

Isa discovers by chance that she has a message in her voicemail. It is over a week old, and it was left from a number with an Italian prefix.

"Isa."

It's Francesco's voice. She recognised it straight away, although it sounds different to how she remembers it. It's the voice of a finished man.

"I shouldn't have sent you to Nicolas."

He breathes deeply into the phone several times.

"I've lost everything. Not only the chance to get them. But also my brother. And I've lost you. You can be my daughter. And I sent you to... I shouldn't have done that."

She can hear his breathing again. He tries to say something, but stops.

"I don't want to die before letting you know that..."

He hesitates. In the background, she can hear loud voices speaking in Italian and the metallic doors inside the prison, opening and closing. Isa recognises their sounds.

"I don't know what you think about me right now and what sort of lies they are going to tell about me. Please bear in mind just one thing: I haven't lied to you about anything. I've been hiding stuff from you, but I haven't lied to you. Everything happened the way I told you. Your instinct told you to believe me. Listen to your instinct again."

He said all this really quickly; a cascade of words.

Then he's silent again. Someone close to him is shouting his name, swearing in Italian, reminding Francesco that there are others who want to make calls from the phone.

"If you're listening to this message... Please forgive me."

To start with, Francesco's message moved her. Before committing suicide, he asked for her forgiveness. That man was not a natural born killer.

But there was more than that.

What does "you can be my daughter" mean?

Does this mean that, hypothetically speaking, Francesco could have a daughter of Isa's age or does it mean that she actually could be the child resulting from the affair he had with Enise?

He didn't say "you can be my daughter" but "you can be". This suggests a distinct possibility.

On the other hand, Francesco's English wasn't perfect. Could he have confused the grammar?

But what if Francesco could really be her father?

Otherwise, why would he be calling her to bid farewell and ask for forgiveness? Why did he regret so much sending her to Nicolas? Why, just before committing suicide, would Francesco care any more about the girl's opinion? Why did it matter to him what she thought about him or what lies people might tell her about him?

What does "I haven't lied to you about anything" mean?

It means that he had an affair with Enise, and Isa may be his daughter.

It also means that Chiara really was a medium, not a charlatan.

*And what if that were true?*

Then... Chiara indeed summoned those dead women, and they responded to her call. They spoke out with Chiara's voice. In this improbable way, Enise could learn with whom and where the tarot cards were.

Chiara really was an extraordinary person. Her life was suspended somewhere between the world of the dead and that of the living, but also between the world here and the other world, of her binary. She was certain about her binary's existence. She was in communication with her, as she confessed in her journal. Maybe her binary told her that a young woman pretending to be called Mara was going to come to her house, and that she was supposed to help her.

Maybe it's also true that even now, after being dead for so long, Chiara communicates with her granddaughter, the little girl with the white eye. Perhaps the little girl was just telling the truth, she didn't invent all those things, and her grandmother did appear to her in dreams. That's what Ty thought, too. That's why he took seriously everything the little girl said, and whatever Chiara had written in her notebooks about her dreams.

Valentina and her maid Giulia, Beatrice, Parisina and her daughter Ginevra, Lucia, all those women dead a long time ago responded to Chiara's call and shared their memories with her. As Charlie confirmed, all the historical data fitted perfectly. Those undocumented meetings between them, those bonds of friendship, were real. Those women gave or sent to one another the tarot cards, and they left them or hid them in the places where they were found in '91.

*Anyway, who would be knowledgeable enough to invent such a sophisticated and yet coherent plot of what could have happened so many centuries ago?*

This could be done only by someone with knowledge comparable to Charlie's about that thin, almost transparent slice of history. Neither the Brothers of the Lily, nor Chiara seemed to be experts in the obscure history of tarot.

Or it could be confessed by those who lived it.

Probably Enise knew in advance that, after she arrived in this world, she had to find Chiara. She didn't hear about Chiara from Francesco, who supposedly recommended the medium to her. The Brothers of the Lily lied about that as well.

Those in the other world knew from Chiara's binary about the medium's extraordinary powers and that she could communicate with the dead. Ty confessed that someone's binary can see a lot of things about that person. Enise came to Florence especially to find Chiara, exactly as she had told the old lady when they first met each other.

How did Enise find the medium?

Chiara's binary must have given the details she knew, because she saw them in her dreams. That's why Enise knew that the person she was looking for lived near Ponte Vecchio, and her house had birches in the yard.

After she knocked on Chiara's door, and she opened it, Enise knew that she had reached the person she sought. She knew exactly what Chiara looked like, because she knew her binary. She recognised her, the same way the fake Marignolli recognised the painter Bembo, the Governor's binary, the first moment he saw him.

Why did Enise kill Chiara? Was it because she thought the medium was dangerous, because she knew too much about dreams and her binary? Was it because Chiara stole the seven cards box from under her nose? Her reason will never be revealed.

Why did Enise frame Francesco for Will's killing?

She was planning to kill Francesco, as she said in the recording left in the typewriter. Maybe she wanted to because she had told Francesco about the medium, so he knew too much about how she found out where the tarot cards were. Maybe because his relationship with Nicolas seemed suspect to her. Maybe she figured out that Francesco had been following her when she went to visit Chiara.

Francesco must have followed her, and that's how he found out where Chiara lived. He even went to the garden. He saw the place where Chiara had been digging, the place where she buried the box. He thought he would return to take it later, once the search was over.

What did Francesco know about the Brothers of the Lily and Nicolas's connection with them?

Maybe he found out something, but not the whole thing, and not from the beginning. When Francesco noticed that the four of them were being followed by a car, and not just once, but twice, he was still unaware that the Brothers were on their trail. Him giving Enise his gun came from a sincere impulse, and he really thought she might need to use it in self-defence.

Maybe he felt betrayed by his brother. That's why, when imprisoned, Francesco didn't use a simple solution like sending Nicolas to take the seven cards from Chiara's garden.

There had been no pre-established search planned in advance by the Brothers of the Lily. They did not hide the tarot cards in different places to make Enise go looking for them and they did not hire actors. All that was just a lie to justify their pre-existing rights to those twenty-four tarot cards in front of everyone. The group already existed in '91, but all they had was Silas's manuscript. They didn't have the tarot pack they hadn't even heard about it at that point. Nicolas, the expert, must have been hired by them to study the manuscript.

He must have been the one who notified them when Enise came to him in '91, with the faceless Prudence. She told Nicolas what she was searching for. She told him about Christ and the Antichrist, the Virgin and the Whore, the seven virtues and their opposites, the seven vices. She described to him in advance what the images of those twenty-four cards contained, because she knew them from the way the fake Marignolli described them in his book *The Second Love*.

Then Nicolas made the connection between the tarot pack described by her and what Silas's manuscript was saying. They both depicted two opposite worlds mirroring each other.

Rossi never had the tarot pack in his possession. Even less had he inherited them from his father.

In 1991, when Enise appeared in Florence, the Brothers of the Lily were already seeking the Latin Passage Silas spoke about in his manuscript. After Nicolas told her about Enise and what she was looking for, they followed her. They took her hostage, she was tortured and raped, she became pregnant, she managed to run away from them. Then they found her again. All that Jules had confessed was true. They indeed found the fourteen cards hidden by Enise in that mailbox in a Transylvanian post office, but they didn't find any trace of a map in them.

If Francesco didn't lie to Isa in any respect, then Jules, her mother's rapist, was not necessarily her father. Or he could be her father, as much as Francesco. Maybe even Charlie, or poor Will, could have been her father. And, why not even Nicolas, whom Enise seemingly trusted so much? Maybe the young woman from the other world had had a sexual encounter with any of them, as it appeared at the beginning. She knowingly exposed herself to something her world considered unthinkable.

Why would she expose herself to that? For one reason. Enise wanted to give birth to the Antichrist. She chose to do it, she'd planned it in advance. For this reason she had volunteered to come to this world. In addition to her mission, she also had a secret agenda. That's why she seduced almost all the men here who appeared to be in her way. She came here with the aim of breaking the biggest taboo of her world. She wanted to get pregnant with someone from the other world's child. She wanted to bring destruction upon her world by giving birth to the Antichrist, the child conceived by people from different worlds.

Maybe later she panicked and regretted her decision, and that's why she wanted to lose the baby, that's why she turned her car towards her pursuers. But initially Enise wanted to become the Red Whore, the Antichrist's mother. The mother of "Isa" – Jesus or the Antichrist, depending from which world one sees the problem.

*Why would Enise want that? How did she come to hate her world so much? What awful things could have happened to her before she came here?*

An exasperating conclusion began to scramble into Isa's brain, deeper and deeper.

*I'll never know the truth.*

If Francesco were still alive, he could clarify all this. But he's dead, and so is Nicolas. So is Enise, and Chiara. None of those involved with the Brothers of the Lily variant of the story can confirm anything.