

RITA

77

One.

ANNABEL

He never even met his Uncle!

RITA

Two!

#18 (cont'd) :

NICE (REPRISE)

HARRY

IT WAS NICE
KNOWING YOU!

RITA

Three.

HARRY

NICE MEETING YOU!

RITA

Four!

HARRY , ANNABEL

NICE KNOWING
THERE'LL BE NO REPEATING YOU!

(RITA closes HER eyes and is about to shoot, when
the door slams and the ARAB enters,
gun drawn.)

ARAB

You will please to drop the gun.

(RITA drops the gun and turns. THE ARAB removes HIS head dress,
and reveals that HE is, in fact, LUIGI GAUDI)

LUIGI

Ciaou, Harry I thought you might need a little assistance.

HARRY

Thank God, Luigi!

LUIGI

Not exactly.

(LUIGI GAUDI removes HIS mustache and becomes TONY HENDON.)

RITA

Oh, my God.

TONY

Yo, Ritza Pizza. You still look lousey in glasses.

(RITA hastily removes them.)

HARRY

Who...who are you?

TONY

I'm your Uncle, kid! I'm Tony Hendon. I've been keeping an eye on you.

RITA

Jesus, Tony! I thought you were dead! And here you are...in an Arab outfit with an Italian accent!

(MUSIC out)

RITA

You look good.

HARRY

You're my...Uncle?

ANNABEL(Indicating corpse)

Then who is that?

TONY

Luigi Gaudi. A dear old friend . Who was killed in my own apartment. In my own bed.

(MUSIC CUE 19 --"Confession #2"/"Fancy Meeting You Here Reprise"-- begins.)

RITA

Well, what was he doing there? In the dark? With a woman?

HARRY

And what am I doing here, with him?

#19:

CONFESSION #2 (REPRISE)

TONY

HE WAS STAYING AT MY PLACE

RITA, HARRY, ANNABEL

AT YOUR PLACE?

TONY

FOR THE NIGHT.
KNOWING HIM, HE HAD A WOMAN.

RITA, ANNABEL, HARRY

WOMAN?

TONY

WOMAN.
I CAME HOME AT 5 IN THE MORNING
HE LAY...NEAR DEATH!

SO I HELD HIM IN MY ARMS

RITA, ANNABEL, HARRY

IN YOUR ARMS

TONY

IN MY ARMS
THINKING SOMEONE TRIED TO SHOOT ME!

RITA

SCARE YOU.

TONY

SHOOT ME!
INSTEAD. SOMEONE MURDERED MY BUDDY
AND LYING THERE, BATTERED AND BLOODY
WITH HIS LAST BREATH...
HE WHISPERED...

(TONY now assumes Italian accent, and becomes the dying LUIGI)

IVE GOTTA GO
TO MONTE CARLO
TONY, I'LL TELL YOU WHY
GOT THE RESERVATIONS MADE
IT'S ALL ARRANGED AND IT'S ALL PAID
AND I WAS HOPING TO GET LAID, AND TONY...

(HE coughs, and seems to die. ALL hover over HIM)

TONY (As LUIGI, who recovers for a moment
and with HIS last breath sings operatically)

TONY.....!!!!!!!

(HE coughs, and dies--a very dramatic
death. MUSIC continues under, as TONY
comes up from his re-enactment of LUIGI's death,
and continues.)

TONY

I knew the bullet that killed Luigi was meant for me. I owed the guy. So I came up with a plan, fast. I planted my own obituary in the Atlantic City papers, so people would think I was really dead. Then, I switched passports with Luigi and booked a flight out of the country. But first, I made arrangements for my friend to have the vacation of his dreams. I made tapes of everything he wanted to see and do. I even made arrangements for him to have his dying wish.

(TONY takes a cassette out of HIS pocket,
and places it in the tape recorder. A spotlight
illuminates the corpse)

VOICE OF TONY HENDON

Dear Nephew Harry , I've done some bad things in my life, but my heart has always stayed innocent. My body, nothing. My heart, everything. Harry , what I ask of you is this. At the end of the week, take the heart shaped box, which contains...my heart...and bury it at sea. Do this for me, and we'll meet again, in Heaven.

(LUIGI turns tape recorder off. MUSIC OUT.
(HARRY, ANNABEL and RITA react with varying degrees of
nausea to the news that there is a heart in the box.)

RITA (Holding the box as away as possible)

Then...if his heart is in here, where are the diamonds?

TONY (Patting the corpse)

Right where my taxidermist friend put them. In here. (MUSICAL ACCENT) Right in here.

(LOUD MUSICAL ACCENT as door slams
and VINNIE and DOMINIQUE DU MONACO rush in.
THEY are both dressed as maids. VINNIE points a gun.)

VINNIE

All right. Don't anyone move. Now, listen to me. I am a law-abiding American citizen who has been harassed, slandered, forced to go to Europe against his will, manipulated and shot at. My sister here thought she could live happily ever after, and leave me holding the bag. Well, Rita, you forgot one little thing. You can only push an optometrist so far! Now, it's Vinnie's turn! I am taking this wonderful little woman, and starting a new life where not you, not your husband's hoods, not even Mary Alice or her mother will ever find me.

(DOMINIQUE whispers in HIS ear)