

"The Godmother I"

a

I ACT PLAY

By

Nicholas Conti

A Brief Frolicking Fashionable

Family Farce!

THE GODMOTHER I

Copyright 2003

by Nicholas Conti

All Rights Reserved

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that **THE GODMOTHER I** is subject to a royalty. It is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, the British Commonwealth, including Canada, and all other countries of the Copyright Union. All rights, including professional, amateur, motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, and the rights of translation into foreign language are strictly reserved.

The amateur live stage performance rights to **THE GODMOTHER I** are controlled exclusively by Drama Source and royalty arrangements and licenses must be secured well in advance of presentation. PLEASE NOTE that amateur royalty fees are set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. When applying for a royalty quotation and license please give us the number of performances intended and dates of production. Royalties are payable one week before the opening performance of the play to Drama Source Co., 1588 E. 361 N., St. Anthony, Idaho 83445, unless other arrangements are made.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid whether the play is presented for charity or gain, and whether or not admission is charged. For all other rights than those stipulated above, apply to Drama Source Company, 1588 E. 361 N. St. Anthony, Idaho 83445.

Copying from this book in whole or in part is strictly forbidden by law, and the right of performance is not transferable.

Whenever the play is produced, the following notice must appear on all programs, printing and advertising for the play, "Produced by special arrangement with Drama Source Co."

Due authorship credit must be given on all programs, printing and advertising for the play.

No one shall commit or authorize any act or omission by which the copyright or the rights to copyright of this play may be impaired.

No one shall make changes in this play for the purpose of production without written permission.

Publication of this play does not imply availability for performance. Both amateurs and professionals considering a production are strongly advised in their own interests to apply to Drama Source Company for written permission before starting rehearsals, advertising, or booking a theatre.

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means, now known or yet to be invented, including mechanical, electronic, photocopying, recording, videotaping or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Cast of

Characters

The Godmother -Gabriel Gabby, Bruno
Head Capo [Boss]. Rough woman with
heart...40's-60's

Big Tool , Tulio Tal ese
Big swarthy, tough guy... 30's-50's.

Tiny the Toad Facio
Sl ight, oil y, man [Mob Sol dier] 20's-40's.

Henrietta the Sage, Bianco
Mob Consigl ieri [adviser], woman 30's-50's.

Sally the Figure, Principessa
Gabby's niece & Vol uptuous-Designer - Capo
[Boss] 20's-30's.

Jerry the Twister Ciaro
Tough-ol d-school Mob Capo [Boss], mal e 40's-
60's.

Scene: The Godmother's office at mob
headquar ters. Mul berry St. NYC...

Time: The present. [Fall]

"The Godmother I"

Setting:

A private 3 story brick building on Mulberry St., on the lower east side of Manhattan. Downstairs is devoted to office space; this is the office of the Godmother. The first of her kind but with a different Philosophy. The office is tastefully decorated in Early-Italian-Pizzerian [restaurant] era style: phony marble, palm plants, a mural of southern Italy adorning the wall. A large desk occupies the center of the room with multiple chairs around as if she holds many organizational meetings (she does). Simple One Unit Set.

At Rise:

The GODMOTHER is seated at her desk going over some papers. A bottle of Chianti sits on her

desk, a small glass of wine next to it. To her left a door leads to her Xerox machine; a staple in her gang. Only the office makes up the one unit set.

Quiet is destroyed when Big Tulio drags in Tiny the Toad Facio who is cowering as Tulio pushes him through the doorway.

Tulio

Here he is GODMOTHER, the rat himself. I caught him red handed selling marijuana to some kids by the school.

Tiny

He don't know nuthin! I was just talkin' about the weather to dese kids and askin' about their mothers whom I know cause I went to school wit them. And Mr. Big Tulio here grabs me by the arm; almost twists it off. And then embarrasses me in front of dose nice kids...Then drags me over here like a common criminal. Me wit a busy workload, tryin' to do my rounds makin' money for the organization...

GODMOTHER

Tulio make sure what you say is the truth because you know how I hate

anyone of my people deal in' drugs. I just don't believe in this rotten drug thing and none of my boys better get caught selling...*especially* to kids.

Tulio

I swear on my mother's Persian cat that I caught him in the act...Saw him pass the stuff and take the money. To make matters even worse, I caught him wit it on him...plus the money.

GODMOTHER

Is this true Tiny the Toad? If it is! We hold a council meeting on you and Ba-da-ba-ba-da-bing!...It's *Buffalo*, for you.

Tiny

That's a joke right? Buffalo ha ha ha... how are you gonna get me to Buffalo? the Bronx maybe... but Buffalo...ha ha ha...

Tulio

I wouldn't laugh if I was youse, what do you think happened to Muscle Head Mangiamo when he was fool in' wit Tough Tony's wife? It was a regular slow boat to Buffalo, New York...Home of the 12 foot blizzard!

GODMOTHER

Compliments of the brothers in our

upstate Mafia organization...And guess what...He never gave us no trouble after that...I know it's hard for you old timers to get used to the new ways in which I run the business but you better!...Because what I say goes...If you don't like it you're outa here paesano...out!

Tulio

GODMOTHER tell me again how you're changin' the Mafia...Turnin' over da new leaf as it were, so to speak. I like to hear dem plans, what did youse call it? The refor...refor...what tha heck!...something or otha.

GODMOTHER

Big Tool Tulio my faithful lieutenant, it's called "The Reformed Mafia." We still do the innocent looking stuff like the numbers racket, the loan sharking, the racetrack and sports betting...because *those* are things that *benefit* the community.

Tulio

Yeah, you said we are a public service organization...that's us...Yeah!

Tiny

Yes!...I like our new logo too...crossed loaves of bread with a shield made

of cannolis...It has class.

GODMOTHER

Don't try to butter me up Tiny!...Where you're going, you better drop your old ways *and* your Bronx accent. And I learn to talk the kings English, as they do upstate and be glad, in the old days...you'd be a dead man ...not walking either; swimming downstream in the East River or in a dark hole near a quiet stream in the Catskill mountains...in beautiful and scenic upstate New York.

Tiny

GODMOTHER, if I promise to go straight will you rescind this action against me?...I'll even do public service like the movie stars do that go wrong and overdose on drugs or shop lift...I know...I could maybe spend all my Sundays...when I normally go to church, serving in the soup kitchen taking care of my unfortunate and destitute brudders and sisters. During the week even; I could serve on the soup kitchen, and run errands for all the little, old, Italian, widowed ladies on Mulberry street. I would be a regular Sir Gallahad, a prince Robin Hood of Central Park. But not *Buffalo*...give

me a break...I can't stand temperatures under forty and I hate Football and all that ice and snow, mama mia!...I much prefer the concrete and tarmac of New York. [Let it build, and wax poetic]. The tall sky scrapers of the city, the sights, the gay lights, the sounds, the aromas of fine ethnic cooking...Where you can eat Italian, Thai, Chinese, Spanish cuisine, not Diner food all the time, all the time; though there is nothing wrong with Diner food!...Please GODMOTHER! [On his knees] I beg of you!

GODMOTHER

Off your knees! Enough already! You have sinned and must have a trial...a *Council* to determine your fate. Tulio roundup the Consiglieri, Harriet the Brain and our top Capos...Jerry the Twister and Sally the Figure. They're up stairs in a meeting. Let's find out what *they* say about this Tiny the Toad Facio. (Tulio exits D.R.) Why did they ever call you Tiny the Toad anyway?

Tiny

[Lays it on]. Because your GODMOTHERSHIP, when I was small I had polio, and every Christmas we used to watch The Christmas Carol on TV with that poor, poor kid Tiny Tim who

couldn't walk...and *me*, bein' as I had
Polio...well I...they decided to call me
Tiny.

GODMOTHER

[Facetiously]. A heart warming story
Tiny!...What about the Toad part... why the
Toad?

Tiny

Because as a little, little tike I used
to ride the subway uptown to Central
Park and look for toads in the
Park...[Lays it on]...I felt so sorry for
them GODMOTHER...all alone in that big
park that I would rescue them and take
care of them till they died.

GODMOTHER

What a touching tale Mr. Tiny Tim;
pretty soon the three Scrooges will
walk through that Door and then
we'll put in a call to our Buffalo
friends and you're off to the snow
country...off to the Land of
Christmas past where you're lucky
to find any toads.

Tiny

Godmother I promise, no more selling the
junk. I'll be a good soldier from now on.

GODMOTHER

I wish I could believe you, but it doesn't

Look good Mr. Toad.

[Tulio, Consigliere Henrietta,
the 2 Capos: Sally & Jerry enter D.S.R.].

GODMOTHER

Tulio, that was fast...[To those that entered] Ciao! everybody, grab some seats!...Henrietta the Brain our adviser or Consigliere, over here next to me! I want to treasure every word you say; your words and advice are so *profound*...Sally the Figure Principessa; Queen of the dress trade on Seventh Avenue. You sit on the other side of me! I need your creative input on this subject...which I value...And your insight is especially valuable to me, because as you know she just happens to be my niece.

Al I

[Bored enthusiasm] Yes we know!

GODMOTHER

Thank You! And our very distinguished Jerry the Twister Long time Capo or Mob Boss; in case you younger members forget our terms. Who is invaluable to me for his coolness of spirit, strength and his intellect. Now let's get this Tiny the pain in my you know what; a one way ticket to Buffalo...(Snide) Of course be fair and objective...He has been accused of peddling the stuff and to *kids* no less...for a *made man* [accepted into the mob], he brings a

bad name to the organization.

Henrietta

Godmother what are the charges and the proof of the crime that this perpetrator has committed?

GODMOTHER

Let's let our hair down and address each other as people!
Henrietta your hair is beautiful, *whaaat* did you do to it?

Henrietta

Oh! I'm so glad you like it Godmother. I was afraid you wouldn't. I have a new hair-stylist, he charges a little more but he has *some* reputation with the uptown crowd.

GODMOTHER

Oh honey! You have to give me his name after the meeting...And now everybody no need for formality here, except from Tiny the Toad the terrible perpetrator. Another words call me Gabby; I like that...Wait! Wait! First of all, you know something's been botherin' me...our *dress code* which I devised with the help of my Niece Sally the Figure and Henrietta the Brain. The consensus is...that our guys don't look that sharp on the street.

Tiny

Begging your pardon your GODMOTHERSHIP... But I always do my best to look cool and well dressed when I'm on business for the mob. Always with the smart outfit on...I'm into leather now, looks great on me, if I do say so myself...And I.....[Jerry by now has him by the throat].

GODMOTHER

Thank you Jerry for sparing us of anymore of that diatribe from the Toad. Now back to the subject. We should be representatives of our organization, neighborhood, and spread goodwill; *right girls?* [They nod]. So even though we have the dress code; people are totally ignoring it... Tell 'em again my niece, how nice they should dress and how they should comport themselves.

Sally

Well during the week when on pickup and making the rounds with the numbers, bet taking and the like. It is acceptable to wear designer casual ensembles from the Mob's Principessa line, so you look good and promote our product at the same time. If working on the weekends, especially Sunday, an appropriate Dark suit; blues, grays, browns will be acceptable with dress shirts, ties and shoes from *our line* of course.

Tulio

What did you say about hats?...I like a nice skull cap or macho baseball cap, usually my favorite team, Yanks, Mets, whatever.

Henrietta

In the by-laws for Mob Fashions it is written that...skull caps, pull overs,

and baseball caps are acceptable if wearing *casual*, Principessa wear. For more formal wear, a bare head, fancy cap or even a leather fashioned, broad brimmed hat; which I might add is quite the rage.

Tulio

Thank you Henrietta.

GODMOTHER

Sally that outfit you have on is just the right length, not too décolleté and the color oh the color goes with your eyes and is perfect for your skin. Oh I wish I had your good taste.

Sally

Oh Gabby!...You always know how to make a girl feel good.

GODMOTHER

You deserve it with your exquisite taste.

Jerry

[Rises...Declares agitatedly.]
Excuse me ladies, getting back to our new dress code. Sally, Gabby, Henrietta when our guys are in rough neighborhoods or workin' the docks, construction or waste removal sites, they can't go around in no designer this or that;

otherwise they are gonna get mugged
or worse and that's not good for
our image...Am I right or am I right?
[Sits]

**To Read The Rest,
Please Purchase The
Script**