

REST YOUR EYES

by

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This scene takes place during the 1920's. BERNARDO returns to a town seeking revenge on a woman named MRS. EMILY.

BERNARDO

You told me I would be nothing.
You told me that I was just some
loser born on the wrong side of
the tracks. A peasant as I recall
it. A low life peasant. Racist
against me cause I'm Italian.
Thinking I'm in the mafia.

You never looked me in the eyes
and observed my character, my make
up as a man; you judged me and
criticized me and never gave me a
fair chance. Had I not had olive
skin, you would have given me that
loan for my business...but I
digress. Perhaps you still would
have laughed and waved me off as
you did, unless there was some
large piece of the pie for you.
Too large, I'm afraid, always too
large indeed.

All that unnecessary stuff, for
what? To prove what, Mrs. Emily?
To prove you are the stronger one,
the dominant one, the one who
calls the shots...hmmm. Maybe you
do, may you call all the shots.

One thing is certain...this visit is
not just 'a visit'. No. I'm a
busy man these days...this is a
business trip. You see, Mrs.
Emily...I am making a purchase
today. (beat) I am buying the
entire town and everything in it,
from the buildings to the land
they stand on. You see? I have
swept the carpet out from under
you, you old hag!

And I hope you live another
fifteen years to see what I'm
going to do next! You wretched
old bat! You evil, crooked,
spiteful woman!

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

I've taken over your world and everything in it and there is not a single thing you can do!

THIS, this is your destiny my dear Mrs. Emily. For all those people you've ousted and put into ruins, they are all coming back. I have my men out there, locating each and every one of them and their families. All the wrong you have done has come to an end and will be set right by me so help me God.

The evil tyranny you have displayed during your rein has come to its final day. I am the new king around here. You have been dethroned...

MRS. EMILY

Is that all? (she bursts out laughing uncontrollably) Boy, for a moment there I thought you were going to actually say something with some meaning, some dignity. All the same coming from the likes of you. Do you really imagine, in that tiny brain of yours that I wasn't already prepared? You do not become who I am today without looking over your shoulder. I've always seen you in the rearview mirror. Always panting and coughing, trying to catch up! I commend you for that Bernardo. I do. I do. But, I'm afraid that things aren't always as they seem. I'm an old toad, I know a few things about the law and I wish to encourage you to continue on as you are doing. Buy everything up. Have your men, as you called them...so sophisticated, aren't we? Have you men, the little ants scatter around as far and as wide as you must. It all means nothing!

BERNARDO

I have you right where I want you.
You will be tied to this, this
home of past glory. Going
nowhere! Just rotting and
withering away into cobwebs.

MRS. EMILY

Such poetry. You must have been
reading all these years.
Literature or just the funny
papers?

BERNARDO

We'll see who will be laughing
when you receive your papers---

MRS. EMILY

What papers? (she takes folded up
documents out from a nearby
cabinet) These papers? These
papers? I've read them through.

BERNARDO

Good.

MRS. EMILY

Yes, I have read them through.
All, the, way, through...they are
useless. You can't do anything
with them Bernardo. I don't know
what lawyer you have working under
your green thumb but these papers
have no power. The land and
buildings that you plan on
purchasing, or should I say, wish
to purchase will only lead you to
a dead end.

BERNARDO

That's preposterous. Everything
is already bought and paid for,
it's---

MRS. EMILY

Thank you for the deposit. It was
a hefty some I placed into my
coffers. Much obliged. Now, if
you will excuse me, I must be---

BERNARDO

What the hell are you talking
about woman?!

MRS. EMILY

I've taken your fortune. You see, the money you paid for the property and the buildings has been given to me but in return you are left with dust.

BERNARDO

How is that even remotely possible?

MRS. EMILY

I own this town and everything in it! You think you can pull the wool over my own two eyes? I have every judge, lawyer and pony working for me and my family for the last three hundred years. Do you really think a peasant such as yourself is going to actually come into the picture and take what doesn't belong to you? It's never belonged to you, Bernardo...and never will.

Bernardo chokes Mrs. Emily.

BERNARDO

I will have proof and I will kill you before you think you can take what's---

Mrs. Emily stabs Bernardo with a knife at his side - he releases his grip on her and steps back.

MRS. EMILY

There you are. There, there. I got you good and this will be all over soon enough. You didn't pass the final test. In business, it's the man who can smile with false teeth that wins. Apparently, my false teeth are shining brighter than ever and I am the better man. Yes, yes, yes. Sit down, sit down. Here, let me help you, Bernardo.

She helps Bernardo to the couch.

You see, I never disliked you...well, not completely that is, but well, I know your kind. Never liked your kind, really.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

Something missing I just can't
quite put my finger on, even after
all these years. Sad, but
certainly true. There, there.
Nice and easy. Steady she goes.
Rest your head, rest your eyes.
There, there. Yes, I guess I owe
you this...you had me. Completely.
But that temper of yours, that
weakness in men, yes, there in
lives your biggest crime. Good
job Bernardo. You would have won
but I outwitted you. No one has
that much power but now that you
are just about gone, you will have
nothing. I will plead
self-defense. I allowed you to
choke me long enough for bruising
to show and that's about it. I
will retain my crown...