Pasticceria Fausto
A pilot

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EXT. CAVI DI LAVAGNA, LIGURIA, ITALY - DAY

Spring on the Italian riviera. We see the picturesque mountains, beaches, restaurants, and houses. There are plenty of cars, bicycles, and motorcycles along Via Lombardia. Buses. Trains. Vendors.

Along the beach, past the train tracks, people walk together and look at the water. Portofino is visible in the far distance.

INT. SOFIA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

SOFIA PECORA (aged 53) sits on a couch, lethargic. The curtains are closed. News is playing on the television. On the coffee table is a photo of her, her daughter, Paola, and her dead son, Davide.

The newscaster is talking about Israel bombing and killing Palestinians in Gaza.

Somebody bangs on the door. CARMEN SGHERLINO, Sofia's friend, 55 years old, opens the door and enters without being invited in. Carmen stands between Sofia and the television, blocking Sofia's view, arms akimbo.

SOFIA
I sold the Ducati.

CARMEN
Good. It's been three years. You need to get rid of all his stuff, not just the bike.

Sofia appears distressed and sad. She tears up, covers her face with her hands for a moment.

SOFIA
I keep thinking he just drove down to the beach. He'll be back. Soon we'll be fixing the motorcycles and ordering parts. Talking to customers.

CARMEN
You need to forget about Davide, take care of yourself.

SOFIA
Don't say that! He was my son.

Sofia buries her face in her hands.

CARMEN
Please. Just get out of the house. I found you a job at Fausto's, where I waitress. Pastry chef.

SOFIA
I'm a motorcycle mechanic. I can't cook.

CARMEN
This is not about your kitchen skills. Go take a shower. Fausto is a good boss. He's doing me a favor. He owes me.

SOFIA
Owes you for what?

CARMEN
My cousin is a carabiniere. I ask him to look the other way.

SOFIA
You mean this guy's a criminal?

CARMEN
I don't know anything, really. You might like him. I've dreamt about him for ten years. He's bello. Despite his clothing choices.

Sofia smiles.

SOFIA
How bello?

CARMEN
He's better looking than your ex. Funnier. Let's just say... Fausto's worth baking pastry for.

INT. PASTICCERIA FAUSTO - MORNING

The pastry shop is alive with people pushing toward the cash register and the bar to order cappuccini and spremute, pastries.

There are groups of people sitting at tables, some with their dogs and strollers. Carmen is working behind the coffee bar.

Sofia stands behind the elaborate pastry counter with flour on her face and dough in her hair.

A few of the pastries look messy and misshapen. SAMUELE QUATTROCCHI, “Quattro,” (40) the kitchen manager, is berating her.

QUATTRO
Did these pastries explode?

SOFIA
Sorry, I’m never used a pastry squeezer thing before.

Quattro slaps the counter, loudly, in desperation.

SOFIA (CONT’D)
Hey. Don’t be a bully. I need this job.

FAUSTO MOLINARI (55) a handsome dark-skinned man with a forthright manner, enters the shop area from his adjoining office and glares at Sofia and Quattro.

Fausto is dressed in a white polo shirt, bright pink pants, and neon green shoes.

FAUSTO
What’s going on?

QUATTRO
She fucked up with the pastry gun.

SOFIA
This is my first day.

FAUSTO
Come back to my office. Both of you.

Quattro and Sofia follow Fausto toward the office.

INT. FAUSTO’S OFFICE - SAME

Fausto is leaning his butt against a desk that is filled with invoices, paperwork, and a computer.

In front of him are standing DON PIETRO (31) a priest, AHMED (18) and SILVIO (19) waiters and sometime drug dealers. Fausto hands an envelope of money to Don Pietro, who smiles nervously and fidgets.

FAUSTO
You! Don Pietro! Keep those kids out of trouble. I don’t care what their parents do. I want them safe.

Don Pietro nods and quickly exits the office.

Fausto points at Ahmed and Silvio.

FAUSTO (CONT'D)
Hey! Nut jobs. Remember. There's a wedding this Saturday, 9 a.m., in Santa Margherita. I need you to be on time.

Ahmed and Silvio nod obediently, smirk, and exit. They go back to waitering in the pastry shop.

Fausto turns to Quattro and Sofia. He rifles through the envelopes on his desk and doesn't really look at Quattro and Sofia.

FAUSTO (CONT'D)
What's the problem with you two clowns?

QUATTRO
She can't bake the pastries. She's a disaster.

SOFIA
I'm a motorcycle mechanic. Not a pastry chef.

FAUSTO
Teach her how to work the coffee machine without blowing it up.

QUATTRO
How about the cash register?

FAUSTO
Yes. Show her that, too. I'll teach her how to make the pastries myself. They're too important.

Quattro leaves.

FAUSTO (CONT'D)
You're Davide's mother.

SOFIA
I was. He's dead.

FAUSTO
Drug overdose?

SOFIA
Yes.

FAUSTO
Stupid mistake.

Sofia grimaces and clenches her fists. She's not too scared to answer him back.

SOFIA
Maybe if criminals didn't put that poison out in the streets, he'd still be alive.

Fausto puts down the paperwork.

FAUSTO
Do you want this job?

SOFIA
Yes, I want this job. I can't pay for gas or food. I have to do something.

Fausto opens a box and extracts a 500€ bill. He hands the money to Sofia.

FAUSTO
Here's an advance on your salary. If you learn how to make the pastries right, if you make them pretty and delicious, I'll let you fix our motorcycles.

SOFIA
Thank you. I guess.

FAUSTO
The pastries come first.

Sofia examines the bill and then stuffs the money in her pocket. She stares down at the ground, depressed.

FAUSTO (CONT'D)
What's wrong with you?

SOFIA
What do you think? I can't get over my son's death.

FAUSTO
Everybody dies.

SOFIA
He was 20 years old. When I wake up and hear the birds singing, I want to crush them. Kill them!

Fausto stares at Sofia slowly up and down as if noticing her for the first time. He nods in appreciation.

FAUSTO
Come out to lunch with me on Friday. Two o'clock at the Japanese place next door. We can talk there.

SOFIA
Okay. That's kind of you. I need some distraction.

INT. PASTICCERIA FAUSTO - DAY

It's the afternoon hour the next day, around 3 p.m., just before the pasticceria closes. Ahmed is cleaning the tables, and Silvio is behind the cash register. Quattro is behind the pastry counter.

Sofia's daughter, PAOLA (30), a doctor, and Paola's partner UGO (33), also a doctor, enter the shop with their daughter, LORENZA (7). They walk over to Sofia, who is taking a break, sitting at one of the tables and drinking an espresso. Paola and Ugo sit down with Sofia. Lorenza hugs Sofia and then bounces from one foot to the other.

LORENZA
Ciao, Nonna! Hey, Mom! Dad! Can we buy some pastries?

UGO
Sure, sweetheart. Wait a minute.

PAOLA
Mom, what are you doing here?

SOFIA
I work here.

PAOLA
(whispering)
Oh, you've got to be kidding. Do you know who owns this place?

LORENZA
(loudly)
What? Who owns this place? Mom?

PAOLA
Honey, go choose us a small box of pastries. The smallest box.

Lorenza goes to the counter and points to the largest tray among three different sizes of trays. Quattro, behind the counter, takes down one of the trays. Lorenza points to the pastries she wants and asks Quattro to fill the tray.

PAOLA (CONT'D)
Mom! Are you crazy?

SOFIA
I need the money. Nobody brings me their motorcycles to fix since Davide died. Too much iella on our shop.

UGO
Iella is not a real thing.

SOFIA
Tell that to the customers.

PAOLA
(whispering)
This Fausto guy is a criminal.

SOFIA
Ouffa. Carmen got me the job. But I like working here. It's interesting.

PAOLA
He's 'Ndrangheta. He imports guns from the boats in Lavagna. They call him "Pink Pants."

SOFIA
Maybe. Who cares. I just want to pay my rent and be able to buy food and clothes.

PAOLA
You don't need to do this. I can help you with the motorcycles. Bring in new customers.

SOFIA
No, no. You're too busy at the hospital.

UGO
Sofia. Come with us to a Party meeting. We're in Chiavari this weekend.

SOFIA
Politics is not really my thing.

Fausto walks into the pasticceria shop area from his office. Paola's eyes open wide when she sees Fausto. She stands up quickly and moves to the pastry counter, next to Lorenza.

Fausto stands silently, staring at Paola.

PAOLA
Well. we've gotta go now. Lorenza! Bring those pastries over here so we can pay. Ugo, let's go.

Lorenza points at Fausto.

LORENZA
I like his pink pants! Dad! Look at those cool shoes. You need to get some green shoes like that.

Lorenza brings over the large box of pastries to the cash register. Paola slaps her forehead.

PAOLA
Lorenza! How many did you get?

UGO
Honey, that's enough to feed the whole town.

Ugo, Lorenza, and Paola exit. Fausto crosses his arms over his chest and smiles.

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - DAY

Sofia and Fausto are sitting at an isolated table with an elaborate, colorful assortment of sushi in the middle. Sofia, holding chopsticks, is studying the food, deciding which roll to choose. Fausto is doing the same thing, prodding the rolls with a chopstick.

Fausto is wearing his neon green shoes, but with black pants this time instead of his usual pink ones.

After choosing a sushi roll, Sofia begins to eat a piece of it with the chopsticks. Fausto shoves a piece into his mouth with his hands.

SOFIA
Thanks for the advance on my salary. It was nice to settle a couple of my bills.

FAUSTO
My pleasure.

SOFIA
It’s funny how much depends on money.

FAUSTO
Hilarious.

Fausto and Sofia continue eating and looking at each other.

SOFIA
My daughter doesn’t approve of you.

Fausto shrugs.

SOFIA (CONT’D)
She ways you’re selling guns to Ukraine. And Russia.

FAUSTO
What is she, a communist or something? Doesn’t believe in money?

SOFIA
Yes. She and my son-in-law are both communists. My granddaughter, Lorenza, might grow up to be a communist, too.

FAUSTO
No, your granddaughter chose a huge box of pastries when her parents weren’t looking. That’s a capitalist.

SOFIA
I see.

FAUSTO
You need to ignore your family more often. They’re stifling you.

SOFIA
Don’t you have a family?

FAUSTO
Yes. I ignore them.

Fausto smiles. He stands up.

FAUSTO (CONT'D)
Let's get out of here.

Sofia stands up and nods in agreement.

SOFIA
Who cares what my family thinks??

INT. SOFIA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME

Fausto and Sofia are sitting in the living room next to each other on the couch after having sex. Fausto has his arm around Sofia's shoulder.

FAUSTO
I like the way you've decorated the place. Big television.

Fausto leans over and kisses Sofia.

FAUSTO (CONT'D)
I need to get a drink of water. You want something?

SOFIA
No, thanks, Mr. Pink Pants.

Fausto leaves the room.

Sofia, smiling, lays her head back against the couch.

Carmen rings the doorbell of the apartment and then bursts into the living room without waiting for anyone to invite her.

CARMEN
I heard what happened. Everybody knows what happened. You had lunch with Fausto.

SOFIA
So call the carabinieri.

FAUSTO
(calling from the kitchen)
You don't have enough food in here. Where's the wine?

Carmen jumps slightly as she realizes that Fausto is in the next room. She continues talking, loudly.

CARMEN
You know he's married.

Fausto comes back from the kitchen.

FAUSTO
My wife moved to Carrara last year with some short anarchist guy who sells marble. And why is it any of your business?

CARMEN
(flustered)
None of my business. None of my business at all. I've gotta go. Ciao.

Carmen steps quickly out of the living room. She slams the door as she leaves the apartment.

FAUSTO
She gossips too much. She's worse than Don Pietro.

SOFIA
Are you friends with the priest?

FAUSTO
No. But I keep him in line.

SOFIA
What does that mean?

FAUSTO
You know. He's a priest. He's supposed to help people, not go after children.

SOFIA
If women were priests, this would not happen.

FAUSTO
Are you sure?

SOFIA
Not as often, anyway. Women are smarter than men because we think about sex less often.

FAUSTO
You mean - You think about it every five seconds instead of every three seconds?

SOFIA
No, no. Women think about sex only once every 20 minutes or so. Men think about it every seven minutes.

Fausto pulls Sofia to a standing position and kisses her.

FAUSTO
Seven minutes are up.

INT. SMALL CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

Paola, Carmen, and Sofia are sitting toward the front of the church, a couple of rows back, waiting for mass to begin.

Fausto walks in and sits toward the back of the church. The women don't see him.

SISTER MARIA JOSEPH (60) a severe-looking woman, is sitting toward the middle of the church with her head laid back and her eyes closed as if asleep.

PAOLA
I think Fausto is threatening Don Pietro.

CARMEN
He wouldn't do that.

SOFIA
Maybe the priest is doing something bad.

PAOLA
He's a priest.

SOFIA
My imagination is going wild with the possibilities.

Fausto saunters down the aisle and sits behind the ladies. The women don't see him.

PAOLA
Okay. Be quiet, Mom.

SOFIA
You be quiet!

CARMEN
Everybody be quiet.

Fausto taps Sofia on the shoulder and clears his throat. The women shriek.

FAUSTO
How are you, Baby? See you after church?

SOFIA
Okay, Hon. Meet me at the usual spot. Ciao.

Fausto stands up and leaves the church. He salutes Sister Maria Joseph with a victory sign as he walks past her. She waves back at him after opening her eyes a crack.

PAOLA
So, you just do whatever he says?

SOFIA
(smiling)
Well, sometimes he does what I say. It works. Where is Lorenza, by the way?

PAOLA
Ugo doesn't want her to come to church and be brainwashed by religion.

CARMEN
Good luck with that! We live in a Catholic country.

PAOLA
You mean a Communist one!

EXT. WALKWAY ALONG THE BEACH IN CAVI DI LAVAGNA - DAY

It's April, and the weather is cool and sunny. Fausto and Sofia are sitting on a bench along the walkway next to each other, their shoulders touching.

FAUSTO
Want to take a walk? Or go to my place in Santa Giulia? I made a delicious melanzane alla parmigiana.

SOFIA
Let's walk first.

Sofia and Fausto stand up and begin to walk slowly along the beach walkway, admiring the view. It's too early in the season for swimmers or beachgoers.

FAUSTO
Should we have an Easter party for your family at my place? Your daughter? My son, Andrea. I could make my special pizza. A whole burrata cheese on top.

Fausto kisses the tips of his fingers, indicating the burrata pizza is delicious.

SOFIA
I told you. My daughter doesn't like you.

FAUSTO
Maybe your daughter is a bitch.

They both laugh.

SOFIA
Paola thinks you're trying to control the priest.

FAUSTO
Not just trying. I do control him. If he were bothering children he wouldn't be here any longer.

SOFIA
Good.

FAUSTO
I checked him out. He likes women. That's the kind of porn he watches. The Swiss stuff. Naked women on skis.

SOFIA
How do you know?

FAUSTO
Sister Maria Joseph keeps me informed. She's a cousin on my mother's side.

SOFIA
I know her. Smart woman. Doesn't talk much.

FAUSTO
She runs the parish. The priests come and go. Mostly go. That's a weird kind of lifestyle. For her, too.

SOFIA
That's one of the reasons my son-in-law is a communist.

FAUSTO
Your family is too much trouble.

SOFIA
What can I say? They're all geniuses.

INT. PASTICCERIA FAUSTO, BAKERY SECTION - DAY

Fausto and Sofia are standing next to each other in front of a table covered with pastries, and Fausto is teaching Sofia how to use the pastry gun. Fausto holds the pastry gun close to the baking pan.

FAUSTO
It's like this. You squeeze here.

Sofia puts her hands over Fausto's hands as they manipulate the pastry gun.

SOFIA
Mmm. That's kind of fun. Not as good as riding a motorcycle, however.

FAUSTO
No?

SOFIA
I like the roar of the motor under my butt.

FAUSTO
You and me both.

They put down the pastry gun and embrace each other.

FAUSTO (CONT'D)
I want to see the Liberation Day parade this Saturday in Chiavari. Want to join me?

SOFIA
La Festa della Liberazione. Hmmm. I don’t know.

Sofia pulls away from Fausto.

FAUSTO
What’s the matter?

SOFIA
That’s how Davide got ahold of those drugs that killed him. It was fentanyl.

FAUSTO
I never sell drugs at that parade.

SOFIA
What? So where are you selling?

FAUSTO
To rich billionaires at their disgusting weddings. Cocaine.

SOFIA
They spend a lot of money on the Riviera. And the Lake District.

FAUSTO
Yeah, they buy a whole town for a weekend. People actually live in Portofino. Residents should have the right to eat at a restaurant whenever they want.

SOFIA
I hate it that the towns sell out.

FAUSTO
Then the Americans call us criminals.

SOFIA
Well, aren’t you proving them right?

FAUSTO
No. I’m taking their money.

INT. SMALL CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

Sofia, Paola, Sr. Maria Joseph, and Carmen are seated at a Wednesday morning mass, waiting for Don Pietro to begin.

SOFIA
Don Pietro doesn't like children. does he?

SR. MARIA JOSEPH
He'd better not. Fausto would get him.

PAOLA
And do what?

SR. MARIA JOSEPH
I don't know. Recycling?

Paola, Carmen, and Sofia all lean forward to hear better.

CARMEN
You mean. His dead body?

SR. MARIA JOSEPH
(nonplussed)
No, no. Put him to work in a recycling plan. Away from children.

CARMEN
Phew. That's a relief.

PAOLA
Have you seen those recycling places? They stink.

SOFIA
What? We do all the work separating stuff.

PAOLA
I don't mind.

Don Pietro enters the church from the vestry and heads toward the pulpit.

SOFIA
This is going to be boring.

EXT. STREET IN CHIAVARI - DAY

People are gathered to watch a parade on Liberation Day (25 April). This is the day when Italians celebrate the victory of the Resistance during World War II. Some people are carrying communist party flags. Some people are carrying Italian flags. Kids are running around. Vendors are selling food. The mood is joyous and convivial.

Sofia and Fausto are walking along the street under the porticos, waiting for the parade to begin. Fausto is wearing pink pants and neon green shoes.

SOFIA
Too many people. Next time, let's go to the Tarot Gardens, in Tuscany.

FAUSTO
Never been there.

SOFIA
It's a fantasy garden, built by an American woman, with giant colorful statues.

FAUSTO
What do you mean - colorful?

SOFIA
Like your pants and your shoes.

Fausto smiles.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Mirrors and sparkles too. The Germans like that place.

FAUSTO
Isn't there a giant woman statue with big boobs?

SOFIA
Yes. Several of them.

Across the street, Ugo (carrying a communist flag) Paola, and Lorenza, walk down the opposite porticos. Sofia waves to them, and they wave back. Lorenza is dancing ahead of her parents.

FAUSTO
Your family looks happy.

SOFIA
I think they're very happy when they're away from me.

FAUSTO
All children want to escape their parents.

A few MUSICIANS walk by, wearing uniforms and carrying their instruments. They're singing and playing the partisan anthem, "Bella, Ciao."

A couple of blocks later, Ahmed and Silvio, walking together in the same direction as Sofia and Fausto, meet up with Lorenza, stop, and begin talking to her. Ugo and Paola are a couple of blocks away.

SOFIA
There are Silvio and Ahmed. Hey! Stay away from my granddaughter.

FAUSTO
They're not doing anything.

SOFIA
I don't want them talking to Lorenza.

FAUSTO
Those two clowns. They don't have any merchandise on them today.

SOFIA
Today! Today. What about other days.

FAUSTO
I told you. They only sell to rich billionaires. Adults.

SOFIA
Davide was an adult. That stuff killed him.

Fausto grabs Sofia by the shoulders and pulls her aside.

FAUSTO
If you don't believe me, we can't be together.

SOFIA
Maybe I'm not ready for this.

Sofia walks quickly away.

FAUSTO
Sofia!

Sofia waves her hands at him to get away and keeps walking.

INT. SOFIA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Paola is bringing Sofia a cup of tea at the kitchen table. Paola is wearing her church clothing, nice but informal. Sofia still has her pajamas on and her hair is disheveled

PAOLA
Mom. Come to church with me.

SOFIA
I don't feel like going out.

PAOLA
It's a nice day.

The doorbell rings. Carmen lets herself in.

CARMEN
Buon Di, ladies. Time to go to church.

PAOLA
Mom won't leave the house.

CARMEN
Stand up. Get dressed. I heard that Fausto might be there.

SOFIA
I don't want to see him.

CARMEN
Sure you do.

Carmen tries to hustle Sofia along by pulling her hair, stealing her cup of tea, and tickling her.

SOFIA
Leave me alone.

CARMEN
I heard he's going out with Diana who works at Ipercoop.

PAOLA
No, he isn't.

SOFIA
Really?

CARMEN
Come to church and see what who's right. Which women does Fausto like?

PAOLA
More like Sr. Maria Robert, they spend so much time together.

The three women laugh.

CARMEN
She is smarter than the rest of us.

Sofia stands up and sighs.

SOFIA
Okay. Let me put on some jeans.

INT. SMALL CATHOLIC CHURCH - SAME

Carmen, Sofia, and Paola walk into the church.

CARMEN
Let’s sit in back so we can see Fausto walk in.

SOFIA
Who cares about him?

PAOLA
He’s coming. Sit down, Mom.

SOFIA
You sit down.

CARMEN
Everybody sit down!

The three women plop into the back pew just as Fausto enters the church, followed by Sr. Maria Joseph. Fausto is wearing pink pants, a black shirt, and neon green sneakers.

Fausto points to the altar and the windows. He’s describing how he wants the church to be redesigned.

FAUSTO
Too old-fashioned. I want something modern like Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.

SR. MARIA JOSEPH
The parishioners will scream about it.

FAUSTO
They don’t know about good taste.

Sr. Maria Joseph glares at Fausto's shoes and outfit. She points at him from head to toe.

SR. MARIA JOSEPH
You dress like a circus clown.

FAUSTO
What? This is the latest style. It's supposed to look like a construction worker.

Sr. Maria Joseph rolls her eyes.

Fausto turns toward Sofia, Paola, and Carmen sitting in the back pew.

FAUSTO (CONT'D)
Are you ladies hiding from someone?

PAOLA
No. We wanted to attend mass.

CARMEN
It's Sunday.

SOFIA
I'm here to do penance.

FAUSTO
Well, see you later.

Fausto saunters toward the front pew of the church.

PAOLA
He's annoying.

CARMEN
Always has been.

SOFIA
I miss him.

Ahmed and Silvio enter the church. They walk toward the front pew and sit next to Fausto. Silvio hands Fausto an envelope filled with money.

PAOLA
What's happening up there?

CARMEN
I can't see.

SOFIA
Let's move to the front.

Since the church is not very crowded, Paola, Carmen, and Sofia walk to the front of the church and sit directly behind Fausto. Fausto turns to greet them.

FAUSTO
Ladies.

SOFIA
We couldn't see the altar back there.

Don Pietro enters the altar from the sacristy and walks to the podium.

DON PIETRO
Good morning. Let me make a few announcements.

Ugo and Lorenza enter the church and walk down the aisle toward the front. They sit next to Paola.

UGO
We're here to surprise you. It's like a community meeting.

DON PIETRO
Marco and Laura Valtorta are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary this week....

Lorenza escapes her father's hand and sits next to Ahmed and Silvio in the pew ahead of her parents.

PAOLA
What are you doing?

SOFIA
Lorenza! Get back here.

Lorenza turns around in her seat.

LORENZA
I want to sit with Ahmed and Silvio.

UGO
You need to sit together with the family.

DON PIETRO
The Rosary Committee has arranged a cake sale down in the basement.

PAOLA
Lorenza! Come sit next to me.

Lorenza turns toward her mother and sticks out her tongue.

SOFIA
I can’t take this.

Sofia slides out of the pew, grabs Lorenza’s hand, and drags her out of the church.

Fausto runs after her.

EXT. PIAZZA IN FRONT OF CATHOLIC CHURCH - SAME

Sofia and Lorenza are standing in front of the church as Sofia scolds her granddaughter.

SOFIA
I told you to stay away from those boys.

LORENZA
Why?

SOFIA
Because they’re drug dealers.

Fausto walks up behind Sofia.

FAUSTO
Ahmed and Silvio were not doing anything wrong.

SOFIA
They sell drugs for you.

FAUSTO
Sometimes. Mostly they’re just waiters.

SOFIA
I cannot take this any longer. You’re endangering my family.

Sofia walks away, pulling Lorenza along with her.

FAUSTO
You can’t control the entire world!

SOFIA
Watch me!

EXT. BENCH ALONG THE BEACH IN CAVI DI LAVAGNA - DAY

The following Sunday, Paola and Carmen are sitting next to each other on the bench. They have met to talk about Sofia.

CARMEN
So how's your mother?

PAOLA
She won't talk to me.

CARMEN
She won't talk to me, either.

PAOLA
I noticed that she's still working at the pasticceria.

CARMEN
Well. Hmm. I like working there. The pay is pretty good.

PAOLA
I don't think that's the reason. She missed picking up Lorenza from school the other day.

CARMEN
That's not like her.

PAOLA
I think she's depressed again.

Fausto and Sofia walk by on the beach, barefoot, approaching the rocks, far away from Paola and Carmen but close enough to the bench for the women to see. Fausto is wearing pink shorts.

Paola and Carmen turn to look at each other in surprise.

We now follow Fausto and Sofia.

FAUSTO
I'm not going to change.

SOFIA
Don't expect me to change, either.

Sofia and Fausto walk along in silence. They put their feet in the water. They watch the seagulls. Sofia picks up a smooth stone, examines it, and puts it in her pocket.

FAUSTO
So what happens next?

SOFIA
I don’t know. My son is dead. He’s not coming back.

FAUSTO
I still have to make money. The pastries aren’t enough.

Fausto picks scoops up some sand and lets it seep through his fingers.

FAUSTO (CONT’D)
Want to go to my house? Up the mountain?

Sofia picks up another smooth stone, examines it, and tosses it far out into the Mediterranean.

SOFIA
I want you to stop selling drugs.

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