Ivy Mendy

by Ken Matthews

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INT. VALIERI ICE-CREAM WAREHOUSE YARD - NIGHT

Shadowy figure hiding in factory yard between ice-cream vans.

Opens fuel cap, pours petrol on rag and stuffs it into fuel aperture.

Intruder moves on to another van and repeats the operation.

FOOTSTEPS on the street and the intruder freezes, a policeman (in silhouette) shines a torch into the yard, before moving on.

The shadowy figure scurries toward a wall, splashing petrol on the ground and the two vans. The intruder stops at the wall and finishes emptying the contents of the can onto the ground.

The figure scales the wall and drops to the pavement beside a waiting car with its door open.

A hand appears at the open door and hands the intruder a Molotov cocktail.

CLICK of a lighter and a flame is applied to the rag protruding from the neck of the bottle containing petrol.

Ensuring the rag is fully alight, the intruder tosses it over the wall before clambering into the waiting car.

The car roars off.

There is a CRUMP as the spilled petrol ignites and a red glow from the resultant fire illuminates the walls of the factory.

There is an explosion and flames leap into the air.

BISHOPBRIGGS TRAIN STATION - MORNING

IVY MENDY stands on the footbridge scanning the early morning commuter crowd.

Passengers hurry past her as she scans the faces on the platform. She spots who she is looking for...

The station platform is crowded with early morning commuters going to Edinburgh.

Ivy Mendy goes down to the platform and pushes through the crowd trying to get close to the edge of the platform. STATION ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The next train to arrive at platform one is the seven fifty-three to Edinburgh Waverley...

Ivy continues to push through the crowd, her eyes are fixed on a THICK-SET BUSINESSMAN.

STATION ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(CONT'D)

Stopping at Lenzie, Croy, Falkirk High, Polmont...

Ivy is standing behind a WOMAN who is directly behind the thick-set man.

STATION ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(CONT'D)

Linlithgow, Haymarket...

There is the SOUND of the train arriving.

STATION ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(CONT'D)

Terminating at Edinburgh...

Ivy Mendy stumbles heavily, pushing the woman in front of her.

The woman screams and CLATTERS into the thick-set man in front of her.

The man clutches at thin-air as he tumbles in front of the oncoming train.

A man grabs the screaming woman and stops her falling in front of the train, the woman faints.

The TRAIN rolls over the thick-set man cutting him in two.

STATION ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(CONT'D)

Waverley at eight fifty-one...

There are cries of alarm and horror from other onlookers as they look down at the lower half of the dead mans torso on the track.

Ivy Mendy backs up, calmly allowing the pushing crowd to pass by her, and she leaves the station unhurriedly.

A crowd gathers around the comatose woman and the train comes to a halt.

INT. MARIO'S STUDY - DAY

Mario sitting behind his desk, NICKY FABIAN his righthand man sits near him. GINO VALIERI is sitting on the edge of his seat opposite Mario Bennotti, talking quickly.

GINO VALIERI

Don Benotti, I will go out of business...

MARIO BENNOTTI

I'm sorry Signor Valieri, this is none of my business. I cannot interfere in business arrangements of other families.

GINO VALIERI

This is not 'other family' business Don Benotti, they are not Italian, they have no honour, they are Scottish.

MARIO BENNOTTI

You pay them for protection, you should get this...

He waves his hand, searching for the name.

GINO VALIERI

Crawford, Don Bennotti, his name is Crawford.

MARIO BENNOTTI

Just Crawford?

GINO VALIERI

Si.

MARIO BENNOTTI

You should get this Crawford to protect you...

GINO VALIERI

It is his men who are setting fire to my ice cream vans.

Nods in understanding.

MARIO BENNOTTI

Ah... so you are selling drugs to children then?

GINO VALIERI

(indignantly)

I would never sell drugs to children Don Benotti, on my mothers grave... Crawford is trying to make me sell them... MARIO BENNOTTI

I see. Signor Valieri, what exactly, do you want of me, if I should decide to help you?

Valieri is silent for a moment wondering what he might ask for. Bennotti and Fabian sit silently, watching his thought processes.

GINO VALIERI

I would be forever in your debt if you would allow me and my family to be affiliated to your family...

Mario turns to Fabian.

MARIO BENNOTTI

Affiliated...

Turns back to Valieri.

MARIO BENNOTTI (CONT'D)

If we grant this favour... What do we get in return?

GINO VALIERI

I will pay whatever you wish...

Mario nods and turns to Fabian.

MARIO BENNOTTI

Nicky?

NICKY FABIAN

Fifty percent of your business!

GINO VALIERI

Fifty...

(STUTTERS)

Fif..fif..fifty percent?

NICKY FABIAN

Seems fair to me, fifty percent of something is worth more than one hundred percent of nothing... And of course, if you're affiliated with us your business worries go away!

GINO VALIERI

Fifty percent...

There is a long silence, then Gino starts sobbing but pulls himself together.

GINO VALIERI (CONT'D)

(brokenly)

I agree.

Fabian nods self-satisfied.

MARIO BENNOTTI

(sharply)

But I don't agree!

Fabian is astonished.

Valieri is on the point of tears.

GINO VALIERI

Don Benotti... what more do you want of me?

Mario Bennotti stands up and walks around the desk.

Valieri stands and Mario takes Valieri's hands in his own.

MARIO BENNOTTI

Signor Valieri you agreed to fifty percent... I am a fair man and you are now family. I think a fairer percentage would be thirty percent to us and seventy percent to you... Do you agree?

Valieri kisses his hand.

GINO VALIERI

Grazie Don Bennotti... Grazie.

MARIO BENNOTTI

Prego.

Valieri leaves the room and the door closes behind him.

MARIO BENNOTTI (CONT'D)

Now... where is Ivy? She's late.

There is a knock on the door, Nicky points to the door.

NICKY FABIAN

There...

The door opens and Ivy Mendy walks in.

MARIO BENNOTTI

You're late...

IVY MENDY

My apologies Don Bennotti, I bumped into an old friend...