

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

Name of First Writer

Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

**THERE ONCE WAS A MELODY IN THE
BRONX**

WRITTEN BY ROCCA TROMBETTA

MELODY IN THE BRONX

ADAPTATION BY FRANK MANCUSO

SCREENPLAY BY FRANK MANCUSO

SHERIFF178@HOTMAIL.COM

917-509-0705

FADE IN ON SCREEN: **1977 NAPLES ITALY**

FADE OUT:

INT. BARBER SHOP IN NAPLES-DAY

A hand is inserting an 8 track cassette into the player and we hear a beautiful Neapolitan song. The camera pans out and we see an older Italian man giving a shave to a man sitting in the barber's chair and a Young Italian boy named ROCCO, around 12 years old sweeping the floor. DIALOGUE IN ITALIAN EXCEPT NARRATOR.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I had the best job in town. I liked sweeping the floors and mixing the shaving cream for the old man. What I loved the most was that Mr Luciano would play the most beautiful Neapolitan songs from his 8 track cassette player. He gave me a love for music for which I will ever cherish.

Mr. Luciano stops shaving and tells Rocco to sing for the customer.

MR LUCIANO

Sing Rocco...Sing with the music.

Rocco nods and stops sweeping and starts to sing with the song in Italian. Both the customer and Mr Luciano are enjoying the young boy singing.

CUT TO:

INT. CAB -MORNING

A YOUNG ITALIAN MAN, around 22 years old gets into the back of a cab. The DRIVER, older Italian man around 40 is sitting in the driver seat. DIALOGUE ALL ITALIAN.

DRIVER

Where to?

YOUNG MAN

To Café' Sorrento, near the bay.
Hey do you mind if I smoke?

He grabs a cigarette from his shirt pocket.

DRIVER

Okay, but only if you open the window. Please...Smoke bothers me.

YOUNG MAN (ARROGANT)

Just Drive. Do you know who I am?

He starts the car and he drives off on the streets of Naples.

DRIVER

No...but you do look familiar.

YOUNG MAN

My father is Signora Roberto...he owns all the cabs..you understand now?

He nods and continues driving. The young man doesn't light up a cigarette, but a marijuana joint and doesn't open the window. The cab starts to fill up with smoke which tears up the drivers eyes and starts to rub them and gets distracted and turns around to yell out the young man.

DRIVER

What the fuck are you doing...open the window before you kill us both.

The young man starts to cough and yells at the driver to watch the road. The driver turns and see's a little boy chasing a soccer ball and he reacts and tries to avoid hitting the little boy. We hear tires screeching and people start to scream as we hear a crashing sound.

FADE TO BLACK:

CUT BACK TO:

INT. BARBER SHOP IN ITALY 1977-DAY

For that brief moment Rocco was in his own world until he turned and saw his mother standing in the door way looking sad. He stops singing and walks up to her. MRS MAURO, Italian woman 40's. Dialogue in English now.

ROCCO

Mama what's the matter. Why do you look so sad. What's wrong mama?

Her sad look goes into a smile. Rocco could always bring a smile to her face.

MS MAURO

That was so beautiful Rocco. Your father would be so proud.

Mr Luciano walks up to her.

MR LUCIANO

Signora Mauro, what's the matter?

MRS MAURO

My husband, his father just died in an accident. He was killed when his car went off the cliff into the water with the son of Signor Roberto. The head of the Camorra.

Mr Luciano reacts in disbelief.

MR LUCIANO

I am sorry Signora to hear this. Is there anything I can do for you?

MRS MAURO

Grazie Mr Luciano. We have to go. Rocco...We have to leave Italy. It is not safe for us to stay here. I'm sure you understand.

Rocca starts crying and runs up to his mother and hugs his mother.

MR LUCIANO

I understand and I am so sorry for your loss. Is there anything I can do for you and your son? Do you need some money? I have a few extra dollars I could spare.

MRS MAURO

No thank you Mr. Luciano you have done enough. Thank you for everything. Rocco loves being here. (TO ROCCO) Say goodbye to Mr Luciano. We have to go now.

ROCCO

But mama, I don't want to leave... I love to work and sing here. I don't want to leave.

Mr Luciano waves Rocco to come over to him. He looks down at Rocco and looks at him straight into the eye. Tears are streaming from Rocco's eyes and he keeps wiping them as Mr Luciano talks to him.

MR LUCIANO

Rocco, listen to your mother. She knows what's best for you right now. When you're older you will understand. Someday you can surprise me and come and visit me and teach me some American songs that you learned.

Rocco nods he understands and hugs Mr Luciano.

MR LUCIANO (CONT'D)

You were like a son too me. Keep singing Rocco. Never let the music die. It's who you are.

Rocco goes back to his mother as she puts out her hand out. As they start heading out the door.

NARRATOR

My world was turned upside down that day. We are fleeing Italy because my father was in an accident that took the life of a son of a mafia boss. They will be looking for us. The sounds of Napoli and Mr Luciano will surely be missed. So in October 1977 we are heading to America.

EXT. DECK OF SHIP- MORNING.

We are on the stern of the ship. There are other Italians in the background aboard the ship who are all making their way to America. His mother MRS MAURO, his older brother GENNARO, a young Italian boy around 16 years old. Rocco starts singing an Italian song that Mr Luciano had him practice as his mother and brother hug each other as the ship gets further away from port as their home of Napoli gets smaller.

FADE IN ON SCREEN: 9 DAYS LATER

FADE OUT:

EXT. BOW OF SHIP - AFTERNOON

It is a cloudy day as the three of them come up to the Bow of the ship as they now start to see the skyline of New York City and to the left The Statue of Liberty.

She points to the Statue of Liberty.

MRS MAURO

Boys look... the Statue of Liberty.

GENNARO AND ROCCO

Welcome to America they say. NY
Yankees and hotdogs. Chicago bang!
Bang!

NARRATOR

You think I would have been excited to see the Statue of Liberty. But it wasn't Napoli. To me, I am in a strange land. I don't know the food or culture, only what I saw in the gangster movies that I would watch with my brother and his friends. My Mama has a cousin named Luigi, who lives in the Bronx. And now my story begins.

EXT. EXITING CAR ON THE STREETS- MORNING

Rocco, his brother Gennaro and his mom are exiting the car in the Pelham Bay section of the Bronx with a tall Italian man LUIGI, handsome male around 50's my mom's cousin. He has lived here for several years now. It is a nice two family brick house was nice with fresh cut grass that you could play soccer on.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

My cousin Luigi picked us up from the port and brought us to an area called Pelham Bay in the Bronx. I didn't know what to expect. Anything was better from being on the ship for 9 days. We were all tired and hungry and were looking forward to a home cooked meal.

INT. LUIGI'S MOTHER HOUSE - AFTERNOON

We are all sitting down at the diner table enjoying a nice home cooked meal. ZIA MARIETTA, an older Italian woman in her 60's is putting food on the table.

NARRATOR

It was a welcome from the food on the ship for last 9 days.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

She prepared a feast with pasta,
meatballs and some chicken cutlets
and of course some home made wine
on the table.

MRS MAURO

Zia, thank you for this wonderful
meal. It feels like home again.

ROCCO

Yeah, Zia the food is good. I'm so
hungry I could eat all day.

Rocco grabs another chicken cutlet. Genaro does the same.

MRS MAURO

Boys, leave some food for the rest
of them.

LUIGI

It's Okay... let them eat. They are
growing boys.

Luigi grabs his glass and makes a toast. They all grab their
glasses.

LUIGI (CONT'D)

Welcome to America and to your new
Life here in The Bronx.

INT. STAIRWAY - NIGHT

The three of them are carrying their suitcases up the stairs
until they reach a door. Cousin Luigi puts the key in the
door and he opens it. They enter into to a small apartment.

LUIGI

Well here we are... Please come
into your new home for now.

NARRATOR

Who knows what lies a head for us.
As we now head to our new home in
the Belmont section of the Bronx.
To an apartment building on EAST
187th street 5th floor tenement. It
wasn't exactly what we expected to
live in. After carrying up the
suitcases to the fifth floor, I had
no air to spare. But yet, we were
grateful to have a place to lay our
heads down. It's not home, but we
will make it work for Mama.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
I know this is real hard on her
knowing she has to raise two boys
on her own in a new country.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

They come into their apartment and as they look around it's not like Naples. It is very small. There is a small table in the kitchen, a small living room and two bedrooms. Luigi shows them around.

LUIGI
It's not much but, it is enough
room for the three of you. Boys you
will share that room and Mrs Mauro,
this room is yours.

MRS MAURO
Thank you Luigi, it is fine. We
will make it work. Right boys.

Both Gennaro and Rocco nod.

GENNARO AND ROCCO
Yes mama!.

LUIGI
I will stop by tomorrow morning
with some food for everyone. I will
then take you around to show you
where the food and meat market
are...Okay..Get some rest. Good
night everyone.

Luigi goes to the door and exits out. The boys both go and give mom a hug.

MRS MAURO
Everything will work out boys.
You'll see. We have to stay strong.
Your father is watching over us.

She kisses them both on their foreheads.

MRS MAURO (CONT'D)
Now get to bed..we will need our
rest.

ROCCO AND GENNARO
Yes Mama...good night.

Both boys head to their room and they close the door behind them. Mrs Mauro reaches for her cross on her neck and brings it up to her lips and kisses the cross.

MRS MAURO
Grazia e Dio! (Translates Thank you
GOD)

FADE IN: ON SCREEN: TWO MONTH LATER

FADE OUT:

EXT. ARTHUR AVE - DAY

Rocco is walking down the street as he see's all the regulars on the block. Old ladies sweeping in front of steps. Guys making deliveries to the fruit market and fish stores. He nods to everyone and says hello to several of them. He see's an older Italian guy outside the bakery as he is bringing in bakery supplies into the stores. GINO, older Italian male short and a little heavy 40's. His father makes the best cannoli's in the neighborhood.

ROCCO
Hey Gino, love those cannoli's. I'm
sure I will stop by later for one
or maybe two.

Gino waves to Rocco.

GINO
Hey Rocco, say hello to your mother
for me.

ROCCO
I will.

NARRATOR
Time went by and my mother was now
working as a home attendant caring
for an old Italian man Professor
Maffei in our own building. But my
brother hooked up the best job of
all. He worked in a music store. I
love going there every day.

EXT. FRONT OF RECORD STORE-DAY

Rocco walks down the street and stops in front of the record store.

NARRATOR

Having Gennaro working here at the record store at Casa Dei Musica was a home run for me. It allowed me to listen to all the records for free. He got a job as a sales clerk. It was clean, cool in the summer and warm in the winter. And chicks always coming in to buy records.

INT. RECORD STORE-MORNING.

Rocco enters into the store and heads over to the records looking for Frank Sinatra albums. Gennaro nods as he his flirting with two local girls around 16.

NARRATOR

Gennaro loved his job. He was always meeting girls. He had them coming to him. He never spent a dime on them. Unless he liked one and decided to take one out that is.

GENNARO

Hey Rocco come here. Sing a little Sinatra for the girls here.

ROCCO

Don't embarrass me Gennaro.

The girls turn and start looking at Rocco.

GIRL #1

Who is that?

GENNARO

My younger brother. Kids got a voice. Hey Rocco! Make a quick stop to Gino's for me.

GIRL#2

Come on...Let's hear you sing.

ROCCO

He is playing with you girls. He is the one who can sing.

Rocco nods that he understands. They turn and look at Gennaro.

GIRL#1

I love a man who can sing.

Gennaro smiles and the girls get closer to Gennaro. Gennaro winks at Rocco. Rocco walks out singing a song. Laughing.

ROCCO
Works every time.

Rocco exits the store smiling.

EXT. STREET-MORNING

He is walking back towards Gino's Bakery Shop. Passing all the stores on 187th street. Rocco loves his new Italian community. He waves to everyone. He says good morning to several people on the street. They nod and smile back.

NARRATOR
I would spend my time at Casa Della musica with my brother as he kept the ladies entertained with me singing Frank Sinatra songs. Except for when I messed with his wraps with his lady friends, he would send me to Gino's bakery for Espresso and Cannoli's. I didn't mind. I liked the smell of the fresh bakery with all those sweet smells.

INT. GINO'S BAKERY-MORNING.

Rocco walks into the bakery on E.187th Street and there are a couple of customers in the store. Gino see's Rocco. GINO,
SHORT ITALIAN MAN 40's.

GINO
I didn't think you would be here this quick.

ROCCO
I told you I would see you soon.

GINO
The usual?

ROCCO
Yeah, One espresso, but make it 3 cannoli's. I want one today.

GINO
Okay, you sing for me and yours is on the house.

ROCCO

Deal!

Rocco starts singing a song for Gino and the other customers stop to listen and smile enjoying Rocco's singing. Rocco sings half the song and Gino smiles. He hands him a bag and his coffee to him. Rocco gives him 2 dollars on the counter.

GINO

You got talent kid. You always bring a smile to my face in the morning. A deal is a deal.

ROCCO

Thank you Gino. See you tomorrow.

Rocco stops singing and the customers start clapping for him. Rocco exits the bakery as the camera follows him walking back to the record store.

NARRATOR

We realized how fortunate we were to live in a wonderful neighborhood. The Italians were from all regions of Italy. Especially those from the south, as they faced financial hardships the most. They mostly came here for work or to escape someone like we did.

INT. RECORD STORE -MORNING

Rocco returns and gives Gennaro his coffee and hands him the bag of cannoli's. Gennaro is still flirting with one of the girls.

ROCCO

Here are your cannoli's and coffee.

GENNARO

Hey where are you going?

ROCCO

Around..maybe down by the park watch them play bocci ball.

GENNARO

You know the rules. Don't go past the 10 block area.

He waves him off as he heads to the door.

ROCCO
Yeah...Yeah I know.

EXT. STREET-DAY

He is walking up on Arthur Ave heading towards the park on Belmont Ave. It is busy on the street people shopping and guys making deliveries.

NARRATOR
I was confined to a 10 block radius of 187th street. So, I familiarized my self with all the locals. They all liked my stories about working in Mr Luciano barber shop and my singing. They would find me quite intriguing for a 13 year old. The old timers would warn me never cross the delicate line, otherwise I would end up in the ghetto with the blacks and Puerto Rican. They were just as territorial as the Italians were.

EXT. PARK HUGHES AVENUE-AFTERNOON

He reaches the park and leans up against the fence and leans against it watching the fierce game and strategy of Bocci ball. The yelling and cursing was intense. They took this game seriously.

CUT TO:

Several Italian men playing Bocci ball. One of the guys knocks out another teams ball and it is close. One of the guys takes off his belt to see who got the point. They are yelling back and forth. One of the guys see's Rocco watching by the fence and yells out to Rocco.

He is waving to Rocco to come to them.

BOCCI PLAYER#1
Rocco, come here.

ROCCO
Who me?

Rocco reluctantly goes in to the bocci court as they all want him to see who is closer.

BOCCI PLAYER#1
Rocco, who is closer.

A second player shoots his mouth off.

BOCCI PLAYER #2
The kid doesn't know how to play.

All the other players start yelling and player #1 tells them to shut up.

BOCCI PLAYER#1
Everyone shut up. Let the kid look.
He is impartial. Rocco which one is
closer, the red ball or the black
ball?

INSERT CAMERA SHOT OF BALLS.

Rocco looks at the balls and then at everyone.

NARRATOR
If I choose wrong, I start WW3 with
these guys. If I chose red, they
will like me and black with hate
me. I need to make a decision.

ROCCO
Give me the belt.

One of the guys gives him the belt. He measures it very carefully not to disturb the balls.

He stands back up. They are all waiting for his decision.

BOCCI PLAYER #2
So, who got the point.

Rocco looks at everyone. He is hesitating as he looks for the exit if he makes the wrong decision.

ROCCO
The ball that is closer is....

BOCCI PLAYER#1
Rocco, just say it. No one will
hold it against you.

He feels relieved. He then blurts it out.

ROCCO
Red is closer.

All the red team including player #1 are happy and yelling with joy and the black team were not happy about the call. They start cursing in Italian.

BOCCI PLAYER#1
 Good job kid.

ROCCO
 Okay, that's it. I'm out of here.

Rocco heads for the exit of the park as they still continue to argue. Rocco continues on Hughes Street.

NARRATOR
 Don't want to be in that position again.

As he is heading back to 187th, he see's a few kids playing around getting wet on the street with the fire hydrant open.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 Most of us didn't have a car to go to Orchard Beach, so we improvised on cooling off at the Johnny pump. It was our way, but sometimes at a cost when the local bullies would throw you in and if you resisted you got dragged in with a few karate kicks and punches.

We show some of the kids bullying smaller kids and dragging them into the fire hydrant.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
 They weren't so tough by themselves, but in numbers they ruled the block. They were the meanest shitheads around. That's why I just avoided them.

He crosses the street to avoid them.

INT. LADY OF MT CARMEL CHURCH ALTAR-MORNING

NARRATOR
 I was singing, but know one saw me because I was on the third level of the church. There was is a wedding going on and Father Don Paolo would let me sing at the wedding to earn some honest money.

FATHER DON PAOLO, older Italian priest 60's gray hair balding is at the altar marrying this couple. We see this bride and groom in front of Father Paolo all smiles and all the brides maids and men standing around with their proud parents watching this special day take place.

FATHER DON PAOLO
I now pronounce you husband and
wife. You may kiss the bride.

The couple smiles and they kiss and everyone starts clapping
for them.

We hear Rocco's voice coming from upper level as camera pans
up from pews to that level and see Rocco singing.

CUT BACK TO:

The Bride and Groom kiss in front of everyone and the people
all clap. As they start walking down from the altar people
start throwing confetti on them.

INT. CHURCH RECTORY-MORNING

Father Don is taking off his robe after the morning wedding
ceremony. Rocco is sitting down in a chair eating a pastry.
Father Paolo goes to his desk and pulls out some cash from an
envelope and hands him a few dollars.

NARRATOR
But when I got done Father Paolo
always paid me and offered me fresh
pastries.

FATHER DON PAOLO
Good job Rocco...here is a little
something for your singing.

Rocco takes it and puts it in his pocket and goes back to
finishing his pastry.

ROCCO
Thank you Father Paolo...This
pastry is so good.

Father smiles.

FATHER DON PAOLO
Enjoy son..I will call your mom
when I need you again.

ROCCO
Thank you Father Paolo...and I will
have another one of these next time
please.

Father Paolo laughing.

FATHER DON PAOLO
Of course Rocco..you are easy to
please.

INT. RECORD STORE-AFTERNOON

Rocco is going thru the records in the store seeing what
would be his next song to sing.

NARRATOR
My brother didn't mind me in the
record store all the time. But
sometimes he was a pain in the ass.
But he liked it when I caught him
up with all the gossip of the
neighborhood.

GENNARO
Make sure you put everything back
the way you found it.

ROCCO
I always do..You are becoming a
woman.

He gets annoyed and starts making his way behind the counter
and starts chasing him.

GENNARO
What do you mean by that?

ROCCO
I don't know you sound like
mom...Make sure you put this back.
Wash your hands before you eat.

Gennaro starts chasing Rocco up and down the aisles of the
store.

GENNARO
Oh you are so going to get some
beating for those remarks.

Rocco is laughing at Gennaro as Gennaro can't catch him.
Rocco starts singing teasing him.

ROCCO
You my brother...will never catch
me. I am to fast for you. You are
turning into our mother.

Gennaro stops chasing him and starts laughing.

GENNARO

Now you can sing making
jokes...Okay you win. You sound
like Nonno singing in his café in
Avellino.

ROCCO

You think so? Mom says I get it
from him..Mom can sing as well, but
definitely Nonno can sing.

He walks up to Gennaro and Gennaro grabs him and puts Rocco
in a headlock and starts rubbing his head with his knuckle
giving him some noggies.

GENNARO

That's for making fun of me.

They both start laughing.

EXT. ROOFTOP - SUMMER EARLY EVENING

VINNY, young Italian boy 13 years old, Rocco's best friend
and Rocco are overlooking the roof from the geek store
looking down across the street at a restaurant called
Amici's. Vinny and Rocco are unwrapping sandwiches that his
dad made from the meat market his father owns. We see some
fancy cars and limo's pull up.

NARRATOR

Every Saturday night Vinny and I
would come up to the roof and get a
look at these famous people who
would come to this restaurant
called Amici's, It wasn't for the
locals, mostly celebrities from
other places. We seen Dean Martin,
Perry Como and Tony Bennett. Connie
Francis was a regular.

A car pulls up and a man goes around and opens the passenger
door and a man and a woman get out and head into the
restaurant. Vinny stands up to get a closer look.

VINNY

Is that who I think it is?

ROCCO

It does look like him.

Rocco getting excited.

The man is a young Frank Sinatra has he stops and waves to the people on the street before going in.

ROCCO (CONT'D)

It is! Holy shit...It's Frank Sinatra. My all time favorite singer is here in the Bronx.

VINNY

Wow, Frank Sinatra in our neighborhood. How cool is that!

ROCCO

Man, I would love to meet him. Tell him I know all of his songs.

Rocco getting all excited now until Vinny spoils it for him.

VINNY

Right...guys like us could never get in there. We ain't famous. We ain't nobody's.

Rocco looks at Vinny annoyed.

ROCCO

Hey, don't think like that. Who knows someday we could be somebody important.

VINNY

I got hand it to you Rocco..you're a dreamer. At list you got a chance. You can sing... me I am the son of a butcher. I will never be anybody.

ROCCO

Don't say that...let's make a pact right now.. If I make it someday..you will always be by my side. Pinky swear.

Rocco puts out his hand with his pinky out. Vinny slowly puts his pinky and they cross to make it legit. Vinny looks directly into Rocco's face.

VINNY

I am going to hold you to this.

ROCCO

I will keep my word. Friends for ever.

They laugh and look back down at Amici's.

INT. RECORD STORE-MORNING.

Gennaro is working behind counter with a customer who is paying. The customer heads out of the store when another one walks in. Meanwhile Rocco is sifting thru records as he is singing a Neapolitan song. He pretends to be singing to an audience when his mind starts to wander off as he thinks he is performing on stage.

CUT TO:

DREAM SHOT:

Rocco is in a Tuxedo singing on a stage looking down and Frank Sinatra is in the audience front row with some beautiful woman next to him as they are admiring Rocco's singing. The song ends and Sinatra and the girl are clapping for me.

CUT BACK TO:

Rocco comes back to reality when suddenly he hears someone is clapping behind him and he turns to see who it is. He stops and composes himself as he just smiles at him as he is embarrassed.

ROCCO

Sorry about that...I mean thank you. I get lost sometimes when I am singing.

NARRATOR

That afternoon in August of 1978, my life would change as I knew it. A man was clapping for me singing. He looked familiar but I couldn't place where.

JOE GODZILLI, Italian male around 50's with salt and pepper hair is clapping for Rocco. Everyone calls him GAZZ.

He walks up to Rocco and puts a fresh twenty dollar bill in Rocco's hand. Rocco is shocked.

GAZZ

Hey kid you got some talent. You should do something about that.

Rocco accepts the cash and he is not sure how to answer.

ROCCO

Thank you...What do you suppose I should do about it?

GAZZ

I think you should be singing at the Saint Anthony's Feast next week and who knows where that could lead.

ROCCO

Okay..I guess I can do that.

GAZZ

Great, I look forward to seeing you singing these Neapolitan songs. It reminds me of home.

He started to leave but stops and turns around.

NARRATOR

I was speechless. Before I could say anything to thank him.

He slips another twenty in my pocket. Gennaro is looking like what's going on.

GAZZ

I will see you soon kid.

Gazz walks out and exits out of the record store. Gennaro comes up to Rocco excited.

GENNARO

Wow, he just gave you forty dollars just like that for singing.

ROCCO

I know I can't believe this...You can't tell mom about this. She will start asking too many questions where I got this money from.

GENNARO

I won't! I promise! Maybe I should start singing.

He start singing a song and Rocco joins in and then stops as Gennaro continues. He plays the scene over again in his head.

FLASHBACK:

GAZZ

Hey kid you got some talent. You should do something about that.

CUT BACK TO HIM IN STORE:

NARRATOR

So I find out this guy is not only from Naples, but from the same town as we are from... Well, his parents were, he came over when he was young. And his ex wife happens to be Connie Francis. Some stories he must have.

EXT. FEAST OF ST ANTHONY-NIGHT

The streets are lit up and dressed for the feast of Saint Anthony and there are food vendors all over the place selling Italian sausages and peppers, pastries and coffee and fried Zeppole Everyone was out having a good time. Vinny, Gennaro and Rocco walk up and lean against police barricade directly across from bandstand across from the church. The band called The Godfather's is on stage performing. They are eating Zeppole from a bag listening to the band playing.

NARRATOR

I am so nervous about performing in front of everyone. I look at my brother and he gives me a wink, like you got this. I look around and I see Gazz in the crowd.

CUT TO: SHOT OF GAZZ IN CROWD.

Gazz looks over at Rocco and nods.

(O.S.) ALFONSO is calling Rocco's name over the mic.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Suddenly, I hear my name being called up over the loud speaker to the stage by the band leader. Boy, did his name match his body.

WE CUT TO STAGE:

ALFONSO GRASSO, older heavyset Italian male on stage.- Is the MC of the feast. He is calling Rocco to the stage.

ALFONSO

I was told we have a young local kid who can sing. Let's bring him up. Rocco...Rocco come on up.

CUT TO CLOSE UP OF ROCCO.

Everyone is now looking at Rocco and Vinny. His brother and Vinny are encouraging him to get up there.

VINNY

Come on Rocco go..here is your shot.

GENNARO

Rocco, you got this.

Rocco slowly makes his way towards the stage and stops and looks at the statue of St Anthony. He walks up the steps and is now on stage with the band looking out at everyone.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. STAGE-NIGHT

ALFONSO

So kid, what are you going to sing for us tonight?

Rocco is standing out there frozen looking out for his mother for support.

What key to you what to sing it in in C or D?

Rocco is confused and pulls out his house keys.

ROCCO

Keys? I only have my house keys.

Everyone laughs including all the band members making him more nervous.

Rocco looks around in the audience and see's his mother there.

CUT TO: Closeup of his mother:

She nods to him letting him know its okay. She is holding a rosary in her hand. She closes her eyes and opens again. Rocco understands.

CUT BACK TO ROCCO ON STAGE:

He closes his eyes remembering back in the barber shop.

INSERT FLASHBACK:

ROCCO singing at Luciano's barber shop in Naples.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. ON STAGE-NIGHT

Rocco is back on stage looking out and now he see's the Amici's crew coming over as the music has stopped.

CUT TO:

Amici crew walking up towards the stage.

My eyes are focused on the Amici crew when Alphonso interrupts my frozen look on my face.

CUT BACK TO STAGE:

Alfonso asks me a question before I was about to get booted off the stage. People in crowd start yelling. Sing a song kid.

ALFONSO

So what are you going to sing for us tonight?

He looks over and see's Vinny and Gennaro giving him thumbs up.

INSERT SHOT OF VINNY AND GENNARO THUMBS UP:

He looks back at Alfonso and says. He looks back at his mother and she reassures him with a smile. He finally blurts out.

ROCCO

Mama...I am gong to sing Mama.

ALFONSO

Okay boys you heard the kid...play
Mama... ready 1, 2 3.

The music starts playing and Rocco finally starts singing with that beautiful voice that his mother already knew and the audience is just enjoying the music. The song ends and the crowd starts applauding Rocco for a beautiful job well done. Rocco bows to thank everyone. As he was about to walk off stage when Alfonso stops him and says.

They crowd is chanting encore..encore!

ALFONSO (CONT'D)

I hope you have another song...They want more.

Rocco is looking around what to he is going to sing next when his eyes meets a young beautiful girl around 13 years old with blonde hair with blue eyes in the crowd. For a moment he is mesmerized by her eyes. He finally walks up to Alfonso's music sheet and starts looking to find a new song to sing. He see's something he knows, it's a song called Oh Mari. He knows it well. He points to Alfonso to the sheet music.

ROCCO

I will sing this one.

ALFONSO

Okay boys..Oh Mari it is...

Alfonso looks at Rocco.

Are your ready Rocco.

ROCCO

Yes!

Music starts playing and Rocco starts singing gazing at her every chance he can. She is looking back. The song ends and the crowd is cheering for him. He bows and quickly exits off the stage to look for this young girl.

EXT. INFRONT OF STAGE-NIGHT

Rocco comes off the stage and everyone is congratulating him. Patting him on the back. Rocco is smiling at everyone.

ROCCO

Thank you..thank you!

Rocco is walking thru the crowd, but he is more concerned looking to find this beautiful young girl that he just sang is heart out too, but she is already gone. He is looking around when he is now standing in front of a very well dressed man. Rocco realizes it is Gazz and he is admiring Gazz with rings on all is fingers as Gazz reaches his hand out and puts a fifty in Rocco's hand.

GAZZ

Great job kid. I knew you could do it.

ROCCO

Mr GAZZ... Thank you, but I can't
except this..this is too much.

GAZZ

You don't want me to get upset..Now
take it..your offending me..Capiche
Rocco!

ROCCO

Okay thank you sir.

GAZZ

My boss wants to meet you later.
Stop by the social club on Hughes
street. You understand Rocco!

Rocco just nodded that he understood. Gazz walks away into
the crowd. Rocco stands there wondering what to do.

NARRAROR

I did not know what to think about
this situation. And so not to upset
anyone, I decided to go and see the
big Capo. Thinking what Gazz said
at the record store to sing at the
feast, was this an audition for me?

Gennaro comes over to him excited.

GENNARO

Rocco you were great, I am so proud
of you.

Rocco shows him the fifty dollar bill Gazz just gave him.

ROCCO

Look what Gazz just gave me. I
don't know what to do?

GENNARO

You need to give it back to him.
Mama would not approve of taking
money from people like him. You
know how she feels about these
guys.

He just looks at the money in his hand and looks back at
Gennaro.

NARRATOR

I knew it was the right thing to
do. But dam, I wanted to keep that
money.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

How many 13 years had that kind of cash. Nobody! And I got invited to meet the big capo. I was kind of special.

ROCCO

I will give it back later when I see him.

GENNARO

Good, Cuz if Mom finds out she will kill you.

ROCCO

I got it..I will handle it. I'll see you later. I need to figure this out for myself.

He walks away.

LATER THAT NIGHT.

Rocco is heading down 187th street and stops on the corner of Hughes street. A LOCAL MAN 40's on the street yells out to him.

LOCAL MAN

You did good kid...keep singing.

He stops and looks at him as he is trying to be brave to go down and go into the Social club.

ROCCO

Thank you...

Rocco starts walking down towards the social club and ends up in front of the club.

EXT. SOCIAL CLUB-NIGHT

There are two ITALIAN LARGE GOONS in their late twenties blocking the entrance into the Social Club. Just a regular looking building on Hughes Avenue in the Bronx.

NARRATOR

Well, here I go into the lions den of the men who controls this area. It wasn't much of a door. If you were an outsider of the neighborhood, you would walk right past it and not think anything about it.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

But to us in the neighborhood, we knew exactly who was in there. Except maybe the cops. They were always watching it. I was met at the front by two of the meanest guys in the neighborhood.

Rocco tries to walk in but they stop him.

GOON #1

Where do you think your going kid?

NARRATOR

At first they wouldn't let me pass. So, I finally got the courage to speak up.

Rocco looks up at the goon.

ROCCO

Yeah, I was told to stop by and meet someone here. I don't quite know his name.

Goon #2 leans over and whispers into Goon #1 ear. They both step aside and let him in.

ITALIAN GOON #2

They're are waiting for you. Follow me.

Goon #2 opens the door and Rocco steps inside following the goon.

INT. SOCIAL CLUB-NIGHT

There were old men playing an Italian card game called Briscola and drinking espresso. And over by the bar there were guys on the phones taking bets for numbers and horses. They stop and look at Rocco and go back to what they were doing.

NARRATOR

As I walked into the room I was just absorbing everything that I could, when I finally recognized a familiar face... GAZZ.

Gazz walks up to Rocco and greets him and puts is arm around him and escorts him to the back room.

GAZZ

You did real good tonight kid. I'm proud of you. Come on someone wants to meet you.

Rocco is in awe and just follows Gazz into a back room.

INT. BACK ROOM SOCIAL CLUB - NIGHT

Gazz walks Rocco into the back room where LEO, an ITALIAN MALE 50's, big male solid with a soft raspy voice. They are playing poker with several other scary guys. Room filled with smoke from all the cigar smoking.

NARRATOR

So I walk in with Gazz and I see LEO, of course Leo, king of the neighborhood. The room is smoky but as I look down on the table there had to be thousands of dollars in that pot. I never seen that much money in my life. I dared not make a move until I was told to.

The boss wins the hand and he pulls all the money to him and the guys who lost throw their cards down in disgust. Leo turns to Rocco and looks directly into Rocco's eyes.

LEO

Are you afraid of me?

ROCCO

Of course not. Why should I be?

NARRATOR

I was shitting in my pants knowing I was going to be in trouble if I said the wrong thing.

Rocco goes right over to him puts out is hand as to shakes his hand. Leo just smiles at Rocco and grabs his hand back and pulls Rocco closer.

LEO

So, everyone tells me your a good singer. Are you a good singer kid?

Rocco nervously looking at Gazz.

ROCCO

Yeah..I guess so, that's what everybody keeps telling me I am.

LEO
Okay kid, sing me a song right now
for the boys.

Rocco looks at Gazz and Gazz nods back go for it.

ROCCO
What would you like me to sing?

LEO
Surprise me! But don't embarrass
me or yourself. CAPICHE!

Rocco nods understanding. The room is loud when he tries to start and Leo yells out to everybody.

LEO (CONT'D)
Everybody shut the fuck up. The kid
is going to sing for us.

Suddenly the room gets real quiet. Rocco looks at Leo and then closes his eyes as he did at the feast. He starts singing Mama and everyone is just listening to Rocco.

We pan the room getting reaction as some guys start wiping their eyes with their handkerchiefs. Rocco has won their hearts. The song ends and Rocco opens his eyes and looks at Leo waiting for his approval.

NARRATOR
I knew the boy without a mother
would have gotten their emotions
all stirred up. I was surprised to
see these grown up tough guys were
crying over a song. To me, I was
laughing inside. It was funny as
hell, but I couldn't let them know
what I was just thinking.

After it was all done and they all wiped away their tears I walked up to Leo and asked him straight out.

ROCCO
Was that what you wanted from me.
Just to hear me sing?

LEO
Just relax kid..Do you know who I
am?

ROCCO
Not really?

He does know he is just playing stupid.

LEO

I want you to come by Amici's Tuesday and sing some songs for some dear friends of mine. Could you do that for me?

NARRATOR

I was so excited but I didn't want to show it.

ROCCO

Yeah..I can do that.

Leo hands him a fifty dollar bill.

ROCCO (CONT'D)

I can't take this Mr Leo. My mother wouldn't approve.

Leo insists by putting it in his pocket.

LEO

You earned this kid. I'll see you Tuesday.

Leo turns back and start playing cards as Gazz leads him out of the back room and walks him out to the front door by the two goons.

EXT. SOCIAL CLUB.-NIGHT

Gazz walks out Rocco to the front of the social club.

GAZZ

You did good tonight kid. You got natural talent.

Rocco starts to pull out the fifty dollar bill from his pocket to give it back.

ROCCO

I need to give you this back. My mother won't let me have this.

GAZZ

Your mother won't find out. Listen kid, this is what you're going to do. You are going to go to G & B tailors and you tell them I sent you. You need to look sharp for Tuesday night. You take that \$50 and you buy yourself a nice suit. You understand.

ROCCO

Okay...G & B get a new suit. Okay got it.(Pause) Dam, It's late... I need to get home. Thank you Gazz. I see you Tuesday.

He starts running up the street. Gazz yells out.

GAZZ

See you around kid,
(TO GOON) That kid is going places.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING STAIRS-MORNING

Rocco comes out of his apartment and is walking down the stairs when another apartment door opens suddenly and there is the beautiful young girl from last night. MARIE, 14 YEARS OLD. She is a student with PROFESSORE FRANCESCO MAFFEI.

NARRATOR

And just like that there she was, more beautiful then last night. The girl I was singing to coming out of Professore Francesco Maffei apartment. A retired music teacher from Northern Italy.

PROFESSORE MAFFEI

Good morning Rocco.

Rocco can't take is eyes off of Marie.

ROCCO

Good morning Professore.

PROFESSORE MAFFEI

Let me introduce to you one of my students. This is Marie.

Rocco is nervous as she is.

ROCCO

Hello Marie..I am Rocco..I live right up there.

MARIE

Hi Rocco...yeah I kind of figured that out.

ROCCO

So you study with the professore...so you like music?

MARIE

Yeah..that's what I am studying
with the professore.

ROCCO

Okay... nice meeting you...I need
to go to the record store.

Rocco starts heading down the stairs and Marie asks him a
question when he stops and looks back up at her.

MARIE

Were you that boy with the
beautiful voice that sang at the
feast last night?

ROCCO

(smiling) Yeah. You were there last
night?

MARIE

Yes...You have a beautiful voice.

ROCCO

Thank you..

Marie looks at Professore Maffei.

MARIE

Maybe we could sing a song
together.

PROFESSORE MAFFEI

I think that is a wonderful idea.

Rocco smiles with excitement.

ROCCO

I look forward to seeing you again.

He exits the front door.

EXT. FRONT OF HIS APARTMENT BUILDING-MORNING

Rocco is smiling as he looks back thru the glass to get one
more look at Marie.

NARRATOR

So she wasn't just a figment of my
imagination from last night. The
beautiful music coming out of
professore Maffei apartment was
her.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

My mom was working for professore Maffei, but what she earned was not in the budget to get lessons from him. We couldn't afford lessons from him.

He starts walking down the street with a smile on his face.

INT.RECORD STORE-MORNING

Gennaro is busy with customers and just gives Rocco a look. Rocco goes to a section sifting thru records waiting for the customers to leave. The customers finally leave and he approaches Rocco. Gennaro is annoyed with Rocco.

GENNARO

You came home late last night. Did you give him the money back like I told you to do.

ROCCO

I tried too, but he told me that I was insulting him. He told me to keep it. What am I suppose to do?

Gennaro not happy.

GENNARO

Mom is not going to be happy.

ROCCO

Then just don't tell her. I could maybe help mom with some bills with this money.

GENNARO

Oh yeah, mom is going to have her 13 year old son pay her bills. You made more in one day then she makes in two weeks.

ROCCO

Fine, I will spend it. She doesn't have to know.

GENNARO

Whatever Rocco...you know how the neighborhood works. Word gets around.

ROCCO

Whatever! Listen, I have to do something. I'll see you later.

Rocco waves him off and exits the shop.

INT. TAILOR STORE-AFTERNOON

Rocco walks into this Italian Tailor store called B & G.

NARRATOR

This is a top notched tailor shop
in the neighborhood. All the mob
guys come here for there suits.

Rocco is greeted by the owner NUNZIO, Italian male speaks
with an Italian accent with his broken English.

NUNZIO

What can we do for you little
fella?

ROCCO

Gazz sent me here and said I need
to look good for a special
occasion.

NUNZIO

If you are a friend of Gazz, we
will fit you with the finest suit
we can find you. (TO HIS
WORKERS)Get to work.

He starts telling the other tailors to measure him in
Italian.

NUNZIO (CONT'D)

Lets go measure him. Gazz sent him.
TO ROCCO: Come here. Step up and
put your arms out like this.

Nunzio has Rocco get on a pedestal in front of 4 mirrors.
Nunzio demonstrates to Rocco. Two other tailors start
measuring him with tape.

NARRATOR

I felt like someone special. They
were like sculptors truly making me
look phenomenal.

Rocco is standing in front of mirrors in a nice suit.

They made this scrawny kid look a
movie star.

Nunzio takes a comb and slicks my hair back and has me look
in the mirror.

NUNZIO

You're going to knock them dead in that place kid.

ROCCO

Thank you Nunzio...I look like a mini Frank Sinatra.

Then he goes in to the dressing room to take it off. And when he comes back out he hands the suit to Nunzio who puts it in bag. Rocco pulls out the \$50 dollar bill that Gazz gave him and tries to hand it to Nunzio.

NUNZIO

No...no put that away. Your money is no good here.

ROCCO

No, I have money..see!

He shows him the \$50 dollar bill.

NUNZIO

Okay let's make a deal. Sing us all a Frank Sinatra song and we will call it even.

So, Rocco gets back on the pedestal and starts singing. He sings Summer wind and Fly me to the Moon for them.

They start clapping for Rocco as the song ends. Rocco grabs the bag.

NARRATOR

As I hit the last note I grabbed the bag and threw the \$50 dollar bill on the floor and ran out of the store.

Rocco runs out of store with Nunzio. Nunzio stands alone outside smiling. They would never catch him. Rocco is smiling knowing he did the right thing.

EXT. AMICI RESTAURANT-EVENING

Rocco is walking up the street towards Amici restaurant in his new suit. Some of the locals who are standing in front of a store front looking at Rocco all dressed up. Giving him thumbs up. OLDER WOMAN A middle aged Italian female 50.

LOCAL WOMAN

Looking sharp kid.

Rocco is all smiles.

NARRATOR

It was finally Tuesday night and I am excited as I am heading to Amici's. Wearing my new suit and feeling and when I walked up to the back door they didn't even recognize me.

INT. AMICI'S RESTAURANT-EVENING

Rocco walks in through the back and then a second door and finally into the restaurant. Rocco ends up in the dining area stops and just looks around. A Frank Sinatra song is playing in the background.

NARRATOR

I finally walk in and I feel like I walked into heaven. Beautiful chandeliers on the ceiling and waterfalls on the sides of the restaurant. A beautiful Muriel on the wall of Italy.

A short man named JOE, around 40's who works in the restaurant walked up to me. He had slick black hair and was a manager of sorts. He wore a gold crossed chain on his neck and a pinky ring on his finger. A gold bracelet to match.

JOE

Are you that kid singer they call Rocky?

I put my hand out to shake his hand but he didn't extend his.
Follow me!

ROCCO

It's Rocco...my name is Rocco.

JOE

Okay Rocco...keep your mouth closed and follow me.

NARRATOR

He leads me to a back waiting room area. There were waiters back there going in and out of the kitchen. Then we are walking down this hallway lined with pictures of singers and movie stars. Of Course, Leo was in everyone of them.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Then I suddenly heard a familiar
voice. It was Leo calling out my
name.

(O.S) Hey is that kid here yet?

INT. TOP OF STAIRS-EVENING

Leo is standing on the top of the stairs telling Rocco to come up. Joe leads Rocco to the stairs where Leo is waiting for him.

LEO
Rocco, come here kid.

Rocco just smiles and waves as he is about to go upstairs to the apartment suddenly Rocco turns and hears a beautiful guitar with a familiar Neapolitan song playing called Lacrima Neapolitana which means Tears of a Neapolitan.

INSERT SHOT: Joe playing guitar inside the restaurant.

NAARATOR
The guy who just met me at the door
was now playing guitar to some
beautiful Italian music. Evidently
he is the manager of this place.
His name is Joe Pescitore.

CUT BACK TO:

LEO
Come on kid... come upstairs.I want
you to meet some people.

We started walking up the stairs to a door which had a sign stating private. LEO opens the door and leads Rocco into the room and Rocco's eyes lit up.

INT. PRIVATE ROOM-EVENING

There are a lot of people in the room. Leo and his wife ROSE, an Italian woman 40's, short but beautiful eyes. She is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Fazio. Gazz and his ex wife Connie Francis and his parents. Some big Hollywood Producers and some rich people like Goldstein and some other guests.

NARRATOR

I thought the restaurant was beautiful, but when Leo opened the door to this room I was like WOW!..It was gorgeous and really fancy...This is where Leo entertained all his special guest.

Rocco is just amazed as his eyes are scanning the room.

There were men and women really dressed up. They were wearing some really expensive suits and dresses, that you would see in a magazine.

Rocco smiles when he see's Gazz and his ex-Connie Francis. There were a lot of rich people from California like the Goldstein's and some other men that were Hollywood producers.

Waiters are bringing food in past Rocco who is now getting hungry from the smells of food he has never tasted before. Gazz comes up to Rocco.

GAZZ

Are you hungry Rocco?

NARRATOR

I was embarrassed to say yes, but I would never have a chance to eat like this again.

ROCCO

Yes...it smells so good.

GAZZ

Go ahead eat kid. You will never eat this good again.

Rocco grabs a piece of Filet Mignon and starts to eat it. He just smiles.

GAZZ (CONT'D)

Chew it kid.. Slow down. Enjoy it.

Rocco is just eating real fast hoping to grab another piece.

ROCCO

Yummy...This is so good. I have never tasted steak like this before.

GAZZ

Okay kid, finish up and enjoy. Then I want to take you around and introduce you to some very important people.

He nods and starts eating faster. He puts the last piece in his mouth. Gazz laughs.

GAZZ (CONT'D)

Okay kid, don't choke on it before you start singing. Chew it.

Rocco swallows the last piece and wipes his mouth with a napkin.

ROCCO

Okay, I am ready.

Gazz gets up to the center of the room and grabs a champagne glass and goes to the center of the room. He starts making a speech about his parents 50th anniversary. An older Italian couple in their late 70's holding hands to the side listening to their son.

GAZZ

I would like to thank everyone coming to this special occasion for my parents 50th Wedding Anniversary. They came to this country with nothing but a suitcase and a dollar to their name. Thank you Mom and Dad for always being there for me.

He raises his glass for everyone to toast.
To my parents on there 50th anniversary. Salute'

Everyone raises their glasses and drink up. People in the room start clapping and Gazz goes up and gives them a hug and kisses. Leo whispers to a waiter. Camera follows the waiter when he opens the door and Joe is standing there with his guitar.

Joe enters the room with his guitar. He says hello to everyone.

JOE

Good evening to everyone here at this special occasion.

They all know him. Rocco gets excited thinking he is going to sing with Joe, but Joe ignores him. I noticed that Joe was constantly gazing at Leo's wife ROSE. Leo walks up to Rocco.

LEO

Do you know the song by Perry Como called... And I love you.

Rocco nodding yes.

ROCCO

Yes, I know it.

NARRATOR

It's my favorite song and I knew it well.

Joe is sitting on a stool with his guitar. Rocco comes over next to Joe.

JOE

Do you know what key you are going to sing it in?

ROCCO

Yes, C.

Joe nodded and he starts playing the guitar and I started singing for everyone in the room. Camera pans the room for reaction as Rocco sings and Joe playing guitar.

NARRATOR

We had never performed together, but it was like we have been performing for years together. He even harmonized with me at certain parts of the song. I was always singing solo, but singing with Joe was magical.

Rocco works the room and see's Connie Francis and makes his way towards her making eye contact. Connie is amused with this young boys voice. And when the song was over, everyone stands up and starts clapping for them.

NARRATOR

I even noticed a tiny teardrop coming down from her eyes as she wiped it away with her handkerchief, trying not to ruin her mascara. Then she waved me to come over.

Connie waves him over and gives Rocco a kiss on the cheek and puts some money in his hand.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Oh boy, what a feeling that was. To get kissed by Connie Francis.

Rocco is getting money by everyone and he catches Joe looking at him with a slight smile, but then Joe turns back to talking with the guest.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
I haven't quite figured him out yet.

Leo comes up to Rocco and starts to escort him out of the private room. Rocco is confused because he wanted to stay longer.

LEO
You did real good tonight kid. I am real proud of you. I am going to make you a star, if you listen to me kid. You understand!.

ROCCO
Yes, I do...I will..and thank you Leo.

LEO
Go home now and get some rest. I'll call you when I want you to come back. Alright kid. Good night.

Leo shuts the door on Rocco. Rocco is left standing outside the private room wondering what just happened. He puts the money he got in his pocket and walks down the stairs.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. PRIVATE ROOM-NIGHT

Leo is all proud going around to everyone bragging about how he discovered Rocco,

LEO
Am I right people! The kids got talent. We are going to make him a star.

CONNIE
Got a voice of an Angel.

Everyone is happy and now drinking. Leo is all smiles as he puffs on his cigar.

INT. AMICI'S - NIGHT

Rocco is walking out towards the front door and stops and pulls out the money he just made and starts counting it.

NARRATOR

Oh my God..That's \$150 for the night. I love this...if I keep singing and doing this I can help my mama out with bills...

He stops and looks around for a minute.

She can't find out.I was making more then my mother and brother combined in a month.

He puts the money in his pocket and starts walking towards the door when he hears a familiar voice.

(O.S.) Female voice.

Rocco...Rocco Is that you?

He stops and looks around and doesn't see anyone near him, but then he hears it again. It was coming from the coat room. He walks towards the coat room. He recognizes Marie. He smiles at her. She finally see's him.

MARIE

What are you doing here?

ROCCO

Well, I was upstairs singing for Leo and his friends. It was amazing, you should have heard me.

She doesn't seem impressed and stops for a second to return a coat to a customer. The customer hands her the ticket and she hands them their jacket and leaves.

ROCCO (CONT'D)

So, how is your piano lessons coming?

MARIE

Fine..you should take lessons from the professore.

Leo shouts out to Rocco. Marie hears Leo voice and steps back into the coat room.

I need to get back to work. Good night.

Rocco stares at Marie as Leo gets closer to him.

LEO

Hey kid, I'm glad your still here. About you come and work for me a couple days a week. They really loved your singing.

Rocco is excited.

ROCCO

Yeah sure!

LEO

How about Friday, Saturday and Sundays?

NARRATOR

I knew I had to give him an answer right now. I knew I had to check with my mother and brother, but if I couldn't let this opportunity go by, so I responded.

ROCCO

When do I start?

LEO

This Friday!

NARRATOR

Now that I knew Marie worked here, it was a way for me to see her more. Now... I just needed to figure out how to explain this to my mother how I just got hired by the biggest mobster in the Bronx.

INT. MUSIC STORE-MORNING.

Rocco walks into the store as Gennaro is listening to a song from Night Fever.

GENNARO

So how did it go last night?

ROCCO

It went great and they offered me a job. And I gave him the money back.

GENNARO

You lying to me...I can tell..you always take your eyes off me when your lying. Tell me the truth or I am going to tell mom.

Rocco gets angry.

ROCCO

Leave me alone...you're just jealous of me because I am making more money then you. Mind your own business and stop pretending to be filling in for dad.

Rocco turns and heads for the door when suddenly two black kids come running in almost knocking Rocco over.

ROCCO (CONT'D)

Watch where your going.

The TWO BLACK TEENS, around 16 or 17 years old are looking to hide. Gennaro at first is confused as to what is going on.

BLACK TEEN #1

Please help us.

BLACK TEEN #2

We need to hide. Please...some guys are chasing us...they are going to kill us.

Rocco looks out the front door and hears yelling coming from out side.

(O.S.) Get those fucking guys!

GENNARO

Come back here. You can't be in here.

The two black teens go behind the counter. Rocco starts running to the back.

ROCCO

It's Stinky and his crew. Open the basement door.

There is a basement hatch door that is covered by a rug. Gennaro moves the rug and opens the hatch and tells the boys to get in there.

GENNARO

Get in there and keep quiet.

The two black teens get in and Gennaro closes the hatch and Rocco covers the hatch when suddenly STINKY comes int to the music store with an Iron bar. STINKY is a tough street kid about 5'3. He has squinty eyes and scars on his face.

NARRAROR

Louie Stinky was one of the most ruthless kids on the block. They make their name so eventually they will be working for Leo.

Stinky comes right up to Gennaro and Rocco. He puts the iron bar right up to Gennaro's chin.

STINKY

Hey did you guys see any moolies that ran past the store.

CUT TO:

INT. STAIRS IN BASEMWNT-MORNING

The teens are shaking as they can hear Stinky threatening the boys upstairs. The one teen puts his hand on the other teens mouth to keep him quiet.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. MUSIC STORE-MORNING.

Rocco gets angry and steps up to Stinky.

ROCCO

Hey leave my brother alone!

STINKY

And what is your skinny little guinea ass going to do about it?

Both Rocco and Gennaro are standing on the rug but Stinky notices the hatch.

STINKY (CONT'D)

What's down there?

Rocco and Gennaro are getting nervous. Stinky takes the iron bar and moves the rug back a little.

STINKY (CONT'D)
The two of you step off the rug.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. STAIRS IN BASEMENT=MORNING

The two black teens are getting nervous they have been discovered. The step back further in and get scared when a dog starts growling at them. They jump back and try not to scream.

CUT BACK TO:

INT.RECORD STORE-MORNING

Stinky hears the dog barking.

STINKY
Who the fuck is down there?

GENNARO
You want to find out. The owner's dog will eat you for breakfast.

He starts to make a move to open the hatch and puts his hand on the hatch when suddenly one of his boys comes in and yells out to Stinky. WHITE TEENANGER, 17 years old.

TEENAGER
Yo Stinky, the old lady said they ran straight down 187th street..Come on let's go.

Stinky turns back to Rocco and Gennaro.

STINKY
You guys can relax now...you banana boys are off the hook for now.

Stinky runs out of the store. Rocco goes to the window to make sure it is clear. He comes back to Gennaro and opens the hatch and the two black teens come out of basement.

ROCCO
You can come out now..it's safe.

Rocco puts his hand out and the black teen at first not trusting, but then takes his hand and Rocco helps him up and does the same for the second teen.

GENNARO

You guys need to go out the back.
And run out as fast as you can.

They head to the back door and Gennaro opens it to make sure it is clear. The two teens thank Rocco and Gennaro for helping them.

BLACK TEEN #2

Thank you for what you did. That
took a lot of guts.

He puts his hand out and Rocco and him shake hands.

GENNARO

Go..go now.

BLACK TEEN #1

You ain't got to tell me twice.

Both teens run out the back door and Gennaro closes the door and locks it. Rocco looks at Gennaro.

ROCCO

That was close.

GENNARO

Yeah, I hope they don't get caught
and rat us out.

ROCCO

They won't... they were just two
scared kids like we would be if the
shoe was on the other foot.

GENNARO

Yeah, you're probably right. Hey,
I'm sorry about before.

They hug and start to laugh.

ROCCO

Me too..I'm sorry about what I said
to you about filling in for dad...I
know you are only looking for my
best interest.

GENNARO

I know...it's Okay to work there,
but just remember just watch your
back.

(MORE)

GENNARO (CONT'D)
 Don't forget that's why we left
 Italy because of people like them.

ROCCO
 I will.

EXT.187TH STREET- AFTERNOON

Rocco is walking down the street towards the Pizzeria.

NARRATOR
 As I was walking to the Pizzeria
 one thing was bothering me...Who
 told Stinky's henchman that the
 black teens ran down 187th street?
 It was like divine intervention
 that day.

INT. JOE PIZZERIA- AFTERNOON

Rocco goes into the pizzeria to the counter. There are
 customers seated eating pizza and workers behind the counter
 and Rocco goes up to order some slices.

ROCCO
 Hey guys let me get 4 slices of
 Sicilians, but put 2 in each bag
 separated. Thanks.

Worker does it and hands Rocco two bags with slices in it.
 PIZZA WORKER, Italian guy 30's a little overweight.

PIZZA WORKER
 Here you go Rocco. Enjoy.

Rocco heads for the exit of the Pizzeria and heads straight
 down the street until he arrives in front of Our Lady of Mt
 Carmel Church.

INT. OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL CHURCH.

Rocco stops at the Holy water font switching the bags of
 pizza into one hand. He dips his fingers in and makes the
 sign of the cross as he makes his way heading up towards the
 altar.

NARRATOR
 As I was heading to the sacristy, I
 noticed out of the corner of my
 eye, a familiar face praying on his
 knee's in front of St Michael.
 (MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

It was Joe the guitarist from Amici's. I guess he was there for guidance like I was. I left him alone and continued towards the Sacristy.

INT. SACRISTY INSIDE CHURCH-AFTERNOON

I come in and see BIG SAL, heavy set Italian man in his 40's the Sacristan who works for Father Paolo.

BIG SAL

Hey Rocco, just leave the slices on the table. Thank you..you never forget me. God will repay you some day.

Father Paolo walks in.

NARRATOR

I noticed dirt on his knees as he wipes his soiled hands with a rag. He likes to work in the garden. He says it brings him tranquility.

ROCCO

Working in the garden Father?

FATHER DON PAOLO

What you and your brother did saving those two black teens from the park boys was courageous and I am very proud of you.

NARRATOR

I knew he was a holy man, but how the hell did he know that. Was he like St Anthony being Bilocation. Meaning He was able to be in two places at the same time. Only my brother and I knew what happened?

ROCCO

Father Paolo, I do you know this? Only my brother and I knew this. There was no one else in the store.

He just smiled at Rocco.

FATHER DON PAOLO

God works in mysterious ways Rocco.

He pauses for a moment.

The truth is that I was giving communion to Mrs Trombetta across the street when I saw what was going on so, I told her to stick her head out the window and tell them they went down Hughes avenue.

ROCCO

Okay...now that makes sense...I Was like how did you know Father. Was it divine intervention... Okay, but I am confused Father Paolo..isn't that a lie.

FATHER DON PAOLO

Yes, Rocco it is... I lied...but telling a lie to save someone's life is not exactly a sin. Understand Rocco?

ROCCO

Not really...I guess am a little confused...

FATHER DON PAOLO

The intention was to protect life, which you did, but what I did, I did it with a ruse to misdirect them not causing harm to either party.

ROCCO

So in other words... it was divine intervention.

FATHER DON PAOLO

Yes my son...And your mother would be proud knowing what kind of boys she is raising with good morals.

NARRATOR

I wanted to tell him the real reason why I stopped by to see him, but I chickened out. I was afraid to let him know that I was working for the Boss of the neighborhood. His response would be there is only one boss and that is God the Almighty. I couldn't tell a lie while standing in his house.

FATHER DON PAOLO
Remember Rocco, I will always be
here for you if you ever need to
talk.

ROCCO
I know that Father Paolo. Okay...I
have to get going.

He turns and heads out of the rectory.

EXT. FRONT OF CHURCH- AFTERNOON

Rocco exits via the side gate and he turns his head and see's
Joe coming down the church steps. He tries to pretend not to
see him but Joe yells out to Rocco.

JOE
Hey Kid...wait up!

Joe walks over to him looking confused.
How you doing kid? Why are you
coming out of Father Paolo's Garden
gate?

ROCCO
I am fine... I stopped by to see
Father Paolo. Do you know Father
Paolo?

JOE
Yeah, he is a good spiritual man.
And you were here because?

ROCCO
I was just bringing Big Sal some
pizza.

JOE
Sal's good people. Do you often
come to visit the BOSS.

As he points to the church.

ROCCO
Yeah, I do... Are you going to be
at Amici's Friday?

Joe responds sarcastically.

JOE
Yeah, and the Friday after that and
so on.

Rocco doesn't understand why is like being a jerk. He makes a face.

I hope you are listening to what is in your heart. And not in your head. Take the advice of the BOSS. He knows what's right for you. You take care of yourself.

Joe again points to the church referring to GOD.

ROCCO

I will.

NARRATOR

Whatever was eating him up was none of my business, but it seemed deeply rooted. I can tell you that this guy was suffering from something profound.

Joe just nods and slowly turns and walks away from the church. Rocco heads down the street in the opposite direction.

You can tell by the look in his eyes. I later learned the Joe has a sister with Down syndrome. His parents worked hard to take care of her. But because of their financial hardships, Joe had to work and not pursue his career in music. He got accepted into the School of Music. He even got accepted at the Julliard School of music. Like me... Gazz discovered him and put him to work at Amici's.

INT. AMICI RESTAURANT-EVENING

Rocco walks in to the restaurant on his first day back.

NARRATOR

So, its finally Friday night and I was back at Amici's. I was more relaxed and confident then last week and I get to see Marie more.

He see's Marie's beautiful smile standing outside the coat check.

MARIE

So, you decided to work here after all.

ROCCO
Yeah...I like it here. And I get to see you more.

Marie just smiles. Suddenly a voice yells out. It's Gazz.

GAZZ
Hey Rocco, you hungry? You need to eat now cause you won't get another chance later.

NARRATOR
I was starving and mom was working late and I wouldn't have time to eat.

ROCCO
Yeah, I'm starving.

He comes up to a table where Gazz is sitting and Rocco sits down next to Gazz. There is some pasta and meatballs in the center of the table and Rocco helps himself filling up his plate.

Rocco just smiles as he is chewing his food.

Gazz just laughs as Rocco stuffs his face.

Joe walks up to him at the table.

JOE
So you decided to listen to your head, not your heart.

Rocco just looks up at him.

ROCCO
I guess so.

LATER THAT EVENING:

INT. AMICI'S RESTAURANT-EVENING

Rocco is singing as he is busing the tables with Joe playing guitar as they are entertaining the guests. Several of the guest would put cash in his pocket. Rocco would smile and turn back and look at Joe for approval. Joe would smile and nod back.

NARRATOR
That night I was introduced to so many people and made almost a hundred dollars.
(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

My head was spinning, They got what
ever they wanted.

Camera pans the room showing the customers in the restaurant. Guys in nice suits with nice watches and rings on. The women wearing beautiful dresses with necklaces and diamond earrings on. Guys flashing money tipping the waiters.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The night is over and I was happy.
I was tired, but knew I made some
good money. I realized with this
money I could help my mom, it was
just a question whether she would
approve of me working here. This is
what worried me the most.

INT. APARTMENT ROCCO'S BEDROOM -NIGHT

Rocco turns the light on as he enters his bedroom. He is by himself. He throws all the cash on his bed as he is in disbelief. He closes his eyes for a few seconds and opens them again as he realizes all this money is real. He opens one of his draws and grabs a sock as puts the money in a sock and buries the sock underneath all those other ones. He closes the draw and lays down is his bed. He lays on his back as he stares at the ceiling as he starts singing a Neapolitan song that he learned from Mr. Luciano. He slowly closes his eyes and falls a sleep.

FADE IN ON SCREEN: DECEMBER CHRISTMAS TIME IN BRONX

THEN FADE OUT:

EXT. AMICI'S RESTAURANT -NIGHT

It is a cold December night and the streets are all decorated with Christmas lights. Rocco is coming out the door of the restaurant and is stopped by Leo.

LEO

Hold on Rocco!

Leo pulls out some money and hands Rocco a hundred dollars in twenties.

Here this is for you. I just wanted
to let you know how proud I am of
you. You doing good kid.

ROCCO

Thanks Leo...But this is too much!.

LEO
Keep it...you earned it.

He rubs his hands together.

Jesus its fucking cold out. Go home
kid before you freeze to death.

Leo goes back inside. Rocco starts walking to the corner when
he is suddenly grabbed by the collar.

NARRATOR
For that split second I thought I
was done. I was being robbed. I
slowly turned around and I was
shocked to see who it was.

It was Gennaro with an angry look on his face.
I was so relieved but then my
relief turned to anger.

GENNARO
I watched that whole thing with you
and Leo. What's all that money
for...it's sure not for busing
tables.

Rocco getting angry.

ROCCO
What are you spying on me now...You
think I didn't earn this money.

GENNARO
Are you running numbers as well?

ROCCO
This is my money... money for back
pay and tips that people gave me
for singing...What's with you
Gennaro. You acting like I
committed a crime.

GENNARO
No, but they are not your family
and they will dump you when they
are done with you. You be back on
the streets singing on the corner
for change.

Rocco gets real angry. Points his finger in Gennaro's face.

ROCCO
Your just fucking jealous...that I
make more then you...

GENNARO
Get your finger out of my face
Rocco... I will break that fucking
finger....I'm not jealous...you
know what...now I am telling mom. I
ain't keeping your secrets anymore.

Gennaro turns and starts walking away from Rocco.

ROCCO
Fine...be that rat...You know what
they say. Snitches get stiches.

Gennaro abruptly stops and turns around and gets in Rocco's
face.

GENNARO
What are you going to do Rocco..Get
your mob friends after your own
brother....They killed our father
and you want to be just like
them...You've changed Rocco...

He takes a couple of steps away and turns back to Rocco.

I don't even know who you anymore.
See you at home. Let's see what Mom
as to say about all of this.

Rocco is pissed and torn at the same time.

ROCCO
Fuck...I hate people getting into
my business.

Gennaro turns and starts walking away from Rocco. Rocco is
torn now as he now as to go home and face is mother. He kicks
a lamp post out of anger.

NARRATOR
Is he right? Have I changed. But I
like being the center of attention.
I am making money and I can help my
Mom with the bills. I just want to
sing. Fuck! Why is this so
complicated...Gennaro....wait..

Rocco starts running up the street after Gennaro.

INT. APARTMENT -NIGHT

Gennaro and Rocco's mother are sitting at the table waiting for Rocco to come in. Suddenly Rocco walks in and he knows that his mother knows everything. She has her arms crossed. He knows that look.

MRS MAURO

Sit down Rocco...Is this true what your brother is telling me.

ROCCO

I don't know what he told you. I can't say yes or no.

GENNARO

Stop playing games Rocco. I seen Leo give you a lot of money just now outside the restaurant. Are you calling me a liar?

ROCCO

No, he did, but its the money I earned as a busboy. I swear Mom, if you don't believe it you can come down to the restaurant and ask them yourself.

MRS MAURO

I will let you know whether you can work there or not.

Rocco pulls out a hundred dollars and hands it to his mother.

ROCCO

Here Ma, here is a hundred dollars. Use it to pay the bills. I just want to help you with the expenses.

Mrs Mauro takes the money and just looks at Gennaro. She is astonished that he made some much.

NARRATOR

I knew this would make her think twice. Gennaro only makes \$50 a week and she doesn't even make that. She really could use it. I am hoping that she would say okay you can still work there if your making this kind of money to help all of us.

She looks at Gennaro.

MRS MAURO

Wow, this could really help us. I guess it wouldn't be a bad idea neither if he still worked there.

Gennaro is shocked and angry what his mom just said.

GENNARO

Really Mom! I just told you everything and your considering this.

Mrs Mauro looks at Gennaro.

MRS MAURO

I know this doesn't make sense, but we could really use this money. I can't do it alone Gennaro. This really helps me with the bills.

Gennaro looks at Rocco and then mom. Realizing she is right.

GENNARO

Okay Mom, I get it.

He turns to Rocco.

I am going to watch you and make sure you stay on the right path...you are working there to help all of us. Do you understand?

Rocco nods.

ROCCO

Yeah...I promise I will..I give you permission to beat me up to keep me on the straight and narrow.

GENNARO

You heard that Ma...your my witness.

She opens her arms for a hug.

MRS MAURO

Come here boys...Give your mother a hug.

Both Rocco and Gennaro hug their mother. Gennaro and Rocco just give each other a look.

MRS MAURO (CONT'D)

Mama loves you both. You're all I have in this world.

(MORE)

MRS MAURO (CONT'D)
We all have to look out for each other. Do you understand?

Both Rocco and Gennaro answer.

ROCCO AND GENNARO
Yes Mama...

MRS MAURO
Now go to bed...and no more keeping secrets Rocco.

Rocco looks at his mother as he was walking towards his bed.

ROCCO
Yes Mama... no more secrets.

INT. ROCCO'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

Gennaro is in his bed and Rocco in his. Gennaro looks at Rocco and turns over giving Rocco is back. Rocco is lying on his back staring at the ceiling.

GENNARO
So I guess you got your way after all.

ROCCO
It's not that it's my way. It's good for all of us. My singing will put food on the table. Help pay the bills. I know you are worried about me. I know I have you will watch my back..Right?

GENNARO
Yeah, your my little brother. Pain in the ass...but yeah. I got your back.

ROCCO
Good night big brother.

Gennaro just smiles at him. Rocco smiles.

NARRATOR
My brother was not happy with my mom's remarks. She knew she was right and had to live with it.

Rocco turns off the light. Room goes dark.

INT. AMICI'S RESTAURANT-EVENING

Rocco is just singing and busing tables. This is more visual shot than anything. It's Rocco's perspective of how he see's things going right now. He see's Joe playing guitar and Leo greeting guests as they come in. And of course Marie at the coat check.

NARRATOR

Months went by and I was working hard and making money. Especially since I would get to see the prettiest girl in the neighborhood.

Marie smiles when Rocco looks at her.

By this time I had found out that she was Leo and Rose's daughter. She looked nothing like Leo, but more of Rose. Rose was the only daughter of Mr and Mrs Fazio.

FLASHBACK:

INT. FAZIO'S DELI- NOON

We are inside a busy deli. It is directly across the street from Amici's on Hoffman Ave. We have a younger Mr Fazio, his wife PASQUALINA, 40's Italian woman with black hair. And a younger daughter Rose, who is about 25 here. She is a good wholesome girl, nothing like the other neighborhood girls. She is working behind the counter when Leo approaches the counter. Customers are getting food when a younger Leo walks in with several of his crew behind him and places an order with Rose. Leo snaps his fingers and one of his crew has a bouquet of flowers. He hands them to Leo. Leo pulls one Rose out for Rose.

ROSE

Hi Leo...What can I get you today?

LEO

Hello Rose, how you doing today.
Here is a Rose for a special Rose.

Rose just smiles.

And for Mrs Fazio a bouquet of flowers for lady of the house.

Pasqualina smiles and accepts the flowers happily.

PASQUALINA

Thank you Leo. Your always a gentleman.

She looks at Rose like he is a keeper. She whispers in her ear.

He is a catch Rose...Don't let this one get away.

ROSE

Thank you Leo..what can I get you today?

LEO

Me and the boys would like those famous meatball sandwiches you make..make it seven sandwiches.

ROSE

Sure! We can do that.

She yells out to her father.

Seven meatball sandwiches to go dad.

Dad looks up and see's they are for Leo..

MR FAZIO

Coming right up.

They are done and brought to the counter and Rose puts them in in a shopping bag and hands them to Leo.

ROSE

Here you go...enjoy!

Leo throws money on the counter.

LEO

Here's for the sandwiches and buy your self something new to add to that beautiful smile of yours.

Rose just smiles and Pasqualina watching from behind the counter.

ROSE

Thank you Leo...but that is too much.

He stops her from giving it back an he places his hand over hers.

LEO

You keep it...your worth every cent.

She smiles and Leo and his crew turn around and head out of the deli. Pasqualina walks up to Rose and grabs the money from her hand, puts some in the register and takes the rest and puts it down her blouse.

Rose is annoyed.

ROSE

Leo gave me that tip for me.

She pulls out a ten dollar bill and gives it to Rose.

PASQUALINA

Here...the rest goes to pay the bills. Money doesn't grow on tree you know.

Rose is dejected and just looks at the door when a customer steps in front of her to place an order.

NARRATOR

After constant nagging by his wife Mr Fazio agreed to let Rose marry Leo. Eventually he passed away. Rose blames her mother for his early passing. Not Much after that she was placed in a nursing home.

INT. CITY HALL-MORNING

Leo and Rose are being married at City Hall by a clerk. He has several of his crew with him including Joe. A CLERK, small white nerdy male around 60's is marrying them. There is no dialogue in this scene. Leo kisses Rose and the guys come up and congratulate Leo by shaking his hand. Rose smiles, but looks sad. Rose is several months pregnant. She glances at Joe.

EXT. AMICI RESTAURANT-EVENING

Rocco is walking towards the entrance of the door. He grabs the handle and then stops himself. He turns around and starts mumbling to himself.

NARRATOR

Is today the day I quit. I have been here for over a year today. I saw and heard things maybe I shouldn't have. Will they even let me quit. I have become part of their world.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Do I have to always look over my
shoulder for the rest of my life or
end up in a wooden box.

Rocco shakes it off and grabs the handle and enters the
restaurant.

INT. AMICI RESTAURANT-EVENING

Leo is sitting at a table having a cup of espresso and looks
at Rocco like he knows what he was thinking. Rocco is nervous
as he comes into the restaurant.

LEO
Hey Rocco, how you doing today?

ROCCO
Okay, I guess.

LEO
You got anything to tell me?

Now Rocco is really getting nervous.

ROCCO
No, I am here for my shift...what's
going on Leo.

LEO
We're looking for cockroaches here.

Rocco is confused!

ROCCO
We have cockroaches in the
restaurant?

Leo gets up out of his chair and looks directly at Rocco

LEO
I am looking for two legged rats
with headphones on their heads.

Rocco is confused.

ROCCO
Rats have 4 legs, I am confused
Leo.

Leo starts laughing.

LEO
We are looking for undercover
employees who are talking. Are you
talking to the feds Rocco?

Rocco is shaking his head back and forth. He is getting
scared.

ROCCO
No Leo...I would never say
anything.

LEO
I know that kid...Okay all the
staff. Take a break.

All the workers stop what they are doing.

LEO (CONT'D)
Let's go outside...now.

As the employees start heading out of the restaurant
including Rocco. But Rocco stops and watches thru the glass
window by the front door. Leo nods to his crew to start
searching for bugs.

NARRATOR
The FBI was always looking at this
joint like flies on shit.

Leo starts walking around the room with a gray box that
looked like a large walkie talkie with antenna's. It would
pick up any bugs in the restaurant. He stops and points to a
chandelier when the device starts beeping.

SFX: Beeping sound

He realizes he found it. He points to the ceiling to let all
the guys to be quiet. He gestures to one of the guys to hand
him the mallet. One of his crew hands him a mallet.

Leo being playful to his crew.

LEO
Hey guys, now that the employees
are outside. We need to find out
who is snitching on us.

As he points to the bug.
I don't think it is our employees.

CUT TO:

INT. UNMARKED VAN-EVENING

Two FBI agents are sitting in a van with headphones listening to Leo making fun of them.

LEO (V.O.)
As much as I think it's the scumbag
FBI guys listening in on us now.

The two FBI guys react in van.

CUT BACK TO:

INT.AMICI'S RESTAURANT-EVNING

LEO
They know none of our people would
rat on us knowing the consequences.
They got nothing on me. These
fucking guys are useless suits.
They couldn't find a perp if they
were right in front of them.

CUT BACK TO:

INSIDE FBI VAN

LEO (V.O.)
Are you guys hungry? I can send
some chicken parm..Best In the
Bronx.

CUT BACK TO INSIDE RESTAURANT:

His guys all start laughing.

You know ..the secret to a good
parm...is when you pound the
chicken nice and flat with a
mallet. It sounds like this.

He hits the table with the mallet.

SFX: SOUND HITTING TABLE.

This is what it sounds like when I
smash your head in...if you keep
messing with me.

Leo reaches for the bug and smashes it with the mallet it. He laughs as well as his crew.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. FBI VAN - EVENING

The FBI agents take their headphones off as the sound of it being destroyed rings in their ears. They realize they have been found out. They shake their heads in disgust.

INT. DOOR AMICI'S RESTAURANT-EVENING

Rocco is just laughing.

NARRATOR

It was hilarious to hear him make fun of the feds and probably piss them off more to get their hands on Leo. But Leo knew, this wasn't going to be the last time he had to deal with them. With in a week they came from every direction into the restaurant. I was there at the wrong place wrong time to get my pay and got wrapped up in the bust.

EXT: FRONT OF AMICI'S RESTAURANT-MORNING

Several Unmarked Black Sedans and a van pull up in front of Amici's. Several FBI agents exit their vehicles and make way towards the restaurant. Nonchalantly, no guns are drawn. The Feds know that the mob knows the drill and are not looking to start a war with the Feds.

INT. AMICI'S RESTAURANT-BACK DOOR -MORNING

A tall Italian looking FBI Agent named MIKE, around 30's comes in thru the back door of Amici's with several agents. Mike is a neighborhood guy who became a Fed and speaks Italian. He knows all the players at Amici's. He is met by an old crew member named MARIO, 70's who has breathing problems,

MIKE

Hey Mario, not looking so good. Go and take a seat..As for the rest of you. All of you up against the wall.

The agents put several of the crew and workers against the wall. Leo looks at him like he knows him. Mike walks up to him and pushes Leo hard against the wall.

MIKE (CONT'D)

That's means you to Leo...Assume the position.

Leo 's face is against the wall and tries to talk.

LEO

I remember you now..How is your pretty boy brother doing? Last time I seen him he wasn't looking so pretty.

MIKE

I think I just heard a confession of you admitting to assaulting my brother.

He looks at the other agents. They nod and he takes out is cuffs and puts them on Leo nice and tight. Leo is getting pissed. He turns Leo around and faces him.

LEO

I would take it easy agent...I know where your family lives.

Mike gets pissed and knees Leo in the balls and drops Leo to the ground as he Leo moans in pain.

MIKE

Are you threatening a Federal Agent Leo.

Leo moans in pain as Mike helps him get back up against the wall.

Leo answers slightly different as he is trying to catch is breath.

LEO

No...no I would never do that.

Mike backs off a little. He looks at Rocco and speaks to him in Italian

MIKE (SPOKEN IN ITALAIN)

Non sai che questo posto non per i ragazzinni come te, e devono andare a scuola, e stare cash a casa.

(Translates:) Don't you know this is not a place for young boys and should be at school or home. And I know about your stash at home)

Rocco is just standing scared shitless with his hands up in the air.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You can put your hands down now kid.

Rocco puts his hands down. Nervous as fuck.

And don't think I don't know about your shoe box you have stashed at your house.

Mike winks and smirks at Rocco. Rocco is confused.

NARRATOR

At that moment I was never so afraid for my life. How the fuck does he know about my stash. Was I suppose to say yeah and I will give it to you. I didn't know what to say.

LEO

Hey kid...don't listen to him. He is just playing with your head.

ROCCO

Well it's working!

LEO

Don't say nothing...we will be back by dinner.

MIKE

Lock them up and throw them in the van.

The feds cuff all of them except Rocco and they lead them out of restaurant in front of the whole neighborhood to see.

EXT. AMICI RESTURANT-MORNING

Feds walk Leo and his crew and start putting them in the back of the paddy wagon as the locals just watch. Rocco is watching them all being put in.

NARRATOR.

The Feds weren't really interested in who got their fingers cut off or who got thrown in the East river. To them it was one less criminal to deal with. To me it looked like they were looking for their tax due. But what do I know.

(MORE)

NARRATOR. (CONT'D)

One thing for sure I do know, it was an eye opening experience. Would this be me someday being dragged to jail. Is this my future? It would break my mothers heart knowing I became one of them. The same people that killed my father. I would be the black sheep of the family just like Gennaro said I would.

INSERT SHOT: After Feds drive away Gazz and Joe show up to the restaurant.

ROCCO

Thank God Gazz. I didn't know what to do. I couldn't just walk away and leave the restaurant unattended.

GAZZ

You did the right thing by calling us.

JOE

You go home now. We will take it from here.

ROCCO

I was so scared Gazz. I thought I was going to jail.

Be stern with Rocco.

GAZZ

Go home..and keep your mouth shut. You got it. I am serious Rocco.

ROCCO

Okay..Okay! Should I come back for my shift later.

JOE

Yes...see you later.

Rocco starts to walk away from the restaurant. Gazz and Joe enter into the restaurant.

INT. AMICI'S RESTUARANT-EVENING

The guys weren't back yet. Joe was running everything trying to set up to open the restaurant. I saw Marie come in and went up to her and pushed her into the coat room.

MARIE

What are you doing Rocco?

ROCCO

Just go inside...I have to tell you something. Your father was picked up by the FBI today.

Marie has no reaction. She takes off her coat and hangs it up.

Did you hear what I just said?

MARIE

Yes, I did...This stuff happens all the time Rocco. He is not a nice man Rocco.. You don't know him like I do. I over heard him once about whacking some guy. He didn't know I was here.

ROCCO

What do you mean Marie?

All of a sudden Leo pops in and interrupts Marie.

LEO

What do you mean Marie?

Rocco and Marie jump and didn't realize Leo was there and tries to cover quickly.

MARIE

Nothing...Leo. Rocco was just telling me it was a crazy day today.

Leo snaps

LEO

Kid get back to work..

Rocco turns and leaves looking at Marie who is scared of Leo. Nothing happened today. You understand.

Marie nods and Leo looks at Rocco.

LEO (CONT'D)
Learn to keep your mouth shut. You
know what happens to rats.

Rocco just nods and he see's Marie leaning out of coat rack.
She puts her finger to her mouth to say don't say a word.
Rocco understands.

ROCCO
I didn't...I won't. I was just
concerned that's all.

LEO
Concerned! You don't have to worry
about me kid. I can handle myself.

Joe comes in and see's Rocco getting the treatment.

JOE
Hey kid, come here. I have a new
song I want to teach you.

Rocco looks at Leo for permission to go. He nods his head and
heads towards Joe. Joe puts his arm around Rocco and leads
him away as we zoom in on Leo's face of mistrust towards
Rocco and then back at his daughter Marie.

LEO
Stay away from this kid..you hear
me.

MARIE
He didn't do anything wrong!

LEO
You do what I tell you to do. You
got it.

Marie puts her head down and goes back into the coatroom.

EXT. FRONT OF AMICI'S -DAY

NARRATOR
A month had passed and things were
getting back to normal. They knew
they were being watched but they
tried to keep a low profile until
this one day. They were itching for
something to happen.

A couple of Leo's crew are sitting outside the restaurant smoking their cigars keeping an eye things when a LOCAL GUY, 30's, who owns a shop around the corner is trying to park in front of the restaurant and goes back and forth trying to park. LOUIE THE CIGAR, 40's large around 300lbs and FRANKIE THE NUTCRACKER stocky bald around 50, ex fighter are watching this idiot park in Leo's spot.

LOUIE

You see this fucking idiot. What the fuck is think he is doing?

FRANKIE

I know this kid. He has a shop around the corner. He knows whose spot this is. What the fuck..Go And tell him to get his car out of there before he gets hurt.

Louie gets up and starts heading towards the car and taps his window. The guy rolls down his window.

LOUIE

Ho, you can't park here. Move your car.

LOCAL GUY

It's an open spot. There are no other spots available.

LOUIE

Your not understanding me! Move your car...now. This spot is reserved.

LOCAL GUY.

There is no such thing as reserved spots. It's free to everyone. First come first serve. It's a free country.

Louie looks at Frankie he is not listening. Frankie gets out of chair and heads towards the car now towards the driver side.

FRANKIE

Move this fucking car or I will break your jaw..you understand me.

The guy now gets nervous and he backs up hitting Leo's fender. Frankie and Louie are now pissed. Frankie goes to driver side.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Look what you did now. Get out of
the car.

Local guy gets out of car and looks at damage.

CUT TO INSIDE RESTAURANT:

Rocco hears all the yelling and goes to the window to see
what is going on.

NARRATOR
Now everyone in the neighborhood
knew that the spot in front of
Amici's was off limit. Sometimes
people accidentally parked there
because they weren't from the
neighborhood. They would politely
tell them to move. But this guy
knew and he started arguing with
Frankie and Louie that its free
parking to everyone in the neighbor
hood. Well it didn't go well for
him.

CUT BACK TO:

They all inspect the damage.

LOUIE
Look what you did. You scratched
the bosses car. You got you pay for
the damages.

He inspects and tries to wipe the scratch away.

LOCAL GUY.
There is no damage. You can buff
that out.

Frankie is getting annoyed and grabs him by the neck and uses
his head as a buffer.

FRANKIE
How about I buff the scratch out
with your head. You have all the
answers don't you. You need to pay
for the damages.

LOCAL GUY.
Okay! Okay!

Frankie nods to Louie and Louie hits him in the stomach causing him to crotch down in pain and then Frankie starts pounding on him and Local guy drops to the ground as they start kicking him. A crowd is watching but no one is intervening.

CUT BACK TO INSIDE RESTAURANT:

Rocco and staff are watching wincing at every punch and kick thrown. The guy is taking a beaten. Marie comes up to the window now and winces at the brutality of it all. Her and Rocco look at each other.

NARRATOR

Let me tell you. They were ruthless. Imagine if you did something worse. This was over a parking spot and a small scratch. This things happened all the time in the neighborhood. Nobody would say a word knowing what would happen to them.

CUT BACK TO STREET:

Louie and Frankie finish up and start walking back into the restaurant. They just look at the by standers, who then just turn and keep going mind their own business.

FRANKIE

Move along...nothing to see here.

The guy is bleeding all over the place moaning from his beating.

NARRATOR

When things quieted down several of the men came from the neighborhood came over and picked him up carrying his lifeless body from the street. One of those guys was Gino from the pastry shop and his friend Joe Marano. They couldn't even call an ambulance or the police as they didn't want any trouble from Leo.

INT. RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON

Frankie and Louie walk into the restaurant and are met by Leo

LEO

What happened?

FRANKIE

Some wise ass wanted to park in front and he had to be taught a lesson.

LEO

Alright good. Did you make an example of him for the rest of the neighborhood to see.

LOUIE

Yeah boss!

Leo pulls out some cash and hands them some cash.

LEO

Here go and get cleaned up and buy your self some new clothes and burn those.

Marie is watching in disgust at Leo how proud he is of what his guys just did. Joe comes up to her and escorts her back to the coat room. Rocco is watching from the other side of the room seeing this relationship between Joe and Marie.

JOE

Come on Marie. You don't need to see this.

MARIE

But Joe...they just left him there bleeding out. I can't get it out of my mind.

JOE

Think of positive things. Think of your music. Music always calm me down.

MARIE

Why can't Leo be like you..Your calm and nice.

Joe knows he is being watched as he comforts Marie back inside to the coat room.

JOE

Marie...go inside. We will talk later.

Joe turns around and see's Leo watching.

LEO
Alright everybody let's get back to
work. We have a restaurant to run.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING STAIRS-MORNING

Rocco is coming down the stairs when Marie is coming out of the Professor's apartment simultaneously and they meet at the landing.

Rocco
Hey Marie...just finished your
lesson?

MARIE
Yeah!

ROCCO
Are you doing anything? You want to
go get something to eat?

MARIE (SMILING)
Sure! I would like that.

SEQUENCE OF SHOTS: OF THEM TOGETHER

EXT. PARK BENCH-MORNING

Marie and Rocco are eating and laughing while sitting on a park bench. No dialogue here. More visual.

EXT. INFRONT OF CHURCH-MORNING

Then they are walking together when Rocco suddenly grabs her hand and they walk hand and hand. Marie smiles. He smiles back. Rocco looks up and see's Father Paolo on the steps giving him the thumbs up. Two older woman walk past and one whispers to the other as they look at the tow of them.

Rocco gets startled and reacts pulling his hand away..

NARRATOR
At this moment I was happy.It was a
sign being infront of the church,
but then I realized where I was. If
Father Paola saw me, so did
everyone else on the block. People
in the neighborhood talk.

Marie looks back and see's Father Paolo. She waves to him.

EXT. MARIE'S APARTMENT BUILDING-MORNING

They end up in front of her apartment building.

MARIE

Well this is me! I had a nice time today.

ROCCO

Me too! Well... I guess I will see you later.

Rocco is all smiles as he watches her go into her apartment building.

EXT. BACK DOOR RESTAURANT AFTERNOON.

Gazz is standing at door waiting for Rocco as he comes to the door.

GAZZ

Hey kid...got some good news for you.

ROCCO

What is it Gazz?

Gazz pulls him to the side and looks directly at him.

GAZZ

I got you a gig singing at a big club in the city, then we are heading down to Atlantic City for an audition. If that goes well...we are headed to Vegas baby...

Rocco is excited.

ROCCO

Oh my God... are you kidding me. This is great....Oh Man...I can't wait to tell my mother and brother the good news.

GAZZ calms him down.

GAZZ

Slow down...Rocco it's going to happen. You need to work with Joe to fine tune your voice. You understand?

ROCCO
Yeah...I will I promise I will work
hard. When do we start.

GAZZ
Now, Joe is waiting for you in the
other room.

SEQUENCE OF SHOTS:

NARRATOR
My relationship was improving with
Joe. Joe was coaching me everyday.
We spent a lot of time together.
But our music was top priority.

INT.BACK ROOM SOCIAL CLUB -NIGHT

Joe and Rocco rehearsing songs to sing. We show them in
different positions with Joe on guitar and Rocco working the
room. Rocco sitting on a chair. Singing different songs to
get them ready for the club show.

Joe stopping Rocco and showing how to perform the song this
way.

JOE
Wait..Rocco...let me show you. Try
it this way.

Joe gets up and sings the song to show Rocco. Rocco nods and
understands.

Rocco gets back up and tries it again.

Joe nods and smiles as Rocco sings. Joe joins in for a
perfect harmony.

JOE (CONT'D)
That's it kid...your going to kill
it.

Rocco and Joe give high five to each other. Joe stops and
looks at Rocco and smiles.

You remind me of me when I was
younger. I never told you this, but
I wanted to be a great singer
songwriter. But that was in the
past.

His tune changes as he gets remorseful.

But things happened and...well it is what it is. Forget it kid. I shouldn't say anything else.

Rocco tries to encourage him.

ROCCO

Okay Joe, here is your chance again with me. Maybe it was destined for it to be you and me...maybe God has plans for the two of us to make great music together.

Joe smiles but with sadness.

JOE

Sure kid...you dream for both of us. Okay lets get back to practicing. People are counting on you to make it.

NARRATOR

At that moment I felt for him. I can't imagine for whatever reason how things got screwed up and why he was still working here for Leo. It had to be a heavy burden that was eating him inside.

INT. KITCHEN AMICI'S RESTAURANT=AFTERNOON

Rocco is on the outside door looking thru the window watching Leo and Joe arguing.

NARRATOR

Until one day when the truth came out. I overheard Leo arguing with Joe. I was outside the kitchen door when Leo was yelling at Joe.

Camera shows Rocco on the other side of the door looking in thru the small crack the door is open.

LEO

Just stick to the program with this kid and don't feed him this imaginary idea's that you once had. You still owe me....you hear me! You owe me for the investment I put into you....and the same will happen to this kid if he doesn't pan out. You understand?

Joe wanted to yell back but he held his cool and lights up a cigarette.

JOE

Yeah Leo, I know...and I am upholding my part of the deal. I am here everyday right?

Leo gives him a look he knows better not to talk back.

LEO

Yeah and keep it that way. I own you. Remember it was Gazz that caused all your troubles in that Vegas fiasco, not me. So make sure he doesn't make the same mistake with this kid... Now get back to work.

Leo gets annoyed and exits out the back door and Joe heads towards the kitchen door exit where Rocco is hiding and as it swings open. Rocco pins himself against the wall so the door doesn't hit him and he doesn't move as Joe passes by him, so he isn't seen. Camera follows Joe to the point where Joe is out of focus and focus turns to Rocco's face. Rocco makes a sad face.

NARRATOR

I am going to be like Joe? Will I owe Leo as I learn the truth that Joe was working there for no pay and only tips until he so called paid Leo for the damages that Leo put out for Joe.

Rocco comes out behind the door heading towards Joe. But stops when Gazz comes up to Joe from the other side of the restaurant.

INT.KITCHEN AMICI'S RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON

Rocco steps into the kitchen now looking thru the window on the opposite side of the door.

NARRATOR

Joe knew he Leo was crazy and would break his fingers or something. But Leo knew he needed Joe for his business since he was well liked by the customers.

Joe is sitting at a table when Gazz comes in and sits next to Joe who is now on his 2nd cigarette.

GAZZ

What's the matter Joe? Everything Okay?

JOE

Yeah, same old shit from Leo.

Gazz nods and understands.

GAZZ

How's the kid coming along?

JOE

The kid is great. For such a young kid with that kind of talent. He could go places. My only fear is that he will end up like me...being stuck here.

GAZZ

That's a different story. You and I know that's not going to happen. You got a good head on your shoulder and you keep teaching him your music and with me behind you guys, we can make things happen.

He looks at Joe with a serious look.

Right? You follow me.

Joe reluctantly nods back.

JOE

Yeah...I follow you.

GAZZ

Good...now that's settled... keep your head up Joe.

Gazz gets up from the table.

JOE

Thanks Gazz....you've always been a good friend to me.. I won't forget what you did for me.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. KITCHEN AMICI'S RESTAURANT=AFTERNOON

One of Leo's guys Mario yells at Rocco who is sitting in a chair by the back door. Startling Rocco.

MARIO

Hey kid...are you going to stand there all day.

Rocco nervously grabs some plates and heads into the dining room pretending to be working.

INT. DINING ROOM AREA-AFTERNOON

Rocco enters into the dining area where Joe is sitting as Gazz walks pass Rocco heading into the kitchen.

GAZZ

Hey kid..how you doing today?
Feeling good?

Rocco just smiles nervously as he heads towards Joe.

ROCCO

Yeah...I am fine...

Joe calls Rocco over to his table. He waves him over to get close to him where Joe whispers in his ear someone no one else can hear them.

JOE

So kid..I have to ask you something
and don't lie to me..you
understand!

Rocco nods back to Joe.

Are you seeing Marie from the
coatroom?

Rocco gets nervous.

ROCCO

Were just friends... How do you
know that I am seeing her...

Joe cuts him off.

JOE

Listen kid...we all know what's
going on here all the time in the
neighborhood. People talk. I am
just giving you heads up. Be a
little bit more careful..Do you
understand? Leo will not be happy
with you. He has trust issues with
everyone, including me.

ROCCO
Yeah..I understand.

JOE
Do you care for her?

Rocco smiles when he hears her name.

ROCCO
Yeah...A lot..I think I love her.

Joe just laughs.

JOE
Slow your roll kid with love. Just say you like her a lot and leave it at that. CAPICHE!

NARRATOR
I am confused now..why is Joe asking all the questions about Marie when Leo should asking these questions, not Joe. After all it's his daughter.

Leo comes out of the kitchen and see's Joe is talking to Rocco. Rocco and Joe change their position and lower there voices so Leo can't hear.

ROCCO (WHISPERS)
Keep it our secret!

JOE
Sure..kid...just remember what I said.

Rocco nods. Leo comes up to them.

LEO
How is treating you kid?

ROCCO
Good...he is teaching me a lot.

LEO
That's what I want to hear...I have a lot invested in you kid.

Joe just gives him a look since he knows what's that like. Rocco smiles back.

ROCCO
Yes..I understand!

NARRATOR

Boy that was close. Can't have Leo know I like his daughter. Not only would Leo not approve, but my mother wouldn't either, knowing I was seeing the daughter of a mafia capo.

INT. CAR- DAY

Rocco is sitting in the back seat and Joe driving a Cadillac Seville with Gazz in the front passenger seat to Atlantic City. They pass signs stating Atlantic city. They are all smiles and are excited for me.

GAZZ

Here we are kid...Atlantic City like I promised.

NARRATOR

We are finally going to Atlantic City for the big competition. Leo couldn't come because of his new business ventures with guys in Brooklyn, so Gazz and Joe accompanied me to Atlantic City. Gazz tells me, if I make the top three, I will be heading to Vegas. All our hard work is paying off.

EXT. FRONT OF CASINO-AFTERNOON.

Joe pulls up and several valet workers come up to greet us. They open the doors for us and get our bags. A male VALET, 40's greets Gazz.

VALET

Good afternoon Mr Godzilli and welcome back.

GAZZ

It's good to be back.

He pulls out some cash and tips the valet. All three enter the casino.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-AFTERNOON

All three enter the Casino suite and Rocco is in awe never seen such a huge hotel room. The room is huge and gorgeous.

ROCCO

Wow...what a room...look at the view Joe...that's the ocean out there.

Joe and Gazz are just smiling seeing the excitement on the kids face.

GAZZ

Now you're much closer to getting what you want right.

ROCCO

I sure am...is this a dream? Because it feels like a dream.

Rocco is in awe as he looks around at the room and the view.

JOE

It's real kid and now it's up to you to follow your dream tonight.

Looking at Joe.

GAZZ

I am heading down to play the tables....Joe you know what to do.

Joe nods.

Gazz heads out the hotel room.

JOE

Okay kid time to get down to business. Let's start with Luck be a lady tonight.

He pulls out his guitar. Joe sits in a chair with his guitar and starts playing as Rocco stands and starts singing the first few notes of the song.

CUT TO:

NT. HOTEL ROOM-AFTERNOON

INSERT SHOT: Later Gazz comes up and enters the room. He is all smiles as he pulls out a wad of cash.

ROCCO

Wow! You won all that money?

Joe just smiles and winks at Gazz.

GAZZ

Oh boy it's going to be a good night. I can feel it. You ready kid?

Rocco nods excitedly

ROCCO

Yup..let's do this.

INT. SIDE STAGE- NIGHT

Rocco is getting nervous before getting on as he watches another young kid performing on stage.

CUT TO:

The kid is singing on stage to the audience.

CUT TO:

INT.SIDESTAGE-NIGHT

SFX: Boy singing in background.

ROCCO

I am getting nervous Joe. Some of these guys sound real good Joe.

Joe looks straight into his eyes.

JOE

Listening to me. My old teacher Mrs Crawford...I will never forget that woman...anyway she always told me never let anyone intimidate you. You are talented. Go out and let them see the real you. The real you Rocco. Show them who you are. It's your turn to shine kid.

Rocco nods that he understands as he looks towards the stage.

The kid ends his song and the audience applauds him.

The M/C male 50's in a tuxedo on stage now is introducing Rocco.

M/C

Let's give a nice warm welcome to a young singer coming all the way from the Bronx New York.

(MORE)

M/C (CONT'D)
 Rocco Trombetta. Let's hear it for
 Rocco....

The audience claps and the M/C exits stage to the other side.

Rocco nods nervously heads out to the center of the stage..
 Gazz comes up to Joe to watch from the side stage as Rocco
 heads out to the stage standing next to Joe.

GAZZ
 What's he singing first?

JOE
 And I love her so by Perry Como.

Rocco grabs the mike and swings it like a sling like Tom
 Jones

Rocco now on stage performing.

The song ends and the audience rises to their feet for a
 standing ovation. Rocco bows and heads off the stage and hugs
 Joe and Gazz.

GAZZ (EXCITED)
 You did it kid..

JOE (PROUD)
 You were great kid.
 Come let's go celebrate.

INT. RESTAURANT TABLE IN CASINO-NIGHT

Gazz, Joe and myself were eating and drinking like kings.
 There is a huge spread of steak and lobsters on the table.
 Gazz and Joe drinking champagne and Gazz give's a glass to
 Rocco to try. Rocco tastes it and shrugs it off not liking
 it. They are all laugh.

NARRATOR
 I felt so good at that that moment.
 Joe and Gazz were celebrating and
 drinking champagne. They even let
 me taste it. I didn't like the
 bubbly taste. I felt like David
 taking down goliath. I came and
 knocked it out of the park. For one
 brief moment, I thought about and
 wanted to thank Mr Luciano for
 starting me on my singing career.

INSERT SHOT: Rocco singing at Luciano's Barber shop.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
I took third place making me
eligible to go to Vegas. And even
got a cut of a \$1,000 from the
\$5,000 prize. What a night.

INT. CAR PULLING INFRONT OF ROCCO'S BUILDING -MORNING

Rocco was in the back seat sleeping. They pull up in front of his building and wake him up.

GAZZ
Hey kid..wake up..your home.

Rocco opens his eyes and sits up and looks around.

EXT. FRONT OF BUILDING-MORNING

Joe gets out of car and goes to trunk and grabs Rocco's luggage. Rocco exits back door and Joe hugs Rocco and hands him his luggage.

JOE
You did good kid. Go and tell mom
the good news.

Rocco heads towards his building to go in. Gazz says goodbye while sitting in the car.

GAZZ
Get some rest kid... we will talk
soon.

They pull away and Rocco waves good bye as he watches them drive away.

NARRATOR
Mr Godzilli is a good man. And I
like him a lot. After all, he was
the one who discovered me in the
record store and suggested I sing
at Saint Anthony's Feast.

Rocco is tired, but excited as he enters into his building.

INT. ROCCO'S APARTMENT-MORNING

Rocco enters into the apartment and his mom is washing dishes in the sink. She stops and turns to Rocco as she is drying her hand with a towel and is excited that Rocco is back.

MRS MAURO
So how did it go?...

Rocco is playing sad like it didn't go well.

Come on your killing me...

ROCCO
Well I didn't win first place.

She comforts him with a hug.

MRS MAURO
It's okay Rocco..I'm sure you did
your best.

Rocco finally blurts it out.

ROCCO
But I did take third and I qualify
for Vegas.... I am going to Vegas
Ma.

She reacts with excitement jumping up with Rocco.

MRS MAURO
Oh my God....I am so proud of you
Rocco...Your father is smiling down
on you right now.

Gennaro comes out of the room who was still sleeping.

GENNARO
What's with all the yelling for?

MRS MAURO
Rocco won third and is now going to
Vegas.

Gennaro smiles and gives him a high five.

GENNARO
Alright little brother...your the
real deal. Congratulations...I
mean it...but don't think I am not
going to still be looking out for
you.

Rocco smiles and gives Gennaro a hug.

ROCCO
Thanks big brother. Any kid would
be proud to have a brother like
you.

GENNARO

Okay...enough..I need coffee.

Mom and Rocco keep up with the excitement.

EXT. INFRONT OF AMICI'S -NIGHT

Rocco is standing outside just finished working when Joe and Gazz pulls up in a car. Gazz is driving. Joe in the passenger seat. Joe rolls down is window.

JOE

Hey kid..Where you going?

ROCCO

Just heading home.

JOE

Hop in the back...you want to hear some good music.

Rocco is hesitant.

ROCCO

I really should go home.

Joe steps out of the car and opens the back door for Rocco to get in. Rocco finally agrees and gets in. The car drives off.

INT. CAR-NIGHT

Rocco is sitting in the back seat and starts asking questions.

ROCCO

So where we going?

GAZZ

Were going to a real jazz club on Webster Ave.

JOE

You're going to love it...you are going to hear some real cool music. I go there every Tuesday night.

Rocco getting nervous.

ROCCO

I was told not to go out past the 10 block zone. You know stay in my own neighborhood.

GAZZ

Relax kid...your with us.

Gazz proudly displays a gun is his waist band.

JOE

Remember this kid...music breaks
all kind of boundaries, including
those of hate and skin color.

They are driving thru the streets heading up to Webster
Avenue and they pull up him front a club Called Lucy's.

NARRATOR

It was a Jazz club called Lucy's. A
black jazz club. It had all the
Black and Latino jazz musicians
from New York City. Only Blacks and
Latino's could play there. Then I
find out Joe was called the white
BB King. He could play blues. The
locals called him "Gatto Soave"
which means Cool Cat. And I
thought I was just starting to know
who he is being with him everyday.

They get out of car and leave it with a black valet. Gazz
tips the valet. They enter into the club.

INT. LUCY'S CLUB-NIGHT

The club is hopping and there is a black jazz band playing on
stage. Rocco is just amazed at everything going on. They head
up to the bar where LUCY, owner Puerto Rican Woman 40's is
just standing watching the show. She see's Joe coming and
gets excited and runs up to him.

SFX: Jazz music playing in the back ground.

LUCY

There's my favorite man.

She comes out from the bar and gives Joe a big kiss.

JOE

How are you Lucy?

Then she kisses Gazz and looks at Rocco.

LUCY

Gazz...and who is this little guy?

Joe being proud like he is introducing is own son.

JOE

Lucy..I would like to introduce to you my good friend Rocco...he's got a voice of an angel.

Lucy is impressed. Rocco is blushing.

LUCY

You must be good for Joe to bring you here. Your the first kid. Joe never brings any competition here.

She puts her hand out to shake Rocco's hand and he reciprocates.

It's an honor to meet you Rocco

ROCCO

You too...this is a great club.

Gazz leans into Rocco.

GAZZ

This could be you one day Rocco.

Rocco looks around the room listening to the jazz band playing on stage. He is all smiles and he turns and looks at Joe and Lucy having a drink together all cozy.

EXT. BOTANICAL GARDENS -MORNING

Marie and Rocco are walking thru the gardens.

NARRATOR

I learned my lesson not to walk thru the neighborhood since everyone knows other people business.

MARIE

I am so proud of you winning in Atlantic City.

ROCCO

I took third...but yes, it gets me to Vegas.

MARIE

I just wish my father wasn't involved.

ROCCO

I know how you feel about him, but if it wasn't for your father I wouldn't be going to Vegas.

MARIE

I want you to come into Manhattan with me and meet some of my friends from the music school. Your going to like them...

NARRATOR

I wasn't sure if I wanted to hang out with her weird friends. I remembered what Joe said about his experience with the other students. They were into drugs and different ideas. They weren't me. But I guess if I auditioned to this school I would eventually have to rub elbows with them.

ROCCO

I guess so.

Marie smiles and gets excited.

MARIE

Your going to love my friends.

He pretends to smile as they keep walking thru the gardens.

EXT.SUBWAY STATION 59TH STREET CENTRAL PARK -AFTERNNON

Rocco and Marie coming up the stairs from the subway. They start walking thru the park and end up at the theatre called Lincoln Plaza Cinema

INT. LINCOLN PLAZA THEATRE-AFTERNOON

Rocco and Marie are sitting down watching Franco Zeffrelli's Romeo and Juliet.

INSERT: Clip of Romeo and Juliet playing on screen. They hold hands while sitting in the theatre.

EXT. LINCOLN PARK THEATRE-AFTERNOON

They exited the theatre holding hands.

MARIE
I just love that movie.

ROCCO
Yeah...I know what you mean. I can relate to it.

As he looks at Marie. She pulls him excited.

MARIE
Come on...lets go meet my friends.
They are waiting for me in the park.

EXT. OUTDOOR STAGE-AFTERNOON

They continue walking thru the park until they reach an open outside theatre. Her friends are there. All young about 16 to 17 years old. There are 5 of them. SUZANNE, 17 red hair comes up to hug her. She looks at Rocco after the hug.

SUZANNE
You made it...

She eyes Rocco.
He's cute. Marie.

Rocco just smiles back.

MARIE
On top of that he can sing really good.

TOMMY, 16 years old Brown hair.

TOMMY
Come to the stage..it's calling your name. Marie...Marie..

When Marie runs up to them to greet them on stage. Rocco takes a seat on the concrete steps.

NARRATOR
I am just sitting admiring them pretending to be performing in a Broadway singing and dancing on stage. I mean they weren't half way bad. They all lived in the city and finally one by one they left leaving the stage to ourselves.

Marie climbs the ladder and heads to the top. Rocco gets up and gets on the stage heading to the bottom of the ladder.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Marie is on top of the ladder
pretending to be Juliet. She looks
so beautiful. I started reciting
the beginning of Romeo and Juliet

ROCCO

But soft, what light through yonder
window breaks, it is East and
Juliet is the sun...it is my love,
it is my Juliet

Rocco climbs up the ladder on the other side until he reaches her and he looks into her eyes. They are now face to face. Their eyes gazing at each other smiling and suddenly their lips are locked for their first kiss.

NARRATOR

At that moment my body felt as if I
was going thru a frenzy of
emotions. Happy, nervous and
scared. Did she like it as much as
I did.

As they continue to kiss. His ears are lead to a sound in the distance. He stops and looks in the direction of the sound.

SFX: Harmonica sound playing in a distance.

Then I heard a harmonica playing
and I thought I was imaging it.
After the kiss, I looked and there
he was, a man playing the
harmonica. But he was playing the
theme to Romeo and Juliet at that
perfect moment of our first kiss.

CUT TO:

There is an old man in his 60's with long gray hair sitting on the stage playing the theme to Romeo and Juliet. He stops for a moment looks at them and smiles and continues playing.

CUT BACK TO:

Rocco and Marie are laughing and continue kissing on the ladder.

INT. SUBWAY TRAIN- AFTERNOON

Rocco and Marie on the D Train sitting next to each other with other people on the train when it reaches 149th street. The Conductor comes over the train intercom.

TRAIN CONDUCTOR (O.S.)
 We are currently are experiencing
 technical difficulties and will
 move as soon as we are clear.

The lights on the train were flashing on and off making it very Eerie. Then it gets real frightening real quick when six young black kids ages 14 to 17 get into the train car. In the train car there is an older black man with his wife, a woman with a baby who holds her tighter afraid of them. And two elderly woman also scared of these young men.

NARRATOR
 They were being very obnoxious. I had a feeling we were about to get jumped. This is not a good area in the Bronx. We were only a few stops from home. Things we getting tense. They were headed right for us.

One of the kids, 17 years old black male called DRE.

DRE
 Yo white breads...what you doing in our territory... And in my subway car.

They all start circling around Rocco and Marie. They are saying racial shit and Rocco knows he has to do something as scared as he is. A second kid makes a comment to Marie. A black teen 15 named TJ gets close to Marie.

TJ
 We'll especially take care of your beautiful white girlfriend.

NARRATOR
 It's flight or fight mode now. I am praying to St Michael now.

The other riders are to scared to intervene.

The kid goes to touch Marie and Rocco stands up to him.

ROCCO
 If you touch her you have to go thru me first.

Dre gets into his face.

DRE
 You a courageous white boy...You think you can take on all six of us.

Then one of the other kids goes to grab Marie and Rocco loses it and punches are thrown. One punch catching Rocco in the eye dropping him to the ground. Marie is yelling for them to stop. She is crying and in tears.

MARIE

Stop it...please stop hurting him.
He has done nothing to you,

The elderly black man tries to intervene. One of the other kids yells at him to sit down. TROY, 15 years old. He pulls out a switch blade and waves it at the old man.

TROY

Sit your old ass down if you know
what's good for you.

The old man retreats back into the seat. Suddenly the car door opens from the other end and two more black kids are heading right for them. Rocco looks up from the ground knowing it is not going well for him and Marie.

NARRATOR

Shit two more. I am so fucked. How
am I going to have to explain to
Leo that I couldn't protect his
daughter. Either way I was dead.

They approach the other six dudes. BLACK TEEN #1 17 years old
and BLACK TEEN #2

BLACK TEEN #1

Yo who are these white kids doing
in our neighborhood?

Rocco looks up at the guy as blood is dripping from his eye as he lays on the floor of the train car. He looks at him he as he seems familiar but can't place him. He looks up again at them and the kid looks down at him.

The conductor comes over the speaker:

CONDUCTOR (O.S.)

Okay we will be moving shortly.

NARRATOR

And behold at that moment I
recognized them as the two that
were being chased by Stinky and his
crew.

His attitude changes when he recognizes Rocco.

Black teen # 2 yells at the other six dudes.

BLACK TEEN #2
Yo! YO! Back off..

Dre challenges Black teen #1

DRE
What you mean back off..

Black teen #1 gets in his face.

Rocco now standing up and looking him straight in the eye.

NARRATOR
My emotions are running fast. So
the two I saved are now are my
threat. What a piece of shit they
are. I should have let Stinky beat
his ass.

BLACK TEEN #1
Cause I said so...

Dre and the others back off and heads towards the door. The train starts moving and then comes to the 161st stop, where the six dudes get off the train and we were now in the custody of these two.

ROCCO
What will you do with us now?

Black teen looks him straight in the eye as Marie holds on to Rocco's hand get nervous.

BLACK TEEN #1
What do think we will do with you.

Rocco is clenching his fist thinking he has to fight again.

BLACK TEEN #2
We will ride with you all the way
up to your perimeter of your
neighborhood. Then...get you a cab.

Rocco and Marie are in disbelief what he just said.

BLACK TEEN #1
Until your safe in your
neighborhood. Don't think we didn't
remember what you and your brother
did for us.

Rocco stands down and looks at Marie comforting her it's over.

NARRATOR

I was so relieved that he remembered. I take back what I just said. It was redemption time for them and they did the right thing.

EXT. STREET-AFTERNOON.

Marie is still crying, but thankful. Black teen # 2 has his hand up for a cab. A cab pulls over and one of the teens opens the door for them. Black teen #1 gives Rocco his handkerchief to wipe the blood off.

BLACK TEEN #1

You be safe now...

Rocco wipes the blood off his face.

ROCCO

You too...and thank you. Here you go.

BLACK TEEN #1

You keep it...a memento. Besides it's got blood on it.

They all laugh and Rocco and Marie get into the back of the cab. They all shake and say goodbye. The cab drives away. The two black kids walk away.

INT. INSIDE BACK SEAT-AFTERNNON

Marie and Rocco are holding hands thankful to be alive.

NARRATOR

What started out as a fun day to my first kiss with Marie ended up with a life threatening situation for both of us. The thoughts going thru my head now... how was I going to explain to Leo, my mother and Gennaro who always told me don't go past the 10 block radius. A valuable lesson learned. It was getting late and we both had to get to work at the restaurant. We didn't have time to go home.

EXT. AMICI'S RESTAURANT-EVENING

Cab pulls up in front of Amici's and they get out of cab. They head to a side door that leads up to the apartment.

NARRATOR

So we decided to go directly to the upstairs apartment above the restaurant to clean up.

INT.APARTMENT ABOVE RESTAURANT BATHROOM-NIGHT

Rocco is washing his face in the bathroom looking in the mirror his eye is cut and swollen. Marie is brushing her hair behind Rocco trying to get ready as well.

ROCCO

Oh man...look at my face...They are going to know I was in a fight.

SFX: They hear the sound of a door opening.

Rocco and Marie get nervous of who is coming in. They are trying to be quiet.

Leo walks directly towards the bathroom and finds both of them there acting nervous.

LEO

What's going on in here. What have you two been up to?

Rocco is trying to cover his bruises by turning away not facing Leo. He then looks at Marie and see's some scratches on her hands. Get gets mad really quick.

LEO (CONT'D)

Why are you turning your head. Look at me. I'm talking to you. What happened to you?

He grabs Rocco by his face and see's the cut and swelling of his face.

LEO (CONT'D)

Where did you bring my daughter to? You have been gone all afternoon. Answer me you little fucking piece of shit.

Marie interjects.

MARIE

Stop it...its not his fault.

Leo gets really angry. Marie doesn't leave standing her ground against Leo.

LEO

Get out of my sight... I don't care whose fault it is.

NARRATOR

I was going to be the default in all of this no matter what I said.

Leo grabs Rocco by his collar and pins him against the wall.

ROCCO

Please... I can explain everything.

Rocco is scared shitless.

MARIE

Stop it....and I'm not leaving him alone with you.

LEO

Fine..you don't want to get out of my sight.

He starts poking his index finger into Rocco's forehead.
Okay . If she doesn't leave then you will.

Now he smacks Rocco in the forehead.

You're fired...get out of my sight.
I never want to see you around here or any place near my daughter...I will rip you a new asshole.

Marie gets mad at Leo and talks back to him.

MARIE

Your a no good son of a bitch. I wish I was never born to you.

He really gets enraged and shoves her.

LEO

You're probably right...and your not my daughter.Because If you were my daughter you would worship me and the ground I walk on for all I do for you.

Rocco tries to step in but Leo puts him back into place.

ROCCO

Leo you have it all wrong...

LEO

And you...I have been on you the whole time. You don't think I don't know what was going on here. I gave you enough rope to hang yourself.

Suddenly Joe and Gazz come rushing in to the room to intervene. Joe gets into Leo's face putting his hands on him backing him up.

JOE AND GAZZ

Leo...Leo stop it.

Leo turns to them angrily. Gazz tries to pull Rocco and Marie away from Leo.

GAZZ

Rocco...Marie come over here...Get behind me.

LEO

(TO JOE)
You better get your hands off me.

Joe steps back one step.

JOE

Your out of control Leo.

Rocco and Marie go behind Gazz.

LEO

This is none of your business..Get back to work the both of you.

Nobody is moving. Leo is now sarcastically smirking.

LEO (CONT'D)

I see what's going here. They are you both your prized possessions...like her mother once was. Or do think she is your daughter and not mine.

JOE

Your such an asshole Leo.

Leo steps into Joe's face looking down at him since Joe is shorter than Leo.

LEO

If you ever put your hands on me again... I will put you on the streets with a cracked skull and ten broken fingers...you will never play again.

Leo looks at Gazz.

And if you want to go with him the door is right there.

Joe wanted to unleash on Leo, but Gazz puts his hand up to calm the situation down. Joe then keeps his cool.

GAZZ

Just don't put your hands on the kids that's all.

LEO

Don't ever tell me what to do Gazz!

NARRATOR

At that point I was just trying to hold my tears back, but I was unsuccessful because I was the cause of all of this. If I had just told Marie no about going to Manhattan, none of this would have happened.

Gazz escorts Marie past me and I was in tears.

ROCCO

I'm sorry Marie. This should have never happened.

MARIE

There is nothing to be sorry for Rocco. I'm sorry you lost your job, but happy now, that you don't have to listen to my bastard father anymore.

Marie turns to Joe with her sad eyes.

And you...I still don't understand why you are still around this miserable place.

She looks at Leo

Putting up with this loser who is supposed to be my father. It's obvious that you care for me more than my own so-called father.

(MORE)

MARIE (CONT'D)

But at the end of the day, you're
not even family to me.

Joe looks at her with his melancholy face.

JOE

It will all be fine one day, you'll
see, the truth will set you free.

Rocco heads for the door.

NARRATOR

I didn't understand what he meant
by that comment. I wiped away my
tears as I headed for the door
without saying goodbye to anyone
with my tail between my legs.

Rocco and Leo just stare looking at each other as Rocco
leaves.

EXT. STREETS CORNER -BRONX -AFTERNOON

Rocco is kneeling on the ground shining shoes for a customer
who is sitting on the steps of an apartment building on
Beaumont and 187th street.

NARRATOR

Weeks went by and I was back to
shining shoes. I went from riches
to rags and my money was running
low. Mom was getting concerned
because I was getting depressed. My
dreams slipped thru my hands all
for day in the park with Marie.

INT.RECORD STORE-AFTERNOON

Rocco is talking to MR CAPRI, older Italian male 60's owner
of shop. Mr Capri shakes his head. He has his shoe shine box
with him.

MR CAPRI

I'm sorry Rocco...its already
filled

Rocco walks out rejected as he heads out the door.

NARRATOR

I tried getting Gennaro's old job back at Música del Casa, but Mr Capri already hired somebody else. Things are not looking good for me.

INT. AMICI RESTAURANT-EVENING

Joe and Gazz are talking to Leo at the bar trying to convince Leo to bring Rocco back.

GAZZ

Come Leo bring the kid back..It was an honest mistake.

LEO

No, I don't want him back.

JOE

Leo all the customers like the kid.. It's good for business.

GAZZ

Yeah, business as been down lately.

LEO

I know that...the answer is still no... not in my restaurant.

Joe and Gazz are disgusted with Leo.

EXT. STREET IN BRONX-AFTERNOON.

Rocco is sitting by himself with his shoe box and no customers as people just walk past him.

NARRATOR

I was desperate. Gazz had booked me in Vegas on a show called the GONG Show. It was my big shot. It was a once in a lifetime shot. So right there and then I decided to go to the restuarant and swallow my pride and ask Leo for my old job back.

He gets up and hands another kid his show shine box. A young kid 14 years old. Mario the Shiner.

ROCCO

Hey kid....here... It's yours now.

He hands the kid his shoe shine box and walks away as the kid looks inside the box.

INT. BACK DOOR AMICI'S RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON

Rocco comes into the back door of the restaurant not knowing what to expect. I notice Leo was on the phone inside the phone booth.

NARRATOR

Leo didn't notice me and I didn't want him to think I was sneaking up on him. I noticed he had his foot on a pedestal and when he moved his foot a secretive compartment was there with a gun in it. He see's me at that moment looking and he triggers it back to its first position.

Leo hangs up the phone. He gets out of booth coming at me.

LEO

What do you want? I thought I told you not to never show your face around here again.

ROCCO

I came here to apologize to you man to man for what happened that day for bringing Marie into the city

CUT TO:

INT.BAR AREA RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON

This is more a visual shot:

Leo brings me into the bar area. He berates me for an hour. We show Leo yelling and pointing his finger at Rocco pacing back and forth as Rocco just sits there taking the abuse.

NARRATOR

After an hour of abuse name calling and threats, he finally offers me my old job back.

LEO

Now go and grab your apron and get back to work.

ROCCO

Thank you Leo..thank you.. You
won't regret it.

Rocco smiles and he goes and gets an apron and puts it on. Joe is setting up a table as he watched the whole ordeal. Joe smiles and nods to Rocco and Rocco nods back as he looks for a quick peek at Marie at the coatroom, but no one is there.

NARRATOR

I have been back for a week now and was happy to be singing again. Leo made it very clear to focus on singing there and nothing else but music with Joe. Marie was happy I was there, but I had to make sure not to make any wrong moves with her at the restaurant. I kept my distance from her. Leo told me that Marie was just using me and jealous of me for my singing. I didn't believe that for a minute.

INT.AMICI'S RESTAURANT-MORNING

Joe and Rocco are rehearsing. The restaurant is not open yet.

JOE

Rocco you got to get this down.
Vegas is only a month away.

ROCCO

I know Joe...I will. Just tired and
I am getting behind in my classes.

Leo walks in on that line.

LEO

Don't worry about your teachers. I
will send Tony the Chin over and
make sure you get al passing
grades.

ROCCO

You can do that? Just not my music
teacher..She Already gave me an A.

Joe just nods. Leo smiles and heads back into the kitchen.

LEO (LAUGHING)

Do you know who I am...I am the
boss around here.

Rocco and Joe go back to singing.

INT. BUTCHER SHOP-MORNING

Mrs Mauro see's Gazz in the shop and says hello to Mr Gazz.

MRS MAURO
Hello Mr GodZilli.. How are you?
How are your parents doing.

GAZZ
Mrs Mauro...fine. They are in
Florida now.

MRS MAURO
Can I ask you something? How is
Rocco really doing?

GAZZ
He is doing fine...would you like
to see for yourself.

MRS MAURO
Yes...how?

GAZZ
Come with me!

He puts his arm out and Mrs Mauro puts her arm thru his and they exit the shop.

INT. AMICI'S RESTAURANT-MORNING

Gazz and Mrs Mauro come into the restaurant. Joe see's them but Rocco has his back turned as he is singing. Mrs Mauro smiles hearing his beautiful voice.

NARRATOR
He assured her that all was fine
that Joe and I were working hard
preparing for our trip to Vegas.

Her eyes filled with tears of joy as Gazz leads her out without Rocco not evening knowing she was there.

EXT.FRONT OF AMICI'S =MORNING

Gazz assures her everything is fine. Mrs Mauro is smiling and wiping away her tears with a handkerchief.

MRS MAURO

Thank you..I see he is working hard.

Gazz is smooth. He takes her hand and looks her directly in her eyes. He says line in Italian.

GAZZ

Ti promettoche tutto apossto.

Translates: I promise you all is fine. She returns in Italian

MRS MAURO

Mi fido in te... Thank you for allowing me to see this for myself. Have a nice day.

Translates: I trust in you. Gazz tips his hat to her with a smile.

She walks away from restaurant. Gazz grabs a cigarette from his pocket and light one up.

INT.PRIVATE ROOM-NIGHT

The restaurant is closed and there is a private party since we are leaving for Vegas tomorrow. Mostly Leo's crew is there like Tony the Chin, Frankie the nutcracker and a few others.

NARRATOR

Tomorrow is the big day. We are leaving for Vegas and Leo was throwing a little party for us. I walk into the room and see Gazz, but Joe's not there.

Rocco walks up to Gazz.

ROCCO

Hey where is Joe? Is he coming?

GAZZ

He was tired and said he would see us in the morning when the limo picks us up.

ROCCO

Okay...I guess so.

NARRATOR

Leo is getting obnoxious between drinking and snorting to much white shit.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

He starts getting loud in the room bragging who he is and people better start respecting him.

Leo getting loud and yelling.

LEO

You know some people in this room better learn to appreciate me...I give them fucking everything.

He looks at Rose and Marie particularly.

ROSE

Stop it Leo...stop it. Don't do that here in front of everyone.

Leo touches Rose inappropriately on her ass and pushes him away and then Rose smacks him in the face in front of everyone.

The room becomes silent.

As she starts to storm out he grabs her by her wrist. He has this demonic look on his face.

LEO

If you ever put your hands on me again I will put in bullet in your head right here and now. The two of you...you're both spoiled rotten little bitches.

At that moment both Rose grabbing Marie by the hand start heading towards the exit of the private room. Slowly all the guys started talking again not to confront Leo as he looks around the room including me.

NARRATOR

Leo was a ticking time bomb. Everyone in the room saw and heard everything. He was humiliated in front of his crew. He knew he had to do something.

He started heading down after them. Rocco looks at Gazz who didn't follow at first.

GAZZ

Rocco don't get involved.

NARRATOR

When your in the mob...you never get involved in family business.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

So since I wasn't in the mob. I ran downstairs to help which then forced Gazz to follow.

Rocco heads down and Gazz makes a face now following Rocco.

INT. BAR ANICI'S -NIGHT

Leo is yelling at Rose at the bar and Marie is behind her crying. Rocco and Gazz come down to the bar as Rose is yelling at Leo.

ROSE (ANGRY)

If I could go back in time I would have never married your ass. I should have stayed with Joe.

Rocco is shocked what he just heard.

NARRATOR

Wow, Rose just revealed that she was with Joe before she was with Leo. Did I just hear that right! Now I find out Joe and Rose were an item, but Leo convinced Rose that Joe was just a dreamer and a nobody.

ROSE

If I could have divorced you I would have...but for Marie's safety I stayed with you...you tormented ego maniac...

Rose starts to mock him imitating him.

I'm the boss look at me. Nobody will mess with me...This is my neighborhood.

Leo is getting real pissed and starts breaking bottles and throwing them against the wall. Some of the guys are coming down to see what is going on. Gazz stops them from getting involved. Rocco is scared looking at Gazz to do something.

LEO

You fucking ungrateful fucking whore and your bitch of a daughter.

He pulls out his gun from his holster and points it at Rose then at Marie.

Your both going to die...right here right now.

Marie is crying and yelling.

MARIE

Leo put the gun down.

LEO

You shut the fuck up. You are nothing to me...Your probably not even my daughter.

NARRATOR

The room goes silent. Marie is not her daughter. His guys are confused not knowing what to do.

He looks back at Rose.

You want a divorce Rose...I can make it happen right here and now.

Gazz intercedes.

GAZZ

Leo don't do it.

LEO

You keep your mouth shut.

Marie looks at Rose.

MARIE

Wait Mom...are you telling me that Joe is my real father...and not this piece of shit.

ROSE

Yes, Marie Joe is your real father...that's why he was always looking out for you. To protect you from this douche bag.

Leo looks at him getting pissed.

LEO

So I'm the douche bag?

ROSE (DOESN'T CARE NOW)

Yeah Leo...Marie is not yours...she is Joe's. I would rather die then bring a child from you into this world. Joe and I were engaged and my mother convinced my father that I was better off with you and told Joe he would not give him permission to marry me. All because of you...all because you were some big shot with money and fancy cars.

LEO

So you lied to me the whole time
you fucking whore...were you
fucking him behind me back?

ROSE

And what if I did...you ain't half
the man he is..

LEO

Yeah...and you got jealous when he
was fucking that Puerto Rican bitch
Lucy...You know what... I am done
with both of you.

Camera on Rocco as things get tense as Leo keeps pointing the
gun at the 2 of them.

ROCCO

Gazz do something?

GAZZ

Stay out of this...

NARRATOR

The truth is Lucy confided in Joe
because she was abused by her
stepfather and when she went on her
own. Joe helped her out with some
cash and Lucy never forgot that.
That's why he plays at the club.

ROSE

You think you know it all...well so
do I. I already knew that, Joe told
me everything and Gazz told me the
truth that it was you that broke
Joe's contract, not Gazz.

Leo looks at Gazz.

LEO

So your all a part of this...Then
you all need to go down.

He grabs Marie and puts the broken edge of the bottle to her
throat.

CUT TO:

Rocco slips out of the room and goes to phone booth. He
slowly dials the rotary phone to call Joe.

ROCCO

Joe hurry down at the restaurant...

Rocco leaves the phone hanging down not disconnected.

Leo still has Marie and guiding her to the phone booth. He points the gun at me.

LEO

Who did you call...the police...So you were the rat.

Rose rushes towards Leo as Rocco drops to the floor fearing he was going to be shot. She grabs Leo's arm as they struggle for control of the broken bottle. Leo shoves her to the ground as she falls and hits her head against a chair and passes out. Leo moves cutting her slightly on her throat now blood is coming down her throat. Marie is crying.

MARIE

Mom! Mom!

At that moment Joe comes in with a 45 pistol and points it at Leo.

JOE

Put it down or I swear I will put one right between your eye balls.

Leo holds Marie tighter now.

LEO

Go ahead..I dare you too. I will slice her from ear to ear. She is nothing to me.

Marie is now petrified she is going to die now. Joe and Marie look at each other. Marie tries to say something.

MARIE

Please Dad...put it down..I don't want to lose you now.

Joe realizes she called him dad and he drops the gun. Leo shoves Marie into Joe as he goes for his gun on the bar. Leo turns and fires and Joe pulls Marie to the side and Joe gets hit in the stomach. He was protecting his daughter. He drops to the floor in pool of blood. Marie is crying out is name.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Joe...Joe no..please don't die on me.

This scene is done in slow mode for effect. To get reactions as things get tense.

NARRATOR

Joe is not moving and can't get to his gun...at that moment I remember Leo's secret compartment to his gun in the booth.

Rocco goes to the phone booth and releases the trap to get the gun.

I run to it and retrieve it and I comeback and point it at Leo.

He points gun at Leo.

Leo is pointing the gun at Rose and Marie about to shoot them both, who on the floor hugging each other fearing they are about to die together.

They both are screaming.

MARIE AND ROSE

No...

Rocco hands are shaking pointing the gun at Leo.

Closeup of Rocco slowly trying to pull the trigger.

ROSE

Somebody please help us...isn't there anyone of you who will help us.

Shot of his crew just watching not getting involved.

SFX: TWO SHOTS ARE FIRED.

Rocco jumps in response to shots fired. He reacts knowing he didn't fire. The shots came behind him. Camera pans around and we see Gazz standing there holding his gun which is in the direction of Leo fatally killing him.

Leo drops to the floor in disbelief being shot twice in the chest. Rocco runs to the bar and grabs a towel and runs up to Marie on the floor, holding her lifeless body applying pressure to her bloody wound.

End of slow speed shot.

NARRATOR

Needless to say I was sobbing and holding her beautiful lifeless body to my chest.

Gazz goes over to attend to Joe.

While Joe was being attended to by Gazz.

GAZZ

I'm sorry Joe. I should have come clean about Leo...it's my fault.

Rose awakens and see's Marie being held by Rocco crying over her body. She runs over to them.

ROSE

Marie...no my baby...stay with me.

SFX: We hears sirens in the background and we can see lights flashing thru the windows lighting up the bar.

All of Leo's crew slowly start to exit but first nod to Gazz as he is recognized as the new boss. Tony the Chin, Frankie the Nutcracker and others.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

A month later, things quiet down and everyone was healing. There is a change in the air in the Bronx. The heaviness that we all knew was now lifted. The truth came out and there was renewed hope for all of us.

INT.HOSPITAL BEDROOM-MORNING

Rocco, Marie and Rose are bed side wit Joe at the hospital all smiles as he recovers from his gun shot.

EXT.AMICI'S RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON

Gazz is standing at the door greeting people coming in to the restaurant. There is a big sign hanging down. Re-opening under new management. Tony the Chin and others greet Gazz, kissing him on both sides of the cheek as the restaurant reopens since the shooting.

NARRATOR

The restaurant finally reopens after the shooting since the Feds shut it down. Gazz became the boss and now ran the restaurant. Gazz was only slapped on the wrist for possession of the gun since it was self defense. Gazz is all smiles.

INT.LADY OF MT CARMEL-ALTAR-AFTERNOON.

Joe and Rose getting married by Father Paolo at the altar. He is surrounded by Marie, Lucy, Gennaro, Mrs Mauro, Gazz and Rocco. We are all smiling and happy for them.

NARRATOR

A month later Joe and Rose are officially getting married. Their love no longer can be torn apart by anyone this time.

FATHER DON PAOLO

I now pronounce you man and wife.
You may kiss the bride.

Joe is all smiles as he looks into her eyes.

JOE

I have been waiting a long time for this moment.

They kiss and everyone claps.

All Yell
Congratulations!

NARRATOR

Rocco looks at Marie and smiles.

Eventually Marie goes to Julliard School of Music and we just remain friends. Everyone got what they wanted. My dream of being a singer slowly drifted away. I was a little disappointed of my outcome until one day when I came home and got a gift only God could bring.

INT.ROCCO'S APARTMENT-AFTERNOON

Rocco comes into the apartment and see's the table is set up for a feast. Rocco is curious.

Gennaro is next to a Italian gentleman named NICOLA, Italian male 50's. Gennaro is talking in Italian with him.

ROCCO
Hey Mom...what's going on? What are we celebrating?

Mrs Mauro comes and grabs Rocco by the hand to lead him to the table. Gennaro is all smiles.

MRS MAURO
Rocco, you need to sit down...We have a surprise for you! Do you remember Nicola from Ischia? He came from Italy and he brought us something.

Rocco looks around the room.

ROCCO
Okay! Is it Mr Luciano?

MRS MAURO
No Rocco, something better.

Rocco is confused. She turns Rocco around and he turns as his father comes out of the bedroom. He is shocked.

ROCCO
Papa! Papa! How is this possible! I thought you were dead.

Rocco's father puts his arms out for a hug.

MR MAURO
Rocco...my son come here.

Rocco and Mr Mauro hug emotionally as they both are crying.

ROCCO
I don't understand!

MR Mauro pulls back and looks at Rocco.

MR MAURO
Let me look at you...you have grown to a strong young man...Mama says you can sing really good now.

ROCCO
Yeah...I sing like Nonno.

MR MAURO
Sit and I will explain everything

They all sit and grab a glass of wine and toast

ALL
To family!

They are all now catching up feasting on the meal.

NARRATOR
So my Father has returned from the
dead. He explained to me that when
the car went off the cliff.

INSERT SHOT: CAR GOING OVER CLIFF.
He had jumped out before it hit and
exploded.

INSERT SHOT: Mr Mauro swimming in water being lifted into a
small fishing boat.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
He started swimming to the other
side of the island when he was
picked up a local fisher man who
dropped him off at shore.

EXT.NICOLA HOUSE-AFTERNOON-

VISUAL ONLY NO DIALOGUE

Mr Mauro walking up to Nicola's house all wet.

INT.NICOLA HOUSE -AFTERNOON

Nicola handing him a towel to dry off and then a glass of
wine as the two sit and Mr Mauro tells him the story of
happened.

NARRATOR
He took shelter with Nicola, his
best friend who hide him from the
Camorra letting everyone think he
was dead to protect everyone.He
knew they would kill his family so
he had no choice but to send them
to America and let them think is
was dead.

CUT BACK TO:

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