

CHAPTER 16 – SCOPELLO.

*30 04 2022 Saturday Late Morning. They
depart for Scopello.*

They head off from the hotel. Soon they would be able to see right across the Straits of Messina.

And then on the Autostrada again. 3 hours on after getting off the ferry, Frank asks Jaqueline if she wanted to take over. They swap. Before they got to Palermo, Frank phones Nicola del Mare. Nicola was from Scopello but based in Rome. He is a Mafia capo with the kindest of hearts. His command of the English Language was adequate.

“Nicola. This is Franco.”

“Who? Franco who?”

“Frank Costanzo.”

“Oddio! Come stai Franco.”

“Bene Bene I need a favour. I am heading to Scopello in my Bugatti.”

“Did you say Bugatti? Broken down?”

“No no.”

“You want nice lady? Only joking. How can I help?”

“I want to stop in Palermo, park the Bugatti in your showroom, and borrow an Alfa or some other car for two days. It’s too much attention for Scopello.”

“I understand. You want to stay a little incognito. Okay I will call Flavio. He will expect you and he will arrange. No money. Just a little something for his church. This is his number.”

Frank punches the number into his mobile.

“Do you want to sell the Bugatti from the Showroom? Ha Ha. Drive carefully. What is her name?”

“Jaqueline.”

“Nice name.”

“Ciao.”

Frank turns to Jaquie.

“Just a friend. Nicola. We leave the Bugatti in his showroom in Palermo and pick up another car. Too much show for Scopello. The local people are very poor.”

They stop at Palermo and meet Flavio at the showroom. Flavio is handed over an envelope.”

“For your Church Flavio.” And they switch cars.

*30 04 2022 Saturday Afternoon. Chapter
16 Section Break*

Frank and Jaquie arrive in Scopello.

They arrive in Scopello at about 7 in the evening and head straight to the house. Inside the house everything looks perfect. The flowers, the bedroom, even the picture of Jesus looked perfect. A bit closer to the wall. They make themselves a coffee. He calls Maria.

“Maria it’s Frankie. Would you like to join us for dinner tonight, you and Don Ciccio?”

“With your signorina.”

“Of course. Jaqueline.”

“I cannot wait. Don Ciccio would be delighted. He has not seen you for long time. What restaurant you think?”

“Your favourite one of course.”

“Pesce al Mare. Wonderful. Can you make a booking in my name please. See you at 8.30.”

All meet at the restaurant. Maria and Don Ciccio are already sitting down.

Franco and Jaqueline walk in.

“Madonna mia. Che pincipessa.”

“This is Maria and this is Don Ciccio. Jaqueline.”

Maria goes to Jaqueline and gives her a big hug and kiss.

So they sit down.

“Ciccio, Jaqueline is a modella in Roma.” Ciccio smiles and acknowledges. “Ciccio still works on the fishing boats.” Frank says “it brings back memories.”

Maria briefs him on who got married, who died, who got killed. Jaqueline tells them a bit about herself and her childhood. The evening is over. They retire home. Frank pops a tablet. Now he has lost all inhibitions and Jaqueline is determined to please him to the hilt. But she started to really care and asked him to take it easy. She rationed him to just one union at the next hotel stop. She said it with charm so he did not feel offended. And he appreciated that.

*01 05 2022 Sunday. Chapter 16 Section
Break*

They spend a day touring Scopello.

They spent Sunday touring and meeting friends. They popped in the chapel of Sant'Agata Pescatore. They went back home about 5 o'clock and had light snacks. Another blue pill and a repeat performance.

Frank started to feel the effect of this sudden change in schedule at this late stage in his life.

*02 05 2022 Monday. Chapter 16
Section Break*

*Depart Scopello. Arrive back at the Hotel
Regina Vittoriosa in Sorrento on Monday
afternoon.*

On the way she reminded him to stop at the Showroom in Palermo.

"How can I forget" Frank chuckled.

Few hours later and a couple of comfort stops they drive in at the Hotel Regina Vittoriosa. This time Frank drives carefully and parks the Bugatti in the reserved corner.

And then another blue pill, another beautiful evening taking in the views of the Golfo di Sorrento, and yes, another Bocelli spinning on the Repeat Button. They check out the next morning and leave another envelope marked *Graziano*. This time Jaqueline puts the envelope to her lips leaving a *Guerlain Rouge* imprint.
