

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

VASCO, MATTIA DE LUCA, and ASTER MCLAREN are walking down the street. MATTIA holds her brother by the arm and ASTER walks close beside her. He looks more like a bodyguard than her husband. They approach the front of a restaurant. The name of JOE'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT is illuminated by some dim lights above the door.

VASCO V/O

It could have been done in Rosa D'Oro, but then Zeno would lose his prey – the two bastards would never come into our territory to try and kill me, especially not in our restaurant. Joe's was in the neutral part of town; that meant you could be sent back to your wife and kids in a box if you went there too often.

Before VASCO enters the restaurant with MATTIA and ASTER, he turns and sees a black car parked on the sidewalk close by. The two men inside nod to him.

VASCO V/O

Dino and his brother were already there; Zeno wasn't taking any chances.

He enters the restaurant. We cut to him, his sister, and her husband seated at a table.

INT. JOE'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A waiter comes by and fills the glasses of the three with water. Camera stays wide on the table, pushing in slowly towards VASCO throughout the conversation. The other two are invested in their conversation, but VASCO seems aloof and skittish. MATTIA is younger than her brother, with a pretty, heart-shaped face and sparkling eyes. Her dress is black, like her brother's suit, with fabric flowers stitched into the shoulder straps and the neckline. ASTER, her husband, wears a beige suit – plain and not at all flashy.

MATTIA

(She speaks this casually)

Aster had a client recently who killed his wife. He knew the bastard did it, so he didn't push too hard to try and get him acquitted.

ASTER

(He doesn't want people to know that)

Please, darling... that's kind of a sensitive topic.

VASCO is only half listening. MATTIA continues to talk.

MATTIA

You did it, Aster. Don't tell me shit if you don't want me to share it.

ASTER

(He is used to this)

Yes, Darling.

MATTIA

(To Vasco)

Mama says the restaurant is doing well... Vasi?

VASCO looks at her, his attention brought back to the conversation. He turns his glass of water thoughtfully.

VASCO

Yeah. Yeah, it's alright.

MATTIA

(Confused)

Are you distracted? What's going on?

VASCO

Nothing, Mattia. I'm listening.

Camera shows the front of the restaurant. A car pulls up across the street and its lights shut off. No one gets out, however. VASCO's hand drifts down to his waist, where a pistol is held under his belt.

MATTIA

Mama says we're almost as rich as Aster now.

ASTER

You are as rich as I am. Your whole family is richer than I am.

MATTIA

(She smiles)

Oh, right.

Camera is pointing through the window. VASCO is focused on the car across the street. Dino's car is there too. After a long moment, someone comes sprinting down the sidewalk towards Dino's car. This man pulls a silenced pistol and shoots into the window, killing both Dino and his brother. The other car was just a distraction. The man then turns and looks into the restaurant. VASCO's eyes widen and he grabs his sister's arm, rising from his chair.

VASCO

(Urgent)

We have to leave now. Go through the kitchen. Aster, get up.

People begin to scream as VASCO pulls out his pistol. A great commotion sets in as MATTIA and ASTER jump up, MATTIA frantically trying to find out what's going on.

MATTIA

What's going on, Vasi?

VASCO

Let's go. Go through the kitchen. Now!

They head towards the kitchen, dodging the screaming people. They push through the kitchen doors and find cooks all going about their business. As soon as one of them sees the gun and the three people, they all scatter like frightened birds, exclaiming in shock. VASCO leads the other two through the back door and into the alley outside.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

VASCO leads his sister and her husband out the door, then he shuts it. He looks around, but can't find anything to block the door. He turns to MATTIA with wide eyes.

VASCO

Take Aster and get out of here.

MATTIA

(She is close to tears)

What do you mean, Vasi? Vasi? What are you talking about?

VASCO

These men are here for me. Take Aster and get out, do you hear me?

MATTIA

(She points at her brother, anger replacing her tearful shock)
You bastard. What the hell do you think you're doing, huh? Did you know they were coming?

ASTER tries to lead her away. She attempts to fight him, but goes reluctantly.

ASTER

Mattia, lets go.

MATTIA

(To Vasco)

You bastard. You bastard! You're going to die, you bastard!

They go, fighting, down the alley until they vanish into the darkness. VASCO is now alone. He looks around for a place to hide and finds a backdoor to another building. He runs up and knocks, but it's locked. He turns, an idea forming, and runs up to press himself against the wall next to the restaurant door. After a long time of waiting, it opens slowly, and the hitman comes out into the alley. VASCO is hidden by the now-open door. As the hitman steps down into the alley, VASCO points the gun at his head and pulls the trigger, putting a bullet into his skull. The corpse falls to the ground with a loud thud. VASCO stares at it for a moment, then hurries off down the alley, just as the sound of police sirens begins to swell in the distance.

VASCO V/O

It was Alfio, the first of the two soldiers. Now he was dead, bleeding in an alleyway. Ames, his companion, wasn't there, at least not that I could tell. Even though one of the two bastards was dead, overall, the whole thing couldn't have gone worse. Zeno was furious, but when Mama found out, she wanted to kill him.