

1 EXT. DAY - COUNTRY ROAD

Collio, 1722

Evening, the sun is setting after a hot and humid August day among the Collio vineyards.

Far away, three figures are walking along a dirt road that climbs toward the top of a hill.

One of them is Quintino, a curly young man of 20 years or so, thin and skinny, and he's pulling a wooden cart. On the cart, a few canvas sacks, a small box, and Quintino's younger sister Lucia, very beautiful, her hair a bit tousled. A few steps ahead goes Zaccaria, their uncle. He is around forty, wears a pointed beard and black hair, takes an occasional gulp of wine from his canteen and swears back to his nephew to move on. After losing his job as a carpenter and having been thrown out by his wife, tired of being beaten by this drunkard, he embroiled his nephews into his wanderings by promising them a life of luxury and pleasure. However, very soon Quintino and Lucia realize that the so-called adventures are nothing but stealing, drinking and scrounging meals to carry on and wander without a goal. To them, their uncle is just a big liar.

QUINTINO

Uncle, a carriage is coming.

ZACCARIA

So what?

QUINTINO

Move aside, I'll push the cart
out of the way.

ZACCARIA

The carriage will move aside...

Before he is able to finish his sentence, they are overwhelmed by a cloud of gravel and dust. The cart goes out of control and hits Zaccaria, who falls heavily to the ground.

The carriage stops a few yards ahead and a well-dressed young man of around twenty-five appears at the window - his name is Carlo. He notices beautiful Lucia on the cart and addresses her gallantly:

CARLO

Is everything all right, young lady?
You must excuse me, I'm in a hurry.

QUINTINO

Yes, go ahead!