

1. <1.01> In His Father's House

Angela's daughter Emma loves Turner Bates, a vineyard field hand, with whom she is in the *Falcon Crest Winery Building* one night; they both share a moment of passion. Drunk Jason, Emma's uncle, catches the lovers and demands Turner leave Emma alone. This causes Turner to tell Jason he and Emma will get married. Jason is shocked at the news and wants to prevent no-good Turner from making love to Emma, let alone getting married with her. The confrontation results in a fatal fight between the two men in the winery: Emma wants to prevent Jason from punching her lover and pushes her uncle against the railing, which breaks apart, and Jason Gioberti falls off the gallery. Turner Bates disappears, leaving behind a disturbed Emma, who immediately informs Angela. Jason Gioberti is dead. Without knowing the detailed circumstances of the accident, Angela tries to help her daughter, who is very upset, with the support by Chao-Li, Angela's butler. Chao-Li places Jason's dead body on the driver's seat of his truck and has the car run over a cliff where it explodes. Shortly afterwards, Sheriff Tobias comes along with the news that Jason Gioberti had a deadly accident in a case of drunk driving. Emma's sister Julia is worried about Emma's catatonic and disturbed reaction. Angela, however, says the only thing Emma needs is rest to deal with the loss of her uncle Jason.

At the Giobertis' New York home, Maggie receives a phone call from Angela that Jason is dead. When her husband, Chase, comes home, she has to tell him and their children, Cole and Vickie, the sad news. In order to attend Jason's funeral, Chase and Maggie travel to the Tuscany Valley where Chase spent a part of his childhood. After Father Paxton's speech at Jason's funeral at the Gioberti Family Cemetery, Angela delivers a eulogy. In attendance at the funeral are also Gus Nuñez, Jason's vineyardist, his wife Alicia and their son Mario. Chase and Gus have been friends since their childhood days.

Gus, who had a very good relationship to the late Jason, tells Maggie he thinks Jason's death was a mystery. Lance also wonders about Jason driving under the influence, as he tells his grandmother, Angela.

New York: Bob Harris, who has an affair with his student, Vickie Gioberti, wants to break up the relationship. Cole, who knows about Vickie's affair, comes to see Harris at his apartment where he meets Vickie. Cole, furious about Vickie's affair with her teacher, beats up Harris and is arrested by the police.

At *Falcon Crest*, Angela hands a pocket watch with the engraved falcon coat of arms to her nephew Chase. It is an heirloom that has always been passed on to the oldest Gioberti. Phillip Erickson, Jason and Angela's attorney, informs Chase he inherits approximately 10 per cent of the vineyards of *Falcon Crest* and the old *Gioberti House* where he was born. Angela offers Chase quite a decent amount of money for his inheritance because she secretly wants Chase to leave as soon as possible so she can have the whole estate for herself.

As Chase does not understand why he inherits a small portion of the *Falcon Crest* vineyards only, Erickson explains to him that, upon his father's death, a codicil to Jasper Gioberti's last will and testament became activated: Jasper had stipulated the succession be altered in the event of death of one of his children. That codicil stipulates that the *Gioberti House* and its surrounding 50 acres, the original founders vineyard of *Falcon Crest*, will pass to the heirs of the first of Jasper's children to die — i.e. either Angela or Jason. The balance of the estate — the other 500 acres and the *Victorian Mansion* — are left to his surviving child, i.e. Angela or Jason. As Phillip continues to point out, the only other provision of Jasper's will is that his surviving child would only retain *Falcon Crest* in the event of the natural death of the other, i.e. Jason. So if Jason had died under suspicious circumstances, Chase, as his heir, would be the sole beneficiary of Jasper's estate. This is exactly the reason why Angela tries to keep Chase from coming anywhere near Emma because she fears her daughter might tell him about the circumstances surrounding Jason's death. Angela wants to cover how her brother really died at any rate in order to keep her share of *Falcon Crest*.

Chase recollects childhood memories with Maggie later. They pay a visit to the old *Gioberti House* where Jason lived. In the dilapidated home, Chase and Maggie find all the letters Chase sent his father; unfortunately, Chase did not have a very good relationship to him. He wrote him often, but never received any reply after his decision to become a pilot because Jason Gioberti always wanted for Chase to run *Falcon Crest* one day. Chase is shocked when he learns Angela fired Gus, who had been working for Jason for years; he rehires him immediately at his own cost.

When Chase and Maggie later learn about Cole being arrested, they fly back to New York earlier. As Cole does not want to reveal the truth about Vickie's affair to his parents, he tells Chase that he had his own motives for punching Harris. Vickie, however, finally tells her mother she has been having an affair with her teacher, which was the reason for Cole beating him up. Chase is afraid his family might break apart if he does not spend more time with them. He thinks he has the opportunity to start over again and straighten out his family affairs by giving up his job as an airline pilot and moving to *Falcon Crest* with Maggie and the kids. So Chase, Maggie, Vickie and Cole move into the old *Gioberti House* shortly afterwards. Chase wants to renovate the house with Cole's help. Cole looks forward to the future in the Tuscany Valley, but Vickie has her problems with the challenge of living at a wine growing estate.

Angela is furious about Chase's intention to live at *Falcon Crest* with his wife and two children. She wants her grandson, Lance, to support her plans to get rid of Chase and his family by first earning their friendship...