

MASON/DIXON

"A La Famiglia"

by

Ray Thomas

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[thomasraywriting@gmail.com](mailto:thomasraywriting@gmail.com)

COLD OPEN

INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - MORNING

BILLY DIXON (40s, dad-bod), is sprawled out in bed, the covers and blankets a tangled mess around him. Through the prism of a Coors Light bottle, he eyes the alarm clock on his nightstand: 5:33AM.

He sighs and turns over to find an empty spot next to him. He stares at the ceiling, then loudly *FARTSSSS*.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Billy's new wife, JOSEPHINE MASONE (30s, effortlessly attractive), is up and at 'em, already clacking away at her laptop. A large cup of steaming black COFFEE keeps her company. Billy enters.

BILLY

Goddam, girl. Don't you sleep?

JOSEPHINE

I don't need a lot of sleep, baby.  
You know that.

BILLY

I do. I just thought that maybe  
since we were up until 2AM messing  
around, you'd sleep in.

They kiss.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I mean, let's be honest. You were  
doing most of the work.

Billy reaches for a box of Lucky Charms cereal; opens it.

JOSEPHINE

(grinning)  
When don't I?

BILLY

Excuse me! Your birthday last  
year I brought you to multiple  
climaxes. Respect.

Billy sticks his hand in the box and starts to eat cereal from his hand. Mmmmmmm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

Ah yes, my birthday. My once-a-year night off.

BILLY

What are you doing, anyway?

JOSEPHINE

Just triple checking the presentation. I want this business plan to be 1000% perfect before I present it to my family.

BILLY

Wow. Never seen you nervous.

JOSEPHINE

I'm not nervous. About this. I'm nervous about my dad meeting you for the first time.

BILLY

I met him already!

JOSEPHINE

A Zoom call during Covid doesn't count, Billy.

BILLY

Baby, we're both men. Successful businessmen, might I add.

JOSEPHINE

Yeah, well...

BILLY

What?

JOSEPHINE

I never actually...*told* him what you did for a living.

Billy RIPS his hand from the cereal box; magically-delicious marshmallows spill EVERYWHERE.

BILLY

WHAT?! What are you saying right now? What did you tell him?!

JOSEPHINE

I told him you're an economics professor at USC.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BILLY

What the -

JOSEPHINE

Billy, my family hated that we eloped during the pandemic. I didn't want to tell them -

BILLY

Tell them what?!

JOSEPHINE

I don't know! Just -

(takes a breath)

Listen, on top of that, my mom told me my dad is apparently all of a sudden having a mid-life crisis. He went out and bought a Ferrari!

CUT TO:

EXT. OPEN ROAD - NIGHT

The STILL QUIET of an empty coastal road in Long Island, NY is broken up by the ROAR of a Ferrari engine. The driver, CARMINE MASONE, is enjoying his new toy.

Carmine is a man in his 50s, with more salt than pepper. His custom license plate reads MASONE.

He GUNS the engine into a turn, testing the CORNERING ABILITY of this fabulous machine. A slight SCREECH of the tires and he's around the bend.

The ZOOM of a sports car is a common sound in these parts - the sound of a fortunate son indulging himself.

A wide grin on Carmine's face quickly turns to one of TERROR as he approaches a steep curve in the road.

The brakes are suddenly not working. He SLAMS them. Nothing. SLAMS them again. Nothing.

The Ferrari ROARS a death knell as it disappears off a cliff.

FADE TO BLACK; a loud EXPLOSION as the car hits bottom.

FADE OUT.

**END OF COLD OPEN**

INT. FIRST CLASS CABIN, AIRPLANE - DAY

Billy and Josephine are on their way to New York. They each have a DRINK in front of them.

JOSEPHINE

There's no way I can tell my mom right now. With my dad dying like this. It'd be too much. She thinks you're a respected professor, not -

BILLY

Jo, if you're ashamed of me, you should just say it. I ain't no man-baby. I don't need your titty milk pity affection.

JOSEPHINE

Billy, I am not ashamed of you! I love you. My parents both liked you.

(pause)

Not ashamed of you.

She leans in for a kiss; he complies.

BILLY

Okay.

Billy takes a sip of his drink.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I get it, babe. What I don't get is why you didn't tell them before now.

JOSEPHINE

I told you. My family doesn't do elopements. We're Italian. We do huge formal weddings with 200 cousins, loud music, and chocolate waterfalls for dessert. That was enough of a shock to them without adding that you sold hot dogs...

Billy COUGHS up his drink.

BILLY

The fuck?! You are ashamed of me!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

No, I'm not! I just didn't want -

BILLY

Want what?? To tell them that your new husband slings weiners? Baby, I'm the hot dog king of the South. I'm proud of my business. Built it from nothing!

JOSEPHINE

And I am proud of you too, Billy! Please!

The STEWARDESS leans in.

STEWARDESS

Would either of you like a re-fill on your drink?

BILLY and JOSEPHINE

YES!

Stewardess crosses off.

BILLY

And what am I saying about Dirks? If I'm a professor, who is he?

JOSEPHINE

(realizing)

Oh. *Dirks...*

INT. COACH CABIN, AIRPLANE - CONTINUOUS

Billy's assistant, DIRKS (late 30s, frumpy), is in the middle seat of a very crowded Coach section.

On the window side of Dirks is an OLD MAN sleeping. On the aisle side is a musclebound MEATHEAD, who proceeds to remove a huge tub of PEANUTS from his bag.

DIRKS

Um, excuse me, sir?

MEATHEAD

Yeah?

DIRKS

Uh, I can't be around peanuts. I'm very allergic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MEATHEAD

So? Take a Benadryl.

Meathead unscrews the top of the peanut tub; Old Man's sleepy head SLAMS into Dirks' shoulder.

DIRKS

Well, I would. But we're on a plane and I don't have any on me.

(moves his shoulder  
to remove Old Man)

It's a bad allergy. That's why they don't serve peanuts on most planes any more.

MEATHEAD

Very interesting.

(then, angry)

I'm eating them. I need my protein!!

Dirks puts up a hand, PLEADING.

DIRKS

Well, wait...here.

(reaches into bag)

Take this sirloin steak wrap. I bought it right before we boarded. Still warm.

MEATHEAD

Steak?! I don't eat meat! I'm a vegan!

Dirks, in disbelief, looks this man-mountain up and down.

DIRKS

You got *that* big without eating meat? I didn't think that was possible.

MEATHEAD

Yeah, well, with the right determination and proper preparation it *can* be done.

(intense)

Meat is very unhealthy. I eat CLEAN!

Meathead takes a swig of his peanuts.

MEATHEAD (CONT'D)

(calmer)

And I take a bunch of steroids.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Meathead takes another swig, the peanuts SPILLING all over him AND Dirks. BOOM, Old Man's head is back on Dirks' shoulder...

INT. THE MASONE HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

Josephine's mom, CONCETTA MASONE, navigates the chaos that has beleaguered her since her husband went off the cliff. She asks ALFREDO, her youngest son, for help. He's in his 30s but acts like a teenager.

CONCETTA

Alfredo, do me a favor and call the restaurant. Tell them tomorrow we'll be 35 for lunch. Josephine is bringing her husband.

ALFREDO

It's always, "Fredo, do this" and, "Fredo, do that!"

CONCETTA

Alfredo! Your father's dead! I need your help!

ALFREDO

Fine!

Fredo storms off, almost knocking over Concetta's very old mother, MARIA, who is pushing her walker into the kitchen.

CONCETTA

Ma, how you holding up?

MARIA

Only thing held up are my bowels. Where's the laxatives?

CONCETTA

Maybe try a glass of prune juice first, Ma. It's gentler.

MARIA

Prune juice? Ugh. It's like drinking shit water. No thanks.

Maria opens a draw; removes the pack of laxatives and puts two in her orange juice.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I drop these in my OJ and in two hours, I'm fine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SFX: BEEP. Concetta gets a TEXT message.

CONCETTA  
Josephine lands in an hour.

Fredo returns, hanging up his phone.

CONCETTA  
All good, Alfredo?

ALFREDO  
Yes. Done.  
(grabbing the OJ and  
drinking it)  
Thanks, Nonna.

CONCETTA  
Alfredo! That wasn't yours!

ALFREDO  
Nonna doesn't mind sharing. Do  
you, Nonna?

MARIA  
Not with you, Fredo.

ALFREDO  
It's AL-fredo!

In a HUFF, Alfredo crosses off.

Maria FLICKS her chin at him - the Sicilian "FUCK YOU."

INT. FIRST CLASS CABIN, AIRPLANE - DAY

Billy and Josephine continue their argument.

BILLY  
So, how long do I have to pretend  
to be, "Professor Dixon?"

JOSEPHINE  
A day or two. That's it, I  
promise. I just want to get the  
service over with. It's going to  
be brutal.

BILLY  
Do I even *look* like a college  
professor? Are they going to  
believe it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

Course you do, baby.

Billy stops the Stewardess, who is walking by.

BILLY

Excuse me? If I told you I was an educator, what would you think I teach?

The Stewardess eyes him up and down.

STEWARDESS

Gym.

She walks away.

BILLY

(to Josephine)

See! I told you! This won't wor-

Suddenly, the Stewardess is back.

STEWARDESS

Like elementary or middle school gym teacher. Not high school.

BILLY

Ok, thank-

STEWARDESS

Not anywhere you actually need to be *in shape* to be a gym teacher.  
(thinking)

Maybe a special needs school?

BILLY

Alright. You know what? I do have a special need. For another drink. So how about you go get me one?

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Billy and Josephine make their way through the airport towards the exit.

BILLY

Can you believe that stewardess?  
How insulting!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE

You asked her!

(then)

Where is Dirks? God, I felt so guilty booking him a Coach ticket when we were sitting first class.

BILLY

Fuck him! He's my assistant! Ain't no first class for assistants.

JOSEPHINE

He's also your friend, Billy. Be nice!

BILLY

We got these tickets last minute, Jo. We're lucky we got any seats.

JOSEPHINE

I know. I just feel so cringey about him sitting back there. I hope he had a good flight.

BILLY

He's fine. He was on the same flight we were. What could possibly -

Dirks appears out of nowhere, holding his carry-on bag. He face is SWOLLEN; looks like somebody took a bat to it.

BILLY (CONT'D)

HOLY FUCK! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?!

DIRKS

Guy next to me. Peanuts.

JOSEPHINE

Oh my God! Do you need a hospital?!

BILLY

Goddam, Dirks! You look like one of them nuclear power plant babies!

DIRKS

I'll be okay. I took my Epi-pen and some Benadryl. The guy was such a jerk. Spilled peanuts all over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BILLY

Fuck! Quasimodo Nagasaki all in one.

JOSEPHINE

Billy!

BILLY

Sorry. Sorry, Dirks.

(then)

You see him anywhere? I'll fucking scream on this peanut dude right now!

MEATHEAD comes walking by; Dirks points at him.

DIRKS

There he is.

Meathead stops; TOWERS over Billy; stares DEAD at him.

BILLY

I bid you good day, sir.

**END OF ACT ONE**

INT. SPANO HOME - DAY

ROY SPANO (60s but looks to be in his 50s), patriarch of the rival family to the Masones, sits on his deck and reads the newspaper. He sips an espresso as his eldest son, PETER, enters.

ROY

You see this?

Roy tosses a newspaper down on the table.

The headline reads "OFF-ROADING: Crime Boss Carmine Masone Killed in Car Wreck"

PETER

Holy shit. What do we do?

Roy takes a sip of his coffee.

ROY

We go pay our respects.

INT. LIMOUSINE - EVENING

Billy takes in the pleasant scenery of a plush Gold Coast estate in Nassau County, NY. The car passes under a gate that reads MASONE MANOR.

BILLY

Goddam. What does...what *did* your father import?

Josephine is used to all this wealth; she says nothing.

Billy's radar goes up. He turns to Dirks for a reaction but he's UNCONSCIOUS, his skin puffy, pink and red, looking even WORSE than before, as though he's wearing a mask made of Pepto Bismol.

Billy turns away in disgust and GAGS.

EXT. MASON HOME - EVENING

Billy, Josephine and Dirks pull up to the house and exit the limo. Concetta and Maria are there to greet them.

JOSEPHINE

Momma! Nonna!

All three women EMBRACE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Billy leans over to a drowsy Dirks.

BILLY

Remember, I'm a professor, if anybody asks.

Dirks GURGLES as a response.

Josephine leads her mother and grandmother over to Billy.

JOSEPHINE

Mom, Nonna, I'd like you to finally meet Billy.

Concetta extends a hand.

CONCETTA

Billy, very nice to meet you.

BILLY

You too, ma'am. And Nonna? What a pretty name.

Maria looks less than thrilled.

JOSEPHINE

No, baby, nonna means "grandma" in Italian.

BILLY

Ohhhh. My bad. Nonna grandma. I'll put that in my memory bank.  
(then)  
I'd like to introduce my friend, Dirks.

Billy steps aside to reveal an even PINKER Dirks.

CONCETTA

Oh my! Is he -  
(yelling to Dirks)  
Are you okay?!

DIRKS

Uhhhhhhh.

Nonna Maria makes the Sign of the Cross over him.

MARIA

Santa Maria...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BILLY

Dirks here had a little allergic react-chee-oh-nay on the way over here. But he'll be fine. Just needs some rest.

MARIA

I'm allergic to cheese. You don't want to be near me after I eat it.

Awkward beat.

BILLY

Thank you, Nonna, for the warning.

CONCETTA

Let's get your friend to a bedroom so he can rest.

INT. MASON HOME - CONTINUOUS

Alfredo meets his sister at the door. Billy helps Dirks inside, then helps Nonna and Concetta up.

MARIA

What a gentleman. Thank you.

ALFREDO

Who is this?

JOSEPHINE

Hello, little brother. This is Billy. Billy, this is my brother, Alfredo.

BILLY

(extending a hand)  
Nice to meet you, Freddy.

ALFREDO

It's AL-fredo! So you're the guy that disgraced my sister with an elopement??

JOSEPHINE

Alfredo!

Alfredo ignores Billy's hand.

ALFREDO

(re: Dirks)  
What is this science project?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILLY

That's Dirks. He's not feeling very well.

DIRKS

Uhhhhhhh.

JOSEPHINE

(to Billy)

Why don't you get him up to the bedroom? And we'll bring dinner up if he wants anything.

DIRKS

Uhhhh uhhhhh.

JOSEPHINE

Freddy, do you mind showing Billy one of the guest rooms?

Alfredo frowns. Billy hooks his arms under Dirks to lift him; Dirks FARTS a thank you.

BILLY

Okay, Dirks, let's go.

INT. MASONE HOME, KITCHEN - LATER

Maria sits on a stool by the stove. Concetta mans a cutting board at the kitchen island, slicing carrots. Josephine pours wine for all of them.

CONCETTA

So Billy seems...

MARIA

Nice?

JOSEPHINE

He's awesome. I wish Daddy could have met him in person.

CONCETTA

If he's good with numbers, I'm sure Daddy would have loved him. Was he one of your teachers in your business program?

Alfredo enters and grabs a carrot.

JOSEPHINE

Um. Yes...but we didn't do anything until after class ended.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALFREDO

I thought you went away to get a business degree to help Daddy, not marry some hick!

JOSEPHINE

I did! I drew up a business plan and I was coming home to help Daddy, but now he's dead!

Concetta's eyes fill with tears.

JOSEPHINE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

(to Alfredo)

Can you please check in on Dirks?

Alfredo chomps his carrot and EXITS.

CONCETTA

I just have so much...

(gulps down wine)

So much on my mind.

Josephine goes to her mother and comforts her.

JOSEPHINE

I know. Anything I can help you with?

CONCETTA

No, I don't think so. Your Uncle Gino is on his way. I never liked your father's brother and now he'll want to run the business.

MARIA

He's a sonnamabitch. A lousy skunk.

JOSEPHINE

Nonna!

CONCETTA

He is. And I'm going to have my hands full dealing with him.

JOSEPHINE

How can I help?

Concetta finishes her wine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CONCETTA

(smiling)  
More wine, please.

MARIA

Me too!

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Billy and Alfredo stand in the bedroom, a bathroom door sits open between them. Dirks emerges, GROGGY.

BILLY

You sure you're okay, Dirks?

DIRKS

I will be. I just need rest. And more Benadryl.

BILLY

(to Alfredo)  
Hey, Fredd - Alfredo. Do you have any Benny's in the house?

DIRKS

Any antihistamine will work.

ALFREDO

I'll find something.

Alfredo goes to leave the room, then stops at the window.

ALFREDO (CONT'D)

Oh, no.

BILLY

What is it?

ALFREDO

My Uncle Gino just arrived.

Billy joins Alfredo to look out the window. He sees three TOUGHS disembarking an SUV.

BILLY

Uncle Gino? Isn't that a good thing, to have family around at a time like this?

ALFREDO

No.

(then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALFREDO (CONT'D)

You should probably get  
downstairs. Momma will be serving  
dinner soon.

Alfredo exits.

Billy spies the three very northeast-gangster-looking  
relatives; greased hair, leather jackets.

BILLY

Well, Dirks, we ain't in Kansas  
anymore.

DIRKS

(barely awake)  
We're from South Carolina.

BILLY

Yeah, thanks, Dirks. I was being  
metaphoric.

(lowering his voice)

Listen, while I'm down having  
dinner, I need you to do me a  
favor. See what you can find  
online about Josephine's family.

(turning to window)

I mean, I ain't the kind to Google  
my loved ones. But I need to know  
what's going on. I just have  
a...a *feeling*. You know what I  
mean?

DIRKS

Zzzzzzzzzzz.

Billy turns to see a COMATOSE and DROOLING Dirks.

INT. MASONE HOME - MOMENTS LATER

The doorbell rings. Josephine answers the door; GINO  
immediately drops to his knees.

GINO

WHY, GOD?! Why take my brother  
this way??

JOSEPHINE

Hello, Uncle Gino.

GINO

Saint Anthony, pray for us!

Concetta and Maria enter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CONCETTA

Gino, get off your knees.

MARIA

He's used to that from prison.

Gino rises, OFFENDED.

GINO

I've been out five years, Maria.

MARIA

Out of the closet?

CONCETTA

Okay, mamma, enough. Gino, come in.

Gino enters and BEAR HUGS Concetta.

GINO

Connie, I'm so sorry. I miss him so much. Is there anything I can do?

CONCETTA

No, Gino, I'm -

GINO

How about flowers? You want flowers?

(turns to the open doorway and screams)

BOYS! Bring in your Aunt Concetta's flowers!

Two twin brothers, 30s, enter. They are ANTHONY and TONY, Gino's sons.

ANTHONY

Aunt Concetta, I'm sorry about Uncle Carmine.

TONY

So sorry for your loss.

GINO

OUR loss! The whole family. We lost our rock. Our protector. Our saint. Our -

MARIA

Banker. You just want the money.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CONCETTA

Ma!

(takes a deep breath)  
Okay, everyone. Inside for  
dinner. Mangia.

INT. MASONE HOME, DINING ROOM - LATER

Billy enters; the whole family is sitting down to dinner.

GINO

Who's this?

JOSEPHINE

Uncle Gino, this is my husband,  
Billy.

GINO

My brother told me his daughter  
eloped. Didn't believe it.  
(sizing up Billy)  
Hello, Billy. Big son of a bitch,  
ain't ya?

BILLY

Good to meet you. Sorry about  
your brother's passing.

GINO

Yes. Heartbreaking. I'm sick  
over it.  
(waves at the table)  
I have no appetite.

Concetta enters, carrying a HUGE platter.

CONCETTA

Who wants veal?

GINO

(sitting down to eat)  
Maybe just a bite. Got any cheese?

JOSEPHINE

And Billy, these are my cousins.  
Anthony and Tony.

Billy extends a hand; does a DOUBLE TAKE.

BILLY

Wait. Anthony and Tony. Isn't  
that the same name?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANTHONY

No. I'm Anthony. He's Tony.

TONY

So sorry for your loss.

BILLY

(confused)

Yeah, but -

GINO

Anthony we named after Anthony  
Quinn. Tony was named after Tony  
Curtis. Two different people.

Beat.

BILLY

Got it.

(then)

Where am I sitting?

JOSEPHINE

Right here, next to me.

Alfredo enters, carrying a bowl of PASTA.

GINO

Hey, Fredo!

(then)

Got any cheese?

ANTHONY

What's up, cousin Freddy?!

TONY

So sorry for your loss.

ALFREDO

It's AL-FREDO, goddamit!

He SLAMS the bowl on the table. Gino SNATCHES it and  
serves himself pasta.

GINO

So, Concetta, I was thinking. The  
business. I know you now have the  
majority stake, but how about you  
let me buy you out?

Josephine begins passing the food around the table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CONCETTA

Gino. Your brother isn't even in the ground yet.

ANTHONY

But, Aunt Connie we're already in the business. And you, you're...you know...a woman.

JOSEPHINE

Excuse me?!

ANTHONY

We can't have a woman boss!

GINO

Oh! I got this! You wanna help? Go find some cheese for my pasta.

CONCETTA

Gino, I don't want to discuss this.

(changing subject)

Billy, how is Dirks feeling?

ANTHONY

The fuck is Dirks?

BILLY

He's my assistant.

ANTHONY

Assistant what?

JOSEPHINE

Billy is a professor. Of economics.

GINO

*This* guy?!

BILLY

Hey!

ANTHONY

A professor??

(beat)

*Coach*, maybe.

JOSEPHINE

Uncle Gino, cousin Anthony, you're being rude.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BILLY

To answer your question, Concetta, Dirks is okay. Alfredo was kind enough to find him some Benadryl in the house. He's resting.

ALFREDO

Actually, I couldn't find any. He said he just needed sleep, so I gave him an Ambien.

BILLY

Ambien?! No! Dirks has...a bad reaction to Ambiens. Few months back he went sleepwalking to a White Castle and ate a whole family pack. By himself. In the parking lot. With no shirt on.

ALFREDO

It's all I had.

JOSEPHINE

Why would you give somebody who needs allergy medicine a sleeping pill?

GINO

Because he's Fredo.

(to Concetta)

Anyway, Connie, back to business. It'll make your life easier if you just sell to me.

MARIA

He just wants the money.

GINO

Goddamit, you old hag, I -

CONCETTA

(angry)

I will NOT discuss this now! Tomorrow we bury Carmine. The next day we go see the lawyer for the will. I'll deal with all this, and all of you, after that. If anybody has a problem with that, they can get out of my house right now.

SILENCE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Then a GROAN. Everybody turns to see a NAKED Dirks in the doorway, his dick obscured by the block of cheese he's holding.

DIRKS

This is the best parmesan I've ever had.

GINO

You can forget the cheese.

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - DAY

In an anteroom, Concetta sits with her mother, son and daughter. Billy enters.

BILLY

Funeral director says whenever you want to start.

CONCETTA

Thank you, Billy. You can tell him we're ready.

Billy gives a wave out the door to the funeral director. Roy and Peter Spano IMMEDIATELY enter.

ROY

Concetta, Concetta. I am so sorry for your loss.

CONCETTA

(surprised)  
Roy Spano?

PETER

And Peter, his son. Remember me?

Both Roy and Peter offer their hands to Concetta. In the b.g., Billy leans in to Josephine:

BILLY

Who are these guys?

JOSEPHINE

Roy Spano is my father's biggest competitor in business. They're the two biggest...*tomato importers* in the country.

Peter approaches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PETER

Josephine, I'm so sorry for your loss. God, you've just gotten prettier and prettier, haven't you?

(then, re: Billy)

Who's the goober?

BILLY

What the f-

JOSEPHINE

Billy! Is my husband from South Carolina.

PETER

You got married? Really?!

(steps to Billy)

You gotta steal women from up north, Lynard Skynard? What's the matter, run out of cousins to fuck?

JOSEPHINE

You're being disrespectful, Peter!

PETER

Can't help it. I'm taking this personally since we dated.

JOSEPHINE

Once. One date.

BILLY

(muted)

You know what? If we weren't at a funeral right now, I'd give you a good old country ass-kicking.

PETER

Oh, yeah?

ALFREDO

You're gonna want to get out of here before Uncle Gino arrives.

PETER

Whatever, Fredo.

ALFREDO

It's AL-

Before he can finish, Peter is back next to his father.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BILLY

(to Josephine)

Wait, your dad imported *tomatoes*?  
That's his business? Damn. Must  
move a LOT of tomatoes.

ALFREDO

(cryptically)

Tomatoes led to other things...

BILLY

Like what?

JOSEPHINE

(glaring at Alfredo)

Mushrooms, peppers, olives. We  
import all kinds of *food* from  
Italy.

BILLY

Gotchyou.

JOSEPHINE

(changing subjects)

Where is Dirks?

BILLY

Said he's running late. Between  
the Benadryl and the Ambien, dude  
was night-night.

Gino, Anthony and Tony enter.

GINO

What in the FUCK is he doing here?

BILLY

Me?

ANTHONY

Not you, redneck!

GINO

(re: Spano)

Him!

ROY

Hello, Gino. Boys.

TONY

(to nobody in  
particular)

So sorry for your loss.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PETER

Hey, it's the Tonies. Still sucking each other's dicks?

ROY

Peter!

Anthony and Tony CHARGE at Peter, who PUNCHES Tony in the face then wrestles away Anthony. Gino swings at Roy, who SWINGS back.

An all-out BRAWL breaks out amongst the men, spilling into the seats. GASPS and SCREAMS abound...

Dirks turns a corner to enter the room and is immediately KNOCKED OUT by a rogue punch.

When Billy goes to drag him out of harm's way, a GUN falls out of Tony's pocket.

Billy GRABS it and COCKS THE GUN. This very distinct CLICK of the pistol STOPS all the men in their tracks.

BILLY

One thing they do teach us rednecks down south is how to shoot.

(points at the men)

You wanna keep fucking around and disrespecting Concetta and Nonna like this, maybe I'll show you boys how us goobers do.

The men GLARE at Billy. Concetta SMILES.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Billy and Josephine enter; Josephine heads straight for the shower.

JOSEPHINE

What a mess. I need a hot shower.

BILLY

Ok, babe.

Billy spies an ENVELOPE on his pillow with his name on it.

He opens it to find print-outs from Dirks and note reading, "*Here's what I found.*"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSEPHINE (O.C.)  
Thanks for doing that, Billy. I'm  
glad you were here to help.

Billy doesn't answer; he's distracted by what Dirks gave  
him: News articles about CARMINE MASONE: MOB BOSS.

JOSEPHINE (O.C.)  
Billy?

BILLY  
Uh, yeah, babe. No worries. Me  
too.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Concetta, Alfredo, Josephine, Billy, Gino, and the Tonies  
sit and wait. The office is full of oak, old school.

Carmine's lawyer, AUGUST DALTON, 60s, African American,  
ENTERS. He is carrying a large folder and a coffee mug.

CONCETTA  
Hello, Augie.

August puts his coffee down and walks directly to  
Concetta. He embraces her.

AUGUST  
So sorry about this, Connie. I  
thought Carmine would outlive us  
all.

CONCETTA  
Me too.

August looks around, sizing up the room. He knows all  
the faces except one.

AUGUST  
You're Billy?

BILLY  
Uh, yes, sir. I am.

August says nothing, just nods and goes behind his desk.  
He opens the folder and empties its contents as he  
speaks:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AUGUST

So, we're all here today to hear the last will and testament of Carmine Masone. Thank you all for coming.

GINO

An unwanted duty, but a duty just the same.

TONY

What does doody have to do with this?

GINO

Shut the fuck up, Tony.  
(to August)  
I'm sorry. Go ahead. Read.

AUGUST

Carmine has made several provisions in his will. As you know, he had considerable assets. I'll read some of the formal body of the will and then I'll explain if need be: I direct my executors to pay my enforceable unsecured debts and funeral expenses, and the expenses of administering my estate. I give all my residences, subject to any mortgages or encumbrances thereon, and all policies and proceeds of insurance covering such property, to my wife, Concetta. If she does not survive me, I give that property to those of my children who survive me, in equal shares, to be divided among them by my executors in their absolute discretion after consultation with my children.

GINO

So that's the house and personal property. What about the **business**?

AUGUST

Yes. The business.

ANGLE ON: Gino, readying himself for his close-up...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AUGUST

(reading)

Though this was not an easy decision, I name as president of Masone Foods, Inc. and bequeath all assets and holdings related therein to...my *son-in-law*, William Jefferson Lee Dixon.

A collective GASP echoes through the office.

AUGUST (CONT'D)

If he does not survive me, I give my residuary estate to those of my children who survive me.

GINO

What the FUCK?!

CONCETTA

Billy?!

ALFREDO

How did this happen?!

CONCETTA

I...I don't know. All I can think is Daddy trusted Billy because he's a...professor of economics?

Billy and Josephine exchange a knowing GLANCE.

GINO

This is total bullshit! I'm going to sue the shit out of you, Dalton!

(turns to Billy)

And you! You inbred fuck!

AUGUST

You can try to sue. But these changes Carmine made were recent.

Gino, ENRAGED, gets up with his sons and pushes his way out of the office.

BILLY

I don't know what to say. I -

AUGUST

Before you say anything, Carmine left this tape for you. The instructions are for you to watch it - alone.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Billy sits in front of a TV, alone except for a water bottle. He pushes PLAY, then takes a sip of water.

Carmine Masone appears. The video was obviously filmed on his phone, seemingly in his car:

CARMINE

Hello, Billy. If you're seeing this, that means something has happened to me. So first, let me say, I'm sorry we didn't get to meet in person. A man who was persuasive enough to convince my beautiful daughter to elope with him must be a very special person.

BILLY

Well, thanks.

CARMINE

You're welcome.

ANGLE ON: Billy, SHOCKED that Carmine anticipated his reaction.

CARMINE (CONT'D)

But , that's not why I left you in charge. I did my research on you. You're no professor. I know how you built your own business. By being ruthless. And that's what I need now. I need you to ruthlessly protect my family. Because if you're watching this video, somebody murdered me.

Billy SPITS out his water.

BILLY

MURDERED?!

CARMINE

That's right. Murdered! So in addition to running my company, you'll have to figure out who the killer is...because now...they'll be coming for you, too.

FADE TO BLACK.

**END OF ACT THREE**

**TAG**

INT. SPANO HOME - DAY

Gino, Anthony, and Tony enter. They are stopped by Peter's security and FRISKED.

Roy is seated in a comfortable chair, Peter at his side.

ROY

Gino.

GINO

Roy.

An awkward beat passes, then:

ANTHONY

Um, what my dad wants to say...why we're here...is to make peace. There's no reason for us to -

ROY

You wanna take over the business and you need our help.

ANTHONY

Uhhh...

GINO

Yes.

ROY

Good. I'll have Peter reach out.

They all nod; Gino and sons exit.

PETER

You sure this is a good idea, Pop?

Roy removes cigars from his jacket; hands one to Peter.

EXT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

Billy, Josephine, Concetta, and Alfredo exit the lawyer's office. Shell-shocked, Billy shakes hands with August.

ON: Billy; he descends the steps, looks around, NERVOUS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROY (V.O.)

We use them as an in. Then we get  
rid of Gino...his niece...and her  
new husband.

(lights his cigar)

Then we take over the business.

FADE OUT.

**END OF SHOW**