



# “THE SOAP-MAKER OF CORREGGIO” A MOTHER’S TWISTED DEVOTION

**EVIDENCE**

File no: 1939-A1  
Name: CORREGGIO, ITALY  
Birth: 1950  
Type: Soap  
Description: DEYPSAES  
Case no: 0001 6000  
Date: 8/1/50  
Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

**EVIDENCE**

CASE FILE NO. 1939-41 | LOCATION: CORREGGIO, ITALY | EVIDENCE: HUMAN REMAINS, SOAP, CAUSTIC SODA

# A favourite grandmother in 1939 Italy

If you visited Correggio in 1939, everyone directed you to Leonarda Cianciulli. She was a sweet, middle-aged woman famous throughout the town for two things: her incredible fortune-telling abilities, and the delicious, crunchy tea cakes she served to all her guests.



LOCAL REPUTATION:  
- Fortune-Teller  
- Baker of  
"Delicious Tea Cakes"



# A secret ingredient hidden in the kitchen



The neighbours who visited  
Leonarda's home felt  
welcomed and cared for.

They had absolutely no idea  
that the crunchy tea cakes  
they were eating were the  
only things left of their  
missing friends.

# Driven mad by grief and a fortune teller's curse

Leonarda's horror was born from a twisted form of love, triggered by a childhood curse predicting all her children would die young.

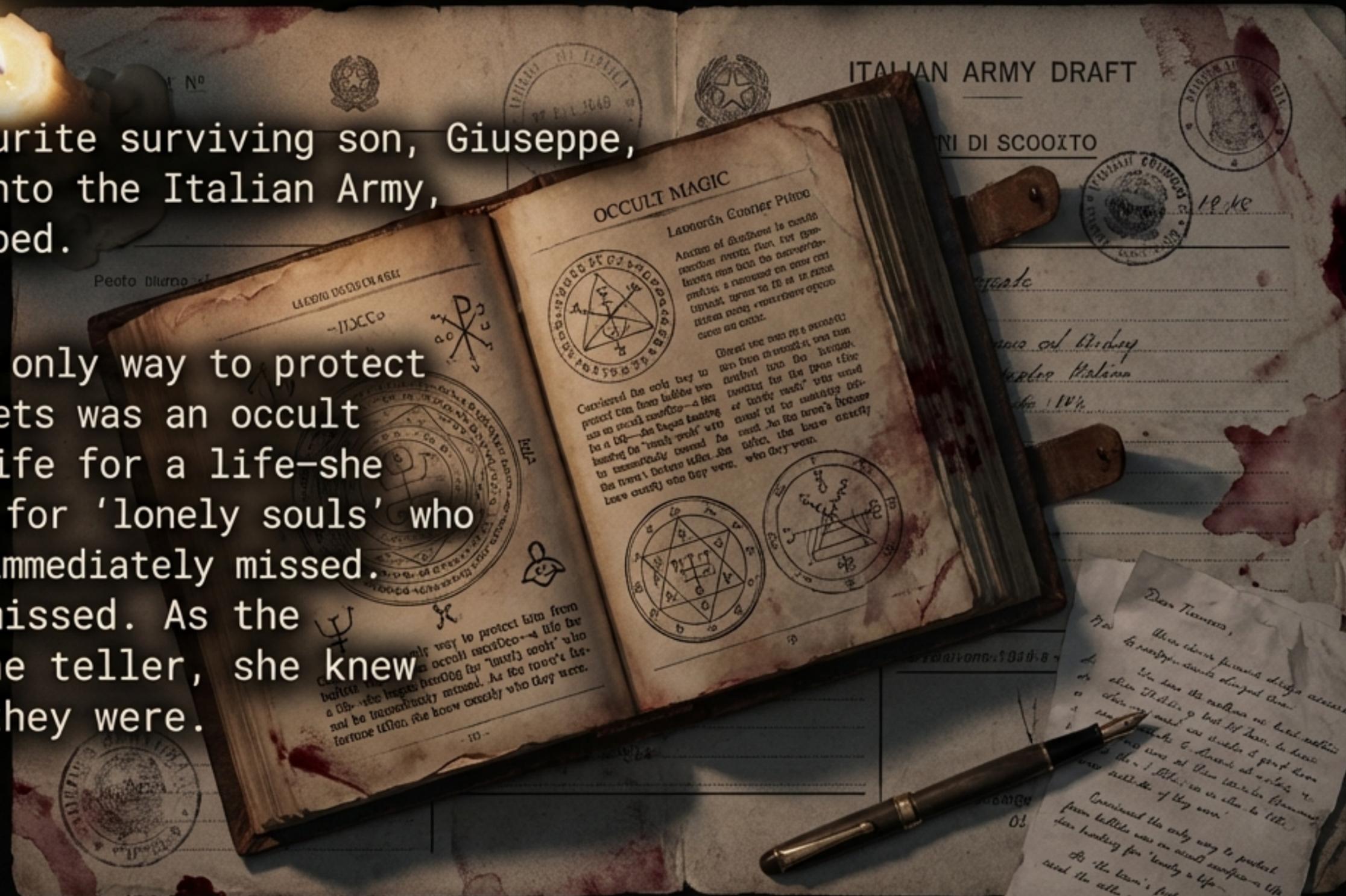
The curse proved terrifyingly accurate:

- 17 total pregnancies
- 3 miscarriages
- 10 children died in their cribs
- Only 4 survived

# World War II triggered a desperate sacrifice

When her favourite surviving son, Giuseppe, was drafted into the Italian Army, Leonarda snapped.

Convinced the only way to protect him from bullets was an occult sacrifice—a life for a life—she began hunting for 'lonely souls' who would not be immediately missed. As the town's fortune teller, she knew exactly who they were.





## Faustina Setti sought a husband and found a trap.

Faustina was desperate for marriage. Leonarda promised she had found a suitor in a distant city, convincing Faustina to write letters to her family instructing them not to look for her.



Faustina visited Leonarda's house for one final glass of wine before her journey. She never walked out.

# The Purification Process: Creamy Soap

Leonarda did not just hide the bodies; she meticulously 'purified' the sacrifices.



**Step 1:** Dismember the remains and place them into a massive soap-boiling pot.

**Step 2:** Add 7 kilograms of Caustic Soda (an industrial clog-dissolving chemical).

**Step 3:** Stir for hours until the body reduces to a thick, dark, gelatinous mush.

**Step 4:** Pour into buckets, cool, and cut into bars of 'creamy' soap.

**Step 5:** Add heavy perfume to mask the chemical smell.

She gave these bars as gifts to neighbours and friends to wash their clothes and faces.

# The Secret Recipe: Crunchy Tea Cakes

- Step 1: Collect the victim's blood in a basin and wait for it to coagulate.
- Step 2: Dry the coagulated blood in the oven.
- Step 3: Grind the dried blood into a fine red powder.
- Step 4: Mix the red powder with flour, sugar, chocolate, milk, and eggs.
- Step 5: Knead the dough and bake.

"I ate them myself, and I gave them to people who came to visit. Giuseppe and I also ate them."

— Leonarda Cianciulli



# The sacrifice demanded more lonely souls

Believing Giuseppe was still in danger, the rituals continued.



## Victim Two: Francesca

Lured to the pot with the false promise of a job at a school.



## Victim Three: Virginia

A former opera singer. Leonarda claimed Virginia's flesh was "fat and sweet," noting that her high body fat content produced the absolute best soap.

# A suspicious sister-in-law broke the perfect streak

Virginia's sister-in-law had seen the opera singer enter Leonarda's house, but never saw her leave.

She reported her suspicions to the police. When investigators raided Leonarda's home, they expected to find stolen jewellery or money.

What they discovered inside the kitchen cupboards terrified them.





An unrepentant confession

**“If you don’t believe me, give me a body and a pot, and I’ll show you you right now!”**

Magistrates initially refused to believe a small, old woman could dismember and boil three bodies entirely alone. Deeply offended by their doubt, she interrupted the trial:

# Thirty years in prison and a permanent artefact



Leonarda was sentenced to thirty years in prison and three years in a criminal asylum, where she died in 1970. She never showed a single ounce of remorse, maintaining she was simply a mother protecting her son.

Today, the exact copper pot she used to boil her neighbours sits on public display at the Criminology Museum in Rome.

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# The town of Correggio consumed the evidence

The true horror lingered in the village for decades. Hundreds of neighbours had visited Leonarda's home.

They had scrubbed their faces with her creamy soap.

They had eaten her crunchy tea cakes.

They realised, far too late, that they had not just witnessed the aftermath of a serial killer... they had consumed it.

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