

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION

This chapter presents a comprehensive analysis on how the concept of chosen family is portrayed in the film *Fast Five* (2011). The analysis is divided into two main sections: intrinsic and extrinsic analysis. Additionally, cinematography elements such as character shots and dialogue will also be used to support the analysis in this film.

4.1. Intrinsic Analysis

4.1.1 Theme: Family Beyond Blood

In *Fast Five*, the main theme is “family beyond blood.” The film shows that strong family bonds don’t always come from genetics, but from loyalty, trust, and shared experiences. Through the main characters, the story shows that family is defined not by genetics but by the depth of connection and committed to each other. This is evident in Dom’s toast, as quoted:

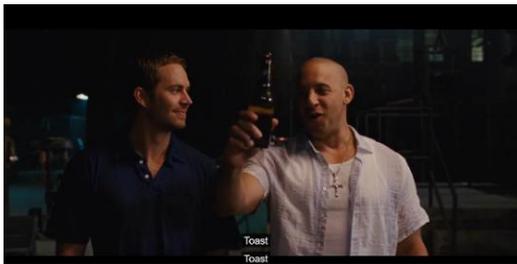
Dom : Money will come and go, but the most important thing in life will always be the people in this room, right here, right now. Salute, mi familia.
(*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:27:36 – 01:27:56)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that Dom redefines the meaning of family, claiming that emotional connection and shared values surpass blood ties. In Picture 4.1, using a two shot, Dom is shown making this toast during a barbecue, which visually captures the unity and solidarity of this chosen family.

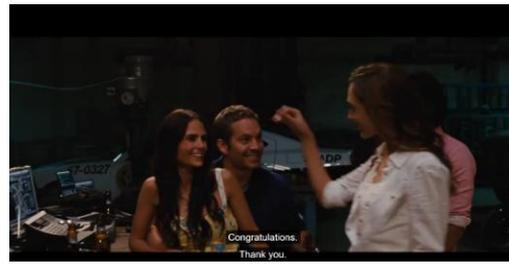
The happy celebration of Mia’s pregnancy by the crew, as seen in Picture 4.2 using a medium shot, further shows how non-biological family can take part in

traditional celebrations, such as welcoming new life.

These scenes show that *Fast Five* offers their own definitions of family and argues that the most important relationships are often those who choose to stay together rather than inherit by birth. The idea of “family beyond blood” offers an underlying message of loyalty, sacrifice, and acceptance.



Picture 4.1. Dom gives a toast at a barbecue gathering before their big heist (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:27:25)



Picture 4.2. The crew reacts to Mia's pregnancy (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:27:06)

4.1.2. Character and Characterization

4.1.2.1. Dominic Toretto

Dominic “Dom” Toretto is portrayed as the clear leader of the chosen family in *Fast Five*. Played by Vin Diesel, his strong build and calm, steady demeanor make him someone people naturally follow. In Picture 4.3, using medium shot, Dom's usual clothing is shown, which consists of cargo pants, white t-shirts, and his cross necklace, which shows his strong character and street racing heritage.



Picture 4.3. Dom reacting to the vault opening (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:55:26 - 01:55:27)

One of Dom's characteristics is his strong commitment to family, which often extends beyond biological ties. As quoted:

Vince : Listen, Dom... I know you're all set you for this job tomorrow...but if you need an extra hand, I could...
 Dom : You're in.
 Dom : There's always room for family.
 Vince : Thank You.
 (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:25:13 - 01:25:43)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that this line, stated when Dom forgives Vince, represents Dom's belief in second chances based on loyalty.

Dom's role as protector is repeatedly shown throughout the story. As seen in Picture 4.5, using an over-the-shoulder shot that highlights Dom's sacrificial nature as he faces potential threats.



Picture 4.4. Dom putting himself at risk to ensure Brian and Mia's safety (1)
 (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:35:12)

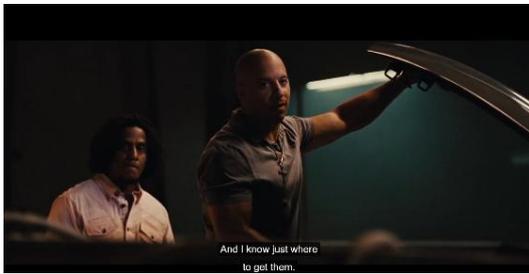


Picture 4.5. Dom putting himself at risk to ensure Brian and Mia's safety (2)
 (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:35:14)

Referring to the Picture 4.5, this scene highlights Dom's self-sacrificial nature and protective instinct toward his family. With law enforcement closing in, Dom tells Brian and Mia to "head south" while he'll "lead them away," willingly putting himself at risk to ensure their safety. This moment is important because Mia is pregnant, making Dom's sacrifice not just for his sister and friend, but for their unborn child as well. The scene reinforces Dom's character as the family protector

and his acceptance of Brian as family, demonstrating the franchise's core theme that family bonds take priority over personal safety.

Dom's paternal leadership is also captured in Picture 4.6 and Picture 4.7, using a two to medium shot, when he declares, "Let's take a ride, boys," demonstrating his ability to lead and provide direction in times of uncertainty. This shows his status not just as a leader, but as a trusted father figure in the chosen family.



Picture 4.6. Dom asserts leadership (1)
(*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:19:03)



Picture 4.7. Dom asserts leadership (2)
(*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:19:08)

4.1.2.2. Brian O'Connor

Brian O'Connor, played by the late Paul Walker, presents a visual contrast to Dom with his lighter build, blonde hair, and more casual California style that reflects his background as both former cop and an outsider who has entered into Dom's world as seen in Picture 4.8, using medium shot. His appearance changes throughout the film as he transitions from his past identity as a cop to accepting his new role within the Toretto family and as a future father.



Picture 4.8. Brian listening to Dom's story
(*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:38:35 - 00:38:38)

Brian's character focuses on his struggle with fatherhood and familial responsibility. This transformation is shown in the scene where Mia reveals her pregnancy. As quoted:

Mia : I'm pregnant. I already lost my family once. I'm not going through that again.

Brian : I'm not going anywhere.
(*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:35:24 - 00:36:01)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that his response symbolizes a promise not only to Mia but to the family they are building together. Picture 4.9, showing Brian hugging Mia in a close-up shot, highlights this shift in his priorities.



Picture 4.9. Brian comforts Mia after the pregnancy announcement (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:35:40 - 00:35:45)

4.1.2.3 Vince

Vince's character represents how loyalty in chosen family can endure moments of betrayal and emerge stronger through forgiveness. At first, he distances himself from Dom and the crew out of fear and self-interest, showing how even the closest bonds can be tested. Later, Vince returns at a critical moment to help Dom and Mia, risking his own safety to make amends. This act of redemption, acknowledged and accepted by Dom, illustrates that chosen families are not defined by perfect behavior but by the willingness to forgive and recommit to one another.

Vince's initial betrayal creates the film's most significant internal family

conflict. When Dom discovers Vince's secret communication with external parties, the confrontation reveals the pain of broken trust within chosen family, as quoted:

Dom : I almost wish I didn't see that. Almost.
 Vince : Now, wait, Dom.
 Dom : Mia was on that train. My sister!
 Vince : Come on, Dom! I wouldn't do anything to hurt her, you know that.
 Vince : I thought the job was for the cars! I didn't know! All they want is the chip.
 Dom : You should've told me, Vince.
 (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:25:03 - 00:25:33)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that this dialogue shows how betrayal within chosen family carries deeper emotional weight than ordinary deception because it violates the fundamental trust that holds non-biological families together. Vince's fear and desperation in this moment show his awareness of potentially losing his family's trust.

In the scene of Vince's final sacrifice and death, shows the statement about chosen family bonds go beyond individual survival. In his final moments, he entrusts his son's future to Dom seen in the Picture 4.10 and 4.11 using choker shots.



Picture 4.10. Vince' final words to Dom (1) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:36:18)



Picture 4.11. Vince' final words to Dom (2) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:36:18)

This scene shows that Vince named his son after Dom (Dominic/Nico), meaning Dom's role as the child's father figure. Dom's response acknowledges that their brotherhood was never truly broken, demonstrating how chosen family love endures despite temporary conflicts.

4.1.2.4. Mia Toretto

Mia's character serves as the heart of the chosen family, functioning as Dom's biological sister, Brian's partner, and the crew's support. Her pregnancy transforms the crew's dynamic from survival to focusing on the future.

Mia's determination on maintaining family harmony during a crisis reveals her understanding that chosen family requires support. Her promise-seeking behavior shows how chosen families must repeatedly recommit to each other, as quoted:

Mia : Dom? Promise me we stick together.
Dom : Yeah, baby sis, promise.
(*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:35:24 - 00:36:01)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that chosen family bonds require verbal and emotional confirmation, unlike biological ties assumed by birth.

4.1.2.5. Luke Hobbs

Luke Hobbs portrays the transformation from antagonistic threat to ally of the Toretto crew, demonstrating that family bonds can extend beyond initial conflict through mutual respect and shared values.

Hobbs initially represents as the law, opposite to the chosen family, Hobbs gradually recognizes the legitimacy and strength of the crew's familial bonds. His transformation begins when he witnesses their protective loyalty firsthand, as seen

in the Picture 4.12 using medium shot.



Picture 4.12. Hobbs' decision to help Dom's crew (1) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:38:31)



Picture 4.13. Hobbs' decision to help Dom's crew (2) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:38:47)

Hobbs acknowledgment to Dom “I’ll ride with you, Toretto” marks the beginning of Hobbs' understanding that the Toretto crew operates as a genuine family rather than merely common criminals.

The pivotal moment in Hobbs' character occurs when he chooses to assist rather than arrest Dom during their ending chase. As quoted:

Hobbs : You know I can't let you two go.
 Hobbs : The way I see it, you've earned yourselves 24 hours. Because come tomorrow, I will find you.
 Hobbs : Toretto! I'll see you soon.
 Dom : No, you won't.
 (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:52:43 - 01:53:29)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that this decision illustrates how chosen family values can change the perspective of legal and professional obligations, earning respect even from initial adversaries.

4.1.3. Plot

The plot of *Fast Five* follows an action-heist story, focusing on the creation of chosen family. Each plot point deepens the bonds among characters through acts of reunion, loyalty, and sacrifice.

The film begins with Dom's escape and his reunion with his sister Mia, as quoted: "God, I'm so happy you're okay." Dom responds: "Don't worry about me." Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that this conversation, as seen in Picture 4.15 both using a two shot, establishes Dom and Mia's sibling bond of the story.



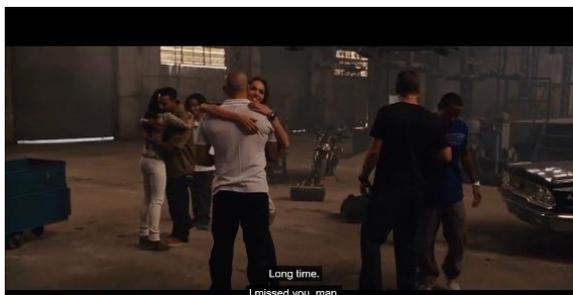
Picture 4.14. Dom and Mia reunite after Dom's escape (1) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:10:43)



Picture 4.15. Dom and Mia reunite after Dom's escape (2) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:10:47)

Dom's leadership is seen during the crew assembly scene. The plot makes it clear that what matters most isn't just technical skills, but the history, trust, and loyalty they share. The introduction of characters like Tej, Roman, Han, and others reaffirms that Dom's leadership is based on respect and shared values, not coercion.

Dom isn't just assembling a team, but also reuniting a scattered family with a shared goal establishing his role as a leader but also sets the stage for the mission that will pull this chosen family even closer seen in Picture 4.16 using a full shot.



Picture 4.16. The first meeting of the crew Dom assembles (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:43:39 - 00:43:43)

The final act of sacrifice comes during the vault chase. As quoted: “You’re a father now, Brian. Take care of Mia for me.” Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that Dom’s decision to detach Brian’s cable, letting him escape, highlights the theme of selflessness. This is shown in Picture 4.17, using a choker shot.



Picture 4.17. Dom sacrifices himself during the vault escape (1) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:48:56)



Picture 4.18. Dom sacrifices himself during the vault escape (2) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:49:07)

4.1.4. Conflict

4.1.4.1. Internal Conflict

The internal conflicts in *Fast Five* are primarily explored through the characters' mental struggles of uncertainty. These conflicts manifest most powerfully through Brian O'Connor’s and Mia’s emotional journey.

This internal conflict emerges when Mia’s struggle to reveal her pregnancy.

As quoted:

Brian : Don’t worry. Everything’s going to be okay.
Mia : I know.
(*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:21:56 - 00:22:14)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that this dialogue reveals Mia’s internal conflict. While working on a car with Dom and Brian, Mia is visibly struggling to communicate her pregnancy. Using a medium shot that highlighting her hesitation, showing how hard it is for her to find the right

moment.

Brian misinterprets Mia's concerned look, assuming she's worried about the danger they're in. Her unclear response "I know" carries uncertain meaning, acknowledging Brian's comfort about their plan, but internally she's carrying the weight of her pregnancy something she hasn't shared yet.

This moment of internal conflict represents more than just personal anxiety. It symbolizes the turning point of their chosen family the transition from a group of fugitives to a potential traditional family. The scene introduces an important subplot that will change Brian and Mia's relationship.

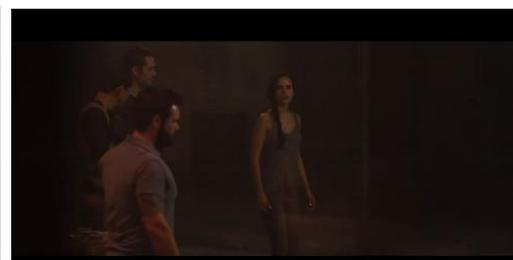
4.1.4.2. External Conflicts

The external conflict emerges during the big fight with Hobbs, Dom's protective instincts took over. When Dom heard Mia's scream calling his name. Barely in control, Dom looks up and sees her being held at gunpoint by Hobbs' men.

Referring to this scene, the explanation regarding the scene is that this moment triggers Dom's protective response. In Picture 4.19 and Picture 4.20, using a two shot and full shot, the scene captures Dom's intense reaction to his sister being threatened. When Dom sees Mia and Brian held at gunpoint by Hobbs' men, it directly connects to his earlier promise to Mia that they would "stick together."



Picture 4.19. Dom's intense fight against Hobbs (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:30:41)



Picture 4.20. Mia and Brian held at gunpoint by Hobbs' men (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:30:43)

4.2. Extrinsic Analysis

4.2.1 Chosen Family in *Fast Five*

Kath Weston's book *Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship* from 1991 introduced the idea of “chosen families,” which are families formed through emotional bonds instead of biology or legal ties. This concept is reflected in *Fast Five* focuses on the formation, strengthening, and solidification of the chosen family.

4.2.1.1. Formation of the Chosen Family in *Fast Five*

The formation of chosen family in *Fast Five* emerges through three critical moments Dom reunites with Mia, Mia's pregnancy revelation, and the crew assembly. Each moment demonstrates how chosen families develop through deliberate kinship and emotional support rather than biological relations.

The chosen family's foundation begins when Dom reunites with Mia, as quoted:

Mia : Dom!
 Mia : God, I'm so happy you're okay.
 Dom : Don't Worry about me.
 (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:10:39 - 00:10:43)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that the reunion between Dom and Mia shows biological family and Dom's role as the protective older brother as the chosen family's core. This reunion shows their relief of being together again.

The chosen family's emotional foundation deepens during the pregnancy reveal scene. Using an over the shoulder shot in Picture 4.21 to Picture 4.22, Mia's pregnancy announcement "I'm pregnant." followed by Brian's protective response, "I'm not going anywhere," illustrate the commitment to raising their unborn child.



Picture 4.21. Mia announces her pregnancy to Dom and Brian (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:35:24)



Picture 4.22. Brian comforts Mia after the pregnancy announcement (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:35:44)

Referring to the Picture 4.21 and 4.22, this scene highlights that vulnerability creates closeness within the chosen family, as members must trust each other with life changing moments. The pregnancy announcement changes the trio's focus from individual survival to familial responsibility for the next generation.

Weston emphasizes that chosen families fulfill crucial emotional support functions traditionally associated with biological families. This is shown when Brian reveals his fear of fatherhood, as quoted:

- Brian : "I don't remember him yelling, I don't remember him smiling. I can't even really remember what he looked like anymore, to be honest with you."
 Dom : "You ain't gonna be like that, Brian."
 (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:38:01 - 00:39:29)

Referring to the quotations, the explanation regarding the quotes is that this dialogue shows how chosen families provide the emotional support and guidance that biological families may have failed to offer, creating healing relationships that address past trauma.

The crew assembly scene shows chosen family formation as a deliberate, selective process. Dom and Brian don't randomly recruit team members but specifically choose individuals with past history and skills. As quoted:

Han : Nice digs.
 Dom : Ritz was full.
 Brian : Tej, man Good to see you.
 Tej : Long time, brother.
 Brian : Dom, this is Tej. Best circuit man on the East Coast.
 Brian : And this is Roman. Known him since juvie. Did some work together in Miami.
 Dom : Yeah. I heard about you.
 Han : So what's this all about, Dom?
 Tej : Yeah, why did you drag us halfway around the world?
 Dom : Cause we got a job.
 (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:43:32 - 00:44:05)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that the crew assembly scene shows that chosen family formation is intentional and selective, based on shared experiences and past history.

4.2.1.2. Strengthening Chosen Family in *Fast Five*

The strengthening phase of chosen family in *Fast Five* occurs through moments such as the heist planning, Dom forgives Vince and welcomes him back, the crew's reaction to Mia's pregnancy, and Vince's redemption.

The heist planning serves as the primary mechanism for deepening relationships. Working toward a common goal requires trust and communication, that mirror traditional family. This moment occurs when Brian tells Roman he needs to pose as a cop. As quoted:

Roman : Who's the sucker who's gotta do that?
 Roman : Why me?
 Brian : Cause you got the biggest mouth.
 (*Fast Five*, 2011, 00:56:03 - 00:56:21)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that this playful exchange between Brian and Roman shows how the crew supports each other with humor and affection. This playful joke represents the deep understanding and serves as a metaphor for family interaction, where each member contributes unique skills while working toward a common goal.

The resolution of the conflict between Dom and Vince shows how chosen families work through betrayal of trust. Unlike biological families where blood ties naturally create pressure for forgiveness, chosen families must actively choose forgiveness. As quoted:

Vince : Listen, Dom... I know you're all set you for this job tomorrow...but if you need an extra hand, I could...
 Dom : You're in.
 Dom : There's always room for family.
 Vince : Thank You.
 (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:25:13 - 01:25:43)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that This moment shows that chosen family bonds can survive betrayal when two people demonstrate real regret and renewed loyalty. Dom's instant acceptance of Vince back into the crew shows that chosen families value repair over punishment.

The pregnancy announcements during the barbecue scene transforms the crew from common criminals into a celebrating family shows emotional support through family celebration. Traditional family celebrations legitimize their chosen family status. As quoted:

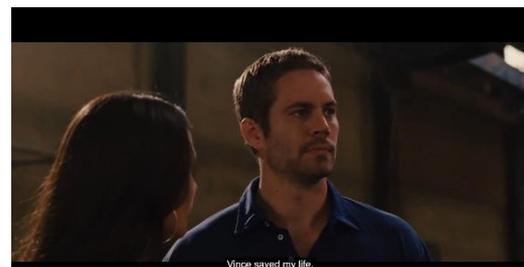
Dom's Crew (Various) : You're having a baby?! Shut up! Are you serious? Congratulations!"
 (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:27:06 - 01:27:10)

Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that the crew's reaction to Mia's pregnancy announcement. Their excitement and joy show how this chosen family celebrates important life events just like traditional families do. The crew's participation in this intimate family moment shows complete integration into the Toretto family.

The strengthening process leads to in moments where family members risk personal safety for others' protection. These sacrificial acts prove the depth of their familial commitment, as seen in a scene where Vince risks his own safety to save Mia from getting hurt at the market, as seen in the Picture 4.23 using medium to choker shot.



Picture 4.23. Vince shows his loyalty by saving Mia (1) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:22:52)



Picture 4.24. Vince shows his loyalty by saving Mia (2) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:23:30)

4.2.1.3. Solidification of Chosen Family in *Fast Five*

The final phase shows permanent chosen family bonds through ultimate sacrifice, generational responsibility, and legacy creation that making family continuity beyond individual members. Vince's death scene shows the everlasting nature of chosen family bonds through his final request to Dom in Picture 4.25 to 4.26, using a medium to choker shot. As quoted: "You were always my brother. I got eyes on Nico now." Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the

quote is that Vince's death and Dom's promise to care for Nico shows how chosen family responsibilities surpass individual lifespans.



Picture 4.25. Dom's final farewell to Vince (1) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:36:58)



Picture 4.26. Dom's final farewell to Vince (2) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:37:10)

This exchange proves chosen family responsibilities surpass individual lifespans. Dom's promise to care for Nico demonstrates how chosen families create lasting support that continue across generations.

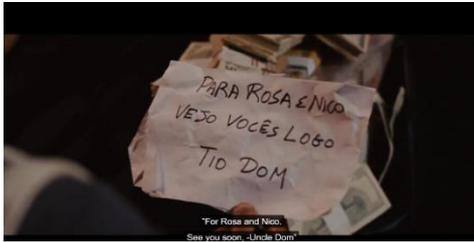
Dom's ultimate sacrifice during the vault chase prioritizes the family's future over his own survival, as quoted:

Dom	: You're a father now, Brian. Take care of Mia for me.
Brian	: I'm not leaving you!
	(<i>Fast Five</i> , 2011, 01:48:40 - 01:49:01)

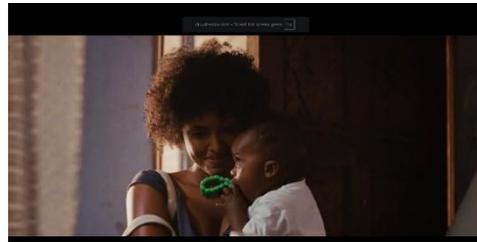
Referring to the quotation, the explanation regarding the quote is that Dom's willingness to sacrifice himself for Brian and Mia's unborn child shows chosen family focusing on the next generation. His recognition of Brian as "father" acknowledges the family's growth and Brian's full integration.

The financial and emotional legacy shows Dom keeping his word by giving his heist earnings to Vince's family seen in Picture 4.27 to 4.28, using close-up shot to two shot which shows Vince's wife and son Nico. The gift of the heist money to

Vince's family shows how chosen family creates long term support.



Picture 4.27. Rosa and Nico receive Dom's heist share (1) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:56:24)

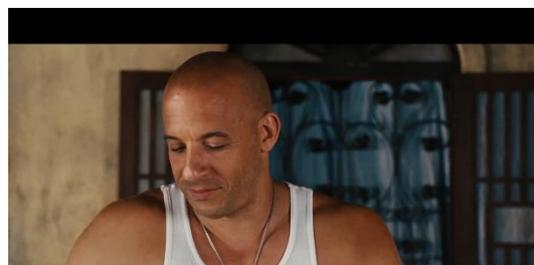


Picture 4.28. Rosa and Nico receive Dom's heist share (2) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 01:56:30)

The final beach scene confirms the chosen family's successful achievement of both freedom and unity, when Dom realizing that “That's the happiest I've ever seen my sister” understood the positive change in Mia's life now that she has both security and family seen in Picture 4.29, using over the shoulder. The film's conclusion shows the chosen family achieving both physical and emotional freedom to build their future together.



Picture 4.29. Dom's acknowledges the positive change in Mia's life (1) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 02:00:26)



Picture 4.30. Dom's acknowledges the positive change in Mia's life (2) (*Fast Five*, 2011, 02:00:37)