

# ANDRÀ TUTTO BENE... NOT REALLY

**Andrà tutto bene ...** three Italian well-wishing words shouted by hundreds of thousands of people from their balconies. Three words used to uplift the morale of a nation that has seen its population decimated by an invisible, and consequently difficult to fight, enemy. Three words that, thanks to TV & Press, entered our home, here in America, three words cherished by Americans who understood that after Italy (and Europe) it was going to be their turn. Three words that brought ITALIANS and AMERI-CANS closer together, that made, for once (not counting food & fashion) Italy a model to follow, to study, to learn ... if only on HOW AND WHAT NOT TO DO during the time of CoronaVirus. Three words that for us Italians have the same importance as *Let's Roll* pronounced by Todd Beamer aboard United Airlines Flight 93 (on September 11 2001); an important phrase, which marked, for better or for worse (fate will tell us) a popular turning point, a movement of an entire nation (usually disintegrated and dissociated like few others), a wick of hope in a terrible moment of Humanity.

From that fateful moment when CNN put together Mr. Smith and Boccelli **Andrà tutto bene** became yours **Everything will be ok** mostly because a few days later the damned CoronaVirus, aka COVID 19, aka The Beast, jumped the ocean and came here, in my backyard, and yours. And then the first victims, faceless and nameless people that we didn't know, that spurred the first non-believer conspiracy theorists to ask "*Do you know anyone who died? Any of them your friends? Is it for real?*" We ALL realized that CV19 was going to destroy life as we knew it, and most importantly, the lives of EVERYONE in its path. **We saw** what Covid19 did in Bergamo's hospitals, and decided to follow up with a TO DO LIST with rules like STAY AT HOME, self isolate, be careful, get masks, gloves, disinfectant (@ANTEBELLUM screening, when PR told me, '*please enjoy and take anything you want*' - she meant food beverages - I took a sample of Purell!) BECAUSE we were going to take this shit as serious as possible, knowing that ours and mostly YOUR behaviors would have determined the finale of...the Real Waking Dead.

Almost 2 months into this Corona Virus, which started with a few bumps - most publicized Toilet Paper vs Guns Ammo - we journalists realized something went almost unnoticed by the entire USA population if not THANKS to reporters who want to explore who where when what why. So, after knowing of **Kirkland** and its 35 deaths in the same retirement home; **New Rochelle's** forced military isolation (please allow me to mention movies like *Outbreak* and *Close Encounter of the Third Kind*); the firing & martial law case of **Commander Crozier** who just wanted the safety of his own sailors (*Mutiny of the Bounty*); knowing of the Chicago's **Cook County State Prison**, officially considered (from 2 people infected, the count went up to more than 360 infected in 2 weeks time) the worst *unknown* center of contagion in USA; **Louisiana's** Mardi Gras; spring breakers on the beaches of **Florida**, the willingness to sacrifice an "elderly grandfather" for the good of the country by **Texas** Governor; to the higher mortality of **black & brown people** in "poverty stricken states", to the release of \$ \$ AID to ...not the **SBA** but to the **Big Corporations**, to our \$1,200 **IRS tax relief** check (few people have gotten as of yet), to mass **hysteria** and **soul hoarding**, to the last twitter exhorting Americans to **Liberate** Minnesota; to the initial BBQ vs Block Parties vs basketball vs jogging

vs surfing vs restaurants vs gig economy vs stimulus vs freelancer vs immigrant;  
to the Trump vs Fauci vs Respirators vs Science vs Cuomo vs Newsom vs  
Whitmer vs ... STOP. BASTA! AIN'T THAT ENOUGH?

How can we say **Andrà tutto bene** where and when after *la-la-land ideas and kumbaya speeches* we are left to the harsh reality of GOING ON WITH OUR LIFE, financially, monetarily. Sentences like "*We are all in this together. We're all going to be better people when this is over. We can do better*".... are ALL BULLSHIT, all LIES, especially when **RENTS** are due month after month (moratorium is for chicken shits), when **BILLS** are still piling up (no one has given in nothing), when **CREDIT CARDS** suggest you ...*to kindly use their online payments* to for your due interest (fuck you), when **STIMULUS** money aint' coming in; when **SPRINT** won't explain the \$17 x months in excess!;; when **SPECTRUM** does not have a heart; when **freelancers** are left to die with forms to fill; where **EED** does not work (unless you had a job), when **unemployment** still won't cover your bills... SO YOU SEE, WE ARE NOT GOINT TO BE BETTER, WE ARE ALONE, THEY (institutions) ARE NOT GOING TO HELP US ...THEY DON'T CARE .. but mostly, please realize that **WE ARE NOT IN THIS TOGETHER AT ALL.**

The absolutely positive FACT about this pandemic is the real human touch. I see PEOPLE helping other PEOPLE. Doctors&patients. People who don't have food. Who cannot go out. Who are sick and alone. Who need testing. Who are being helped by people who understand that you need help. And for ME, in my little world, left alone to die by my magazines, my job, my government (paid all my taxes since 1987), my institutions, my lousy bank, the only real help came from someone who listened, believed me and attended to my needs. It's you, LA PRESS CLUB, you who I didn't even belong to, you who gifted me real \$\$ on MAY 1ST, on International Worker's Day, the day of the working people, a day to celebrate, even though most people don't even have a job right now. It is you who came to my rescue, and it is you who I THANK from the bottom of my heart.