

CHAPTER 14 – SICILIAN DREAM.

*26 04 2022 Tuesday. He books a suite at
the Hotel Regina Vittoriosa in Sorrento.*

Frank continues working and planning the Scopello trip in his hotel. He calls Hotel Regina Vittoriosa in Sorrento, Naples.

“Bongiorno. Regina Vittoriosa Reception Desk. How can I help you?”

“My name is Frank Costanzo. I would like to book a room.”

“How many people?”

“Two.”

“When?”

“Venti Otto.”

“Okay Thursday, morning or evening?”

“Afternoon.”

“And departing?”

“The next day. Friday.”

“Va Bene.”

“I am after the most romantic room you have. The one that looks straight out at the Golfo di Sorrento. Perfect View like the one in the song.”

“In the Caruso song you mean? Lucio Dalla or Bocelli or Pavarotti singing?”

“Yes. But can we also have the CD ... the Bocelli version, if you have or I will buy one on the way.”

“We have many copies. Everybody wants this song. We have 20 copies of Bocelli, 20 copies of Lucio and 30 of Pavarotti. Which one do you prefer?”

“Bocelli for sure.”

“Very romantic. Very good choice.”

“Only very old men ask for Pavarotti. We get many of them His voice is very very very powerful.”

We tell them we have batteries but they still don't hear me. Some of them even forget their hearing aids at home, sometimes.”

“One last comment. This is funny ...

Last year. New Year's Eve. An American guest came down to the desk, exactly at Midnight, still in his dressing gown. He was furious. He

insulted me calling a wog. In my country. He shouted at me: What the fuck is going on. Some old fart next door is bringing the fucken place down. Not to mention the noise from the fireworks. After having 3 goes, my girlfriend is out and I need to get some fucken sleep. Not very polite, but very funny. I told him. Please calm down. Calm my fucken ass he said. Go and sort it out.”

“So I went up to the suite next to the American’s with some batteries. Knocked on the door, once, twice, three times. No answer. Pavarotti was still singing very very loud. The button on the record player must have been on Repeat. Maybe he died on the job, I thought. I opened the door with my special key. The old man was snoring like a train. (imitates a snoring noise). He was making more noise than Pavarotti. I put the lights in the room out. And turned Pavarotti off.”

“That is funny, really funny. Ha Ha. Okay then it’s all done.”

“Oh one more thing. The old lady. She passed out on the balcony with a bottle of Gin next to her. Also snoring like a ferrovia. Fireworks were going on. But she missed them all. And she missed Pavarotti also. And the Golfo di Sorrento. So, like the American, I said to myself: What a fucken waste of money. Sorry I am using bad language.”

“No problem. But Bocelli please. No batteries needed.”

“Okay, You need one cosy room. Not important very big. Small room is more romantic. I guarantee. Our Internet survey say Small Rooms always get 10 stars.”

“True. But can we have the same room that appears in song, you know in the video.”

“I see what we can do. As you know that room is always in high demand.”

“Everybody wants to make love, in the same bed, in the same suite, looking at the same scene, imagining all the pleasures of the flesh you remember from the younger days. Of course, many of them pretend to be young. That is 90% of our business. Old men. They can afford it. So we’re happy.”

“Yes that I understand. Look, I am a successful businessman. I am happy to spend what I have to spend to get what I want to get.

“Very well put Mr Costanzo. That is like Bocelli singing. Music to my ears.”

“I will most certainly see how I can satisfy your wishes. No favours as you understand.”

“I am booking you now in a suite next to Lucio’s one. But I will tell reception desk to give you a priority if they can. Ahhh. Momento. Here is a bit of luck, perhaps. I see that the guest in Lucio’s room will vacate the same day you arrive. That is lucky. But you may have to wait a little longer for the suite to get serviced. You can enjoy a few Martinis at the bar. Part of the excitement is the waiting. You will need to pay a higher rate for that room when you register of course. The reception desk will tell you on the day.”

“Mr Costanzo, are you driving a small car, a medium car or a very big car? Parking space is precious here more than the suites.”

“A Brand New Bugatti.”

“Dio Mio. Ehhhhh let me see. Italian Capolavoro. You don’t get change from \$4,000,000.”

“Not much.”

“Momento. Sorry you are sending me in a spin. My head is going round and round. Bugatti. I only see them in movies. Tom Cruise. I don’t like Tom Cruise. We call him Short Superman. But I like the Bugatti.”

“Okay I will park you in the far corner of the garage. Bright light shines on the car day and night. No robbery. Security camera always looking at the car. One side is next to the wall. Always safe from scratching. The other side we hope nobody make a dent.”

“Very thoughtful ehhhh... your name?”

“It’s Graziano Montealto. We have two Grazianos. Me and him. I am the most handsome. You cannot miss. You always find me behind the concierge desk. The other Graziano always pushing trolleys.”

“Okay well we will see you on the day, Graziano.”

“Oh Mr. Costanzo. The name of the lady if I may.”

“No name Graziano. The names change on the Autostrada. The lucky one ends up at the hotel with me.”

“Oh Mr Costanzo. You are very very clever. I like that. I tried that with my Fiat, before I was married. But no luck.”

“Graziano can we book the same suite for Monday 2nd of May on our return trip?”

“Momento. Little problem. First I book the Bugatti space. Maybe more important to you. Maybe it is not. Now, with the room “c’e un problema.”

“What problema. You leave one day. Somebody gets your suite the same day. Then we change the next day. We break the schedule. It becomes very difficult for the Reception Desk and customer will not move out and then back in to do the hotel a favour. Just a minute. Let me think.”

“Okay let’s think. Let me see. Momento.”

“Graziano. Don’t think. Don’t see. No more Momentos.”

“Book the room from Thursday till Tuesday morning next week. That’s six days. Lock it up. I will pay for all the days when I check out on Friday. In advance.”

“Oh sir, you don’t need to do that. But as you wish.”

“By the way, Graziano. The empty garage space, you can use. Bit more money ... for the hotel ... of course. But no hanky panky in the room.”

“You are funny Mr. Costanzo. You are always safe in Graziano’s hands. I will look after you and the lady. I will also organize a special bunch of flowers, my expense of course.”

“One little question. On the way back, will it be the same signora?”

“Yes Graziano. Now I have to go.”

“Scusami. All booked. Thursday to Tuesday. Drive Safely okay?. On a Bugatti you have to be easy on the gas.”

“Thank you. That’s my man. Ciao.”

Costanzo chuckles. Feeling exhausted, Frank shakes his head and drops off to sleep.

Graziano (mutters). Nice man. Deep pockets? Looks like it! ... For the suite at least. I hope he remembers my name. I really think I made a good impression.

27 04 2022 Wednesday. Chapter 14
Section Break

*Frank confirms Scopello trip is all booked.
4 Fingers gets curious.*

Frank wakes up refreshed. Now it's Wednesday. He sms's Jaquie: "Jaquie, Breakfast Thursday morning. Then off on the trip. All bookings made. Let me know if you can't make it".

Jaquie sms's back. "Fine, but at the moment I am on a Versace shoot."

He sms's Jaquie again: "That is great news Jaquie. I am feeling great. I will drive now for a trip by myself. I will save all my thoughts for you. Till we see each other again on Thursday."

Jaquie sms's back. "Romantic. I like it."

Frank smiles and looks at himself in the mirror.

Johnny "4 Fingers" sms's Jaquie. "What's happening".

Jaquie sms's Johnny. "On a shoot at Versace. Meeting Frank Thursday for a trip. Don't know where or how long. Surprise he said."

4 Fingers sms's Jaquie again. "Really No idea where to?"

Jaquie sms's Johnny. She is getting rather annoyed. "Johnny do you want me to tell you when he goes to the bathroom. If he's sitting down or standing up. I am busy on a shoot".

4 Fingers sms's Jaquie again. "Take it easy. You're getting paid for this".

She ends the call and mutters: "Asshole".

4 Fingers sms's Giacomo. "Our girl is getting edgy."
Giacomo sms's reply "Just stay calm."
