

## Rock & Roll Cookbook Murders - Feature Film - Synopsis

A Rolls Royce, out of place in the tiny town of Phoenicia, New York, arrives at Sam's office. Sam Jarrett is retained by a famous art collector to find missing person, Isadora, his daughter, and girlfriend of Johnny Rainbow. Sam's secretary Sophia keeps his office and life in order. A phone call to Sargent Capolla updates him on the latest murder. The name of a high school chum gone bad shows up, Arnold Gillette, who dated Angela Del Fuego, the murdered girl. He had gone from punk to serious bad guy. So, Sam pays him a visit on the way to Mr. Intaglio. Dellwood Intaglio, the son, was engaged to Angel. After interviews with the Intaglios, Sam discovers a ransom demand for Isadora. He arranges for a bug on their phone.

Another murder of Hunter Erickson, has Lionel Davidson, the Erickson's lawyer, hire Sam. The girl, Sally, who found Angel's body has a bass player boyfriend, Bobby. Bobby is part of Johnny Rainbow's band. Yet another murder of Hofstetter, the pawnbroker, brings in Halloran who is the lead cop on the case. Sam and Halloran have some bad history. Knickerbocker, a cab driver and longtime friend of Sam's, buddy's up to watch his back. Known blade man Arnold Gillette complains, "I can afford bullets now, Sam. What's this, laying every knife job at my door?" For the time being, it looks like Arnold is off the hook. Johnny Rainbow reports, "There's something else. Her book's missing." The Rock & Roll Cookbook seems to play a part in Isadora's disappearance. Lottie Demure an exotic dancer, tries to hire Sam to "whack" Angel's killer.

Knickerbocker reports, "Clean and quiet, boss. Real clean, and real quiet. Three cases of dynamite, fuse and caps were stolen." Father Fitzpatrick makes an introduction, "Sam. This is Norma. She knows Isadora." "Sure, I got to know her well. We became friends, but getting along with Isadora was easy, she was warmhearted. I wish I could say the same for some of her friends." Rocco, a club owner, "Yeah, I remember her very well. She was a good kid. Last time I saw her she came in to pick up a recipe. She was working on a cookbook of some kind. One of the boys in the band was goanna let go of one of his culinary secrets. She promised to give him credit for it. Haven't seen her since then."

The newspaper building is crawling with cops and fire marshals. The badly charred body of the editor was strapped to his chair with an electrical wire clamped to a jumper cable. Sophia, alarmed by the violence is caught by Sam whittling dum-dums. \*\*\* (What does this mean?) \*\*\* do you mean Sam found her whittling dum-dums? What are dum-dums?

At a musician's party, Sam makes friends with Silver, another musician. Mickey who was with her, remarks. "Isadora got into people, both mentally and sexually, like she was studying them or something. Anyway, she was bi." Sam asks if she and Angela were lovers?

Sam had the cash for the ransom. Along with Nic, they are on their way to the drop. Sam remarks, "If everything is connected, that means that the knife job, the dynamiting of the Erikson mansion and the editor are all the work of the same person. If that is true, the stakes are six million in Switzerland, \$500,000 today, and by the way, covering up their tracks. Anyone killing this much doesn't have a plan."

Faraday gets back to Sam with the file containing a special note concerning a green mark, a ring of discoloration on Angel's toe. "What does it mean, Sam?" He replies, "Isadora's dead." Sam, burnt out, crashes at the band house and wakes slowly. Nancy, a groupie, comments. "I bet you say things like, 'It's a dirty world, baby,' huh?"

At Arnold Gillett's, the hoods were slow and stupid. One started to frisk Sam and never saw the gun coming down across his skull. "Take it easy, Sam. You know I'm not stupid enough to waste Lottie. Would I be waiting here? Would I just be waiting for you? I'm not that stupid. It's Angel. She's alive. She's behind the whole thing." Sam hated to admit it, but that did make sense.

When meeting the DA he adds, "I've got something else for you, Sam. In a wall safe in the editor's office, we found a manuscript. Isadora Intaglio wrote it. It's a cookbook. It's called 'The Rock and Roll Cookbook.'" Sam sees the pieces falling into place. But Angel is still busy. Noreen is naked, her hands tied behind her, with Angel's hand on her throat.

On the phone, Sophia explains the DA has a warrant for Sam's arrest. Then Father Fitzpatrick called to say Norma wanted to speak with Sam. If that wasn't enough, Lenny, the candy-store snitch, called saying he had information that Sam was sure to want, he should stop by today. Bernie called, too. He was sending the girls out of town, to his brother's farm." Following up on the snitch, Sam walks into a sucker-punch that knocks him silly. Halloran brought him to the interrogation office. His lip was bleeding. The DA moved him to a hospital as soon as he got wind of it. He suspended Halloran. At the hospital, Angel pays him a visit. "I won't kill you tonight." Shortly after the visit, Silver shows up. "I figured, what the hell, let's go get him. Can you walk?" They got him to the band house; everyone was eager to help him "What do you think about a connection to the cookbook?" "The only connection I can think of is the recipe." "What recipe?" "Angel's, of course." Sam finds out Angel extorted six million in a Swiss bank from old man Erickson. Other dirt she had on big shots impeded the investigation. Sophia dug it up. "Several affairs later, she gets into big-time manipulation. She's always had what money can buy, but always at the price of her performance, hence her fascination with hookers. Somewhere she runs into Arnold Gillette. He's probably the first man she hasn't suckered. He fans her fires for a big score with his bragging and teaches her to use a knife. Maybe he's in on the Erickson scam. Anyway, she has old man Erickson around her little finger. He's throwing large wads of cash at her. Somehow, she gets involved with Isadora. The brother blows up everything by announcing the coming wedding. His sister has incriminating evidence. Once she starts killing, she must finish off anyone who can point the finger. A long list." Sophia, "Now you're on her list, Sam. You won't leave her alone." Johnny Rainbow sends Mike to Halloran. "I've got a message for you from Johnny Rainbow." She gives Halloran a beating.

Norma, "People have been calling me. They said they were going to kill me. I'm so frightened." Sam confronts Angel, he says, "You seem to think you've knocked over a bubble-gum machine or something. You're the big time, Angel. Everyone knows about you. You're going to be on the front page of tomorrow's paper. They dug up your grave today. They found Isadora's body. Everyone knows you're behind all this mess. You're sick, Angel. You better quit and get yourself some help." But Angel wants to get even. The cookbook translation was an address. Electric Street was on 48th Street where all the music shops with electronic sound reinforcement congregated. The number was Box 117. If Sam was right, the key he got from the pawnbroker's wife fit that box with the name of the King that even Sam should have known, Elvis Presley. The box would be in that name. The Redeemer was supposed to be Johnny. At nine o'clock, Mike would open that box. She was already on her way. Sam noticed she was unusually muscular for a lady. Despite her abilities, Mike was ambushed by thugs. On the other side of town, Sam captured Lottie's killer. Nick put on the stereo, loud. Sam slid back the slide and let it snap. For the first time the thought crossed the big ape's brain that Sam might be as mean as he was. He instinctively pulled on the cuffs. Sam pressed the trigger. The first slug went into his thigh, the second in his calf, the third through the baby fat on his side. "I'll talk, I'll talk. Stop!"

Later, Arnold Gillette cornered after a firefight, "Don't shoot! Sam, for Christ's sake, don't shoot!" Sam, "Come on down, Arnie, if you have the key. Otherwise, don't bother." Weakened by the explosions, the entire fire escape crashed onto the pavement below. Arnold never made a sound.

Johnny's house was quiet. Everyone had gone to the theater to get ready for the concert. Silver lived up to her word. Before a capacity crowd, the Electric Acorn was at their best. The audience went wild. Outside Johnny's house, a twig snapped. One of the bikers on sentry heard it. The blast cracked the picture window. Sam grabbed Norma and scurried for the front door. Driving a short distance down the lane, they scrambled out of the car and into the woods. More explosions were heard near the house. Sam, having stashed Norma in a safe spot, went looking for Angel. As Angel's blade glanced off one of Sam's ribs, she tilted her head like a dog, wondering if

he had any understanding at all why she was killing him. Sophia, looking like a black-clothed Ninja with a crossbow, slipped out from the shadows. She fired a shaft with a dynamite stick taped to it. The Angel of fire disintegrated in the explosion. Later Sam sneaked out of the hospital where he was recuperating. This time there was no bender as so often happened after a hard case. This time Norma was there to lead him into a new world where kindness was commonplace. "It's time for us to get on with it, Sam." Sam takes Norma's hand and notices the Rolls Royce riding down Main St. towards his office. As the end credits roll, attorney Benjamin Klein enters the office. Sofia is behind the desk. He hands her a letter saying this is full final payment for Mr. Jarrett 's services. He places a black bag on the desk. Sophia asks what's in the bag? I have no idea. I can only suppose it is a copy of the cookbook. Suffice it to say Mr. Intaglio is pleased that the monster responsible for these crimes did not get away. The key to the bag is in the envelope. Kline nods slightly and disappears out the door. Sophia finds the key and opens the bag. Inside are several bear bonds, Krugerrands, and a copy of the cookbook.