back and sit down.

PAULIE

We'll help her, Tom. Come sit down. You're a guest.

VINCENT

Ah! We are now all together. A toast.

ROSA

Eddie doesn't drink.

VINCENT

Let him drink tonight. Fill a glass. Facciamo un brindisi. To love, life and family!

ALL

Salute!

TOM

Cheers! Well! I guess while we are all here. I would like to ask you Mr. Angelina... With your permission, would you allow me to call on your lovely daughter?

VINCE

We got one of them in this house?

ANGELICA

Be quiet, Vince!

ROSA

Awww, isn't that nice? Such a nice boy. Eddie, you could learn something from such a nice man.

EDDIE

*(Looking into his wine glass)* I think I am going to be sick.

TOM

I work hard, I been saving up for the future. I'm sure I can treat Angelica with respect and in a manner that she justly deserves.

VINCE

*(To PAULIE)* This guy's right out of a Cracker Jack Box!

PAULIE

Shut up, you Boccalone!

VINCENT

And this is acceptable to you, Angelica?

ANGELICA

To be honest. I've never had anyone ask me out in such a way, Poppa! I don't... I don't know what to say. I don't know what it is I'm supposed to say.

TOM

Say "yes", Angelica. Take your time. But say "yes".

PAULIE

He's a nice man, Angelica. Bel ragazzo.

VINCE

And it ain't like he's asking to marry you. I mean, he ain't asking to marry you, is he?... What did I miss?

ANGELICA

Then I will say... yes! I accept. I would be honored if you... decide to call on me.

ROSA

Wonderful. Very polite, respectful.

TOM

Whew! Oh, boy! I was so nervous. I was hoping this would go well! I have been shaking since I first talked to Paulie. I mean I couldn't even keep it quiet at work... I was telling everybody about how much I was stuck on this girl I met at a festival. A girl I grew up with back in the old days... Angelica here. Now when they hear the news and they all get to see her in person, I am quite sure the guys down at the Treasury Department are gonna be awfully jealous.

VINCE

What was that? The where?

TOM

Oh, I apologize. I was just saying that when I get to work on Monday my office will want to know how our dinner turned out. And I may have a hard time not bragging a little bit about beautiful, wonderful Angelica Angelina.

VINCENT

Where do you work, Mr. Tom Raines?

(CONTINUED)

TOM

Oh... I uh... I uh... thought you knew. I thought Paulie knew for sure. Maybe he didn't. I work downtown. For the IRS. The Internal Revenue Service.

*Big pause*

VINCENT

Paulie! That's 5 for you!

*Lights out.*

*Music up.*

Scene 4

*Later that same evening. VINCENT and ANGELICA are sitting alone in the living room. They are quiet for some time.*

ANGELICA

He seemed nice.

VINCENT

A very nice boy. Very respectful. Rispettoso.

ANGELICA

I won't be seeing him again?

VINCENT

(Pause) No.

ANGELICA

Would Mama have liked such a boy?

VINCENT

Your Mama would only want you to be happy. We all want you to be happy. Your Papa, Paulie... even Vincenzo. Angelica, sei contenta?

ANGELICA

Si, certamente.

VINCENT

Bene.

ANGELICA

Papa... Do you miss Mama?

VINCENT

I think of the words Father Dominic said at the cemetery 'She will always be with here us'.

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

Do you think she's here? Right here, right now?

VINCENT

Si! She is right here. I can see her eyes when I look into into yours. Paulie's got her heart and spirit. I hear the echo of her laugh when Vincenzo's tells his stories. She is very much a part of this house. Nostro famiglia.

ANGELICA

You think I have her eyes?

VINCENT

Your Mama was a beautiful woman, Angelica! She blessed this house with 2 boys and a beautiful daughter. Your Mama was also a very strong woman and she would want us all to be just as strong. Not pretend rough and tough like Vincenzo, he's soft. He uses his anger to hide the lacrime. Paulie is smart, he is much smarter than Vincenzo and that what makes him mad. But Paulie will never be like Vincenzo or any of the rest of the family. This is why I have given Paulie permission to pursue the show business.

ANGELICA

You knew he wanted to be in show business and wanted to be on the stage? How did you know, Papa?

VINCENT

Famiglia, Angelica. You had two great grandfathers in Sicily. Loda Bruca and La Trippa Trippa. Loda Bruca was a ... sailor. He was called the crooked mouth. Loda Bruca. Today he would be called a... Come si dice... Pirate. He lived on a small boat and would offer the fisherman of his village protection... for favors. They sent me to visit my nonno one summer and I ran off with a pack of a cigaretta and tried to hide and smoke them. No one could find me. They sent the whole village to come look for me. Loda Bruca found me on his boat and brought me back home by the ear. 2 miles. And all the time he was cursing about the smoking. "Young boys should not smoke. Young boys smoke to pretend to be a man. A man does not smoke cigarettas. A woman smokes a cigaretta." All the time, I was afraid to look up at that scar on his crooked mouth. But finally, I look up and what do I see, Angelica?

ANGELICA

What Poppa?

VINCENT

He was smoking all my cigarettas. When I got home I got the belt for each one in the pack.

ANGELICA

Oh, Poppa! But who? Who was the other?

VINCENT

La Trippa Trippa? Your Mama. It was her nonno. He was come si dice... a businessman. But he would danza. Not just with the ladies. But ballerino de tip tap. He was considered the best dancer around the countryside. La Trippa Trippa. People would pay money for him to dance. To sing. Entertain. The show business. He was so-so businessman, but as La Trippa Trippa... molto bene!

ANGELICA

I never knew this, Poppa. But this is why you have given Paulie your blessings? Famiglia?

VINCENT

Angelica, follow your heart. God blesses you with the talents. If you listen close and listen very deep, He'll whisper how to use them. Most importantly... (In almost a whisper) Take care of the people you love and the people you love will take care of you. D'accordo?

ANGELICA

Poppa, I will always take care of you. I love you, Poppa.

VINCENT

(He kisses her on the forehead) I go to bed. It has been a long day.

ANGELICA

I laid out the shirts that I ironed for you today. They are on your bed.

VINCENT

(Takes hold of and feels her hands) You send them out from now on. I will bring in a domestico this week.

ANGELICA

But... It's OK Poppa! I can do it! I want to take care of the family.

VINCENT

(In a whisper) I know... and you always will.

*VINCENT exits. ANGELICA goes to the cabinet to take one last look at the money and the gun. She opens the cabinet and the money is there, but the gun is gone. VINCE appears at the doorway. He whispers.*

VINCE

Psssst. Angelica! Angelica!

ANGELICA

Vince?

VINCE

Shhh! Angelica! Is Poppa still awake?

ANGELICA

He just went to bed.

VINCE

Get me his car keys.

ANGELICA

What?

VINCE

I said get me his car keys.

ANGELICA

What's the matter with your car?

VINCE

It's a long story. I need to borrow Pa's car and I can't come inside right now.

ANGELICA

What are you doing out there?

PAULIE

Angelica! Just get the keys!

ANGELICA

Paulie! Is that you?

PAULIE

Angie! We been a little busy and we still need to run a little errand... Vince's car might have been spotted by the...

VINCE

Angelica, I swear... Get the keys!

*Muffled noise in the hallway.*

ANGELICA

What was that, Paulie? Are you trying to scare me?

*VINCENT finally brings a beaten and tied up TOM RAINES into the living room.*

VINCE

Forget it! I'll find them myself, Useless!

ANGELICA

Paulie! That's...

PAULIE

Angelica, it's probably best if you just go off to bed.

TOM

(Mumbles)

ANGELICA

Tom! (She runs to him and loosens the gag over his mouth) What have they done to you? Tom!

TOM

Angelica! (Pause) You did this! This is your fault! You bitch. I will see that your entire family is arrested and sent to jail. All of you. And you can also go and tell your father that he and all of his fucking associates are all going straight to jail for a long...

*(ANGELICA replaces the gag. VINCE reenters the room)*

VINCE

I can't find the keys!

PAULIE

We'll call Lou. Lou can get over here in... 10 minutes. 20 minutes tops.

*ANGELICA gets the keys from her father's coat*

ANGELICA

Here are the keys, Vince!

VINCE

Thanks, Angelica! Let's get him out of here before we wake up Pop!

ANGELICA

(To TOM) You talk so sweet. You know I think I really could have fallen for a guy like you? But there again, I'm probably not the girl you were looking for. And then, where would we be? You'd be playing junior G-man

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA (cont'd)

looking for a way to climb up the department ladder and you'd probably go open that sweet talking mouth of yours and spill everything you knew about me and my family... and well... we'd all end up here just the same.

PAULIE

We gotta go, Angelica. Go to bed and forget this ever happened.

*ANGELICA rifles through TOM's jacket. Takes something.*

ANGELICA

Take the car to Chops and clean it up before you get home. You know Poppa likes a clean car.

VINCE

Hey! Don't tell me what I gotta... Hey yeah! That's a good idea. (To TOM) Say goodnight to your girlfriend... Let's go, Mamaluke!

PAULIE

It's just something we need to take care of. But don't tell Pa anything about this! Promise?

*They exit leaving ANGELICA alone on stage. She sits on the sofa, opens her hand to reveal she has taken a pack of cigarettes from Tom. She lights one.*

ANGELICA

Poppa already knows! Everything is taken care of.

*BLACKOUT*

*End of ACT 1*

ACT 2Scene 1

*1964. The house looks the same, but ANGELICA just returning from a trip to Europe has changed. She enters wearing sunglasses, upscale dress and carrying a suitcase and shopping bags. Paulie is sitting on the sofa reading a Playbill.*

PAULIE

Well! Look who is back from a whirlwind tour of Europe.

ANGELICA

Paulie! (They hug) Did you just stop by to welcome me home?

PAULIE

How was it, Kid? Did you have fun? Did you visit all them museums like I told you about? Looks like you did a little bit of shopping while you were over there, huh?

ANGELICA

It was fabulous. The museums, the restaurants, the food, the people... and the men. I loved everything. Every minute of it.

PAULIE

Did you break a few hearts while you were over there?

ANGELICA

Maybe one or two. They'll get over me. But they'll never forget me. But I will say it might take a week or two for my culo to stop hurting from all the pinching. But I loved it all.

PAULIE

Which airport did you fly into LaGuardia or John F Kennedy, god that's strange to call it that!

ANGELICA

Newark. I flew in with Mary Martin.

PAULIE

The actress?

ANGELICA

Never mind!

PAULIE

How did you get into back to the City? Did you hail a cab? You should have called.

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

Poppa sent a car. They just dropped me off.

PAULIE

Oh! He sent a car, huh?

ANGELICA

Yes! What's wrong with that? Oh! You don't have a driver anymore. I'm sorry, Paulie. I shouldn't have said anything. I shouldn't have brought it up.

PAULIE

No! It's ok. When I made the decision to step away from the family business, I kind of knew Pa wouldn't want me to be seen taking any favors. He didn't want me seen with any of the old crew. You know, in the public eye. The price you pay for a life as a civile, huh?

ANGELICA

How is the acting world? Are you in any new shows?

PAULIE

I'm still on ice for a couple of things. But, let me tell ya, seems like the only time I'm called in for an audition is only when some small time producer's needs an investor... if you know what I'm saying. If they really knew how I was living away from the family, they probably wouldn't be so interested in calling me in. But hey! Do what you love, right?

ANGELICA

Do you need some more money, Paulie? I can write you a check. Or we can go down to the bank.

PAULIE

Well actually. The reason I am here is because Vince needs some help with a thing...

ANGELICA

Paulie! You know Poppa would not approve.

PAULIE

Oh, no! Vince made it sound like it wasn't that kind of thing.

ANGELICA

The kind of things Vince is involved with these days is exactly that kind of thing.

PAULIE

But the thing he was referring to wasn't a thing that would turn into... some thing... if you know what I'm saying.. one of those things!

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

You know best. (Grabs her suitcases) I'm going to put these away. You want your present now or later?

PAULIE

Always thinking of me. I can wait.

ANGELICA

Where's Mrs. Smeltzer? The place looks nice. Is she working today? I have some laundry and dry cleaning. Is this her day off?

PAULIE

I think Pop sent her down to the market. She let me in about half an hour ago. I was just waiting on Vince. Oh! And for you, too.

ANGELICA

Your sincerity gives me the warm fuzzies all over. If you want your present it's in the large bag. (*She exits*)

PAULIE

It's good to have you back, Angie!

*Door opens and VINCENT enters. He hangs up his coat, but says nothing to PAULIE other than giving him a nod of acknowledgment.*

PAULIE

(*After an awkward silence*) Hello, Pa. Vince called me asked me to come over. So I just been waiting. Mrs. Smeltzer let me in. Oh! And Angelica is home.

VINCENT

Angelica is back? When did she get in?

PAULIE

Just a couple minutes ago. She looks great. Looks like Europe did wonders for her.

VINCENT

Are you staying for supper?

PAULIE

I didn't... I didn't think about it.

VINCENT

You stay for supper. Mrs. Smeltzer is making sauce.

PAULIE

Is she getting any better at it? I remember when she first started cooking here she couldn't even... Yeah. I will stay for supper if you like.

(CONTINUED)

VINCENT

Bene!

*VINCE enters.*

VINCE

Pa! Good your home. I just got back from that meeting with... (Realizes PAULIE is in the room) Paulie! I forgot that I called you. (Awkward silence) Pa! Maybe we can take this in your office?

*VINCENT and VINCE leave the room. PAULIE sits alone. After a bit ANGELICA enters the room.*

ANGELICA

Did I hear Vince?

PAULIE

Yeah! He just came in with Pop.

ANGELICA

They are both here? Where are they?

PAULIE

They went into the office. To discuss. I guess I'm just supposed to wait here. Oh, that reminds me. How would you like to see a show tonight?

ANGELICA

Really? What show?

PAULIE

Golden Boy. With Sammy Davis Jr.

ANGELICA

Sammy Davis Jr? I love him. Oh. He is so talented.  
Mmmmm!

PAULIE

You want to meet him? Maybe after the show go back and say hello? Would you like that?

ANGELICA

You know Sammy Davis Jr?

PAULIE

I've got connections! (After a beat) Theater connections. I know a couple of the managers at the theater. They owe me a favor. (After a beat) Nothing like that. I just ran a couple errands for them... and maybe gave them the number of a good contractor.

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

Family?

PAULIE

Nah. Just licensed and bonded. So? What do you say?  
Tonight, after supper?

ANGELICA

Sounds great Paulie. I'll have a car come pick you  
up... or we can meet down at the theater.

PAULIE

Pa invited me to stay for supper. We can can catch a  
cab from here.

ANGELICA

A taxi cab? Oh what the hell. Sounds fun. Paulie, go  
ahead and open your present. I think I'll go and say  
hello to Poppa and Vince.

PAULIE

Maybe you ought not bother them. Not right now.

ANGELICA

Yours is in the big bag. The long box.

*(She leaves the room. PAULIE fiddles with the gift  
box while ANGELICA joins the others in the office.)*

Scene 2

*Lights up on the office stage right. A desk, a  
few chairs and a bookshelf.)*

VINCE

...So we got our crew coming through the front door and  
Don Ronampala's crew is coming through the backdoor.  
Which if you think about it is pretty fitting for him.  
By this time we all figured that the security was  
getting greased from both ends so I just pulled our  
crew out of there. Take care of it later. So I set up  
this meeting... (Notices ANGELICA) Angelica! Hey! When  
did Cleopatra, Queen of the Nile get home? So? How was  
them pyramids?

ANGELICA

Well since they haven't moved them to either Venice or  
Rome... I didn't have the chance to get a really good  
look at them. But I suppose they are doing great right  
where they are. (She hugs and kisses her father) Poppa!

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

If you don't mind, we are discussing a matter that don't concern you or shopping. (VINCENT pulls up a chair for ANGELICA to sit) You want her to hear all this? Ok. If that's what you want. Anyway... I set up this meeting with our man at the... (Pause) Are you sure you want her to hear all this?

ANGELICA

Vince! If it helps you, I'll pretend what you say sounds intelligent.

VINCE

See? I can't talk with her here.

VINCENT

Silenzio! Go on. What did you set up with these people?

VINCE

I just had a little sit down with the boys from the West side to discuss... territory. And we agreed that our people will get the Ok before planning any more conflicting... work projects. I thought the sit down went very well. I mean, I did the right thing. Right, Pop?

ANGELICA

So now you you have to get permission to... work? And you have to contact them before you take on certain jobs?

VINCE

Again! This does not concern you, Angelica.

ANGELICA

Well! Vincent! Doesn't the fact that by having these people know where and when a certain job is going to take place leaves you and your co-workers open to, let's say, some uncalled for entanglement with other parties such as law enforcement or the legal system?

VINCE

We don't use no lawyers here, Angelica! We don't write no contracts. We all just shake on it. It's a system of honor.

ANGELICA

And what if someone doesn't honor your system? Are they going to contact you before they visit our... job sites? Did you shake on that?

VINCE

Pa! I can't discuss nothing with her here. She's talking about things she don't know nothing about!

VINCENT

And Don Ronampala? He agreed to this?

VINCE

His people were going to pass it along!

ANGELICA

So you could still have someone else explain to him that what his people heard was wrong.

VINCE

They heard right!

VINCENT

Have that Roseatti kid contact Don Fanusco. Tell him that your meeting was just arranged to feel out Don Ronampala's people and he should take nothing from it.

*Doorbell*

ANGELICA

Eddie Roseatti works for the family now?

*Doorbell*

VINCE

Eddie works for Eddie. But Pa! I'll come off looking like a boccalone...

VINCENT

Then when you know Don Fanusco has contacted Don Ronampala... schedule another meeting and there you will explain that you regret any misunderstandings. That meeting will be brief... venire al punto. You will tell them that any further discussion of business will be handled just as it has before.

VINCE

But what's that gonna accomplish?

ANGELICA

It's gonna buy you time to cover your screw up.

VINCE

I didn't screw up!... Did I, Pa?

VINCENT

You mean well, Vincenzo. But you tend to act before you think. Come (Hugs him) Ti amo, Vincenzo. (Slaps his head) Prevenire. Think!

(CONTINUED)

*PAULIE sticks his head in the room.*

PAULIE

Excuse me. But Mrs. Roseatti is at the door.

VINCE

Paulie! We're discussing in here.

VINCENT

No more discussion.

ANGELICA

Poppa! It seems like Mrs. Roseatti likes to come around a lot. She has taken quite a fancy with you.

VINCENT

She is a megera!

ANGELICA

Oh, Poppa! Be nice. I'll let her in.

VINCENT

I give her Loda Bruca but she won't scare away.

ANGELICA

Poppa! She is a lonely woman. I'm going to ask her in. Just come say hello.

VINCENT

Awwwwwww!

*(VINCENT and ANGELICA start to exit. ANGELICA stops to admire the jacket she gave to PAULIE)*

ANGELICA

That jacket looks very nice on you, Paulie.

PAULIE

You think?

ANGELICA

Makes you look very handsome. Bel ragazzo.

*(ANGELICA exits. PAULIE gets VINCE's attention)*

PAULIE

Ahem! Vince? You wanted to see me?

VINCE

I did? Oh, I guess I did! Come into the office. Sit down. You doing ok? Are you comfortable?

(CONTINUED)

PAULIE

I'm alright. How about you?

VINCE

You still like working with all them finnochs? Going to them auditions for them shows? Always looking for your next job?

PAULIE

Sometimes a person prefers the idea of looking ahead into the unknown rather than having to always look over their shoulder.

VINCE

*(After a beat)* What? Is that from a play or something?

PAULIE

Vince, you wouldn't understand.

VINCE

Or care even less. Look the reason I wanted to talk with ya was because of this Susie Manfridi. Ever heard of her?

PAULIE

Nah! Who is Susie Manfridi?

VINCE

She's one of the actor types. A showgirl. I met her and a group of people at the 21 Club last week.

PAULIE

I never heard of her.

VINCE

Well that's ok... she said ain't ever heard of you neither. Anyway, she says that she wants to get into this acting business and thought I could help her out a little bit.

PAULIE

Got you on the line and reeling you in, huh?

VINCE

She said that I could help her out by backing a play she wants to be in. Toss in a few grand. Give the kid a break. So I told her I'd talk with you first.

PAULIE

Ah! Susie Manfridi! Now I remember! I know her very well! She's a chorus girl or a show girl. She has a playwright or musician boyfriend who needs cash. So they go out and track down an 'Angel'. They tell them

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PAULIE (cont'd)

all about this great new show they just started on. Ten grand here, 20 grand there and they raise enough money to rent a theater, costumes, a few set pieces and a tin pan alley band. Then the show closes after a night or two and Susie Manfridi and the boyfriend skip town with the rest of the money they raised.

VINCE

Was your Susie Manfridi a red head?

PAULIE

Yes, Vince! A red head! Would you listen... the other backers' are out a few G's but they can write it all off on their taxes. Something you cannot do or the IRS will come knocking at your door with your ticket to jail. You wanted to screw some girl singer, but you got Sing Sing instead. I know Susie Manfridi. I know lots of Susan Manfridis.

VINCE

So I shouldn't invest?

PAULIE

Nah! I'm going to say that you should pass on this one.

VINCE

Ok! Sounds about right! Thanks for discussing it.

PAULIE

(After a bit) Bet she was a real knockout, huh?

VINCE

Oh, Madonna mia! (A beat) Are all them actor finnochs flaky like that?

PAULIE

Yes, Vince! All of them!

VINCE

Crazy business.

*Lights dim*

Scene 3

*VINCENT is sitting with MRS ROSEATTI in the living room.*

ROSA

...And then I saw your working lady Mrs. Smeltzer at the market shopping. I must have talked her ear off for 5 or 6 minutes. And afterwards, I believe she did not

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROSA (cont'd)

understand one word of what I was saying? She has worked for you here what? 6 years? And never once bothered to learn English? That is so curioso. I mean our parents came to this country and at least tried to communicate. I mean here is a German woman in New York City who was given a good job in a good home. She could at least try to find the time to learn to speak a bit of the language. What does she do in her spare time? Does she just sit quietly in her room and not watch the television? And you Vincenzo, have you ever thought about contacting the service that brought her here and complained? When I come over here with Eddie for dinner or just to have a visit, she will barely give me a second glance, even the time of day.

How's Paulie? I never seen him around anymore. Is he still trying to make it in show business? It's a noble profession, Vincezo! Don't be down on Paulie! It's a noble profession. Not like my Eddie. He's doing well with his contracting business. But show business is a legitimate business, too.

Speaking of show business, did you see those boys from England on the Ed Sullivan show last Sunday? Did you see their hair? They looked like 4 mops.

Are you feeling well, Vincenzo? You look tired...

*Lights out!*

Scene 4

*The Office. VINCE is meeting with EDDIE ROSEATTI and CHOPS HAYES.*

EDDIE

Is your father coming in to hear this?

VINCE

Nah, he's too busy trying to pry your Ma off his leg.

EDDIE

She wishes.

VINCE

Hey, Chops! Is this the first time you been over to the house?

CHOPS

Nah! I been here a few times when I brought your father his car back after working on it. But I usually only see him when he drops by the shop. This is the first time I've ever really been inside. It's nice.

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE

This is probably the first time a mookie's ever been in your house. Huh, Vince?

CHOPS

Fuck you, man!

EDDIE

Be nice! You're my guest!

CHOPS

I can still be your guest while you still go fuck yourself.

VINCE

Hey watch your language, Food Stamp!

CHOPS

And fuck you, too, Ravioli! I came here to conduct some business and speak with your father. If I wanted to hear two dago greaseballs talk shit, I'd go up to Brooklyn, find the nearest closed library and wait near a street corner.

*Pause*

EDDIE

That was a good one. Huh, Vince?

VINCE

That was pretty good. I did like the library part.

*ANGELICA walks in. CHOPS stands up.*

ANGELICA

What is with the language in here.

EDDIE

Was it hurting your virgin ears? Whoa! Looking good, Angelica!

CHOPS

*(Quietly)* Lord, have mercy!

EDDIE

When did you get home from Europe?

ANGELICA

I just got back.

EDDIE

Well.... You should have called!

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

I would have, but I didn't know if your opposable thumbs could manipulate the telephone, Eddie. And if I did call could you keep up your end of the conversation beyond a level of mere grunts and monosyllabic words?

EDDIE

Ugh...what?

ANGELICA

My point exactly!

CHOPS

Ooooh, Miss Angelica.

ANGELICA

What?

CHOPS

Do you remember me? Chops. Well, actually, Jefferson Hayes. But most people call me Chops. I work for your father. I am in auto repair.

ANGELICA

Chops! You introduce yourself to me every time I see you. I have known you since I was 6. My father used to take me to your shop to pick up the cars you worked on. And then when I turned 14 you started hitting on me. I was afraid to even step into your shop.

CHOPS

You ain't 14 no more, that's for sure!

ANGELICA

(A tease) How is your shop? Is it still small and filthy?

VINCE

Angelica. Were having a meeting here.

ANGELICA

Is it still filthy, Chops?

CHOPS

Well, it's bigger. We've expanded. But it's still a pretty dirty shop.

VINCE

We're discussing business.

ANGELICA

How big have you expanded it?

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

That's it! Get out. We don't want you in here.

ANGELICA

Do either of you mind if I stay? Eddie? Chops?

EDDIE

Aaaaaah.

CHOPS

She can stay. She can stay!

VINCE

Look! I am holding this meeting and I want you to go!  
(Knock on door) What next? (*VINCENT enters*) Oh, Pa! I was just about to get you...

ANGELICA

Here, Pa! Sit down! Take Vince's chair.

VINCE

Sure, take my chair, Pa!

VINCENT

Vincenzio! I want you to find your brother and take him to this address. (*Hands VINCE a note*)

VINCE

Sure, Pop! When? After dinner?

VINCENT

Now! Both of you be back before supper.

VINCE

Now? But I am working on this thing! (*Pause then forlorn*) Sure, Pop! I'll go! (*He exits*)

VINCENT

So what is your business?

EDDIE

It's about this new scam. I've tried it out and it has been working great. And I wanted to get your ok before I take it to the next step.

ANGELICA

We're listening.

EDDIE

We plant some guys outside some of these ritzy clubs and dress them as valets. Then when someone drives up in a high end car, we grab the keys and take off, drop the car at Chops, go back and start the process all

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE (cont'd)

over again. And in the end, we let the insurance guys try to sort it all out.

ANGELICA

And this works?

EDDIE

We've pulled this a few times up in Harlem.

ANGELICA

Isn't that dangerous? Seems like someone could get hurt.

CHOPS

Someone almost got hurt when a car which turned out to be my uncle's car got dumped off at my shop. The fool dented the passenger side and almost tore the bumper right clean off. I don't have the heart to tell the old man I have his busted up car.

EDDIE

Well! Keep quiet about that!

VINCENT

And how many cars are we talking?

EDDIE

We made plans on taking only 6 or 7.

ANGELICA

And how many did you make off with?

CHOPS

The damn fools stole 22. The whole thing kept my shop open round the clock for 3 solid days!

EDDIE

So we got a little ahead of ourselves.

ANGELICA

You do know how to count, right?

EDDIE

Well anyway! There is going to be a big gala ball downtown in about a month or so. My inside people say that this secret shindig is supposed to be for all the artsy-fartsy types. They don't have dime squat, but their patrons do. And the hoity-toity lower East siders eat this shit up. I'm told most will arrive by limo, but they are going to hire a skeleton crew to valet the rest. We will be the skeletons.

VINCENT

And what do you need from me?

EDDIE

I have a crew of about 4 guys. I need more. If I could arrange to get about 10 more guys, I could rotate them around and that way nobody would get recognized too easy. I need that and your blessing.

ANGELICA

You come up with that plan all by yourself, Roseatti?

EDDIE

What? You don't like it?

ANGELICA

Very surprising! I must say you surprised even me.

VINCENT

And your shop can handle these cars.

CHOPS

You have my shop... and my two cousins have a shop in Queens. You only have to get them there.

VINCENT

Then you have my blessing. Work out all the details with Vincenzo. (*To EDDIE*) Now, I am tired and I want you to take your mother home. She is in the kitchen. She is trying to teach English to my housekeeper.

EDDIE

Yes, sir! Thank you! (*Exits*)

VINCENT

And as for you, Mr. Hayes. I apologize for any damage to your uncle's car. Please make all the necessary repairs and send us the amount.

ANGELICA

I can take care of that, Poppa!

CHOPS

Thank you, Sir! Miss Angelica! (*He leaves*)

VINCENT

Angelica, go escort everyone to the door and let them out. I have mal di testa, probably from that woman! I am going to lie down.

ANGELICA

Yes, Poppa! You rest! (*Starts to leave, but turns back*) Poppa? May I ask? Were you ever planning on telling poor Mrs. Roseatti that Mrs Smeltzer is deaf?

(CONTINUED)

VINCENT

Come se!

*Lights dim! Music up.*

Scene 5

*Later that same night. ANGELICA is by front door speaking to unseen person.*

ANGELICA

Shhh. Be very quiet! Well? Well? Are you coming in or not? You're not going to be standing there all night, are you? What? Are you afraid to come in? Think you'll get in trouble? You want to come in, don't you? Shhh! Everyone's asleep. Nobody is up. Come in!

*CHOPS walks in and joins ANGELICA on the sofa.*

ANGELICA

You aren't this way with all women, are you? Or are you just all talk, Mr. Hayes?

CHOPS

You're crazy! This is crazy! Maybe we should just go back to the Shop.

ANGELICA

That place is filthy. And I don't like being around all those dirty old rags and rusted out car parts. There! Do you feel better? Are you more comfortable?

CHOPS

Fuck no!

ANGELICA

What? Are you afraid to be with me? Think I will take advantage of you? More advantage of you?

CHOPS

I swear if your father knew I was here...

ANGELICA

Are you afraid of my father? Most men are. But he's actually a very kind, thoughtful and understanding man. He only wants what's best for his daughter.

CHOPS

Are we talking about the same man who used a baseball bat just to convince my landlord to sell the Shop to me?

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

That was just business. He was just being threatening.

CHOPS

That threatening to two weeks to scrub off the wall of the tool crib.

ANGELICA

You know what I want?

CHOPS

Yeah! But you ain't getting it here. I shouldn't even be here.

ANGELICA

You have any more of that dope? I want to get high!

CHOPS

Sure. You want to smoke some outside?

ANGELICA

We can smoke in here.

CHOPS

In here?

ANGELICA

Sure! I said everybody's in bed. We can light a candle. Let's smoke another one of those joints.

CHOPS

This is crazy! *(He thinks better of it, but finally pulls one out.)* When did you start smoking grass?

ANGELICA

I tried some in Europe. All the kids were doing it in the nightclubs. Especially the jazz clubs. Leave me another joint for later. Do you like jazz? Want to hear some music?

CHOPS

Nah! I don't think so. Might wake somebody up.

ANGELICA

Well! Are you hungry? I'm starving. I'm gonna fix something to eat? Do you want something? Let me make you something. I'm a great cook! I'll make us something. I'll be right back. Now don't go away!

*ANGELICA weaves out of the room. CHOPS sits alone. He tries to decide if he should stay or leave. He lights the joint and walks around the room. He stops at the cabinet and tries to open the locked door. Giving up he sits back on the sofa. VINCENT enters the room.*

VINCENT

I thought I heard voices. Marijuana, huh?

CHOPS

Mr. Angelina. I was... I was...

VINCENT

*(Sits next to CHOPS)* I remember back in the day. In those jazz nightclubs. In the Village or Harlem.

CHOPS

You were in Harlem?

VINCENT

Sure. We loved jazz. We'd go just about anywhere to hear it. Places like the Cotton Club. Back then only musicians smoked it. But it was around.

CHOPS

That's cool. Do you want...?

VINCENT

Non grazie!

CHOPS

I guess I should be... leaving.

VINCENT

That would be good.

CHOPS

I meant no disrespect. *(Pause)* It was good talking to you. I'll... show myself out. If there's anything you need... you can always call on me. *(He dashes out)*

ANGELICA

*(Entering)* I'm heating up some homemade ravioli...  
Papa!

VINCENT

Your friend just left.

ANGELICA

Papa.. he was just... I mean he came over because I...

VINCENT

Sit down, Angelica. (*She sits*) Mia cara, Angelica. Decisions we make... with the people we know... are not just a reflection on you, but the family. Do you like this man?

ANGELICA

He's very nice.

VINCENT

Do you have feelings for this man?

ANGELICA

Oh no, Poppa! It's not like that at all.

VINCENT

So what should we do about this situation?

ANGELICA

Nothing, Poppa. It was my indiscretion and I shall solely take the blame. He had nothing to do with coming over here. That was my decision.

VINCENT

Then we understand? D'accordo?

ANGELICA

Yes, Poppa!

VINCENT

Bene.

ANGELICA

I still have ravioli heating up. Are you hungry, Poppa?

VINCENT

Non grazie. I am going to bed... unless we are to expect more of the jazz club showing up to pay a visit tonight.

ANGELICA

No, Poppa.

VINCENT

Then it is forgotten. Good night, mia cara. (*He kisses her forehead and exits*)

ANGELICA

Good night, Poppa. (*She rushes to the sofa*) Where did he put that joint?

*PAULIE enters hurriedly*

PAULIE

We are fucked! Why's it smell like a Turkish bathhouse in here? Where's Pa? Is he asleep?

ANGELICA

He just went to bed. What's the matter Paulie?

PAULIE

Where's Vince? I called him an hour ago. Is he here yet? Angelica, get Pa!

ANGELICA

Paulie, what is it? What is going on?

VINCENT

(Re-entering) What is with all the noise?

PAULIE

Not good. This is not good. I was just at Jack Dempsey's drinking with some friends. And I seen him!

ANGELICA

You saw who?

PAULIE

Ghost from the past. I should have known we fucked it up. Didn't do the job right. We fucked it all up!

VINCENT

Paulie, your language!

PAULIE

You remember that IRS guy? That Tom Raines? Had the hots for Angelica? Well... he ain't...missing no more. He was with a group of Feds and they were taking down some of Don Ronampala's crew. It's a citywide blitz by the Feds. They're coming after everybody. I got word that that they have the goods on all the syndicates. Taking them down one by one. Tonight. Pa! We gotta get you out of here. Right now! Where the hell is Vince?

VINCENT

It's better if he stays away. Paulie... It is better if you leave now.

PAULIE

But Pa!

ANGELICA

Paulie, do as Poppa says! Go! (*PAULIE leaves. To VINCENT*) I'll call Lou. Have a car here in 5 minutes. I'll pack you a bag. Please Poppa, get dressed.

*Blue and red lights flash off the stage through the front door. There is a knock at the door. Sound of commotion. TOM RAINES enters dressed in a dark jacket with FBI across the back.*

TOM

*(Over his shoulder)* Let me have the pleasure of this one. *(To VINCENT)* Mr. Vincent Angelina. Would you please accompany me outside? We have a warrant for your arrest. Please note that I am giving you the courtesy for an opportunity to come quietly. If you should decide to resist arrest, there are 20 officers waiting outside who can assist you off the premises.

ANGELICA

Don't worry, Poppa. I'll have your lawyer waiting down at the station before you even get there.

TOM

Don't bother. There's no need. His lawyer has been served and is already in the police wagon. Now please, Mr. Angelina. Follow me out.

ANGELICA

You have nothing on my father. Let me see that warrant!

TOM

*(Throwing the warrant at her)* It's just a tax evasion charge now. But there will be more. We have a whole series of secretly taped conversations. We have all the evidence we need. I told you, Angelica. We would be coming.... And in time you and your whole psychotic family would pay. It's over, Angelica. I just thank god everyday that your brother didn't look over the pier the night he fired that old war pistol at me. 6 years I hid... it took 6 long years to build up a case for tonight. But now thanks to him... all you guinea wops are going down.

ANGELICA

Tom, please! Can I ask... where's Vince?

TOM

We aren't even looking for Vince. It was Vince who helped make all this possible.

ANGELICA

You're lying!

TOM

*(To VINCENT)* Say goodnight to your daughter! You won't be seeing her again for a long long time! *(TOM walks VINCENT out the door. PAULIE reenters from the kitchen)*

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

Paulie! I thought you ran off. Paulie, that was Tom Raines! Paulie... tell me... tell me what happened that night!

PAULIE

All I remember is that Vince and I took him to the pier. Vince untied him to gave him a chance to beg for his life. Tom hit Vince in the gagoos and Vince shot at him. Tom plopped into the water and that was that. I just assumed... I knew we should have checked to be sure but... we had to get the hell out of there. We were in Pop's car. Oh, shit! What are we gonna do Angelica? What are we going to do?

*ANGELICA sits for a moment. She smiles at Paulie and cups his chin with her hand. Then she goes to the cabinet. She retrieves a little black book. She opens it. She steps into the dining room. PAULIE follows her like a scared puppy. She sits at the table, reads the book and starts to think.*

ANGELICA

Paulie! Go to the kitchen and have some ravioli.

PAULIE

What? But... I'm not hungry. I'm not...

ANGELICA

Do as I say. Eat!

*ANGELICA gets up from the table and goes into the Office. She sits down and picks up the phone, unscrews mouthpiece, looks inside, reattaches the mouthpiece and then dials a number from the black book.*

ANGELICA

*(Into the phone)* Don Ronampala, please! Don't ask me where I got this number. Please put Don Ronampala on the phone. Thank you! *(Pause)* Don Ronampala? My name is Angelica Angelina. I am the daughter of Vincent Angelina. I think it would be in your best interest and the best interest of both of our families that we arrange a meeting! Bene!

*LIGHTS out. Music up.  
End of Act 2*

ACT 3Scene 1

1970. Six years have passed and VINCENT is to return home after suffering a small stroke in prison. ANGELICA is overseeing PAULIE and MRS. ROSEATTI arranging the living room. There are flowers and gift baskets all around the room, otherwise it hasn't changed much.

ANGELICA

Put some of the flowers in the dining room, Paulie! I don't want this place smelling like a funeral parlor.

ROSA

It was nice of you to have me over, Angelica. It has been six long years since that horrible night Vincenzo was taken away.

ANGELICA

The Doctors said that he should be around people that he is most comfortable with. he'd feel better.

PAULIE

*(Confidentially to ANGELICA, indicating ROSA)* So with her here, you're trying to kill him?

ANGELICA

Paulie! Go to the kitchen, open a bottle and bring it out with some glasses.

PAULIE

Is he even supposed drink alcohol?

ANGELICA

Well, even if he can't... we'll still have a glass out for him. Rispettoso.

ROSA

My Eddie heard that Vincenzo's stroke was a mild one. *(She makes the sign of the cross)* Dominus vobiscum! He's a lucky man. A very lucky man.

ANGELICA

It was large enough for the courts to allow him to spend the rest of his sentence here at home. *(She looks at her watch)* Where is Eddie? He was supposed to drive to the trade off, get my father and drive straight back? No stops.

(CONTINUED)

ROSA

Don't you worry about my Eddie. He is very punctual.

PAULIE

Maybe he got slowed up by all the press. Some TV and newspaper people I know said there might be a lot of nosy types covering Pa's release.

ANGELICA

That's why I arranged for him to be released 2 hours early. Lou was to drive up in Chops' ambulance and all Eddie had to do was make the switch before they got out of Upstate. The press won't be causing much fuss until they realize they missed it all. And just to be sure, I have our people placed at both ends of the block keeping the front of the house clear.

PAULIE

Blocking the street must be putting the kabosh on Old Man Scarmato's flower business. You know, with tomorrow being Mother's Day and all.

*(They realize it is Mother's Day and quietly PAULIE and ANGELICA make the sign of the cross. ANGELICA looks at her mother's picture on the wall)*

ANGELICA

*(In a whisper)* I love you, Momma!

ROSA

Angelica! May I ask you, Dear? How is Vince? Will Vince be coming to see his father return back to his home?

ANGELICA

We do not discuss my brother.

ROSA

Oh, but Angelica! He is your brother. Your flesh and blood. He is family. Your father would want all his children around when he returns. That would be nice.

ANGELICA

We do not discuss. And now I am beginning to feel that it would have been better if we kept my father's return private and just for family.

ROSA

*(After an awkward silence)* How about I go in the kitchen and help Mrs Smeltzer make some coffee? Does anyone else want some coffee? Let me help Mrs. Smeltzer. *(To PAULIE)* Can you believe? I'm learning sign language. *(She exits)*

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

I'd like to show her some sign language!

PAULIE

Angelica! You know how she is. Why did you even invite her over here in the first place? You know Pa doesn't want that woman in the house.

ANGELICA

Oh! Eddie dropped off the old megera this morning before leaving with Lou and the rest of the crew. I'm hoping to shuffle her and Eddie out the door quick when they all get back. How does the place look, Paulie? The same? I didn't want to change it too much. It might upset Poppa.

PAULIE

Angie! It's your house! Pa signed it over to you. He didn't know when he was going to get out, if at all. It wouldn't matter if you rearranged the place. Your apartment uptown is a show place. You could do the same to this house. I'm sure Pa wouldn't mind at all.

ANGELICA

Maybe Poppa's not the reason that I didn't rearrange it.

PAULIE

Oh, Angelica! It's been what? 12 years? Even she wouldn't mind if you changed some things around.

ANGELICA

This is how I remember her best. She is still in this house. I feel her presence when I come through that door.

*VINCE walks in through door*

VINCE

Well if it isn't the Don and donnina Angelina. So what? Nobody was going to call me? What? I can't come and see my own father? I still get some family respect, your people let me right through.

ANGELICA

*(To PAULIE) Take care of this, Paulie! (She exits through the dining room and into the kitchen)*

PAULIE

Vince! What are you doing here? You should have notified someone and we could have made arrangements...

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

Made arrangements? He's my fucking father, Don Angelina, if I have to call you that. But we both know better, huh? The Queen of Sheba thinks she can now call all the shots, but she better know that when Pa gets home... it's all gonna change, Paulie. It's all gonna be like what it was before. You just wait and see.

PAULIE

Things did change, Vince. You might not see it. But things did change. Sit down. We need to talk. And this is probably the best time as any with Pa coming home and all. I know you feel hurt. You feel you were passed over. You feel like the family abandoned you. But when the shit hit the fan, it was Angelica who took the reigns and kept this family going. Could you have done that?

VINCE

The families knew who was next in line.

PAULIE

They did? Well let me remind you of something... that night 6 years ago when everybody got pinched, what did you do? Let me remind you. You left the country. For 2 years you left. You bounced back and forth between Europe and the old country. Not a care in the world. So who was left to worry? Angelica! Everyday. Because while you were out gallivanting and pretending to lay low, she was finding ways to pay out protection for you.

VINCE

Yeah? Well! The truth is... I kinda figured that.

PAULIE

But the crazy thing was she wasn't protecting you from the feds, it was from the other families who thought you were the one that ratted them all out.

VINCE

Me? Aw, you're full of shit. When I got back home... I was welcome with open arms by Don Ronampala and Don Fanusco... even the others. They all toasted my return.

PAULIE

Then that was some pretty expensive champagne they all toasted you with. Because Angelica had to pull a lot strings, give up some business and territory to make it happen. And now how do you pay her back? You turn your back on our family and become errand boy for Don Ronampala.

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

Get out! I still have my own territory.

PAULIE

With the money going straight to Don Ronampala's crew.

VINCE

I just give him a taste.

PAULIE

And Angelica feeds him the rest. Face it! We both couldn't have done what she did to keep the family going! And if it makes you feel better... I am as much to blame for all of this as you. I was the one who brought the Feds into the house. I was the one they duped when they sent that Tom Raines to hook up with our sister. There hasn't been a day in the past 6 years that I haven't blamed myself for Pa ending up in jail. And now, god only knows what shape he's in.

*(They sit quietly)*

VINCE

Might be a retard, huh? Maybe slowed him down a little?

PAULIE

Yeah! Now his temper explodes in 2 seconds instead of the usual 1/2 of one. (a beat) He can still use the clothesbrush but it don't hurt so much because he can only use his left hand.

VINCE

And he can't remember how to count no more. (*Mimes being spanked*) Bam... 1... bang... 2.... bang... 27... bam... 8...

*They both laugh*

PAULIE

You know he'd kill us if he heard us talking like this!

VINCE

Eh... Wouldn't be the first time. Bam... Seventy-eleven... bim bang

*ANGELICA reenters the room. VINCE sits her down.*

VINCE

Angelica, I know this isn't the time or place for this. And I am not here to upset you. In fact, after talking with Don Paulie just now, there are quite a few things I'm thinking need to be cleared up between us. If you grant me permission, I would like to stay and see my

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VINCE (cont'd)

father. And then if you wish, I will leave your house until a time we can make some arrangement to meet to sit down and discuss. Maybe over a gellato.

ANGELICA

(*Stands up, over VINCE*) You hurt me, Vince! You left a lot of loose ends. You put the family in a spot. (*ROSA starts singing from the kitchen*) Paulie! Go to the kitchen and pour Mrs. Roseatti some coffee, she is already on her second bottle of Lambrusco.

PAULIE

Play nice! (*Paulie exits*)

VINCE

How long are you going to be mad at me, Angelica? How long are you going to blame me for fingering Pa to the authorities? Look! When it comes down to it... I don't really blame ya. I ran, Angelica. I know I ran. But I thought I was the only one who was going to be taken down. I thought all they had was the goods on me, maybe Paulie. If I knew they were going to pinch Pop I would have done anything to stay. But that night, I could just hear Pop's voice telling me to get away. So I went on the lam. I just decided to wait it out.

ANGELICA

2 years, Vince!

VINCE

I knew the family was looking for me. I just couldn't bring myself into reporting back to You.

ANGELICA

What made you think we wouldn't find you?

VINCE

Did you even want to? So here I am laying low and then one afternoon in Sicily I'm eating at this small restaurant. Some laduncolos came in to shake down the owner. I remember one was wearing a hat with a feather in it. They pistol whipped the guy and then went around the room collecting valuables from all of us just sitting there. Smacking anyone who looked at them wrong. They collected everything in the hat with the feather. I lost my gold watch, gold chain, my passport and my wallet with about 2000 lira in it. Later that night, there's a knock on the door of my villa. When I opened it, no one was there. Except lying on the floor was my passport, my watch, the chain, my wallet with now 10,000 in lira in it and... a feather. No one was knew where I was staying there. I thought I was good at

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VINCE (cont'd)

that. But it was then I come to realize there was someone watching me. Watching out for me.

ANGELICA

I only did what Poppa would have want. If it was up to me...

VINCE

If it was up to you... you would do the exact same. You have always been the one to take care of the family, Angelica. To pick up the slack. You were always the strong one, like Ma.

ANGELICA

Don't start that, Vince!

VINCE

It's true, Angelica. You are the strong one. Paulie's a thinker, but not much muscle. I over think everything and still need people to explain it to me. Paulie was right when he wanted out when he did, but you needed him when you took over the family. Paulie makes a good...

ANGELICA

Proxy! Look... Face it! The heads of all the families still stick to that archaic, unwritten rule that doesn't allow women at sit downs.

VINCE

Well I don't know nothing about that proxy thing? But now that Pa's back... Paulie can stop pretending he calls the shots.

ANGELICA

The families are going to wait and see what shape Pa is in... and what, if anything he's got planned. If he appears weak, they'll try a take over. If he comes off too strong, they'll make the same move... All to protect everything they took control of when he left.

VINCE

Muscling a family can get awful ugly, awful quick. It would be best for the family if you find an inside man with contacts and an ear to the other families.

ANGELICA

You could be a very smart man, Vincent Angelina, Jr. Or maybe it's just because you want to make sure that if anything does happens you come out smelling like a rose. Let me ask you... where is your allegiance, Vince? You may be able to bullshit all those other

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA (cont'd)

families, but then again they didn't grow up with you. They can't read you like a book. I need to know where you stand... with this family... right now!

*PAULIE re-enters*

VINCE

Angelica, I pledged an oath to this family. There has never been a time I thought I couldn't or wouldn't honor that commitment. All you had to do is ask.

ANGELICA

I'm asking you now! Where is your allegiance?

VINCE

Like I said... the family. It has always been the family.

ANGELICA

Would you swear on it in blood? Paulie! Get me a knife.

VINCE

Here? Now?

ANGELICA

Give me a knife, Paulie! Will you swear on it, Vincent?

VINCE

If I have to! (*Pause*) But please don't cut any deeper than you did when you turned your back on me?

ANGELICA

Just don't bleed on my carpet!

PAULIE

(*PAULIE reaches into his pocket and pulls out a switchblade*) Funny thing! Vince gave me this knife on the day he pawned my Mickey Mouse watch back when I was 6.

VINCE

You stole that knife from the top of my dresser.

PAULIE

I call it even.

ANGELICA

Vincent Angelina, Jr! Do you pledge your undying allegiance to this family and no other.

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

I do... again!

ANGELICA

And with complete allegiance, are you willing to take and obey any and all orders from the head of that family?

VINCE

I do... again!

ANGELICA

Then tell me Vincent Angelina Jr... who is the head of the family? Who do you pledge this oath of allegiance to?

VINCE

I pledge my life to protect and defend this family and it's Don... Vincent Angelina... Senior's... daughter and my sister... Angelica Angelina.

ANGELICA

Now that wasn't so hard was it?

PAULIE

*(Handing ANGELICA his handkerchief)* He cried the last time he pledged that oath!

VINCE

Fuck you, Paulie.

PAULIE

Like a baby!

VINCE

Paulie, I'm telling ya!

PAULIE

Vince, is it true Don Ronampala has a different ceremony?

VINCE

How the fuck should I know? But from what I hear... it isn't your hand that bleeds, it's just you can't sit down for three weeks. Gonna be awful strange not playing errand boy for Don Ronampala anymore. Probably gonna lead to a lot of trouble down the line.

ANGELICA

Yes. It just might.

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

Ah! Fuck him! The fucking finnoch in the Good Humor suit.

ANGELICA

Paulie? What do you think? Can we trust this man?

PAULIE

This Boccalone? He'd be giving up a lot. I heard he's paid extra to rub Don Ronampala's feet every Thursday.

VINCE

Fuck you, Paulie! I don't rub nothing!

PAULIE

Oh, really? I'm still horrified by the memory of you upstairs... under your blanket with a flashlight and a copy of Playboy... making your headboard tap Morse code like a stock ticker.

ANGELICA

You know, Paulie, our older brother here might just work out as an inside man. We're going to need such a person especially now with Poppa home. He's already got an in with Don Romapala, even the other families.

VINCE

You wanna hear something funny about that old finnoch, Don Ronampala?... Paulie, when that old pimp barks the orders... he still makes the face?

ANGELICA

Face? What face?

PAULIE

It's a face, he makes. It's like... well, Angelica, imagine you're having a set of triplets they all have a head with the size of Vince's melon. Just imagine the face you'd make pushing all them out at once. That would be his face.

*ROSA enters. She is still very tipsy from the wine.*

ROSA

Whose having a baby? Is Angelica having a baby? No, Dear! You would have to be married first! Oh, good! You are all together and have made up. Your father will be so happy! Wooonderful! Now I just want to say this to you all... when your father and I get married, you'll all still be welcome in this house. Except for that German woman. She will not be welcome. I can sign it for her... *(She drunkenly makes hand gestures)* Get out!

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

Paulie! You should see about getting her some coffee!

PAULIE

I did! But everytime I pour her a cup, Mrs Smeltzer spikes it with that bottle of Strega.

ANGELICA

Vince... Paulie! Take her to the kitchen and sober her up! And let Mrs Smeltzer go the rest of the day...

ROSA

Yes! (*hic*) Get out!

ANGELICA

...Send Mrs Smeltzer over to Gerritsen Beach to spend time with her cousin. Tell her we'll send a car to pick her up later. Right now I want quiet! (*PAULIE and VINCE take ROSA out of the room*) I just want some peace and quiet! My father is coming home today!

*Music. Lights out.*

Scene 2

*EDDIE has arrived with VINCENT. The rest of the family and ROSA assemble in the living room as VINCENT slowly, painfully makes his way inside with help of a cane.*

PAULIE

Welcome home, Pa!

ANGELICA

Everything is just as you left it, Poppa. Haven't changed a thing. Can we get you anything?

*VINCENT stops in front of the picture of his late wife. Stands quietly for awhile. When he turns around he is face to face with VINCE.*

VINCE

Hello, Pa! (*After a beat. He hugs his father*)

*VINCENT pulls back and takes hold of VINCE's hand. He then looks to ANGELICA. She comes over and he takes hold of her hand. Then he gives a small nod of acknowledgment.*

ANGELICA

Everything has been taken care of.

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE

(To PAULIE) What is he doing here?

PAULIE

Angelica thought it best that Vince should be here when he got home. Make it easier on the old man.

ROSA

Hello, Vincenzo! I have prayed for this day and God has answered my prayers. Bringing you home safe and sound! Dominus et spiritu sancti.

*VINCENT lets out a low moan*

ANGELICA

What is it, Poppa? Would you like to go lay down? Can we help you to your room?

*VINCENT slowly starts to move out of the room. He is followed by ANGELICA, VINCE and PAULIE*

ANGELICA

We are going to take our father and make him comfortable. If you don't mind, you can just let yourself out.

EDDIE

Excuse me, Angelica! I was supposed to kind of wait here. Chops is coming by for his ambulance. And he made me responsible for it. Look, I can either wait for him here or, if you'd like, outside.

ANGELICA

Go ahead and wait. I'm sure he wants to get paid.

EDDIE

Yes! I'm sure he would like to get paid.

*THEY exit leaving EDDIE and ROSA alone in the living room*

EDDIE

So! When did Vince get here. Did someone call him?

ROSA

Oh, Eddie! I don't remember! Did you see his father? He is just a shell of a man. The shell of a man he once was.

EDDIE

Did anyone else come over? Did you see anyone else here this morning?

(CONTINUED)

ROSA

I don't know, Eddie! I was in the kitchen with that German woman. She is evil, I tell you. I don't like her at all. Trying to run this house...

EDDIE

Ma, Look! I need to know. What did Angelica say when Vince came over? Did they talk? Did he say anything? Did they get loud?

ROSA

They were all very nice to one another. That is the way a family should behave with each other.

EDDIE

Yes! The family!

*CHOPS enters from the front door*

CHOPS

Hello? Anyone home? Can I come in?

EDDIE

Yes! Get in here! They're all in the father's room. Putting the zombie to bed.

ROSA

Eddie!

CHOPS

Where's my ambulance?

ROSA

I heard you were driving an ambulance these days. That is very important job.

CHOPS

I sold my auto shop a few years back and went to school. The auto shop business was starting to give me headaches. Everybody wanted me to fix their cars, but no one wanted to pay.

ROSA

Everybody should be paid for the work they do!

CHOPS

Damn straight! (*Confidentially to EDDIE*) Hey, Guido! Don't stand too close to me. We cause static. Now where is my ambulance?

EDDIE

Fat Lou still has it. He wanted to shake off some of the press so he drove it over to St. V's. He should be back soon. There are... people watching him.

(CONTINUED)

CHOPS

Good! *(He looks out the living room window and talks into his shirt)* I don't want anyone finding that recording machine.

EDDIE

*(In a whisper)* Shhh! Not here.

ROSA

They let you listen to music in your ambulance? I imagine music would be soothing on the ride to the hospital. What kind of music do you have recorded?

EDDIE

Jazz, Ma! He listens to a lot of Jazz. Ma, what do they have to eat here, anything? It was a long drive.

ROSA

I can go in the kitchen and look. They sent the housekeeper away. But I know this house as well as anyone! *(She exits)*

CHOPS

*(Whispers)* So they got people across the street, huh?

EDDIE

*(Whispers)* Yeah. They are filming everything and everyone coming in and out. They sent the old man home just to get dirt on the rest of these fucks and take out the whole operation. Only problem is that that stupid fuck Vince is here and I don't know what he's up to.

*PAULIE and VINCE enter the room. They put on a show for CHOPS and EDDIE*

PAULIE

All right. You seen him and now you can go!

VINCE

Fuck you! I'll go when I fucking decide it's time to go.

PAULIE

Don't make me call some people to remove you from the house. Eddie! Walk Vince down to the corner and make sure he gets in his car and leaves the neighborhood.

VINCE

Eddie! Don't listen to this fuck! I leave when I leave.

(CONTINUED)

PAULIE

Eddie. Escort Vince out! Now!

EDDIE

Come along, Vince! Shouldn't be starting nothing here. Especially on the day your father gets home. Let's just go.

VINCE

*(As he and EDDIE leave)* Fuck you, Paulie! You ain't the smart one. You never were the smart one.

*VINCE and EDDIE exit. ANGELICA enters the room.*

ANGELICA

Ah! Chops you are here. The ambulance has not come back yet?

CHOPS

No, Miss Angelica! I have just been waiting...

ANGELICA

Good! It gives us time to talk. Paulie, wait by the door and tell me when Mr. Hayes' ambulance arrives. *(She turns on record player)* You like jazz, Chops?

CHOPS

Yeah! I like it!

*ANGELICA gets on her knees in front of CHOPS*

ANGELICA

Something about Jazz. It invades your soul. It's really the only style of music that America ever created on its own.

*ANGELICA runs her hands up CHOPS' legs, onto his chest and then pulls open his shirt to reveal a wire. PAULIE reenters and places the knife to CHOPS' neck.*

CHOPS

I can... I can explain....

ANGELICA

*(Placing her finger on his mouth, then rips out the wire)* Shhhhh! Chops! I am going to let you explain. And then I am going to send you away. We're not going to kill you only because, up to now, you have been valuable to the family... but mainly because I like you.

PAULIE

It wasn't the consensus of the rest of the family.

ANGELICA

I'm going to send you to New Orleans. You will stay there, do what you are told and keep your nose clean. If not? Well, we have people. You see, Chops... our organization like the Federal government has a lot of people, too. All over the country. You are just a small piece to a very large picture.

CHOPS

How did you know that they contacted me?

ANGELICA

We had suspicions and then Lou found the tape machine this morning. It was only by my word that you are alive this afternoon. And if you want to stay that way, I suggest that after I call Lou to bring back the ambulance, you join him quietly and follow all the instructions I've laid out.

CHOPS

The Feds! They're watching this house.

ANGELICA

We know. They're across the street. We saw them move in. Since we run most of the moving companies here in the city and couldn't track the moving van they used, we figured it all out. In fact, we also know that our old friend Tom Raines, the man who started all this mess, is heading up the surveillance and stakeout. And he's the man on the other end of that wire.

*(PAULIE looks out the window and sees the ambulance)*

PAULIE

Lou's here! Time to go. *(Takes the wire)* We'll keep this!

CHOPS

How do I know I won't end up dead?

ANGELICA

Chances we take in life. But if that unfortunately should happen, it didn't come from any direct order that I made today.

CHOPS

You do run the family.

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

I take care of the family. Now go. Your bill has been paid. And like you always used to say in the old days, 'no warranties... so don't ask for one.' Goodbye, Mr Hayes. Paulie, escort Mr. Hayes to his vehicle. (*ROSA sings from the kitchen*) Then get that woman out of here.

*PAULIE walks Chops out the door. VINCENT slowly enters the room. He is wearing a robe and pajamas. He ambles to the sofa.)*

ANGELICA

Poppa! What are you doing up? Please come and sit down. You should rest. It was a long drive. (*ROSA sings louder, VINCENT winces*) Don't worry. She will be leaving soon. Poppa, while you are out here we need to talk. There are a lot of people who are watching us closely. From both sides. We have some plans underway that are going to take the heat off of our whole operation, but it all comes down to you. Now I know you need time to get well. But we have to act quick. So I am going to help you and you in turn are going to help all of us. We know now that we have informants running throughout the family. All the families. This is something you told us about a long time ago. So it's important that we have a poker face and don't show our cards. We are pretty sure that Eddie Roseatti is working more than one side of the street and he's been reporting everything he sees and hears to all the other bosses. Vince is planning to do the same thing from the inside. What I need for you to do is to play along. You have to appear to be still in charge. The families all know that Paulie hasn't been calling all the shots, so we've made them think that you have always been in charge and we've just been following your orders. Now, this is what I want you to do. We are going to have a sit down with Eddie. And I want you to go through the motions that you who put all of our plans together. It'll be easy. I'm going to coach you with hand signals, like in baseball.

*(PAULIE reenters)*

PAULIE

How's it going? Does he understand anything? Do you understand what Angelica is saying, Pa? (*VINCE looks away*) I don't know Angelica, your plan may not work. (*VINCE perks up.*)

ANGELICA

Poppa, it will work like this. We know the Feds are on top of the money laundering and Don Fanusco so when I tap my arm, you say Don Fanusco. Can you do that?

(CONTINUED)

VINCENT

(Slurs) Don Fanusco.

ANGELICA

Oh, Poppa! (*Almost crying*) When I bring up the West side construction project, I need you to say union when I touch my ear.

VINCENT

(Slurs) Union

ANGELICA

That's right! (*ROSA starts to sing again*) Paulie, go into the kitchen and keep that woman occupied until our business with Eddie is over.

PAULIE

I don't know about this. I really hope your plan works. (*PAULIE exits to kitchen*)

ANGELICA

Now, one more. When I touch my nose I want you to say bank. Can you do that?

VINCENT

(Slurs) Bank

*ANGELICA now almost in full tears hugs her father.*

ANGELICA

I can take care of the rest. Oh, Poppa! I know this is hard. Please forgive me.

VINCENT

(Slurs) Angelica, don't cry!

*EDDIE enters.*

EDDIE

That poor guy was madder than hell. Are you ever going to patch things up, Angelica?

ANGELICA

We do not discuss Vince. He is not to be discussed in this house while I am here. He turned against the family and he is still suffering from the backlash.

EDDIE

Where's Chops?

ANGELICA

He left. Grabbed his money and took off in with his ambulance. Now I would like you to get your mother and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA (cont'd)

do the same. My father has been asking me to fill in some of the news he missed over the past few days, while he was getting ready to leave jail. (*She motions*) The money laundering scheme had been going all wrong.

VINCENT

Don Fanusco?

ANGELICA

You're right, Pa. Don Fanusco. His family was sending profits through Miami, but it all came apart when the money came back to pay off the West side construction syndicate. (*She motions again*)

VINCENT

Union?

ANGELICA

Exactly. The union office was in charge of the money. And they had an insider with the Feds through an IRS auditor. You remember that Tom Raines? Worked for the Feds. Created the big case on you before the Feds took it over? Now we know he's on the payroll of (*She motions again*)

VINCENT

Don Fanusco.

EDDIE

What?

ANGELICA

How'd you know? (*She motions again*)

VINCENT

The bank!

ANGELICA

Of course! His offshore bank accounts. You knew that right, Eddie. Don Fanusco and Don Ronampala have been paying that guy under the table for years. Hey, Paulie!

PAULIE

(Entering) You want me?

ANGELICA

We have some of those receipts from the Westside Construction, don't we? After we found out our investments were being taken and diverted, we went through a whole box of them. And what do you know... We had been paying Tom Raines through an offshore bank for over 10 years.

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE

That can't be. That is all bull...

*VINCE enters quietly and holds a gun to Eddie's temple. ANGELICA unbuttons Eddie's shirt to reveal the wire. PAULIE pulls out a sheet of paper and starts reading into the wire.*

PAULIE

Yeah, I believe I have his Cayman Island account numbers right here. Should I read them aloud to you?

ANGELICA

Go ahead, Paulie! Poppa doesn't have his glasses with him. Read them to him, if you would please. And speak up so he can hear.

PAULIE

Tom Raines. R-A-I-N-E-S. Social Security Number 551-31-3115 Employee of Westside Construction. National Bank of Cayman. Account # 101-857-108. Next one. Cayman National Account #557-32-2224. Should I go on?

*TOM RAINES bursts through front door.*

TOM

What is this? What are you trying to pull?

VINCE

Let's go in the kitchen and help your Mom pack up her things. *(He takes EDDIE out of the room)*

TOM

Let me see those papers. Where are they? Lies! They are all lies.

ANGELICA

Why Tom Raines? Whatever gave you the idea to just stop by here and unlawfully enter private property without so much as an invitation or at the very least a warrant?

TOM

I have just cause. You are housing a felon and by law the government can stop by to check on the conditions here at anytime.

PAULIE

Looks like we have two felons in the house.

TOM

You have no proof. No proof of anything.

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

They are offshore bank accounts. And they do have your name on them. Accounts that can be documented having been open and active for years. And now yours has been discovered, it's just the kind of thing that can keep the court system busy for a long time. Might just ruin the career of a promising junior G-man. The amazing thing about what you tried to do, Tom... in trying to tear our family apart... You brought all of us closer than we ever have been before. And I thank you for that. And now Paulie, escort Mr. Raines out of the house and remind him that if he would like the number of a good lawyer, Westside Construction has quite a few on the payroll, too.

PAULIE

(*PAULIE escorts TOM to the door and yells out*) Get him away from the house.

*VINCE reenters with EDDIE and ROSA*

VINCE

What about these two?

ANGELICA

Send them home! (*Indicates ROSA*) This one will forget everything that happened today when her hangover kicks in tomorrow.

VINCE

And this fucking loudmouth, rat bastard?

ANGELICA

Once Don Fanusco finds out that it was Eddie who turned him in to the Feds, he's as good as with his father.

ROSA

(*Drunkenly*) Eddie Sr. was a good man. Even though he was a gambler and a drinker, he had still had a good heart. He may have ran off with some floozy. But he is still in my heart. (*To VINCENT*) You're a good man, too. I love you Vincenzo and I want to be with you. I don't want to just cook and clean. I want you to marry me and take me places like Europe and Brazil and Hawaii. You can buy me a great big car and a great big TV set. And we can have fancy dinner parties. And...

VINCENT

Shut... your... Face!

EDDIE

Come on, Momma. We gotta get out of here, (*Turns back*) So Angelica? What should I do? Where should I go?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE (cont'd)

You're the smart one. I'm a marked man. What do I do here. Can you give me a little break here, for old time sake?

ANGELICA

Eddie! You are in trouble with the Feds and all the families. Just remember this! When they come for you, you will hear the Feds. Arrivederci, povero Edwardo. *(She kisses him on the cheek)*

ROSA

Ahhh! Isn't that nice!

ANGELICA

Go now! *(She closes the door behind them)* Shut your face? Shut your face?

PAULIE

What was that?

VINCE

He told the old bag to shut the fuck up!

VINCENT

*(After a pause)* Did I ever tell you the story of Loda Bruca and La Trippa Trippa. One was a pirate with a face that hung down to here. The other was a great entertainer. The villages would give him money and food as payment for his skills as a dancer. Now I am hungry.

*ANGELICA, PAULIE and VINCE are amazed at the transformation VINCENT makes to come out of his "stroke". They all walk to the dining room.*

PAULIE

*(Looks in the kitchen)* Hey! The old woman made a manicotti.

VINCENT

Cut it up and bring it out.

ANGELICA

Here, Poppa! You come sit down!

*VINCENT stops at his chair at the head of the table. Pulls back the chair and has ANGELICA take the seat.*

VINCENT

As head of the family, you take this chair.

*ANGELICA takes the seat and Paulie serves her first. VINCENT sits next to her, VINCE across from him. PAULIE brings out the tray of manicotti, they pass plates around the table.*

VINCE

Hey! You want to hear a pip? I just heard this today.  
No fooling! Don Ronampala's got rectal cancer. No shit!

ANGELICA

Vince. Not at the dinner table.

*BLACK OUT MUSIC*

*Curtain Call Tableau*