

JOEY

Yes ma'am. I'm ready.

Joey salutes Sal and then immediately regrets doing so. Beatrice taps Sal on the shoulder.

BEATRICE

Cuzzo's boys are here.

Sal turns revealing two young boys, PETEY and MIKEY, 12 and **Sc. 1 Start** 13, with bicycles and ratty clothes.

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SAL

How goes it boys?

PETEY

Your asylum request has been granted. Cuzzo said y'all can stay with us Friday night.

SAL

That's very kind of you all and I appreciate you traveling this whole way to let me know.

PETEY

Aaron said they got ice cream.

SAL

What are you talking about?

PETEY

Aaron and Jermaine, when they were messengers for y'all, they said you gave them ice cream.

SAL

(Smiling)

I told them not to tell anyone about that. You boys go into the kitchen and grab whatever you want.

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**Sc. 1 End** Joey watches fondly as the boys run off, she becomes distracted by Jules and Angie who argue by the truck.

ANGIE

I just don't see how you think that's true.

JULES

Angie, I'm a better shot. Always have been.

CUZZO

Anthony, everyone calls me Cuzzo.  
Nice to meet you.

JOEY

So you guys...live here?

CUZZO

About two years now. After the  
floods, the whole area was  
abandoned. We been posted ever  
since.

JOEY

Who like, takes care of you?

Cuzzo laughs.

CUZZO

We take care of ourselves! Don't  
let age fool you, these are smart  
and capable boys. We grow food,  
make money salvaging materials and  
such. Sal and Fala showed me how to  
survive for five years.

JOEY

Beats a group home.

CUZZO

That's the idea.

Cuzzo and Sal share a smile. Cuzzo notices a kid, PETEY, 12  
in the corner reading a book. Cuzzo approaches him.

**Sc. 2 Start**

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CUZZO (CONT'D)

What you readin' Petey?

PETEY

Edgar Allen Poe.

CUZZO

You like it?

PETEY

Yeah it's kinda like spooky rap.

Cuzzo laughs and daps Petey.

CUZZO

Spooky rap! Yes I love it!

**Sc. 2 End** A phone rings, it's coming from Sal's pocket. Sal pulls the  
phone out and steps away from the others to answer it.

He points behind Beatrice, she turns and sees a group of youngsters laughing, one boy in the middle is dying of embarrassment. Beatrice smiles, looks back at the Youngster, lifts her shirt up and flashes the group of boys, who respond hilariously, one of them pantomimes fainting. Cuzzo laughs.

CUZZO

You're gonna give them heart attacks. Alright boys round up.

Cuzzo whistles. The boys make their way to the table.

CUZZO (CONT'D)

**Sc. 3 Start**

Mikey? Wanna lead us in grace?

PETEY

I think tonight is a perfect night to remember that we struggle not just as brothers-our sisters struggle as well. May you eat well tonight knowing that if you do ever need us-we'll be there for you.

**Sc. 3 End**

Mikey hangs his head, everyone follows suit. The silence of a meal too delicious to talk during takes hold of the space.