

THE GOD OF FIRE

Written by

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EXT. PICCOLI'S HOUSE - DAY

GIANNI "HAPPY" PICCOLI, mid 20's, tall and slim, with a clean-shaven, handsome face. He straightens gold tie and wipes dust off of his violet, striped suit.

He walks towards a white Lincoln Continental from '77. The paint has smudges and some of the paint chips away. In the back seat are boxes with water bottles and can goods.

Glass, broke tables and chairs, paper, and even lifeless bodies litter the streets.

A KNOCK on glass grabs his attention from behind. His sister, ISIDORA "DORA" PICCOLI, early 20's, shapes a heart with her hands. Her skin complexion pale gray like cigarette ash.

Happy gives her a thumbs up before he steps inside the car. He swipes at a few flies as they BUZZ around his ears.

INT. PICCOLI'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Cracks and holes scatter along the walls of the house. The curtains for the windows are torn and the sunlight brightens the room.

Dora takes a seat on a sofa with cotton that sprouts through holes. She clasps her hands together and rubs them as she watches her brother drive away.

OLIMPIA PICCOLI, late 50's, short and frail, steps to her daughter's side and places a sheet around her.

DORA

Mama?

OLIMPIA

He'll be fine.

EXT. BENITO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

In the evening, the magnificent sky glows a fiery red and orange. A few wispy clouds gather in the fiery red and orange sky.

Happy's car rumbles as it comes to a stop in front of a large home. The house is two stories tall with a mint green paint coat. There's a one car garage to the side of the house with a red dodge charger '12.

On the porch in black suits, GIACOMO "MAD DOG" DE LUCA and AMERIGO RIZZO, both in their late 20's, laugh and tease each other.

Mad Dog is tall and burly with a bald head. He smokes a cigarette and leans against a post on the porch.

Amerigo sits in a plastic chair and combs his hair back.

HAPPY
Is, Benito inside?

MAD DOG
Yeah. He's been asking for you.

HAPPY
I was busy.

MAD DOG
We figured. Go on inside.

INT. BENITO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Happy walks through the front door to see, BENITO "BENNY" FIORE, early 40s, as he chows down on a plate of roast chicken. He's a large man, mostly fat fills his body, though, and he's not too tall.

Happy take a seat parallel to Benny.

HAPPY
Look, Benny, I-I need your help.

BENNY
What d'ya want?

HAPPY
It's more like a need. My mom and sister are dying. They caught the avian flu.

Benny pauses and place his chicken down. He sits back in his chair and taps his fingers together.

BENNY
So?

HAPPY
I need three serums.

BENNY
Three? I thought only your mom and sister caught it?

HAPPY

Well yeah, but I was near them and
I don't want to catch it.

Benny cleans his hands with a rag and finally stands.

BENNY

Happy, you're killing me. What do I
get in return?

HAPPY

Wait, what? Benny, I basically gave
you my life before all this shit
started.

Happy walks up to Benny.

HAPPY

And you can't grant me this simple
request.

BENNY

It's not that simple. You're an
associate, never have you been part
of the family.

HAPPY

I gave you all of my teenage life,
three years of those I spent in
juvie, and you can't help me out?

Benny pushes Happy over the coffee table.

BENNY

Don't step to me, kid.

Happy hops to his feet quickly. He rushes to Benny and throws
multiple blows to his face.

Benny spread his arm and starts to laugh. Even as Happy
throws his best punches.

BENNY

You wanna fight, huh?

He lifts, Happy over his head and hurls him across the room
into a wall.

BENNY

You was never us, you're
expendable. Just like the two bozos
outside.

Happy charges once more toward, Benny. This time, Benny clubs him to the floor with his bare hands and begins stomp and kick him.

Happy slides himself back into a wall as Benny chases him down and pounds away. The SMACK from each punch echoes throughout the room.

Happy struggles to stand, but he does manage to stand and tackles Benny into a couch and topples over a sofa.

Mad Dog and Amerigo bust through the door as Happy punches Benny.

Mad Dog kicks, Happy in his face and knocks him to his back.

MAD DOG
What the hell, man?

Mad Dog lifts, Happy up.

MAD DOG
Who puts their hands on a Made Man?

Happy spits blood onto the floor and smiles at Mad Dog. His teeth crimson from the blood.

HAPPY
He won't help my family because I'm
an associate.

Mad Dog looks at Benny to confirm this.

BENNY
Well, he's not important. What if
the Don and his family need a
serum.

Mad Dog drops his head.

MAD DOG
He's still above you.

Mad Dog starts to beat Happy as Amerigo hold him in place. Happy GRUNTS as each punch hits him in his gut. His punches each with heinous intent.

BENNY
Alright, alright, that's enough. He
get the point now.

Amerigo throw, Happy down against a pillar.

On the floor, a BROKEN GLASS spread across the floor a PURPLE LIQUID.

BENNY

Damn. Look at what you did. You broke one of the serums.

HAPPY

If you would've gave me them, they wouldn't be wasted.

BENNY

If I would've gave you one, they would've gone to waste.

HAPPY

(Laughing)

Damn. We're that worthless to you.

Mad Dog and Amerigo sweep up the glass and place the furniture upright again. They step outside to take the broken table and trash to the dumpster near the house.

BENNY

Just think, man. You could've been one of us.

HAPPY

Yeah. I could've. But thank God I'm not.

BENNY

You still believe there's a God?

Benny takes a pack of CIGARETTES out from his shirt's pocket. When he opens them, most are torn and the tobacco leak through the paper.

BENNY

Ah, damn it. See what you did?

He shuffles through them and picks a good one and takes out his lighter as well.

A FLAME sparks from his lighter, he studies it.

BENNY

You ever heard of the Greek titan, Prometheus?

Happy sneaks his hand into the waist of his pants.

HAPPY

Yeah. I think in history class.
What does it have to do with us?

BENNY

Like him, you want to give to
humans the power over fire.

HAPPY

We already have that power.

BENNY

By fire, I mean this.

Benny flaunts a capsule of the SERUM.

BENNY

They need this to survive, you want
to steal it from us to give to
them.

HAPPY

They? Them? Aren't we all them and
they? Aren't we all humans?

BENNY

(Laughing)

No, no. We're gods. We have what
they need. The humans.

HAPPY

I guess that's why you asked me
about the Prometheus guy. I'm him
to you.

BENNY

You're him to us. The Martelli
family.

Happy reach deeper in his pants. Slowly, he inches toward a
small bulge in his pants.

Benny looks at his hand.

BENNY

You get excited from getting beat
up?

Happy snatches a GUN from inside his pants and aims it at
Benny's head. He COCKS it. It's a revolver, something like
from the old west.

Benny steps back, then he smiles.

BENNY

What you gonna do with that?

HAPPY

My family will live.

BENNY

If you kill me, you'd never live
another day without having to watch
your back.

Benny charges forward like a bull.

Happy FIRES his gun and blows, Benny back.

Benny takes a moment to feel out his wound.

Happy shoots him again, this time at the head.

EXT. BENITO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mad Dog and Amerigo throw the junk down and rush to the house. They grab for their pistols as they make their way to the door. Mad Dog kicks it down in a single blow.

Happy let out a few shots, but misses.

Mad Dog and Amerigo still take cover behind the door frame.

MAD DOG

What happened, Happy? Is Benny
okay?

HAPPY

No. He's dead. I killed him.

AMERIGO

Screw this. Let's just whack him.

Mad Dog hesitates, but soon nod his head in agreement. They fly from behind the door only to see, Happy gone.

MAD DOG

Damn it.

INT. BENITO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mad Dog and Amerigo search the floor and finds, Benny on the floor. Motionless with his eyes open.

MAD DOG

Let's go.

EXT. BENITO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Happy PANTS as he bolts for his car. His hands rattle as he try to get his keys straight.

A DING gets his attention. He spots a bullet hole in his car roof.

Mad Dog and Amerigo continue to fire at him from the house's porch.

HAPPY

Oh, God.

He finally gets his door open, the car window shatters as he ducks down low to avoid bullets. The car rumble and roars and Happy zooms off, bullets still howls pass him.

EXT. PICCOLI HOUSE - DAY

The sun greets the world as it rises from the horizon. Happy limps to his home's door and enter.

INT. PICCOLI HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dora and Olimpia lie on the sofa, their eyes shut and neither moves a muscle.

Happy kneels by their side, his eyes start to tear up.

HAPPY

Ma, Dora, no.

Olimpia and Dora hop up, both mumble half-woke nonsense.

HAPPY

Oh, God. I thought you guys kicked the bucket.

DORA

We almost had heart attacks.

She stares her brother up and down.

DORA

What happened to you?

HAPPY

Well, I got my ass kicked. But, I did get you guys the serums.

He injects them both with needles.

HAPPY

I don't know if there's any side effects or how long it takes to take effect. But you're cured.

Olimpia rubs her hand across his cheek, she looks in his eyes.

OLIMPIA

I'm proud of you.

HAPPY

Oh, Mama, it was nothing. I'll do anything for you guys.

OLIMPIA

No. You've finally freed yourself. You're no one's puppet. I've thought that since you became a thug.

Dora checks, Happy's veins out. They show no signs of puncture.

DORA

Where did you inject yourself at?

Happy takes a big gulp and looks away.

DORA

Wait, you didn't get any for yourself? Why?

HAPPY

Because one of the capsules broke and didn't have enough time to find the other serums.

Tears trickle from, Dora's cheeks.

HAPPY

Ah c'mon. You're a crybaby. I'm a dead man anyways. I killed Benny.

OLIMPIA

What? You killed him.

HAPPY

Yeah, and I can't let you guys be punished. I'm going to confront the Don. By myself.

DORA

No, mama, you can't let him...

Olimpia presses her hand against, Dora's lip.

OLIMPIA
It's his journey, Dora. Not yours.

DORA
But, mama?

Happy walks to the door and opens it.

HAPPY
I want you guys to find a new place
to live. There's a community down
south called, Girasole. Go there.

DORA
No.

Olimpia holds her down as Happy leaves.

EXT. GIRASOLE - DAY

Sunlight brightens a beautiful haven that looks brand new in comparison to the homes to the north. Sunflowers in every home's yard. PEOPLE come out to see, Dora and Olimpia in virtual rags for clothes.

MEN in trench coat greet them.

INT. MARTELLI SAFE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Blood encircles multiple BODIES on the floor. A variety of pistols and shotguns next to the bodies. One familiar body does lie among the dead. It's Happy, blood soaks his clothes and his stomach is burst open.

Mad Dog stands over him.

MAD DOG
You should've just left town.

FADE OUT.

THE END