

4-F: OPERATION UNDERWORLD

(Pilot)

Teleplay by
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FADE IN:

SUPER: Inspired By True Events

DISSOLVE TO:

SUPER: 4-F: Not qualified for service in the Armed Forces under the established physical, mental and moral standards.

TEASER

1 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - FLOOR - NIGHT 1

"Wenn Wir Marschieren" plays.

Storm troopers march down the aisles. A crowd of 20,000 American Nazis and spectators fill the arena.

2 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - STAGE - NIGHT 2

One-hundred Nazis stand on the stage.

German American Bund flags hang on the stage along with the American flag. Between the two sets of flags a large portrait of George Washington hangs.

SUPER: New York, February 1939

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

It is with great affection and honor that I present our speaker. A man who will save this country. A man of strength. We love him for the enemies he has made. Ladies and gentlemen Mr Fritz Kuhn.

The crowd cheers with a smattering of boos. Bundesführer FRITZ KUHN (40's) walks up to the podium.

FRITZ KUHN

Ladies and gentlemen. Fellow Americans. American patriots.

He leans over the microphone.

FRITZ KUHN

We the German American Bund are determined to protect ourselves, our homes, our wives, our children against the slimy and scheming conspirators who will turn this proud republic into a Bolshevik paradise. We will not bow to Jewish Bolshevism and let them come into our neighborhoods, into our homes.

The audience cheers.

3 **INT. JUDGE PERLMAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT**

3

FRONT OF NEWSPAPER: "Bund To Hold Rally At Garden"

Judge NATHAN D. PERLMAN (40's) sits at his desk, newspaper in hand, shaking his head. Across from Perlman sits MEYER LANSKY (36). Perlman shows the front page to Lansky.

PERLMAN

Can you believe this?

Lansky takes the paper and looks at the front page. He shakes his head.

LANSKY

The rabbis can talk in temple every week about the Nazi danger, but they fear what the Gentiles might think.

PERLMAN

They have no problem taking advantage of our minds and getting our votes, but a Jew wants to fight back.

LANSKY

God forbid.

PERLMAN

(beat)

I know you and your guys have been breaking up some Bund meetings in Yorkville.

LANSKY

We are.

PERLMAN

Would you be up for breaking up the Garden?

LANSKY
Of course.

PERLMAN
Good.

He opens a desk drawer and pulls out a stack of money.

PERLMAN
How's \$2,500 sound?

LANSKY
No, thank you.

PERLMAN
Huh?

LANSKY
I see it as a civic duty. And a great honor.

Perlman shrugs and closes the desk drawer.

LANSKY
We're patriots.

PERLMAN
Send them to the hospital, not the morgue.

LANSKY
Of course.

He puts his hat on and walks out. Indistinct distorted cheering permeates.

4 **INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - STAGE - NIGHT**

4

Kuhn leans on the podium.

FRITZ KUHN
Those against us say "Why don't you go back to Germany?" Let it not be mistaken that we love this country; We love this republic and we are here to stay.

Crowd claps.

FRITZ KUHN
Now. Now.

He makes a hand signal for them to stop cheering.

FRITZ KUHN (cont'd)

If you listen to the Jewish-controlled press, the lies and falsehoods that they propagate on our Bund, why do they do that? Because they want the removal of all German influence in politics and ultimately a liquidation of all influence, culture and memory of the German. We will not allow the communist Jew conspiracy to destroy us.

5 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

5

The crowd cheers. BENJAMIN 'BUGSY' SIEGEL (30), BO KRAVITZ (24) and BRUNO PISTONE (23) stand at the back.

FRITZ KUHN (O.S.)

We will not allow for President Frank Rosenfeld and his Jew Deal to engulf America in Bolshevik perversion.

Siegel checks his watch.

6 EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - FRONT - NIGHT

6

A crowd of Bund protesters and rabble rousers stand around.

MAXIMUS 'MAX' LANZA (22) and IGGY KATZ (19) along with 10 guys stand at the entrance.

Max looks up at the fire escape and then at Iggy.

MAX

Ig, can you scale that?

Iggy looks at the fire escape ladder.

IGGY

Easily.

MAX

Take some guys with you. When you hear me yell, unleash all hell.

IGGY

Got it.

He turns to the rest of the guys and motions them over to him.

MAX
Remember, hospital; not the slab.

IGGY
Yeah, yeah.

Iggy and a couple of guys run up and onto the ladders of the fire escape.

Lansky stands at his car. Beside him stands four police officers at their police car.

LANSKY
Your boss knows nothing?

OFFICER 1
We don't see nothing.

Lansky looks at his watch and turns towards Max.

LANSKY
Lanza.

Max turns around and looks over at Lansky. Lansky gives a thumbs up.

FRITZ KUHN (O.S.)
Seig Heil!

Max nods and turns to the protesters.

MAX
Let's go!

Max and the protesters run toward the entrance.

7 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER 7

Max and the protesters charge through. Security runs from them.

8 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - FLOOR - CONTINUOUS 8

The audience gives the Nazi salute. Siegel, Bo and Bruno put brass knuckles on their fists and run down the aisle.

Chaos erupts. Siegel hauls off and punches a Bund member in the face.

Max and the protesters charge in and attack anyone with a swastika.

Crowds run in different directions.

9 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - STAGE - CONTINUOUS 9

Protesters jump on stage and rush towards Kuhn. A number of storm troopers surround to protect Kuhn.

FRITZ KUHN
Get me out of here!

The Bund storm troopers with billy clubs in hand attack the protesters.

CRASH!

Kuhn and his security look up at the balcony.

10 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - BALCONY - CONTINUOUS 10

Iggy and his guys climb through the broken windows. Bund members run towards them while spectators run away.

Iggy steel pipe in hand, looks up at them with a gleeful, sadistic smile.

Iggy and his guys chase Bund members and spectators. Laying blows, kicks, scratches and a few bites on them.

11 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - FLOOR - CONTINUOUS 11

Max beats on a Bund storm trooper on the ground.

MALE SPECTATOR (O.S.)
Schweinhund!

A male spectator jumps on top of Max. Max body slams the male spectator onto the Bund storm trooper.

12 EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER 12

Bund members run out the doors to more protesters and gangsters on the attack.

13 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - BALCONY - CONTINUOUS 13

Iggy knocks a Bund Storm Trooper back and over the side of the balcony.

14 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - FLOOR - CONTINUOUS 14

The Bund Storm Trooper falls to the ground moaning in pain.

15 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - BACK STAGE - MOMENTS LATER 15

Kuhn and his storm troopers run to the backdoor.

16 EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER 16

Kuhn, his storm troopers and other Bund members run out the doors to more protesters and gangsters on the attack with baseball bats and pipes.

Max, Iggy and their guys run out and body slam them.

A car drives forward towards Max, Iggy, and the crowd.

They rush the car with bats, bricks, fists and knives. Like ants devouring a half bitten apple.

SMASH CUT TO:

17 EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - LATER 17

The car is scrap with steam coming off it.

18 INT. NYC POLICE STATION - HOLDING CELL - LATER 18

Max, Iggy, and other protesters/gangsters stand and sit. They are bloody, bruised, dirty and yet full of energy.

Max's hand shakes. He squeezes his hand.

*COP 1 (O.S.)
Max Lanza. Iggy Katz.*

Max and Iggy look up with bloody smiles.

*COP 1 (O.S.) (cont'd)
You're free to go.*

19 EXT. NYC POLICE STATION - FRONT - LATER

19

REPORTERS and PHOTOGRAPHERS crowd the steps.

Max and Iggy walk out with Lansky and his lawyer PAUL POLAKOFF.

LANSKY
Don't look keep walking.

Cameras FLASH

***PICTURE:** Max and Iggy rough looking and cold eyes. Lansky with a cigarette in his mouth*

END OF TEASER

20 INT. DRAFT BOARD - DAY 20

SUPER: Whitehall Induction Center - NYC 1942

The draft center is makeshift and slapped together. Folding chairs and tables dress the place up.

Max and Iggy stand with hundreds of young men in line.

21 INT. DRAFT BOARD - GYM - DAY 21

Max, Iggy and fifty other guys are stripped down to their underwear.

Each man wears a small black cloth money bag with a pull string around his neck.

22 INT. DRAFT BOARD - HALLWAY - DAY 22

Max and Iggy sit on a bench in their t-shirts and underwear with their clothes neatly folded in their laps.

Iggy rubs himself over his shorts. Max looks over at Iggy.

MAX

What the hell are you doing?

IGGY

I want to get a hard on when the nurse starts checking me out.

MAX

They're not gonna reject you for getting a hard on, Ig.

IGGY

Hey, you got your way of getting out, I got mine.

NURSE ALLISON (21) walks out from the examination room with a clipboard in hand.

NURSE ALLISON

Itzhak Katz.

Iggy walks over to Nurse Allison who ushers him in.

HOLDEN (O.S.)

Giuliano Lanza.

Max walks into an office and shuts the door.

23 INT. DRAFT BOARD - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY**23**

Iggy and Nurse Allison walk into the room. Nurse Allison turns around towards the glove dispenser.

NURSE ALLISON
Remove your shorts.

Iggy takes off his shorts. Nurse Allison puts on a glove and cups Iggy's balls.

NURSE ALLISON (cont'd)
Cough.

Iggy coughs.

NURSE ALLISON (cont'd)
Again.

Iggy coughs harder.

24 INT. DRAFT BOARD - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY**24**

Dr. JOHN HOLDEN (37), sits behind the desk in his makeshift office. Max stands before Holden.

HOLDEN
Sit.

Max sits down.

HOLDEN (cont'd)
Alright.

He pulls out his pen and holds it near the questionnaire.

HOLDEN (cont'd)
Married? Any kids?

MAX
No.

Holden checks the boxes on the test.

25 INT. DRAFT BOARD - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY**25**

Iggy bends over the examination table. Nurse Allison puts on a glove and holds a small flashlight.

NURSE ALLISON
Spread your legs.

She shines the flashlight on Iggy.

26 INT. DRAFT BOARD - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

26

Max quietly puts on his clothes.

MAX

How...How long before I'm done?

HOLDEN

Hard to say. Gehrig got three years.
Some people have lived ten years.

MAX

So, let me fight and at least die
like a man. Come on, Doc.

He turns to Holden with his wallet in hand and pulls out money.

HOLDEN

It wouldn't matter. They'd find out
at some point.

MAX

Every man has his price, Doc.

HOLDEN

It wouldn't matter. They'd find out
soon enough.

Max sits down.

MAX

First the Iron Horse, now me.

HOLDEN

You're young still. Science is
coming up with new things, cures.

MAX

Not fast enough.

Holden stamps "4-F" onto Max's paper. Max takes the paper.

27 INT. DRAFT BOARD - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

27

Nurse Allison checks Iggy's back.

NURSE ALLISON

Breathe in and breathe out.

Iggy moans. Nurse Allison steps back.

NURSE ALLISON (cont'd)
Are you okay?

Iggy moans loudly. He turns around to Nurse Allison who looks down. She rolls her eyes in disgust.

NURSE ALLISON (cont'd)
(annoyed)
Oh, God!

She heads for the door.

28 INT. DRAFT BOARD - HALLWAY - DAY

28

Max adjusts his tie as he walks out of Holden's office.

The door opens and Nurse Allison walks down the hall. Iggy walks out fixing his shorts. Max looks at Iggy.

IGGY
What?

Max shakes his head and walks down the hall.

IGGY (cont'd)
What?

29 EXT. SHIP YARD - PIER 88 - NIGHT

29

The SS Normandie stands in water. Fire begins to engulf the ship.

30 EXT. HUDSON RIVER - DAY

30

The capsized Normandie lies on its side smoldering in the frozen waters.

31 INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY BUILDING - HOGAN'S OFFICE - DAY

31

The office is big, with a window that looks out onto the city.

Commander CHARLES 'RED' HAFFENDEN (50's) and Ensign JAMES SMITH (24) sit with District Attorney FRANK HOGAN (50), Head of Racket Investigation MURRAY GURFEIN (38) and ONI Lieutenant JOHN CARDIFF (45) around a long wide conference table.

HAFFENDEN

The mob has control of the shipping yards, fishing boats and ships. The possibility of them working with the Germans may only be a theory, but if we can get them on our side now, it's our best bet.

CARDIFF

I don't know if this is the right strategy, Commander.

SMITH

Lieutenant, there's no other way to get into the ports to make the contacts we need without the mob's cooperation.

CARDIFF

I was asking Commander Haffenden, Ensign Smith.

Smith sits back.

CARDIFF (cont'd)

I don't like the idea of getting in bed with criminals.

HOGAN

Look, these men may not know how to make their money legally, but they are proudly American.

CARDIFF

There are a lot of proud Americans who can help us, but they don't use intimidation, prostitution and murder to make a living.

GURFEIN

True, but these guys have something else that is needed.

CARDIFF

What's that?

GURFEIN

Violent hatred for fascists.

HAFFENDEN

Explain.

HOGAN

When the Bund held their rally at the Garden, a couple dozen hoods cracked their skulls.

CARDIFF

Why?

HAFFENDEN

Because they hate Hitler as much as us. And Mussolini affected the lives of family still living in Italy for a lot of them.

CARDIFF

I still don't like the idea of--

HAFFENDEN

I don't care whether you like it or not. If they can get us information, it's worth it. If they can protect the ports, it's worth it. This is war. Lives are at stake. It's no time to get hung up on something like morality.

CARDIFF

I'm still not comfortable with it but make contact.

Haffenden nods his head and looks over at Gurfein.

HAFFENDEN

You know anyone on their side who can get this going? This has to be done discreetly.

GURFEIN

I know a small timer with connections who could help us. I'll have my office send his file over.

32 EXT. FULTON FISH MARKET - BACK - DAY

32

Max and Iggy stand on the pier as a fishing boat docks. FREDDIE WRIGHT (24) gets off the boat.

Freddie pulls out some cash and hands it to Max. Max inspects the bill.

FREDDIE

Good to go?

MAX
Yeah, go ahead.

33 INT. FULTON FISH MARKET - KITCHEN - LATER

33

The kitchen's wet and damp from the floor to the ceiling.

Iggy cuts into a fish. He cuts off the head, scales it and moves it over to BOBBY (15).

IGGY
Kill it, cut it and scale it. Got it?

BOBBY
Yes, sir.

Iggy gives Bobby a pat on the back and walks away.

34 INT. ASTOR HOTEL - HAFFENDEN'S WAITING AREA - DAY

34

Ensign RITA SIENKIEWICZ (24) sits at her desk with a number of large files as Haffenden walks in with Smith. She's thumbing through one file.

HAFFENDEN
What can you tell me, Ensign Sienkiewicz?

Haffenden sits down across from Rita and picks up the file. Smith stands at the small bar inspecting the liquor bottles.

RITA
His name's Max Lanza. Associated with one Frank Costello, current 'capo die capi' of the Luciano crime family.

SMITH
Capo die capi?

RITA
Boss of bosses.

Smith looks at Rita befuddled.

SMITH
They teach you that at Sarah Lawrence?

Rita looks at Smith with a cold smile.

RITA
I was raised in Brooklyn you pick a
few things up.

HAFFENDEN
Location?

Smith pours a glass of whiskey and water.

RITA
Brooklyn. Fulton Fish Market.

Smith hands Haffenden the glass of whiskey and water. He
turns to Rita.

HAFFENDEN
Go to Brooklyn. Make contact with
this Lanza character. I'll have
Gurfein come with you.

RITA
What?

SMITH
Huh?

RITA
You want me in the field?

HAFFENDEN
Why not. You're college educated,
trained and let's be honest, those
hoods won't mind having you around.

Rita gets up and takes her jacket and purse off the coat
rack.

RITA
Roger that, sir.

She walks out.

SMITH
Commander, I--

HAFFENDEN
I didn't ask for your comment,
Ensign Smith.

He turns to Smith.

HAFFENDEN (cont'd)

Who is going to do better getting these guys to listen: A blue blood like you or a good-looking girl from the neighborhood with a college degree?

35 EXT. BROOKLYN WATERFRONT - FULTON FISH MARKET - DAY

35

Max sits at a table and chair with a copy of Mildred Pierce under a water and dirt stained white and blue awning.

Gurfein and Rita walk up to him. He keeps his eyes on his book.

MAX

This Veda's one snotty little gash.

Max puts a betting slip into the book and puts it down. He looks up at Gurfein and Rita. Max looks at Rita apologetically.

MAX (cont'd)

I apologize for my vulgarity.

RITA

No need, she is a snotty gash.

Max chuckles and looks at Gurfein.

MAX

What do you want, Counselor?

GURFEIN

We need to talk, Lanza.

MAX

Who's this?

RITA

Rita Sienkiewicz. Naval intelligence.

Max shakes Rita's hand.

MAX

Max Lanza. Fulton Fish Market.

(beat)

So how long they been letting you girls in?

RITA
Last few months.

MAX
Interesting.

He looks around and gives Gurfein a look.

GURFEIN
You want to go somewhere else to
talk?

Max gets up and motions at Gurfein and Rita to follow him.

36 **EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER**

36

Max lights his cigarette and walks with Rita and Gurfein
behind him.

MAX
How many ships have we lost to the
Nazis?

RITA
Close to a hundred.

MAX
Shit.

RITA
Naval intelligence wants you and your
friends to keep an eye out for any
undesirables.

MAX
See anything, hear anything, back to
you?

Rita nods.

RITA
We also want you to do everything you
can to squash problems. Anything.

GURFEIN
Union issues. Get agents working the
docks union cards. Get'em on the
boats.

MAX
Seems doable.

RITA
How about it, Mr. Lanza?

Max mockingly raises his hands in surrender.

MAX
You got me.

RITA
Good.

MAX
My word goes so far though. Nobody
is gonna do anything unless it comes
down from the boss.

GURFEIN
Costello?

Max shakes his head.

MAX
Charlie.

GURFEIN
Luciano?

MAX
You want cooperation, Charlie's your
guy.

RITA
Can you get in contact with him?

Max exhales smoke and shakes his head.

MAX
Mr. Lansky can. He's the only one who
can get Charlie to listen.

RITA
How soon can you make that happen?

MAX
Pretty quick.

GURFEIN
Call me when you do.

He pulls out his card, Max waves it away.

MAX
I know where to reach you.

He throws his cigarette down and stomps it out.

MAX (cont'd)
Good talking to ya.

He focuses on Rita.

MAX (cont'd)
Especially meeting you Miss, um,
what's your name again?

RITA
Just call me Ensign Sienkiewicz.

He walks away.

GURFEIN
I hope your boss knows what he's
doing.

RITA
Me, too.

Gurfein and Rita walk away.

RING! RING!

37 INT. CASINO - LANSKY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

37

Lansky sits at his desk with the phone to his ear.

LANSKY
Hello.

38 INT. BROOKLYN WATERFRONT - BACK ROOM - NIGHT

38

Max leans against a desk.

MAX
It's me.

39 INT. CASINO - LANSKY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

39

LANSKY
Everything ok?

He sits back in his chair and listens for a few moments.

LANSKY (cont'd)
I'll fly up overnight. Let's meet'em
for a late breakfast at Longchamps.

Phone hang up. Lansky gets out of his chair and looks out the window.

WINDOW: American flag waves in the wind.

40 INT. LONGCHAMPS RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - LATER

40

Yolk smeared plates and half-drunk mugs of coffee adorn the table.

LANSKY
That was good.

He takes a drag from his cigarette.

RITA
Your partner, Luciano. Can we trust
him?

Lansky looks at Rita as he drops the ashes into the ash tray.

LANSKY
Charlie hates Hitler and Mussolini as
much as I do. I know how Hitler feels
about my people. And Charlie knows
what Il Duce did to his family.

RITA
How soon can you set up a meeting?

GURFEIN
I think we should hold that off,
Albany's a long way, plus the snow--

LANSKY
Two days from now. Why wait?

RITA
Look forward to working together.

She shakes Lansky's hand and nods at Max who returns the nod along with a smile.

Gurfein and Rita get out of the booth.

GURFEIN
One thing.

Lansky looks up at them.

GURFEIN (cont'd)
I want you to know that this cause
has no compensation, got it?

Lansky gets out of the booth.

LANSKY
I didn't expect any.

Max holds out Lansky's coat.

LANSKY (cont'd)
I have enough money but not enough
respect from some circles.

He puts his arms through the coat sleeves.

LANSKY (cont'd)
I'm a patriot. I may not look like
one to you, but I am.

Lansky adjusts his coat.

LANSKY (cont'd)
Charlie, on the other hand, well
that's a different story.

GURFEIN
We'll cross that bridge when we get
there.

Rita looks at Lansky.

RITA
Commander Haffenden would like to
meet with you.

LANSKY
I have time.

They walk out.

41 INT. ASTOR HOTEL - HAFFENDEN'S WAITING AREA - DAY

41

Rita sits behind her desk typing up reports.

Max sits on the couch very proper and stoic. He's sipping on
a glass of water.

Max sets the sweaty water glass directly on the coffee table right next to the coaster.

Rita looks from across the room and notices the glass on the coffee table.

RITA
Ever heard of a coaster?

MAX
Huh?

Rita gets up, walks over and places the glass of water on the coaster. She gives Max a look, turns around and walks back to her desk.

42 INT. ASTOR HOTEL - HAFFENDEN'S OFFICE - DAY

42

Haffenden sits in his armchair and Lansky sits on the sofa. Haffenden has Lansky's dossier on his lap.

HAFFENDEN
I'm going to ask you to keep what I say confidential.

LANSKY
Okay.

HAFFENDEN
Anything gets out, men's lives are in danger.

LANSKY
You have my word.

HAFFENDEN
There's a convoy of troops going overseas soon. Help in Africa. Drive the jerrys out. We've got to make sure no man on the docks runs his mouth.

LANSKY
I can assure you that will not happen. Those palookas on the waterfront are just happy to work.

HAFFENDEN
(beat)
I read your file. It's like something out of Black Mask. Worked your way up with your wits and brains.

LANSKY

Man uses what he's got to make it in
this world.

HAFFENDEN

I couldn't agree more.

43 INT. ASTOR HOTEL - HAFFENDEN'S WAITING AREA - CONTINUOUS 43

Max walks over to the desk. He sits on the edge of the desk
near Rita.

MAX

Hello, Ensign Sienkiewicz.

RITA

Mr. Lanza.

They smile at each other.

44 INT. ASTOR HOTEL - HAFFENDEN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 44

Haffenden picks up Lansky's dossier.

HAFFENDEN

Heard about you and your guys beating
Bund members into submission.

Lansky smiles and nods his head.

LANSKY

Me and my men knew how bad Hitler was
while the isolationists were trying
to keep the country out. Dilling,
Lindbergh, that congressman--

HAFFENDEN

Father Coughlin?

LANSKY

That mick bastard should've been hung
by his collar. Him and Fritz Kuhn.

HAFFENDEN

Some people are surprised you didn't
just protest and hold up a sign.

LANSKY

The Goys view all Jews like we're a
bunch of nebbishes. We showed'em
otherwise.

(MORE)

LANSKY (cont'd)

You put a knife to the throat or a gun to their heads and bigots will stop.

Haffenden smiles and nods his head. He claps his hands and points at Lansky.

HAFFENDEN

That's what I want you guys to give us. The boys on the frontlines can beat the fascists, but you and your guys can help us beat them right here .

LANSKY

I can assure you we will.

Haffenden gets out of his chair and walks over to his liquor cabinet. He unlocks the cabinet.

HAFFENDEN

Well then.

He pulls out a crystal bottle of rum.

HAFFENDEN (cont'd)

Shall we drink to this partnership?

Lansky gets up. Haffenden pours two glasses of rum.

LANSKY

Hate for you to drink alone.

Lansky and Haffenden pick up their glasses.

HAFFENDEN

Cheers.

He raises his glass.

LANSKY

L'Chayim.

HAFFENDEN

What's that mean?

LANSKY

To life.

HAFFENDEN

L'Chayim.

They sip their glasses of rum.

LANSKY

I should clarify with you, Commander,
that I'm a simple businessman.

He sets his glass down and looks Haffenden in the eye.

LANSKY (cont'd)

An immigrant helping payback the
country that has given him the
freedom and opportunity he would
never have been able to have in his
hometown.

HAFFENDEN

Mr. Lansky, as long as you give me
what I want, we'll stick to that
story.

LANSKY

Commander, that isn't a story, that's
the simple truth.

45 INT. ASTOR HOTEL - HAFFENDEN'S WAITING AREA - CONTINUOUS

45

Max sits with Rita on the couch. He pours her a glass of
wine.

MAX

I was thinking we go out sometime?

He hands her a glass of wine.

RITA

Oh you were, huh?

She takes a sip.

MAX

Sure, why not?

RITA

Bit of a conflict.

MAX

We'd have a good time.

RITA

Maybe, it depends.

She stares at Max.

MAX
Depend on what?

RITA
Where would you take me?

MAX
You heard of The Copacabana.

RITA
That place on 60th?

MAX
I can get us a table.

RITA
Well--

The door opens up.

HAFFENDEN (O.S.)
Good talking with you, Meyer.

Haffenden and Lansky walk out.

LANSKY
You as well, Commander.

They shake hands.

LANSKY (cont'd)
Max, let's go.

Lansky walks out the door. Max gets up and looks at Rita.

MAX
It was a delight talking to you,
Rita. I mean Ensign Sienkiewicz.

RITA
Of course, Mr. Lanza.

LANSKY (O.S.)
Max, come on.

Max walks out. Haffenden looks over at Rita on the couch.

HAFFENDEN
Don't get attached just because he
reminds you of home.

RITA
I'm not. I understand what you need
from me on this, Commander.

HAFFENDEN
Good.

Haffenden walks back into his office. Rita picks up Max's
dossier and sits back behind her desk.

46 INT. MAX'S HOME - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

46

A simple basic bedroom setup along with two tables and three
chairs.

Lansky sits on the bed with the phone to his ear.

LANSKY
Can you make this happen? Tell
Charlie what I told you. Okay. Okay.

Max sits at the table playing cards by himself.

LANSKY (cont'd)
Bye.

He loosens his tie and takes it off.

LANSKY (cont'd)
The lawyer's gonna meet us there.

MAX
You think Charlie will agree with
this deal?

Lansky unbuttons his shirt.

LANSKY
Charlie knows an opportunity, and
this is a good chance to reduce his
sentence.

He takes his shirt and shoes off.

LANSKY (cont'd)
I'm tired.

MAX
(beat)
Why don't I take you home?

Lansky takes off his right shoe and shakes his head.

LANSKY
I can't. I can't deal with Anna.

MAX
Meyer, come on.

Lansky takes off the left shoe.

LANSKY
No. I can't deal with her. Every time we disagree, she has to bring it up.

MAX
You know you've done everything to help Buddy. The doctors, the therapy--

Lansky sets his watch on the side table next to the bed.

LANSKY
It doesn't matter.

MAX
What about Sandi and Paul? You're their father also.

LANSKY
(beat)
When we get done with setting everything up with Charlie and the docks, I'll go home.

He lies back.

LANSKY (cont'd)
Put in an order at Dave Miller's. When we head out tomorrow, I want a cooler filled with Charlie's favorites.

MAX
Sure.

LANSKY
When I wake up, have the cooler and car ready.

He turns over. Max turns the lights off as he walks out the apartment door.

47 EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY**47**

Haffenden and Rita dressed in plain clothes stand at their car.

Lansky and Max pull up in Lansky's car. Lansky gives a friendly wave and gesture from the car. Haffenden and Rita get in.

48 EXT. CLINTON CORRECTIONAL - FRONT GATE - DAY**48**

The car pulls up and the guard motions to roll the window down.

GUARD

Name?

Car window rolls down. Lansky pokes his head out. Guard steps back.

GUARD (cont'd)

Oh, Mr. Lansky, go ahead.

Gate opens and the car drives in.

49 EXT. CLINTON CORRECTIONAL - PRIVATE AREA - DAY**49**

Max opens the trunk of the car and removes a cooler.

RITA

Need help?

MAX

Can you get the bread?

Rita picks up a bag of bread.

MAX (cont'd)

Thanks.

They walk off towards the side door.

A car pulls up and PAUL POLAKOFF, Luciano's lawyer, gets out. He walks up to Lansky and Haffenden.

POLAKOFF

Meyer.

LANSKY

Paul.

Haffenden walks up.

HAFFENDEN
Charles Haffenden.

They shake hands.

POLAKOFF
Paul Polakoff. Mr. Luciano's lawyer,
Commander.

HAFFENDEN
How much does the warden know?

LANSKY
Is he to be trusted?

POLAKOFF
He understands the gravity of this
meeting.

HAFFENDEN
Good.

Lansky, Haffenden and Polakoff walk towards the side door.

50 INT. CLINTON CORRECTIONAL - PRIVATE MEETING ROOM - DAY

50

The meeting room is vacant and industrial with barred windows with winter sun pouring in illuminating the place.

Guards spread a table cloth across a long table. Plates, napkins, silverware and cups are placed on the table.

Max and Rita set up the tray of cold cuts and other sandwich fixings along with a jar of pickles, loaves of bread and Dr Brown's Celery Tonic.

Lansky, Polakoff and Haffenden walk in and are met by Warden VERNON MORHOUS (50's).

MORHOUS
Mr. Polakoff.

Morhous and Polakoff shake hands.

POLAKOFF
Warden Morhous, this is Meyer Lansky.

Lansky and Morhous shake hands.

POLAKOFF (cont'd)
And Charles Haffenden.

Morhous and Haffenden shake hands.

MORHOUS
I can assure you that this meeting
will be kept confidential.

HAFFENDEN
I would hope so.

51 INT. CLINTON CORRECTIONAL - LUCIANO'S CELL - DAY

51

CHARLES 'LUCKY' LUCIANO (44) lies on his prison bed, his eyes closed smoking a cigarette.

Corrections Officer CAMPION (35) walks up to the cell and taps it with his nightstick.

CAMPION
Charlie, you got some visitors.

Luciano's eyes open. He gets out of bed, throws his cigarette to the ground and stomps it out. Campion opens the door and Luciano walks out.

52 INT. CLINTON CORRECTIONAL - PRIVATE MEETING ROOM - DAY

52

Luciano walks in and sees Lansky, Max, Polakoff and the table of food. He chuckles seeing his old friend and associates.

LUCIANO
What the hell are you doing here?

He walks up and gives Lansky a hug.

LANSKY
Good to see you, Charlie.

LUCIANO
Been six months.

LANSKY
Give or take.

Luciano notices Max and laughs.

LUCIANO
How's it going, kid?

MAX
Good, Mr. Luciano.

LUCIANO
Last time I saw you, you were in
short pants.

Luciano looks around and notices Haffenden and Rita standing
with Morhous.

LUCIANO (cont'd)
Those them?

LANSKY
Those are them.

LUCIANO
Nice legs on her.

He looks at Max.

LUCIANO (cont'd)
Hope you ain't a fanook, kid, get
between those legs.

Max smiles uncomfortably. Luciano claps his hands.

LUCIANO (cont'd)
Let us talk over lunch.

Luciano walks over to the table and piles food onto his
plate. He pours himself a cup of Tonic and takes a sip.

LUCIANO (cont'd)
(mumbles)
I missed this.

Luciano sits down and takes a bite of his food. He lets out
a groan and looks at everyone.

LUCIANO (cont'd)
Well, don't just stand there.

Everyone walks over to the table, grabs a plate of food and
sits down.

53 INT. CLINTON CORRECTIONAL - PRIVATE MEETING ROOM - LATER

53

Luciano picks his teeth with a toothpick.

RITA
We know about your businesses.

Luciano looks at Rita and sets his toothpick down for her to see.

HAFFENDEN
How you make a living. We don't care.
All we ask is for your assistance.

Luciano looks at Lansky.

LUCIANO
What's the deal?

RITA
We want you--

Luciano motions with his hand.

LUCIANO
I'm asking my partner.

Rita sits back and holds her hands up.

RITA
Fine.

LUCIANO
Meyer?

LANSKY
We protect the docks, get agents
union cards, keep the unions from
striking.

HAFFENDEN
Your guys see anything, hear
anything, they come to us.

Luciano pulls a cigarette out of his shirt pocket.

LUCIANO
What about spies? The Nazis are
probably here already. How do you
want us to deal with that?

RITA
Discreetly.

Max hands Luciano his lighter.

LANSKY
Could be looking at a reduction in
your sentence, Charlie.

Luciano lights up his cigarette.

LUCIANO

I wanna guarantee that my sentence is reduced. And my name never gets out.

HAFFENDEN

All files and cases are number coded. No need to worry.

Luciano takes a drag off his cigarette.

LUCIANO

Yeah, but the fact is this war will be over one day, I'll be deported to Italy, and I don't need a knife in my gut the minute I hit land.

HAFFENDEN

I assure you nothing will ever get out.

LUCIANO

This isn't just my life we're talking about; it's my reputation as well.

HAFFENDEN

Mr. Luciano, you have my word, nobody will ever know. I promise you that.

LUCIANO

Your word.

HAFFENDEN

My word.

Luciano nods his head and looks at Lansky.

LUCIANO

Tell Frank I give the order.

Lansky nods his head.

LANSKY

Okay.

Haffenden looks at Luciano.

HAFFENDEN

We gotta deal?

Luciano sticks his hand out.

LUCIANO
We gotta deal.

Haffenden and Luciano shake hands.

LUCIANO (cont'd)
Good to be working with you. Hope
this helps all of us.

HAFFENDEN
The same.

Polakoff looks at Luciano.

POLAKOFF
I'm gonna petition to have you moved
closer to the city.

Luciano flicks some ash into the tray.

LUCIANO
Oh, yeah? Where?

GURFEIN
Great Meadow.

Luciano blows smoke out the side of his mouth.

LUCIANO
Oh, the country club. About time.

He puts his cigarette out in the ash tray.

54 **EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT**

54

Haffenden hands Lansky a manila envelope. He whispers into
Lansky's ear. Lansky gets a look of worry and anger.

HAFFENDEN
Deal with it.

LANSKY
We will.

Haffenden and Lansky shake hands and walk in opposite
directions.

LANSKY (V.O.)
Charlie's signed off on this.

55 INT. WALDORF ASTORIA - COSTELLO'S SUITE - DAY

55

Costello's suite is very studious and Anglo-influenced. Feels like a room that Winston Churchill would keep.

Lansky sits with FRANK COSTELLO (50's), acting Boss of The Luciano Family, and ALBERT ANASTASIA (39), capo and triggerman with Murder Inc. Max and Iggy walk in.

LANSKY

He's on board as am I. What about you, Albert?

Max and Iggy sit down.

ANASTASIA

I was gonna join the army anyway. Might as well go along.

Lansky turns his sight on Costello.

LANSKY

Well, Frank?

Costello takes a drag off his cigarette. He looks over at Max and Iggy.

COSTELLO

Maksimilian, you in?

MAX

Yeah, Frank.

COSTELLO

Itzihak?

IGGY

We getting paid?

Lansky, Costello and Anastasia look at Iggy incensed by the question. Max sits back in disbelief at his friend's stupidity.

LANSKY

You're doing it for nothing. You're going to be a patriot.

ANASTASIA

Have some respect for your country.

COSTELLO

That stunt you pulled with the draft board was disgraceful.

IGGY
Well, could we at least make some
deals with them--

MAX
Ig, shut your mouth. The deals been
made.

IGGY
I guess I'll go along with Max.

COSTELLO
Then it's settled. I'll tell the
rest of the crews and families.

ANASTASIA
Who's gonna tell the guys on the
dock?

Lansky puts his hand on Max's shoulder and looks him in the
eye.

LANSKY
I think Max here is ready.

Max has a delayed response.

MAX
Huh?

LANSKY
You're gonna be our eyes, ears and
muscle on the dock. You're going
down there and rally those guys to
the cause.

MAX
You, you think I'm ready.

LANSKY
I think you got the guts for it.

COSTELLO
You definitely got the brains.

ANASTASIA
And if you need the muscle, you know
where to go.

Max pulls a cigarette out of his packet, lights up and takes
a drag.

56 INT. ASTOR HOTEL - HAFFENDEN'S SUITE - NIGHT

56

Haffenden, Rita and Cardiff sit at a dining room table eating a prime rib dinner.

Haffenden and Rita drink wine while Cardiff drinks milk.

RITA
More wine, Commander?

HAFFENDEN
Sure.

Rita pours the wine into Haffenden's glass.

RITA
Cinsaut.

Haffenden takes a sip.

HAFFENDEN
Amazing bouquet.

CARDIFF
So, it's happening. This operation
of yours.

HAFFENDEN
Seems that way.

CARDIFF
(beat)
And you trust these men? They aren't
even real Americans.

HAFFENDEN
I thought you were okay with this
plan?

CARDIFF
I was okay with you making contact.
Going through with the plan that's
different.

HAFFENDEN
You know anything about Sicily?

CARDIFF
No.

HAFFENDEN
For decades they were invaded by the
Romans, the Greeks, Spaniards.
(MORE)

HAFFENDEN (cont'd)

They didn't trust the government to protect them. So, the landowners offered protection. These were men of honor who took advantage of a problem and got the respect of their people.

CARDIFF

What are you trying to tell me, Charles?

RITA

He's telling you that these men, while they may not know how to make money honestly, they--

CARDIFF

I was talking to Commander Haffenden, why don't you go get dessert ready--

RITA

I don't think so.

HAFFENDEN

Rita, please.

Rita sits back and drinks her glass of wine.

HAFFENDEN (cont'd)

She summed up my thoughts perfectly. These men may be criminals, but they are hundred percent American.

Cardiff smirks, shakes his head and laughs.

CARDIFF

These men murder as a way to solve business issues.

HAFFENDEN

And Hitler, Mussolini and the Japs kill indiscriminately!

CARDIFF

What precedent does that set though? Lansky and Luciano are businessmen. What happens when it's not them but the men who work for them? Those men are killers and brutes.

HAFFENDEN

You know what kind of men are in the Army and Marine Corps?

CARDIFF

Good men.

HAFFENDEN

Exactly. Good men that follow the law. I don't want men who follow the law. This type of work is not meant for men with halos. I need men who have the devil in them. Men who are willing to be monsters.

CARDIFF

And that'll cost us in the long run our moral standing in the world.

He gets out of his chair.

CARDIFF (cont'd)

I think I'll be leaving.

RITA

(sarcastic)

We got dessert though.

CARDIFF

I'm good.

He walks out the door. Haffenden looks over at Rita.

HAFFENDEN

Thank you for that.

RITA

What if he's right?

Haffenden picks up his wine glass.

HAFFENDEN

He's not. We won't let that happen.

RITA

Why?

HAFFENDEN

Cause America doesn't lose.

He sits back and takes a sip of his wine.

57 INT. MAX'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

57

Max sits at the kitchen table in pain, his right arm is cramping up on him.

MAX
Please. Stop.

He bites his lip as the cramp intensifies.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

LANSKY (O.S.)
It's Meyer.

MAX
Shit.

He rubs his right arm.

LANSKY (O.S.)
Max!

KNOCK! KNOCK!

LANSKY (O.S.) (cont'd)
The hell.

Max finally is able to get his hands contracting.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

Max gets up quickly and opens the back door.

LANSKY
Couldn't hear me?

MAX
What?

Lansky walks in.

LANSKY
I was at the front knocking.

Max picks up his issue of Black Mask.

MAX
Sorry this issue really had my
attention.

He points to the magazine. Lansky notices a plate of blintzes on the table.

LANSKY
Those from Longchamps?

He hands Max the manila envelope and goes for the blintzes.

Max opens up the envelope and looks at a picture and a piece of paper.

MAX

Really?

LANSKY

That's what Haffenden says.

MAX

So, what do they want? What do you want?

LANSKY

What do you think? He's a traitor.

Max lights a cigarette.

LANSKY (cont'd)

I want you on the waterfront making sure our guys work straight when it comes to this.

MAX

I understand, Meyer, come on this isn't--

LANSKY

These guys want to set an example to anyone who dares to betray their country to those bastards. This is for your country.

MAX

This isn't you telling me to send some Bund asshole to Lenox Hill with broken ribs; this is murder. For what? So you and Charlie can get some--

LANSKY

This isn't just about getting the feds off our ass or to help Charlie get out. This country is better than where I came from. Where your family came from.

He gets up from the table.

LANSKY (cont'd)

A man protects what he cares about, what he loves.

He squeezes Max on the shoulder and walks out.

*PIERCE (V.O.)
All right, you guys, listen up.*

58 INT. WATERFRONT BUILDING - MAIN BUILDING - DAY

58

Longshoremen, fishermen and Freddie Wright stand and sit all over the place as Max stands with head longshoremen RAYMOND PIERCE (40's).

PIERCE
All yours, Lanza.

Max's cigarette dangles from his lip. He looks around at all the men on the rafters, around him and on the trucks in the back.

MAX
Here's the deal.

He throws his cigarette to the ground and stamps it out.

MAX (cont'd)
As you guys know, we are in the midst
of war. Some of us are going to
fight.

A longshoreman, is pat on the back by another longshoreman.

MAX (cont'd)
Others are staying on the home-front.
As we see in the papers, the krauts
are taking out our ships, over a
hundred already. These docks, our
docks, are in danger. Country's in
danger. It's our job to protect
these docks. It's why I'm telling
you guys this: If anything looks
suspicious, tell us.

Freddie leans in.

MAX (cont'd)
Playing deaf and dumb when it comes
to Nazis is not needed. You guys see
anything. You hear anything. You
know anything. You tell us.

Max sees ALBERT MONACO (32) next to Freddie and the longshoremen.

MAX (cont'd)

Listen I know some of you admired Hitler and Mussolini. I understand. Pride in your roots. You can be a good American, a good German, a good Italian. I even understand why the whole fascism and Nazi thing was seen as a good idea. The Depression really hurt us. America struggles, while Italy and Germany are coming into their own: Keeping the trains on time, building up their cities. But they ain't free there and never will be. Your native land is a sham and they will never be as great as this country. No matter how many treasonous dogs, comforting the enemy, that's not happening here.

He walks up to Albert.

MAX (cont'd)

Isn't that right, Albert.

Albert makes a run but is stopped by Freddie and two longshoremen. Max motions for them to bring him over.

MAX (cont'd)

Bring him here.

Albert is held by Freddie and the two longshoremen.

MAX (cont'd)

Sabotage, arming the enemy, giving comfort to the enemy. Using the job to help the enemy.

Albert stares Max in the eye. His silence and stare say everything. He knows what's coming.

MAX (cont'd)

That's what I thought.

He hauls off a punch into Albert's stomach. Albert's knees buckle.

MAX (cont'd)

No no no.

Freddie lifts Albert to a standing position. Max grabs Albert by the hair and lays hits to Albert's face. Blood gushes from Albert's nose.

MAX (cont'd)

Drop'em.

Freddie and the two longshoreman drop Albert to the floor.
Max stands over Albert.

MAX (cont'd)

You're done you know that?

Albert nods his head and Max helps him up.

MAX (cont'd)

Go. You make me sick.

Albert nods his head and walks towards the door.

MAX (cont'd)

I hope your wife can make a living.

Albert stops in his tracks and turns around.

MAX (cont'd)

It'd be a pity.

Albert walks out the door.

DISSOLVE TO:

59 EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - NIGHT

59

SUPER: Amagansett, New York

Fog lays over the waters as the sound of a propeller echoes
in the distance.

The propeller gets louder as the Germans' motorboat comes
through the fog. The propellers spray water.

60 EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

60

ERIC (22), MARTIN (23), JERRY (24) and CLARK (21) dressed in
all black and ski-caps come to shore.

Martin looks around the beach.

They screw silencers onto their Luger pistols, aim and--

PEW! PEW! PEW! PEW! PEW! PEW! PEW! PEW! PEW! PEW! PEW!

The boat slowly starts to fall over and quickly descends
into the water.

MARTIN

Strip.

Eric, Martin, Jerry and Clark strip off their all black clothing and caps.

61 EXT. LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD - STOP - NIGHT

61

Now dressed in civilian clothes, Eric, Martin, Jerry and Clark stand. Train whistle blows in the distance.

62 INT. LIRR TRAIN - NIGHT

62

Eric, Martin, Jerry and Clark sit on the train. The light illuminates them briefly every few seconds.

CUT TO BLACK:

END PILOT