

## Pasta, Passion, Pistols

Warning, page 4 reveals the murderer!

### TRACK 1

Buongiorno, My name is Antonio Telastori, and we are here in Little Italy at La Speranza, one of New York City's most renowned Italian eateries. The restaurant sits on a quiet tree-lined street and usually has a peaceful clientele. Four nights ago, however, it was the scene...of a murder. Sometime between one and two a.m. La Speranza's owner Guiseppi Pepperoni was shot in the back...and killed. Pepi was 52 years old. A friendly man who always had a smile on his face and a joke to tell.

This story begins 25 years ago back in Italy. It is the tragic tale of two brothers, Pepi and Rocco Scarfazzi. They were identical twins and as close as two brothers could be. Then one day something bad happened between them and Pepi left Italy in a hurry. He came to America with his young bride, Rosa. They moved to New York City, changed the family name to Roni – you get it? Pepi...Roni? – and opened La Speranza Restaurant.

Time passed and the brothers lived successful but very different lives. Pepi and Rosa had two children and turned their restaurant into a popular place where everyone was welcome. Rocco took over the family vineyards near Rome and made them prosper. The two brothers had not spoken to each other for all these years until 11 days ago. Then Rocco came to New York City to see his brother.

But it was not a happy reunion. There were too many secrets and unspoken feelings. A week of tense gatherings passed but then one night after La Speranza was closed, Pepi, working alone in the kitchen, was murdered. He was shot in the back with his own gun. Pepi had kept a loaded pistol in the restaurant in case of trouble. Now the police have investigated, gathered the evidence, and questioned the suspects. Although they have a murder weapon, they found no fingerprints on it. There is little evidence and no arrests have been made. So tonight, Pepi's family and a few friends have gathered at La Speranza to pay their respects to the well-loved man.

You are those guests. A hearty feast of Italian dishes has been prepared. First, let's get to know each other better. But be careful, one of you...is a murderer!

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### TRACK 2

Welcome back. Listening to each of you tell your story and defend your innocence has been an enlightening experience. I have taken many notes, so let me see if I got it all straight.

Tara Misu, you could be in a lot of trouble. Giving the police a phony alibi for the time of Pepi's murder and paying Angel 5,000 Dollars to lie for you. That old boyfriend must be something very special, so maybe he'll buy you a new set of diamond earrings since you seem to have lost yours. Although we do know where one of them turned up, don't we, Tara....

No need to worry about your fiancé, Rocco Scarfazzi, getting jealous over the boyfriend! He has enough problems on his mind. All of those loose ends to tie up before he succumbs to his fatal illness. Less than one year to live, his doctor says. So let's see; he has to get married, become a father, find a successor to his business, and attend the funeral of his brother. So much to do, and so little time!

Mama Rosa, your pasta is to die for. But it seems you've been heating up more than the kitchen stove. I guess with the way Pepi treated you all these years, it's no wonder you might seek the comfort of Rocco's arms.

But you are not the only one with hot lips. Your beautiful daughter Angel and her Bo have been like two puppies – rawr – in love. As Angel says, they can't keep their hands off each other. They were driving poor Pepi crazy! And speaking of driving, I hope you are not illegally parked in front of the restaurant again, Angel. That was a costly mistake, for more reasons than one.

Bo, threatening your future father-in-law was no way to start off your courtship with Angel. Telling Pepi "it is YOU who should be willing to die" was definitely not going to put you in the family's good graces.

And speaking of graces, Father Al Fredo, you seem to have tread a very fine line to stay in the good graces of both Pepi and Rocco since your arrival in New York.

Clair Voyant, you claim to see all, but your clients appear to lack faith in you – is there more behind what you say you see?

Marco, the future World Cup soccer player. I can see it in your eyes...too bad your papa couldn't. There is no glory in waiting tables. I say if a man has a dream, go for it no matter what the obstacles are. But, then again, Marco...maybe you did.

Mama Mia, it's getting to be a good story. Let's carry on.

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### TRACK 3

So, did you get a chance to try Mama Rosa's Bruschetta? I hear it's the best in Little Italy. But then you probably all got indigestion from the antipasto of clues that have been revealed tonight. Mama Mia, what a family!

Bo Jalais, I thought you were going to pop your cork when Rocco said you were through with the Scarfazzi organization. If I recall, they have a very short pension plan. Angel's future inheritance is looking better and better. You should get that ring on her finger quickly before she changes her mind.

Angel appears to be more interested in an extortion ring than a wedding ring. She has certainly gone to a lot of trouble to impress her Uncle Rocco. Angel, is it the fringe benefits or the opportunity to advance quickly that you find appealing in Uncle Rocco's business?

All along, we have assumed Rocco Scarfazzi to be a criminal. Now it seems he is a victim as well. He has had his heart stolen. Imagine a Scarfazzi man living down the embarrassment of being left at the altar while his brother sails away with his bride-to-be. But, as you say, Rocco, that was a long time ago. It is...forgotten. Take heart, Rocco, what goes around comes around.

Your long lost love Mama Rosa now regrets that she left you and chose Pepi back in 1985. Her warm feelings have rekindled, and as luck would have it, Mama Rosa has secretly purchased a house back in Italy and is planning to move there. Mama, we are curious just how far your new home is from Rocco's villa. It was a little too close for poor Pepi's liking, it seems.

Maybe Marco will come and stay with you while he recuperates from his so-called medical problems. Marco has not yet shown much aggression, but his father's lie may have finally turned our mild-mannered waiter into a man of action.

Clair Voyant, you knew both Pepi and Rosa as clients. Was Pepi troubled, or were his visits not necessarily about the restaurant business?

Tara Misu has become a little bit of a Mata Hari with her harmless spying on her future in-laws while on a shopping trip to New York three months ago. I wonder if you were doing a little more undercover work than you'd like to admit, Tara.

Everyone confides in Father Al Fredo, but his own lips are sealed. Father, could you have acted in haste to seal the deal?

I cannot wait to see the motives that are on the menu in the next round of mysteries. Carry on, please.

End track, revealing the murderer.

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### TRACK 4

Well, all of you had the motive and the opportunity to kill Pepi Roni.

There is only one murderer, though. That person is Bo Jalais. He killed Pepi Roni, but not for the reasons you might think. It was a mistake. Bo mistook him for Rocco. It was usually easy to tell the identical twins apart, because of the way they dressed. Pepi was always much more casual than Rocco in his attire. That night, however, Pepi was wearing a good suit, and was a dead ringer for Rocco. Pepi had dressed that way to fool Bo. He was pretending to be Rocco to make Bo end his love affair with Angel. He thought Rocco's position as Bo's boss would help with the persuasiveness of his argument. But Bo killed him before he realized Pepi was not Rocco! Bo had seen the gun earlier that night when Marco took it out of the drawer to clean it. Later, Bo stole it from the kitchen drawer and hid it under his sports jacket. After sneaking up on Pepi, whom he thought was Rocco, Bo shot him in the back, then placed one of Tara's diamond earrings under his body to cast suspicion on her. Bo had gotten the earrings the other night at dinner. He knew that compliments would get him everywhere with Tara; he pocketed the diamond earrings after she removed the earrings to show them off to him. Then he skillfully maneuvered the conversation to empathize with Tara about her challenges in running such a vast villa for Rocco. Why did Bo do it? Bo was in cahoots with Rocco's enemies back in Italy. They had promised him he could take over Scarfazzi Enterprises, in a partnership agreement, if he got rid of Rocco. His telegram to Vito Vendetto confirmed that Rocco was dead and he was ready to move ahead. He only realized his mistake when Angel told him that Pepi was dead.

Now, it has been an interesting evening; I hope you all enjoyed it. This is Antonio Telastori saying "Ciao."