

Family Virtues

By

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INT. SKETCHY NIGHTCLUB BACKROOM - NIGHT

Club music thumps in the background as THREE MEN enter the room dragging a fourth one, JACK, a man in his late twenties looking worse for wear. CHICO AND RHETT, the two large thugs slam him into a chair in front of a large desk.

JACK

AGH! Come on guys, I'm sure we can work this out.

Chico handcuffs him to his seat.

VOICE (o.s.)

Oh, I think we are well beyond that Mr-

JACK

Just Jack will do, Gepetto.

GEPETTO, a heavysset man in his thirties, wearing a tailored suit, grabs Jack by his hair and gets uncomfortably close.

GEPETTO

You will speak when spoken to! Do you understand me, funnyman!?

JACK

(Painfully)

Reading you loud and clear guy.

Gepetto releases him and grabs a chair and sits in front of Jack.

GEPETTO

Mr. Rhett?

Gepetto snaps his fingers and Rhett punches Jack.

GEPETTO

Now, let's get down to business.

JACK

I'm all ears, fatty. My hearing is perfectly fine 'cause princess here hits like a girl.

Rhett goes to hit Jack again but Gepetto hold up his hand to stop him.

GEPETTO

Uh, uh, uh! Let's save our energy for when we really need to get nasty. With the mouth on this one I don't think that will be very long at all.

JACK

That's the title of your mother's sex tape.

Gepetto stares blankly at Jack and then shoots a look at Rhett. Rhett complies and hits Jack again.

JACK

OH! That's the stuff. Keep this up babydoll, and I might start forgetting algebra!

Jack begins stealthily pulling a pin out from his skin on the opposite palm.

GEPETTO

Cut the yip yap! Jesus, does your mouth ever close?

Jack pauses

JACK

Sex tape.

Rhett goes to punch him again while Chico holds back a laugh. Gepetto stops him again.

GEPETTO

We're not getting anywhere like this. I am, however proficient in the art of interrogation.

Gepetto brandishes an ornate dagger and waves it in front of Jack's nose. Jack manages to pull the pin out from his palm and begins picking his handcuffs.

GEPETTO

Nothing smart to say?

JACK

What do you want? Tickets to the Jets game? I'm sorry to disappoint.

GEPETTO

Honestly? You would think a smooth talker like you would understand how high the stakes would be when you date a mob boss's daughter.

Jack stops struggling as his eyes widen.

JACK

Maria? WHAT DID YOU DO?!

Gepetto laughs.

GEPETTO

Don't worry about her. She's fine for now.

A look of concern comes across Chico's face.

GEPETTO

You see when you are a part of the family like Mr. Chico here was. It's alright for you to court my daughter.

Chico looks down at the floor.

JACK

I knew about Chico. You did this, Chico?

Chico refuses to make eye contact.

GEPETTO

Unlike you, Mr. Chico here had respect for the family. He was loyal and I, to this day love him like a son. You, on the other hand have been a pain in my ass since day one.

Jack resumes picking the handcuffs.

JACK

What can I say? She decided to upgrade.

GEPETTO

At least I won't have to hear your mouth when the two of you are reunited.

Jack's face turns cold

JACK

Where is she?

GEPETTO

She's alive, at least for another thirty minutes. Look at it this way, the two of you won't be living in sin anymore.

CUT TO:

INT. WOOD CASKET - MILES AWAY

MARIA, a beautiful woman in her early twenties, is struggling to get untied and is screaming for help. A POSITIVE PREGNANCY TEST is next to her in the coffin.

CUT TO:

INT. SKETCHY NIGHTCLUB BACKROOM

Jack glances at Chico, who is shocked at hearing what happened to Maria.

JACK

How could you do this? It's your own daughter!

GEPETTO

The moment she decided to have your child she was no longer mine! You took her away from me and in this world, this is the only retribution!

Jack pops the lock on the handcuff and leaps after Gepetto's dagger. The two struggle as Chico looks on.

Rhett grabs Jack and holds him back. Gepetto gains control of the knife and attempts to stab Jack. Chico tackles Gepetto to the ground.

Chico and Gepetto struggle for the knife as Jack breaks out of Rhett's grip.

Jack takes Rhett to the ground and pounds his face several times. Jack gets up and looks over at Chico who has the knife, bloodied.

Gepetto is on the floor bleeding from his chest, DEAD.

The two stare at each other for a moment.

JACK

Thank you. We good?

CHICO

Yeah, we're good. He took it too far.  
I wouldn't be able to live with  
myself if anything happened to her.

They shake bloody hands.

JACK

Do you know where they took her?

CHICO

No, but this piece of shit does.

Chico points at Rhett, who is slowly regaining consciousness. Jack steps over Rhett's body and pulls him up by his shirt.

JACK

Hey sunshine! Remember me?

END