

FADE IN:

MUSIC BEGINS - **A SILENCE WITHIN THEME**

MUSIC ENDS

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

INT. CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

FABIANA MORETTI, thirty, is a teacher at an elementary school. She teaches music and voice. It is Friday and she senses that the school day is nearly over. She looks at the clock on the wall.

IT READS: THREE O'CLOCK P.M.

She looks down and grabs a sheet of paper from her files.

She slowly rises and walks to the blackboard. She is attractive and shapely. She moves with grace and style. Several boys in her third grade class have a crush on her.

She places the chalk on the blackboard. She slowly begins to write the homework assignment on the blackboard. She has perfect penmanship.

She stops, for a moment, and wipes the sweat off her forehead.

A small fan is blowing in the corner.

The students begin to fidget in their seats. One boy gets out of his seat. He throws a waded up paper baseball at another classmate. There is a small current of giggles and laughter that move throughout the classroom.

Fabiana snaps and turns suddenly towards the class.

FABIANA

(shouting)

Stop that right now!

The class is stunned.

THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS.

She continues her harsh reaction.

FABIANA (CONT'D)

I've had enough of your nonsense!
You are all staying after school.

The whole class begins to groan.

She walks over to the corner of the classroom. She grabs a long ruler. She raises it above her head and cracks it in two over her desk. There is silence in the classroom.

They all stare at her. She looks out at the small faces of the children. She drops the ruler to the floor.

MUSIC BEGINS - **FABIANA**

She grabs her purse. She lowers her head in shame and slowly walks out of the classroom.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Fabiana begins to run to her car. She opens the door and gets in.

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

She starts the car. She reaches over and grabs a tissue. She wipes her eyes. Then, she puts the car in gear. She quickly leaves the school parking lot.

MUSIC ENDS

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

DISSOLVE TO

INT. CHURCH, FRONT OFFICE - AFTERNOON

A woman gets up from the front desk of the church. She picks up the box of beautiful flowers that are sitting on a table in the front office.

INT. CHURCH AISLE - AFTERNOON

She walks down the center aisle of a church. She is holding a box of beautiful flowers. **SABINA MORETTI**, thirty, is attractive and shapely. She is the twin sister of Fabiana.

She places the box down and surveys the altar. Then, she begins to take some flowers and place them in the display.

A priest, **FATHER LETTO**, begins to run down the side aisle of the church. Sabina looks up and stops.

FATHER LETTO

Sabina!

SABINA

Yes, Father. What is it?

FATHER LETTO

It's your sister ... Fabiana.

SABINA

What's happened?

FATHER LETTO
She left the school this afternoon.

SABINA
Why?

FATHER LETTO
I don't know. But it's serious.

SABINA
Where is she now?

FATHER LETTO
No one knows.

SABINA
Thank you, Father.

Sabina leaves.

MUSIC BEGINS - **SWEETS**

EXT. SMALL MARKET - AFTERNOON

Fabiana pulls up to the small market. She keeps the motor running.

INT. SMALL MARKET - AFTERNOON

She runs in and picks up a box of chocolates. She walks up to the front desk.

She looks around. She sees that the clerk is cleaning up a spill on the back aisle.

CLOSE-UP OF FABIANA'S EYES

She looks at the cash register. Its cash drawer has been left open.

She looks back at the clerk. He is still preoccupied.

Her right hand begins to tremble. She quickly reaches in and grabs the money.

She runs out of the store and gets in her car.

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

Fabiana looks in the rear view mirror. The clerk hasn't noticed that the money and the chocolate were taken. She slowly smiles.

EXT. CAR - AFTERNOON

Fabiana drives off into the distance.

MUSIC ENDS

EXT. SABINA'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Sabina picks up the phone and dials a number.

INTERCUT between...

INT. ISABELLA'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

ISABELLA MORETTI is seen in the shadows.

ISABELLA

Hello?

SABINA

Hello, Mother.

ISABELLA

Fabiana?

SABINA

No, Mother ... its Sabina.

ISABELLA

Yes, dear. What is it?

SABINA

It's Fabiana.

ISABELLA

What's happened?

SABINA

She's had ... an episode.

ISABELLA

What do you mean?

SABINA

She went crazy in her classroom today.

ISABELLA

Well ... those children can be ...

SABINA

Mother! She's gone.

ISABELLA

Have you gone to her house?

SABINA

Yes. And I've called her ... and there's no answer.

ISABELLA

Well ... don't worry. I'm sure she's fine.

SABINA

But the last time this happened ... she almost killed herself!

ISABELLA

Don't you think that you are over reacting ... just a little bit?

SABINA

Mother! Fabiana has a problem.

ISABELLA

I think you are a little jealous of her.

SABINA

Mother ... you are not listening.

ISABELLA

I can remember when you were just little girls.

Sabina rolls her eyes.

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

If she had a pink dress ... you had to have one exactly like it.

SABINA

I never got to wear a pink dress!

ISABELLA

Exactly. With your father being the way he was ... we could only provide for one. And since Fabiana was the oldest.

SABINA

But we're twins!

ISABELLA

She's still the oldest.

SABINA

I don't know why we are even discussing this. You can hide your head in the sand ... and be in denial ... but don't cry on my shoulders when something tragic happens.

Isabella sighs.

ISABELLA

Dear. I think that you should pray for her ... and yourself. You need to let go of this anger and resentment that you have towards your sister.

SABINA

Oh, what's the use. I don't know why I even bother talking to you. Good night, Mother!

ISABELLA

Good night.

Sabina slams the phone down. She shakes her head in disgust.

She picks up her purse and walks towards the front door. She opens the front door and slams it shut.

MUSIC BEGINS - **SHOPPING**

INT. CAR - LATE AFTERNOON

Fabiana shuts off the motor. She reaches over and samples a couple of the delicious chocolates from the market. She wipes her mouth and opens the car door. She closes the car door.

INT. DRESS SHOP - LATE AFTERNOON

Fabiana walks in and begins to walk down the aisle filled with expensive dresses. She eyes a beautiful red dress and decides to try it on.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

She walks in.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. DRESS SHOP - LATE AFTERNOON

She walks out and looks at a few other dresses. A **SALES WOMAN** approaches her.

SALES WOMAN

May I help you?

FABIANA

No. I'm just looking.

SALES WOMAN

Would you like to pay for your dress?

FABIANA

I haven't decided.

SALES WOMAN

I think you have.

FABIANA

What are you saying?

SALES WOMAN

The red dress that you're hiding in your coat.

FABIANA

Oh. You mean this one?

Fabiana reaches back and hits the sales woman flush in the face with her purse. The sales woman is knocked unconscious and falls to the floor in a slump.

EXT. DRESS SHOP - LATE AFTERNOON

Fabiana runs out of the store.

EXT. CAR - LATE AFTERNOON

She runs to her car. She hops in and drives away.

INT. CAR - LATE AFTERNOON

She once again looks in her rear view mirror. She pops another chocolate into her mouth. She slowly smiles.

MUSIC ENDS

INT. SABINA'S KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

Sabina begins to pace back and forth. She walks out of the kitchen and into the living room.

INT. SABINA'S LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

She sits down on her couch. She picks up the phone and begins to dial. A voice on the other end answers.

INTERCUT with...

INT. DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

DETECTIVE RICHARD SANTUCCI, early sixties, has been on the streets since he was twenty one. He is a good looking man who has aged well. But the years have made him a little cynical deep within.

DETECTIVE SANTUCCI

Hello. Detective Richard Santucci.

SABINA

Yes. I would like to report a missing person.

DETECTIVE SANTUCCI
What's your name, Miss?

SABINA
Sabina. Sabina Moretti. My sister's
missing. Her name is Fabiana.

DETECTIVE SANTUCCI
Can you give me a description?

SABINA
Yes. She is 5'4". Brown hair.
Brown eyes. Pretty. With a slim
figure.

DETECTIVE SANTUCCI
How long has she been missing?

SABINA
Since this afternoon.

DETECTIVE SANTUCCI
Perhaps she went to the movies.

SABINA
No. She teaches music at the local
elementary school. There was a
problem at the school and she left
abruptly.

DETECTIVE SANTUCCI
I see. Was she angry ... upset?

SABINA
Yes.

Sabina pauses, for a moment.

SABINA (CONT'D)
She suffered a severe mental breakdown
a few years ago.

DETECTIVE SANTUCCI
Is she on any kind of special
medication?

SABINA
Yes. But I'm afraid that she's gone
off it.

DETECTIVE SANTUCCI
Could you come down to my office and
provide a photo?

SABINA
Yes.

DETECTIVE SANTUCCI

Good.

SABINA

Thank you, Detective. I'll be there shortly.

EXT. JEWELRY STORE - DUSK

THE SIGN READS: DAVID'S JEWELS

INT. JEWELRY STORE - DUSK

Fabiana enters the jewelry store. The bell over the door begins to ring. She walks over and begins to look at the beautiful necklaces in the glass case.

A store clerk, **ROBERTO PEREZ**, thirties, comes out of the back room. He begins to look her over from head to toe. He slowly approaches her.

ROBERTO

May I help you?

FABIANA

Yes. I would like to see some necklaces.

ROBERTO

Is there something specific that you are looking for?

FABIANA

Something that will go with my red dress.

ROBERTO

Is this an evening gown?

FABIANA

Yes.

ROBERTO

A special occasion perhaps?

FABIANA

Yes. You could say that.

ROBERTO

Where do you plan to display this?

FABIANA

On my neck.

He looks at her intently.

ROBERTO

Can I interest you in ... something smooth?

FABIANA

It depends. What do you have to offer?

The store clerk is hooked. He goes for broke.

ROBERTO

Something worth waiting for.

FABIANA

How can I be sure?

ROBERTO

This particular jewel is hot ... very hot.

FABIANA

And ... where would I find this?

ROBERTO

I think that I have what you are looking for ... in the back room.

FABIANA

How will I know if it will ... fit?

ROBERTO

I'm sure that I have the right size for you.

FABIANA

Is it expensive?

ROBERTO

Could be. But I'm willing to give you a special deal.

FABIANA

Oh?

ROBERTO

But you'll have to act fast. This offer will expire at the close of business today.

FABIANA

I see. What's your name?

ROBERTO

Roberto.

He pauses.