



It's a Five-Minute Mystery!

Can You Solve It?

We've got some 5-minute mysteries for you to solve. They are short scenarios and all you have to do is tell us why the suspect is guilty. This is the first one. Once you have your answer, just follow the instructions at the bottom of the message to submit your guess (and possibly win a prize). Good luck!

Blood, Blood Everywhere!



We are in a small village somewhere in Italy. The night is fierce as a storm rages with occasional flashes of lightning and drums of thunder. A man approaches a small country home, his hat dripping with rain, his collar turned up against the cold and wind. There is a faint light shining in one of the windows of the house as he hops from stone to stone on the narrow path to the door.

He knocks loudly on the door and after a small wait, a woman answers.

“Ciao, Emilia.”

“Carlo! What are you doing here? How did you find me?”

“It’s reassuring that you haven’t forgotten me, caro mio. After five years in jail, I’m sure I look a bit different.”

“Where have you been since you were released?”

“Frankly, my dear, I’ve been wandering from town to town trying to lose the memory of our 10 years of marriage. But I must admit, I haven’t succeeded, especially since you’re the reason I was in that rat-infested jail.”

“Go away and leave me alone! You deserved to go to jail and I don’t regret turning you in. Leave and don’t ever come back!”

“I have no intentions of returning after this visit. You see, it’s payback. I’m here to kill you.”

“Sei pazzo! You’re mad!”

“Perhaps, but I really can’t resist. I’ve been waiting a long time and now I have the perfect situation: a woman alone in a house in the country, a loud storm—a perfect motive for returning and a genius alibi.”

“Stay away from me.... Help! Help!”

“Don’t run away! After all, there’s nowhere to go and no one to hear you....”



A short time later....

“You must have had quite a ride to get here in this storm, Carlo.”

“Yes, Commissario Fucalini, but I wanted to report my wife’s death as soon as possible.”

“You’ve been away for quite a while, Carlo. Why are you back now? You were released a few years ago.”

“That’s rather a strange story, Commissario. I’ve been wandering from town to town for years, working at odd jobs. Emilia and I have been separated for a long time but I still care for her in spite of her turning me in. I really did deserve to go to jail, I admit.

But you see, my wife is quite frightened of doctors and refuses to consult one. About five days ago I received a letter from her saying she felt that

she was dying. She's always been a strange sort of woman. I'm sure you know her reputation. Naturally, I was concerned and decided it was a good time to check on her. But I sure didn't count on this vicious storm!"

"No disrespect, Carlo, but it's well known in the village that she's....I guess I'd say a bit eccentric."

"By the way, Commissario, when do you think you can come out to the house to write a report on the suicide?"

"I'm afraid we'll have to wait for the storm to subside a bit but I realize you want this whole embarrassing episode disposed of as quickly as possible. If you provide me with some of the details, I can begin my report."

"I arrived at the house around 8 o'clock tonight. I knocked but no one answered. The door was unlocked so I went in. I called out and heard a faint voice. I found my wife in the bedroom. She had several wounds that were bleeding. She told me they were self-inflicted."

"Did you try to stop the bleeding?"

"Yes, of course. I got some towels from the bathroom but they were soaked in no time. Then she laughed--a bit crazy I might add--and told me there was nothing I could do. She told me she suffers from hemophilia and that it would be impossible to stop the flow of blood as there was too many wounds and they were bleeding profusely. There was nothing I could do to help her. The house is in a rather remote area as you know and with the storm, well, there was no way to get help in time."

"The storm is letting up so we'll be able to go out to the house now. I'll give the coroner a call to come along, too. But I warn you that anything you say will be used against you. I am arresting you for the murder of your wife."

What did Carlo say that convinced the Commissario Fucalini that he was lying and killed his wife?

Here's How to Submit Your Guess

You must respond to Karen Zimmerman **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 3, 6 PM**. If you're among the first 5 correct guesses, you'll receive a \$5 coupon towards the cost of any event we do in the future. It's that simple! But, remember, you can only win two coupons, total. You can continue to guess after you've won twice but we won't be able to give you any more than two coupons.

You just need to do three things:

1. Prepare an email to bobzkarenz@att.net
2. In the subject line, put "Murder," and,
3. Add your name.

If you've done it right, the Subject line should look like this:

Subject: Murder - Mary Smith

You will receive an email confirming that your guess was received and if you were right or wrong. Easy!

REMEMBER:

Don't hit "reply" to this email!

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