

LA SCENEGGIATA

Translated from the Neapolitan by the students of Liceo Statale A. Galizia

M.GIOVANNA: NAPLES, IN SCASSACOCCHIO LANE, A WELL-KNOWN LANE, FAMOUS FOR ITS CALMNESS AND PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE..... (people crying and making noises)

MG: NAPLES, IN SCASSACOCCHIO LANE, A WELL-KNOWN LANE, FAMOUS FOR ITS..... (people crying and making noises)

MG: NAPLES, A WELL-KNOWN LANE FAMOUS FOR ITS..... A WELL-KNOWN LANE!

IN THIS STREET, WHERE PEOPLE WERE BUSY AT NORMAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS: EATING PIZZA AND PLAYING THE MANDOLIN, DON GENNARINO PARSIFAL RULED UNDISPUTED.

MARIO enters

MG: A WICKED, UNSCRUPOLOUS, DANGEROUS BOSS IN THE QUARTER.....

Mario shows a knife

MG: HAVE YOU OPENED A RESTAURANT?

Mario looking at her

MG: PLEASE, PLEASE

MARIO: I'M THE BAD (ROTTEN) ONE, DO YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?

MG: IN THE QUARTER THERE WAS A BOY WHO LONGED FOR REPLACING DON G. HE WAS THE ASPIRING 'GUAPPO' (BOSS), CIRO THE NEAPOLITAN

Agnese enters, facing MG

AGNESE: HEY GUY.....IN THIS LANE....I'M THE BOSS!

MG: TO TELL THE TRUTH I READ IN THE SCRIPT THAT...

AGNESE: IN THIS STREET...I'M THE RULER!

MARIO: WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

AGNESE: shy and shamefaced I WAS JUST TELLING

MARIO: UE'! WHO'S THE BOSS HERE?

AGNESE: WHAT WAS I TELLING YOU? PLEASE, DON GENNARI', almost crying DON'T HURT ME!

MARIO: YOU'RE NOT THE BOSS HERE! I'M THE BOSS.....O GUAPPO!

PO-PO

MARIO: IF I MEET YOU WALKING IN THIS STREET AGAIN, I'LL CUT YOUR SMOOTH, NICE, BEAUTIFUL FACE.

AGNESE: OH, OH. UE'

MG si alza

AGNESE: HE'S ABUSING ME!

MARIO: DO YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?

AGNESE: YES, YES. FOR GOD'S SAKE!

MARIO: I'M TELLING YOU THAT I'M THE BOSS HERE. THAT'S IT!

PO-PO

AGNESE: DOES HE DANCE WHEN....

MARIO: BESIDES, IF YOU REALLY WANNA BE CALLED 'GUAPPO' (BOSS), YOU MUST BE SO BRAVE TO LOOK INTO MY EYES AND TELL ME "DON GENNARI', YOU'RE A FOOLISH!"

PO PO

AGNESE: ARE YOU SURE, IT'S NOT THE RIGHT MOMENT. LET IT BE DON G.?

MARIO: YES, IF YOU TELL ME I'M A FOOLISH....YOU HAVE A NERVE!

AGNESE: DON G.....YOU'RE...

MARIO: GO ON, TELL ME! TELL ME!

AGNESE: DON G, YOU'RE hesitating ...I TOLD YOU THAT.....

MARIO: YOU'D BETTER GO! OTHERWISE I'LL HURT YOU. GO AWAY!

AGNESE: IN FACT, I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH....

MARIO: GO AWAY!

AGNESE: EXCUSE ME she goes away and from far she shouts DON GENNARIIIIIII': YOU'RE A FOOLISH!

MARIO: DAMNATION! I'VE HAD ENOUGH! HE'S TEASING ME! I'LL KILL HIS MOTHER.

MG: DON'T YOU THINK IT'S AN EXAGGERATION? YOU WANNA KILL HIS MUM FOR NOTHING.

MARIO: I'VE HAD ENOUGH! HE WAS SO RUDE TO ME. I'LL KILL HIS MUUUUUUUM!

MG: DO AS YOU WANT BUT I THINK YOU'RE EXAGGERATING...

MARIO: I'M THE BAD ONE, THE BAD ONE almost crying

MG: WELL, IN THAT CASE.....YOU CAN KILL HER!

MARIO: I'VE HAD ENOUGH, HE OFFENDED ME, I'LL KILL HIS MOTHER. THAT'S IT!

PO-PO.

MG: ALL AT ONCE, CIRO'S MUM ARRIVED SINGING.....

AGNESE: AH, SINGING

MG: SINGING!

AGNESE: I'M SORRY, I WAS ABSENT MINDED. DO IT AGAIN!

MG: CIRO'S MUM.....SINGING!

AGNESE: MUNASTER E SANTA CHIARAAAAAA

MARIO: GOOD MORNING

AGNESE: GOOD MORNING

MARIO: CIRO THE NEAPOLITAN'S MOTHER.

AGNESE: HOW DID YOU REALIZE IT? WE DON'T LOOK AT ALL ALIKE. ME AND THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING. HE'S THE SPITTING IMAGE OF HIS FATHER.

MARIO: MADAM, I HAVE TO KILL YOU! MADAM (stubs Agnese who starts playing a very, very long agony)

MG: impatient DO YOU WANT TO DIE OR NOT? DIE, DIE. IT'S LATE.

MARIO: I'M FED UP WITH GOING FORWARD-BACKWARDS.

AGNESE: BE PATIENT FOR A WHILE. DON'T YOU KNOW THAT THE SCENE OF DEATH IS THE MOST DRAMATIC?

MARIO: I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHO TAUGHT YOU THAT WAY.

AGNESE: DO I HAVE TO PERFORM THE STRUGGLE IN AGONY OR NOT? LET ME BE, THIS IS MY SHOW PIECE. AGAIN, PLEASE. (death scene)

MG E MARIO silently addressing to Agnese: GO OUT!, GO. LEAVE THE SCENE, GO!

AGNESE: EEEE, ONE MOMENT. DON'T MAKE THEM (the audience) TO FIND OUT...

MARIO: GO OUT, GO

End of first part

MG: NOT A TEAR, NOT AN EMOTION WERE ON THE CRIMINAL FACE OF DON G. WHO KEPT ON KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE.

MARIO: BUT...I'M THE BAD ONE, I'M THE BAD ONE. I DO HAVE TO BEHAVE LIKE THAT.

MG: OK, OK.

MARIO: I TOOK MY REVENGE ON HIM! Spelling very quickly DON GENNARINO PARSIFAL IS THE BOSS HERE. THAT'S IT!

PO-PO

AGNESE: HE KILLED MY MUM, repeats I'M UPSET. WHERE'S DON G PARSIFAL

MG: CIRO THE NEAPOLITAN CRIED OUT FOR REVENGE

AGNESE: WHERE'S HE, WHERE'S.... I WANNA KILL HIM

MG: indicates the foulard on her head

AGNESE: HE'S CRAZY. WHAT DOES HE WANT?

MG: indicates the foulard on her head again

AGNESE: LATER, NOW THERE'S THE AUDIENCE HERE

MG: YOUR SCARF

AGNESE: TOO MANY CHANGES, ALL IN A HURRY.

ONE IS FED UP WITH.... OK, OK. AGAIN (she goes and enters) HE KILLED MY MUM

MG: ONCE AGAIN?

AGNESE: IT'S THE SAME AS IT WAS BEFORE. ISN'T IT?

I'M SO UPSET. WHERE'S DON G P?

MG: CIRO THE NEAPOLITAN WANTED REVENGE AND ON HIS FACE... DISTRESS, HATE, ANGER, RAGEANGERATION.....RAGEANGERATION, RAGEANGERATION, DO IT!

AGNESE: BE PATIENT! WHAT'S RAGEANGERATION LIKE? I'VE NEVER SEEN IT!

MG: IT IS SOMETHING LIKE ...ANGER, ANGER....MUCH MORE ANGER.

AGNESE: MUCH MORE ANGER?

MG: MUCH MORE ANGER....WITH RAGE! GO ON. RAGEANGERATION.

AGNESE (plays rageangeration).

APPLAUSI

MG: WAITING FOR DON G. HE GOT PREPARED TO HIS REVENGE.

AGNESE: WHEN HE COMES I'LL FACE HIM AND SAY 'DON G! YOU KILLED MY MUM, IN THE NAME OF GOD.....I'LL CUT YOUR FACE!

MARIO: WHAT'S THE MATTER HERE.

AGNESE: DON G. YOU KILLED MY M....

MARIO: rises up the knife. DO YOU WANT TO TELL ME SOMETHING?

GIOVANNA: suggests encouraging DON G YOU KILLED MY MUM.

AGNESE: YOU KILLED MY..... AT LEAST SHE WAS OLD.

GIOVANNA: SHE WAS OLD, BUT A MOTHER IS ALWAYS A MOTHER.

AGNESE: IN THE NAME OF GOD.

MARIO: GOD. WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF GOD!

AGNESE: (frightened) DON'T HURT ME DON G, DON'T HURT ME, PLEASE.

MARIO: AND IF ANYBODY WANTS TO TELL ME SOMETHING, HE CAN COME AND LOOK FOR ME!

AGNESE E MG: DON G PARSIFAL HAS SPOKEN. PO PO

MARIO: SO, YOU'RE TEASING ME.

AGNESE E MG: ME? NOT ME.

MARIO: STOP TALKING NOW, STOP tries to kill Agnese.

MG: OH, STOP. WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO?

MARIO: I WANT TO KILL HIM.

MG: WELL DONE, WELL. AT THE END OF THE SCENEGGIATA YOU WOULD LIKE TO KILL HIM.

THE BAD ONE WHO WANTS TO KILL THE GOOD GUY. NEVER SEEN BEFORE! NEVER!

MARIO: NEVER SEEN BEFORE?

AGNESE: NEVER. NEVER SEEN BEFORE. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN IT BEFORE?

AT THE END OF THE SCENEGGIATA IT'S ALWAYS THE GOOD ONE WHO KILLS THE BAD ONE. I DON'T CARE, I'LL KILL HIM.

MARIO: NO, NO, NO, WAIT. THERE MUST BE A MISUNDERSTANDING.

AGNESE: NO, NO MISTAKES. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.

MARIO: BECAUSE IF HE KILLS ME HE TURNS TO BE THE BAD ONE. WE NEED ANOTHER BAD ONE WHO KILLS ME.

AGNESE: WHAT ABOUT YOU?

MG: ME? DO YOU MEAN I'M A ROTTEN?

AGNESE: NO, IT'S JUST TO PUT AN END. IS ANYBODY AMONG YOU WHO WOULD LIKE TO KILL HIM?

Someone from the audience gets up threatening

MARIO: UE, NO, THERE'S NOBODY THERE

AGNESE: SO MANY PEOPLE. DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S...

MARIO: NO. THERE ISN'T. THERE IS NO ONE.

AGNESE: DO YOU KNOW THEM ALL?

MG: THERE'S NO ONE.

MARIO: KEEP SILENT!

The actors waste their time thinking.....

AGNESE: DO WE HAVE TO STAY HERE ALL NIGHT LONG?

WHAT A GOOD IDEA, JUST TO FINISH, I'LL FORGIVE HIM.

MG: YOU CAN'T FORGIVE HIM, HE THE BAD ONE, THE BAD ONE.

AGNESE: THE BAD ONE, IT'S .. HIS TEMPER, HIS NATURE

All together making noises and talking aloud MG: YES, HE'S THE BAD ONE- AGNESE: I'LL FORGIVE HIM -MARIO: NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

THE END!