



# Pazzo e Bella


Pazzo is the son of Vincenzo, a Neapolitan ceramic artist who emigrated to Cornaiano at a young age. When Pazzo runs into Bella at a concert, they fall instantly in love with each other. Both of them are ignorant, poor and emigrants. They marry each other without money or a job and start to live "temporarily" with Pazzo's father.

Even though they argue often and even violently, Pazzo and Bella don't break up, because "unfortunately" they love and need each other. The only real argument of disagreement between them is concerning money. To become rich and change her life, Bella is willing to go an extra mile, whereas Pazzo isn't in search of anything; he enjoys the things he owns. The fate, however, never asks for permission to find its way and that is the reason why the two main characters have to face 3 STROKES OF BAD LUCK.

**THE FIRST STROKE OF BAD LUCK:** Because of a case of mistaken identity Pazzo gets kneecapped by Zecca, a Napolitan criminal, and from that moment on is bound to a wheelchair. To make up for the terrible accident Zecca offers him a job as a night watchman in a garage in a southern town. Pazzo spends his time watching crime reports, while Bella tries to fulfill her dream of a wealthy carefree life, by seeking her fortune at the slot machines. One day Zecca finds out that Bella has tried to steal one of his briefcases, desperate to find something precious. Instead of killing them he offers them 50.000€ for the murder of a butcher, who slept with the wife of an influential mobster.

Pazzo, in fear of disappointing and losing, Bella unwillingly agrees to the deal.

**THE SECOND STROKE OF BAD LUCK:** Pazzo receives the message from his hometown that his father has passed away. Realizing to have found a way out of this absurd deal he decides to return to Cornaiano and promises Bella to sell the house and the laboratory of his father's pottery, so they can leave the garage and Zecca for good. Zecca and his new wife Samantha decide to join them on their journey to Cornaiano. At home Pazzo finds out that his father married his caretaker, Irina, before he died, who left with all the inheritance, without even paying for the cremation of the deceased. An impatient Zecca becomes more dangerous for Pazzo and Bella and even demands his advance payment for the butcher's murder back. Bella is furious and disappears, leaving Pazzo in a very inconvenient situation. Back in the South Bella is convinced by Samantha to return to Pazzo to kill the butcher. After an argument and Bella's failed attempt to kill the butcher herself, Pazzo and Bella decide that Pazzo will kill the butcher. Pazzo, a man bound to his wheelchair who, driven by jealousy, commits a desperate act for the love of his Bella. The fact will certainly jump to the headlines and then they will become rich and famous, just what Bella desires.



In the meantime, Samantha finds out that Zecca has never intended to give them the promised money, but has planned to kill them as soon as the butcher is murdered. The next morning Bella meets Samantha again, who is crying but it is unclear what they're talking about. That same night, Bella sneaks inside the butchery to seduce the victim, while Zecca is standing nearby, waiting for Pazzo to shoot the butcher, so he can kill them. But instead of shooting the butcher, Pazzo kills Zecca. We find out it is Samantha who led Zecca into the trap.

**THIRD STROKE OF BAD LUCK:** The following morning, sitting in front of the TV, Pazzo and Bella are ready to harvest the rewards for their absurd business. Just as the local newscast is talking about the facts of the butchery, the report is suddenly interrupted by sensational news of the prime minister's secret affair with a model, completely overshadowing the story of Pazzo and Bella. The two do not move a single muscle and watch the television astonished, while the police sirens approach. On the closing titles, however, we discover that the book that tells their absurd story had achieved great editorial success and was even transformed into a film. This one.