

CHAPTER 30 – JOHNNY ‘4 FINGERS’ LEADS THE ATTACK.

*02 07 2022 Saturday. The Hit: In Action.
Vale gets nabbed first.*

Angelo gets SMS. “4F Almost Arrivederci 9293156282”

He picks a third spare mobile. Sends Text with a Thank you.

A white Mercedes driven by Jimmy Bang Bang cruises past. The driver spots a girl - Donna is one of Vale’s girls used as bait.

She approaches and gets in the car.

Jimmy Bang Bang goes over the plan with her.

“Okay let’s go over our plan. You go out. You call Vale. Put some panic in your voice. You tell him a 28 yr. old Nerd, that’s me, will not pay. Do some acting while you say all this. I am sure he will come looking for me.”

She calls Vale.

“Vale”

“Yeah where are you?”

“Cnr 5th Avenue. In Car Park. Behind the service station.”

“What car?”

“White Mercedes. Will not pay me. So I slashed his tyre and he is changing it right now as we speak.”

“Some fucken 28 year old computer student. Looks like a nerd.”

“Okay Easy Stuff. I’m coming by myself.”

“I am standing in the corner away from him.”

She ends the phone call and walks away calmly from the scene. She expects further trouble that she does not want to witness.

Vale drives his Audi to the carpark. Gets out of the car. Walks over to the white Mercedes.

“Hey you. What the fuck you doing?”

“Changing the wheel man, what’s the matter with you?”

“Have you paid her?”

“Well, sorry man. Don’t have enough on me. I’ll pay her tomorrow.”

Freddie One-Eye is standing behind Vale shouts:

“Freeze asshole.”

Vale looks stunned and is shoved in the back of the Mercedes. Luca sits in the back pointing the gun to his head and speaks in a heavy Italian accent.

“You do exactly what I say. If not, your wife and little daughter will come and pick your fucken body from here. Or from Fabio’s house. Capisce?”

“Si Si.”

“Now we drive to Fabio’s House. Then we park.”

Luca shoves a piece of paper under his nose with a message in Italian.

“You call Fabio with this message. Funny business, you are dead. Okay? I hold gun to your head. You read the message exactly as it is in Italian. You read Italian?”

“Yes.”

“You say in slow Italian. E-S-A-T-T-A-M-E-N-T-E. With the appropriate E-M-O-Z-Z-I-O-N-E.”

“Capisce?”

“Si Si”

“Is Fabio the Capo?”

“Si Si.”

They switch cars. Luca and Vale get in Vale’s Audi. Freddie One-Eye drives the Audi. They drive to Fabio’s House. It’s ten o’clock at night. Jimmy Bang Bang drives his Mercedes. The Audi car approaches Fabio’s House. They flash lights. Two parked cars belonging to the “4 Fingers” gang move away freeing the car spaces on the street. Vale’s Audi parks in the freed space. The Mercedes with Jimmy Bang Bang parks behind it. Luca puts Vale behind the steering wheel of his own Audi car.

Luca sends a text message on Vale's phone. A masked man parked outside Vale's House gets the message. He sms's Vale a picture of Vale's own house.

Luca picks up Vale's phone and shows him the picture.

"Oh no no no. Leave my wife out of this. The kid is only five."

"We can bring your wife and kid here if we need to. No Monkey Business. Cocks his gun on Vale's head. Luca gives Vale the paper and dials Fabio's number."

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Section Break*

*The Hit: In Action. Fabio, the second
Paneladro gets nabbed after Vale baits
him.*

"Hey Fabio. This is Vale."

"What fucken time you call this?"

"Listen listen listen."

"I am on the street outside your house. Covered in blood. Had a big argument at the Tropicana Night Club. I need help. Come down. Don't mention anything to your wife Lucia. Don't call nobody. Come quick."

Phone call ends.

Luca puts a doze of ether on a handkerchief which temporarily knocks Vale unconscious. His head slumps on the Audi steering wheel.

Fat Fabio walks briskly down the driveway. Carrying quite a bit of fat. Fabio looks left, then right. He sees Vale slumped on the wheel.

"Shit, Vale, Vale. Jesus Christ."

Two guys stand behind Fabio. They point their guns to his head. Jimmy talks to Fabio.

“Freeze you big fat shit. Get in the Merc.”

“What’s happening?”

“You got too greedy you son of a bitch. Now shut the fuck up. Otherwise you get one in your mouth.”

A thug in the back tapes his mouth. And hands. Meanwhile Luca moves Vale back in the passenger seat. Tapes his mouth. They drive slowly. They get to an abandoned warehouse. Vale and Fabio are carried upstairs. They are made to sit down and then tied to their chairs and completely constrained.

Luca speaks to Fabio in Italian.

“Listen and listen carefully.”

“Happy to co-operate?”

“Si Si.”

Motions to 4 Fingers who is wearing black gloves.

“Take his tape off.”

“You Fabio?”

“Si.”

“You call brother Sergio.”

“You ask him to come here with a bag of cash.”

“You need to speak very, very ... slowly. One word. One second. Then, next word.”

“We have to say this two times, three times.”

“Sergio house. Any girlfriends, boyfriends, maids, dogs?”

“Only dog. An Alsatian. Chained.”

“His men in the house?”

Fabio goes silent. Luca clicks the gun. Fabio nods his head.

“How many? One, two, three, more?” Silence.

Luca cocks the gun again.

“Two.”

“Okay.”

“Now the cash. Where is the cash?”

“Don’t know. Believe me I don’t know.”

“Where ... is ... the ... fucken ... money ... kept? I am desperate. I already killed 20 people in the last 5 years. You will be number 21. Vale will be 22. And Sergio will be 23.”

“I swear on mother’s grave. I don’t know.”

“Leave your fucken mother out of it.”

Luca puts silencer on his gun. Cocks it again. He shoots above his Fabio’s head. Fat Fabio almost passes out.

“In the garage, I think, false wall at the back.”

“You think?”

“I am sure. 4 bags.”

Luca scribbles something on a piece of paper.

“Okay read this. Read slow like the real thing now.”

“Nobody gets hurt. You all live. But you do it exactly as I say.”

“Start Reading.”

Fabio *rehearses* the script.

“Sergio, this is Fabio.”

The note says Now very very slow and clearly.

“Listen. Listen ... very ... carefully.”

“Get one bag and deliver it to me. One hundred big ones.”

“Drive down to Longford Road. Past St Francis Church, next to the Graveyard.”

“Only you in the car. Yes, only you in the car.”

“Stop by Saint Anthony Church car park. Park on the street. Repeat on the Street.”

“I will get out of my car and walk to you.”

“Then we drive together.”

“Just do that. I have no time to explain details.”

“There is a million dollars waiting for us.”

“Repeat that Fabio.”

Fabio starts repeating again. And again until his tone is good and believable.

“Okay your acting is getting better.”

4 Fingers whispers in his Luca’s ear.

“Luca, can he say the message properly in Italian now?”

“Yes Johnny you tell your boys we are ready now.”

4 Fingers walks out of the room. First he talks to Jack who is stalking Sergio’s house.

“Jack, you’re there?”

“Yes Johnny, I’m here.”

“Fabio will soon call Sergio. Sergio will come out of his house, maybe armed. Then he gets in his car. Can’t miss it, an old Cadillac two blocks long. Maybe 15 minutes. His hoods will follow him I am sure. When clear, go to the house. Nobody there. Get in the house, then in the garage. Bags of Cash in false entry in back wall. 4 more bags we estimate. Silencers on your guns. You may have to shoot the dog, big Alsatian. Chained.”

“What about Sergio’s men?”

“Freddie One-Eye and Jimmy Bang Bang will follow them. We already have Fabio and Vale here.”

“Jack, you come straight to the warehouse with the cash. You know the address. Back entrance. Okay? Don’t stop for coffee.” Chuckles.

“Got it.”

4 Fingers makes another call. This time to Freddie One-Eye.

“Freddie. About 15 minutes. You will follow the Black SUV with Sergio’s muscle boys. Stay behind them. When they park, you and Jimmy Bang Bang walk to the back of the car. Then the real bang bang. You take one, Jimmy takes the other. Careful. Heavily armed. Our other man, “Wino” Peter, creates distraction in front of their SUV. It will make it easy for you to take them out.”

“Got it. What do we do with Sergio? He is still in his car?”

“Easy. Okay, walk to the St Anthony Church by the Car Park. Stay in the shadows. So you approach the Cadillac from behind.”

“There will be Randy. She’s a hooker. She sees you. She approaches the Cadillac. Sticks her tits in the window. Distracts him. You walk to the car. You will put the gun to Sergio’s head. Jimmy gets in the passenger side. Front Seat. You will get in the back seat behind Sergio. Tell Sergio to drive. Bring him here. Alive! You hear. Alive. Clear?”

“No problem.”

“Call me when you’re in Sergio’s car.”

“Is that it?”

“Go.”

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Section Break*

*The Hit: In Action. Sergio Paneladro gets
the final call.*

Fabio lures Sergio in the trap. A bag with \$100,000 was part of the requirement. Four more bags are taken by Jack and put in the boot of Jack’s car. This is how the third kidnapping unfolded.

4 Fingers walks back where Luca is and tells him to get on with it.

“Action.”

“Fabio, are you ready?”

Fabio nods.

4 Fingers holds the gun to Fabio's head.

Luca punches in Sergio's Number on the mobile. Sergio's phone rings.

Luca holds the phone and Fabio speaks in the phone. Sergio answers the phone. He listens to what Fabio had to say.

"Sergio, this is Fabio."

"What's happening?"

The note says Now very very slow and clearly.

"Sergio, Listen. Listen ... very ... carefully.

Get one bag and deliver it to me. One hundred big ones.

Drive down to Longford Road. Past St. Francis Church, next to the Graveyard.

Only you in the car. I repeat only you in the car.

Stop by Saint Anthony Church car park. Park on the street. Repeat on the Street.

I will get out of my car and walk to you.

Then we drive together in your car.

Just do that. I have no time to explain details.

There is a million dollars waiting for us."

"Okay, I'm on it."

Sergio suspects something foul. He gives the alert to his men waiting in their vehicle. He grabs the bag, leaves his house, puts the bag in the boot of his Cadillac, opens and grabs the gun from the glove box and drives.

Sergio's men follow him in their SUV.

Freddie "One-Eye" and Jimmy "Bang Bang" follow the SUV with Sergio's henchman at the wheel, but keeping way back and unnoticed.

Sergio drives and then parks on the street by St Antony's Church.

Peter "Wino" is acting drunk but without creating a disturbance. He takes up two car spaces with his shemozzle in perfect view from where Sergio is parked.

The “Wino” walks to the other side of the street freeing the car space and pretends falling on his face. The SUV parks in the freed parking space where the Wino was.

Freddie One-Eye and Jimmy Bang Bang walk to the SUV. Silencers on their guns. Bang Bang. Job Done.

They start walking towards Sergio’s Cadillac.

Randy sees them. She herself starts walking towards Sergio’s car. Sergio gets distracted. Freddie One-Eye puts a gun to Sergio’s head.

Jimmy gets in the front seat of the Cadillac and takes Sergio’s gun from him and tells Sergio to drive.

Randy flees the scene.

One-Eye gets in the back seat of the Cadillac with a gun at the back of Sergio’s head. They tell Sergio to drive. Jimmy directs him to the warehouse.

Jimmy calls 4 Fingers.

“Johnny, we got the goods. Intact. On our way.”

Jimmy turns to Sergio still behind the wheel but with a gun pointing at his head.

“No monkey business Sergio. Keep driving. You’re doing good.”

“Where we going?”

“Just keep fucken driving to wherever the gun points. Sergio drives in the warehouse and is taken out of the car. He gets tied up and bingo. They have all the 3 Paneladros. Now the three of them are sitting next to each other.”

4 Fingers gets his mask off.

He looks at them.

“The untouchable Holy Trinity. Heh. Yeah, I wish Angelo was here. Jimmy, do we have the bag of cash?”

“Sure have.”

“Jack, you got the other four bags.”

“Yes sir.”

“Line them up here ... all the five bags. In front of the Paneladros. Well, all that fucken money you skimmed from Angelo over the last 10 years.”

4 Fingers continues.

I have to pay these fine gentlemen. Then, I have to hand most of it back to your benefactor.

4 Fingers looks at Luca.

Luca came especially from Italy to exercise his skills.

“Johnny, my gun is ready to go. I have a plane to catch soon to Rome. And it’s not a fucken private jet. Can I pull?”

“No. Momento, Luca. I want to think about this.”

4 Fingers starts reviewing the situation. Sits down on a chair facing the Paneladros.

Fabio wanted to speak but could not.

4 Fingers walks up and rips the tape off again. Fabio breathes easy.

“Don’t know your name. Don’t know who you are.”

4 Fingers listens attentively.

“Call Angelo. We’ll give him anything he wants.”

“Get him. I will talk to him.”

“I never met Angelo but he will listen.”

“I am begging you.”

“Your men want to get out of here with their cut. The sooner the better. My boys could be here any minute.”

“Your boys are dead. A bullet each in the head. Ready for the funeral at St Anthony’s Church.”

“Oh no no no.”

“Oh yes yes yes.”

Luca is shaking his head with his finger still on the trigger.

Fabio looks at Luca and asks for Mercy in Italian.

“Per l’amore di Dio. Perdona Mi.”

“Luca smiles and cocks his gun.”

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Section Break*

The Hit: In Action. CARA or SPARA?

4 Fingers sends SMS to Angelo. “4F Job Almost Done. Needs some cleaning. Will let you know.”

4 Fingers listens while his eyes gaze at the floor.
He could not face the three condemned.
He figures he ain’t got the stomach to kill them.
He should at least call Angelo to give these sods one last chance.
Maybe a priest to give them their last rites.

15 minutes go by.

4 Fingers gets up and starts pacing up and down.

All of Johnny’s men look at each other wondering what’s happening next. Betrayal? Are they going to be the next ones? Is this another set up? Are they going to end up bound and gagged?

Jack calls out “Johnny. Johnny.”

Johnny turns back and shush him.

“I am trying to get Angelo’s final OK.”

He decides to use Angelo’s secret mobile number.

He reaches for it in the left trouser pocket.

All men are looking at Johnny.

Except Luca. He kept looking at the crosshairs on Fabio’s fat head.

Luca never moves his head left or right.

Johnny 4 Fingers starts entering an sms message. “ 4R Angelo we’re here but you “

His other mobile rings.

He looks at it.

It’s his girlfriend Cara.

He answers in a very calm quiet voice.

“Yes Cara.”

“Where are you?”

“Be quiet please. Should be okay. Stop being frantic. I need to think clearly. You understand.”

Cara gets even more frantic on the phone.

“Cara, I can’t tell you where. Or why. Or what I am doing. It’s for us, but I’m okay.”

“What are you doing?”

“We have one last big job.”

He pauses and takes a deep breath.

“You’re fucking up my thinking. Please go to bed.”

The men catch some of the conversation and look at each other. A glimmer of hope appears on Fabio’s face.

Cara goes absolutely berserk. Her voice rising all the time.

“Johnny dooon’t do it. Whatever you’re doing doooon’t do it.

Doooooon’t do it.”

Finally 4 Fingers loses his temper.

He shouts at her at the top of his voice unknowingly turning and facing his men.

“CAAARA Shut t.....

Then Bang. Bang. Bang.

Three men are on the floor. One with a bullet in the head, the other two one each in their chest.

“Fuck Fuck Fuuuuuuuck.”

“What have you done you fucking idiot?”

“My eyes were fixed on his forehead. Then you shouted SPARA. Everybody heard you.”

“Nooooooo. I said Cara. Not Spara. That’s my fucking girlfriend’s name.”

Cara still shouting on the phone.

“Oh no. Johnny, Johnny. No No No No ...”

“Go back to sleep. I’m okay.”

Ends the call.

All goes quiet for 5 minutes.

4 Fingers sends SMS to Angelo.

“4F Job COMPLETED. Needs some cleaning. Will let you know.”

Angelo picks his mobile and reads the message. Sighs with relief. Apprehension and sadness grips him. Rolls back in bed and hides under the covers. And asks for God’s forgiveness.

“Okay let’s party” says 4 Fingers.

Empties one bag on the floor. Speaking loudly.

“Let’s see. The paper bags are on the floor. Put your cash in them.”

They all get up and grab a paper bag or two.

“Giacomo. I owe him 25. Promised him little bonus. That’s 40 for Giacomo.”

Looks at Luca and nods.

“Luca. I owe you 10. Bonus 15, that’s like 5 per bullet. Expenses is 5. That’s 30.”

Looks at Luca again.

“The Pilot. What’s his name? Francesco, that’s right. 10 for him.”

“Luca. That’s 80 in total. Luca you carry the 80 in a bag. Two bags better.”

“Luca, Giacomo is trusting you with a lot of cash. You remember who gets what?”

Luca nods.

Luca picks up the 80. Puts them in two paper bags.

“Luca. As soon as you land at Fiumicino you go straight to Cafe Giustizia. Giacomo will be waiting for you.”

“Jack 20 for you.”

Points to another bag of cash. Unzips the Bag.

“Jack. Another 20 for the other soldiers, Randy and Donna. Make sure the girls get the money.”

“Jack you know where the Wino lives?”

“Yes.”

“Take this 5 for me. Tell him not to drink it too fast.”

“Jimmy 20 for you.”

“Freddie 20 for you.”

“The rest of the cash is for my boss Angelo. And I still have to negotiate my share. I’m sure he’s watching.”

“Jack, please put the four bags of loot in my car.”

“Luca, your papers are in my car. I will take you to the airport. Your gun please? You won’t need it no more.”

Luca hands the gun to 4 Fingers.

“Thank you gentlemen. Let’s say a prayer for these lost souls. As you can see, crime doesn’t pay. In the long run. Repent while you can. Change your ways.”

4 Fingers picks the phone. SMS Giacomo.

“Luca on his way. I told him to go straight to Cafe Giustizia. 40 for you.
30 for Luca. 10 for Francesco. See you.”

Giacomo replies “Grazie.”
