

From The Bold, The Young, and The Murdered, by Don Zolidis, ©2011

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The Set of a Soap Opera. They are filming a dramatic scene.

OLI, the director

VALENCIO, the evil mastermind, played by JOHN

JAKE STRONG, the hero, played by MORRIS

VALENCIO

Ah, Jake Strong. How nice of you to join me.
(he sips his sherry evilly)

JAKE STRONG

What do you want from me, Valencio Di Carpathio?

VALENCIO

Why are you so suspicious? Can't I invite my friend over for a nice little chat? Sherry?

JAKE STRONG

The last time I touched your Sherry I ended up in a mental hospital for three months. Then you convinced my half-brother to steal my father's fortune. So I think I'll decline the sherry this time. Even though it looks pretty good and I'm quite thirsty from riding my motorcycle over here.

VALENCIO

As you wish, Jake Strong. As you wish.
(he sips the sherry again, perhaps even more evilly than before)

JAKE STRONG

I'll ask you again, what do you want?

VALENCIO

Have a seat.

JAKE STRONG

The last time I sat in one of your chairs I was poisoned by an Amazonian tree frog and woke up hallucinating in a Nigerian diamond mine, so I think I'll stand, thank you very much. Although I appreciate the sentiment.

VALENCIO

Very well. Although standing can get...
(dramatic pause)
uncomfortable.

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JAKE STRONG

So can my fist to your face.

VALENCIO

Oh please. Must you always make these threats? I'm an old man, Jake Strong. I may not last long. In fact, there is the very real possibility that I'm dying of something very secretive. I don't know yet, and we might not find out for some time, but it's a definite possibility. So I'm going to make amends. You remember your wife, Nina?

JAKE STRONG

YOU MONSTER WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER?!

VALENCIO

I just asked you if you remembered her.

JAKE STRONG

Oh. Yes. We're quite happy together. She's the light of my life.

VALENCIO

I'm glad to hear that.

JAKE STRONG

What are you getting at, Valencio?

VALENCIO

Oh nothing. Except maybe... you know there is something in her history you might not know.

JAKE STRONG

If it's the part about her spending a year in clown college after high school, I know all about that. She was young. And she liked big shoes. They brainwashed her. If I ever get my hands on those clowns...

VALENCIO

Oh no this is something completely different.

JAKE STRONG

I also happen to know about her evil twin sister, Deborah, who you brainwashed into thinking she was my wife while Nina was undergoing a secretive nose job in South America. And who later became pregnant, but lost the baby and was kidnapped by pirates and hasn't been seen from again.

VALENCIO

I forgot about that time. That was fun. No I have something even more disturbing to tell you. Your wife, Nina, is my daughter.

JAKE STRONG

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Noooooo!

OLI (*from off-stage*)

CUT!

(JAKE and VALENCIO drop out of character immediately. JAKE puts on glasses and becomes MORRIS NYBERG; his voice changes completely. VALENCIO drops his accent and becomes JOHN BURKE, a crotchety old guy.)

JOHN

Could we please turn the heat on in here, I'm freezing my tuckus off.

MORRIS

How was that, Oli?

(OLI leaps up on to set. OLI is a ball of energy.)

OLI

Having a good day, Morris?

MORRIS

I've got a little bit of a cold right now, but I'm not really –

OLI

I don't really care. Okay? Good.

JOHN

Anybody got soup?

OLI

Nobody's got soup, John.

JOHN

I demand soup.

OLI

No you can't demand anything –

JOHN

I've been on this show for forty-seven years and I want soup. Cream of asparagus. Cream of asparagus or I go home right now.;

MORRIS

Was I not gritting my teeth enough, was that it? I've got a problem with one of my incisors, so I'm not really able to clench my jaw like I used –

OLI

Morris. Morris. Morris. Morris.

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MORRIS

What?

OLI

Shut up. All right listen up. That was wretched, okay? Wretched. Where was the intensity? Where was the drama?

JOHN

There'd be drama if I had soup.

OLI

Hey hey attention up here Grandpa. You get soup after you nail the scene, all right?

JOHN

It's in my contract that I get soup whenever I want –

OLI

Do you want me to have Valencio's personality downloaded into a computer again so I can fire you and replace with you with a See-n-Say? Cause I can do it. All right? We're doing the scene again.

MORRIS

The whole thing?

OLI

Yes the whole thing!

MORRIS

Aw jeez.

JOHN

This is ridiculous. I want double soup now.