

Simply to Die For

Roving Rogue Productions

2021

By CJ Corl

CAST

Narrator	Announcer and narrator who sets the stage for the project
Sonia "Sonny" Day	Granddaughter of May Day and heir to the Day Gang
May Day	Matriarch and leader of the Day Gang, having taken over when her husband died
Tom Collins	Brewer and smuggler for the Day Gang
Millie Graham	Maid for May Day
Lew Scannon	Leader of the West Side Gang
Rick O'Shae	Enforcer and "muscle" along with Lew's second in command
Robin Hyde	Bookkeeper for the West Side Gang
Vera Piercing	Lew's on/off girlfriend and silent film star with an obnoxious voice
Belle Tone	Local Jazz singer who's been hired to sing at the party
Skip Dover	Belle's pianist and manager, along with the owner of the club she sings at
Eddie Bull	Local Politician who's trying to campaign all the time
Theresa "Terry" Bull	Eddie's wife who's increasingly unhappy with her marriage
Noah Goodman	Owner of the local telephone company along with his sister, Anita
Mary Goodman	Wife of Noah Goodman, from old-money who doesn't have money anymore
Anita Goodman	Sister to Noah and technically co-owner of the phone company
Dr. Jameson	Doctor who's struggling and invited in hopes of getting more into smuggling

EPISODE NINE:

Scene One:

NARRATOR

When we last saw our crew at the Day Gala, there were 6 people dead. The most recent was our aptly named silent film star, Vera Piercing, who died after eating a chocolate tart passed around by our poor maid, Millie.

With only 10 of the guests remaining in the house, how many more will we lose before the killer is caught?

LEW

What the hell was in those tarts, Day?

MAY

Why are you accusing me of something? I ate off the same tray as her.

LEW

Well, something had to be in them.

RICK

Coconut.

LEW

What?

RICK

I heard Day say that there was coconut in those tarts.

LEW

She wouldn't have taken a fruit tart.

MAY

What does any of this have to do with her being dead?

LEW

Vera's allergic to coconut. Deathly so.

MAY

Oh... well... How-How did you expect me to know that?

LEW

You put coconut in the tarts? All of them?

MAY

Yes, the chocolate ones are chocolate coconut tarts. The cream they're both set on is made from a coconut cream. But I didn't even know that they were going to be served tonight.

LEW

Likely story.

MAY

I didn't. They weren't on the menu. But Cook knows how much I like them and sometimes makes them as a surprise for gathering or just for me.

LEW

And you expect us to believe that?

BELLE

You expect us to believe that you're really heartbroken about this?

LEW

What is that supposed to mean?

BELLE

You didn't love her.

LEW

Doesn't mean I wanted her dead.

BELLE

But it might have. Awfully convenient for you and your girlfriend now that she's out of the way.

SKIP

Belle, what are you doing?

BELLE

It has to be them. She wasn't no one, just a bystander in all this. They're the only ones who'd actually kill her and not just think about it like the rest of us. It has to be them!

LEW

Don't you dare. I wouldn't have killed Vera, but I will kill to protect those I care about.

MAY

What's this all about?

BELLE

He's been having an affair!

-cast makes various 'big whoop,' 'of course he is' 'surprise, surprise' noises-

BELLE

With Sonny Day!

NARRATOR

Gasp!

MAY

What?

LEW

Shit.

MAY

What are you saying? Sonia?

SONNY

Grandmother-

BELLE

I caught them! With Millie! Together and they begged us to not say anything.

And now you've gone and killed her just because you didn't want her around anymore.

LEW

I can end a relationship without killing someone. Besides, we were just loose. Doing our own thing.

BELLE

Are you sure? It would be so much easier to just knock her off while everyone else is getting killed too.

(GUNSHOT)

NARRATOR

Shit! Why didn't we take everyone's guns?

May stands with her pistol aimed up towards the ceiling. Which now has a hole in it.

Wonder who's gonna fix that.

MAY

Now, wait one moment! I want to know what is going on here.

SONNY

Grandmother put the pistol down.

LEW

Yeah, Day, put it down. No one needs to get shot.

MAY

You might need to be. What's this about you seducing my granddaughter?

LEW

Who says I seduced her?

MAY

Because she knows better than to get in league with a man like you.

LEW

A man like me? I'm a successful man with a booming business and who knows how to treat my gang and my women well. Sonny could do a whole lot worse than me.

MAY

You're the enemy.

LEW

Only to you. Besides, I doubt she would have come around to me if you hadn't constantly been pushing her away.

MAY

I would never, you boor.

NARRATOR

May levels her pistol at Lew. Her demeanor shifts, clearly becoming the cold-blooded killer who ran one of the most profitable gangs for decades. Rick immediately draws his own weapon, aiming it at May.

SONNY

Stop!

NARRATOR

Sonny! Don't put yourself between the two fools trying to kill each other!

MAY

Move, Sonia.

SONNY

Not until you put the gun down.

LEW

Sunshine, move. I don't want you getting hurt.

SONNY

She won't shoot me. I won't move until she puts the gun down.

SKIP

That might not be a bad idea.

MAY

Tell me it's not true. That you didn't deceive me and throw away everything we've worked for.

SONNY

I can't say that. Lew and I... well, this isn't some little fling.

MAY

How long?

SONNY

We met at Over and Down two years ago.

MAY

Two years? You knew about this, Dover?

SKIP

I mean... I knew that sometimes Scannon rented out a private booth where no one could see him in. And sometimes a certain, lady friend would be there.

MAY

He's using you.

LEW

I may be a patient man, but I'm not that patient. If I'd wanted to use Sonny to get back at you, I'd have done it by now, Day. This isn't about you.

SONNY

I'm sorry, Grandmother. But I can't just say no to him. Lew makes me a better person.

MAY

He's dragging you down.

SONNY

No, he's not.

MAY

I want an end to this. Now.

SONNY

No.

LEW
Sunshine...

MAY

Sonia, this isn't up for discussion.

SKIP

Can we please just lower the guns already?

RICK

I will if she will.

SKIP

On the count of three?

One... Two... Three...

NARRATOR

The two slowly lower their guns, but neither puts them away.

SONNY

Grandmother, I'm sorry, but I love him.

MAY

Over my dead body, you do.

NARRATOR

Might not be the best thing to say given the circumstances.

NOAH

Why don't we all separate a bit? Give everyone some time to cool off?

BELLE

So he can kill someone else?

LEW

I didn't kill anyone! Here, foolish canary. You feel better if I give you my gun?

BELLE

Not really.

LEW

Well, that's all I can really offer.

BELLE

... Fine.

NARRATOR

Belle curls her fingers around Lew's pistol.

Oh... that sounds kind of naughty.

SONNY

You think that's smart?

LEW

Prove to everyone here it's not me.

NOAH

Come on, everyone break it up. Mrs. Day, maybe you'd like to go check on Mary with me?

MAY

Yes, we should check on your lovely wife.

SKIP

Belle, you look a little flushed. Come on, maybe you should lie down for a bit. This isn't like you.

BELLE

I don't know... I just...

SKIP

I know, LB, I know. I'll go with you. Millie? Is there a room we can go to? I think this has rattled her.

MILLIE

Yes, sir, right this way.

NARRATOR

That was odd... I mean... I wonder what's wrong with Belle. The group watches as the three leave the room.

LEW

What about Vera? We can't just leave her here.

SONNY

Why don't we put her with the others?

LEW

Yeah... that'll work.

Scene Two:

NARRATOR

Lew closes Vera's eyes, scooping her up into his arms. Sonny opens doors for him as he navigates his way out and down to the office. Inside, he gently puts her down on the floor.

LEW

She didn't deserve to go out that way.

SONNY

She didn't.

LEW

Don't think that this means I care about her more than you.

SONNY

I know. But you still had a relationship with her. You were around each other a lot. Of course, you cared about her, and you'd be sad that she's dead.

LEW

It's just a shame. She was a good person.

Even if her voice was like the squealing of tires.

SONNY

Well, think of it this way, maybe she'll be immortalized. They can make a movie about her and her tragic life.

LEW

She'd love that.

...

You didn't have to stand up for me.

SONNY

I know. But I'd rather have you in one piece than splattered across the parlor.

LEW

Agreed. But she won't let this go.

SONNY

I'll talk to her.

LEW

And if she doesn't accept it?

SONNY

Then we'll handle that when we have to.

LEW

Or you could just come with me now.

SONNY

I promised I'd think about it.

LEW

And the offer is still there.

SONNY

I know.

LEW

Come on, Sunshine, let's go get a drink.

NARRATOR

Down the hall, Noah, May, and Millie enter the small front room that they left Mary in. Except...

NOAH

Mary?

NARRATOR

She's not there.

NOAH

Mary? Are you here?

MILLIE

Mrs. Goodman?

MAY

Are you sure this is where you went?

NOAH

Yes, Miss Day took us herself.

MAY

Could she have gone somewhere else?

NOAH

I don't know where she would have gone.

We need to find her.

MAY

I doubt-

NOAH

I'm sorry, Mrs. Day. But there have been multiple murders in this house already today. I don't want my wife to be another victim. I want to know where she is.

MILLIE

May I offer-

MAY

Hush girl. This isn't your place.

MILLIE

Sorry, ma'am.

NOAH

Mrs. Day, you can stand here and scold this young lady if you really have nothing better to do, but I'm going to find my wife. I'd much rather have Millie's help than for you to take up both of our times.

(NOAH STOMPS OFF)

MAY

...

Well? What are you doing still standing here? Get back to work.

MILLIE

Yes, ma'am.

(MILLIE LEAVES)

Because I don't work enough...

NARRATOR

Huh... wonder what that was about. Oh, wait, someone's coming back.

MAY

I told you to get back to work, girl-

Oh, it's you. I thought you would be off with your lover or something.

...

Well, don't just stand there. What do you want?

ROBIN

-hoarsely whispered so it's hard to recognize her voice-

Revenge.

NARRATOR

Oh no.

MAY

What are you doing with that? Do you think you're going to kill me?

NARRATOR

I should think so. Normally people don't menacingly stand in the doorway with fire tongs.

MAY

Don't you dare I have my...

NARRATOR

Only May no longer has her pistol on her, having set it down on the table across the room.

MAY

Now, wait just a moment.

(MAY IS HIT WITH SOMETHING, REPEATEDLY. HAGGARD BREATHING UNTIL THE LAST BREATH. CLATTER OF FIRE TONGS BEING DROPPED ON THE FLOOR AND QUIET FOOTSTEPS. THE OFFICE DOOR QUIETLY OPENS AND CLOSSES.)

Scene Three:

(DOOR FLYING OPEN)

NARRATOR

Noah bursts into the main parlor.

NOAH

Has anyone seen Mary?

SKIP

I thought she was laying down in the other room.

NOAH

She wasn't there.

SKIP

I haven't seen her.

NOAH

I need to find her.

SKIP

Of course.

RICK

Maybe she's with Robin? I haven't seen her either.

SKIP

Let's go looking for them then.

RICK

I'll come with you. We'll find them.

SKIP

Upstairs?

NOAH

Sounds good. I think it would be best to bring everyone back together.

RICK

I don't know. Day and my Boss might kill each other.

SKIP

They might kill each other either way. At least if we're all together we could prevent it.

NARRATOR

The three men search upstairs, opening each and every door before moving on.

SKIP

Ugh... can dead bodies already start to smell? Or is that just the Mayor's natural scent?

NARRATOR

Actually, yes. Yes, they can smell so soon.

Carefully, the three close off each area they've been in, not finding anyone besides the dead Mayor Bull upstairs. They start down the back stairs, coming out near the door that leads to the basement kitchen.

-run into Robin-

ROBIN

Good lord! You startled me!

NARRATOR

Robin immediately steadies herself and the plate of food she has in her hands.

RICK

Robin, you're okay. Where have you been?

NARRATOR

She holds the plate up for them to see, eyebrows raised.

ROBIN

I ran into Millie going to get more food. Day yelled at her again. I offered to help bring some up.

SKIP

Are those the same tarts that killed Vera?

ROBIN

I guess that's all they have left.

SKIP

Damn.

RICK

Come on, lass. We're trying to find everyone and get them back together.

ROBIN

Well, Millie is right behind me.

NOAH

Have you seen Mary?

ROBIN

I'm afraid not.

NOAH

I need to keep looking.

SKIP

I'll come with you.

RICK

Robin?

ROBIN

Go ahead. I'm going back in with the others. I think I can walk down the hall to the parlor on my own.

(ROBIN LEAVES)

NARRATOR

The door creaks open a bit.

SONNY

Grandmother?

NARRATOR

Oh, dear...

SONNY

Grandmother!

NARRATOR

In the middle of the parlor is the now very dead May Day, beaten to death. Her blood seeping from her body and onto her precious rugs. Sonny rushes over, kneeling down next to the woman who raised her, checking for a pulse. Or really, anything to show she's still alive.

SONNY

No... Grandmother, you're not allowed to be dead.

ROBIN

Oh, this is too good.

NARRATOR

Oh no.

SONNY

Robin? Oh, you've got to help me. She's-

-chokes back a sob-

ROBIN

She's dead.

SONNY

Yes.

ROBIN

And soon you will be too.

SONNY

What-

-Sonny is attacked, caught by the throat-

ROBIN

You made it too easy for me. Thank you, Sonny Day. You and your grandmother can rot in hell.

NARRATOR

Oh no! Sonny! Do something!

Yes! Grab those fire tongs!

(ROBIN HIT WITH FIRE TONGS)

ROBIN

-grunts-

NARRATOR

Rolling away, Sonny tries to get to her feet, away from the crazed woman.

SONNY

You. You're the killer.

ROBIN

Come back here, you snake.

SONNY

Not on your life.

NARRATOR

Robin lunges, the two women grappling around the room. Sonny shoves Robin into a wall before she trips over Robin and falls to the ground. Hard.

SONNY

Oof!

NARRATOR

Robin pins Sonny down to the floor.

ROBIN

You certainly do put up more of a fight than your ancient grandmother. I'm glad I saved you for last.

NARRATOR

Sonny struggles, pushing against the other woman, restraining her arms then bringing her legs up, using her own momentum to flip her adversary off her.

Told you that you don't want to mess with Miss Sonny.

ROBIN

Ah!

NARRATOR

She screams loudly before knocking into the table.

SONNY

You killed them all.

ROBIN

Help me! Help!

SONNY

Wait-

ROBIN

She's trying to kill me!

SONNY

What are you doing?

ROBIN

What does it look like? I'm framing you.

Help! Someone, please help me!

NARRATOR

Oh... so devious.

(DOOR BURSTS OPEN)

SKIP

What's going on in here?

ROBIN

Help me!

RICK

Oh, lass. Are you okay?

NARRATOR

Rick rushes over to his girl, cradling her close. Skip and Noah both stand close to the door, taking in the scene before them. One dead woman. Two who've obviously been fighting. Robin has a large bruise blooming on her cheek, and clutching her abdomen. Sonny stands back from the men, hugging the wall she'd rolled closer to, her neck is red.

ROBIN

I'm okay... I'm okay... just stay close?

RICK

Always.

(MORE PEOPLE RUN INTO THE ROOM)

LEW

We heard screaming.

NARRATOR

Lew and Belle both rush in, with Millie only a second behind.

SONNY

Lew!

LEW

Sunshine.

SONNY

Grandmother...

MILLIE

Mrs. Day...

LEW

Oh shit. What happened?

ROBIN

Lew, get away from her.

LEW

What?

ROBIN

It's her. Sonny's the murderer.