

# BETRAYAL

By Angelo Falcone

## The Cast

Prince Luke, son of the king and queen, friend of Angelo

Duke Erin, a friend of Angelo, Luke's rival

Baron Angelo, friends with Luke and Erin, a former army lieutenant

Baroness Isabella, Angelo's wife, Luke's ex-fiancee, Erin's former girlfriend and current lover

*(Prince Luke arrives to the country home of Baron Angelo and finds Duke Erin is there visiting.)*

### Luke

Angelo. Ho!

### Angelo

Hail to your lordship! Welcome!

### Luke

Baron Angelo, or do I forget myself?

### Angelo

The same, my lord, and your servant and friend ever.

*(Duke Erin approaches them.)*

### Erin

Prince Luke! What an honor to be here to greet you!

### Luke

Angelo, I was unaware of your company.

### Erin

Go to noble prince! Will you not address me? Though I was always better than you in a great many ways – your father made me a Duke – are you still mad because there is not a sport, game, or – love interest – that I cannot win from you? There is no shame in being second best!

**Luke**

You sir have used that serpent tongue and your good features to obtain whatever you want! You defile the most beautiful women in the kingdom! You bring shame upon nobility! You are a treacherous man!

**Angelo**

My lords! Though I am of the lowest rank in nobility, I hop you can at least respect the peace of my home!

**Luke**

Of course, Angelo, of course. But you should have been made a duke or marquis. I implored my father. But he had already been influenced... *(angrily looks at Erin)*

**Erin**

I would do no such thing! I am a friend to Angelo – Baron Angelo – as you are. I would not advocate against him... like that.

*(The beautiful Baroness Isabella walks in.)*

**Isabella** *(in a sensual voice)*

My lords.

**Luke and Erin**

Good morrow fair baroness.

**Angelo**

My love. Your beauty and radiance are beyond words!

**Isabella**

Uh, yes Angelo. The children have had their morning meal. Our daughter has your habit of awakening very early – before the cock crows! Our son, however, is more like me. He sleeps until the cock can crow no more!

**Luke** *(to both Angelo and Isabella)*

Your daughter has her mother's beauty and her father's eyes.

**Erin** *(gets in front and shoves Luke aside)*

Yes, but your son! He has his mother's smile and the most beautiful eyes and pale skin!

**Luke** *(rolling his eyes and turning to Angelo)*

Angelo, as to my arrival: my father wishes to see the accounting of his collection of taxes from the countryside.

**Angelo**

I shall prepare a report and deliver it with the collection to his majesty at once.

**Luke**

Shall we go to your study and discuss the details?

**Angelo**

Indeed. *(To Isabella)*: Pardon me, sweet one, I will work for about an hour and leave soon thereafter. *(To Erin)*: My lord. My good friend. Make yourself comfortable. My home is yours. There is plenty of food and drink. I gave the servants leave to spend time with their families, but Isabella can bring you anything you want...

**Erin**

I am well my good friend. I am happy to be here. I like the countryside. I am happy to be alive – thanks to you! You saved my life in that war with Spain and...

**Luke** *(interrupting)*

Yes! You saved us both. Had it not been for your bravery and determination in service to the crown, we would have both died!

**Angelo**

Please, my lords, please! What I did in that war was first and foremost out of loyalty to my friends – to both of you! I do not like war. I fought out of obligation. It was my duty to the crown. I only did with you what you would have done for me...

**Isabella** *(interrupting, in a irritated voice)*

Angelo?

**Angelo**

Yes, my sweet?

**Isabella**

His majesty, the king, awaits your reports. Please take with you the fine tapestries I had woven for her majesty, the queen, as well.

**Luke**

Yes, let us attend to my father's request and my mother's things.

*(Angelo and Luke leave the room to another part of the estate. Erin and Isabella are left alone.)*

**Erin**

You look ravishing my goddess of beauty...

**Isabella** *(irritated at Erin)*

Must you mention your features?

**Erin**

Of what?

**Isabella** (*irritated*)

You know the boy is yours. He is your son! Angelo's heritage is Sicilian and Spanish! The boy has your Irish eyes and pale skin! Why did our son inherit your evil beauty!

**Erin**

My blood is superior to that of Angelo's. No matter. I still cannot believe that you married Angelo! So many handsome men in the Kingdom and you married him? You could have just been happy being with me!

**Isabella** (*irritated, in a tantrum*)

I WAS with you! Along with hundreds of the most beautiful women in the kingdom! I was in love with Prince Luke! Luke was in love with me!

**Erin** (*very arrogantly*)

Yes. But you gave in to me. So much for saving yourself for Luke!

**Isabella** (*in a tantrum and in tears*)

I would have been a princess! A princess! I would have had Luke's children!

**Erin** (*smug*)

Or just be happy to be a duke's girlfriend...

**Isabella**

Now Luke is engaged to the Princess of Theron! The beautiful Princess Charlize!

**Erin** (*smug*)

I could have her too... if I wanted.

**Isabella**

But she is far away in another Kingdom. Prince Luke travels every week just to visit with her. You expect women to come to you!

**Erin**

Women will do what women do...

**Isabella** (*in tears, in a tantrum*)

Princess Charlize is a most fortunate girl!

**Erin**

Yes. But while you were engaged to Luke, you chose to cheat on him with me. Now, you have cheated on Angelo for years with me. You know that have hundreds of

women at my beck and call, yet you still give yourself to me. To me! You are no different than my other women. You cannot resist my impeccable physique...

**Isabella** (*angrily interrupts*)

Do not speak to me that way! I am a baroness! You shall address me properly!

**Erin** (*raising his voice, getting in her face*)

Address you properly? You were not so self-righteous the other night! Or the hundreds of nights Angelo was gone and I came over to...

(*Luke re-enters*)

**Luke** (*abruptly interrupting*)

Came over to what?

**Isabella** (*startled*)

Luke! Er... my lord!

**Luke** (*speaking as he approaches them*)

Angelo has left for the castle to meet with my parents. He is loyal to the king and queen. (*To Erin*): He is loyal to his friends. (*He turns to Isabella*): He is loyal to his wife. He wanted me to tell you that he sent your parents the monthly living allowance, along with generous gifts.

**Isabella** (*tears well up in her eyes*)

Oh, he is a saint. A good man, he is! I do not deserve to be his wife!

**Luke**

Why do you speak that way? Have you done unto Angelo as you did unto me?

**Erin** (*interrupts*)

Don't be preposterous!

**Luke**

No? What were you about to say?

**Erin**

Whatever do you mean?

**Luke** (*in disgust*)

You come in the evenings when Angelo is away on Business, why? You have the most beautiful women eating out of your hands and lips. Why are you passing the time with Isabella? The wife of the man who saved your life!

**Erin** (*voice booming*)

Do not question me! Angelo is my friend too! I have always protected him from the bullies of the kingdom!

**Luke**

As did I!

**Erin**

Yes. Until he became a master archer and swordsman. But I was always his friend. Of course, you know, he is shorter, smaller, weaker, slower, and kind of – you know – his looks are... shall I say...

**Isabella** *(in a loud voice at Erin)*

Don't you dare say it! I forbid you! Appearances are not everything! Angelo is a good man...

**Luke** *(disgusted, interrupts her)*

Oh, I do not have time for this! *(To Isabella)*: Angelo loves you – he deserves your respect. I have yet to forget your indiscretion with me. I only respect you as Angelo's wife. *(In an authoritative voice to Erin)*: Duke Erin! His majesty, my father, the king, also awaits your report on your diplomatic travels. You HAVE accomplished his diplomatic missions? Along with your dalliances and trysts with other princesses?

**Erin** *(holds back and speaks carefully)*

He shall have my report.

*(Erin and Luke look angrily at each other for 5 seconds)*

**Erin**

Prince Luke. Do not ruin Angelo's happiness by telling him of your suspicions. You have seen nothing. We have said nothing. You know nothing. That is the truth, is it not? The truth?

**Luke**

My duty is to my kingdom and to the Crown. My parents have my love and Angelo has my respect. I care for him.

**Erin**

I feel the same...

**Luke**

For others or for yourself?

**Erin**

As much as you truthfully did before the war...

**Luke**

That sir is... *(he pauses)*



**Erin** (*approaches the prince and gets in his face*)

What? History? Yes, it is dead, buried history. The truth, correct? Do we have an understanding? My Lord?

**Luke** (*backs up, angry, in acquiescence*)

I will keep Angelo's happiness in mind.

**Erin** (*smug*)

I trust you will, noble prince. I trust you will.

*(Luke leaves)*

**Isabella** (*surprised*)

What was all that about?

**Erin**

In the war, Luke did not want to lead his elite royal troops into battle. He knew there was an ambush; he was afraid he would die. So he had Angelo assigned to lead the attack. He called Angelo, "a lowly lieutenant of commoner parents" and he thought it better that Angelo should die than he. Angelo led the attack and all of his troops were killed. Angelo survived by hiding himself among the bodies of his men. The next day, Luke and I led an attack expecting an easy victory over the weakened Spanish. But they had brought in reinforcements, and Luke and I were both seriously wounded. We only survived because Angelo came out of hiding and dragged Luke and me to safety.

**Isabella**

Does Angelo know about all of this?

*(Angelo returns. He stays just outside the room and listens.)*

**Erin**

No. He will never know. Luke will say nothing.

**Isabella**

Neither will we. At least the girl is Angelo's daughter, even though the boy is not his son.

*(Angelo is shocked and tears well in his eyes.)*

**Erin**

Enough of this talk. Let us to bed. I want to amaze you!

*(A silent 4-second pause. Angelo sobs quietly.)*

**Isabella** *(frowns)*  
For only a few minutes?

*(Awkward silence for 3 seconds.)*

**Erin**  
A few amazing and heavenly minutes!  
*(Angelo, disgusted, slowly turns to leave.)*

**Isabella**  
Angelo may not look like you or Luke, but he knows how to love a woman. *(She turns away from Erin, and smiles.)* He knows how to please a woman.

*(Angelo turns back around and continues to listen.)*

**Isabella**  
He loves with such intensity and passion – for as long as I wish...

**Erin** *(shocked)*  
What on Earth are you saying? He is nothing compared to me! Surely, you do not love him as you love me!

**Isabella**  
I may not love him, but he satisfies me like no man ever has. More than Luke, more than you. A million times more. THAT, he will always know.

*(Angelo smiles.)*

-- THE END --