

HUMOR, ITALIAN STYLE

Written by

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FADE IN.

EXT. VILLA GIA, FLORENCE, ITALY - DAY

At the top of a narrow stretch of road that climbs for a mile and a half -

There's a gated community of villas that some American students here in Florence call a campus.

Villa Gia, the largest one, sketched in a faded gold, surrounded by shrubs that point to God.

INT. PANCIA CAFE - DAY

Inside Villa Gia, alongside a dozen classrooms, there's a cafe called "Pancia", and by the BARISTAS is a calendar that reads OCTOBER 25.

LILA (22) is sitting at one of the tables with her friend, DRIA (21). Dria has a list of titles on a notepad in front of her.

Lila has a drawing pad. She gazes about.

There's THE RUNNERS: TY and BARRY (20), standing in the corner in running shorts that show off their leg muscles, eating banana bread with a protein shake.

The SOPHOMORE COUPLE: AIDEN and EMMA (19), with a slice of cheesecake and two spoons. A chai latte and a cappuccino between them.

And SASHA (21). Sasha Shepard, alone at another table. Lila flips a couple pages back, to the drawings she's already made of him, and re-shifts her focus.

DRIA

What do you think of "50 days"?

LILA

Could work.

DRIA

Like a countdown, and the conflict expands as it gets closer to zero.

LILA

And something blows up on the final day?

DRIA

Maybe.

Lila finds JENNA (21), receiving her coffee from the barista and walking over to Sasha.

DRIA (CONT'D)

No - it's not interesting.

Sasha watches as Jenna approaches him and smiles at her.

SASHA

How's the internship hunt going?

JENNA

I might be set up for an interview with the Mayor's office.

SASHA

(smiling)

Taking out trash and running coffee orders?

JENNA

Looks good on a resumé.

SASHA

Very true, future president.

At another table, Emma looks away from Aiden's gaze as OLIVER (22) approaches Jenna.

AIDEN

Who are you looking at?

Sasha's smile dissipates at Oliver's presence, but Oliver picks it up for him.

OLIVER

(to Sasha)

What's up, bro?

(to Jenna)

Hi, Jenna. How's the internship hunt going?

Jenna looks at Sasha and chuckles.

JENNA

Good - I was just telling Sasha I might get in at the Mayor's Office.

OLIVER

Oh, for what position?

JENNA  
It's an office intern program.

OLIVER  
Ah, okay. Would look good on a resumé. Listen, listen, uh. Don't mean to bother you or get in the way of the conversation you're having or anything -

Sasha looks ahead, noticing the whole of the cafe staring at Jenna and Oliver.

OLIVER (CONT'D)  
But I found a really nice restaurant on one of my night walks last night and I was wondering if I could take you out for dinner there? Indian food - I heard it was one of your favorites.

JENNA  
Oh, I'm sorry, but I'm not really interested in seeing anyone at the moment.

OLIVER  
Just a dinner, though. I'll pay and everything.

JENNA  
It's okay, Oliver. Thanks, though.

Oliver exhales.

OLIVER  
Alright.  
(to Sasha)  
See you, bro.

SASHA  
Later.

Oliver smiles at Jenna somberly and leaves.

Lila starts drawing Jenna, standing over Sasha.

DRIA  
And what would the conflict be?

LILA  
Well, what are you trying to write?

DRIA  
A character profile, maybe?

LILA  
You know your protagonist?

Dria looks at Sasha while Lila draws Jenna.

DRIA  
I might.

The runners approach Jenna and Sasha.

SASHA  
Hey boys. How much y'all got today?

BARRY  
7 miles.

JENNA  
Ooh. When's your marathon?

BARRY  
A little less than four weeks, now.

Ty's mouth is full of banana bread.

TY  
Mhm.

SASHA  
Well, break a leg, guys. Taking off now?

TY  
Yep.

JENNA  
You guys are cool as heck.

THE RUNNERS  
Thanks, Jenna.

SASHA  
We'll see y'all later.

The runners wave the two off and then exit the cafe.

JENNA  
I should get going now, too.

SASHA  
Class?

JENNA

Yeah. Barone's "Italian South". Are you gonna be in class today?

SASHA

I don't know yet.

JENNA

You got a Halloween costume ready?

SASHA

I was just thinking you could draw on my face and we'll call it there.

JENNA

Oh, so you are going out?

SASHA

I don't know yet.

JENNA

Whatever. Bye.

SASHA

Bye, Jenna.

Jenna leaves.

Back to the writer and painter.

DRIA

I should go up to him.

LILA

You should.

DRIA

I heard his mom is Ukrainian.

LILA

Nice - someone to take back to the fam.

DRIA

If he's at La Fontana tonight, I'll ask him out.

LILA

Bold, Dria.

DRIA

We're only here for 50 more days. Maybe I'll make him my protagonist.

LILA  
And you the love interest?

DRIA  
Someone like me.

EXT. PARCO DELLE CASCINE - EVENING

A large park that stretches two miles across along the Arno. Our runners, Ty and Barry, pumping their arms and moving their legs.

Barry checks his watch. 58 minutes in - 6.1 miles ran.

TY  
What's pace?

BARRY  
'Bout 9:05.

TY  
Let's finish sub-9 on this one.

BARRY  
Your ankle okay for it?

TY  
Yeah.

Barry increases his pace and Ty follows suit.

EXT. IL GIARDINO STAYS - A HALF HOUR LATER

The hotel turned residential hall for American students stands at the border of the square, across a narrow road from a city-esque park with a fountain and a statue.

The runners, sweaty and heavy-legged, walk toward the door, toward Oliver, who's smoking a cigarette.

OLIVER  
What's up boys?

BARRY  
What's up man?

Ty nods at Oliver.

OLIVER  
Y'all going out tonight?

BARRY  
Yeah, probably.

OLIVER  
Cool, cool.

TY  
(to Oliver)  
Who else comin' out?

OLIVER  
The usual bunch, you know.

The runners bid goodbyes and walk into the hotel.

INT. BASEMENT, IL GIARDINO - MOMENTS LATER

The common area for the students. A ping pong table, some lounge chairs, a TV, tables for people to study.

The runners in the background at a coffee vending machine, and Dria and Lila at one of the tables with their laptops.

LILA  
I just don't want it to be some scenic, semester-abroad pretentious crap that a picture would do better justice of.

DRIA  
It's only pretentious if your heart isn't in it.

LILA  
But my heart isn't in anything. I just can't find any inspiration.

DRIA  
Maybe just take it easy for a bit. Maybe this semester for you is for rest.

LILA  
No. I need something to bring back to America with. Same with your script.

DRIA  
Oh, by the way! I think I've found a protagonist.

LILA  
Sasha?

DRIA

Well, he's like him, but he's not  
as passive as Sasha. Nor as...  
confused.

LILA

I don't know if he's confused.  
Everyone comes to him for advice.

DRIA

True, but he's very close-minded  
and passive.

LILA

That's good for a protagonist  
before their "big change".

DRIA

Better for a mentor character, I  
think.

LILA

Yeah, actually.

\*BLARE\* \*BLARE\* \*BLARE\*! Goes a fire siren. The girls jump.

LILA (CONT'D)

I give it ten seconds.

DRIA

15.

INT. AIDEN'S ROOM - TANDEM

The fire alarm continues to go off as Aiden and Emma are in bed, naked under sheets.

EMMA

Ugh.

Aiden puts his pillow over his face, and then the alarm shuts itself off.

EMMA (CONT'D)

That thing is so annoying.

AIDEN

Remember last week's?

EMMA

When I was riding you?

AIDEN  
And you almost broke my dick?

Emma bursts into laughter, and then kisses his neck.

EMMA  
Let's go to the basement, I want coffee.

AIDEN  
Mmm - why can't we just stay here?

EMMA  
I need caffeine if I'm going out tonight.

Emma dresses and gets out of bed. Aiden groans and follows suit.

INT. BASEMENT - MINUTES LATER

Aiden is with Dria and Lila, watching Emma and Jenna over at the ping pong table. Emma has a little plastic cup of coffee in her hand.

AIDEN  
You two coming out tonight?

LILA  
Yeah.

DRIA  
Yeah.

AIDEN  
Okay.

DRIA  
Are you?

AIDEN  
Yeah, I mean Emma wants to go - so.

DRIA  
Do you want to go?

AIDEN  
Yeah, yeah.

Over at the table -