

A View From The Bridge

Alfieri is the chorus character and introduces the theme of **justice**: **'there were many here who were justly shot by unjust men. Justice is very important here'**

'this is the gullet of New York, swallowing the tonnage of the world' (tonnage ... = immigrants?)

Alfieri suggests the timeless quality of the situation — **'in some Caesar's year'** another lawyer sat as powerless as he is and **'watched it run its bloody course'**

Eddie is a **'longshoreman'**

Eddie is protective of Catherine — **'you're gettin' to be a big girl now ... you can't be so friendly, kid'** (shows concern for her welfare)

'I don't care who sees them goin' in and out so long as you don't...' — Eddie is savvy about illegal immigrants and how to hide them

Eddie shows vulnerability — **'I guess I just never figured ... that you would ever grow up'**

Catherine is not fully aware of Eddie's sense of loss/obsessiveness but comforts him — **'you sound like I'm goin' a million miles!'** (shows her warmth, compassion and kindness)

Vinny Bolzano story foreshadows tragedy later in play — **'the kid snitched?'** (everyone is horrified. Closeness of community and importance of justice shown — Bolzano is sent away)

Cousins arrive. Warm welcome; Marco is very polite and respectful of Eddie.

Catherine becomes attracted to Rodolpho — **'(enthralled) Leave him finish, it's beautiful'**

Rodolpho shows interest in Catherine — **'especially when they [girls, i.e. Catherine] are so beautiful'**

Eddie's animosity towards Rodolpho begins to become apparent — he calls him **'kid'** and his **'face [is] puffed with trouble'**

Eddie's feelings become apparent during his conversation with Alfieri — **'when I think of [Rodolpho] layin' his hands on her ... it's eatin' me out'**

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Eddie questions Rodolpho's motives for relationship w/ Catherine — **'he's only bowin' to his passport'**

Eddie suggests Rodolpho is **'weird'** — he is coming up with excuses

Eddie is sarcastic about Rodolpho — **'he sings, he cooks, he could make dresses...'**

Alfieri prepares us for the tragedy and foreshadows Eddie's feelings — **'She can't marry you, can she? [Eddie:] 'What're you talkin' about...'** (denial?)

Eddie shows strength by boxing with Rodolpho. Marco sees it for what it is (Eddie is not teaching him to box, he is asserting dominance) so he shows his superior strength with lifting of the chair — *'Marco is face to face with Eddie, ... the chair raised like a weapon over Eddie's head...'*

Rodolpho and Catherine are alone. She asks him whether he just wants his green card. He says no in that he wouldn't want to marry her if it meant living in Italy (ie. he wants to marry her, become an American citizen and then get work) — **'you think I would carry on my back the rest of my life a woman I didn't love just to be an American?'**

Rodolpho and Catherine make love. Eddie discovers this while drunk and tells Rodolpho to **'Pack it up. Go ahead... get outta here'** (tension between E and R increases)

'Watch your step submarine' — Eddie threatens Rodolpho

Alfieri feels powerless to do anything about the tragedy about to happen

He tries to dissuade Eddie from calling Immigration — **'Even those who understand you will turn against you'**

Eddie phones Immigration.

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Catherine shows independence — **'I'm gonna get married, Eddie'** — despite Eddie's attempts to get her to meet other guys.

Loss of respect for Eddie when Beatrice discovers betrayal — **'My God, what did you do?'**

Eddie shouts **'he's gonna take that back...'** but nobody is listening

Marco shows difference between law and justice — **'in my country, he would be dead by now'**

Alfieri is a mediator, like Beatrice was earlier in the play

'To promise not to kill is not dishonourable' [Marco:] **'No?'** — shows Marco's confusion with difference in legal systems between USA and Italy

'Only God makes justice' — trying to dissuade Marco from killing Eddie

'The law? All the law is not in a book.'

Eddie **'wants [his] name'** and respect from Marco

The truth is finally spelt out — **'you want something else, Eddie, and you can never have her'**

Eddie attempts to stab Marco, who turns knife on Eddie. Eddie dies, acknowledging Beatrice with affection — **'My B.!'**

Alfieri (closing words) — **'he allowed himself to be wholly known'** (i.e. he stuck to his values etc.) but **'it is better to settle for half, it must be!'** **'I mourn him ... with a certain ... alarm.'**

Eddie

'he ... puts his hands on her like a goddam thief' — emotional instability

'He was good to me...' — Catherine sees Eddie's positive side

'you gonna keep her in the house all her life?' — Beatrice highlights Eddie's over-protectiveness early on in the play

‘Give me the number of the Immigration Bureau’ — self-interest is one of Eddie’s motivating factors. He knows what he is doing is unjust but is prepared to break his code of honour for Catherine.

Catherine

‘she’s crazy to start work’ — desperate for independence

‘you wanna dance, Rodolpho?’ — she has the strength to show her independence despite Eddie’s discomfort

‘He’s a rat!’ — Catherine love and respect for Eddie turn to hate and disgust as she sides with Rodolpho

‘Eddie, I never meant to do nothing bad to you’ — Catherine feels guilty about tragic end

Beatrice

‘you’re an angel’ — warm-hearted

‘if you act like a baby and he be treatin’ you like a baby’ — keenly aware of Eddie’s obsessive nature and his inappropriate feelings

‘Come on, Katie, ask him’ — mediator

‘Beatrice covers him with her body’ — despite all he has done, Beatrice shows her love for him

Rodolpho

‘Teach me... teach me, Rodolpho, hold me’ — inspiring of trust and confidence

‘I wish to apologise’ — peacemaker; goes to great lengths to prevent tragedy

‘I sing Napolitan, jazz...’ — many talents

Marco

Very strong, loves his brother and family back in Italy

Wary of those around him (described as **‘suspicious’ ‘tender’ ‘square-built’**)

He spits in Eddie’s face to show his anger and contempt for him and his actions

'All the law is not in a book' — cannot accept the law and believes that he must uphold justice

Alfieri

Chorus character of Italian heritage — can relate to problems / empathise

He is an on-looker and cannot understand why **'being an intelligent man, [he] was so powerless to stop it'** — inevitability of tragedy

'You won't have a friend in the world' — despite Eddie not revealing intentions, Alfieri is aware and desperate to stop him

'Only God makes justice' — law doesn't always deliver justice; for that we have to rely on God.

'settle for half' — has learnt that compromise is better than all-out justice

Themes

Relationship between E and C — deteriorates from Eddie calling her **'Beautiful'** to her saying he belongs **'in the garbage'**

Manliness — **'when am I gonna be a wife again, Eddie?'** (Eddie's masculinity is called into question)

He is angered by Rodolpho **'stealing'** Catherine, Marco taking his 'name' and others seeing Rodolpho as **'weird'**

Justice and the Law — Alfieri highlights difference.

he thinks it is better to **'settle for half'**

Eddie and Marco are both confused why the law cannot help them and deliver justice

price to pay for total justice as seen in the play (this is why most **'settle for half'**)