

STRATEGY



The ululations of the Belle, Belle, Belle brought the neighbors running (they're a friendly lot) to the small practice studio of the violinist Nicolo Pagachini. There they found what you see in the sketch. Pagachini was apparently dead from a blow on the head, and his wife, Belle, seemed inconsolable.

Sam learned that Paggy (as his friends called him) had suffered a stroke a couple of months ago, and although he was recovering, his musical career was definitely over. Belle stopped ululating long enough to tell Sam that Paggy's violin was an authentic Stradivarius insured for several million dollars and that an insurance agent named Harold Bolen had been due this very afternoon to examine it and—they hoped—appraise it at a higher value.

To complicate matters, Sam also found out that Paggy's brother-in-law, Tomasino Smith, was an amateur musician who craved the Strad and wanted to buy it, and buy it cheap. Both Harold and Tomasino had been in the vicinity of the studio shortly before Belle had set to her wailing.

Whom did Sam accuse of killing Paggy, and why?

Questions

1. Had there been a fight?
2. Did Paggy use his Strad to defend himself?
3. Were the furniture and other objects broken during the course of a fight?
4. Do you think that the Strad was worth top value before the fight?
5. Who killed Pagachini?

Solution on page 52.