

The Mafia Wedding

by Paul Falcone

It is present day New York, in the home of Don Calada, the father of the bride. The scene is the reception room for a magnificent wedding which will unite two warring Mafia families. At the far end of the room is the head table, it is set up for the wedding feast. There is a small area in front where the scenes take place or it could be done amongst the guests. At the centre of the table is a wedding cake. The table is festooned with drinks and bottles some empty some full. It is obvious that the families have started celebrating early. Also on the desk is a pile of wedding gifts. Italian music is playing softly in the background.

As the 'guests' arrive the members of the cast are introducing themselves and generally enjoying themselves. Signora Calada is fussing over the guests and issuing orders to the waiters and waitresses. Al Fresco is avoiding the bride and flirting with the bridesmaids especially the lovely Bella Donna. The two Dons are greeting the guests and taking a few moments to discuss 'business' with some of the 'heavies'.

FIGURE Ladies and Gentlemen if you could please be seated, the wedding ceremony is due to begin any minute now, thank you.

The extras sit down or exit. The cast exit except Don Fresco and Don Calada exit. Don Fresco and Don Calada greet each other with a warm handshake.

DON FRESCO Don. Calada it is good that we greet each other in these circumstances.

DON CALADA Si, Si, Don. Fresco, I always love a wedding... except when it is my own.

Don Calada laughs heartily over his own joke. Whilst he is laughing he looks over to Don Fresco to see if he is joining in. Seeing this look he decides to join in. Don Calada stops abruptly. Seeing him stop Don Fresco stops.

DON FRESCO Now perhaps we can lay down our differences, forget the past and cement a new relationship. And what better way to do it than with the wedding of my son to your charming daughter.

DON CALADA Times have changed my friend, there was a time when we could only speak to each other with guns. Remember the time when you attacked my speakeasy in 25th Street?

DON FRESCO Yes, and gunned down 14 of your best men. And then there was the time you convinced my men at the warehouse that you were policemen, lined them up and shot them all in the back.



DON CALADA I remember, St. Valentines Day was it not? You were there and we shot you in the shoulder and left you for dead in a pool of blood.

BOTH *(Sigh)* Ah! Happy days.

DON FRESCO Still, we are older now and that is all behind us.

Enter Al Fresco.

DON FRESCO Alfonso! *Mio figlio*, my son, come and greet your future father - in - law.

AL FRESCO *Molto piacere*, Don. Calada.

DON CALADA You are a lucky man Alfonso, my daughter is the most beautiful woman in the world, I hope you treat her well, and do not take advantage of her tenderness.

AL FRESCO *(Cautiously)* I will do what is right, Don. Calada.

DON CALADA *Allora*, my friends, You must excuse me, I will get my wife to see to your room for you.

Don Calada Exits. Al watches him as he leaves.

AL FRESCO Papa, I do not want to go through with this.

DON FRESCO It is good for the family.

AL FRESCO This alliance is a sign of weakness. We will be the laughing stock of the other families. Call it off and we can rule this city, become the number one family.

DON FRESCO *(Sharply)* *Basta!* Enough! whilst I am head of this family, I say what goes on. Besides, you need a wife, she`ll be good for you.

AL FRESCO *(Getting frustrated)* But Papa....

The argument stops as they see Paulo Supine. He goes to the table for a drink. He greets them both.

DON FRESCO My son is getting a little hot - headed, he is a little nervous. He cannot see the benefit of this truce. You are his friend, convince him otherwise.

PAULO SUPINE I`m sure what will be, will.... er.... be for the best, Don. Fresco. I`ve come to inform you that one of our foot soldiers has been caught with his hand in the till. Do you want him punished?

DON FRESCO *(Whilst moving off)* No give him a warning. This is my son`s wedding day, there is to be no bloodshed today.

Exits. Al waits for him to leave.

AL FRESCO See what I mean? He has gone soft, that Sicilian sun has cooked his head. I cannot let the family loose it`s respect.

Paulo is about to say something when Bella Donna enters. He makes his excuses and exits.

BELLA DONNA At last we`re alone. But for how long?

AL FRESCO We cannot go on like this! I`ve got to put and end to this madness.

They talk quietly when Maria and Pina enter. They are excitedly chatting and fussing over the arrangement. Pina tries to calm her down but she can`t get a word in. Maria turns as she speaks.

MARIA Are the flowers ready? Is the priest here yet? Have you phoned the.... *(She sees the couple talking)* What are you two up to? *(To Al)* Can`t - you - keep - your - hands - to - yourself? *(She starts hitting Al with the flowers then turns to Bella)* And as for you!

BELLA DONNA I was.... just.... wishing him luck before the wedding.

MARIA *(Breaking in to tears to her mother)* Mama mia! What is a girl supposed to do? I need a drink to calm my nerves.

She pours herself a drink and knocks it back quickly.

MARIA Just the one, I have to be careful, two drinks and I`m anybody`s.

AL FRESCO *(Aside)* Three drinks and she`s everybody`s.

MARIA What?

AL FRESCO I said everybody`s nearly here. We need to get ready.

MARIA *(Overdramatising the sobbing)* What sort of friend are you? You`ll pay for this. I need another drink.

Fuming, she pours another drink. She goes to exit but comes back to pick up a bottle. She exits. Al and Bella are trying to suppress their amusement at these antics.

BELLA DONNA I think I`d better go and freshen up.



Bella exits. Throughout this dialogue Pina has been watching the proceedings quietly. She moves gracefully over to Al.

PINA CALADA *(With calm malice)* Do not forget who her father is, my dear.

She exits as Paulo enters.

PAULO SUPINA It's getting closer, Al, how do you feel?

AL FRESCO I can't go through with it Paulo, I just can't. Apart from not exactly lusting over the bride, I see the alliance as a weakness. Don. Calada will soon swallow up the family and become the *Capo di tutti Capo*, the Boss of all Bosses.

PAULO SUPINA I see what you mean. What do you suggest?

AL FRESCO I have been doing a lot of thinking. I do have an idea.

Al passes a parcel to Paulo. Don Fresco enters. Paulo secretes the parcel about his person.

AL FRESCO I'll get back to you.

Paulo exits.

DON FRESCO It is getting closer, son, how do you feel?

AL FRESCO Is everybody going to be saying that to me? Father, I can't go through with this.

DON FRESCO It is just the jitters, You will be fine.

Enter the priest, Father Figure.

FIGURE *(To audience)* Hello everybody, good evening to you all, what a splendid evening it is too? *(To Al)* It's getting closer, how do you feel?

AL FRESCO I usually use my hands, Padre.

DON FRESCO In future try to use your head more often. Now go and have some rest to calm yourself before the service.

Al exits.

DON FRESCO He is nervous, last minute doubts, he will be alright.

Enter Pina. She greets the priest, kissing both cheeks.



PINA CALADA Ah! Padre Figure, *Come Stai?*

FIGURE I'm very well thank you, Mrs. Calada. However I must be rude and leave you, as I have to get my cassocks in order.

Priest exits. There is a brief embarrassing pause whilst Pina and Don Fresco think of something to say to each other. Bella enters unseen. She is going to the table for a drink. When she hears them talking she listens.

PINA CALADA Don't think that this wedding will unite 'us'. I haven't forgotten.

DON FRESCO *Allora*, that was a long time ago. It must be left alone. If Don. Calada and myself are willing to let bygones be bygones then why not you?

Pina is about to exit. When she reaches the exit she turns to Don Fresco

PINA CALADA Is there not a Sicilian expression, "Revenge is a dessert best eaten cold"?

DON FRESCO *(Following)* What is that supposed to mean?

Bella steps forward absorbing what she has just heard. Maria enters carrying a small parcel. By coincidence it looks the same as the parcel Al gave to Paulo. Bella turns in surprise.

MARIA Bella, I'm sorry, I jumped to conclusions. I want to apologise and give you a present, an appreciation for being my bridesmaid.

Maria gives the parcel to Bella then exits. Bella takes the parcel and slowly turns it over examining it. Al enters. She puts the parcel on the table in surprise

AL FRESCO Bella! We have to talk, I've made a decision.

BELLA DONNA I shouldn't be seen alone with you again. We were lucky we got away with it last time. *(She puts the package on the table)*

AL FRESCO I'm not going through with this wedding. I think it's time I stood up to Papa and told him he should stand down as head of the family. I would take over... with you as my wife. Are you with me?

BELLA DONNA I will do anything you ask.

She throws her arms around him. They kiss slowly just as Don. Calada and Pina enter. They stop and watch not believing what they are witnessing. Don Calada storms forward. Pina goes to Bella.

DON CALADA *Che cosa?* Do my eyes deceive me? You *traditore!*



PINA CALADA *(Sarcastic to Bella)* Wishing him luck again?

BELLA DONNA We.... I mean.... *(She starts to cry)*

PINA CALADA Don't try it on with me, you.... hussy!

BELLA DONNA *(In tears)* How dare you, you're no Mrs. Whiter than White.

DON CALADA What do you mean by that?

AL FRESCO Bella!

BELLA DONNA Don't think I don't know about your affair with Don Fresco.

Pina and the Don gasp.

PINA CALADA *(Cries out)* It is a lie!

BELLA DONNA It's the truth, I heard you both talking about it.

PINA CALADA How dare you!

Pina takes a swing at Bella but misses. Al tries to pull Bella aside.

DON CALADA *Mi Laschi in Pace*, all of you, *Adesso!!*

All exit quickly leaving Don. Calada pacing furiously. Begs sympathy off the audience almost sobbing into a handkerchief. He is through with the truce. Paulo Enters.

PAULO SUPINA *Mi scusi*, Don. Calada.

DON CALADA *(Aggressively)* This is not the time.

PAULO SUPINA I have an offer you can't refuse

DON CALADA *(Calms down instantly)* What is it?

PAULO SUPINA I have noticed Don. Fresco er.... mellow.... lately. I think he's lost it, he's not up to running a business anymore.

DON CALADA What are you saying?

PAULO SUPINA There is nothing more I can do for him. But a man like yourself, with potential for higher things.

DON CALADA *(Thinks)* I see. However, if you wish to work for me I must see an example of your loyalty.

PAULO SUPINA I thought you would ask me that.

DON CALADA In the mean time I have other pressing business on my mind.

Enter Don Fresco. The two Dons greet, kissing each other on both cheeks.

DON CALADA Don. Fresco, my friend, it is nearly time. I must check on the 'final arrangements'.

They shake hands. Don. Calada exits

PAULO SUPINA Don. Fresco, before you agree to this coalition, I have something for you to look at.

DON FRESCO What is it? Can it not wait?

PAULO SUPINA My legal contacts have come up with some information on Don. Calada. It would severely cripple the Calada family's position in the city and if this coalition goes ahead it will effect your position also. Have I ever let you down before? At least think about it for a while.

Paulo hands the Don a package very similar to the one which Maria gave to Bella. Paulo exits. The Don turns the package over a few times examining it. he puts it on the table next to Bella's package and walks away, thinking. He then goes back to the table and takes a package. The audience will not know which is which. He examines it again. realising he has the wrong one he puts it down and takes up the right one leaving the other hidden behind other parcels which he puts in his pocket He exits.

The priest enters wearing his cassocks.

FIGURE Hello everybody, I am Father Figure. I think we are about ready to begin the service....

Enter Don. Calada. He is waving a wedding present in his hands.

DON CALADA Ah Padre?! Do you know where is Don. Fresco?

FIGURE I think he was going to his room.

DON CALADA *Molto Grazie.*

He exits.

FIGURE Now where were we? Ah yes. Now when you hear the music could you all please stand. If we just practice that...



He gets the organist to start the wedding march. (He could switch on a tape recorder if an organist is not available) Encourage the audience to stand up.

There is a loud bang followed by screams and shouts. The cast come rushing in.

FIGURE What in heavens name?

DON CALADA *(Calm and cold)* It is Don. Fresco, there has been an explosion. Someone has put a bomb in his toilet, he's been blown up.

PAULO SUPINA I bet that scared the sh....

AL FRESCO ...shut up, that is my father you're talking about.

PAULO SUPINA As if you cared, Al, You were after his position after all.

AL FRESCO I'll get to the bottom of this. Who had access to his room.

DON CALADA We all did, after all it is our home.

There is a pause, they all look at each other.

MARIA Does this mean the wedding is off?

PINA CALADA I'm afraid so my dear.

MARIA *(Wails)* Oh Mama, what is to become of me. Here I am a beautiful woman in my prime jilted at the altar. I need a drink.

Goes for a drink.

PINA CALADA Don't let it worry you, if father is like son, you are better off.

MARIA Oh well, I've got my dress and we've got a priest. *(To audience)* Is there any of the guests available?

Maria then jumps on the knees of one of the guests.

FIGURE I think before we go any further we need to find out who committed this heinous crime. With your help *(Audience)* we can solve this problem.

The rules are then explained.