

COSLOW. No, I'm not. And I get a great deal of compliments for it too. Anyway, thanks to what you've written here, Mr. Mr...

(picks up pages again)

ADAM. Webster. Adam Webster.

COSLOW. Yes. Mr. Webster. I now have a much clearer picture of the details of this case and I must say it does not bode well for any of you. It seems every one of you had a reason to do in the late Mr. Roy Benson.

ADAM. I'm so glad to hear that.

JOHNNY. You are?

ADAM. Yes. It just proves that I've finally stumbled on to a good story. Lots of suspects obviously makes it more difficult to figure out.

COSLOW. Yes, it does, doesn't it? And this one seems very rich in motives too. There's you, Mrs. Benson with two of them. Motive number one, for the insurance money and motive number two, for being betrayed by a husband.

LAURA. I buy that.

COSLOW. Good. Now, our friend Johnny Bubbles here, well, according to the pages I just read, didn't he have a thing for Rita? When she disappeared with Mr. Benson, well, we all know the power of that green eyed monster called jealousy. It does have a way of bringing out one's uncontrollable rage.

JOHNNY. Hold on, smart guy. If I was able to find Benson, why didn't I find Rita?

COSLOW. Maybe you did. But for now let us deal with one murder at a time. And then there's you, Mr. Webster.

ADAM. Oh, come on. What reason would I have to kill that no good, low life scumbucket, who deserved to die more than anyone on earth?

COSLOW. One of the best reasons in the world. You're in love with his wife.

LAURA. *(surprised)* He is?

COSLOW. Isn't it obvious. It's all in the pages I've read. I can only assume you two have consummated the relationship?

LAURA. (*shyly*) Yes. But at this point it's just an affair. No one's spoken of love. Not yet, anyway.

COSLOW. Perhaps not yet, but the romantic side of me is convinced it's inevitable.

(puts the pages back on the desk)

Of course, another thought occurs to me. Being so deeply in love, as Mr. Webster clearly is, a man is much more bent to aid and abet his beloved's nefarious scheme of acquiring the very generous insurance disbursement that ensues upon her late spouse's demise.

JOHNNY. Christ, I haven't heard anyone talk like that since Masterpiece Theatre.

COSLOW. One of my all time favorites and a wonderful study in civilized behavior. I'm surprised, Mr. Bubbles you're even aware of such television offerings.

(JOHNNY smiles proudly.)

In any case, I have just outlined a scenario for three very good suspects.

JOHNNY. Wait a minute. We're not the only ones that could have killed that no good bum. What about my boss, Fat Eddie Bistro? What if he caught Benson trying to skip town?

(COSLOW takes a small notebook and pen from his jacket pocket and makes notes.)

COSLOW. Yes, very well. We shall add Fat Eddie to the list.

JOHNNY. And what about Rita Malone?

COSLOW. What about her?

JOHNNY. What if Benson decided to dump her? Wouldn't that give her a motive to do him in?

ADAM. Hold on. I thought you cared for Rita. Why would you want her to be a suspect?

JOHNNY. I don't. I just want to show this putz that he doesn't have all the answers.

COSLOW. (*again making notes*) Very well. I'll put her on the list too. So now we have five suspects. Is everyone happy? One last curious reflection, Mr. Webster. Documenting the events as you have, I wouldn't be surprised if you might have certain leanings or suspicions as to who our culprit might be.

ADAM. Believe it or not, Detective Coslow, at this point I don't. Of course, it's still early in the story, isn't it?

COSLOW. Yes. I suspect it is.

(*puts away notebook and pen*)

LAURA. What about you Detective Coslow? Are your instincts pointing in any particular direction?

COSLOW. (*sits in easy chair*) Let me put it this way, Mrs. Benson. I approach every case as a large jigsaw puzzle that requires assemblage piece by piece. Some pieces of the puzzle are big pieces and some pieces of the puzzle are small pieces. But whether it's a big piece of the puzzle or a small piece of the puzzle, one piece and one piece only, will be the one that completes the incomplete picture.

JOHNNY. Does anyone know what the hell he just said?

ADAM. He said that as of now he hasn't got a clue, correct Detective Coslow?

COSLOW. (*rising*) Right as rain, Mr. Webster. Well, I need to be going. I'm required to make a full written report of the incident and the paper work involved in a case like this is mind boggling. I'll most likely be dropping around again. I'm sure you'll have more pages for me. They really are a tremendous help.

(*As COSLOW starts towards the door his cell phone rings to the tune of "O Sole Mio."*)

Excuse me. That's my cell.

(*He takes out cell phone.*)