



THE FANTASTIC 5

Episode Summaries

EPISODE 1

A press conference in a luxury hotel in Ancona introduces four stars of Paralympic athletics from the Nova Lux Sports Club: GRETA (25), with a prosthetic left leg, CHRISTIAN (24), in a wheelchair, MARZIA (22), blind, and ELIA (18), with a brain injury. Center stage, along with the athletes, stands Director CALABRESI (45), a stern yet charismatic woman. Shortly after the refreshments, we see her conferring with Freddie (45), Nova Lux's doctor: it's three months until the European Championships, and Nova Lux doesn't have a coach. But Freddie has an idea: maybe he has just the right man in mind.

Now we see “the right man”, Riccardo (45), coaching an athletics team of kids under 12. Along with them he sings and dances awkwardly to a song from the past, “*Si può dare di più*” [You Can Give More] – it's his way of releasing tension before an important event. It's all taking place under the embarrassed gazes of his daughters GIORGIA (17) and ANNA (15): rock-n-roll rebel the former, full of hopes and dreams the latter.

When he gets Freddie's call, Riccardo has no doubts and accepts immediately: for him it is the opportunity he has always been waiting for... while Giorgia and Anna feel far from thrilled about the new life that awaits them with their father. In fact, in recent years they have lived with their mother in Germany – after Riccardo, obsessed with work, decided to stay in Italy, thus leading to the family breakup: his daughters have never forgiven him. But since their mother died a few months earlier in a car accident, Giorgia and Anna have gone back to live with Riccardo and will move to Nova Lux with him, however reluctantly.

Arriving at the sports center, Riccardo meets his four athletes, who – each of them more self-involved than ever – do not get along, nor do they consider that new coach worthy of consideration. The only positive note for Riccardo is meeting Laura, a probationary athlete who has recently finished rehabilitation after the amputation of her left leg. Laura is gentle and a little shy, very different from the others; and above all she is intimidated by

Greta, who for years has been her role model. Riccardo proposes a challenge between the two girls in the 200 meters: Greta wins, but immediately after the finish line she feels unwell. Even though she makes some excuse, saying it is nothing, Riccardo notices a bruise on her leg, which looks like a mark from an injection.

Giorgia and Anna, in the meantime, get to know Elia, each separately: both are smitten by the boy's good looks and charm. Elia, for his part, seems to get along great with Giorgia, but right in front of her he has a "blackout" due to his disability, a moment of temporary unconsciousness in which his body is unable to respond to the commands of his brain. Marzia, who is blind but good at hearing everything, makes fun of Elia: for once he seems to really like a girl: Giorgia! Elia feels stung. To prove the contrary to her, and to distance himself from Giorgia, in front of whom he felt vulnerable for the first time, he makes a bet with Marzia: he will manage to take Anna, her little sister, to bed before the European Championships.

Meanwhile, at Nova Lux, Riccardo meets Alessandra, the center's physiotherapist, an easygoing and uninhibited woman, who immediately strikes Riccardo with her forwardness. However, Riccardo has no time for chatting, partly because Calabresi is on the rampage: he must no longer take any initiative the way he did concerning the competitiveness between Greta and Laura. He will only be with them for three months – she informs him – then Alessandro Reali, a coach with three Olympic gold medals, will take over. But he needn't worry – she will pay him according to their two-year contract. Riccardo is speechless: for him it's not a matter of money. He just wants to help his athletes.

And so, he continues to investigate Greta's situation and discovers that the girl has falsified the results of her analysis: she is suffering from septicemia, and if she does not get operated on immediately, she could very well die. Riccardo has no choice but to tell Calabresi everything, and in fact, the next morning Freddie informs Greta that she must leave the center. The girl, in tears, angrily accosts Riccardo: he has ruined her life forever – she tells him – he has taken away the only thing she had: sports. Just then, however, Greta feels very ill and falls to the ground. A rush to the hospital and a subsequent operation save her life, but jeopardize her sporting career forever. Riccardo tries to comfort her, telling her that he too thought years ago that there was nothing else in life but sports: *my passion had become an obsession*. But then he realized that only passion, not obsession, leads to happiness.

Still, Riccardo's words fail to provide Greta any sense of solace. And as if that weren't enough, the other athletes also seem riled up: revealing her disease or not was Greta's decision – they tell him – he had no right to interfere. Calabresi, on the other hand, is very clear: he was right to reveal the truth, but Nova Lux has lost an important asset. Greta will be replaced by Laura, but no one should take anything for granted: the four athletes must still qualify for the European Championships. Riccardo's response is frank: she can go ahead and kick him out after three months, but he will respect his contract until the end. He is a coach, and he will coach, just as his contract says. Because it's true that those kids

are champions, but they're also unhappy. And no one knows better than him that *the only way to win is to be happy*.

EPISODE 2

In the past, we see the first meeting between Christian and his current partner and manager Isabella: it is the first light of dawn in a disco. Christian dances while Isabella works as cashier. He approaches her, they exchange a few words, perhaps he even manages to get her to agree to a date, when a hooded man bursts into the room, threatening everyone with a gun. He points it at Isabella, ordering her to give him the money... and then Christian, to save her, throws himself on the robber, and in their struggle, he is shot in the back.

In the present, Christian, now in a wheelchair, appears to be having difficulty with his times, with Isabella watching, and she reassures him: it's only because he's a bit tired. Riccardo notices, and maybe that's why he suggests that the athletes train in the universal 4x100m relay: team spirit is everything, and it helps improve individual performances. The kids agree, albeit reluctantly. During the relay, however, Christian loses control of the wheelchair and falls to the ground. In the hospital, his wrist appears swollen: his participation in European Championships is at risk. Calabresi is furious, but Riccardo tries to justify himself: Christian's times had been increasing for some time. Maybe – he says – there is a problem with the wheelchair. Isabella is there with them and too quick to deny it, asserting that the wheelchair is fine.

Riccardo doesn't trust her and goes with Freddie to Christian's supplier: the racing wheelchair is comparable to a race car, and as such requires very expensive maintenance and spare parts. Riccardo thus discovers that Isabella has settled for "economical" parts, lowering performance and safety standards. But why would she do such a thing?

When Riccardo confronts her, Isabella confesses: before meeting Christian, she had ended up in a bad crowd, and she still has debts. She made a mistake, and she knows it, but she never had any intention of hurting Christian. At first, Riccardo would like to force her to reveal the truth, but after realizing that those two kids really love each other, he decides not to say anything to Calabresi. What interests him is Christian's wellbeing – Riccardo tells Isabella the next day when she asks him to explain. He has also made mistakes in the past, things he can't now fix: but she can. Isabella is struck by his words: perhaps she would like to confess everything to Christian... But later we see her hanging out with another guy. He kisses her, she breaks away: it seems that man has her under his control, but we don't know why.

Meanwhile, Laura struggles to fit into the group, and Marzia keeps teasing her. But after having dumped yet another guide, she is obliged to accept help from Laura, who offers (on Riccardo's advice) to help her train: there is a moment of affinity between the two, and Marzia asks Laura to accompany her to her ex's wedding. It is the start of a truce between them, and they will soon become friends.

Meanwhile, Elia flirts with Anna, who's unaware that the boy is toying with her. They kiss, and Giorgia sees it. Her older sister warns Anna not to trust Elia and stay away from him, but Anna reads her sister's apprehension as jealousy – and maybe she's right.

Meanwhile, Riccardo, thanks to Freddie and what happened with Christian, has realized that he too must get involved and change his point of view, both as a coach and as a father. So, he starts rebuilding the relationships with Giorgia and Anna: he asks them to help him not to feel lost in their world and to teach him how to understand them. And the strategy works with the team too: Riccardo gathers them at the track and admits it's true: he's never trained athletes like them. *“But I want to get to know you,”* he tells him before starting another relay – all together, united.

EPISODE 3

Riccardo seems to have finally won some trust from his athletes, but something unexpected happens: Marzia doesn't show up for training. She is not in her room, and the last one to hear from her the previous evening was Laura, to whom Marzia wrote that she had argued with “an asshole”, without specifying who it was. The search for the girl leads Riccardo to meet Guido, Marzia's ex, now getting married, and Fernando and Amelia, her father and younger sister, and to discover the truth about Marzia's past. In fact, when she was a successful tennis player she was trained by her father, who did not spare her any physical and verbal hardship in order to drive her to compete at her best. It was to escape from that torture that Marzia had got drunk to the point of losing her sight two years earlier. And today she has taken refuge again in alcohol, risking an ethyl coma in order to no longer have to deal with her father, who had approached her to ask for help with her sister's career. Riccardo manages to save her in time, and, once recovered, Marzia reveals everything to Riccardo. Thus, a tentative but deepening bond is created between them. Riccardo has realized that Marzia does not want Amelia to suffer the same abuses, and he urges her to tell her the truth about their father. But Marzia refuses. Then, put on the spot by the requests from her father, who says he has changed, and even more by her sister's pleas – who overlooks her father's violent nature and genuinely wishes to become the tennis player Marzia now never could be – Marzia gives in and decides to help Amelia with her ex-promoter.

Meanwhile, Laura discovers, during a breakfast with Elia and Christian – who are finally starting to accept her in the group – that Elia has made a bet concerning Anna, Riccardo's younger daughter. Laura finds herself faced with a dilemma: tell Elia and warn Giorgia, risking putting herself in a bad light with the group, or keep quiet? She decides to tell Giorgia, who would like to tell Anna everything. But when she sees her sister so happy in her budding relationship with Elia, she decides to blame only the latter: if he hurts her sister, he will pay dearly. Elia obviously gets that it is Laura who snitched and tells her she will never be part of their group.

For Laura it is a blow, and unfortunately in addition to that she has an unexpected problem to deal with: the lawyer who is covering her case relating to her accident informs her that

surveillance videos have emerged showing that before the accident she was talking on the phone while driving the moped. It is evidence that could constitute a foothold for the defense of the hit-and-run driver accused of causing the accident. However, the girl lies and denies that she was on the phone. The situation obviously upsets her, and this is reflected in her times on the track, which increase just when the qualifying trials for the European Championships are bearing down.

Christian's times are also affected by his personal problems: he discovered, by accidentally reading Isabella's messages, that the next day she will meet a mysterious guy in a bar. The next day, Christian decides to follow her and sees her kissing him.

In the meantime, Riccardo, grateful to Alessandra for having taken care of his daughters while he was taking care of Marzia, goes out with her for the first time. She takes him, as a surprise, to a country dance competition. Riccardo is deeply uncomfortable in that situation, but Alessandra manages to play it down and get him to relax. But above all she manages to get him to open up about his divorce, and we finally discover the truth: since he was obsessed with sports, years earlier Riccardo did not go with his family to Germany to take a new job opportunity. So, his daughters think that that was the reason for the divorce, but in reality, the marriage had already ended before Germany, given that Francesca, Riccardo's ex-wife, had met Hans, her new German partner, even before leaving Italy. Riccardo, however, does not want to say anything to Anna and Giorgia: he prefers that they hate him, rather than ruin the memory they have of their mother.

EPISODE 4

Nova Lux is preparing to host the Italian Championships: in a few days the athletes will compete on the track to qualify for the European Championships. The center is all agog with preparations and pre-race tension: but it's not just that that worries our athletes and Riccardo.

Elia has been followed for days by a hooded individual. One evening Elia tries to chase the stalker, but he freezes and falls due to one of his blackouts: the stalker flees, and Elia is rescued by Riccardo. He took a hit on the knee, though nothing serious, says Freddie; but what worries Riccardo is Elia's reaction: for the first time he seems scared. Whether it's because of the stalker or the upcoming races, it doesn't matter: Riccardo takes Elia's story to heart, and one evening he sees the stalker again and manages to nab the person. He discovers that it is Elia's biological mother, Alice: she says she gave her newborn son up for adoption without knowing about his disability. "*Now I just want to know that he's okay,*" the woman assures Riccardo. Moved by the woman's apparent sincerity, Riccardo nevertheless tells her she must keep away from Elia: he does not know he was adopted and is very upset by what's happened to him. But Riccardo feels he must go and talk to Letizia and urge her to tell him everything: she is lying to Elia, and learning about his past could help him overcome his anxiety. "*That woman abandoned him, while I raised him, loved him,*" Letizia sternly tells Riccardo. And then she presses him to stay out of it: he's just the coach. He should stick the sporting results and leave her and Elia in peace.

Meanwhile, Christian and Laura's track performance is declining. In fact, Christian decided to cut with Isabella after seeing her kissing another guy, while Laura confides in Marzia that she lied to her lawyer: she *was* on the phone a few moments before the accident, but she swears she ended the call before it happened. Still, the defense has discovered a video in which she is seen on her phone shortly before the accident, and since Laura has no evidence to prove otherwise, she is offered a deal: 50,000 euros to drop everything and not go to trial. Laura is stunned and disappointed: is that all her leg is worth?

In the meantime, Anna seeks confirmation in her relationship with Elia, who seems to be pulling back and getting closer to Giorgia, with whom he has an obvious rapport. Then, the older sister accidentally discovers that her mother had already started an extramarital affair before moving to Germany. That discovery leads Anna and Giorgia to view their father in a new light: they understand that Riccardo took the blame for the family breakup so as not to make them suffer, and the three of them are finally ready to forgive each other.

Meanwhile, Riccardo tries to help his athletes overcome their fears, both athletic and personal. On the advice of Alessandra, with whom he has started a relationship, he takes the kids to have fun and let go on a roller coaster: for a change, he wants them to act like children, who are scared but jump in anyway. And when we see them return to the center, smiling and a little agitated, we understand that Riccardo's words have had an impact. In fact, Christian gets back with Isabella and confesses that he left her because he was afraid she was only with him out of pity. Isabella asks his forgiveness for her betrayal, but she reassures him: she is nothing without him. The two, now happy, reunite just before the races.

The day of the Italian Championships finally arrives. Just before entering, however, Elia spots the stalker in the crowd and asks Giorgia to look for Letizia: he needs his mother's support. But Letizia has noticed the stalker, too, and as she asks Riccardo for help, she is overheard by Elia. Right before his race, the boy discovers that the stalker is none other than his biological mother: upset and in tears, he can't even make it off the starting block. Christian, on the other hand, puts in a great performance, but just at the end of the race, Isabella receives a message from a certain Mirko, the guy she secretly meets: we thus discover that her lover is none other than the robber who shot Christian years earlier! Marzia also wins her race, while Laura, who had been summoned by the lawyer that morning, does not even show up. Her friend thinks that the delay means she has decided to accept the deal, but Laura, through tears, explains to her that the judge has terminated all preliminary investigations, and Bianchi, the boy who ran over her, will come out totally clean.

At the celebration refreshments, Calabresi, far from happy, reproaches Riccardo for his athletes' performances: only two out of four managed to qualify. He has destroyed the team entrusted to him.

EPISODE 5

Riccardo's team came out of the Italian Championships in a broken state: Christian and Marzia qualified for the European Championships, whereas Elia and Laura did not. But Riccardo doesn't give up, and contrary to Calabresi's fury at the defeats, he thinks he still has a chance to save Laura and Elia: a last, desperate attempt to qualify with a universal 4x100 relay. However, if on the one hand, Marzia and Christian are happy to participate in the relay to help their two companions, on the other, Elia and Laura, surprisingly, do not want to accept their last and only chance to make it to the European Championships...

There's something deeply disturbing about each of the two kids. Laura is still feeling badly burned by the injustice she suffered. The hit-and-run driver who took off her leg was declared innocent, and for her it is as if someone had taken a piece of herself all over again. And now she, all her motivation gone, would prefer to stop competing.

Elia, on the other hand, is still trying to process, with great difficulty, the discovery that he has been adopted. He refuses to talk to his adoptive mother and would like to quit sports, because he feels it as a lie imposed on him by Letizia. He also tends to stay as far away from the sports center as possible. He spends his days sitting by the sea, and only Giorgia knows that. In fact, what Elia is going through is the reason for the first real rapprochement between them, to the great annoyance of Anna who now feels ignored by her boyfriend.

Riccardo then tries to convince the two athletes to take back control of their own lives. First, he goes with Marzia to meet Greta, in the hope that she, who has always been Laura's sports idol, might say something to motivate the girl again. However, Greta refuses, still feeling hurt about how Riccardo and Laura have, in her view, ruined her career. He then tries to convince Elia to at least go back to training. The boy accepts, but on one condition: Riccardo will help him meet his birth mother. Unfortunately, Alice, Elia's birth mother, does not see it that way. Living in poverty, she doesn't think she has anything to offer her son, and she doesn't want to "mess up" his life. However, when Elia accidentally learns that, he feels rejected once again and decides to give up permanently, both with his mothers and with sports.

Riccardo is almost tempted to throw in the towel, but Freddie shakes him up and gives him courage. So, Riccardo, seeing the state of physical and psychological despair in which Elia finds himself, decides after all to take him to meet Alice. Mother and son have dinner together and start to get to know each other. Elia is happy and is now more than ever determined to go back to racing, partly to be able to help Alice financially; riding the wave of his happiness, he kisses Giorgia, and she kisses back, only to pull away as soon as she remembers the implications: Elia is still going with Anna!

Meanwhile, Christian, on the strength of qualifying for the European Championships, is looking for a house to move in with Isabella, but their newfound love idyll will soon be upset by a shocking discovery: the boy with whom Isabella had cheated on him is the

robber who had shot him. That evening Isabella was an accomplice in the robbery. Beside himself with grief, Christian drops Isabella for good.

Marzia, meanwhile, returns to Greta to try to get her to talk to Laura. Even though Greta still bears a grudge, Marzia gets through to her, and Greta surprisingly shows up at the center and urges Laura to get a grip on her sporting career.

So, Elia and Laura finally agree to participate in the relay, to try to qualify for the European Championships. Riccardo is happy to have found his kids again, but just when our team are about to start their first training session, the unthinkable happens: shocked by having discovered that Isabella was involved in the robbery in which he lost his ability to walk, Christian has lost faith in everyone around him and does not want to take part in the relay.

EPISODE 6

Riccardo would like to persuade Christian to rethink his decision about the relay, but as soon as he discovers the truth about his relationship with Isabella, he decides to give up: he understands the boy's wound and that all he can do is be there for him amidst his enormous pain. However, giving up the relay has a consequence: Elia and Laura are forced to leave the center, not having qualified individually for the European Championships. For both it is a severe blow: Elia is deprived of the chance to help his mother with winnings from competitions; for Laura, on the other hand, in addition to the damage of having lost the sporting opportunity of a lifetime, there is the added insult of finding herself abused on social media by Bianchi, the hit-and-run driver who deprived her of a leg.

As always, it is Marzia who tries to cheer her friend up, proposing that she take a little revenge on Bianchi. The two then go to the boy's house and, unseen, scratch his car and rip up some of his clothing hanging out to dry in the garden – an minimal but very effective gesture of revenge to restore Laura's smile and bring the two girls closer together. To all intents and purposes, they are now fast friends. So much so that finally Marzia opens up with Laura about her past, telling her about the violent workouts with her father, her relief in seeing that he finally seems to have really changed and that her sister Amelia isn't being forced to relive her own fate. But Laura's breath suddenly stops: she recently noticed that Amelia's arms are covered in bruises, and when, in the spirit of the friendship that binds them, she finds the nerve to tell Marzia, who is forced to face the terrible truth: Her father hasn't changed a bit, and she must stop him and save her sister.

Even Elia seems to find his smile again, despite having to leave the center. That situation is in fact the pretext to look for a house together with Alice and finally spend time with his biological mother, even if initially he will have to bear most of the expenses. Giorgia, however, does not view that decision favorably: it seems to her that Alice is taking advantage of her son's economic situation. And in fact, she is not entirely wrong. Alice's behavior, when Elia is not present, suggests that she is exploiting him. Meanwhile, having to leave the center forces Elia to become aware of the fact that he will miss Giorgia too

much. By now he can no longer deny his feelings for her and decides to drop Anna and lose the bet with Marzia.

Riccardo also has matters of the heart to deal with. Alessandra seems to want only friendship with him, with romantic involvement off limits, but Riccardo feels more and more in love with her and decides to declare his feelings. Alessandra reacts to the issue in an indecipherable way, and when she invites Riccardo for the umpteenth time to spend a “non-binding” evening together, Riccardo stands her up.

Christian, meanwhile, decides to go to the police to report who put him in a wheelchair. Surprisingly, however, he does not report Isabella, only Mirko, who finally ends up in the hands of justice. In fact, with Riccardo’s help, Christian is obliged to admit that he misses Isabella, and if he could, he wouldn’t change events the night of the robbery because Isabella is the most beautiful thing that has ever happened to him. And so, at the end of a farewell dinner among the kids, now forced to say goodbye, Christian decides to go to Isabella and reconcile with her. But above all he tells Riccardo he has changed his mind: he wants to participate in the relay.

So, the next day, our team, overwhelmed by the emotion of that last-minute opportunity, breathlessly go onto the competition field – where, by the skin of their teeth, they win a place in the European Championships. Everyone is euphoric, but the joy is dampened by Bianchi’s arrival at the center, seeking revenge on Laura, whom he ferociously insults. In an attempt to defend her, Riccardo ends up in a scuffle with him, and unfortunately the episode is recorded by surveillance cameras.

EPISODE 7

After the victory in the relay, our athletes have earned participation in the European Championships. However, things don’t go well on the track: despite Christian, Marzia, Laura and Elia putting their all into training, the results weren’t there. If that’s their time in the race, they will finish last.

And in fact, our kids have other matters on their minds: if Christian and Isabella have finally found harmony, Laura is still shaken by the clash with Bianchi outside the center, and she thanks Riccardo for defending her. But he has a different viewpoint: violence is never the right answer, and he was wrong to land that punch.

Meanwhile, Anna comes to terms with the breakup with Elia: perhaps for the first time we see the girl truly crushed; she doesn’t even get out of bed. Giorgia sternly tries to spur her on... even though she, meanwhile, continues to see Elia. The boy now seems ready to open to his feelings for her, whereas Giorgia denies that there is anything between them. And indeed, she exhorts Elia to be more careful with his affections: hasn’t she noticed that his mother is always asking him for money? Elia abruptly leaves... Meanwhile, Marzia has to face the ghosts of her past: she shows up at Amelia’s training. Fernando sees her and tries to be less harsh, but Marzia is not fooled. While Amelia doesn’t want to admit what’s happening to her, Fernando, impatient with Marzia’s accusations, admits the truth. Yes, he pushes Amelia to the max in training, just like he did with her, but it’s because

that's the only way to win. Amelia knows that, and so she accepts it: isn't it just that Marzia is jealous of what her sister has that she can never have again?

Riccardo, given the difficulties of training, summons his athletes for a "special session". The four of them meet again at the port! For two days, accompanied by Freddie and Riccardo, they will have to manage and maneuver a boat, collaborating and helping each other. Christian, Marzia, Laura and Elia are not at all convinced it will go well, but they go along with Riccardo on the boat... and with some difficulty the improvised "crew" manages to reach a working understanding. When they return to the center the next day, those four individual athletes have become a team that has full confidence in their captain. Even Director Calabresi notices it, as she sees them return happy and united. Everything seems to be going right for Riccardo, who also manages to prove to Alessandra that he really loves her and to overcome her doubts: the two seem ready to be together, for real.

Meanwhile, Giorgia has discovered that Alice's mother is still alive. She and Elia meet her, and the woman spares no criticism of her daughter: she not only says that she's a scammer, but she also abandoned her son after learning he had a disability. Elia is very upset after the encounter, and Giorgia cannot help but comfort him: a tender kiss ensues between the two.

Unbeknownst to everyone, however, Reali, the supercoach already hired by Calabresi to replace Riccardo after the European Championships, has released himself early and can take over immediately. Calabresi doesn't know what to do: on the one hand, the kids are happy with Riccardo, while on the other, the Board of Directors is pressuring her to hire Reali, who has a far superior curriculum. After receiving a mysterious email, Calabresi decides to summon Riccardo for a meeting...

EPISODE 8

We don't know what they said to each other, but the next day Riccardo and his daughters are packing: they will go to Freddie's for a few days, waiting for Riccardo to start a new job in their former city, Milan. Everyone is bewildered by the sudden decision, but Riccardo doesn't offer any explanation, and this makes the team feel even more hurt and betrayed. As if that weren't enough, Reali announces he will only train Christian and Marzia: only they are qualified for the individual races, and the 4x100 relay is irrelevant.

When Riccardo finds out and understands how much his leaving is damaging the kids, he decides to tell the truth: Calabresi has seen the video from the surveillance camera in which he punches Bianchi, and she has given him an ultimatum. If he hadn't let Reali replace him, she would have released the video, causing him to lose credibility in everyone's eyes. But he realized he was wrong and offers to secretly train them for the relay. The kids happily accept, but that night everyone shows up at the track except Laura. Worried, they realize she has gone to Bianchi's because she feels responsible for Riccardo's sacking. They all rush to the boy's house... but once they get there, they find Laura alone. Finally at peace,

she's understood that the only way she can go forward is to forgive Bianchi for what he did.

The newfound unity among the kids seems to have implications in all their lives: Elia understands that Alice, his biological mother, was close to him only out of self-interest and decides to return to Letizia, who brought him up and has been there for him all these years. Marzia, in order to save her sister Amelia from the violence of their father-coach, takes the tough-love decision of denouncing her father and bearing her sister's resulting hatred. However, the last part of the relay, the one with Elia and Christian, still doesn't seem to work... But there's no more time: the kids have to leave for the European Championships.

Elia, before leaving, goes to say goodbye to Giorgia, with whom he has begun a relationship unbeknownst to everyone, but the two are spotted by Anna. Feeling betrayed by her sister and wounded, Anna runs away. Riccardo and Giorgia go looking for her and find her on the beach: there, thanks to Riccardo's light-hearted and calm approach, the three finally make peace.

After an exchange between Giorgia and Anna, Riccardo realizes how he can help the kids in the last exchange of the relay; and so, urged on by his daughters, Riccardo gives up his new job in Milan to rush to the European Championships, where Christian and Marzia have lost their individual races. He manages to talk to his athletes just a moment before the relay: *One only wins when one is happy*, he reminds them. And then he reveals his insights...

The kids, thanks to the advice and above all to Riccardo's wise words of encouragement, succeed in winning first place in the relay race! Everything seems settled: the kids are happy, having finally solved their personal problems, and they feel united like a family... All except Alessandra: even though in the last few days she has supported and helped Riccardo, and their relationship seems more than solid, we see her meet another man outside the center and kiss him!