

# ***Right Between The Eyes***

*by*

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Cast of Characters

GIO:

30's

LUCA:

30's

Place

Country house

Time

Day

2.

Setting: The play takes place inside a large wooden country home. Paint fades off the wood paneling, the porch is broken and the land has tall grass. The atmosphere appears abandoned.

At Rise: The play opens up on Gio who is standing in the middle of his living room, while his cousin Luca stands at the front door entrance.

GIO: ...You come visit me...after how long I been hiding out, you finally come and see me.

LUCA: I'm here.

GIO: I'm glad, cause, you know, I been thinking about the family, everybody I love...haven't seen anyone's face in so long, almost forgot some of the faces if it weren't for the pictures I took with me...smart, right...how I took them pictures...haha, that night, I stuffed as many as I could from your mother's photo albums, all in my bag before hightailing outta there...last thing I did, thank God. You know, there ain't no TV? This set up here, there ain't nothin' but goin' on long walks, staring out at that stream not far from here...tried that cow tippin' shit but I hurt my shoulder when I tried..haha, maybe it's a myth or I'm too weak, you know...minga you look so good, healthy like, right? Like, you're younger, while I'm on aging like a dog ova here, drinking so much my brain leaks out my ears, Luca.

(they laugh together)

Am I really seeing you, bro? You're really here, right? (laughs) Shit. Good. That's good. You know, I'd like to say some things to ya before I go home.

LUCA: What things?

GIO: What things? You know what things you fucking guy. Ha, ha, what things! I'm the most loyal. Tell me. Tell me I'm not the most loyal.

LUCA: To me?

GIO: To the cows outside. To me!

LUCA: You've always been loyal, Gio.

GIO: That's fucking right. LOYAL!

LUCA: No one can ever deny that about you cousin.

GIO: ...Good...cause, you know...I'd die for you bro.

LUCA: I know Gio.

GIO: Why'd you say it so sadly for?

LUCA: Gio, you know you can't go home.

GIO: No. Why's that?

LUCA: Things got worse.

GIO: How so?

LUCA: Gio...listen to me...you ain't ever leaving this place.

GIO: ...No?

LUCA: ...No...

GIO sits down calmly.

GIO: I'm impressed.

LUCA sits.

How's it gonna happen, Luca?

LUCA: I don't know.

GIO: Whaddya mean, you don't know?

LUCA: I don't know means I don't fucking know.

GIO: What if I did it myself?

LUCA: Yeah?

GIO: One shot, right between the eyes.

LUCA: You come back to the neighborhood, you're as good as dead.

GIO: Yeah, yeah.

LUCA: I got your train ticket, cash...you need to get outta this place.

GIO: Is that it?

LUCA: Gio, you should already be dead. I beat them to the punch to buy you some time. You need to leave and never come back.

GIO: Just walk away...

LUCA: That's right.

GIO: Fuck them! I say we go back there together and kill them all!

LUCA: Gio, we can't do that.

GIO: Why not?

LUCA: WE can't.

GIO: We always said that if our backs were against the wall, we wouldn't back down. Didn't I you agree to that?

LUCA: Maybe.

GIO: So where's your word?

LUCA: There are way too many factors involved here.

GIO: Like what? Tell me. Like, what?

LUCA: Like YOU.

GIO: ME? WHY ME?

LUCA: Cause you're no good Geo! You can't walk the line. You never could. Look at the mess we're in on account of you. What do you think this all is? They're coming for you if you don't leave in time. Do you understand? You have a chance to run. Go as far as you can and start a new life for yourself. You talked about forgetting faces, GOOD, good that's what you do, we've got no choice, forget every face you've ever known, make it disappear from your mind forever...you walk. This is your only chance, our only chance.

GIO: Why wasn't I ever good enough in your eyes Luca?

LUCA: Come on.

GIO: No, bro, tell me, come on, why wasn't I ever no good?

LUCA: You are good, that's the problem...you were always too good for this world.

GIO: I followed YOU.

LUCA: And I was wrong to allow it.

GIO: I go where you go.

LUCA: Not anymore.

GIO: You want me to be a ghost, right? Change my name, my clothes, my face, all that, right?

LUCA: I can't protect you anymore.

GIO: Let me tell you something then man. I ain't goin' nowhere. I ain't gonna let those bastards tell me where I can breathe. I'm stayin' right here and let them come, watch, let them come and see what happens. Eh? I got something for them.

LUCA: I'm telling you to do something for yourself.

GIO: Let them come Luca.

LUCA: Son of a bitch, you don't listen!

GIO: I ain't gonna run.

LUCA: Even if you get them first, what do you think is gonna happen Geo? Huh? They're gonna throw more at you, they're gonna keep coming for you and never stop until you're gone. You will get tired and you will die.

GIO: With honor.

LUCA: There is no honor in that.

GIO: Fuck there is, what you saying to me?

LUCA: ...Pour me a drink.

LUCA pours and hands LUCA a shot. THEY  
each do a shot together.

GIO: Let me stay and go the way I wish to go...at least I'll have that...you think I don't know it's a matter of time? I know what everybody thinks a me. I know. At least if I go out fightin', at least I'll know inside myself that I wasn't as bad as you all think a me. At least I could say I did somethin' most people wouldn't do, which is face the music, right? These were the cards I was dealt...gotta play my hand.

LUCA: Why didn't you go off to California when you had the chance?

GIO: Fuck California.

LUCA: But why didn't you move out with Uncle Bobby?

GIO: He smelt funny.

LUCA: Come on Gio--

GIO: No, really, I made the decision not to go cause of the way he smelt.

LUCA: Because of his scent?

GIO: I didn't trust his scent.

LUCA: You should have moved into the asylum.

GIO: They'd probably kick me out.

THEY laugh.

GIO (cont'd): Actually not a bad way to form my own crew.

LUCA: Probably not.

GIO: You need to go.

LUCA: Eh.

GIO: You did what you could do for me my whole life...smarter than you think...this one, this situation of ours...this is something I created that can't fix, Luca. That's on me...not you.

LUCA: Let me take you to the station...it leaves in an hour.

GIO: I'm not going.

LUCA: I have everything written out for you right here. (*revealing an envelope*) You got money, a place, everything you need to get started.

GIO: I'm not fucking going, Luc.

LUCA: You expect me to leave?

GIO: If you care about me, yeah.

LUCA: Yeah?

GIO: That's what I'm sayin'.

LUCA: No. Get your shit.

GIO: Fuck you.

LUCA: Gio! You're gonna be the death of me! Grab your shit and let's go.

GIO: I ain't leaving!

LUCA grabs GIO by the chest and pins him against the stove.

LUCA: Don't do this to me! Get your things and let's leave while we have time!

GIO: No! No! I ain't gonna do it. I ain't going nowhere! Nowhere! Nowhere!

LUCA puts GIO in a headlock and tries forcing him out of the house front door.

GIO puts up a fight and is equally relentless.



BOTH men are at a standstill and exhaust one another.

THEY collapse to the floor in utter exhaustion.

LUCA: You bastard...I hate you...I fucking hate you.

GIO: You twisted my neck and now it's gonna affect my aim when I shoot.

LUCA: You're a poor shot anyway, maybe I fixed ya.

GIO: I can never be fixed, Luca...I am what I am.

LUCA: You are, you are...

**END OF PLAY**