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Death on the Fourposter

By Jean Josipovici

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- It's interesting?

- That's Edie.

Punctual as always.

She won't complain if
you chat with her a little.

- Always charming, are you all right?

- What do you think?

- Hello everyone.

- This is Nicoletta, she is new.

New ?

Such as your mother created you?

- Nice to meet you, Edie.

Nice name, I had
never heard of it.

- It's a nickname.

- Italian or foreign?

Greek, derived from 'Idios',
in Italian, we say 'Idiote'.

They are all geniuses.

Let's go?

Yes, we're all ready,
a weekend at the castle.

- Riccardo agreed?

- It was not easy.

- I do not understand why.

- He has his reasons.

- There is mystery there.

- The mystery of the castle.

That's Riccardo.

- We've been waiting for you for an hour.

- Better late than never.

Without the owner of the
castle, nothing can be done.

Nicoletta comes with us,
she's dying to meet you.

Let's go ?

- Are you sure you're coming?

- Are you undecided?

If it's so important to you.

Luciana, I'm coming with you.

- Always with the ladies.

- You're just jealous.

We go with Riccardo,

he knows the way.

We'll follow you.

- So, Riccardo?

- Go ahead.

- I drive fast.

- What?

- I said, I drive fast.

- Do not worry, too.

Enter, there is room for everyone.

- That's wonderful.

- Look.

Can you imagine Riccardo living here?

It's a real castle.

Honestly, it doesn't

look like a castle.

That's the key, if someone

uses it, put it back in place.

It's unique.

Is that clear ?

- Paolo, my money?

- The bet.

- You're right.

Riccardo refused a hundred times

but said yes when I bet.

- Always ready for revenge.

- Don't forget me.

What mystery awaits us?

I had to invite them. I'm counting on you

Caterina, they don't know anything.

Riccardo hid that from us.

Here's a friend!

Come in, my friends.

Leave your things there,

Caterina will take care of it.

Make yourselves at home.

There's a fireplace,

with this cold.

Imagine if we had a place

like this in Rome.

If only, it would

be our ideal haunt.

- For what kind of games?

- Mind your own business.

Funny.

- A game table, let's play.

- Leave that.

I almost prefer it to
your father's castle.

- It's a different style.

- This one has an advantage.

- What?

- Your father is not here.

This is Caterina.

IShe knows the place better than me.

What an odd hairstyle.

- If the ladies want to relax.

- That's what we need.

- This way, please.

- Do you live here alone?

- Solitude is sometimes a pleasure.

Sit.

- Let's get comfortable.

- I'll have champagne.

I bet 1000 lire that
it is Pinot Ros.

Lost, Bollinger 1952,
the best year.

Get the glasses.

Carlo, take care of others.

We have everything.

Is this not perfect?

A fireplace, a castle, five pretty women.

- I'll die contented.

- Yes, die of pleasure.

You're telling me.

The bathroom is at the
end of the corridor.

- What a strange woman.

- She might not like our being here.

Perhaps, but there is
something strange about her.

The mystery of the castle.

Do not be afraid, this is the
first time I've slept far from home.

The first? So, it's not Caterina
you must be afraid of.

Forgive me but...

- they must not suspect anything.

- I'll be the perfect hostess.
We were children when
they bottled it.
Let's go back to the good
times like when we were children.
We have a few rounds.
I suggest a game of poker.
You're obsessed. All these women
and he thinks about poker.
Women always do
what men tell them.
You are experts.
Men have always done
what we, women want...
It's up to us to decide.
I want Riccardo to spend
time with me tonight.
I don't think he's your type.
Meaning?
You're too young.
What is it, Luciana?
Do you like Riccardo?
I am with Carlo.
Well then.
I'm with Paolo.
But Sergio seems to be amusing.
What's so bad about that?
I don't have anyone,
but I love them all.
That's not true.
And you, Franca?
I think I'll let Sergio
enjoy it tonight.
- Finally.
- Finally, animation.
Give them a few drinks and the lions
will come out of their cages.
I'm taking care of it.
No empty glasses.
- The Sword of the Gods.
- Who was it ?
Wait, this is important.
You and Paolo have girlfriends,
but what about us?

- Who will you choose?
- I have views on Franca.
Me, I like Nicoletta.
- If it's all right with Riccardo?
- What do you think ?
- Sorry, I was distracted.
- As usual, a real artist.
- Do you want Nicoletta?
- For me, the same.
Of course, if Luciana
was free, I...
We are not in the East.
What's wrong?
I do not know, it's the only
time East and West get along.
Have to go.
Luciana, if you don't mind,
do you want to help me?
I still have the marks
of my bathing suit.
- Sergio will be mine tonight.
- Poor man, what a destiny.
Girls, on the attack.
What did she say?
That I will have one of
those, and one of those.
Can you believe it?
Finally.
No more criticising us?
We talked about
fashion, and you?
We?
Of sport, of course.
Of course, sport.
Gymnastics in your room.
- Athletics.
- Who is it ?
There was a man in the
corridor, with a strange face.
He looked crazy,
and he came to me.
No, Nicoletta, it's Aldo.
He wouldn't hurt a fly.
Go and look for

wood, small pieces.

Don't be afraid.

Look.

Just what we need.

- Good champagne.

- That's salmon.

- Stop, I said it first.

- Feed the hungry.

I'm trembling.

- One for me too.

- No, you're driving.

- Come on, Lou, do something.

- At your service !

- It's hot, right?

- You tell me to undress.

- It's classical music.

- I know but you see...

I like dancing on this music.

My dear, I didn't

think you were coming.

It was difficult.

It's well hidden.

But you found us.

- I am disturbing you?

- On the contrary.

- I told him where we were.

- You were right.

We'll not be bored

with Serena with us.

Too bad, if we had known, we
would have invited another boy.

made in US, but he
is very intelligent.

Evidently, otherwise he
would not be with you.

It's your mysterious retreat,
it's very pretty, you know.

- You are too good.

- No, just honest.

You created the perfect atmosphere.

Anthony, put your record.

He brought him to his last flight.

Enough of classical music.

Come on, make room.

Do not drop anything.

Serena, you are amazing.

Go away.

I know a board
game that's fun.

- So ?

- It was an idea.

- Let's go.

- The game of illusions.

- You know it?

- Never heard of it.

We all have important
things in our life...

Money, work, love, if
we look at this...

- It's all an illusion.

- Precisely.

How to prove it?

This game will allow
us to know who we are.

How does it work?

You'll see.

We start with you, actually.

- Are you afraid of the truth?

- Absolutely not.

Well, tell me what you hope
for the most in this world?

Easy.

What a gallant boyfriend.

- Are you sure ?

- More than sure.

- Why are you so sure?

- She's the only one to shock me.

It would be easy to resist the
temptation of another woman.

That's what I would say.

- How much do you give me?

- As much as you want.

I need a moment.

- Sergio, you check it.

- Of course.

- 1000 lire on Carlo, you accept?

- Give me the 1000 lire.

Hold on.

The panther is on the attack.
Sergio, start.
Eleven seconds.
I lost.
You see, it was an illusion.
What did she tell you
to persuade you?
Nothing important.
I would have even kissed her even
though she didn't say anything.
It's just a game
- Who else wants to try?
I'm not afraid of your charm.
But this time it will
not be to kiss me.
I have to do what?
Say it's the most important
thing in your life.
- Which you can not do without.
- Love.
You're joking, the only thing
that interests Paolo is the game.
- No, love.
- The game or love?
I'll be more direct, Katie.
I don't know why,
but it means a lot to me.
Tell me if it's true
or just an illusion.
We try?
Come.
Let's see, a dice game,
minimum bet, 10,000.
- All right.
- 10,000 the blow.
The biggest wins.
I win, ten.
- 8.
- I win, 20.
- Double?
- Of course.
This shot is mine.
You are at 40,000.
We continue ?

- That's enough.
- All right, I'm going.
- Finally, a decent score.
- You never know with Serena.
Yours.
- Look at this.
- 12.
We are at 80,000.
Your luck is incredible.
I'll bet everything.
Too easy, you want to settle
everything in one go?
Set or you go up to 160,000.
Don't you like the risk?
Yes, and you?
Isn't that what I do?
- But on one condition.
- What?
You have to play
Katie half a minute.
What are you going to do with
half a minute of Katie's time?
Me, nothing...
but I could let
Anthony enjoy himself.
- What if I don't want to?
- I can't lose all the time.
Do what I tell you.
I accept.
Anthony, Katie is yours
for thirty seconds.
Exactly.
I'll confirm.
You lost, but you understand
that I have to play the game.
Of course.
I'm ready for revenge.
What do you say ?
But with one condition.
Let's see.
If you lose this time, you're
still playing for Katie...
but this time for ten minutes.
With Sergio.

With Sergio, for ten minutes,
in another room.
What's the matter ?
Don't you have the courage?
What do you think ?
Sergio is handsome.
It's your decision.
I accept, I'm bound
to win this time.
- Are you really sure?
I lost.
The check, for me.
For Sergio, Katie.
- I don't have to.
Gambling debts must be paid.
Is that not true, Paolo?
- It has always been my rule.
- Mine too.
You see, yours was
also an illusion.
All that reassures us...
can finish in an
instant, like life.
You are serious ?
Why ?
It's just a game.
Yes, a game but...
How far does it go?
Up to you to decide.
I can only obey.
And if I told you to undress.
And if I told you...
to undress.
And Paolo?
And you ?
I swear Anthony is a real
magician, he is never wrong.
I would like to be part of
one of your experiments.
I have always loved
the occult sciences.
Give me an object and
I'll tell you its story.
One moment.

Serena, I came to enjoy myself.
Why did you tell them
about my experiences?
I always do what I
want, and you know it.
This box belonged...
to someone who had died.
A violent death.
She was a woman.
And she meant a lot to you.
It was my mother, she
died in a car accident.
Guessing the past through
an object is great.
Why don't you ask him
to predict the future.
Can you?
We are the future, it starts in
our mind, then our personality.
- I want to know my future.
- We men are here, too.
I will please you all.
Something of the future
that concerns you all.
Even more interesting.
Take that and bring me a candle.
Come all here.
Sit.
I'm asking you... two things.
Absolute silence, and
a little patience.
It's necessary for my concentration.
- Do you want to turn off the lights?
- Of course.
The evil.
It's evil.
Men will look at themselves from above.
Women will change their appearance.
They will go back in time.
Music.
I hear some music.
Horrible things.
So...
Light!

It's horrible.
What I saw is horrible.
Leave quickly, something
horrible will happen.
I think he's mad, they
even brought him here.
No, I'm not mad.
I say it for your good.
Come.
Do you want
to ruin our evening?
Come with me.
Don't worry about me,
I'd like to go with you...
but I have to stay for
some specific reasons.
I'll explain to you later.
As you wish.
I would like to persuade
you, but unfortunately...
I cannot.
Go away, Aldo.
Come in.
Excuse me, I came to tell
you that I can't stay.
You know I have guests,
I have to join them.
Only one person interests you.
What are you talking about ?
I hardly know her.
If you say so.
But it's true.
- My God, it's dark.
- Turn on the light.
- Dance shoes.
- Magnificent.
Come on, girls.
Come see, it looks like a shop.
Beautiful, it's
fashionable again.
- Look.
- It's full here too.
- We dress up ?
- It is an idea !

Any excuse.

Dress to undress.

This one is mine.

- I've found what I'm going to wear.

- Me too.

Look over there.

I'm going to get something.

Come with me.

Slim.

Riccardo never told me

about these mirrors.

- Do you know what happened here?

- The ancestors of Riccardo.

Another era.

- And us?

- What did his ancestors do?

You're slow to unearth.

I'll show you what they

did with these mirrors.

- Another mirror.

- Amazing.

What a view.

- Interesting, no?

- You get there, Lou.

- What is wrong with you ?

- We see each other from above.

The American is like he said.

That's enough, don't worry.

There's also a music box.

Sergio will be on his knees tonight.

- Do you think they gave up?

- The game is over for me.

We wouldn't say

that when we saw them.

- You also wear black stockings.

- Yes, not bad.

- Where did you go?

- Where can they be?

- I'll see below.

- We don't play hide-and-seek.

- They must be somewhere.

- I'll see.

And me ?

I check up there.

Girls.

Someone there ?

Show me.

- They are splendid.

- This diamond.

The other ring is a family
jewel, it's worthless.

Let me take off that necklace,
They don't go together.

- Who is it ?

- It must be one of the men.

It's Lou.

Leave him alone, he's harmless.

- Tell him to close his eyes.

- What will you do ?

Go, in position.

It's a game ?

Come on, tell me.

I'm serious, I don't understand.

Hold on.

Open your eyes.

He was right !

Women will go back in time...

- and change their appearance.

- What do you mean?

- I'm serious.

We found a room with a
mirror above the bed.

- And?

- We saw each other from above.

- So what ?

- Don't you understand? Anthony's words...

The prophecy.

Men will see themselves from above.

You know what ?

You're more insane than Anthony...

and I don't care about you,
him, or his prophecies.

- I knew it.

- What's wrong ?

Can't you hear?

That's true.

- The third prophecy of Anthony: music.

- What's going to happen ?

- Nothing, what do you think?
Don't push it too hard otherwise
you'll end up frightening us all.
You're a real artist.
You are so beautiful like that.
We'll watch you.
Who shouted?
In there!
She's dead.
This belongs to Aldo.
We even looked there, we can
do nothing, he disappeared.
Fly away!
No doubt, it was him.
I can't believe it.
Why him ?
- He probably tried to rape her.
- With that...
- What do we do ?
The only thing that makes
sense, call the police.
But we don't have a
phone, we need a car.
No problem, I'll be
back in an hour or so.
- That's fine by me.
- Everyone's in agreement?
- Yes, we have no other choice.
- Luciana, I'm taking your car.
The keys are
on the dashboard.
All right, I'm going.
There, you'll feel better.
- I can't wait for it to finish
- What are you afraid of ?
You are scared ?
I'm not afraid.
We're stuck.
- What do you mean?
- The garage key has disappeared.
- Are you sure ?
- Yes, I looked everywhere.
Aldo had to take it.
He made us look fools.

- Let's force the door.

- No it's impossible.

It's solid wood, we
need a locksmith.

So ?

We wait for the truck of the deliveryman.

We can not spend the night here
as well. We have to leave.

- We'll form a hunting party.

- At night ?

We are not armed and Aldo
is stronger than he looks.

We'll be more reassured
with the revolver.

Let's make sure the doors
and windows are closed...

- It's Aldo.

- No, don't shoot.

Isn't there a room where
we can lock him up?

Yes, come with me.

He can't escape here.

Relax.

Let's go.

The American was right.

We should have listened to him.

We just have to wait,
let's try to rest.

Edie, you're going to
spend the night like that?

Pity, it was so comfortable.

I'm going to change.

- What is it ?

- Turn around.

What did you do with the dress?

The monster!

- What monster?

- That one, over there.

- Who ?

That thing, the brute.

- I mean Aldo.

- Aldo? When?

- When I came with Serena.

- Well ?

I was looking for Riccardo
and Lou to show them.
Serena was in the room with
the mirrors, and I was alone.
Then, he appeared.
I tried to escape.
- We fought and we went outside.
- Outside ?
Yes, on the balcony, to be alone.
He even kissed me, then
we heard Franca scream.
He kisses so well,
pity he's a murderer.
Murderer, my eye.
If you left Serena and you were
with Aldo until Franca's cry...
Aldo can't be the killer.
If that's the case, then
one of us is the killer.
- What is going on ?
- There's something wrong.
The fuses must have blown.
Go and find out.
We must consider the situation calmly.
We can exclude Aldo and Edie.
Who of us has never
been alone...
since Serena went down, until
Franca found her dead?
I was with Luciana and Nicoletta,
we were always together.

That's five:

Lou, Nicoletta and Luciana.
It's a process of elimination.
- You, Paolo?
- Me?
To be honest, I have
always been alone.
Now that I think about
it, I met Riccardo.
- Right, Riccardo?
- Yes, it's true...
- When I was at the library.

- How long before Franca's scream?

Six minutes, Perhaps.

I spoke to Caterina...

And I met Paolo,
and played piano.

In theory, we could exclude you.

- In theory.

I was with Sergio then Luciana but
I was alone for a few minutes.

When I left you, I went
downstairs and met Katie.

So you don't have a
concrete alibi either.

Me less than all of you, I was
alone when I saw Serena.

We five are potential suspects.

We five?

Yes, if we exclude Caterina.

- Finally.

- I'm sorry, I have to change.

The fortunate have no worries
in this world.

Aldo escaped through the
window and broke the fuse box.

It doesn't matter anymore.

He's not the killer.

No, Aldo is even more
dangerous. He's afraid.

I wonder what the motive was?

You don't kill someone
without a specific reason.

Maybe the killer had a reason to
kill Serena, what do we know?

We cannot exclude sex.

Did you notice that
Serena's ring disappeared?

Are you sure ?

- I checked, they both disappeared.
Both.

If so, the killer may
still have them.

If there are no objections,
I will search everyone.

I don't think we have a choice.

- Do you start with me?
- What's in your pocket, Sergio?
Nothing.
Where did it come from?
You don't think that...
It was you, Paolo, I saw you.
Let go of me.
That's right, I stole it,
but I'm not a murderer.
I didn't kill him, I swear
I'm not a murderer!
- Explain yourself.
- I took it after, not before.
- Serena was already dead.
- You make me sick.
Don't say that, you
know I have debts.
I couldn't resist.
When I took it, the other
had already disappeared.
- Are you sure ?
- Search if you don't believe me.
The other ring had no value,
it was a family jewel.
Why take it?
Why ?
What I saw was horrible.
Close this.
Sorry, I did not do it on purpose.
I want to leave
I beg you, I want to leave!
Do you want help ?
Relax for five minutes,
it'll do us good.
Come on, Paolo, don't be like that.
No, thanks, I'll take the air.
I'm coming with you.
Come on, Paolo, smile.
Come on, that's better.
Excuse me, but I
want to be alone.
It's nothing.
Come on, sit down.
Don't be like that.

I'll soothe your forehead.
It will pass, you'll see.
It'll do you some good.
I'll come again.
Don't be long.
Who shouted?
What happened?
Tell me.
Franca left me alone, and
didn't come back...
and Riccardo appeared
from behind the wall.
The wall?
The wall, you say.
- Riccardo?
- Yes.
Then he disappeared.
- There was a shadow behind me.
- Who was it ?
I don't know.
The killer.
Franca is in the library.
She's dead.
I saw her dead.
Let's go.
Come.
- Where is Franca?
- There, on the sofa.
Dead.
Come with us.
She was here.
I saw her.
- I'm sure.
- You are mistaken.
I swear.
- I saw it.
- Listen, Riccardo...
either you're mad,
or you're a killer.
A killer?
Me?
But why?
You were the only person here...
and we were together

downstairs, understand?
In that case, if it was
just a hallucination...
where is Franca?
Here is the problem.
She can't have disappeared.
We must find her.
Let's go.
I can't believe.
He did it.
We must search everywhere.
Search the castle.
Come on, we'll separate.
I start with the kitchen.
Are you coming with us, Paolo?
I'll start with the attic.
I'm going mad.
I know you're going through
a difficult time...
but remember that I'm the
only one who can help you.
Give me peace.
I want to be alone.
Come on, I'll show you the place.
Come.
You see ? This is where
Riccardo appeared.
- I wonder how it opens.
- There must be a button.
Perhaps this one.
You see, I was right!
I'm sure Franca is here.
- Come.
- You have to call the others.
There are steps.
Come on, hurry up.
I'm coming.
And if it closes?
You are here.
What is it?
You know all the secrets
of this damn castle.
It was always pleasant
before your arrival.

I was saying...
that there is a passage here,
and Nicoletta is trapped...
- Buried alive!
- be quiet, it's not a secret...
- and your friend is not in danger.
- Really?
On a night like this?
With a maniac on the loose?
All right, I'll look.
Stop shaking like that.
I'm not going to hurt you, I
just want to talk to you.
I know who the killer is.
Give him peace.
You are here.
We can do nothing, Franca has disappeared.
I don't know what to think.
I'm not sure anymore.
I don't even trust myself.
You were upset,
Serena's death...
It was my death blow!
That's what you mean?
- That's not what I think.
- As if I didn't know it!
I see how you behave, you
look at me and you tell me...
"Don't worry, it's nothing,"
but that's not what you think.
You're wrong.
That's not true, at
least not for me.
Luciana, I'm not crazy.
I saw Franca.
You don't believe me ? When you
entered, there was no-one on the sofa.
Do you know what's up now?
The medallion of Franca.
- He appeared like that.
- But that's right...
Its very important.
- Riccardo... there's nothing here.
- Impossible. He was there.

- Riccardo, rest.

- You too!

- Does anyone want to play?

- Aren't you tired yet?

Yes, I'm tired.

Tired of looking for ghosts
and waking up the dead.

It passes the time until dawn.

- You're an idiot.

Edie, do you want to play with an idiot?

Why not?

- It'll calm my mind.

- You start.

Come, there's nobody here.

You have to insist, do not
give up, he will denounce you.

- Are you sure it was him?

- More than sure.

Tonight, when he told me
that Serena was pregnant...

- I knew who it was.

- But why kill her?

A moment of madness,
the fear of scandal...

His family would have disowned him.

A noble with a woman
like her, with her past.

- What should I do ?

- You must continue...

You'll see,

it must be done before dawn.

Go ahead.

It's almost dawn.

You lost again.

I lost almost every throw,
one more, one less.

Where are the others?

- One last throw?

- No, I'm too tired.

I'll pay what I lost.

Do not be silly.

I'll take his place.

- For all winnings?

- All.

I'll do anything for a friend.
- All winnings and...
- And?
And me.
If you want to be like that,
don't bother playing.
The wages father gave you,100,000.
What's the matter ?
Are you afraid of losing?
Are you trying to scare me?
I'm not like Riccardo...
I am not in an asylum like him.
What's wrong?
You lost, my dear.
No time to waste.
Aldo knows the killer.
What are you doing?
Have you gone mad?
Give me peace.
I do not want to live anymore.
You don't understand?
You're innocent.
- It was me, I killed Franca.
- It's not true.
Franca is alive.
Don't you understand? She's alive!
What do you mean?
So who is the killer?
I'm almost dead with fear.
He almost collapsed
when he saw me.
Yes, you were right.
- It's him, the killer.
- Everything is becoming clear.
But we have no proof.
And if he denies it?
How to prove that he's lying?
- There is irrefutable proof.
- What?
Definitive proof.
When Riccardo found you dead,
the first time, I mean...
everyone else, including me,
were together...

he was the only one
who could kill you.
Is that clear?
Perfect, I would say.
What are you talking about ? I am alive.
And what are you saying?
It's about you. In fact,
when they find you dead...
no one will think it
happened now, but earlier.
You see?
Then Riccardo will be held
responsible for the two murders...
and not just for Serena's death.
Serena was carrying my baby, and
I can't lose Luciana's money.
Bastard!
Be careful, he has a gun.
He's locked out.
Come on, let's break the door.
There's another key,
I'll get it.
Carlo, open!
It's finished.
Give me that, Aldo.
He hid it near the garage, unaware
that Aldo was watching her.
But why ?
This is Serena's ring.
'Serena, forever'