

Lopez's Grocery.

Yelling and screaming in Spanish can be heard off stage.

An enraged Paco begins to make his way to the other side all the while Selina crying and screaming try to stop him.

SELINA
Paco, NO, dont!

PACO
I'm going to kill that fucking puto!

SELINA
Don't kill him! Please Paco, it's not worth it!

Paco stops and turns to Selina. He roughly takes her face in his hands. He makes her look at him, rage and love color his face.

PACO
You are my baby sister. Blood of my blood. I swore to protect you and now this cabron has put a baby in you, broke your precious heart, and is treating you like a pendeja. I told him to stay away from you, and that if he came this way ever again that I would kill him. And I intend to keep my word.

He pulls out a handgun from his pants. Selina begins to become hysterical.

SELINA
No..please Paco!
Paco shrugs her off and Selina falls to the floor hysterically crying.

Santoriello Apartment.

Spiro is layed up in his favorite chair, bundled up. Every now and again he gives a sneeze as he watches TV.

Elizabeth is in the kitchen, off stage.

ELIZABETH (O.S)
Do you want Borsht tonight?
SPIRO

Yes, dear that would be fine.

ELIZABETH (O.S)

Ok well I made it already so dinner will be ready in 5 minutes. You should go wash your hands that way you won't keep getting sick.

SPIRO

(grumpily)

You've been telling me that for the past 25 years. You think by now you'd get that I'm not going to wash my hands. I'm a man! Men don't wash their hands.

Spiro sneezes into his hands. Takes a look at them.

SPIRO

Ok, you win...

Spiro slowly gets up from the chair and saunters off stage. Enter a very depressed Nicky. He still is holding his violin case. He slowly sits down on the couch. Still in shock.

ELIZABETH (O.S)

Nicky is that you?

Nicky doesn't answer. He's still in shock.

ELIZABETH (O.S)

Nicky! If that's you, dinner will be ready soon, go wash your han-

Enter Elizabeth to a very distraught Nicky.

ELIZABETH

Nicky! My baby, are you Ok? What happened?

Nicky looks up at his mother, sadness and despair in his eyes. He slowly opens the case and pulls out the broken violin. Elizabeth looks at it in horror.

ELIZABETH

Who did this?

NICKY

Mr. Nardelli.

ELIZABETH
But why would he?

NICKY
He got mad that I took Pop's place tonight at his party. Said that I don't get it. What are we going to do Mom? We don't have the money to get me a new one.

Elizabeth puts her hand on Nicky's.

ELIZABETH
Don't you worry about that. You are going to that school if it's the last thing I do. We'll figure it out.

Enter Spiro from the bathroom. He sees the broken violin. And without words he leaves as Elizabeth and Nicky look on.

ELIZABETH
Your father will come around. He's good like that. Just give him a minute to think things over.

NICKY
I know Ma. Well I guess I'm glad that he didn't break my hand.

Nicky giggles a little bit.

ELIZABETH
That's not funny. Mr. Nardelli is not someone to be messing with. I hope you've learned your lesson. Stay away from that man, at all costs. Promise me. Will you promise me that you'll never go over there again?

NICKY
Yes. I don't want to go anyway near that mansion, near Mr. Nardelli, or anywhere that has to do with him.

ELIZABETH
That's my Nicky.

Elizabeth pinches his cheeks and kisses him. Nicky smiles and feels better. Enter Spiro with his violin case. Nicky and Elizabeth both look at him. Spiro sits in his chair and turns to Nicky.

SPIRO
It may not be the best but it's good enough to get you started in school.

He hands the violin over to Nicky. Nicky is in shock.

NICKY

Pop....what about Mr. Nardelli? What will he do if you can't play for him.

SPIRO

Ah, don't worry about Mr. Nardelli. I've known that man since childhood, you just worry about your school and getting out of this neighborhood. We believe in you Nicky.

Spiro playfully pats Nicky on the cheek and kisses his head. Nicky gives Spiro a big hug and Elizabeth a big hug.

NICKY

I have the best parents in all the Bronx.

They all laugh.

ELIZABETH

Now go, wash your hands, dinner's ready.