

BUFFET SHRIMP MAFIA BY RENATA SHAYKHETDINOVA

INT. MIDWEST BUFFET - DAY

EGO travels through the buffet with her tray. She perks up upon seeing a bright mountain of shrimp. Dangerous and cool gangsters KENAN and PETE block shrimp as Ego approaches.

EGO

Excuse me, just trying to get some of that shrimp. (Beat)  
Are you in line?

Kenan and Pete don't move. A long beat.

KENAN

Oy! If you want this succulent shrimp you're gonna have to talk to Mama Scampi.

Gangster boss MAMA SCAMPI hops on stage with a shrimp cocktail in a martini glass.

MAMA SCAMPI

Oy! I'm Mama Scampi. You want some of that succulent shrimp?

She tantalizes Ego with the shrimp before gobbling it down.

MAMA SCAMPI

Sure. But first, you've gotta pay the cut to Mama - and the Scampi Boys.

Kenan and Pete mug to the camera.

KENAN

\$6.99

EGO

What?! I've gotta pay you if I want the shrimp? Look, ma'am, I've already paid 19.99 to get in, I'm not paying 6.99--

MAMA SCAMPI

--sshhh!

Mama charismatically devours another shrimp.

MAMA SCAMPI

I will make you an offer you cannot  
refuse.

Scampi brothers close circle on Ego.

PETE

Shrimp in the Midwest is hard to  
come buy: It has to be flied  
down... from the ocean!

KENAN

Flying is dangerous... It's only  
fair that we ask you to pay the  
cut.

Kenan opens one side of his jacket displaying a concealed  
gun. Pete opens his jacket displaying a bunch of  
utensils(knives, forks, spoons) hanging from the lining.

EGO

Is this...is this some sort of  
buffet shrimp mafia?! Manager!  
Manager!

MANAGER CHLOE hurries to resolve the problem. Pete and Kenan  
swiftly hide their weapons.

MANAGER CHLOE

Hi, I'm the manager. Is there a  
problem?

EGO

Hi, I'm Ego. This woman and her...  
two sons?..

Kenan and Pete shrug.

EGO

...won't let me get to the shrimp  
station unless I pay them "the  
cut"! I think they are running a  
shrimp mafia thing... This guy has  
a gun!

Smiling Kenan and Pete stair Chloe down.

MANAGER CHLOE

(nervous)

Oh...

PETE

Shrimp Mafia?!

Ahahahaha! KENAN

Ahahahaha! PETE

KENAN  
We were just admiring  
your succulent shrimp!

MANAGER CHLOE  
(turns to Ego)  
Haha!.. I don't think they are  
causing any problems! There is  
nothing going on here!

Manager Chloe runs away. Mama Scampi smirks, Kenan and Pete tap on the side of their noses and wink. In the background, another customer BOWEN quietly piles shrimp on his plate and sneaks out.

EGO  
And you just gonna let that guy to  
walk out with your shrimp?

MAMA SCAMPI  
AY! She's right, that guy didn't  
pay!

Kenan runs out after Bowen.

GUNSHOTS that go for waaay to long.

Kenan returns covered in blood from head to toe, holding a bloody plate of shrimp.

EGO  
Help! Help!

Police officers BECK and CECILY, still with a napkin over her uniform, rush for the rescue.

EGO  
Officers! Quick! Arrest these  
people! This man just killed  
somebody for a plate of shrimp!

Cicely and Beck exchange glances. Beck reveals a coffee cup and starts to slooowly eat shrimp out of it.

BECK  
Mama, shrimp today was excellent.

"Godfather"-like theme plays.

Mama Scampi hands Cicely the envelop stuffed with shrimp.

MAMA SCAMPI

I've heard your daughter is getting married. Please, pass along our best wishes and this modest gift. From the Scampi family.

CICELY

Mama!

Cicely and Mama Scampi hug; Kenan and Pete tap on the side of their noses and wink.

Cicely and Beck leave.

MAMA SCAMPI

You don't understand. It's not just shrimp mafia. We've got yakuza on dim sums and a Mexican cartel on the chocolate fountain and marshmallows.

KENAN

Organized crime is all over this buffet.

PETE

It's just the way buffets work - here, in the Midwest.

MAMA SCAMPI

So... whadaya think?

EGO

You know what? It's just 7 dollars.

Ego gives the money to Pete, Pete passes it to Kenan, Kenan passes it to Mama who hides the money in her tiny purse.

They all get out of Ego's way, Pete gifts Ego a shrimp fork. Ego helps herself with iced shrimp.

EGO

(shakes head)

And a person died for these?

Ego takes a bite.

EGO

Mmm...totally worth it!

**BLACKOUT**