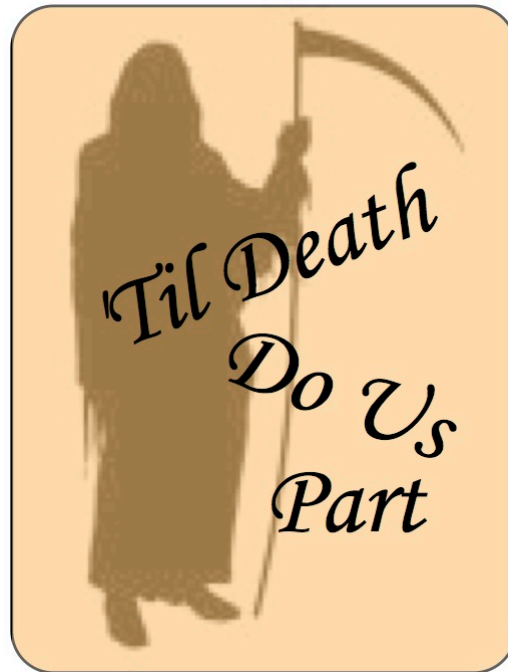
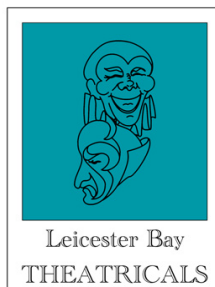


# PERUSAL SCRIPT



*A CHAMELEONS MURDER MYSTERY*

Script by  
**Jim Christian**



Salt Lake City

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## **CHARACTERS (4M 5W)**

**SALVATORE “SAL” BORDONI** -- FATHER OF THE BRIDE – SLOW-MOVING POWER FIGURE – CAPABLE OF EXCESSIVE BULLYING – DOTING FATHER – LONG-SUFFERING HUSBAND – KEEPS HIS TRUMP CARDS HIDDEN - HEDONISTIC

**AMELIA BORDONI** -- MOTHER OF THE BRIDE – RULED BY HER EMOTIONS – OVERREACTS TO EVERYTHING – FUSSY AND METICULOUS – OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT APPEARANCES – CAN’T LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE

**NINA BORDONI** -- BRIDE – MATERIALISTIC AND AMBITIOUS – VIRGINAL EXTERIOR WITH A CUTTHROAT APPROACH TO LIFE – USES HER IMAGE AS A SHIELD – DEFINITELY HER FATHER’S DAUGHTER

**FRANCESCA BORDONI** -- MAID OF HONOR – OUTSPOKEN AND MANIPULATIVE – MAN-CRAZY – A TRUE PARTY GIRL – CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN BEAUTY SCHOOL – THE BLACK SHEEP OF HER FAMILY

**GABRIELLA BORDONI** -- BRIDESMAID – SPOILED, SELF-CENTERED TEEN-AGER – ATTENDING CATHOLIC GIRLS’ SCHOOL – RESISTANT TO TRADITIONS OF THE FAMILY – MTV/SHOPPING MALL MENTALITY

**ROSA CABRINI** – MOTHER OF THE GROOM – NO NONSENSE EARTH MOTHER – MAGNANIMOUS AND NURTURING – VERY TERRITORIAL – STRONG-WILLED AND INTUITIVE – RULES WITH AN IRON FIST

**DOMINICK CABRINI** – GROOM – THE MAMA’S BOY (NOT BY CHOICE) – NEVER GIVEN ANY POWER WITHIN THE FAMILY – CRAVES INDEPENDENCE AND A LIFE OF HIS OWN – EXTREMELY NONVIOLENT BY NATURE – TRIES TO BE THE DUTIFUL SON

**TIZO CABRINI** – BEST MAN – FAMILY “HIT MAN” – DARK AND BROODING – HUMORLESS PERFECTIONIST – ONLY JOY COMES FROM WATCHING OTHER PEOPLE SQUIRM – OBSESSIVELY COMPETITIVE - VAIN

**VINCENT “VINNIE” CABRINI** -- MISSING BROTHER (ON THE LAM) – FINGERED A MEMBER OF ANOTHER “FAMILY” AND NOW HAS A “HIT” ON HIM – NERVOUS AND PARANOID – DEVOTED TO HIS FAMILY – EX-CHAIN SMOKER

**TIL DEATH DO US PART** *A CHAMELEONS MURDER MYSTERY* by Jim Christian **Characters: 4m 5w Synopsis:** At the Italian wedding of the feuding Cabrini and Bordoni families, old secrets and new tempers flare as the rivalry explodes, leaving two members of the wedding party dead. **(ORDER #3097)**

## 1 -- COCKTAILS

*(AS PEOPLE ARRIVE, THEY ARE GREETED AT THE DOORWAY BY THE WEDDING PARTY IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER -- TIZO, ROSA, SAL, AMELIA, DOMINICK, NINA, FRANCESCA, AND GABRIELLA. VINNIE [DISGUISED AS A WAITER], CIRCULATES AMONG THE GUESTS SERVING DRINKS. AFTER A WHILE, MEMBERS OF THE LINE SLIP IN AND OUT TO MINGLE, GET DRINKS, ETC. FINALLY, THE LINE DISSOLVES AND AFTER A FEW MINUTES, SAL ADDRESSES THE CROWD.)*

## 2 -- AFTER COCKTAILS

**SALVATORE:** AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT. EVERYBODY PIPE DOWN. C'MON! SHADDUP!!!

*(AD LIBS UNTIL HE GETS SILENCE)*

THAT'S BETTER. OKAY, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR COMING HERE TONIGHT. ME AND AMELIA REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR SHOWING UP.

**AMELIA:** THAT'S RIGHT, DARLING. AND I'M SURE THAT MRS. CABRINI ... OH, I MEAN "ROSA" ... SHARES YOUR SENTIMENTS. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DEAR?

**ROSA:** *(RISING ABOVE THEIR INEPTITUDE)* OF COURSE, AMELIA. IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WITH US ON SUCH A JOYOUS OCCASION.

**SALVATORE:** YEAH, YEAH, YEAH. NOW -- I'D LIKE THE BRIDE AND GROOM TO COME UP HERE FOR JUST A MINUTE.

*(GENERAL "AW'S" FROM THE GROUP)*

**NINA:** *(SWEETLY)* COME ON DOMINIC.

**DOMINICK:** *(SELF-CONSCIOUSLY)* NINA ...

**NINA:** *(MORE FORCEFULLY)* DOMINICK!

**SALVATORE:** NOW, BOY!

*(THEY OBLIGE)*

AWRIGHT ...

*(PUTTING HIS ARMS AROUND BOTH OF THEM)*

... I KNOW THAT IN THE PAST THERE HAS BEEN A CERTAIN LEVEL OF ... COMPETITION ... BETWEEN THE BORDONI'S AND THE CABRINI'S, BUT WITH THIS AUSPICIOUS UNION ...

**AMELIA:** *(AN EMOTIONAL SWELL THAT BRINGS THE EVER PRESENT HANKY INTO PLAY)* OH!

**GABRIELLA:** *(HUMILIATED)* OH, MOTHER!

**SALVATORE:** GABRIELLA, SHADDUP.

*(CONTINUING)*

... THAT WITH THIS HAPPY UNION, WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A NEW PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN OUR LITTLE COMMUNITY.

**TIZO:** THEN WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THE "HIT" OFF MY BROTHER VINNIE?

**ROSA:** TIZO!

**SALVATORE:** THERE IS NO "HIT" ON YOUR BROTHER.

**TIZO:** THE HELL THERE ISN'T!

**FRANCESCA:** THAT'S BECAUSE HE SQUEALED ON UNCLE BRUNO!

**GABRIELLA:** DIRTY DOUBLE-CROSSER!

**TIZO:** I DON'T WANNA HEAR FROM YOU TWO BI - -

**ROSA:** TIZO!!!

*(SILENCING THE ROOM AND APPROACHING TIZO)*

YOU SWORE TO ME ON YOUR FATHER'S GRAVE THAT YOU WOULD KEEP YOUR BIG MOUTH SHUT TODAY. THIS IS YOUR BROTHER'S ONE AND HOPEFULLY ONLY WEDDING DAY AND I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANY OF YOUR LIP. GOT IT?

**TIZO:** *(DARKLY)* YES, MOMMA.

**ROSA:** *(SMACKING HIS HEAD)* I DIDN'T HEAR YOU.

**TIZO:** YES, MOMMA!

**ROSA:** *(PATTING HIS CHEEK)* THAT'S BETTER.

*(SWEETLY)*

NOW, SAL -- WHAT WERE YOU SAYING TO OUR LITTLE LOVEBIRDS?

**SALVATORE:** I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT MANY PEOPLE FELT THAT THE JOINING OF THE CABRINI AND BORDONI FAMILIES WAS IMPOSSIBLE, GIVEN THE BAD BLOOD WHICH HAS TRANSPIRED IN THE PAST ...

**AMELIA:** OH, WE NEED A PICTURE.

*(SHE RUNS TO GET THE POLAROID)*

**SALVATORE:** ...I ONLY WISH THAT GIOVANNI ...

**ROSA:** *(STIFFLY)* MAY HE REST IN PEACE ...

**SALVATORE:** ... YOUR LATE HUSBAND, COULD HAVE BEEN HERE TO SHARE IN THIS MOMENT.

**AMELIA:** *(TO VINNIE, NOT RECOGNIZING HIM)* OH, WAITER ...

**VINNIE:** YES, MA'AM?

**AMELIA:** COULD I GET YOU TO TAKE A PICTURE FOR US?

**VINNIE:** OH, SURE THING.

**AMELIA:** *(HANDING HIM THE CAMERA)* JUST AIM AND PRESS THIS LITTLE BUTTON.

**VINNIE:** NO PROBLEM.

**AMELIA:** *(ORGANIZING THE GROUP)* ALL RIGHT, NINA AND DOMINICK, LET'S HAVE YOU TWO IN THE MIDDLE ... FRANCESCA AND GABBY, OVER BY YOUR FATHER ...

**GABRIELLA:** MOTHER, THIS IS SO LAME.

**AMELIA:** SHUSH. ROSA, LET'S HAVE YOU NEXT TO DOMINICK AND TITO ...

**TIZO:** TIZO!

**AMELIA:** ... TIZO STAND BY YOUR MOTHER.

*(TAKING IT IN)*

PERFECT.

*(SQUEEZING IN BETWEEN SAL AND NINA)*

SCOOT-SCOOT-SCOOT. OKAY, EVERYBODY READY?

**GABRIELLA:** JUST HURRY.

**AMELIA:** ONE...TWO...THREE.

**ALL:** MOZZARELLA!

*(VINNIE SNAPS THE PHOTO)*

**VINNIE:** GOT IT.

*(RETURNS THE CAMERA TO AMELIA AND GOES BACK TO SERVING)*

**SALVATORE:** AWRIGHT NOW, LET'S DRINK TO THE HAPPY COUPLE.

**ROSA:** TIZO -- GET THE BOTTLE. DOMINICK ...?

**DOMINICK:** WHAT? OH. MR. BORDONI ...

**SALVATORE:** *(HINTING)* EH?

**DOMINICK:** *(CORRECTING HIMSELF)* POPPA ... AS A TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP, THE CABRINI'S WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THIS ...

*(TIZO HANDS HIM THE BOTTLE)*

... BOTTLE FROM OUR FAMILY VINEYARDS TO USE AS THE WEDDING TOAST.

**ROSA:** *(GETTING SLIGHTLY MISTY)* GIOVANNI AND I BROUGHT THAT BACK FROM OUR LAST TRIP TO FLORENCE.

**SALVATORE:** OF COURSE. WHAT COULD BE BETTER?

**FRANCESCA:** LET ME HELP YOU, POPPA.

*(THROUGHOUT THE NEXT DIALOGUE, SAL AND FRANCESCA OPEN THE BOTTLE, POUR, AND DISTRIBUTE THE WINE. FRANCESCA DELIVERS FIRST TO AMELIA AND GABRIELLA, THEN TO NINA AND DOMINICK, AND FINALLY GETS HER OWN AND SAL'S. SAL POURS THE LAST TWO FOR ROSA AND TIZO.)*

**AMELIA:** *(WATCHING THE POLAROID DEVELOP)* OH, ROSA, WOULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS? MY BEAUTIFUL, PRECIOUS BABY!

**ROSA:** WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? NINA, SHE'S YOUR OLDEST, BUT DOMINICK -- OH! -- MY LITTLE BAMBINO!

**DOMINICK:** MAMMA, PLEASE ...

**ROSA:** DON'T START WITH ME. I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS DAY AND NOBODY'S GONNA SCREW IT UP FOR ME.

**NINA:** YOUR MOTHER'S RIGHT, DOM. WE SHOULD BE CELEBRATING.

**ROSA:** BESIDES, THIS MAY BE MY ONLY CHANCE TO BECOME A GRANDMOTHER. WHAT WITH VINNIE DISAPPEARING AND TIZO ... WELL ...

*(CONFIDENTIALLY)*

... THAT BOY ...

*(SHAKING HER HEAD)*

... HE HASN'T BEEN ON A DATE IN YEARS. FRANKLY, I'M GETTING A LITTLE WORRIED.

**TIZO:** *(OVERHEARING)* NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, MOMMA. WOMEN CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

*(SHE SLAPS HIM)*

EXCEPT FOR YOU OF COURSE. THE LAST TIME I WENT OUT WITH SOMEONE, SHE TRIED TO KILL ME!

**ROSA:** I TOLD YOU THAT TRAMP WAS NO GOOD FOR YOU.

**TIZO:** YOU LINED US UP!

**ROSA:** ONLY AS A FAVOR TO FATHER MANETTI. SHE WAS HIS SISTER.

**TIZO:** MOMMA, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME, ANYWAY?

**ROSA:** GRANDCHILDREN. LOTS AND LOTS OF GRANDCHILDREN, AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET THOSE HANGING AROUND STATE STREET WITH YOUR STUPID COUSIN GUIDO.

**TIZO:** I HAVE BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF ON STATE STREET!

**SALVATORE:** *(INTERRUPTING THEM WITH DRINKS)* HERE WE GO. FROM THE LOVELY CABRINI VINEYARDS. ROSA?

**ROSA:** *(FINISHING TIZO OFF WITH A LOOK)* THANK YOU, SAL.

**SALVATORE:** TIZO?

*(TIZO TAKES THE DRINK, SNIFFING THE GLASS SUSPICIOUSLY AND TASTING IT WITH HIS FINGERTIP)*

GOOD, ARE WE ALL SET?

**NINA:** YES, POPPA.

**SALVATORE:** THAT'S FINE. AWRIGHT.

*(PRIMES HIMSELF FOR THE TOAST)*

TO THE MOST WONDERFUL PAIR OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO EVER FIND EACH OTHER IN THIS CRAZY RATRACE. TO NINA AND DOMINICK -- WE WISH YOU PEACE ... PROSPERITY ...

**ROSA:** ... PROCREATION ...

**SALVATORE:** ... PROCREATION ... AND A LONG, HAPPY LIFE TOGETHER.

*(THEY ALL RAISE GLASSES, AND JUST AS THEY ARE ABOUT TO DRINK, THE STRAINS OF SOMETHING APPROPRIATELY SAPPY, CLICHÉ, AND ITALIAN WAFTS OVER THE LOUDSPEAKERS.)*

**NINA:** *(WITHOUT DRINKING)* OH, DOMINICK -- OUR SONG!

**DOMINICK:** SO IT IS.

**NINA:** WELL ...?

**DOMINICK:** "WELL" WHAT?

**GABRIELLA:** SHE WANTS YOU TO ASK HER TO DANCE, CLOD.

**DOMINICK:** OH, OF COURSE. HERE ...

*(HE TAKES THEIR GLASSES AND PLACES THEM ON VINNIE'S TRAY)*

**SALVATORE:** ATTABOY! COME ON, FRANCESCA. DANCE WITH YOUR OLD MAN.

*(HE TAKES HER GLASS AND PLACES IT ALONG WITH HIS ON VINNIE'S TRAY)*

**ROSA:** *(SEEING THE COUPLES MOVING ONTO THE FLOOR)* TIZO! GET YOURSELF A PARTNER.

**TIZO:** MOMMA!

**ROSA:** IT'S NOT GOING TO KILL YOU.

**TIZO:** *(BEGRUDGINGLY)* FAMOUS LAST WORDS!

*(HE MARCHES OVER TO GABRIELLA, TAKES HER GLASS AND ADDS BOTH OF THEIRS TO VINNIE'S TRAY)*

**GABRIELLA:** OH, GROSS!

**TIZO:** SHADDUP!

*(THEY BEGIN DANCING)*

**ROSA:** AMELIA -- THE CAMERA.

**AMELIA:** OH!

*(THEY TOO PLACE THEIR GLASSES ON THE TRAY AND PASS AMONG THE DANCERS,*

*SNAPPING PICTURES. DOM AND NINA SWAY APPROPRIATELY, SAL TAKES FRANCESCA THROUGH SOME FANCY FOOTWORK, AND TIZO AND GABRIELLA GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS, OBVIOUSLY RESENTING EVERY MOMENT OF IT. VINNIE PUTS THE TRAY DOWN ON THE TABLE AND BUSIES HIMSELF ELSEWHERE.)*

**GABRIELLA:** (AS THE MUSIC ENDS) THANK HEAVEN THAT'S OVER.

*(SHE BEELINES FOR THE DRINKS)*

**SALVATORE:** GABRIELLA, NOT SO FAST. WE STILL NEED TO DRINK OUR TOAST.

**GABRIELLA:** OH, BROTHER.

*(THEY ALL RETRIEVE GLASSES WITH SAL AND FRANCESCA GETTING THERE LAST)*

**SALVATORE:** COME ON, EVERYBODY. HERE WE GO. TO THE HAPPY COUPLE.

ALL: TO THE HAPPY COUPLE.

*(THEY DRINK)*

**SALVATORE:** SO--WHEN DO WE EAT?

**AMELIA:** WHAT A GOOD IDEA. WAITER, COULD YOU GO OUT TO THE KITCHEN - -

**GABRIELLA:** *(CLUTCHING HER STOMACH)* OH! OH, POPPA!!!

**SALVATORE:** *(MOVING TO HER)* WHAT'S THE MATTER?

**GABRIELLA:** MY STOMACH--IT'S--*(SHE IS CUT OFF BY A SUDDEN SURGE OF PAIN)* OH!!!

**FRANCESCA:** GABRIELLA!

**SALVATORE:** *(TAKING GABRIELLA IN HIS ARMS)* SOMEBODY GET A DOCTOR!

**GABRIELLA:** *(SHRIEKING)* THE WINE!

**NINA:** DOMINIC! DO SOMETHING!

**DOMINICK:** *(AT A LOSS)* HELP! HELP!!!

*(WITH A FINAL LURCH, GABRIELLA GOES LIMP IN SAL'S ARMS. EVERYONE IS SILENT AS HE CLUTCHES HER TO HIM, CHECKING FOR SIGNS OF LIFE. SLOWLY, HE LOOKS UP, TURNS TO FACE THE CABRINI'S, AND LETS GABRIELLA'S BODY DROP TO THE FLOOR.)*

**NINA:** POPPA!!!

**AMELIA:** OH!

*(WITH A GASP, SHE HALF-FAINTS INTO FRANCESCA'S GRASP)*

**SALVATORE:** *(GLARING AT ROSA, TIZO, AND DOMINICK, HE BEGINS SLOWLY)* WHICH ONE OF YOU S-O-Bs DID THIS?

*(SILENCE)*

WHICH ONE OF YOU PIGS DID THIS TO MY LITTLE GIRL?

**ROSA:** NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE...

**SALVATORE:** I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER ...

**TIZO:** I'LL HANDLE THIS, MOMMA ...

**SALVATORE:** TO THINK I TRUSTED YOU...

**DOMINICK:** NINA?

**NINA:** *(TURNING ON HIM)* MURDERER ...

**DOMINICK:** NINA!

**ROSA:** I SWEAR TO YOU, WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.



**AMELIA:** LIAR!

**SALVATORE:** SO ... YOU JUST COULDN'T LET BYGONES BE BYGONES ...

**TIZO:** WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WE" COULDN'T LET BYGONES BE BYGONES? WHAT ABOUT YOUR CROOKED RAFFLE AT ST. BENEDICT'S?

**SALVATORE:** WHAT ABOUT YOUR FUNDRAISER TO BUILD A STATUE OF ANNETTE FUNICELLO?

**TIZO:** HOW ABOUT YOUR "DIAL-THE-POPE HOTLINE?"

**FRANCESCA:** WHAT ABOUT YOUR PHONY FRANK SINATRA CONCERT?

**SALVATORE:** SHADDUP! THAT WAS OURS.

**NINA:** WHAT ABOUT THE EXPLOSION AT PIZZA HUT?

**DOMINICK:** THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

**SALVATORE:** WHAT ABOUT MY RABBITS?

**TIZO:** WHAT ABOUT COUSIN GUIDO?

**FRANCESCA:** WHAT ABOUT UNCLE BRUNO?

**ROSA:** WHAT ABOUT GIOVANNI?

*(SHE HAS SAID THE UNSPEAKABLE. THERE IS A PANICKED MOMENT OF SILENCE. THEN, IN ONE CLEAN MOTION, THEY EACH PRODUCE A GUN, JOCKEYING IT FROM ONE MEMBER OF THE OPPOSING FAMILY TO ANOTHER. AFTER A MOMENT THEY GAIN CONTROL AND REACH A STALEMATE.)*

**DOMINICK:** NOW WHAT?

**TIZO:** WE WAIT.

**DOMINICK:** 'TIL WHEN?

**TIZO:** *(AFTER A BEAT)* ... UH-H-H-H ...

**SALVATORE:** 'TIL SOMEBODY MAKES A FALSE MOVE. THEN ONE BY ONE WE ALL GO. BUT IF YOU'LL NOTICE, THERE ARE FOUR OF US -- AND ONLY THREE OF YOU, SO YOUR ODDS AREN'T LOOKING TOO GOOD.

**VINNIE:** *(PRODUCING A GUN AND HOLDING IT TO SAL'S TEMPLE)* BETTER CHECK YOUR MATH, EINSTEIN.

**SALVATORE:** HUH?

**VINNIE:** I THINK THE CABRINI'S JUST TRUMPED YOUR ACE.

**ROSA:** VINNIE!!!

**VINNIE:** HOW'S IT GOIN', MOMMA?

**ROSA:** WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

**TIZO:** HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

**DOMINICK:** WHAT DID YOU DO TO YOUR HAIR?

**VINNIE:** NEVER MIND ABOUT THAT. IT SEEMS THAT RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO COME TO A LITTLE UNDERSTANDING. NOW, MR. BORDONI, IF MY MOMMA SAYS WE DIDN'T HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH KILLING YOUR DAUGHTER, THEN WE DIDN'T HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH KILLING YOUR DAUGHTER, GOT THAT?

*(NO RESPONSE)*

GOT THAT?

**SALVATORE:** YEAH.

**VINNIE:** AND I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT IT TOOK A LOT OF TIME, MONEY, AND EFFORT FOR ME TO GET HERE TODAY AND I INTEND TO SEE THAT THESE TWO HAVE A HAPPY WEDDING DAY. GOT IT?

**SALVATORE:** GOT IT.

**VINNIE:** SO WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST TAKE A SOLEMN OATH RIGHT NOW THAT WE'LL ALL PUT THE SAFETIES ON OUR HEATERS AND LEAVE THEM THAT WAY FOR THE REST OF THE DAY COME HELL OR HIGH WATER -- AGREED?

**DOMINICK:** *(AFTER A BEAT)* AGREED.

*(EACH IN TURN LOWERS THEIR GUN)*

**AMELIA:** AGREED.

**FRANCESCA:** AGREED

**ROSA:** AGREED

**NINA:** AGREED

**TIZO:** *(AFTER A LOOK FROM VINNIE)* AGREED.

**SALVATORE:** *(NOT WITHOUT SACRIFICE)* AGREED.

**VINNIE:** THAT'S BETTER.

*(CALLING TO OTHER WAITERS)*

HEY, FELLAS -- WE COULD USE A HAND OUT HERE.

*(THEY ENTER AND REMOVE GABRIELLA'S BODY)*

AND TAKE IT EASY, BOYS. I KNOW HOW FUSSY SOME PEOPLE CAN BE. NOW, I BEEN OUT IN THE KITCHEN, AND WHILE I AM SINCERELY SORRY ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER'S UNFORTUNATE DEMISE, I DON'T THINK ANY OF US IS WILLING TO FACE THE UNSPEAKABLE TERROR OF FACING OUR GUESTS IF THEY GET CHEATED OUT OF THEIR DINNER. SO WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST MAKE NICE WITH EACH OTHER AND TRY TO GET THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF THIS JOYOUS OCCASION WITH OUR GUTS INTACT.

*(NO ONE MOVES)*

SO SIT DOWN.

*(THEY GO TO THEIR VARIOUS TABLES. DOM TRIES TO SIT WITH NINA BUT SHE IS UNAPPROACHABLE. THE OTHERS SITUATE THEMSELVES WITH THE BORDONI'S ON ONE SIDE OF THE ROOM AND THE CABRINI'S ON THE OTHER. ODDLY ENOUGH, NO ONE SEEMS TO BE MOURNING GABRIELLA'S DEATH TO ANY GREAT EXTENT.)*

### 3 -- DINNER

*(DURING DINNER, THE ROOM REMAINS VERY TERRITORIAL WITH THE BORDONI'S AND CABRINI'S KEEPING THEIR DISTANCE. TABLE CONVERSATION SHOULD ALLUDE TO THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:*

**SALVATORE**--GABRIELLA'S DEATH/VENGEANCE AGAINST THE CABRINI'S

**AMELIA**--GABRIELLA'S DEATH/GOING TO COURT WITH ROSA

**NINA**--HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT HER TREATMENT OF DOMINICK

**FRANCESCA**--HITTING ON THE MEN NEARBY/GABRIELLA'S GREEDINESS

**ROSA**--FIGHTING AMELIA IN COURT/JILTING SAL

*DOMINICK--ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE/THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF THE MOB*  
*TIZO--GIOVANNI'S DEATH/GUIDO'S ACCIDENT*  
*VINNIE--FINGERING BRUNO/HIDING OUT*

#### 4 -- AFTER DINNER

*(SAL RISES TO SPEAK)*

**SALVATORE:** LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BELOVED FAMILY MEMBERS -- WHEN I GOT OUTTA BED THIS MORNING. I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY! MY LITTLE NINA HAS GROWN UP AND IS GOING TO MARRY A WONDERFUL YOUNG MAN. COULD I BE ANY HAPPIER?" AND NOW I ASK MYSELF,

*(WITH RISING RAGE)*

"COULD MY LIFE BE ANY WORSE?"

**NINA:** POPPA!

**SALVATORE:** TO THINK THAT I TRUSTED A CABRINI! A LOW-LIFE, YELLOW-BELLIED, SCUM-OF-THE-EARTH --

**FRANCESCA:** YOU TELL 'EM POPPA!

**SALVATORE:** -- YOU ARE INHUMAN! KILLING A POOR DEFENSELESS CHILD LIKE MY SWEET GABRIELLA ...

**AMELIA:** *(POINTING AT TIZO)* THAT'S THE ONE! HE'S THE ONE WHO GAVE US THE POISONED WINE!

**TIZO:** WHAT? ! !

**SALVATORE:** THAT'S RIGHT!

**TIZO:** DON'T BE STUPID ... WE ALL DRANK FROM THAT SAME BOTTLE AND NONE OF US IS DEAD.

**NINA:** THAT'S TRUE, POPPA.

**SALVATORE:** THEN SOMEBODY MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO IT AFTER IT CAME OUT OF THE BOTTLE.

**DOMINICK:** WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO POURED IT.

**SALVATORE:** *(AGHAST AND INFURIATED)* YOU SHOULD DIE AND ROT IN HELL FOR WHAT YOU ARE SUGGESTING. ARE YOU SAYING THAT I KILLED MY OWN BEAUTIFUL GABRIELLA?

**DOMINICK:** NO! NO!!!

**NINA:** NO, POPPA. I THINK WHAT DOMINICK REALLY MEANS IS THAT AFTER GABRIELLA TOOK THE GLASS, SHE PUT IT DOWN DURING THE DANCING WITHOUT DRINKING FROM IT.

**DOMINICK:** *(GRATEFUL FOR THE WAY OUT)* THAT'S RIGHT!

**NINA:** SO SOMEONE MUST HAVE PUT SOMETHING INTO THE WINE WHILE SHE WAS ON THE DANCE FLOOR.

**DOMINICK:** YES!

**NINA:** *(SIMPLY)* SO OBVIOUSLY VINNIE IS THE KILLER.

**DOMINICK:** EXACTLY!

**5 more pages until the RAMBLES section**

**5 -- RAMBLES**

**6 -- RESOLUTION**

**4 pages in the RESOLUTION section**

**7 -- BOWS**

**8 -- ANNOUNCEMENT OF MASTER DETECTIVE**