

Le Astuzia

(The Ruse)

A Dramatic Play in Three Acts

By

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A Synopsis

KYLE RICHARDS, the pro at the local tennis club, summons his lover, police Lieutenant KATIE BUCHANNAN of Special Investigations, to Rulon House. Upon her arrival, he tells her that he returned home a day early from a tournament and found that his wife, Lizette, was about to move out, file for a divorce, and leave him penniless. To spite him, Lizette had allowed their next-door neighbor, a college professor, to seduce her and taunted him with a video of the event. They had fought, and in a rage, he strangled her without realizing it. Richards begs Katie to cover up his crime by making it appear that Lizette has merely run away, planning to file for a divorce while in hiding. Katie agrees, knowing that when Richards files a missing person report on Lizette, she will be the detective assigned to the case and can control the evidence and the conclusion.

Their plan is to bury Lizette beneath Granville House, the professor's home next door, and plant the Lizette video that proves she had been intimate with the professor, along with other incriminating evidence, inside the house. Once the body is found and the professor is convicted, Richards will inherit Rulon House, worth about two million dollars, will receive Lizette's life insurance payout of a half-million dollars, and will sue the professor's estate for wrongful death and will win another five million dollars. With all that money, Richards, Katie, and Mona, the third member of their ménage à trois, will move to Tuscany and live happily ever after.

Eventually, Katie decides that it would be best if the professor was not alive when Lizette's body was discovered. That way, there would be no murder trial as the apparent murderer would be dead. She forces Richards to kill the professor in a hit-and-run incident and frame his yard man for the deed.

That same night, MATT TYLER, the professor's nephew and only living relative, arrives at Granville House for an interview at the professor's university the next day. Over the next couple of days, Katie, Richards, and Mona work together to gain Matt's confidence and lead him to discover the video that proves that his uncle and Lizette had been intimate. This discovery leads Matt to allow Katie to search the house and grounds and Lizette's body and the other evidence are found. Immediately afterward, Richards files the wrongful death suit.

Afterward, Matt becomes suspicious and begins to investigate Richards. Convinced that Richards killed both Lizette and his uncle, Matt tells Katie of his suspicions and that he plans to question Mona under duress. Katie, realizing that Matt is smarter than she thought and is about to blow up their conspiracy, zaps him with a taser. She and Richards are about to kill Matt and make it appear as an accident, when Mona appears, sees Matt cuffed and gagged, and questions what they are doing. Through their arguing, Matt learns that Mona, believing that his uncle had killed Lizette, had been tricked into helping lead him to the DVD they had planted.

Mona, apparently intimidated by Katie, leaves. When Katie and Richards go outside to move vehicles around, Mona returns and frees Matt, who then manages to overcome Katie and Richards. Afterward he calls other police to the scene.

