

MOB LIFE

Written by

Francesco Blasonato

OVER BLACK.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
So tell me about these so called
sit downs.

INT. INTERREGATION ROOM - NIGHT

The room is dimly lit.

VINNY FANTASIA, 33, sits on a cold metal chair staring back
at the camera.

VINNY
(chuckling)
The classic sit down. Integral part
of mob life. The solution to all
problems.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
What kind of problems?

VINNY
Take your pick.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A GUY and GAL going at it hard on the bed.

VINNY (V.O.)
Guy from another crew bangs your
wife...

INT. SUAVE OFFICE ROOM - NIGHT

The guy we saw before is now seated, clutching at his fedora
anxiously. He's surrounded by mafia heads.

VINNY (V.O.)
...You have a sit down.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - NIGHT

A rookie NBA PLAYER dribbles at lightening speed down the
court.

VINNE (V.O.)
That young rookie you just
blackmailed into throwing games...

The player skips past one, pivots, leans back and shoots a three pointer. The crowd ERUPT.

VINNY (V.O.)
 ...He ain't doing it no more. You
 have a sit down.

INT. INTERREGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Vinny is still staring dead at the camera. He's serious about this next one.

VINNY
 Some guy steals your cannoli...you
 better believe there's gonna be a
 fucking sit down.

MALE VOICE
 Any violence ever occur at these
 sit downs?

Vinny smirks.

VINNY
 Over cannoli?

INT. OFFICE ROOM - NIGHT

We see through the one sided glass into the interregation room. We get the feeling someone is watching.

INT. INTERREGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We get our first look at EDGAR BELTRAZ, 46. He's dressed in a suit. Sharp. Confident.

EDGAR
 Mr. Fantasia--

VINNY
 Vinny.

EDGAR
 Vinny. I'm your lawyer and you're
 under investigation for the
 attempted murder of a one Sonny
 Damato - the man who you say
 allegedly killed your wife - a very
 serious offence in the eyes of the
 court. I suggest you start taking
 this seriously.

Vinny takes a moment to process what has been said.

VINNY

Your name. What's your name?

EDGAR

Edgar Beltraz.

VINNY

Let me tell you something about mob life Edgar. We don't fear death. When we take that oath, we swear to live by the gun and die by the gun.

EDGAR

Answer the question. Was there any violence at these sit downs?

VINNY

What? You wanna hear me say it?

EDGAR

Mr. Fantasia--

VINNY

Vinny--

EDGAR

If I'm going to represent you on that stand then I need to know the whole truth.

VINNY

I'm in the mob. Violence was a daily. Checking over your shoulder, every day, every fucking two seconds. But hey, that's the life I signed up for. Violence, cannoli and breads. At least it meant something. To die in that life means something.

(beat)

What'd you sign up for?...a suit, cup of coffee, and a bunch of legal documents.

Silence. Edgar stares back blankly at Vinnie.

INT. OFFICE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We're looking through the glass again into the interrogation room.

INT. INTERREGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Edgar realises he's not getting anywhere.

EDGAR
How'd it happen?

EXT. COPACABANA NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT - 5 YEARS AGO

The words "Copacabana" dazzle in the night sky, brightly lit by a neon sign.

INT. COPACABANA NIGHTCLUB, STAGE - NIGHT

DANNY THOMAS, 40's, the entertainment for the night, stands on stage attempting to make the crowd laugh.

DANNY
As an airplane is about to crash, a female passenger jumps up frantically and announces. If I'm going to die, I want to die feeling like a woman. She removes all her clothing and asks, is there anyone man enough to make me feel like a woman? A man stands up, removes his shirt and says, here, iron this!

BA-DUM-DUM-CHING. The crowd ERUPT in laughter.

DANNY (CONT'D)
What'd you tell a woman with two black eyes...nothing she's already been told twice.

BA-DUM-DUM-CHING. The crowd continue in HYSTERICS.

DANNY (CONT'D)
A lesbian went into a pharmacy and said I heard there's a new drug that cures depression. The man behind the counter smiled, nodded and said Trycoxagain! I can help with that.

BA-DUM-DUM-CHING. The crowd get LOUDER AND ERUPT IN APPLAUSE.

INT. COPACABANA CLUB, TABLES - CONTINUOUS

Vinny, JOEY and SAL are seated at a table.

With them, discussing the entertainment are two beautiful blondes - CHERRIE AND TERESA (20's). Vinny's wife BLANCH, sits beside him.

TERESA

Honestly I don't know how women can watch him. I can do other things beside iron you know.

Teresa cuddles up to her date, Joey.

JOEY

I know honey. Just a bit of fun and all.

VINNY

You know Teresa. A lot of people find him funny. Plus I don't think he'd be saying this stuff if there wasn't some truth to it.

BLANCH

So you think women should just stick to housework and cooking? Is that it?

VINNY

Now honey. Don't be putting words in my mouth. You know that's not what I said.

BLANCH

You said he wouldn't be saying any of this if it weren't true.

Vinny is starting to get upset.

VINNY

Just watch your mouth. There's a lotta people here. They might get the wrong impression.

BLANCH

Fuck you!

Blanch gets up and storms out of the club.

VINNY (V.O.)

I fucked up. I shouldn't of let her leave that night.

EXT. LA STREETS - NIGHT

Blanch is walking down an empty LA street late at night.

A MAN is sitting on a bench, pretending to read a newspaper. As Blanch walks past him, he puts down the newspaper and begins following her.

INT. COPACABANA CLUB - CONTINUOUS

Vinny, Joey, Sal and the blondes dancing, laughing and having a good time.

INT. BLANCH'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The lights are off. Moonlight pours through the open windows.

Blanch is getting dressed for bed when...behind her, a man with a ski mask emerges.

He grabs her from behind and covers her mouth. Blanch STRUGGLES and manages to BACKHEEL him in the nuts breaking free.

The man FALLS to the ground, then quickly gets up.

Blanch grabs the lamp and swings wildly at the man's head.

He grabs her arm, pulls out a knife with the other and SLITS her throat.

Blanch DROPS and lies in a pool of her own blood.

EDGAR (V.O.)
Do you regret it?

INT. INTERREGATION ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Edgar stares across the table at Vinny.

VINNY
She was my wife. What do you think?

Silence.

Vinny's hand starts to shake lightly. Edgar notices.

EDGAR
You okay?

VINNY

Yeah, just light headed. Can I have some water?

Edgar pours Vinny a glass and places it on the table in front of him.

EDGAR

This man that killed your wife. You ever get a look at him?

Vinny thinks for a moment.

VINNY

No.

EDGAR

So how'd you know who to kill?

The tremors on Vinny's hand slowly start to get worse. Vinny takes a sip of the water.

VINNY

The guys in my crew. They got coppers on their payroll. They did a search.

Vinny is starting to sweat now.

Edgar gets up and slowly turns the fader for the lights up, making the room slightly brighter, then sits back down again.

Vinny winces at the increase in brightness.

EDGAR

The tremors are only gonna get worse you know that?

Vinny surprised takes a moment.

VINNY

What are you talking about?

EDGAR

Your medication. You haven't been on it in a while. The tremors are withdrawals.

VINNY

(angry)

What are you drugging me to try get the truth?

EDGAR
How's the hallucinations?

Vinny starts to hear VOICES in his head. He looks to his right to see...

His wife Blanche, a hallucination. Vinny tries to shake it off.

INT. OFFICE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

This time we see a MAN with his back to us watching everything through the one sided glass. He decides it's time to do something.

INT. INTERREGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

GEORGE MENDEZ, 54, enters the room and turns the brightness on the lights all the way up, then walks over to Edgar.

Edgar and Vinny are still seated.

GEORGE
How's everything going?

EDGAR
The medication's starting to wear off. Tremors and hallucinations are finally starting to come back.

VINNY
What the fucks going on?

GEORGE
How long has he been off his medication.

EDGAR
A week now.

Vinny holds his head and has more water.

VINNY
What do you mean a week. You've only been holding me for 24 hours.

GEORGE
We haven't been holding you for 24 hours. We've been holding you for five years.

(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

For the last five years you've been a patient of this institution - Resnick - a mental institution for the criminally insane.

VINNY

You're talking bullshit.
(pointing to edgar)
His my lawyer Edgar.

GEORGE

No, his your doctor, and his name is David Fredrickson.

VINNY

You really think you're gonna pull one over me. I'm in the mob. I could have you--

GEORGE

No. You were in the mob.

George looks at David and gestures toward the door.

David gets up and opens the door.

In enters Joey and Sal, his mob friends.

Vinny stands up in shock.

VINNY

(shocked)
Joey, Sal! You guys okay. What'd they do to you. Don't tell em anything.

GEORGE

These are the guards. That night you described. The night your wife was murdered - You made it up. You concocted this story to make yourself feel better.

Vinny is sweating profusely and starting to go into shock.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

This may help.

George hands over documents to Vinny.

Vinny takes them and looks over them.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Your admittance papers. You wanted the truth. Here it is. Your name is Sonny Damato. Prior to being admitted you were a soldier in the Bonanno crime family. Highly dangerous. A cold blooded killer. Or so you thought.

(beat)

The more you killed, the more disturbed you became, until eventually you came to hate who you had become. You had to end it.

(beat)

On the night your wife died you left a suicide note. You tried to kill her and yourself. The paramedics were only able to resuscitate you.

(beat)

You killed your wife Sonny. You couldn't live with yourself so you created the other you - Vinny Fantasia.

Sonny is tripping trying to piece it together.

DAVID

We thought if we let you play out this fantasy that maybe, just maybe you would see the truth and regain some sanity.

SONNY

I'm not gonna let you guys fool me.

GEORGE

The last name of your made up character. This Vinny. What is it?

SONNY

Fantasia.

GEORGE

If I recall correctly, you still remember some of your Italian. What does Fantasia mean in English?

Sonny is starting to realise they might just be right.

SONNY

Fantasy.

DAVID

He's not real Sonny. We're trying to help you come to terms with this.

GEORGE

Sonny. Do you understand all that we've told you?

Sonny slowly looks up at George and nods reluctantly.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Our hope is that some day in the near future you'll be well enough to be released.

George nods to the guards. They come over, pick up Sonny and begin to escort him out of the room.

On the way out, David stops Sonny who looks back.

DAVID

You said to die in that life meant something. Does death still mean something to you?

Sonny takes a moment.

SONNY

A chance to escape the truth once and for all.

Sonny turns his head back around and the guards escort him out.

FADE OUT.

THE END.