

A WISE GUY'S FINAL WALK

Screenplay By

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BEGIN MAIN TITLES

OVER BLACK we hear a landline phone ringing. A MAN picks up the phone and begins to talk into it. He speaks with an Italian-American accent.

MAN:

Hello? (O.S)

We hear a faint response coming out from the phone speaker.

MAN:

Hey, Luca! How are you?

We can faintly hear Luca responding to the man's question. Luca continues with a sentence that is unintelligible to the audience.

MAN:

So, you got Johnny, you and me for the job, right?

LUCA:

Yes. (faintly)

MAN:

Do you need me now?

LUCA:

Yep. (faintly)

MAN:

Alright, I'll be there soon.

END MAIN TITLES

INT. APARTMENT. NIGHT

EXTREME CLOSE UP of the man hanging up the landline phone. We pan up to a MEDIUM SHOT of the man who is revealed to be VINCENT 'Vinnie' PERETTI. He is a caporegime for the Abato Crime Family.

VINNIE

Well, I'm Dead.

Vinnie grabs a cigarette and lights it. He takes a drag before he talks to the camera.

VINNIE:

I've been a wise guy for 20 years.

Vinnie leans back into his chair and sighs.

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

And now after that phone call,

Vinnie puts out his cigarette.

VINNIE:

I'm Dead. (flatly)

Vinnie gets up and walks towards the closet door.

VINNIE:

See the thing is about wise guys is they don't tell you if you're gonna get wacked. (pause) But they tell you when you've fucked up.

Vinnie opens the closet door.

VINNIE:

They send a fish to your door or some shit.

Vinnie grabs a jacket on a hanger and a coat on a hanger. He lays the coat down on a table and begins to take the jacket hanger off.

VINNIE:

I've done that a few times in my life. Notice I said 'few' because it doesn't happen often.

Vinnie starts to put the jacket on.

VINNIE:

It ain't like the movies where every single day you'd do some deal and kill 10 police officers in the street, it ain't like that.

Vinnie grabs a coat on a hanger and begins to take the hanger off.

VINNIE:

You see, the cops found us out. They got fuckin' everything on us, we can't do that shit anymore.

Vinnie begins to put the coat on.

VINNIE:

That's why half my career as a gangster has been spent hijacking trucks, asking for protection money or if I'm lucky, an actual job. Like the one I just fucked up.

Vinnie finishes putting the coat on and as he finishes, he glances up at the camera.

VINNIE:

We set up a gambling place downtown and I forgot to pay off the cops so we got busted, That's all. But they think I'm a fucking rat.

Vinnie grabs a comb off the bench and starts to brush his hair

VINNIE:

You know, I thought I gonna get chased instead. You know, kicked out.

Vinnie makes air quotes when he mentions "kicked out"

VINNIE:

But Jimmy thinks with his fists not his fucking brain.

As Vinnie says "brain", he hits the closet door in anger. Vinnie eyes shift over to the camera for a split second. He stares at the closet then looks down at his outfit.

VINNIE:

Actually no, not this coat.

Vinnie opens the closet door again.

VINNIE:

I can't believe he's a made man.

Vinnie grabs a new coat and takes it off the rack. He closes the closet door and holds the coat in his hands as he talks to the camera.

VINNIE:

In 2 years, this zip was able to not get pinched once, so they thought he was good enough to be a made man.

Vinnie starts to put the coat on

VINNIE:

You work your ass off; they don't even acknowledge you. But if you're closely related to one of 'em, you become the most trusted person in the family. Fuck 'em.

Vinnie walks over to a drawer and opens it. He starts to put his necklace and rings in the drawer.

VINNIE:

You know, If they're gonna wack me. I ain't giving them anything. They gonna get a dead body with the cheapest goddamn outfit I could find and no jewellery. Fuck 'em, I'm keeping it all in here.

Vinnie shuts the drawer walks away from the drawer and into another room. The camera doesn't follow him.

VINNIE: (O.S)

100,000 dollars' worth of rings and watches is in that drawer. That's all I spend my money on. Obviously, the house, but in terms of like, a present or a reward for doing a job. I'd rather spend it on Breitling or a Tudor.

Vinnie pokes his head out from the doorway

VINNIE:

I know wise guys who spend their money on fancy cars and lavish houses, that are fucking 4 stories high.

Vinnie chuckles when he says "4 stories high". Vinnie steps out of the room and walks towards the camera.

VINNIE:

(laughs) Yeah, I don't do that, I appreciate the fine things in life.

Vinnie stops right near the drawer.

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

I never needed a purple low-rider with fucking gold-rims just to make myself look more of a cafone that I already am.
(pause) I'm content with what I already have.

Vinnie pauses then checks his watch

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

Alright we should go, I'm gonna be late.

Vinnie walks out the door and shuts it.

EXT. ALLEYWAY (NIGHT) LOW ANGLE

Vinnie spends 5 seconds walking in silence thinking about what he should say.

VINNIE:

You know what-

Vinnie stutters and rethinks what he is about to say.

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

You know what, I'm not content about getting wacked. (pause) I mean, I'm not scared or anything. I just-

Vinnie stops and changes his mind.

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

Well, I am scared but it's a different type of scared. (pause) I'm used to getting that type of scared.

VINNIE:

Y'know every single day,

Vinnie stops walking

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

I'd wake up thinking "Is this gonna be my last day" "Am I gonna get wacked today".

Vinnie gets frustrated. Someone walks in front of Vinnie; he doesn't acknowledge it.

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

Every Day! Every goddamn day, that would be the first thought on my mind, I couldn't escape it

Vinnie continues walking

VINNIE:

I just never thought it would end up like this.

Vinnie stops talking for 3 seconds and becomes more frustrated

VINNIE:

And it's by Johnny and Luca as well. Johnny? Fuck him. But, Luca? I expected more from that kid, I practically raised him!
(annoyed)

Vinnie stops at his car. He looks down for a second and then looks back up

VINNIE:

Let me tell you something, it's always the people closest to you that'll kill you. It isn't like movies where you got the two rival families mowing each other down with Tommy guns, It's not like that.

Vinnie Pauses

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

Your Killer is the one who's in the family album. He's standing right next to you in the pictures, He's sitting right near you on thanksgiving and He's the one you'll take a bullet for. Even if he's the one holding the gun.

Vinnie gets into the car and closes the door.

INT. CAR (NIGHT) MEDIUM ANGLE

Vinnie is driving the car. Torrential rain pours down onto the window. Vinnie takes 10 seconds of staring out of the window before he starts talking

VINNIE:

When Luca was 13 (pause) we went down to this ice-cream van that was at the end of our block and

The camera starts to slowly zoom in on Vinnie as he speaks

VINNIE:

We bought one and sat down and all was good. But then some jerkoff in this van drove up right in front of us, got out of the car and tried to steal Luca.

Vinnie continues driving as melancholy music plays in the background.

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

So, what do you do Y'know I shot him. I shot him dead (pause) right in front of Luca. (pause) And I think that's the worst mistake I ever made. Because, if I had not fired those bullets,

Vinnie holds back tears

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

I could've saved two lives that day, the guy I killed and I could've saved Luca from giving up his.

Cut to a shot of the rain pouring onto the hood of the car, the music continues. Cut back to the medium shot as Vinnie still tries to hold back tears

VINNIE:

Y'know he was a bright kid like me. He had his whole life ahead of him! He could've done anything.

The music slows down now as the rain starts to calm down.

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

When I was 13, I saw a man get shot right in front of my doorstep. It was by Don Russo and he shot him over some money, I couldn't tell you.

Vinnie stops the car and looks towards the camera

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

But, when I saw it happen, I was amazed by it. (pause) I thought that it was amazing that he was untouchable that he could do whatever he wanted. And I threw my life away just so I could be like him. I could've done something. I believe it, I really could've. But that gunshot changed me. It changed me from being a young kid with a bright future (pause) to a murderer with no future.

Vinnie looks towards Johnny and Luca sitting on the bench out of focus.

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

And I knew when I had fired that bullet

Vinnie points towards Luca and the camera focuses on him

VINNIE: (CONT'D)

I had done the same to him.

Vinnie gets out of the car and closes the door. The camera doesn't follow him. Vinnie walks out of focus and towards Johnny and Luca. The camera turns around to face the windshield. We hear unintelligible dialogue before a loud gunshot is heard and the screen cuts to black.

THE END