

PROVINO - Ruoli maschili principali

1) Peppino Priore

Peppino is very nervous . He can't pretend anymore. He is sure that his wife is having an affair with his neighbour and former friend Luigi Iannello.

Peppino: As far as your Mother is concerned , I no Longer exist.

I am but a shadow on the wall.

I go out in the morning and my wife she ignores me.

I come home home in the evening I say Hello, she turns her face on the other way.

Once if I wanted a handkerchief it was put into my hand , my shirts , my socks were laid out for me .

Now I have to search myself for everything and anything .

Sometimes I have to go to the shop in the same shirt two days running . For four months this has been going on—she is my wife and she doesn't speak to me. If I want a simple answer to a simple questions I have to ask three times—every day, every night —at night—nothing ! For four months and I can go to the calendar and prove that length of time.

Everything I do is wrong, nothing I do is right. Tell me that I am wrong in what I say and if you won't admit to that , at least admit that there is no much left of our marriage for you and me.

(Turning to Meme)

All these years, Aunt Meme, and I'm just beginning to understand you. To admire you. You were right you know, the decision you chose. You spoke the truth and you faced the truth. Here, we are living a lie! (*Back to Rosa.*) Look at her! My wife! Sitting there smelling of cologne, wearing the jewellery that I gave her—my engagement.....

Ring, my bracelet, the one that I gave her when Roberto was born.

(*Then, to IANNIELLO, accusingly.*) And his turquoise cardigan at the same time! And I have to carry the pain here, in my heart! And go on living, in my own home, while she carried on with her filthy, sordid affair!

2) Antonio Piscopo the grandfather *(father in law of Peppino)*

Antonio is having a melt down, his beloved grandson Rocco is probably not coming for the traditional Sunday lunch, so he refused to sit at the table if Rocco will not be there.

ANTONIO. Nol Don't go! God damn the head of the donkey! You do things to me on purpose, all of you! You find out what it is that I like most of all and then you try to take it away from me. What do I ask of any of you on Sundays? Nothing. I ask to sit down at this table, with my grandson sitting by my side, and eat a plate of macaroni. A plate of macaroni, that's all I ever want on Sunday. Because Sunday means a lot to me. How many Sundays do I have to live? *(All Laugh.)* Laugh. Make a joke about it. Perhaps, when I'm dead, you'll joke about me. "Poor Old grandad," eh? "Remember how angry he was that Sunday?" All laughing because I'm not here to answer back. I hope you laugh so much you fall over and crack your heads!

And when you do-think back to this moment-for it may be me up in heaven pulling the carpet from underneath you. So-all of you-remember! *(He coughs, crosses Left to his chair. ANTONIO is close to tears. PEPPINO Steps in to save the situation.)*

3)Luigi lanello

Luigi is a warm-hearted accountant. He is in love with the Priore family and with Rosa cooking style . However this mistaken by Peppino to be an infatuation with his wife.(His behaviour it looks a little invasive).

ROSA. We talked about so many things.

ELENA. Tell her, Luigi. This is how you are-aggravating! Why should Donna Rosa have to put up with you?

LUIGI. *(He turns to PEPPINO.)* Would you like to try? *(VIRGINIA dries silverware used for soup, puts them on area Left of sink.)* e u

PEPPINO. Why should I have to put up with you? Besides I'm going out.

LUIGI. When you hear what I've brought, you'll want to stay at home!

ELENA. Tell them, Luigi! It's some of the calamari that Donna Rosa likes so much.

RosA. Not the ones that you do with capers and olives?

LUIGI. *(He takes packages out of bag as he speaks of them.)* The same. The ones that make your mouth water. I've brought the capers*(Ad lib: Ah.)* and the olives-*(Ad lib: Ah.)* and the pine nuts. *(Ad lib: Ah.)* And I'm going to cook them, everybody else-keep away. *(Taking of his jacket. Puts it on Up Center chair and puts chair to the Left end of table.)*

An apron, Donna Rosa.

ROSA. *(Handing him an apron from wall Left of sink.)* Let me stand near you, I want to watch.

VIRGINIA. She wants to see that you don't make a mess of it.

LUIGI. *(Without rancour.)* You be quiet. You can be the maid.

VIRGINIA. *(Brightly.)* I am the maid. *(She gets oil and plate of garlic.)*

LUIGI. Pass me the oil then and I need three cloves of garlic and a sprig of parsley. I brought my own pot with me. *(He produces the pot from his package.)*

ROSA. A special calamari pot as well?

LUIGI. Do you know how to cook calamari without a proper calamari pot? We went to every shop in Napoli looking for the right one. *(Puts pot on table.)*

And . *(VIRGINIA brings sprig of parsley. He sniffs*

at his ingredients.) Straight from the sea! *(Ad lib:*

Oh! Oh!.) Like putting your nose in a rock pool. *(He*

crosses Right to PEPPINO, thrusting the package under PEPPINO's nose.) Smell! *(Rosa picks up pot.)*

PEPPINO. They're fresh, I suppose.

LUIGI. Fresh? They're alive! *(He crosses Left above table, he takes the earthenware pot from Rosa and displays it all round.)* I rinsed it in sea-water and then wiped it dry-my grandmother taught me everything I know! *(He picks up the oil bottle and is about to tip some into the pot when ROSA restrains him.)*

ROSA. *(She grabs pot.)* That's earthenware. You can't put earthenware straight from the shop onto the fire. *(Taking over.)* It needs to be rubbed with garlic first, or in three days it will crack straight through.

What kind of a grandmother did you have?

who?

ELENA. *(To LUIGI)* Who is supposed to be teaching who?

LUIGI. We are never too old to learn. *(VIRGINIA crosses to stove)*

ELENA. *(She rises and moves Upstage.)* I think I can safely leave you to it. I shall be upstairs.

LUIGI. *(He crosses Right and sits Right of table.)*

I'll be up in ten minutes, no more. I'll just keep an eye on Donna Rosa first. *(ROSA puts package back in bag.)*

ELENA. *(To Rosa.)* Are we going to mass together tomorrow?

ROSA. *(She goes to ELENA.)* I'm going to early mass. There is no need for you to get up.

ELENA. I want to see how you look in the turquoise cardigan.

ROSA. You're coming for dinner tomorrow, aren't you?

LUIGI. Of course we're coming for dinner.

4) Zia Memé (Amelia Priore, Peppino's Brother)

She is a very intelligent woman , but a hypochondriac who is overprotective of her son Attilio, who has learning difficulties.

in this little extract we discover little bit about her brave life.

LUIGI. Oh, I would never dare to say that!

MEME. Why? Because you don't know how to speak the truth. Everybody knows about ray wicked past

FEDERICO. Everybody knows?

MEME. And if you didn't know before you do now, Federico. Peppi has always known about it because all my life I have told him everything. And Rosa has known. And Roberto. You all knew. My life is an open book and if it isn't, I mean to make it one. I've got nothing to hide. *(She lights a cigarette.)*

ELENA. Excuse me, I hope you're not suggesting that the rest of us have something to hide. Because I personally have got nothing to hide about my marriage.

MEME. *(She crosses Right above table.)* I was excluding present company. I'm not saying there is no such thing as a happy marriage. But for every one that's happy, there's another that isn't. That's why I try to open Giulianella's eyes for her.

FEDERICO. *(He rises.)* Excuse me.

MEME. Don't take offence, Federico, in a marriage when you make a mistake you don't make it alone, you make it for two people. Of course, finding my own happiness cost me a great deal. People talk, they say hurtful things. They try to chop you in little pieces, but I knew how to resist. We were honest, the lawyer and I. He never behaved as if he was stealing me from

my husband, so my husband didn't go through the humiliation of being robbed of his own dignity. There was no hypocrisy, no falseness, no abuse of confidence between us. We faced all the facts. Shall I tell you what I'm going to call my book when it's finished?

EvERYBODY. (*With the exception of PEPPINO.*) Yes. What is it?

CEFERCOLA. Do you mind if I . . . ? I'd like to announce the title I'm rather fond of it.

MEME. Of course not, Doctor. Please do.

CEFERCOLA. It is to be entitled: ""Yes, but you need courage.""

5) Donna Rosa (Rosa Priore - Peppino's wife)

Rosa is a proud and practical woman. She is a housewife who runs her home and family as a sea captain with his crew.

ROSA. (*She rises.*) No! Why should you go? Stay for me. Stay for my children. At least they know what is true. (*GIULIANELLA enters Up Left and, without an inkling of what is going on, is drawn into the argument.*) *Giuliane', come here. Did you know your mother is having an affair with the accountant? That is what your father says. Maria Carolina, what about you? Surely you knew? Little Rocco, you are the clever one didn't you realise that your mother was going to bed with the accountant behind your papa's back? (To PEPPINO.)* No! You're the one who should go if anyone should go. Not Don Luigi, who all his life has been a good and loyal friend to you. Ask your own children. I have nothing to be ashamed of, but I am ashamed when I look at you! You have seen nothing! Nothing! You see what is not there; and the things that are there you don't want to see! Not the way that your children have grown up, and nothing that I have done in this house do you see! (*She is now gesticulating wildly.*) These pieces of furniture have seen my fingers worked to the bone! (*She moves around the room, striking the furniture with her fist.*) And I have polished these pieces not only with polish but with my heart! (*Down on her knees.*) Why does this floor shine-because it's been scrubbed and rubbed

with my life blood every day of my married life! (*Rosa is kneeling on the floor. MEME rushes across to help her to her feet ROBERTO helps ROSA up. ROSA is trembling with anger.*)

And do you know when it began? The day that I met him? And do you know when he began to ignore his children? On the very day that his first child was born! That day! Through there, in that bedroom!

"Is Roberto born? Here is a bracelet." (*Exaggerates the gesture with which PEPPINO bestowed the gift.*) "Is Rocco born? Here-take this chain. It's made of solid gold." (*Another exaggerate gesture.*) "And is this Giulianella? Here is a brooch-real diamonds."

Such big diamonds! And beyond the jewellery?

Nothing. Behind the gifts? Love? No. Indifference.

Arrogance. Blindness. (*ROSA pauses, searching for words to express true feelings-she fails and continues despairingly.*) I never want to hear your voice or look

at your face again! Get away from me! (*She tugs at her bracelet and throws it at PEPPINO's feet.*) Here-

here is Roberto! (*Next, the brooch.*) This is Rocco-

there! (*And finally, the diamond clasp.*) And here

(*The clasp sticks, then finally comes away.*) here is

Giulianella! I don't need these to remind me that I

had your children. You are the one who needs remind-

ing! (*She sits, pulls off her engagement ring.*) And

there's your engagement ring! (*Throwing that at his feet.*) Remember that night? When you asked me to

dinner at Torre del Greco and what you said to me

at the table? Roberto! Roberto! Come here! (*She rises*

and embraces him.)