

Mother Italia

Scene: Planning the Rescue

Written By

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FADE IN:

INT. VITTORIO'S VILLA (BALCONY) - NIGHT

The camera focuses on the garden for a moment as it slowly raises up to the balcony, finding Daniella leaning on the rail, staring off at the garden. VITTORIO approaches Daniella from behind, a sympathetic look on his face. He gently places his hand on her shoulder.

DANIELLA
(STARTLED)

Vittorio..! You shouldn't have frightened me that way!, I'm still shaken up by...

VITTORIO
I didn't realize you were deep in thought, Ella.,
It's just that I worry about you. I hate seeing you like this.

DANIELLA
I understand, Vitto. But how can I help it? Esther is my only daughter. My only little girl. I've worked so hard only for her to just be taken from me. I just don't understand why...

VITTORIO
Ella, you say that as if we'll never see her again. You and I both know that we are going to save her from those bastards. She's only a child.

DANIELLA
That didn't stop them from taking her. Rafael already said it was Miguel's doing. He took her in retaliation, and who knows what he's up to.

Vittorio places his hands on her shoulders, gently squeezing them.

VITTORIO
Are you even sure you can trust Rafael? He's lied to you in the past. He only came here to get you to come back to him and marry him. How can you be so ready to trust him when he hasn't even seen Esti since the day you left him?

DANIELLA

He's our only chance. I'll trust him if it means I would have Esther with me once again, even if it means I have to be near Rafael.

Vittorio places his hand on Daniella's cheek, looking into her eyes.

VITTORIO

I just hope you know what you're doing. I still think we have our own money to come up with the same resources that Rafael has.

DANIELLA

I'm sure we do, we just don't have the connections he does. You have to understand that, Vitto, there is no other way. Otherwise, Esti really is as good as gone.

Vittorio could only comfort her, continuing to stroke her cheek.

VITTORIO

Daniella... just... just listen to me for a moment. There's something I need to tell you-

RAFAEL

(INTERRUPTING)

Am I interrupting something here?

Vittorio and Daniella stepped away from each other, turning their attention towards Rafael, who stood by the door frame with his arms crossed.

RAFAEL

If you don't mind, Vittorio, may I speak with Daniella alone?

VITTORIO

Go ahead. Just don't break her heart while I'm gone. Again.

Vittorio left the balcony, bumping his shoulder against Rafael on his way out. Rafael ignored that, as he joined Daniella's side, taking a strand of her black hair, stroking it with his finger.

RAFAEL

Oh Ella, you look so beautiful tonight. You know, it was just like the first time we met-

DANIELLA

You didn't come speak to me to discuss memories that had long faded from my mind, did you?

RAFAEL

Daniella please. I only meant to lighten the mood. Don't you think it is about time that you've forgiven me? After all I've done for you? I've saved you and your friend, after all. I've already spent the money for our journey to France as well-

Daniella stared at him, with a disgusted look on her face.

DANIELLA

I don't owe you forgiveness just for saving my life, Rafael. I should've known you'd only save me for something that benefits you.

RAFAEL

This isn't what it's about. Look, I worry about Esther just as much as you or Vittorio, and I promise you, we'll be able to save her. Daniella...

Rafael took some of Daniella's hair into his hand, and with the other, he pulled her chin up to face him.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

I am willing to do whatever it takes to save my family. Whether or not you hate me for what I've done. I love you both, whether you like it or not.

DANIELLA

I understand... I shouldn't have snapped like that, I'm sorry, Rafael, but... You said you wanted to speak to me, I am sure it is not about us. Can you please just talk to me? As the woman I am today and not the woman you're trying to win back?

RAFAEL

Of course. Come, we must go into my office. I have a map prepared for you.

CUT TO:

INT. VITTORIO'S VILLA - VITTORIO'S OFFICE

Rafael laid a map of France across the desk and used a knife to point at an area of France.

RAFAEL

This is where we will make our stop. From there on, we will follow Collette, she knows her home like the back of her hand. We know that Miguel has connections with the D'Aubigne sisters, and we've already encountered them before they took Esther, but we do not know where they reside, but we do know a man who has connections with the sisters.

Rafael stuck the knife into the map at a different area, the camera zoomed towards the lettering in, Clermont Ferrand

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

He lives here. Clermont Ferrand. He is Luis L'Estrange Gosse. He was the one who beat down Vittorio. I'm sure you've seen him, you couldn't have missed him. He has a reputation of being a perverted, drunken brute, especially towards prostitutes.

VITTORIO

I could tell. He looked and even smelled like a disgusting brute. I'm assuming we track him down by speaking to the local whores?

RAFAEL

Precisely. Our best chance is through the prostitutes. Inns, brothels, anywhere a drunk would go. Once we reach him, we will force him to tell us where the D'Aubigne sisters reside. Once he tells us where they are, we can be assured he will speak if we keep her alive. And therefore... we must..."

Rafael stabbed the map, with an intense glare over France as his hand tightened around the knife's handle. His intense glare startled Daniella.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Silence him.

DANIELLA

Rafael, wouldn't it be easier to ask him about where Miguel resides, instead? Why can't we focus on where Miguel lives instead of trying to find the sisters? We may get to Esther faster this way.

RAFAEL

He is not at his estate. I already know this, his letter came from his estate but when I had someone check in for me, the entire estate was empty. Someone like Luis couldn't know where Miguel and Esther are, Luis is the type who only cares for himself.

DANIELLA

Rafael, you can't possibly-

RAFAEL

I know Miguel. He wouldn't tell anyone where he is, except his trusted man, Sigfried. And we have no location for Sigfried for now. The sisters might tell us, but if Miguel is more clever than he looks, the man he puts trust in the most would be just as overprotective with his location as Miguel would for his. But fear not, his allies might not be as smart.

DANIELLA

How do you know? What if you're wrong?

RAFAEL

My love, we can't afford to be wrong. Now, my dear, pack your essentials with Vittorio. We have no time to waste.

FADE OUT: END SCENE