

1 **RAMON:** Could it be that nobody else is dead? Look around the room.
BUNGLER: Yes, I see your point.
NORA: Maybe he poisoned only Eleanor's plate.
RAMON: More than a hundred meals have been served here this
5 evening. I did not serve the spaghetti. How could I be sure the
plate with the potion got to the patron to be poisoned?
BUNGLER: You couldn't, unless you were in cahoots with a companion
who delivered the collation with the contagion to the victim who
was violated.
10 **RAMON:** I told you, Inspector, I'm working with morons. The victuals
with the venom could only have been delivered by a plant near the
aunt. (*Points to DARBY.*) She's the one. (*MUSIC.*) She delivered the
dish with the stuff to the stiff.
NICK: She's just a child.
15 **MAGGIE:** Who just learned she'd been cut out of her grandmother's
will.
BUNGLER: (*To DARBY.*) Your name?
DARBY: It's right here on my name tag.
BUNGLER: Your name is Darby?
20 **DARBY:** Duh!
BUNGLER: Is that true, Miss Duh? You were the one to serve Mrs.
VanHeusen her dinner?
DARBY: Yes.
BUNGLER: So, we have opportunity and motive. You knew you'd been
25 cut out of the will?
DARBY: Yes, Maggie showed me a copy earlier. So what? It's only
money. Grandma knew nothing about love. She didn't know the
meaning of romance. I'm vibrant, young, I have my whole life ahead
of me, and she couldn't stand it unless she controlled everything.
30 Well, Grandma couldn't control the boy I loved. As much as she
deserved it, I didn't kill her. (*All innocence now.*) Can the will still
be amended?
MAGGIE: Only if Mrs. VanHeusen were proven to be certifiably crazy.
DARBY: You mean like hearing voices and seeing visions?
35 **MAGGIE:** Or if she had attempted to kill herself.
HADLEY: She was too in love with herself to do that.
DESMOND: If Darby didn't kill Auntie, then who did?
BUNGLER: That's just what I intend to find out.
RAMON: I'm changing my accusation. (*Points to MAGGIE.*) Maggie
40 killed Eleanor VanHeusen. (*MUSIC.*)

1 **BUNGLER:** Mrs. VanHeusen's private secretary?
MAGGIE: That's a lie.
BUNGLER: Why?
RAMON: She was jealous.

5 **MAGGIE:** Jealous of what?
RAMON: Eleanor VanHeusen was dating Nick Quartermaine.
MAGGIE: You were seeing Eleanor? *(ALL turn to NICK.)*
RAMON: As if you didn't know. Everyone knows you're in love with
Nick, and you couldn't stand it because he had a thing for Eleanor
10 and wouldn't look twice at you.
NICK: That's not true.
MAGGIE: You mean you would look twice at me?
NICK: No, I mean I didn't have a thing for Eleanor.
BUNGLER: So you killed Eleanor in a fit of jealousy?

15 **MAGGIE:** All right, I admit it. I hated her. Her money, her extravagance.
Every man I ever fancied she moved in and stole from me. But no,
I didn't kill her. *(To DESMOND.)* He did. *(MUSIC.)* He came to my
room one night and pretended to seduce me. But all he wanted
was to see a copy of Eleanor's will. Once he'd satisfied himself,
20 he left in tears.
BUNGLER: You mean he left you in tears.
MAGGIE: No, he was in tears. He discovered he'd been cut out of the
will.
HADLEY: Is that true? You're broke?

25 **DESMOND:** Hadley, we don't need millions. We can live on love. I'll
take a job at the cannery.
HADLEY: Can you say "annulment"?
DESMOND: All right, I see. *(To HADLEY.)* Then I think you did it.
(MUSIC.) You hated Auntie Eleanor because she knew you weren't
30 the New England girl you pretend to be. You never spent weekends
in the Hamptons with the Hamptons. I was willing to overlook your
tawdry past, but not Auntie. She knew the truth. She knew you
were nothing but a fraud, a cheap, uneducated Las Vegas show
girl.

35 **HADLEY:** Ha, you're an idiot, Desmond. It was Dr. Rank. *(MUSIC.)*
BUNGLER: Dr. Rank was a show girl?
RANK: It's a lie. I've never been to Vegas. Atlantic City a few times,
but never Vegas.
HADLEY: It was Dr. Rank who killed Eleanor VanHeusen.

40 **RANK:** Another lie, liar. More lies.

- 1 **HADLEY:** For no longer than I've been in this town masquerading as a town, even I have heard the rumors, Doctor. Your sordid past, your indiscretions, and your habit of wearing bowties.
- NICK:** But why would Dr. Rank want to kill Eleanor?
- 5 **HADLEY:** Envy. Because he didn't get to sit at the head table. Isn't that right, Doctor?
- RANK:** Yes, yes. It's true. I wanted to sit at the head table. I wanted to be a member of the board of directors of The Theatre Guild, but Eleanor VanHeusen always stood in my way. As chairwoman, she
- 10 had veto power, and she wielded that veto like a metal ball with spikes. She wouldn't give me the time of day. She never forgave me for failing to save Chucky's life.
- NORA:** *(A sudden recollection.)* Chucky?
- RAMON:** Who's Chucky?
- 15 **RANK:** Chucky was her polo pony. He fell ill after a match, and I couldn't save him.
- NORA:** It's because you wouldn't give him mouth to mouth.
- RANK:** It was you, Nora DuMond. *(MUSIC.)*
- NORA:** Ridiculous. I wasn't even there.
- 20 **RANK:** Oh, but you were. Remember that day 33 years ago, the little girl who fed Chucky a polo ball? You killed Eleanor just like you killed Chucky.
- HADLEY:** Eleanor choked on a polo ball?
- RANK:** This woman is only pretending to be Eleanor VanHeusen's
- 25 sister. She's actually Eleanor's daughter! And mother of Darby.
- DARBY:** *(MUSIC.)* What? You're my mother?
- NORA:** *(Arms wide.)* Darby, Darby, my dear little Darby. How can you ever forgive me?
- DARBY:** It won't be easy.
- 30 **NICK:** Now what, Inspector? Everyone has a motive.
- DESMOND:** Not everyone. We haven't heard from you, Nick. *(MUSIC.)*
- HADLEY:** Something about a relationship with Eleanor.
- NICK:** It's true when I said I didn't have a thing for Eleanor. But she had a thing for me. She wouldn't leave me alone. I was her boy
- 35 toy. She called me her bronze god, her Adonis. She made me feel cheap. I hated her attentions, her calls, and her little gifts. So, I thought about killing her. I was ready to do it tonight. But someone beat me to it.
- BUNGLER:** I need a drink. *(Reaches for ELEANOR'S glass.)*