

Down's Gangster

By

Simon Colligan

Simon Colligan
(colliganweb.co.uk)

simon@colliganweb.co.uk

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Large dimly lit office - family house. Father (80's) frail, sat behind a large wooden desk. Olly (early 30's) Downs Syndrome, sharply dressed - black suit, is standing near the window holding a GLASS SHORT.

FATHER

A business takes a lot of running.

His head still, Olly eyes his father.

FATHER (CONT'D)

There's a lot of decisions to be made. A lot of things you can get right and a lot of things you can get wrong.

Father shifts his position; in his state, comfort is vanity.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Decision making. Getting people to do things. To do right things. The way you want them to do them.

Olly takes sip of his short.

FATHER (CONT'D)

One day son, this whole thing... well it's going to go legit. All of it. We're going to go above board. That's the aim. That's always been the aim.

Father pulls himself forwards: a marathon struggle.

FATHER (CONT'D)

You probably never read Marx or any of that... kinda crap. Capital. It's all about access to capital. You got no capital? You're poor. And you're gonna stay poor. Once you get your capital, and you keep it clean. You're gonna get rich.

Olly gazes through he window..

FATHER (CONT'D)

You can't stay in this game too long. We got a lot of this by illegitimate means. You think that the guys who are wanting to topple you are going to play by your rules?

(CONTINUED)

Father affords himself a smile.

FATHER (CONT'D)

We've been sharks in the sea, so
you can't gripe too much when the
bigger shark comes bearing down on
you. You wanna keep what you got?
Get outta the sea. Play it legit.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD

FATHER is in bed. Olly standing next to him. Two people nearby wear hospital whites. Behind Olly there are two MEN and one WOMAN. Olly moves his hand over Father's face, closes Father's eyes.

INT. LOUNGE IN FATHER'S HOUSE

TEDDY (early 40's) wearing the look of a man perpetually harassed, is sitting on a large sofa. There two other MEN in the room. TONY UNETTI (late 40's) tall graying; EDDIE DUOTTI (30's) short, slightly overweight, dark hair. Duotti stands behind Teddy, pouring drinks from the drinks cabinet. Tony manoeuvres himself to the armchair next to Teddy.

TONY

So you holding up okay Teddy? I
know he meant so much to everyone.
He held this family together. He
was a remarkable man.

TEDDY

A lot of things are going to change
now. I'm in charge of all this. A
lot of people are going to feel
uncomfortable. I need to be
confident in certain individuals. I
need people I can rely on.

TONY

Totally.

INT. SMALL COURT - WILL HEARING

The family and associates are gathered in a small court-room to hear Father's will being read. Teddy is surrounded by his people; his brother Olly, in turn is sat near to his own people. The WILL-READER is facing the group.

(CONTINUED)

WILL-READER

To my most precious first-born and
first loved son, I leave \$500,000.
To my darling and most beautiful
daughter, Lydia, I leave \$500,000.

Murmurs from the gathered group.

WILL-READER (CONT'D)

To Teddy I leave \$500,000.

Members of the group look around, surprised.

WILL-READER (CONT'D)

To Olly, I leave the remaining
outstanding balance, and overall
control of the business.

Gasps from group

WILL-READER (CONT'D)

This surmises the business of the
will.

Teddy rises to his feet.

TEDDY

(shocked)

What?

People turn to look.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

What is this? How can he be left
the business? How can he control
anything? Doesn't anybody know that
this guy has got a disability?

Teddy buttons his jacket, heads toward the exit.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

This is some kinda farce.

Teddy exits. Olly rises calmly and leaves - his posture
upright and confident.

EXT. INSIDE TEDDY'S CAR - DAY

Teddy is in his car: Tony and Duotti with him. Teddy's lips
are tight and his right fist is clenched over the steering
wheel.

(CONTINUED)

TEDDY

Is it a joke? Someone tell me I didn't just hear what I heard.

TONY

You gotta contest this Teddy, there's got to be something wrong here.

DUOTTI

I can't see your father having left almost everything to that guy. I mean yeah, he's your brother and all that, but is he going to run a business? You're supposed to look after the guy, not work for him.

TEDDY

I'm going to get back control of this business, whether the guy likes it or not.

INT. OFFICE IN FAMILY HOUSE - DAY

Olly is standing in the middle of the office holding a small WHISKEY.

Sitting behind the desk is ALF LEGATTI (50's).

LYDIA (late 30's) a smartly dressed brunette, is sitting behind Olly.

ALF is rubbing his forehead, two fingers and a thumb, firmly.

ALF

Didn't see that coming. Just didn't see that coming.

Alf places his hands on the desk, looks straight at Olly.

ALF (CONT'D)

Did you know anything about this?

Olly takes a sip of his drink, lost in thought.

INT. OFFICE IN THE CASINO - DAY

Teddy walks in, unaccompanied. The office is large, opulent, based upstairs in the casino. Behind a desk is TERENCE MONETTO (50's) tall and athletic, thinning brown hair, round glasses.

TERENCE

Teddy. Welcome in. Take a seat. Sit down.

Teddy smiles toward Terence and takes a seat.

TERENCE (CONT'D)

So. Teddy. Are you well?

Teddy laughs, and looks to his side and then up to the ceiling.

TEDDY

Yeah, yeah. I'm well.

Terence nods his head knowingly.

TERENCE

Surprising.

Teddy looks directly at Terence. He raises his eyebrows.

TEDDY

You were surprised?

TERENCE

(bored)

So you expected this. You knew it was coming, and more than that you prepared for it...

TEDDY

(interrupts)

...just what...

(tails off)

TERENCE

(paternally)

I've been your father's accountant for a long time Teddy.

(pauses)

I know what matters...

(correction)

...what mattered to him.

(pause)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TERENCE (cont'd)

Teddy. I looked after your father's money. He told me what I needed to know.

Terence sits back and relaxes in the chair.

TEDDY

Well maybe there was some communication...

(beat)

...difficulty.

TERENCE

He told me everything. At least... well now I know. Somebody must have known. I simply don't believe he didn't tell anyone.

(pause)

But.

(pause)

That is the situation that we are in. Teddy, I've spoken to people. I've talked, I've asked around. And... nothing. There's never nothing, Teddy.

Looks right at Teddy.

TERENCE (CONT'D)

Never. Except here. There may not be nothing, but if there was something, well, I didn't hear it. Now. What's that all about?

TEDDY

There's two choices here. One, we contest it.

Teddy folds his legs and raises a clenched thumb to Terence.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

We fight it through the courts.

Terence tips his head to the left.

TERENCE

It's possible. But it's going to take one heap of money, and, well, there's no guarantee.

(CONTINUED)

TEDDY

Then two, the guy's in control, and he's like a... you know?

Teddy looks at Terence for a hint.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Basically, we can still control this. He's like, a figure head. But, behind the scenes, we're pulling all the strings.

TERENCE

He's not going to be difficult to control. We both know that.

(firmly)

And that's not going to cost...

EXT. GIUSEPPE'S CAFÉ BAR - DAY

Giuseppe's: dated looking Italian café bar. Tony and Duotti are visible in the bar from the exterior. Duotti is stood at the bar. Tony is buying cigarettes.

Another man, in almost identical attire, walks into Giuseppe's: ANDREI ANDRETTO (40's).

INT. GIUSEPPE'S - DAY

GIUSEPPE (50's) balding, remaining hair almost shoulder length, greasy; he needs a shave, is sallow, like he never practiced being happy. Giuseppe is cleaning a glass behind the bar. He holds the glass to the light.

GIUSEPPE

Clean.

Duotti hands over a currency note. Giuseppe takes it.

GIUSEPPE (CONT'D)

You not getting these guys a drink? What are you too selfish? Do 'em a favor - they've had a day of it too you know.

Tony turns round to see the Andrei walking into the café, and a large grin breaks across his face.

DUOTTI

(to Andrei)

Hey...

(CONTINUED)

(to Giuseppe)
Yeah get him whatever, no, take one
on that, his usual.
(to Andrei)
You having something? I'll get you
something in.

ANDRETTO
Oh. Coffee.

Andretto gives Duotti's hair a bit of a shake, and has a
small grin on his face, as much a smirk.

ANDRETTO (CONT'D)
So what did you make of that. Quite
a turn, hu?

DUOTTI
You know, I think the old man must
have lost a little something when
he made that decision, like a few
marbles here and there, like a few
box-fulls of the things.

Tony returns from buying his cigarettes, stands next to
Duotti.

TONY
You girls gonna sit your butts
down, or you gonna just stand there
chatting' each other up all night?

DUOTTI
(to Andrei)
Let's get a seat.

They sit.

Tony takes a CIGARETTE out, and offers them around. Duotti
takes one and accepts a light.

Gracious murmurs are emitted.

Tony taps his cigarette on the table.

TONY
So we have a little thinking to do
here. We could have a little
problem, some minor issues.
(leans forward)
We all saw what happened today, and
it knocked every single one of us
off our chairs.

(CONTINUED)

Tony looks at each of the other guys.

TONY (CONT'D)
Now we know that Teddy ain't gonna
be happy. Not in the least.

Tony lights his cigarette.

TONY (CONT'D)
We also know that Teddy's been a
bad boy.

The guys grin, shake their heads.

TONY (CONT'D)
...and is getting up to stuff that
he thought his daddy didn't know
about. And then this.

Tony uses his cigarette to lightly jab around toward the
faces of the guys.

TONY (CONT'D)
So maybe Daddy knew a little more
that we thought.

Tony sits back and drags on the cigarette.

TONY (CONT'D)
Teddy's gonna want control. Not
only, but he's gonna be pretty
confident that he's gonna get it.
And that's a problem for us all.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF GIUSEPPE'S - NIGHT

A light drizzle falls. The streets are quiet.

Duotti and Andrei leave Giuseppe's. They are the last to
exit. They begin to walk down the road. Duotti moves into a
doorway to light a cigarette. Andrei joins him in the
shelter.

DUOTTI
Have you any idea of just how much
money we can take through some of
our operations?

ANDRETTO
(inquisitive)
Uh hu?

Duotti points his cigarette at Andrei.

(CONTINUED)

DUOTTI

Screw this legit nonsense. We got a guy who brings in 4 or 5 kilos of the white stuff. You hear me?

ANDRETTO

I'm listening.

DUOTTI

We pass it on to a couple of good guys we got who get it on the street. You know the mark up on that crap? 200%.

Duotti and Andrei study each other.

ANDRETTO

200%? That's a mark-up.

DUOTTI

And you know the best part?

Duotti draws on his cigarette and exhales over Andrei's head.

DUOTTI (CONT'D)

It's easy money.

(pause)

We get other people to do all the hard work.

Duotti takes in the concentrated expressions of his audience.

DUOTTI (CONT'D)

Any problems, they get the exposure. We don't touch the stuff.

Duotti draws in on his smoke.

DUOTTI (CONT'D)

We got a guy who brings it in, and moves it on to a paid hand, no relation to the firm. No money changes hands at that point, so there's never any issues. We pay up front, separate transactions.

Duotti raises his hand to offer assurance.

DUOTTI (CONT'D)

Once the stuff's handed over, the hand checks it, and then

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DUOTTI (CONT'D) (cont'd)
distributes it out to guys that he
uses regular. They pay up front to
the hand. So even after the middle
men, we still rake in 200%, and
anyone gets busted, we got our
hands clean.

Duotti smiles and looks at his colleague.

DUOTTI (CONT'D)
Sound like a good deal to you?
Sound like we want to give that
kinda thing up? You want to go
legit after that? What are you
going to be? A restaurant manager?
Is that what you want?

Andrei studies Duotti, takes it all in.

ANDRETTO
There's a couple of things that I
ain't totally clear about?

DUOTTI
I'm listening.

ANDRETTO
It's the money. The whole money
thing. How's it working? I don't
see it.

Duotti rolls his eyes and looks skywards briefly.

DUOTTI
It's the casino. It all goes
through the casino.

ANDRETTO
How? Clear it up for me.

DUOTTI
We got a guy in the casino. Works
the craps table for us. Tried to
rig a table up first, but they
rotate the people, so it got kinda
messy.

ANDRETTO
Ok.

DUOTTI

So there's a middle man. Works for the Colombians. Comes in the casino. Places a bet. Wins big. Nice and easy.

ANDRETTO

Money out. So where's the money in?

DUOTTI

The hand. He comes to the casino too. Lays a bet. A big one. Loses. Doesn't lay his taking of course. Just our return.

(pause)

Money in.

ANDRETTO

So you've got hired hand, you got Colombian middle man, you've got Mr craps table. You're still missing someone.

DUOTTI

No I ain't. We got the accountant too. Terence Monetto. Terence and Teddy? Closer than you and your mother.

EXT. NEON LIT CITY STREETS - LATE EVENING

There is rain. A chauffeur driven car sneaks along the sodden avenue.

INT. CAR - SAME

Olly and Alf are in the rear seats. There is a distance between them. They do not talk. Alf reads documents.

EXT. CASINO FRONTAGE - NIGHT

The car pulls up in front of the casino. A doorman gets the car-door, hold a broolly aloft. Olly exits. Alf exits. Olly walks toward the casino door, dressed in his black suit. Holds his right hand over the middle buttons: he is assured and confident. Glances over his left shoulder; Alf follows.

The casino door is opened by a concierge.

(CONTINUED)

FATHER (V.O.)
You want some advice? Some real
advice? Keep your mouth shut.

Olly and Alf walk in.

FATHER (V.O.)
The less you say, the better.

Through the casino, negotiating punters, machines, flashing
lights.

FATHER (V.O.)
And then let's face it... even if
it does sound... off...
(beat)
...you don't sound so bright.

And upstairs.

FATHER (V.O.)
So put your head up, dress smart,
and keep it tight.

Two, then three casino employees join them as they continue.

FATHER (V.O.)
What you do is create a silent
serenade to authority.

A door is opened: they do not knock.

FATHER (V.O.)
You listen. To whatever they have
to say. And then you do, you act.
You talk if you have to.

Olly walks in, Alf follows; the hangers-on loiter in the
doorway.

FATHER (V.O.)
And only if you have to.

Olly takes a seat. He is comfortable.

TERENCE
Olly. Welcome in. A pleasure to see
you. I hope you are well. To what
do I owe the pleasure?

OLLY
I need the books.
(pause)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

OLLY (cont'd)
All the books.

Olly fixes his gaze on Terence. Terence moves subtly in his chair. Thinking quickly, acting calmly.

TERENCE
What books might they be?
(pause)
May I ask?

Olly remains still.

OLLY
The accounts, Terence. In full.
Above board, and below deck. Give
them all to me.

Terence now just thinking quickly.

TERENCE
Of course. I'll have them sent over
to you by... first thing in the
morning.

OLLY
Accompany them.

TERENCE
With pleasure.

Alf adjusts his position.

TERENCE (CONT'D)
Olly. So, have you thought much
about, future... positions? There
may be strategies...
(struggling)
...directions that you wish for the
organization to take.

Olly rises and makes towards the door.

OLLY
I have.

Olly exits.

EXT. CASINO CAR PARK - SHORT TIME LATER

Expensive cars line up in bays. Behind each of them a sign reading: RESERVED.

A light rain falls.

Terence Monetto has his suit collar flipped up and hunches his shoulders against the weather. He carries a leather brief and a mobile.

TERENCE
 (to mobile)
 Teddy? Yeah, we got problems.
 (listens)
 Uh hu. Wants the books. All of
 them.

Terence reaches his car and struggles to get his key into the door.

TERENCE (CONT'D)
 By tomorrow.
 (listens)
 Morning.
 (opens car door)
 You sure?

INT. CAR - SAME

Terence sits on the car seat, drops the baggage on the passenger seat and wipes his brow with a handkerchief.

TERENCE (CONT'D)
 I wouldn't do that, if I were you
 Teddy.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - OPEN FIRE, GENTLE LIGHTING

Teddy is sat on the edge of a sofa. Stares ahead.

TEDDY
 There's a lot of information, that
 could lead us into a whole lot
 of...

TERENCE
 (to phone)
 It's not going to be an issue
 Teddy. This is under control.

(CONTINUED)

Teddy puts the phone down. He continues to stare ahead.
Tightens his eyes.

BACK TO SCENE:

INT. CAR - SAME

Terence bites his bottom lip. He remains still.

INT. FATHER'S OFFICE

Father is behind the desk. Olly by the window.

FATHER
Patterns, Olly.

Olly turns to look at Father.

FATHER (CONT'D)
You like pretty patterns?

Olly returns his gaze to the window.

FATHER (CONT'D)
Look for them Olly. All those
pretty patterns.

CLOSE UP: OLLY'S FACE SIDE ON.

FATHER (O.S)
In what people do, and in what
people say.
(pause)
Look for them where the money is.

Olly takes a sip on his drink.

FATHER (O.S)
You'll find them. If you look hard
enough.

EXT. CASINO STREET - FURTHER DOWN - NEXT DAY - MORNING

Teddy and Tony walk briskly side by side. Behind them, Eddie
Duotti, checking to his left and right.

Teddy and Tony talk through tightened lips, their tones
lowered.

(CONTINUED)

TONY

I ain't burning anything Teddy.
It's too much of a risk. It's going
to get out of control.

TEDDY

I won't have all of this fall apart
around me. Not for him. That little
creep.

TONY

Listen to Terence. He's going to
smooth this whole thing over real
nice.

They reach the entrance to the casino. A concierge stand at
the door. From behind the door emerges a BOUNCER.

TEDDY

Problem?

BOUNCER

Mr Olly would like to see you both
after lunch.

Teddy begins to move forward. The bouncer remains still.

BOUNCER (CONT'D)

So as soon as you all got yourself
eats and drinks, you make your way
back here.

TONY

Do you want to get out the way?

BOUNCER

Mr Olly's property will be
available for your convenience.
After lunch. Gentlemen. Enjoy
yourselves and see you all soon.

The three men eye each other, turn and leave.

INT. CASINO - NINE MONTHS PREVIOUS

Olly lounges against a craps table, hands in pocket.

Teddy ambles up to him, rolls a small dice in his hand.

TEDDY

Hey Olly. How are you doing?

Olly does not flinch.

(CONTINUED)

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Father wants to see you. Upstairs.
He's in the office.

OLLY

I'll be up in five.

Teddy saunters off, and casts Olly a glance over his shoulder.

TEDDY

Don't keep Father waiting Olly.
That's not nice.

Near distance. A craps table. A man approaches: Plays. Wins big. Collects. Grins, leaves.

EXT. CASINO STREET - FURTHER DOWN - TODAY

Teddy, Tony, Eddie Duotti have found an eatery: DONATELLO'S CAFE. They look out of the window toward the casino as they take their seats.

A waitress gets their table and they order.

TEDDY

What's he up to?

DUOTTI

Is he faking something? I mean, is he just trying to freak us or something? Make us break our cover?

TONY

Nah.

TEDDY

So what's he doing, Tony?

TONY

He ain't playing the cards. I can tell you that for nothing.

DUOTTI

So who's the dealer? Somebody's got to be dealing him a good hand.

TEDDY

Damn casino's mine. Belongs to me.
He's just walking in and taking it off me.

(CONTINUED)

TONY

There's only one person it can be.

INT. CASINO OFFICE - SAME

Terence is seated, relaxed.

Tangential to him, Olly: pacing, head down, hands in pockets.

ALF (O.S.)

Does Teddy know?

TERENCE

Teddy?

ALF (O.S.)

Yeah. Teddy?

TERENCE

What does Teddy have to know?

ALF (O.S.)

I think that's it's fairly obvious what Teddy needs to know.

TERENCE

Teddy's not an accountant. He's an... action guy. He likes to go out there and do things. That's why he has me. I'm an accountant.

OLLY

What does Teddy like to do?

TERENCE

Oh Teddy like to do lots of things. He likes business. He likes to meet people.

Olly glances toward Alf.

ALF

You've come accustomed to dealing with dumb people. At least people who don't like to look at the books.

Terence gives Alf a weak smile.

INT. DONATELLA'S CAFE - HALF AND HOUR LATER

Teddy, Tony Unetti, Eddie Duotti are out their seats; wiping their mouths with serviettes. They leave money for the food, deliver gratitudes and leave.

EXT. DONATELLA'S CAFE - SAME

The guys head toward the casino.

TEDDY

I want to get this little idiot sorted out. I want it doing today. I'm not going to be played around like this.

TONY

I'd take it a little easy, if I were you.

Teddy throws a glance toward Tony, incredulous.

TEDDY

Easy? Tony, I'm beginning to think that something has got into you...

TONY

Teddy, I think someone maybe playing you.

TEDDY

Tony, I've lived with the guy all my life. He's my little brother, I helped to raise the little git.

TONY

That's not the point.

TEDDY

If there's one thing that I know, it's that there ain't an awful lot going on between those cute little ears of his.

TONY

Someone could be playing you and him, Teddy. Like we said. He ain't so hard to control.

Teddy's brows furrow a little; he glances toward Tony.

(CONTINUED)

TONY (CONT'D)

Father was ill for a while. They could have seen it coming and started working on the guy.

The four men arrive at the casino. Bouncer is there.

TEDDY

You going to let me in to do my job now, meat-head?

BOUNCER

I'd like to welcome you both in; why don't you go make yourselves comfortable.

TONY

Because we have jobs to do.

They scowl toward the bouncer and enter the casino.

INT. CASINO OFFICE - SHORT TIME LATER

Teddy is sat in the same chair that Terence sat in. Olly is pacing behind him as before.

Teddy is looking uncomfortable He glances behind him toward Olly, look toward Alf who is sat behind the main desk.

TEDDY

Anyone going to fill me in here? I'm kind of busy today, so if we could move this forward.

OLLY

Talk to me Teddy.

TEDDY

Yeah, it's kind of difficult with you pacing around behind me and all that.

ALF

Money. And manipulation.

Teddy squints at Alf.

TEDDY

What?

(CONTINUED)

ALF
There's a lot of it going on here
Teddy.

TEDDY
I'm sorry.

ALF
That's ok.
(pause)
But we need to...
(pause)
...tighten up our procedures
somewhat.

Teddy shifts in his chair.

EXT. ANY STREET - LATER THAT EVENING

Tony strolls and stops close to the sidewalk.

A car drives up. The window pulls down.

TERENCE
Let's go and talk Tony.

INT. CAR - SAME

Terence drives.

TERENCE
So how are you doing, Tony?

TONY
Let's just get to the point,
Terence. I'm a little tired to go
dancing right now.

TERENCE
There's been a lot going on, the
last few days, hu?

Teddy looks at his watch, and checks out of the window.

TERENCE (CONT'D)
Okay, okay. So there's little power
struggle going on at the moment.

Terence looks across to Teddy.

(CONTINUED)

TERENCE (CONT'D)

There's people behind Olly, and there's people behind Teddy. We're taking sides.

TONY

And who's side are you on?

TERENCE

Tony?

(laughs)

Wow. Didn't expect that. You're a little cynical today, hu?

TONY

Look, I'm going to be straight with you. I need convincing that you got Teddy's interests in hand. Father ain't watching over you anymore, and that kind of concerns me.

TERENCE

A lot of people are concerned, Tony, these are uncertain times. Whoever gets control over this business is going to take it in their own direction, and that isn't so good for those who loose out.

Terence pulls up outside an apartment block.

TONY

You're in a powerful position. You got a lot of control over the finances. But remember. I'm still your boss.

Terence laughs. Tony looks at him.

TERENCE

Relax, Tony. I know exactly which hand is feeding whom.

Tony exits the vehicle.

INT. CASINO OFFICE - EARLIER

Teddy is in the chair, Alf behind the desk, Olly pacing behind.

(CONTINUED)

ALF
What's your job, Teddy?

TEDDY
Sorry?

ALF
Your role, occupation...

TEDDY
(laughs)
What is this...
(pause)
Oh. Okay. Yeah, I get it. I see
what's going on. Control, hu.
Framing it up?

Teddy turns round to Olly.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
This guy pulling all the string is
he? Telling Olly what to do and
when. I'm your brother damn it.
Don't you think that I care about
you? About what happens to you?

Olly paces. Teddy shakes his head, rolls his eyes, and turns
back to face Alf.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
Well, I'm sorry guys, sorry to
disappoint you.

Teddy gets up.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
But I got better things to do than
sit around here and chat all day.

Makes his way toward the door.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
See you around Olly.

Teddy exits.

OLLY
Lydia here?

ALF
Yeah. I'll give her a call. She's
downstairs.

EXT. STREET - SAME

Eddie Duotti walks along the street, and crosses the road in front of GAMBDETTI'S Restaurant Wine Bar.

He enter Gambdetti's.

INT. GAMBDETTI'S - SAME

The bartender sees Duotti, and nods his acknowledgment. He moves off, speaks to Andrei Andretto who is standing nearby.

Andretto smiles and moves over to greet Duotti.

ANDRETTO

Hey, how are you doing? Come through.

They move through the restaurant to a door at the rear, marked: 'PRIVATE: MEMBERS ONLY'.

INT. CASINO OFFICE - SAME

There is a knock at the door.

OLLY

Yup.

A door opens, a bouncer's hand gripping the handle. Lydia walks in.

LYDIA

Hi Olly.

OLLY

Hi sis.

They peck on the cheek.

LYDIA

Hi Alf.

ALF

Lydia.

Olly offers Lydia a seat on the sofa, pours her a drink, and hands it to her. Lydia takes the glass and raises it to Olly.

INT. GAMBDETTI'S - SAME

The men walk through a functional corridor; there is an occasional door to the left and to the right.

Further along, a bouncer stands guarding a door... he moves aside as he sees the three men approach, opening the door as he moves.

INT. GAMBLING ROOM - GAMBDETTI'S - CONTINUOUS

A dimly lit room. There are tables; some have punters sitting around them.

Andretto shows Duotti to a table with two men chatting: BRUNO BARACOLLI and CARLOS CHINELLI. Baracolli and Chinelli turn and look to the men.

BARACOLLI

Guys. You took your time.

CHINELLI

Welcome in, take yourselves a seat.

They sit.

ANDRETTO

You going to have a drink?

DUOTTI

Yeah, whiskey.

Andretto moves away.

BARACOLLI

(to Chinelli)

You going to deal?

Chinelli begins to dish out the cards.

Andretto return with drinks, and sits.

DUOTTI

They're closing you down.

ANDRETTO

(suprised)

Says who?

DUOTTI

Says me.

(CONTINUED)

ANDRETTO

You got anything to base that on?

Duotti looks at Andretto.

DUOTTI

He always wanted to go legit. That was his dream.

ANDRETTO

We got a legitimate front end here. I don't see what the problem is.

DUOTTI

Back end, that's your problem. You make as much up front as you do here? I don't think so.

CHINELLI

There's been a little talk about about your...

(pause)

...alternate operations.

DUOTTI

And?

ANDRETTO

And I'm interested. But you have to maintain control of the casino. Is Teddy going to be able to do that?

DUOTTI

He got it all under control.

BARACOLLI

That's not what I heard.

DUOTTI

What are you talking about? What have you heard? Who the hell are you?

BARACOLLI

They're talking at the casino. Some of the guys. Saying that Teddy's under pressure.

DUOTTI

He ain't nothing of the kind.

INT. CASINO OFFICE - SAME

Olly is on his feet. Alf behind the desk. Lydia sipping at the drink.

OLLY
Talk it through between yourselves.
The two of you.

LYDIA
Between the two of us?

OLLY
Yeah.

Lydia looks at Alf.

LYDIA
Okay. From the top.

INT. GAMBDETTI'S - SAME

The men are gathered round the table.

ANDRETTO
There's a big risk to getting
involved with what you're doing.

DUOTTI
Andrei. There's a risk to
everything. Look at what you're
doing. You trying to tell me
there's no risk there?

ANDRETTO
There's a risk okay, no doubt. But
us? We've only got the law against
us. You? You've got the law and the
business hunting after your
backsides.

DUOTTI
I'm talking about a complete split.
We clean our ass on face value.

ANDRETTO
Ass about face?

DUOTTI
We keep on running the casino, like
no-one thinks nothing is wrong. The
operation keeps running in the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DUOTTI (cont'd)
background. We just separate, nice
and slow, drift off to
independence. Set up in new
areas...

ANDRETTO

(laughs)

Teddy isn't going to want to get
rich in the background. He wants
full control of the business. He
got no interest in going legit, no
desire, not with the potential with
outside operations.

(beat)

...and anyway. How do we fund a
split? You any idea how much that
kind of thing is going to cost?

INT. CASINO OFFICE - SAME

Olly paces. Lydia sips her drink. Alf is composed.

ALF

It's the Terence problem really. He
thinks he runs the company.

LYDIA

So who does?

ALF

(laughs)

Olly's still here.

Alf and Lydia look at Olly. He sees them looking and gives
and embarrassed grin.

OLLY

Get on with it.

ALF

Teddy wants to run it. That's his
aim. Terence wants Teddy to think
he's running it, because Terence is
pulling Teddy's strings...

LYDIA

...pulling his strings..?

ALF

(pause to think)

Okay. Not a great choice of words.
We've seen the accounts. They're

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALF (cont'd)
pulling money in and then pulling
money out.

LYDIA
...for?

ALF
...well, financial purposes...

OLLY
Alf.

ALF
Okay. Okay.
(beat)
I don't know. An operation. The
cash flow, the money they're
putting in and taking out is
regular. But then Terence is
messing around with the figures.

LYDIA
I'm not following you.

ALF
Terence has a system. A method for
massaging the figures. Most of it
is directed towards Teddy.
Traceable to Teddy. But then he's
lining his own nest on top of that.
And Tony doesn't know a thing about
it.

LYDIA
So Terence is screwing Tony.

ALF
Absolutely.

LYDIA
And so Terence would like, really
like Teddy to be in charge?

ALF
Precisely.

INT. FATHER'S OFFICE - MONTHS EARLIER

Father is behind the desk. Olly by the window.

FATHER

Simple thing is. You can't know everything. You never will, and you're can never hope to. Especially you. You got to know your weaknesses kid, and then all you got left to worry about is your strengths.

Olly look down.

FATHER

Advisers. It's all about advisers. If you don't know it, find someone who does. That's the easy bit, because if you got a little cash in your ass, then everybody's going to now the solutions to your problems.

Olly looks through the window.

FATHER

But finding the guy, or the girl, who's going have the right solution? You're half-way there.

INT. CASINO OFFICE - SAME

Lydia leans forward.

LYDIA

Tell me about this operation. We have to find out more about it...

OLLY

Drugs.

ALF

Aah...

(wags his finger at Olly)

You don't know that, Olly.

LYDIA

Why do you think it's drugs, Olly.

OLLY

The casino. The money in money out men. Colombians. Means drugs.

(CONTINUED)

LYDIA

Alf?

ALF

Yeah, but the term leaping, and conclusions, spring to mind. We don't now this yet, it's a suspicion, but we have to have a lot more to go on.

LYDIA

Is Teddy making money on this?

ALF

Well, no not really. Not as much as he'd hope to. Not as much as he thinks. Terence is taking most of the profit. That's clear from the books. But Terence is hiding a lot of the profit in the way of overheads.

LYDIA

How's he getting away with this?

ALF

He's got people.

LYDIA

Which people?

ALF

Teddy's people.

INT. GAMBDETTI'S - SAME

Duotti leans forward, toward Andretto.

DUOTTI

You do know that this place is over if puppy-dog syndrome boy gets his paws all over things.

ANDRETTO

You're so sure?

DUOTTI

It's the word from Teddy. His Daddy wanted to go legit. One of the reasons he tried to take Teddy out of the picture. Knew Teddy wasn't going to play that way.

(CONTINUED)

ANDRETTO

So he gives complete control
(searches for the word)
to a...

DUOTTI

...Person with Downs' Syndrome. I
don't think so. He's run by the
lawyer, Father's nephew. He'd like
thing clean. Got the kid as a
figure head. Didn't think we'd
figure it out.

ANDRETTO

Tell me something. How exactly is
all this going to work? Like it or
not, the kid's legally in charge of
the business.

DUOTTI

We got Teddy verses the kid, and
Terence verses Alf.

ANDRETTO

And...

DUOTTI

Then we convince them our way.

ANDRETTO

And if they are not as compliant as
we'd like?

DUOTTI

Force them out.

ANDRETTO

How?

DUOTTI

We run the casino into the ground.
We know every inch of the place.
We've worked there years. We could
make it the worst place to come.

ANDRETTO

He'd hire other people.

DUOTTI

Who? Alf? Olly?

(CONTINUED)

ANDRETTO

Whoever you want.

DUOTTI

The casino business is a small world. And a bullet says a lot.

Andretto eyes Duotti carefully.

EXT. LARGE HOUSE - NEXT DAY - MORNING.

Alf Legatti is ringing on the buzzer of a large house. The door opens. Teddy greets him.

INT. - SAME

Alf sits on a sofa, holding a small whiskey. Teddy is standing near to the fire place, also holding a small whiskey.

ALF

How long are you going to let Terence get away with this?

Teddy looks toward Alf.

ALF (CONT'D)

I saw you looking at those books yesterday. Don't pretend to me you're dumb. I know you've been in this business for a long time.

TEDDY

The opposite in fact.

ALF

So how much is he paying your guys?

TEDDY

About two and half.

ALF

And he told you he'd need to pay them five.

TEDDY

And he told them I'd agreed to pay them a grand.

(CONTINUED)

ALF

So he takes two and a half grand off each guy per week, while they're sat there thinking he's giving them an extra fifteen hundred to keep them sweet.

TEDDY

And he's got a whole bunch of other tricks in the cupboard.

ALF

You see, Teddy. You don't really have any support.

Teddy laughs.

TEDDY

Oh, I still got Tony.

ALF

He's not on Terence's books?

TEDDY

Oh no. He's Terence's boss, you see, the Casino Manager. He hired him. And... well, he doesn't really like accountants. Doesn't trust them.

ALF

And Terence tried to... with him?

TEDDY

Hell yeah. Came straight to me, told me all about it afterward.

ALF

So why'd you let him...

TEDDY

Terence? He's scared. We'll get the money back. It's all in a separate account. He builds it up. Hopes to one day shoot off, disappear. But he's an outsider. Loves playing with gangsters. But he's really scared silly. If we catch him, he'll just go, oh the money's here. It's invested. It's his safety clause and his pension pot in one.

(CONTINUED)

ALF

So in the mean time you just let him...

TEDDY

He's on a power trip and he's not done yet. Final act. Control of the business. Then gone. But not before. He believes he can do it.

ALF

And you're happy to take him at any time. End his little trip?

TEDDY

Oh, Tony would do it in the blink of an eye.

(laughs)

Let's be honest here. Tony hates the guy like every Monday at once. He'd take him today and sleep like a baby.

Alf rubs his hands together. He looks up to the ceiling. He looks down again and shakes his head.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

What's cooking?

ALF

I'm... just not falling for it. Either you're lying somewhere here... or I'm not getting it. Why so clear? Why tell me so much? You're laying too many cards on the table. There's just got to be an ace somewhere that you're not showing.

TEDDY

You see, Alf. You don't really have any support.

Alf focuses on Teddy; waves his hand at him.

ALF

You're not being...

TEDDY

I got Tony and his boys. I got Terence, for the time being, so I've got the casino. I got Andretto and his people. Who've you got Alf? A couple of bouncers and doormen?

(CONTINUED)

Alf gives a small laugh.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

You haven't got any weight with you. No really. I admire your choice. You were so close with Father, and you understood what he wanted to do...

ALF

Teddy...

TEDDY

..but you don't have... the weight of people that matter behind you. Sometimes morals cost. You got them in abundance. But you got nothing to force them through with. You're lost Alf. You've lost.

Silence. Both men eye each other.

ALF

You got 24 hours.

Teddy laughs.

TEDDY

For what?

ALF

To get out.

TEDDY

Get out of what, Alf?

ALF

Town.

TEDDY

Or?

ALF

You die, Teddy. It's as simple as that.

TEDDY

Who's running you? You?

Alf rises to a standing position.

(CONTINUED)

ALF
You know who's running me, Teddy.
You always knew who was running me.

TEDDY
(whispers)
He wouldn't have the nerve.

EXT. SPAGHETTI ROAD BRIDGE - NEXT DAY

A car pulls to a stop. Two men get out. Tony and Teddy.

TEDDY
Is this it?

TONY
Looks like it.

TEDDY
Check over there. Go careful.

Tony moves forward moving near to the underneath of the bridge. Newspapers and various insignificant scraps get flung here and there by the light wind.

Tony can see a car. He calls back to Teddy.

TONY
I think there's something here.

Teddy moves to join him. They approach the car together.

Inside there is clearly a man sitting slumped. As they move closer, they see a single wound to the center of the man's head, a dried trickle of blood. It is Terence.

TEDDY
They killed Terence.

Tony hangs his head down, and turn away.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
Didn't think they'd do it.

Tony looks to the car, and then looks to Teddy.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
You think I'm next?

Teddy turns to look at Tony.

(CONTINUED)

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Let's go Tony.

INT. FATHER'S OFFICE - MONTHS EARLIER

Father studies Olly.

FATHER

Sometimes you got to be ready for
the unexpected. You know what the
unexpected is?

Olly looks at father.

FATHER

Check out what you got upstairs.
It's whatever you weren't thinking
of.

Father chuckles.

FATHER

I got someone looking after you.
Don't worry about it.

EXT. OUTSIDE GAMBDETTI'S - NEXT DAY

Eddie Duotti is knocking on the door of Gambdetti's. Barman
opens the door, Duotti pushes his way in.

DUOTTI

Where's Andretto?

BARMAN

He isn't here yet. He won't be here
until about eleven.

DUOTTI

Get him in. Get him in now. I got
to see the guy real quick.

INT. GIUSEPPE'S - DAY - SAME

Olly takes a seat in one of the pews. He hold his jacket
with his hand as he bends himself into the seat. He sits,
and he is still. He is confident and he is complete.

OLLY (V.O.)

They really didn't expect that. And
it hit them where it hurts.

(CONTINUED)

Olly sits back a little, he gets comfortable.

OLLY (V.O.)

And now they got to figure out a response. They got to figure out what their move is next.

Olly nods his heads, and his eyes follow to the right, trained on a single person.

INT. GAMBDETTI'S - SAME

Andretto enters, flustered. There are chairs upended on tables, and clean floors. He scours the room, and sights Duotti.

Duotti drinks coffee.

Andretto moves to Duotti's table; he sits, waves over to the waiter.

The waiter nods, and gathers crockery.

Andretto leans back, gathers himself.

ANDRETTO

Better be good.

DUOTTI

The coffee?

ANDRETTO

Screw you.

Duotti leans back in his chair, and shakes his head. Laughs to himself.

DUOTTI

It ain't good.

The barman bring a coffee to Andretto.

DUOTTI

It so ain't good.

Andretto stirs his coffee.

ANDRETTO

You better start explaining things.

INT. GIUSEPPE'S - DAY - SAME

A coffee is placed in front of Olly. He waits until his provider sits.

OLLY (V.O.)

I love the look on his face. Call it a hundred things. It's the look of fear. It's the look of the hunted. Of the man who though he had it sussed, and has suddenly woken to to an almighty...

INT. GAMBDETTI'S - SAME

Duotti leans forward toward Andretto.

DUOTTI

They took Terence last night.

Andretto remains calm. He turns his head to one side slightly.

DUOTTI (CONT'D)

What, you don't believe me? You think that I'm joking? He's stone dead. And this screws up with things.

ANDRETTO

(to himself)

And you didn't think that there'd be blood.

DUOTTI

Not so quick, no. Not that hand. Didn't think they'd play that.

Duotti rubs his face with his hand.

DUOTTI

What I mean, is that I didn't think they'd play that hand at all, and if they did, then not... it's just...

ANDRETTO

Who did it? Who took him out?

Duotti shakes his head. He looks up. Shakes his head again.

(CONTINUED)

DUOTTI

Tony. Had to be Tony.

Andretto laughs.

ANDRETTO

That's pretty... um.

DUOTTI

You got someone else?

ANDRETTO

Okay. Talk me through it.

DUOTTI

There isn't anybody else. Simple as that. None of their guys would do it. We got the only people who are going to take someone out. And none of our guys are going to step out of line.

ANDRETTO

What's in it for Tony?

DUOTTI

Apart from he hated the guy?

Duotti takes a breath.

DUOTTI

It's just instinct. There isn't anyone else.

INT. GIUSEPPE'S - DAY - SAME

Olly takes a sip of his coffee.

OLLY (V.O.)

Even now he's still trying to figure it all out. What are we playing at? What's his next move going to be?

Teddy takes a sip of his coffee.

TEDDY

You took Terence.

OLLY

He was an inconvenience.

(CONTINUED)

TEDDY
I didn't think you'd take him out.

OLLY
It was a warning shot.

TEDDY
(laughs)
To who? Terence?

OLLY
Everyone.

TEDDY
So am I next? Are you going to get
one of your guys to gun me down
too? I'm assuming you didn't do it
yourself, of course.

OLLY
And I'm assuming you've already
been spoken to.

EXT. CASINO STREET - NEXT DAY

There has been rain. The streets shine with the dampness.
Teddy and Tony walk side by side. Duotti and Andretto, side
by side follow immediately behind them.

TEDDY
Things are getting a little out of
hand. They're moving a little
faster than we anticipated.

TONY
Cards, Tony. It's all about the
cards.

TEDDY
Tony. A while back you said
something.

TONY
Okay?

TEDDY
We were walking back from the cafe.

TONY
Yeah?

(CONTINUED)

TEDDY

I asked who the dealer was. You said that somebody had to be dealing him a good hand.

TONY

Yeah, I recall that.

TEDDY

Then you said, there's only one person that it could be.

Teddy stops and looks at Tony.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Who were you talking about?

TONY

Alf, Teddy. The only person I could be talking about.

Teddy frowns for a second.

TEDDY

Alf?

TONY

Why is that not so obvious? Olly has the business. Alf has Olly. Who do you think is driving things, Teddy?

Teddy resumes his walk. Tony follows.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Alf wouldn't set up a hit. Not in his nature.

TONY

Nature? He's at the helm of a multi-million dollar business. That changes things. That changes a lot of things. You have to understand that.

Teddy walks on, softly shaking his head.

INT. ROOM IN FAMILY HOUSE - NEXT DAY

Alf is sat on a chair, leaning forward, scotch in his hand. Lydia is stood by the fireplace. Olly is sat on the sofa.

Alf looks at Olly.

ALF

I need to know what is going on,
Olly. I can't help you otherwise.

Olly remains still, staring ahead.

Alf sits up.

ALF

Olly.

(beat)

Did you order the hit? Did you say
anything to anyone?

Alf looks at Lydia. Lydia returns the gaze and looks at Olly.

Alf rises, and places the remains of his drink on the cabinet.

ALF

You can call me if you need me. But
you have to be honest with me. I
need to now what is going on.

Alf exits the room.

INT. RESTROOM - CASINO

Duotti and Andretto are in the rest room. Duotti washes his hands and face, and moves to the dryer. Andretto lounges against one of the basins.

DUOTTI

So what do you think? Alf's
controlling the books now. And we
were getting screwed all along by
Terence.

ANDRETTO

That's why they took Terence out.
Easy way of exposing what he was
doing.

(CONTINUED)

DUOTTI

Don't you think that's a little extreme?

ANDRETTO

He ain't family, there's no relation. He was a hired hand.

DUOTTI

It's still excessive, hu?

ANDRETTO

They want us to know who's boss around here. And right now it isn't Teddy. We all thought it would be. Don't think like that now do we?

DUOTTI

There's other ways of doing that than spilling blood.

ANDRETTO

If he was screwing us like Alf said, then he was probably screwing the casino too. He screwed the business, he could have screwed all of us. Had to make an example of him. Something would have had to have been done.

DUOTTI

So if it ends here then we got no more moves to play. No more hands.

ANDRETTO

Or?

DUOTTI

If we got any other hands, then they have to have blood on them. We have to be willing to go that far. You willing to go that far?

Duotti and Andretto look at each other.

INT. GAMBDETTI'S - NEXT DAY

Andretto, Duotti, Baracolli and Chinelli all gather round a table.

(CONTINUED)

ALF (O.S.)
It's over.

Alf looks at the three men.

ALF
You got a good little business here
in the restaurant. And we'd like to
open some more. There's some good
sites in this area. Plenty of
development opportunity.

Andretto pinches his nose. Baracolli looks down, Chinelli
looks away.

ALF (CONT'D)
It's up to you guys if you want to
take that opportunity or not. But
it's a one-off offer. No ifs, no
buts, cards are on the table. But
it all goes legit.

Alf gets up.

ALF (CONT'D)
You've got until tomorrow to give
me a call.

Alf points at the three guys and exits.

EXT. GIUSEPPE'S - TWO DAYS LATER

Duotti and Andretto walk towards Giuseppe's cafe.

INT. GIUSEPPE'S - SAME

Baracolli and Chinelli are sat inside, engaged in
conversation.

The door opens. Duotti and Andretto walk in, take seats.

There are nods of acknowledgment.

ANDRETTO
So we got quite a situation here,
guys.

DUOTTI
(to Baracolli and Chinelli)
Razor sharp, today, hu?

(CONTINUED)

ANDRETTO

So we got an offer from Alf. Said that if we closed down the gambling, he'd fund us for more restaurants.

BARACOLLI

And you believe the guy?

DUOTTI

Oh, I don't doubt that he's being straight.

ANDRETTO

He's being straight okay. It's what he wants, and he get's it easy. We're all eating out of his hand.

BARACOLLI

What about you guys? What do you get?

DUOTTI

We get to keep our jobs in the business. We get a pay rise, new job titles, and the promise of the ass kicking to end them all if we stray out of line.

BARACOLLI

What about the Colombians.

DUOTTI

Just ends. All of it. Right here and now.

Andretto leans forward. Looks at Duotti.

ANDRETTO

Did Alf take Terence out?

Duotti laughs.

DUOTTI

That's what Tony wants everyone to believe.

ANDRETTO

We heard him telling Teddy so.

DUOTTI

Except Teddy wasn't having it. Not a word of it.

(CONTINUED)

ANDRETTO

Maybe not so stupid after all?

DUOTTI

Tony stinks of it. Stinks to high heaven.

CHINELLI

Teddy's probably the only person who doesn't think it was Tony.

DUOTTI

Took him right to the scene. Said he'd got a call. Bull. Tony took Terence out, and then showed Teddy his handy work. Must have loved the look of fear in his face.

BARACOLLI

Then plays like it's Alf, as if Alf has the bottle to even think like that.

CHINELLI

So what are we going to do? Take him up on his offer? Or stick this thing out?

DUOTTI

We haven't got any choice. Alf basically runs the business. Made sure Tony knew how much Terence was screwing people over, got his hands on the books, and now he's calling the shots. He's got Olly sat on his knee, working him like a little puppet.

ANDRETTO

It ain't worth taking this any further. We answer shot for shot, a lot of people ain't going to get up up. It's a waste of time. We all got jobs, money coming in. You know the score.

DUOTTI

(shouts)

Giuseppe!

(to the guys)

What you guys having, then? It's all on me.

INT. CASINO OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Olly sits behind the large main desk. He admires the lines of the wood, touches the smoothness, runs his hands up and down.

OLLY

I need an accountant.

Alf sits opposite Olly on the other side of the desk, small office chair.

ALF

I'm happy to do the books, Olly.
You know you can trust me by now.

OLLY

I need an accountant.

Alf scratches his head.

ALF

Okay Olly. I'll get you an accountant. I set up some interviews, and I'll have someone sitting behind a desk before the week's out.

Olly continues to admire the wooden desk.

OLLY

Lydia's doing that already.

Alf looks quizzically at Olly.

ALF

Okay. Any reason you're telling me, in that case?

OLLY

Just though you should know.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Large dimly lit office family house.

Olly is by the window frame. Father is behind the desk.

FATHER

Ain't much more that I can tell you really. Except I don't think I got so much longer to go now. If that

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FATHER (cont'd)
damn doc's worth his salt that is.
Paid him to keep me alive, not tell
me when I'm going to go.

Father coughs.

FATHER (CONT'D)
You get yourself off now. Go learn
some more and get a little fun in.
You got to get a little fun in.

Olly raises his glass to Father, drinks, puts the glass down
and leaves. Exits the room.

Father thinks.

FATHER (CONT'D)
You still sure? Totally sure? It
could all be yours.

On the opposite side of the room, Tony gets up, finishes his
whiskey, put the glass down.

TONY
You made the right decision.

He takes a couple of steps toward to door and stops.

TONY
And don't worry. I'm going to take
good, good care of him. I'm going
to watch over him. Nobody's going
to touch him.

Tony exits.

FADE OUT:

The End