

FADE-IN

INT. THE POKER ROOM

CLOSE-UP ON A PLAYERS HAND IN A POKER GAME. CAMERA CRANE UP AND DOLLY BACK REVEALING THREE OTHER PLAYERS, VAL, MICHAEL, AND SAM, AT THE TABLE ALL DRESSED IN SUITS WITH HOLSTERED GUNS. WE SEE THE BACK SIDE OF TONY'S HEAD.

Val, the oldest brother is sitting directly across from Tony looking at him.

VAL
Tony! You okay little brother?

TONY
Yeah, I'm fine. Just a little confused there for a second.

MICHAEL
Hey, what's new!

The table erupts in laughter. Tony reluctantly joins the laughter.

TONY
Must be these Gibsons we've been drinking. I think Arni forgot the vermouth.

Everyone laughs again as Arni enters the room.

ARNI
Hey, what's so funny guys?

VAL
Nothing Kid.
(puts hand on Arni's shoulder,
looking him in the eyes)
Thank You. I appreciate your work.

ARNI
Hey Val, lemme play cards with you fellas for once. Why wont you ever let me play? I'm not a kid anymore, Val.

VAL
(laughs)
I know Arni. You just aren't ready yet, that's all.

ARNI
But Val...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VAL
(cutting Arni off)
Look! **I** make the rules here. **I** am in charge. When your Father died, God rest his soul,
(crosses heart, others imitate simultaneously)
I was given this responsibility. So, you do what **I**
(slams his hand on the table)
tell you to do.

Arni drops the tray of glasses he is holding and drops down immediately cleaning it up.

ARNI
(kneeled down picking up glasses)
I'm sorry, Val, I'm sorry. You're right. I don't know what I was thinking, Val. I'm sorry.

Val leans down and help Arni up from his knees.

VAL
(puts his hand on Arni's shoulder, looking him in the eyes)
Look, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have yelled. I lost my temper and that was wrong of me.
(Pauses looking at the mess)
Don't worry about the mess, kid. We'll get it later.

ARNI
(drying his eyes)
Okay Val.

Anri exits

SAM
Val, why don't we let the kid stay? It's time he learned a little something about the family business.

VAL
I don't know Sammi. He just doesn't know enough about the world yet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM

Neither did we, Val, but Dad involved us anyway. It's time Val, He's as ready as he'll ever be.

VAL

(nods)

You're Right Sam. Thank You.

(to Arni who is outside the room)

Hey Kid

(pauses)

Anri. Bring us out some new drinks

(pauses)

And grab one for yourself, there's a card game waiting for you.

Arni runs in to the room

ARNI

(smiling)

Anything you say, Val. Thank you.

Arni runs back out

SAM

He's a good kid, Val. A real good kid.

MICHAEL

Hey, are we here to play cards or what?

ALL

Yeah, I'm ready...let's go...etc.

CAMERA MOVES BACK BEHIND TONY AND MOVES IN CLOSE TO HIS HAND AGAIN.

Time elapses over several games of cards. Players taking the pot, throwing down cards, laughing, throwing in chips. Arni, Sam, and Michael each stand and leave the table as the games progress. Val and Tony are left at the table alone.

VAL

So, It's down to you and me.

TONY

It looks that way.

Val stares right through Tony and Tony stares back equally as intently.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TONY (CONT'D)
(looking down at his hand then
back at Val, throws in a chip)
I raise you 5.

VAL
I see your 5 and raise you...20 more.
(throws in stack of chips)

TONY
(looks down at his hand and to
his chips. A bead of sweat
drips down his face. Fumbles
with his chips for a second
then takes a few of the top
and throws them in)
I will match that
(pauses and picks up the rest
of his chips)
and raise the rest of this.

VAL
(nods)
I'll call
(throws in a stack of chips)

TONY
(lays his cards out on the
table revealing 3 jacks and
two aces)
I believe they call that a full house.
(smiles)

VAL
(lays out his hand
expressionlessly revealing an
8, 9, 10, jack, and queen of
diamonds)
Straight Flush
(a large smile forms on his
face as he pulls the chips
toward him)
Nice game little brother.

TONY
(shrugs)
Maybe next time.

VAL
There may not be a next time in our kind
of business.

Arni looks frightened and confused at this statement.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

VAL (CONT'D)

Tomorrow is never promised to guys like us. No one ever gives us nothing. Remember that.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE-IN

INT. THE NEXT DAY - AT THE DINNER TABLE

MAMA walks through the door carrying a large pan of lasagna.

MAMA

Dinner is served. It's your favorite Michael, lasagna.

MICHAEL

Oh Mama your too good to us.
(kisses Mom on the cheek)

MAMA

Nothing is to good for my boys.
(pats Michael and Tony on the cheek)

Exit MAMA

Guys begin to eat

SAM

So Val, I've been having a lot of problems collecting from that idiot Scanucci. I thinks it's about time I let him know just how important we are to his business, but I wanted to run it past you first.

VAL

Hey! We don't talk business over dinner. What's the matter with you?

SAM

Wadda ya talkin about, Val? This is important. This guys been giving me bullshit excuses for weeks. I mean...

VAL

It can wait. We don't talk business over dinner. You know better than that.

(Val pauses to take a few bites
then turns to Tony)

So Tony, how's that little lady of yours?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TONY

Oh, she's fine. You know how dames are. They want to put a leash on you the first chance they get.

MICHAEL

Yeah, well sometimes a leash and maybe some handcuffs isn't such a bad thing, huh brother?

Everyone laughs

VAL

She's a good girl for you Tony; A nice girl. Don't you let her go.

TONY

I don't plan to.
(In a very thick Italian
accent)
That girl makes a mean spaghetti.

Everyone laughs

VAL

That's good. That's real good, little brother.

Mama walks back in and joins the boys.

FADE OUT.

FADE-IN

INT. THE NEXT DAY - VAL'S OFFICE

SHOT COMES UP ON VAL SITTING AT HIS DESK ON THE TELEPHONE.

VAL

Yeah, I understand. I'll take care of it. It's good that you came to me Vinni. That shows that you care about me. That lets me know that your my friend. You don't worry about any of this anymore. He wont be talking to nobody no more. Let Val take care of it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AS VAL LOOKS UP CAMERA PAN AND DOLLY BACK REVEALING SAM AND MICHAEL STANDING AT THE FRONT OF THE DESK

VAL (CONT'D)
We've got work to do. Get your brothers.
Let's go.

CUT TO:

EXT. LATER - AFTERNOON

LOW LEVEL SHOT ON FEET WALKING OUT IN TO THE STREET. CAMERA CRANE UP ON ALL FIVE BROTHERS IN A LINE WALKING.

TONY
So what are we doing here Val?

VAL
Patience little brother. It is not yet for you to know. Patience is always a virtue. Follow that rule and good things will come.

TONY
Jesus Val, I thought you threw away that "Words of Wisdom" calendar I got you.

Everyone laughs. Val starts to speak but is interrupted by SAM who points down the street seeing Freddie Castrenze.

SAM
There he is. That's our boy.

VAL
Alright, no one does anything till I says so.

The brothers approaches Freddie who is leaning against a wall reading the newspaper. He looks up and sees them coming and tries to nonchalantly walk away.

MICHAEL
Hey there Freddie. Where ya off too so fast? And without even a hello?

Freddie stops and turns around.

FREDDIE
Oh, hey there fellas. I didn't see yas. What's going on?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VAL

Oh, nothing much Freddie. Just enjoying the beautiful weather.

FREDDIE

(nervously looking around)
Yeah, real nice, real nice, sure.

VAL

You know Freddie, we been hearing some things.

FREDDIE

Oh yeah? Wha...what sort of things?

Michael steps forward and grabs Freddie's shirt collar

MICHAEL

The kinds of things that make guys like me very upset, and that ain't good for you Freddie, you son of a bitch.

FREDDIE

Well, uh...I wouldn't want anything like that. Come on, what are you talking about Mike?

Michael pushes Freddie against the wall

MICHAEL

We been hearing that you have a big mouth about certain things that do not have a place coming from your mouth.

FREDDIE

No Michael. I don't know whatcha talking about. I never talk to....nobody....

Val steps forward and grabs Michael's arm

VAL

That's enough Michael, let him down.

As Michael loosens his grip Freddie throws the paper into his face and turns around, running

VAL (CONT'D)

(to SAM)
Go get him!

Sam chases Freddie down the street, but Freddie is too quick and Sam loses sight of him. The other brothers catch up to Sam.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM

I lost him. I think he went in there.

Sam points to the cemetery behind Our Lady of Peace Church.

THE CEMETERY HAS 2 GATES, EAST AND WEST, AND IS SURROUNDED BY AN 8 FOOT ORNATE CAST-IRON FENCE. THERE IS A WALKWAY THAT CIRCLES THE ENTIRE CEMETERY WITH STATIONS ALONG THE WAY WHERE VISITORS CAN KNEELS TO PRAY

VAL

Tony, you say out here and make sure that rat doesn't come back out this way.
Sammi, you go in this gate and I'll go to the east end with Arnie.

Sam runs through the gate and Val heads to the east gate. Tony walks down and covers the Southwest corner and sends Arnie to the North West corner.

He turns around and sees Sam walking in after him. He clumsily pulls out his gun to fire. Sam tries for his gun but realizes it is gone. He slowly looks up. A gun shot is heard.

FADE OUT.

FADE-IN

EXT. CONTINUOUS

Sam stands still with his eyes closed then slowly opens them realizing he is not dead. He turns around and Tony is standing at the entrance to the alley. He quickly walks over to Sam and hands him his gun.

TONY

You dropped this back there.

Sam takes the gun and they both look up and see Freddie lying on the ground dieing.

SAM

Nice shooting Tony.

TONY

Don't mention it.

SAM

(puts his hand on his head)
Don't worry, I wont.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They begin to walk toward him, guns still drawn as Val and Michael rush into the alley. Tony and Sam turn around. Arni follows in behind, confused and scared.

ARNI
What happened here.

Arni sees the body and stops in his tracks putting his hand on his face

ARNI (CONT'D)
Holy Jesus! You shot him. He's not dead yet.

SAM
Don't worry about it kid.

TONY
You gotta do what ya gotta do.

VAL
I told you he wasn't ready yet. He's still too young.

SAM
Well I just though that...

ARNI
Hey! I can speak for myself.

Arni walks up to Freddie and kicks the gun away from him as he tries to grab for it. Arni fires two shots.

ARNI (CONT'D)
(never taking his gaze off of Freddie)
I'm not a kid anymore. I can handle myself.

VAL
(puts his arm around Arni)
You did good, kid, but we'll see how you do when he can fire back.

Everyone laughs as they form a line with there arms around each others shoulders and walk away from the body.

FADE OUT.

FADE-IN

INT. LATER THAT DAY - THE POKER ROOM

All of the brothers are sitting at the table playing cards

SAM

Well that was an exciting day!

VAL

It's too bad though. Freddie was a good kid. Hey, Arni, did you know you used to play with Freddie in the sand box when the both of ya's were still in yer diapers?

Everyone laughs

ARNI

(Angry)

He was a Castrenze! It's never bad when a Castrenze gets whacked.

VAL

Slow down kid. Save that anger for when you will need it. Having a hot head will only get you killed.

ARNI

You're right Val. I'm sorry.

TONY

So, Val. You still never told me why we plugged that kid?

VAL

He was talking to some people that he should never have been talking to. That is all that is important right now. Nothing to worry about little brother

There is a long pause

TONY

So, are we gonna play or what? Ante up!

The card game begins

SAM

So, you know the Castrenze's wont take Freddie's death lying down.

VAL

I know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TONY

So what are we gonna do about it? We need to be able to protect ourselves.

VAL

We do nothing. Not yet. First we let things settle.

Just then the door bursts open and a hit man from the Castrenze family enters the room. He draws his gun as the brothers try to duck for cover. Val stands up from his seat and tries to jump to the ground and the hit man fires three shots at him. He turns and fires several more times across the room as the brothers dive for cover. He then runs from the room. Tony slowly gets up from under the table.

TONY

Get him!

Arni runs from the room after the hit man with his gun drawn. And the shot returns to the room where Sam gets up holding his bloody left arm. Tony looks from the door to where Val fell.

TONY (CONT'D)

Val!

(he runs over to him)

Val, are you alright? Talk to me, Val!

SAM

(rushing over to him)

Is he alright?

TONY

No! I don't know. I think

(pause)

I think he's dead!

We see the faces of all of the men in the room. Michael is holding himself up with a chair because he was shot in the thigh. There is a long uncomfortable pause. Two shots are heard in the back ground. Moments later, Arni bursts in the door.

ARNI

(excited)

He's dead!

TONY

We know kid, We know

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ARNI
(confused)
What?

SAM
(crying)
Val. Val is dead Arni! He's gone, they
got him. They killed Val!

Arni runs over to Val's body

ARNI
(crying)
No! Val, talk to me! I'm sorry Val...I
got him...I killed him Val...

SAM
(wiping his tears)
Let him alone kid. Crying ain't gonna
help anything. Cover him up and let's
get out of here. It's not safe here
anymore.

ARNI
We can't just leave him here.

TONY
That's exactly what we are going to do,
what we have to do. Let's get out of
here.

A knock is heard at the door. All of the brothers look and
simultaneously draw there guns.

MICHAEL
Who is it?

Sarah peeks her head in the doorway

SARAH
It's me...Sarah.

TONY
What are you doing here?

SARAH
I just thought I...oh my God! What
happened here?
(She rushes over to Val)

TONY
The Castrenze's

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SARAH
(holding Val's head)
This is horrible. Val...

MICHAEL
We know, but we can't stay around here
all day! We have to get out of here!

TONY
(grabs Sarah's arm and pulls
her up)
Okay. Sarah you come with me. Sam, you
take Michael and Arni and go to Vinni's.
He's a freind, he's a good fella. You'll
be safe there.

ARNI
Why should we? I want to stay with
Val...

TONY
Listen to me kid. Val is dead. He's
dead. And **I** am in charge now. You do
what **I** tell you to do.

MICHAEL
Come on Arni, let's get out of here.

Sam and Arni help Michael limp out of the room

SARAH
Shouldn't we do something here?

TONY
No, come on Sarah. We need to get out of
here. It's no longer safe.

Tony takes Sarah's arm and they leave the room

FADE OUT.

FADE-IN

INT. LATER - A SMALL RESTAURANT

Tony and Sarah are seated across from each other in the
restaurant. They are alone.

TONY
So, this is it

SARAH
What's it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TONY

This...Val is gone and I'm the next in line.

SARAH

Don't talk like that.

TONY

How do you want me to talk Sarah?

(pause)

It's not safe here.

SARAH

It was your idea to come here Anthony. This is our place, our special place. This is the one place we have that is always safe.

TONY

I know...It's just that...I'm it.

SARAH

I know Tony.

TONY

What do you mean you know?

SARAH

I mean now that Val is dead you are the only one left. The family is yours. Without you it is over. None of the other brothers know anything about the business. You are the only one that Val taught. It is up to you, completely. I didn't want to come out and say that Tony, but I know that is what you are thinking. You just don't have to guts to say it to my face.

TONY

What are you talking about Sarah? What do you know about the family? Who told you about the business?

SARAH

(realizing what she has said)

You did Tony. Who else would I have heard this from.

TONY

No Sarah. I have never once mentioned the family business to you. Who told you Sarah? Who told you I was the only one?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

As they argue quick shots of Sarah with Freddie begin to cut in between what they say.

SARAH

You are out of control Tony. I am leaving.

Sarah tries to get up, but Tony grabs her arm and pulls her down

SARAH (CONT'D)

You're hurting me Tony.

TONY

You sit down and you tell me who you have talked to?

SARAH

(crying)

No one Tony. No one, I swear. Your hurting me Tony. Please let me go.

TONY

(gets a surprised look on his face and blinks hard looking at her. Realizing the truth)

No! It was you! You are the reason we killed Freddie. That's why Val wouldn't tell me.

(shaking her)

Why were you talking to him Sarah? What business do you have with him? Tell me you weren't sleeping with that dirt-bag Castrenze. Tell me Sarah!

SARAH

I'm sorry Tony. I'm so sorry.

TONY

When did it start Sarah? When did my girl start in with a dirty Castrenze?

SARAH

Last year Tony. You were in jail. They said you wouldn't be getting out for a long time. What was I supposed to do Tony? I was lonely!

TONY

(finally lets her go)

I can't even look at you Sarah. You disgust me.

(looks away)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TONY (CONT'D)

How could you do this to me? How could this happen now. Don't you know I am all there is left? Don't you know what this will do for the reputation of the Cipriano family? I am all that's left Sarah! Without me the family is gone!

SARAH

I know

Sarah pulls a gun out of her purse and points it at Tony. He turns his head and looks as she fired the gun. Tony falls dead to the floor. Sarah stands and points the gun down at him firing again and walks out of the restaurant as if nothing had happened.

FADE TO BLACK.

CREDITS