

Spaghetti Western

Characters

Olivia Forte A reporter at the Post-Tribune in Philadelphia, mid-fifties.

Josie Manfredi Olivia's mother, owner of Pie in the Sky Pizza in South Philadelphia, mid-seventies.

Rocco Polizzi Realtor and neighborhood friend of Olivia and Josie, late-fifties.

ACT I

SCENE 2

In the pizzeria, OLIVIA, JOSIE and ROCCO, a neighborhood Realtor who also is a family friend, are sitting at one of the tables.

JOSIE

Well, I didn't care for him.

OLIVIA

Ma, you're not gonna date the guy.

JOSIE

God forbid!

ROCCO

Josie, he's very interested . . . He just has to check with his partner. It's a good sign!

JOSIE

But he didn't look at any of the equipment. Never even opened one of the ovens. What kind of pizza-maker is he?

(OLIVIA and ROCCO look at each other like, "Oh no, she thinks this is going to continue to be a pizzeria.")

OLIVIA

Uh, yeah, well, he knows the kind of product that came out of here. Pie in the Sky is a neighborhood legend. He doesn't need to test it. This place is umm . . .uh . . .

ROCCO

Iconic.

OLIVIA

Exactly . . . Classic!

JOSIE

When he comes back I'm going to ask him about how he makes his dough and sauce. . . and where he gets his cheese. There's a tradition to uphold here, you know. Today, some places just buy the cheapest ingredients and nobody even cares anymore. Your father would turn over in his grave.

OLIVIA

You mean, turn over in his special little pizza dough house, don't you?.

ROCCO

What?

JOSIE

Don't get fresh. And I'm not selling to anyone who isn't going to maintain our standards . . . *and* keep Orlando!

OLIVIA

Christ! Orlando again!

ROCCO

What about Orlando?

OLIVIA

Yes. I promise. We'll make sure Orlando has a job . . .

ROCCO

Olivia ...

OLIVIA

(Winking at ROCCO)

Rocco, please make sure the buyer knows he needs to keep Orlando. Okay?

ROCCO

Uh ... O-kaaay.

OLIVIA

And I've got something else I need to talk to you about. Sooo ... Ma, can you get us some coffee? Rocco, you want a cup of coffee, right?

ROCCO

Uh, yeah, sure. That would be terrific.

JOSIE

Didn't we pack the coffee pot?

OLIVIA

No, I used it yesterday. It's in the grill room.

(Motioning offstage.)

JOSIE

Oh, okay ... I'll be right back ... Rocco, how do you like it?

ROCCO

Black.

JOSIE

That's good, 'cause we don't have any milk here, anyway.

(JOSIE exits.)

OLIVIA

Rocco, she's driving me nuts ... How in the hell am I going to get her out of here? She wants to keep this place until it falls down around us. I can't believe I at least got her to start packing. And now she's worried about Orlando!

ROCCO

What happened to Orlando?

OLIVIA

Donald Trump fell on his head. That's what happened to Orlando. He's hiding from immigration.

ROCCO

Orlando's illegal?

OLIVIA

Unfortunately . . . I haven't told my mother but an Immigration guy stopped here last week looking for him. And he was not Mr. Personality. They traced Orlando by his cell phone. Can you believe it? That's what the bastards are doing now, trolling cell phone data for locations.

ROCCO

Shit. I know you guys wanna help Orlando, but ICE doesn't play. They'll fine your ass and take him away for good.

OLIVIA

Don't I know it. But my mother looooves Orlando, especially after losing my father. It's irrational. This is not what I needed on top of everything else.

ROCCO

What a mess . . . Is that what you wanted to talk about?

OLIVIA

Actually, that's just half of it ... Here's the other half.

(She hands Rocco the file.)

ROCCO

Wait a minute. Your parents own land in Texas?!

OLIVIA

Yeah . . . Yippy Ki-Fuckin'-Ya! Can you believe it?

ROCCO

I don't see a deed. Does your mother have the deed?

OLIVIA

This is all she has. She says they went to some kind of presentation in town and bought the land sight unseen ... of course. So what do you think? Does that agreement at least look real?

ROCCO

Oh, yeah, it's real. But it's the actual land you have to worry about. There's tons of crap property in Texas ... and Arizona, Nevada -- all across the west. They look legit, but they're just phantom land deals. Worthless. They're called Ghost Lots.

OLIVIA

Ghost Lots? Well that *literally* fits this situation.

ROCCO

Ha! Yeah, I guess you could say that.

(Takes out his laptop.)

Here, let's try Google Earth.

OLIVIA

So, it's just a scam, right?

ROCCO

I'm sure the land is there and this says your parents own it ...
But is it viable? I don't know. You're the reporter.

OLIVIA

Yeah, but who knows for how much longer. Looks like they're
gonna press for more buyouts before the end of the year.

ROCCO

Again? Jesus Christ, that paper is so thin I can read the whole
thing before I've even taken a decent crap. Very unsatisfying,
Liv.

OLIVIA

Oh, well, speaking of craps, yesterday someone took a protest
dump on the floor of the men's room.

ROCCO

Ew! Are you kidding?

OLIVIA

No. This is not fake news.

ROCCO

Well, you have to admit, it was a pretty creative way to get
attention.

OLIVIA

True. But now HR has mounted a poop investigation for the mad
defecator. Next, we'll probably have to give them a stool
sample.

ROCCO

Enough!

OLIVIA

All I want is another three years. But, these assholes. All they want is for everyone making decent money off the books ... So what's Google say?

ROCCO

Okay, let's see . . .105 Concord Road, El Paso, Texas. . .
Abracadabra

(After a few beats, they both look
at each other like they can't
believe what they're seeing.)

OLIVIA

Uh, is that El Paso or the surface of the moon?

ROCCO

Wow ... And that is realty hard-up against the Mexican border ...
Let me put the address in again, just to make sure.

(After a few more key strokes.)

OLIVIA

Yeah ... that pretty much confirms I'm gonna need a Lunar Lander
to get there.

(OLIVIA grabs the loaf of bread on the
counter.)

Good thing I already have a special payload to take on-board.

ROCCO

I don't understand.

OLIVIA

(Extending the bread.)

Sal has risen.

ROCCO

What the hell are you talking about?

OLIVIA.

I am now carrying around my father's ashes, which my completely insane mother has baked into a lovely and conveniently compact mound of pizza dough. Quite a crafty project, don't you think?

ROCCO

What the . . .

OLIVIA

Yeah, she wants me to bring dad "home" to El Paso, which isn't really his home - minor point in her deranged scenario - and bury him on their land, err my land, or whatever fucking land it is ... One small step for mankind. One giant leap for batshit crazy.