

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

A NEW HOME

FLASHBACK

SUPER: "EIGHT YEARS AGO IN VENICE, ITALY"

INT. LOMBARDI LOUNGE - DAY

ANTHONY, 27, tall, Italian, romantic arrives at the lounge to talk to ALDO, 58, stubborn.

ANTHONY

Dad I need to talk to you about something.

ALDO

Let's go sit at the bar.

INT. PRIVATE BAR

Anthony sits down and Aldo pours Anthony whiskey. Anthony pulls out his insulin and gives himself a shot before drinking his beverage.

ALDO

What is it son?

ANTHONY

I was accepted into the computer science and mathematics program at the University of Manchester.

ALDO

How will you work for me if you're all the way in England?

ANTHONY

I've decided to accept my undergraduate invitation. I'm moving to England at the end of the Summer to start my own life.

ALDO

Did you tell your mother yet?

ANTHONY

I'm going to tell her soon. But she does know that this University was my first choice.

ALDO

You're the brains of the family and your siblings aren't ready to take on any work responsibility yet.

ANTHONY

Then it's a good thing you aren't retiring just yet.

ALDO

You must have got your smarts from a great-grandparent because you didn't get it from me.

Both smile and laugh.

ALDO

I am going to miss you but I'm very proud of you for creating a wonderful family legacy.

ANTHONY

No pressure there! I just have to carry our family name to the top of the mountain alone.

Aldo laughs.

ALDO

We will have to go for one last fishing trip before you leave.

ANTHONY

I would like that.

ALDO

Before you go home tonight, I need you to make a stop.

ANTHONY

What type of stop?

ALDO

Just a quick stop to pick up an envelope for me.

ANTHONY

Oh dad, you know I don't like picking up envelopes in sketchy streets.

ALDO

This guy is good. I swear! He will meet you right outside of Campagna Amica Market. The envelope will be inside a basket of zucchinis and tomatoes. Just make sure to check inside the basket.

ANTHONY

This is the last time I'm doing this for you because I can't have anything on my record.

ALDO

Just bring the envelope home to me and that's the end.

EXT. CAMPAGNA AMICA MARKET - DAY

Bustling with grocery shoppers. TYLER, 28, lean, shy.

ANTHONY

Ciao. Are you Tyler?

TYLER

Yes. Here's the basket. You can check. It's all there.

Anthony looks underneath the vegetables for the envelope.

ANTHONY

Okay. It looks good. Thank you.

TYLER

You're welcome. Ciao.

A loud voice screams "That is the last time you steal from me, you thief."

Both guys look and see a man pull a trigger then the bullet hits Tyler in the head before they could hide. People scream and run away.

Anthony runs to his Vespa and gets away with the basket. He is all shook up.

END OF FLASHBACK

EXT. House - DAY

Caroline shaking hands with the realtor in front of the old house she bought in Great Falls, VA.

EXT. House - DAY

Caroline looks at blueprints laid out on a folding table with the architect.

EXT. House Backyard - DAY

Caroline sunbathing.

EXT. House - DAY

Caroline hands out lemonade to the construction workers.

CAROLINE, 50, youthful, gracious

CAROLINE
Lemonade boys.

One construction worker gives Caroline flirty eyes as Caroline pretends she doesn't know what's happening even though she loves the attention.

EXT. House - DAY

Caroline's deciding on a few colors that the painters just painted on a few parts of the house. Other painters paint the rest of the house.

EXT. House - DAY

Caroline plants in the garden as the construction workers install the shutters on the house.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Caroline and Robin, 50, fiery, compassionate are deciding on colors for the walls with loud music and wine in hand.

INT. CLIENT KITCHEN - NIGHT

MOHAMMED, 35, strong green eyes, attentive is finishing up a kitchen renovation and starts to shut off lights when his phone rings.

MOHAMMED
What?

Mohammed looks shocked.

MOHAMMED (cont'd)
Where this time?

Mohammed pauses.

MOHAMMED (cont'd)
When do I need to be there?

Mohammed hangs up the call, finishes locking up his client's house and leaves.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Caroline and Robin sit at a table.

ROBIN
Cheers to my beautiful, talented best friend who always knows how to turn a terrible situation into a glamorous one.

CAROLINE
Thank you Robin for supporting me through my divorce and my home renovation. The artwork you gave me is incredible.

ROBIN
You're welcome. I had so much fun being part of the whole process. I would do anything to keep you in this town.

CAROLINE
Even though I need tenants to help pay the mortgage, it was worth creating my dream house. I don't know how I would have done it so quickly without you. I owe you.

ROBIN
You owe me nothing. I'm happy I don't need to worry about you in that big house alone.

CAROLINE
I'm happy I won't be alone either. the first tenant moves in this week.

WAITER, 24, scrappy

WAITER

Are you ladies ready to order?

ROBIN

We are going to share the tuna tartar and the crab cakes.

WAITER

Okay, ladies. I'll put in the appetizers.

Caroline and Robin raise their champagne glasses to cheers.

ROBIN

Cheers to new beginnings!

CAROLINE

Cheers!

Caroline spills some on herself. They both laugh and take a sip.

CAROLINE (cont'd)

Next, I'll need a job at the gallery.

ROBIN

You don't even have to interview. You can start whenever you're ready hunnie.

CAROLINE

You're truly my angel.

The women smile and Caroline pours them more champagne.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Caroline is in her silk robe sitting in the kitchen creating a Facebook Marketplace ad for housemates.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Mohammed and his movers start to unload the Uhaul. Mohammed reaches for the doorbell as Caroline opens the front door in her pj's.

CAROLINE

You must be Mohammed.

MOHAMMED

This property is breathtaking.

CAROLINE

I put my blood, sweat, and tears into this house.

MOHAMMED

Well, it shows. I would love to cook you dinner tonight after I unload everything.

CAROLINE

You will be exhausted. Plus, I already went shopping for dinner.

They exchange smiles as Caroline touches his shoulder and lingers while appreciating Mohammed's muscles.

FLASHBACK

SUPER: "THREE YEARS AGO, GREAT FALLS, VA"

INT. CAROLINE'S OLD BEDROOM - NIGHT

Caroline is fighting with PAUL, 55, selfish, snobby

CAROLINE

She called again.

PAUL

Who?

CAROLINE

You know who. Your side chick who hangs up if I pick up the phone.

PAUL

Don't start with me I just want to go to bed.

CAROLINE

You want to just go to sleep peacefully and you don't care how I feel about another woman calling for my husband? No. I'm sorry but I can't just turn off the truth in my head at bedtime.

PAUL

You don't even like me. Why do you care who I talk to or see?

CAROLINE

We are married! Does that mean nothing to you?

PAUL

Maybe we shouldn't be. We just don't fit anymore. We make each other miserable.

CAROLINE

We make each other miserable because there's no romance in this relationship. You spend all your time at work then you go to work functions and trips and we never have alone time.

PAUL

You want me to feel bad about having a successful career? I pay for your lifestyle and all your art supplies for your silly hobby.

CAROLINE

Silly hobby? You have zero class! Even with all your money, you still have no appreciation for the arts!

PAUL

And I never will!

Caroline throws a pillow at his head.

CAROLINE

You can go sleep on the couch or in the guest bedroom but you aren't sleeping next to me!

PAUL

I will! It's not like your going to touch me like a good wife does.

CAROLINE

And you don't go down on me like a good husband does! You selfish piece of shit!

PAUL

Who wants to go down on you when you're always nagging me about something.

CAROLINE

I wouldn't need to nag if you actually played an active role in this family. Your golf buddies are far more important than spending the afternoon with your family! And now you have this side chick that you do God knows what with!

PAUL

Well at least she likes being around me and doesn't yell at me. It's just easy to be around her.

Caroline picks up a candle and throws it at Paul. Paul moves so he doesn't get hit. Paul is shocked.

CAROLINE

Easy? Listen to yourself. It's like you're a 20-year old boy. Who told you a long-lasting relationship was going to be easy or you don't have to put in effort anymore to make the other person feel special?!

PAUL

Nobody. But I can't live like this! I'm going to contact my lawyer tomorrow to put me in touch with a good divorce lawyer.

Caroline is speechless and Paul leaves the room and closes the door.

END OF FLASHBACK

END ACT 1

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Caroline is in a pretty Summer dress and Mohammed is nicely cleaned up ready to eat dinner.

MOHAMMED

It smells so good! What are you making?

CAROLINE

I've made a seafood paella. I have a few different white wines in the refrigerator. Why don't you pick one out and pour us some.

MOHAMMED

I'm really great at opening bottles and drinking them. I mean pouring wine.

They laugh as he looks into the fridge. Caroline checks him out as he bends over for the wine.

Caroline plates dinner and puts it on the table. Mohammed pours the wine into the glasses and they clink glasses after Caroline sits down.

CAROLINE

Cheers to a new beginning filled with new opportunities and joy.

MOHAMMED

Cheers. I couldn't have said it better myself.

They sip the wine then start to eat.

CAROLINE

How did you get into installing high-end bathrooms and kitchens?

MOHAMMED

My dad taught me everything I know since I was 14 in NY. I've always enjoyed working with my hands and seeing the transformation.

CAROLINE

That sounds like a great childhood; getting to spend so much time with your dad.

MOHAMMED

He was proud of my work and I enjoyed making our customers smile when they saw the renovations. Starting my own remodeling business was a no-brainer for me.

CAROLINE

My dad was actually the one who inspired me to renovate this house and rent out the rooms.

MOHAMMED

Sounds like a smart man.

CAROLINE

He has all the skills and contacts as an architect which helped my dream home become a reality.

They both smile and make flirtatious eye contact then continue eating.

Mohammed gets an anonymous text and looks at his phone. It reads *"I know who you are and you aren't welcome in this town. Go back to NY and mind your own business or I'll make your stay very uncomfortable."*

Mohammed is visibly shaken up.

CAROLINE

Are you alright? Is everything okay?

Mohammed pauses then forwards the text to Garrett, 35, intellectual, dorky.

Garrett texts back *"And it begins. I'm forwarding this to Michael, 55, CIA agent, stern, large. I will see if he can put some security near your home."* Mohammed texts Garrett *"Thank you." I'm happy I have a friend who has saved my life multiple times."*

MOHAMMED

Ummmm. Ya. Just work stuff. It never ends.

CAROLINE

We work too much in America. I wish the government would enforce less work hours.

MOHAMMED

That would be a dream but I don't see that happening anytime soon.

Mohammed turns over his phone and continues eating.

MOHAMMED (cont'd)

Who else is going to live here?

CAROLINE

Tomorrow, this lovely young lady Charlotte is moving in. She is from a rural town called Roanoke in Virginia. She wants to be closer to a big city full of action.

MOHAMMED

Oh, nice. Is she still in school or working?

CAROLINE

She's figuring out what she wants to do. She was studying journalism and now works in catering.

FLASHBACK

SUPER: "EIGHT MONTHS AGO, ROANOKE, VA"

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Charlotte's parents are sitting with the dad's ONCOLOGIST, 60, dull, serious.

ONCOLOGIST

I'm sorry to tell you but you have stage two bladder cancer.

HELEN, 50, high-strung starts to cry. CHARLIE, 52, low-key is shocked and his body language is frozen. Then he finally responds to the doctor.

CHARLIE

Are there any options to get rid of it?

ONCOLOGIST

We recommend bladder surgery ASAP.
This cancer is aggressive so you
don't want to wait too long to let
it spread.

CHARLIE

Thank you, doctor.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The whole family is spread out on the couches and chairs.

CHARLOTTE, 21, lost, demure.

CHARLOTTE

Mom. Dad. Please tell us what is
going on. You're freaking us out.

CHARLIE

The doctor said I have stage two
bladder cancer. They don't know how
I got it but I need surgery ASAP.

Charlie is red in the face and looks defeated.

KELSEY, 13, rambunctious.

KELSEY

Daddy, you're sick?

CHARLIE

Yes, sweetheart but daddy's going
to try to get better.

Kelsey runs over to Charlie and they hug.

Helen comes over to the couch and hugs Charlotte.

HELEN

We are so proud of you and think it
would be best if you took time off
college so we can use that money
for dad's surgery. We are so sorry
Charlotte. We don't know what else
to do.

Charlotte's in shock. She lets her mom continue to hug her.

Noah, 15, fickle.

NOAH

This sucks!

Noah is breathing hard and runs upstairs to his bedroom.

Helen starts to cry.

INT. TIFFANY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

TIFFANY, 21, short, sassy

Charlotte and Tiffany are laying down on Tiffany's bed.

TIFFANY

I'm so sorry Charlotte. That is terrible news. What can I do to help?

Tiffany hugs and comforts Charlotte as she cries.

CHARLOTTE

I need to figure out how to get at least 6k to cover my dad's medical expenses.

TIFFANY

Okay. I can help with that. How much are you making per week at your diner job?

CHARLOTTE

I make \$400 to \$500 per week working part-time.

TIFFANY

We need to think of something else that will bring in money quicker than your diner job.

Tiffany pauses as she thinks.

TIFFANY

My mom cleans houses for rich people. I could see if she needs help.

CHARLOTTE

How much does that pay?

TIFFANY

She makes about \$200 per job. She can usually get at least 3 jobs per week.

CHARLOTTE

Even if I do housecleaning on top of my diner job, it will still take me many months to have enough money for the surgery and the cancer could spread.

Charlotte puts her face in her hands.

TIFFANY

I have a great idea! My mom brought me to this one client's house a while back that lives about an hour away from here. This guy is loaded and goes on weekly business trips. We could break in and take some expensive stuff to sell at a pawn shop.

CHARLOTTE

Are you crazy? Do you want us to go to jail?

TIFFANY

This guy doesn't have any type of security. We could go by his place tonight and see if he's there. If he's there we will go back in a few nights when he definitely would have left town.

CHARLOTTE

I've never committed a crime.

Charlotte starts thinking. Charlotte and Tiffany sit up in the bed.

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)

What type of gear do we need? What pawn shop would we go to?

TIFFANY

I have plenty of sports gear and plastic gloves we can use so nobody will ever know it's us. Plus, my cousin taught me how to pick locks. As for the pawn shop, we will wear different outfits and wigs each

(MORE)

TIFFANY (cont'd)
time and go to different locations
by the next morning. This way we
will get rid of the stolen goods
and get the cash right away so it
can't be traced back to us.

CHARLOTTE
Do you think we can pull this off
just the two of us?

TIFFANY
I don't want to see something bad
happen to your dad or see you turn
into a zombie.

CHARLOTTE
Promise me you won't tell anybody
about this. Not even another best
friend. We can't have anybody slip
up.

TIFFANY
I promise. You're the sister I
never had. I would do anything for
you.

The girl's smile, pinky swears, and hugs.

EXT. RICH MAN'S MANSION - NIGHT

Tiffany and Charlotte are outside of house. No one else is
outside.

TIFFANY
Shine the light a little closer to
the doorknob. I almost have it. Got
it.

CHARLOTTE
Do we both go in?

TIFFANY
Yes. We will divide to get stuff
quicker and meet back at this door
in no more than 10 minutes.

CHARLOTTE
Good luck.

TIFFANY
Good luck girl. You got this.
Remember it's for a good cause.

CHARLOTTE

I'm going to start in the bedroom and then go to the office. You go to the dining room first then the living room.

The ladies start walking to their agreed spots. Charlotte finds Rolex watches. Tiffany finds a Canon 2020 EOS R5 camera and a drone.

TIFFANY

Put everything in this bag and lets get out of here.

They walk to the door they entered and leave. It doesn't look like they were there except for a handful of items were taken.

INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

Charlotte and Tiffany changed their look and put on wigs.

CHARLOTTE

Hi. We have some items to sell. How much would you give us for these six items?

The STORE CLERK, 40, bored looks at all the items and looks back at them then back at the items.

STORE CLERK

I'll give you 4k.

TIFFANY

That's it?

STORE CLERK

Okay. I'll give you \$4200.

Tiffany looks at Charlotte and nods.

CHARLOTTE

That works for us.

The store clerk gives Charlotte the cash and start to walk to the door.

STORE CLERK

Maybe I'll see you next time.

Store clerk checks out Tiffany as they leave.

TIFFANY

You wish.

The girls laugh as they exit the store.

INT. CAR - DAY

Tiffany and Charlotte sigh then look at each other.

TIFFANY

We actually did it but we still need another \$1800 at least.

CHARLOTTE

Yes and some extra for medicine and treatments after the surgery. I really want to be able to give you something too for helping.

TIFFANY

You don't have to worry about me but I do want you to have extra so you can move out of this town and start over. Go do whatever makes your heart sing.

CHARLOTTE

You are the most amazing friend a girl could ask for!

They hug and smile. Tiffany tears up.

TIFFANY

You deserve all the beautiful things in life and I won't stop until you get them.

CHARLOTTE

Do you know of another house?

TIFFANY

I have a few houses in mind. I will drive past them tonight and get back to you tomorrow.

CHARLOTTE

If we target another three houses then I will have extra money for my dad's medical treatments and leftover money for us. What do you think?

TIFFANY

I think I've created a monster!

They both laugh and put on their seat belts and start driving.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

Deal. Three more houses then we both move out of this God-forsaken town.

END ACT 2