

Violenza

By

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EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

TWO BOYS, JAKIE (13) and BULLY (15) wrestle. This isn't play. This is a fight.

A raspy voice almost cancels out the sound of the violence.

LORENZO (V.O.)
What makes a man?

Jakie overpowers the Bully, who struggles to get away. Jakie, is jumped by several other KIDS (15), he still hits the bully.

LORENZO (V.O.)
Strength? Wealth? Age? Strength and wealth give you *power*. But what good does power do for a man without family?

INT. LORENZO'S CAR - DAY

LORENZO (50) dark, peppered, Italian. He takes a long drag from a CIGARETTE. He looks at someone off-screen.

LORENZO
Age only kills you.

Jakie sits in the passenger seat. He's in a deep state of thought. He has an ice pack pressed against his face.

LORENZO
My time's passing... quickly. But your time starts *now*.

Lorenzo hands Jakie a cigarette. Jakie looks puzzled. Jakie places the cigarette in his mouth. Lorenzo lights it. Jakie takes a drag.

COUGH. The young man nearly hacks out a lung. Lorenzo pats him firmly on the back.

LORENZO
Good. *Good*. You're fine. Cough out the *Kid*. You're a man now...

Jakie looks at Lorenzo, confused: *I am?*

LORENZO
And a *real* man is a *provider*. That's what you're going to be, again, today. Yeah? I'm counting on you.

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JAKIE
(hesitant)
Yes sir.

INT. FRANCESCO'S DELI - DAY

Jakie enters the deli. FRANCESCO (60) burly, yet warm, kind of grandpa. He's energetic and crass.

Francesco hands change back to a CUSTOMER.

The Customer leaves. Francesco notices Jakie.

FRANCESCO
Ay. How's it goin', Jakie? What can I get for ya?

Jakie forks over some change.

JAKIE
Just the usual, please.

Francesco processes the transaction while making conversation. He notices Jakie's bruises.

FRANCESCO
Listen up, Hotshot... you're in here every day. Why is it you can't try something new for a change?

JAKIE
I dunno. I just like what I like.

FRANCESCO
You know I can't help but notice you've turned purple today.

Jakie ignores that last comment. Francesco starts making the sandwich. He occasionally looks at Jakie.

FRANCESCO
My extraordinary powers tell me ya might have been in a fight.

JAKIE
No, sir. It was just... just a stupid thing.

FRANCESCO
Speaking of stupid things, how's school going?

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