

ENGLISH LEARNING FOR CURIOUS MINDS



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Episode #297

The Murder of Maurizio Gucci

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[00:00:00] Hello, hello hello, and welcome to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:00:11] The show where you can listen to fascinating stories, and learn weird and wonderful things about the world at the same time as improving your English.

[00:00:21] I'm Alastair Budge, and today we are going to be talking about the murder of Maurizio Gucci.

[00:00:28] It's a story of high fashion, of luxury, of love, [rivalries¹](#), jealousy, [betrayal²](#), [warring³](#) families, and murder.

[00:00:38] So, let's not waste a minute and dive right into it.

¹ competition

² actions that show no loyalty or faithfulness

³ fighting each other

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[00:00:43] On 27th of March 1995, Giuseppe Onorato was working as usual at the stylish office building in which he was a [doorman](#)⁴.

[00:00:54] The offices were just [a stone's throw away from](#)⁵ Milan's fashion district, an [affluent](#)⁶ and [trendy](#)⁷ area, and not the usual type of setting for the events that would unfold that morning.

[00:01:08] Arriving for work was Maurizio Gucci. Once Gucci's president, he was now working on his own business from the type of [lavish](#)⁸ offices he had grown used to.

[00:01:20] As the Italian businessman climbed the front steps, Giuseppe Onorato, the [doorman](#), watched another man get out of a nearby car and walk towards the entrance of the building.

[00:01:34] Gucci greeted his loyal [doorman](#), who saw the third man [drawing](#)⁹ a gun.

[00:01:41] There were four shots, at first. Three of these landed in Gucci's body. The fourth and final shot was to the head.

⁴ someone who was on duty at the entrance to a large building

⁵ a short distance from

⁶ wealthy

⁷ following the most recent fashions

⁸ expensive and impressive, fancy

⁹ pulling out

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[00:01:51] But the gunman wasn't done. He then turned his attention to the shooting's only [witness¹⁰](#): Giuseppe Onorato, the [doorman](#).

[00:02:00] By the time the police arrived, the [doorman](#) was sitting in a pool of blood. He had been hit twice in the arm before the gunman had [panicked¹¹](#) and [fled¹²](#).

[00:02:11] Onorato was injured, but alive. However, it wasn't just his own blood he was covered in.

[00:02:19] He was [cradling¹³](#) the [lifeless¹⁴](#) body of Maurizio Gucci. The grandson of the man who had [founded¹⁵](#) one of the biggest brands in fashion was dead.

[00:02:30] For many, the murder of a rich and famous businessman in a city like Milan was unheard of. For others, it came as less of a [shock¹⁶](#); Gucci had many enemies.

¹⁰ person who had seen the crime happening

¹¹ felt frightened and extremely nervous

¹² ran to escape from danger

¹³ holding in his arms like a baby

¹⁴ dead

¹⁵ created, established

¹⁶ sudden upsetting event

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[00:02:43] But despite various [leads](#)¹⁷, or [suspects](#)¹⁸, the case would remain unsolved for two years.

[00:02:50] Before we dive into the events that led up to this tragedy, let's remind ourselves of a bit of Gucci history, as it's in this history that we may find some [clues](#)¹⁹ about this [shocking](#)²⁰ murder.

[00:03:05] Maurizio Gucci's grandfather, Guccio Gucci, was born in Florence in 1881 and caught his first glimpses of luxury working at the Savoy Hotel in London as a teenager.

[00:03:19] Inspired by the [well-to-do](#)²¹ guests, and particularly their [luggage](#)²², Guccio began making travel bags and accessories. Eventually, in 1921 he opened a luxury leather shop in Florence called House of Gucci.

¹⁷ information, clues

¹⁸ people who were thought to be guilty of the crime

¹⁹ information that will help us explain the situation

²⁰ causing feelings of fear and surprise

²¹ rich

²² suitcases or other bags that they carried with them when they were travelling

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[00:03:37] The brand quickly gained [momentum](#)²³, [garnering](#)²⁴ attention from the global [elite](#)²⁵, leading to the opening of a second store on one of Rome's luxury shopping streets in 1938.

[00:03:50] That same year, Guccio brought on three of his sons, Aldo, Vasco and Rodolfo, to help him run the business and continue its expansion over the next few decades.

[00:04:02] In 1953, a Gucci [boutique](#)²⁶ was even opened in New the first company store located outside of Europe. Just two weeks later however, the [founder](#)²⁷, Guccio Gucci, died, aged 72, leaving his three sons to run the business.

[00:04:20] As you might imagine, Guccio Gucci's grandson, Maurizio Gucci, was no stranger to wealth and high society. But, despite his family's great power and status, he was a [notoriously](#)²⁸ shy and [awkward](#)²⁹ young man.

²³ activity, force or energy

²⁴ getting, collecting

²⁵ the richest and most powerful group in society

²⁶ a shop that sells fashionable or trendy clothes and accessories

²⁷ person who had started or established the business

²⁸ in a way that it was well known

²⁹ difficult to deal with

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[00:04:37] His mother died when he was just five, and so his father, Rodolfo, was quite [overprotective](#)³⁰ of his son. He was also rather [overbearing](#)³¹, and the young boy grew used to doing as his father told him.

[00:04:52] That was until 1970, when, at 22 years old, he met a lively and [charismatic](#)³² woman named Patrizia Reggiani.

[00:05:02] At that time, Reggiani was known in the [elite](#) Milan social circles as a popular, wealthy [socialite](#)³³ with a luxurious lifestyle.

[00:05:11] But it hadn't always been that way. Unlike Maurizio, Patrizia was born poor to a single mother and had never known her biological father.

[00:05:23] However, when she was twelve, her mother married a rich [trucking](#)³⁴ entrepreneur who would later [adopt](#)³⁵ Patrizia.

³⁰ wishing to protect him too much

³¹ expecting to be obeyed without questions

³² attractive, charming

³³ a person who was well known in the high class society and took part in social activities

³⁴ the transportation of goods by large vehicles or trucks

³⁵ legally take her into his family as his own daughter

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[00:05:32] And this new father **spoiled**³⁶ her, buying her fur coats, fast cars, fine jewellery and whatever else she desired. She began to develop a taste for fine things that would ultimately **consume**³⁷ her.

[00:05:48] Still, the **trucking** business did not **lend itself**³⁸ to the same glamorous lifestyle as fashion **moguls**³⁹ such as the Guccis, and Patrizia had to work her way into the same **elite** social circles as Maurizio.

[00:06:03] Their encounter in 1970 **kicked off**⁴⁰ a **whirlwind**⁴¹ romance. They fell in love quickly, and Maurizio even proposed to her on their second date.

[00:06:15] But there was just one problem. Rodolfo, Maurizio's father, he did not approve of the couple.

[00:06:22] He saw Patrizia's background as a **red flag**⁴², a warning sign that she was only interested in his son for his money and status.

³⁶ harmed her character by giving her whatever she wanted

³⁷ completely fill her mind

³⁸ be good or suitable for

³⁹ important successful people

⁴⁰ caused it to begin

⁴¹ very intense, compulsive

⁴² warning for danger

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[00:06:33] But young Maurizio was head over heels⁴³ for Patrizia, and his father had to resort to⁴⁴ more extreme measures⁴⁵ to break the pair up.

[00:06:43] He disinherited⁴⁶ his son, cutting Maurizio off⁴⁷ from the family company and money. But this still did not work.

[00:06:52] As the wedding drew closer, Rodolfo Gucci even asked the cardinal⁴⁸ of Milan to put a stop to it.

[00:06:59] It was no use and the couple married in 1972 with no members of the Gucci family in attendance.

[00:07:07] But luck was about to turn for the new Mr and Mrs Gucci.

[00:07:13] A year before their marriage, Maurizio's uncle Aldo had hinted⁴⁹ that he wanted to start training up a younger member of the family to take over the business, rather than his own much older sons.

⁴³ madly in love with

⁴⁴ do it as a final solution

⁴⁵ plans, courses of action

⁴⁶ prevented him from receiving any of his property after his death

⁴⁷ preventing Maurizio from having access to

⁴⁸ a priest of very high rank

⁴⁹ said in a way that wasn't direct or clear

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[00:07:26] Aldo was responsible for running Gucci in America, and he was [instrumental](#)⁵⁰ in helping turn the business into an international [powerhouse](#)⁵¹.

[00:07:37] Maurizio wouldn't have to wait for long to re-enter the family business. In the same year as his wedding, Aldo invited him to New York to begin working for Gucci again.

[00:07:47] And life was good for the couple for a while.

[00:07:51] Professionally, business was [booming](#)⁵², and Maurizio and Patrizia had become [quite the pair](#)⁵³. She was his right-hand woman, advising him on various Gucci business matters.

[00:08:03] The couple owned several properties, including the luxury New York [penthouse](#)⁵⁴ that they lived in. Patrizia collected fine jewellery and Maurizio bought what was, at the time, the world's largest wooden sailing boat.

⁵⁰ extremely important

⁵¹ something of great power

⁵² growing fast

⁵³ an impressive and successful pair

⁵⁴ an expensive apartment at the top of a building

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[00:08:19] And they **flaunted**⁵⁵ this wealth about town, driving around in a chauffeured car and **entrenching**⁵⁶ themselves in New York's social scene.

[00:08:29] They even **reunited**⁵⁷ with Rodolfo Gucci, Maurizio's father, after the birth of their first child in 1976.

[00:08:38] The **reunion**⁵⁸ wouldn't last for long as just six years later, Rodolfo Gucci was dead.

[00:08:45] Upon his father's death, Maurizio inherited his father's Gucci **shares**⁵⁹, making him the majority shareholder of the **iconic**⁶⁰ fashion house.

[00:08:54] And he wasn't going to be a silent **shareholder**⁶¹, either. While his father and uncle had always wanted to preserve Gucci as a family business, Maurizio had other plans.

⁵⁵ showed

⁵⁶ securing, firmly establishing

⁵⁷ came together after a period of separation

⁵⁸ the fact that they were together again

⁵⁹ parts into which the company's wealth or resources were divided

⁶⁰ very famous and popular

⁶¹ owner of parts into which the company's wealth or resources were divided

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[00:09:06] He didn't like the direction the company had been heading. What he saw to be [excessive⁶² franchising⁶³](#) and mass production of products had [degraded⁶⁴](#) the brand's name in his eyes.

[00:09:18] He wanted to bring [exclusivity⁶⁵](#) back to Gucci, even if he had to [take his own family down⁶⁶](#) in the process.

[00:09:27] His plan was to replace his uncle as Gucci's president, its boss. To do this, he [enlisted⁶⁷](#) the help of his cousin, Paolo, Aldo's son.

[00:09:38] Paolo had once been vice president of Gucci after years as chief designer. He is even [credited⁶⁸](#) as one of the minds behind the famous double G [logo⁶⁹](#).

[00:09:50] However, he felt like his voice was not being heard enough.

⁶² more than reasonable

⁶³ the practice according to which the company sold another businesses the right to sell its products in return for payment

⁶⁴ lowered the quality of

⁶⁵ the right to sell their products exclusively

⁶⁶ cause failure to his family

⁶⁷ involved, engaged

⁶⁸ considered responsible for

⁶⁹ design or symbol used by the company

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[00:09:55] So, in 1980, he had gone behind his father's back and opened his own, independent fashion line called Gucci Plus.

[00:10:04] When he found out, Aldo was **furious**⁷⁰. Not only did he **fire**⁷¹ his son, but he **sued**⁷² him for **infringing**⁷³ Gucci **trademarks**⁷⁴ and cut him off from its suppliers.

[00:10:17] Paolo wanted to seek revenge, and so the cousins made a deal. Paolo agreed to help vote Aldo off Gucci's Board of Directors and in return, Maurizio would let Paolo independently lead some design work in the company.

[00:10:35] And the plan worked. Maurizio was able to take Aldo's place as president.

[00:10:41] However, just as his professional life **took off**⁷⁵, his personal one was beginning to **crumble**⁷⁶, or at least, change.

[00:10:50] Despite their differences, just before his death, Rodolfo Gucci had warned Patrizia, his daughter in law, that Maurizio would change once he gained more power.

"You will find you are married to another man," he told her.

⁷⁰ extremely angry

⁷¹ dismiss from employment, kick out

⁷² took legal action against

⁷³ breaking or violating the terms of

⁷⁴ name, symbols, or other devices used to identify and promote its products

⁷⁵ became very successful

⁷⁶ break, fall apart

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[00:11:05] And his prediction came true.

[00:11:08] Once he became president, Maurizio began spending less and less time with his family and started to **cut Patrizia out**⁷⁷ of the day-to-day running of the Gucci business. She was no longer able to **steer**⁷⁸ the company in her own direction.

[00:11:24] And it wasn't just a **lust**⁷⁹ for power that was driving Maurizio away.

[00:11:29] After buying his extraordinarily large sailing boat, he took a **keen**⁸⁰ interest in sailing, sponsoring races and teams all over the world. And while Patrizia did not share this passion, he soon found someone who did.

[00:11:45] He met an American model called Sheree Loud at a sailing event in 1984.

Despite both being married to other people, Maurizio **avidly**⁸¹ pursued her and the two began an **affair**⁸² that same year.

⁷⁷ include or involve Patrizia in

⁷⁸ direct, guide

⁷⁹ strong desire

⁸⁰ very intense, deep

⁸¹ with great interest

⁸² sexual relation

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[00:12:00] They travelled together to sailing events across the world and Sheree helped him to [renovate](#)⁸³ his boat. They seemed to have much more in common than Maurizio and Patrizia.

[00:12:11] And so, in March of 1985, Maurizio packed his bags and left his family home.

[00:12:18] At first, he told his wife that he was simply going on a business trip. But, the next day, he sent a [mutual friend](#)⁸⁴ to tell her that he would not be returning at all.

[00:12:30] This, of course, greatly angered Patrizia.

[00:12:33] Not only did he not have the courage to tell her in person, but he also wanted her to [keep up appearances](#)⁸⁵ and, in public, pretend that they were still happily married.

[00:12:45] The couple had not yet officially divorced, so Patrizia did as Maurizio asked, perhaps in the hopes of winning him back.

[00:12:54] Maurizio, meanwhile, was only able to enjoy his new life as the president of Gucci and free from his controlling wife for a short time.

⁸³ repair and improve

⁸⁴ a friend that both of them had

⁸⁵ give the impression that nothing had changed

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[00:13:04] Aldo, his uncle, felt publicly **humiliated**⁸⁶ by his exile from Gucci. His nephew had removed many aspects of the company that were considered his legacy.

[00:13:16] Paolo also was unhappy with his cousin, Maurizio. He had never followed through with his promise to give him the creative freedom he had agreed to.

[00:13:26] So Aldo and Paolo teamed up and together they claimed that Maurizio, in order to avoid **inheritance tax**⁸⁷, had **forged**⁸⁸ his father's signature on forms transferring him his late father's **shares**.

[00:13:42] And when they reported this to the authorities, Maurizio was charged with the crime.

[00:13:47] Luckily for him, he managed to avoid prison. In an almost James Bond-like fashion, as police were coming to arrest him he received a warning from his lawyer and quickly jumped on a motorbike, **fleeing**⁸⁹ to Switzerland.

[00:14:02] This is where he would stay for several years until he was acquitted, essentially found not guilty.

⁸⁶ shamed or foolish

⁸⁷ tax that he would have to pay on money or property he had received from his father

⁸⁸ made an illegal copy of

⁸⁹ running away from danger

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[00:14:10] During this time, he was **stripped**⁹⁰ of the Gucci presidency.

[00:14:13] But, he still owned half of the company.

[00:14:16] Once again, he had to **hatch**⁹¹ a plan to, form a plan to regain control. And this time, he would leave no room for **retaliation**⁹².

[00:14:27] So, in 1988, with the help of an investment bank called Investcorp, he began to **buy out**⁹³ the rest of his family, meaning that they would no longer own **shares** in Gucci.

[00:14:40] The first target was Paolo. Still struggling to set up his own fashion label, he could use the money he got from selling his **shares** to fund this **venture**⁹⁴. And so he sold them to Investcorp.

[00:14:53] After this, Maurizio **persuaded**⁹⁵ more of his cousins to sell their **shares**, all **won over**⁹⁶ by the large cash amounts they would receive.

⁹⁰ removed from

⁹¹ make, devise

⁹² revenge, being harmed in return

⁹³ pay them to give up ownership

⁹⁴ business activity

⁹⁵ made them do it by talking to them

⁹⁶ made to accept it

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[00:15:03] Feeling [betrayed](#)⁹⁷ by his own sons, and being the last one to hold onto his [shares](#), Aldo eventually sold too. But it wasn't easy for him; he told Maurizio it was like selling his own [soul](#)⁹⁸.

[00:15:17] So by 1989, Maurizio was not only in full control of Gucci again, but he was the last of his family left in the company and free to make all the changes wanted.

[00:15:30] He closed many Gucci stores, ended franchises, and reduced the number of products that Gucci produced. He also brought in new designers and executives to give Gucci a fresh [look](#)⁹⁹.

[00:15:44] Unfortunately, that same year Maurizio and Sheree Loud's relationship came to an end.

[00:15:50] But it didn't take too long for Maurizio to find romance again.

[00:15:54] Just a year later, in 1990, he started dating interior designer Paola Franchi. Franchi had been a friend of Maurizio and Patrizia's, and had even gone to their wedding.

⁹⁷ disappointed and hurt because of their disloyalty or unreliability

⁹⁸ self, identity

⁹⁹ appearance, impression

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[00:16:06] Patrizia was **enraged**¹⁰⁰, she was **livid**¹⁰¹.

[00:16:10] Meanwhile, at Gucci, things weren't going so well.

[00:16:15] Maurizio was a **reckless spender**¹⁰², both personally and professionally. His restructuring of the company had been expensive, and he'd spent money on **trivial**¹⁰³ things such as **lavish** new offices.

[00:16:30] This ate away at Gucci's **bottom line**¹⁰⁴, and the finances were **in the red**¹⁰⁵. Investcorp no longer trusted Maurizio to run the company, and they wanted to **buy him out**¹⁰⁶ too.

¹⁰⁰ extremely angry

¹⁰¹ extremely angry

¹⁰² someone who spent a lot of money without considering the consequences

¹⁰³ not important

¹⁰⁴ the final total of the account or balance sheet

¹⁰⁵ meaning that they owned more money than they had

¹⁰⁶ pay him to give up ownership

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[00:16:43] Maurizio had also been taking out bank [loans](#)¹⁰⁷ to help fund his [extravagant](#)¹⁰⁸ personal life. But with no way to pay back these [loans](#), the banks also threatened to [seize](#)¹⁰⁹ his [shares](#).

[00:16:57] But Maurizio was not about to give up his ownership of Gucci that easily, so he decided to take out yet another [loan](#)¹¹⁰.

[00:17:06] This time it was with a man called Delfo Zorzi, a [suspected](#)¹¹¹ terrorist living in Japan. In exchange for tens of millions of euros, Maurizio promised Zorzi the rights to sell Gucci in Asia.

[00:17:21] Unfortunately for him, no amount of [loans](#) or [dodgy](#)¹¹² dealings could save him, and in 1993 he finally sold his half of Gucci to Investcorp.

[00:17:32] This marked the end of the Gucci family's involvement with the Gucci fashion house.

¹⁰⁷ amounts of money borrowed from a bank

¹⁰⁸ very expensive

¹⁰⁹ take and hold

¹¹⁰ amount of money borrowed from someone

¹¹¹ believed to be

¹¹² not honest

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[00:17:38] Supposedly, this final exchange deeply angered Patrizia, his ex-wife. Perhaps she felt **betrayed**, as she'd always felt like a Gucci, or perhaps it was because she would never again be able to have influence in the company.

[00:17:55] But things were only going to get worse for Patrizia when, in 1994, Maurizio finally officially divorced her.

[00:18:05] In the settlement, Patrizia received property, a lump sum of millions of euros and a yearly allowance of hundreds of thousands of euros.

[00:18:14] But to her, this was a “mere bowl of lentils”. She wanted more.

[00:18:20] Worse still, she was legally **prohibited**¹¹³ from using the Gucci name, although she never actually stopped referring to herself as a Gucci.

[00:18:29] And these issues were just the start. Maurizio, still not having learned his lesson, continued to burn through the money he'd received from selling his **shares**, spending **lavishly**¹¹⁴ and **renovating**¹¹⁵ his apartment with his new lover according to his expensive tastes.

[00:18:47] What's more, **rumour had it**¹¹⁶ that Maurizio wanted to marry Paola.

¹¹³ not allowed

¹¹⁴ in a very expensive way

¹¹⁵ repairing and improving

¹¹⁶ it was said (without having proof)

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[00:18:52] This threatened to reduce the payments Patrizia received from him. Plus, in her eyes, there was only room for one Mrs Gucci.

[00:19:01] But the pair never did marry, as in 1995 Maurizio Gucci was dead, lying in a pool of blood In front of his office.

[00:19:11] And this brings us back to the start of this episode.

[00:19:15] Who killed Maurizio Gucci?

[00:19:18] The first place the police looked was inside the Gucci family. With all the [in-fighting¹¹⁷](#) and battles for control, could Maurizio have been murdered in revenge?

[00:19:29] Paolo was an obvious [suspect¹¹⁸](#). After selling his [shares](#), he had continued legal battles with Maurizio over the rights to design clothes using the Gucci name.

[00:19:40] But there was no evidence linking Paolo to the crime.

[00:19:44] Next, they looked at Zorzi, the [suspected](#) criminal with whom Maurizio had taken out a [loan](#). But they soon received evidence that he had paid off this [loan](#) in full, so there was no [motive¹¹⁹](#) there.

[00:19:58] Luckily, the police received a very interesting [tip-off¹²⁰](#).

¹¹⁷ fighting between the family members

¹¹⁸ person thought to be guilty

¹¹⁹ something that would make him do it

¹²⁰ information given secretly

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[00:20:02] The **conciierge**¹²¹ of a Milan hotel had **bragged**¹²² to a customer that he'd been paid to help organise a **hitman**¹²³ to kill Maurizio Gucci.

[00:20:12] And who had paid him?

[00:20:14] If you didn't know, perhaps you'd guessed it.

[00:20:17] It was Patrizia, Maurizio Gucci's ex-wife.

[00:20:20] And the more the police investigated Patrizia, the more guilty she seemed. She had not exactly kept it a secret that she **despised**¹²⁴ her ex-husband.

[00:20:30] After their divorce, she had left him threatening messages, in one even saying, "For you, it is hell to come."

[00:20:38] And even less **subtly**¹²⁵, she had asked just about everyone she knew whether they could help her **dispose**¹²⁶ of her ex-husband, even talking about it with her divorce lawyer.

¹²¹ a person whose job was to take care of the hotel

¹²² spoke too proudly about

¹²³ hired killer

¹²⁴ hated

¹²⁵ obviously, clearly

¹²⁶ get rid, deal with

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[00:20:49] Her behaviour after his death was suspicious, too. On the day he died, she had written just one word in her diary: paradise.

[00:20:59] And, just three hours after he died, she had drawn up a notice to [evict](#)¹²⁷ Paola, to [kick Paola out](#)¹²⁸ from the apartment she had shared with Maurizio. She seemed too prepared for her ex-husband's death, almost as if she had known it would happen.

[00:21:18] The final, [damning](#)¹²⁹ piece of evidence came after the police [wire-tapped](#)¹³⁰ the hotel [concierge's](#)¹³¹ car.

[00:21:25] They caught members of the group who had helped plan and [carry out](#)¹³² the murder talking about their payment from Patrizia. They were unhappy with the amount she had paid them and were beginning to [hatch](#) a plan to [extort](#)¹³³ more out of her.

¹²⁷ force her to leave

¹²⁸ force Paola to leave

¹²⁹ showing clearly that she was guilty

¹³⁰ used a listening device to secretly get information

¹³¹ of the person whose job was to take care of the hotel

¹³² do, commit

¹³³ get (money) by using threats

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[00:21:40] But before anything could come of it, the police **turned up**¹³⁴ at Patrizia's doorstep on the morning of the 31st of January 1997. They were there to arrest her.

[00:21:51] **Seemingly**¹³⁵ calm and unsurprised by this, Patrizia had just one thing she wanted to do before she was taken to prison. She had to go and put on a fur coat and fine jewellery.

[00:22:04] At her **trial**¹³⁶, she maintained her innocence. But, with 43 boxes of evidence presented against her, she was quickly found guilty and **sentenced**¹³⁷ to 29 years for arranging an assassination.

[00:22:19] In 2011, she actually got an early chance at freedom through what's called a work-release programme, meaning you can get out of prison if you get a job.

[00:22:29] However, she turned this opportunity down, saying that she had never worked a day in her life and she sure as hell wasn't going to start now. Five years later she was finally released after serving 18 years.

[00:22:43] Despite her previous comments about never having had a job, she has even expressed an interest in working for Gucci again because, according to her, she is "the most Gucci of them all."

¹³⁴ appeared

¹³⁵ giving the impression of being

¹³⁶ the hearing or examination of the case in a court of law

¹³⁷ punished

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[00:22:58] OK then, that is it for today's episode on the murder of Maurizio Gucci.

[00:23:04] I hope it's been an interesting one, and that you've learnt something new.

[00:23:07] As always, I would love to know what you thought of this episode.

[00:23:11] Do you think that Patrizia's [sentence](#)¹³⁸ was too [lenient](#)¹³⁹, and she would have been given a longer [sentence](#) if she wasn't so wealthy?

[00:23:18] Do you think that it was the money that corrupted the Gucci family, or was there something deeper?

[00:23:23] I would love to know, so let's get this discussion started.

[00:23:27] You can head right into our community forum, which is at community.leonardoenglish.com and get chatting away to other curious minds.

[00:23:35] You've been listening to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:23:40] I'm Alastair Budge, you stay safe, and I'll catch you in the next episode.

[END OF EPISODE]

¹³⁸ legal punishment or decision

¹³⁹ not as severe as would be expected, forgiving

Key vocabulary

Word	Definition
Rivalries	competition
Betrayal	actions that show no loyalty or faithfulness
Warring	fighting each other
Doorman	someone who was on duty at the entrance to a large building
A stone's throw away from	a short distance from
Affluent	wealthy
Trendy	following the most recent fashions
Lavish	expensive and impressive, fancy
Drawing	pulling out
Witness	person who had seen the crime happening
Panicked	felt frightened and extremely nervous
Fled	ran to escape from danger

The Murder of Maurizio Gucci

Cradling	holding in his arms like a baby
Lifeless	dead
Founded	created, established
Shock	sudden upsetting event
Leads	information, clues
Suspects	people who were thought to be guilty of the crime
Clues	information that will help us explain the situation
Shocking	causing feelings of fear and surprise
Well-to-do	rich
Luggage	suitcases or other bags that they carried with them when they were travelling
Momentum	activity, force or energy
Garnering	getting, collecting
Elite	the richest and most powerful group in society
Boutique	a shop that sells fashionable or trendy clothes and accessories
Founder	person who had started or established the business

The Murder of Maurizio Gucci

Notoriously	in a way that it was well known
Awkward	difficult to deal with
Overprotective	wishing to protect him too much
Overbearing	expecting to be obeyed without questions
Charismatic	attractive, charming
Socialite	a person who was well known in the high class society and took part in social activities
Trucking	the transportation of goods by large vehicles or trucks
Adopt	legally take her into his family as his own daughter
Spoiled	harmed her character by giving her whatever she wanted
Consume	completely fill her mind
Lend itself	be good or suitable for
Moguls	important successful people
Kicked off	caused it to begin
Whirlwind	very intense, compulsive
Red flag	warning for danger

The Murder of Maurizio Gucci

Was head over heels madly in love with

Resort to do it as a final solution

Measures plans, courses of action

Disinherited prevented him from receiving any of his property after his death

Cutting maurizio off preventing Maurizio from having access to

Cardinal a priest of very high rank

Hinted said in a way that wasn't direct or clear

Instrumental extremely important

Powerhouse something of great power

Booming growing fast

Quite the pair an impressive and successful pair

Penthouse an expensive apartment at the top of a building

Flaunted showed

Entrenching securing, firmly establishing

Reunited came together after a period of separation

The Murder of Maurizio Gucci

Reunion	the fact that they were together again
Shares	parts into which the company's wealth or resources were divided
Iconic	very famous and popular
Shareholder	owner of parts into which the company's wealth or resources were divided
Excessive	more than reasonable
Franchising	the practice according to which the company sold another businesses the right to sell its products in return for payment
Degraded	lowered the quality of
Exclusivity	the right to sell their products exclusively
Take his own family down	cause failure to his family
Enlisted	involved, engaged
Credited	considered responsible for
Logo	design or symbol used by the company
Furious	extremely angry

The Murder of Maurizio Gucci

Fire	dismiss from employment, kick out
Sued	took legal action against
Infringing	breaking or violating the terms of
Trademarks	name, symbols, or other devices used to identify and promote its products
Took off	became very successful
Crumble	break, fall apart
Cut Patrizia out	include or involve Patrizia in
Steer	direct, guide
Lust	strong desire
Keen	very intense, deep
Avidly	with great interest
Affair	sexual relation
Renovate	repair and improve
Mutual friend	a friend that both of them had
Keep up	give the impression that nothing had changed

The Murder of Maurizio Gucci

appearances

Humiliated

shamed or foolish

Inheritance tax

tax that he would have to pay on money or property he had received from his father

Forged

made an illegal copy of

Fleeing

running away from danger

Stripped

removed from

Hatch

make, devise

Retaliation

revenge, being harmed in return

Buy out

pay them to give up ownership

Venture

business activity

Persuaded

made them do it by talking to them

Won over

made to accept it

Betrayed

disappointed and hurt because of their disloyalty or unreliability

Soul

self, identity

Look

appearance, impression

The Murder of Maurizio Gucci

Enraged	extremely angry
Livid	extremely angry
Reckless spender	someone who spent a lot of money without considering the consequences
Trivial	not important
Bottom line	the final total of the account or balance sheet
In the red	meaning that they owned more money than they had
Buy him out	pay him to give up ownership
Loans	amounts of money borrowed from a bank
Extravagant	very expensive
Seize	take and hold
Loan	amount of money borrowed from someone
Suspected	believed to be
Dodgy	not honest
Prohibited	not allowed
Lavishly	in a very expensive way

The Murder of Maurizio Gucci

Renovating	repairing and improving
Rumour had it	it was said (without having proof)
In-fighting	fighting between the family members
Suspect	person thought to be guilty
Motive	something that would make him do it
Tip-off	information given secretly
Concierge	a person whose job was to take care of the hotel
Bragged	spoke too proudly about
Hitman	hired killer
Despised	hated
Subtly	obviously, clearly
Dispose	get rid, deal with
Evict	force her to leave
Kick Paola out	force Paola to leave
Damning	showing clearly that she was guilty

The Murder of Maurizio Gucci

Wire-tapped	used a listening device to secretly get information
Concierge's	of the person whose job was to take care of the hotel
Carry out	do, commit
Extort	get (money) by using threats
Turned up	appeared
Seemingly	giving the impression of being
Trial	the hearing or examination of the case in a court of law
Sentenced	punished
Sentence	legal punishment or decision
Lenient	not as severe as would be expected, forgiving

We'd love to get your feedback on this episode.

What did you like? What could we do better?

What did you struggle to understand?

Let us know in the forum community.leonardoenglish.com