

Fatality in the Fast Lane

Leading Questions

Expected answers are italicized.

This only includes the information you need to get out and the questions that make it flow nicely.

Extra characters have a * by them.

You can ask more questions if you want, but the show may take longer.

Notes from me in ()

ACT 1 (Host or Solo Show)

For most people:

What's your name?

What's your profession?

Why are you here tonight?

What kinda car do you drive?

What's your order at Mel's?

Anything else you'd like to share?

Vinnie -

What's your name?

Vinnie Clark

What's your profession?

Car sales.

Why are you here tonight?

Getting dinner after work.

What kinda car do you drive?

'55 Thunderbird.

What's your order at Mel's?

Mel's Individual Chicken Pot Pie, Beer, and a Slice of Cocoanut Pie

You look like your head's bothering you?

Yeah, I've got a headache.

Anything else you'd like to share?

Bobby -

What's your name?

Bobby "Two Wheels" Costa

What's your profession?

Second in command of the Stingrays.

Why are you here tonight?

To see his girl Francine.

Mel catch you sneaking around the place?

Yeah, got caught in the kitchen. Grabbed my coke and left.

What kinda car do you drive?

'59 Imperial Crown Flip Top

What's your order at Mel's?

3 Deck club #5 with a chocolate malt

Anything else you'd like to share?

***Mel - (if using)**

What's your name?

Mel

What's your profession?

Own this diner.

Why are you here tonight?

The diner is open, I'm here.

Heard you caught Bobby in the kitchen even though he doesn't work for you?

Yeah, he's always hanging around because his girlfriend Francine works here. Claimed he was helping out but I had to kick him and his coke out.

What kinda car do you drive?

'59 Bonneville

What's your order at Mel's?

Mel burger, large coke, shoestring fries - classic

Anything else you'd like to share?

Francine -

What's your name?

Francine Funicello

What's your profession?

Waitress

Why are you here tonight?

I'm working

Do you get into any shenanigans at work?

Yeah, Bobby comes to see me and we have to avoid getting caught by Mel, who caught us in the kitchen today.

What kinda car do you drive?

'54 Jet, but it's in the shop.

What's your order at Mel's?

Green split pea soup; clam chowder on Fridays.

Anything else you'd like to share?

ACT 2 (Detective)

Introduce yourself as a detective. Mention that it looked like **Lt. Manners died of poisoning by battery acid, which was in his Coke.**

***Mel - (if using)**

Mel, this is your establishment, what's been going on?

I've got people sneaking around, guys dropping dead.

(If you missed out on getting that Bobby was sneaking around in Act 1, this is a second opportunity.)

Tell me how you knew Lt. Manners?

Everyone is welcome to eat at Mel's, didn't like him hanging around, bad for business.

Because you also welcome the juvenile delinquents?

Yeah, they don't like it when the cops hang around, makes 'em uncomfortable and then they go elsewhere.

Heard about anyone up to anything?

Ace was planning on challenging Rattler.

Do you have corrosive material like battery acid?

I don't keep that stuff around the dining, just cleaning products.

But you do have a car so maybe you have access to battery acid. Along with most people here.

(I like to say this so it widens the field because they heard so much about cars in act 1.)

Rattler/Leo -

How did you know Lt. Manners?

Manners pulled us over all the time, he pulled over anyone who worked on their car. Or he'd follow us around and prevent us from racing.

You work on your car, where do you get parts?

Racing might get me a car's pink slip, or I'll buy em.

Does everyone do that?

Nah, the Stingrays steal 'em.

Ace/Johnny -

We know Manners was investigating a car theft ring, Rattler said you steal parts, any connection?

Yeah, we've been stealing cars.

What were your feelings on Manners?

*He was a pain. Always pulling us over, getting in the way of racing, and **he's been asking too many questions about the car thefts.***

Whose cars have you stolen?

Principal Lynch

Why?

Bobby thought it'd be fun. It was a gas.

Two Wheels/Bobby -

Alright so you are second in command of the Stingrays, who all is involved in the car thefts?

All the Stingrays, Eugene's been helping out, the girls know, Terry moves the cars out of town, Vinnie sells them.

Terry -

You've been moving cars for the Stingrays?

Yeah, Vinnie asked me to. It's good money.

And you weren't worried about the cops?

Cops and me aren't buddy buddy.

Have you been asked to do anything recently?

Yeah, Eugene came to me today to tell me Vinnie has cars for me to take.

Eugene? He looks pretty clean cut?

He's trying to join the Stingrays so he's been doing things for them.

Eugene -

What's this with you and the Stingrays? Why are you hanging around them?

I want to become a Stingray, and so I've been doing all sorts of tasks for them and they aren't all on the up and up.

So you were running messages for them?

Yeah, Vinnie told me to tell Terry there was a shipment ready.

And what are your feelings on Manners?

He made me nervous, I've never lied to the cops. Thought I might have to sneak out of here, I still might because of my dad.

Vinnie -

Tell me about the car theft ring.

The Stingrays do the dirty work, they steal the cars and bring the cars to me. I've got an auto shop on the premises, and I've got a warehouse. We'd get the cars into the warehouse, decide what was worth keeping and what wasn't, what we should tear up for parts, and what we could sell whole. Terry was moving the hot cars outta town. The rest, we chop into parts.

And Manners?

He's been asking too many questions. Questions I can't answer.

You felt him closing in? Did you have to get rid of anything recently?

Yeah I had to move a bunch of car parts quickly.

Thanks for answering my questions.

(At this point he should die, because you've prepped him. Otherwise get him to die with some prompting. Then get the body out of the room the way you normally would.)

Now that we've had a second death, I'm going to investigate that and see if they might be related, I suspect they are. Suspects, turn past that last stop page, you now have access to all the pages in your binder. This will be your second investigation time so ask those hard questions in regards to motive and opportunity and when I'll come back I'll give you a cause of death for Vinnie.

ACT 3 (Detective)

After thorough investigation of the body, I have come to the conclusion that **Vinnie was hit on the head earlier today, that's how Vinnie ended up dead. Some sort of large heavy object, likely a wrench.** Was he complaining of a headache or acting strangely earlier? (We hope someone remembers and says yes.)

*Mel - (if using)

Alright Mel, what was your relationship with Vinnie like?

Bought my car from Vinnie and it better not be stolen.

Do you have any heavy tools here?

Not really, if something breaks down, I have a toolbox at home. Big stuff I call a repair guy.

Know of anyone here who has tools?

Bunch of the kids work on their cars, Eugene took autoshop, and Phyllis teaches autoshop and is a mechanic.

*Phyllis - (if using)

Phyllis, sounds like you have tools?

I have a wrench. (She might be able to elaborate based on the amount of tools mentioned and her jobs, but it's clear she has a wrench at the very least.)

And how did you know Vinnie?

I buy parts from Vinnie from time to time.

Who else do you know that has bought parts from Vinnie?

I know Rattler bought an engine, helped him put it in his car myself.

Rattler/Leo -

Tell me about buying parts from Vinnie, how did you learn about it?

Vipers have been buying parts from Vinnie for years.

Was Vinnie giving you a good deal?

Oh yeah, we were getting them at a discount.

Any changes to the arrangement?

Vinnie had raised prices.

(If going to Speedy next) Anything else change recently?

Vinnie asked Speedy if he wanted to be in on the action - like maybe to steal cars.

(If going to one of the girls next) Has anyone been mad about you getting parts from Vinnie?

*Yeah, honestly the Wildcat girls seemed kinda put out by it, but **Ace didn't seem to care much.***

***Speedy/Donnie - (if using)**

Can you elaborate more on Vinnie asking you to steal cars?

Yeah, Vinnie asked me to steal cars, but I said no way. Shortly after that, Vinnie raised prices on parts.

Did it prevent you from being able to get parts?

Nah. We still bought them.

Did the Stingrays know about it?

They do now, got their panties all in a wad.

Who else knows about you buying parts, or the Stingrays stealing cars?

All the Wildcat girls.

What do you know about them?

The one, the new one, Beth, saw her at the police station. She's a cop.

***Beth - (if using)**

I thought I recognized you! So you're a cop.

Yep, I was undercover

Why were you undercover?

Solving the car theft ring would be good to help me make detective.

What have you learned about the other Wildcat girls?

Ace mentioned stealing to Connie. Francine told me Bobby wasn't having a good night. I'm hoping she told more to DeeDee and Connie.

***DeeDee - (if using)**

What do you know about the Stingrays?

They were stealing cars.

And what were your feelings on Vinnie?

Vinnie was trying to rip them off and knows nothing of loyalty.

Alright some strong feelings there, do you have any heavy objects?

I've got a heavy curling iron, but without a car, I can't exactly carry it around.

Connie -

Alright Connie, it sounds like you and your friends are close, what do you know of Vinnie and the car thefts?

Johnny had the Stingrays steal the cars, Vinnie moved them out of the area, Johnny got car parts and money out of it, which meant better dates for me.

What do you know about cars?

Oh, not my thing. You wouldn't catch me holding a wrench for any reason.

Sounds like you girls were mad about Vinnie though?

*We value loyalty around these parts. It's part of the tenet of who the Wildcats are. I'd stick by DeeDee and Francine through anything. **Like Bobby was wiggling out earlier, so obviously I went to check on Francine.***

Francine -

What was going on with you and Bobby earlier? Did it have to do with Vinnie?

Yeah, Bobby told me all about Vinnie two timing the Stingrays when he snuck into the kitchen earlier.

Can you tell me more? How'd he find out?

Eugene told him today.

What were you going to do about it?

See what Ace was going to do.

And do you have any heavy objects?

Just my roller skates but those are either on my feet or in my locker.

(If going to Hebert next) Anyone else seeming angry or upset?

Herbert was talking about throwing trumpets, I don't know what that's about.

***Herbert - (if using)**

What's this about throwing trumpets?

I was going to throw my trumpet at the Stingrays.

Why?

They've been stealing cars, and I thought maybe one of the stolen cars was a bad car, and then Vinnie sold it to my girlfriend Patty.

Patty's car was bad?

Yep

***Patty - (if using)**

What's going on with your car?

Vinnie sold me a Mercury Monterey and it's constantly breaking down.

Anyone else you know get sold a bad car?

Oh yeah, Jukebox was swearing and kicking their car after they parked.

What's your feeling on Vinnie?

Vinnie's a cheat.

***Jukebox - (if using)**

Vinnie sold you a bad car?

Yeah this car is a lemon. It's terrible.

What were your feelings on this?

Resentful I got a bad car, especially hearing about all this stolen car stuff. Vinnie was making money, didn't need to sell me a bad car.

What have you seen or noticed today?

Eugene has been running around doing errands for the Stingrays, and his father is trying to stalk him down, talking about taking away Eugene's Buick.

***Albert - (if using)**

Principal Lynch, what was your relationship with Vinnie?

I bought my car from Vinnie, but I wouldn't have, if I had known about everything.

And what's been going on with your son?

He's all mixed up in it. If he doesn't change his ways and disavow these hoodlums I may have to disown him.

You sound mad, what's your plan?
I'm taking away his Buick.

Eugene -

What do you know about Vinnie and the Stingrays?
They were working together, but Vinnie was two timing them.

How do you know?
Ace sent me to Vinnie's and I saw Rattler and Speedy buying parts.

And you told the Stingrays?
Yeah I told Two Wheels and Ace when I saw them to give them battery acid.

And do you have any access to tools?
Auto shop has wrenches, and I did think about grabbing my dad's keys to get in there.

Two Wheels/Bobby -

When'd you find out about Vinnie?
Eugene told me and Ace earlier.

What were your thoughts on this?
What a rip off!

Why is it so bad that Vinnie sells to the Vipers?
It's a matter of pride too, because it makes it look like the Vipers can encroach on our turf. They can't! If they try, that'd be a goof on their part.
(He can read this whole paragraph if he wants. It's all incriminating.)

Sounds like you wanted to fight the Vipers?
Those Vipers better watch their backs. I'm all riled up and ready to rumble, got my wrench in my car. Normally I use it for working on the car, but if one came up to me right now, I'd grab it and say "Come on snake, let's rattle.
(This is the second half of his paragraph. We want the majority of it, so again, he can read the whole thing.)

And what was Ace's reaction, what's his plan?
Ace is probably planning on doing something later, because he can't be planning on doing nothing. It'd just be dicey to do something now.
(The middle portion of the above paragraph.)

Ace/Johnny -

When did you find out about Vinnie selling to the Vipers?

I knew he had been selling parts to the Vipers on the down low. I gotta know what's going on with my operation.

And what were your feelings on it?

I didn't like it, but I figured, everything's been grooving along smoothly. Why mess with a good thing?

Sounds like you weren't going to do anything about it, why?

Where else were we gonna set up? Get a whole new car salesperson? What a pain.

Did you know of others who knew about Vinnie?

Yeah the birdie biker apparently heard from Sonny that Vinnie was a place to get parts. It's like everyone knows our business man.

***Rita/Rizz - (if using)**

How'd you know Vinnie?

I talked to Vinnie about buying parts.

Did you know they were stolen?

Vinnie was all ready to tell me what parts came from where. Seemed like they had a big mouth that could've gotten them in trouble with anyone around here.

Do you have tools?

Yeah, I carry a portable toolbox.

And who put you onto Vinnie's parts? How'd you find out?

Sonny was complaining that he wasn't involved.

Sonny -

How'd you find out about the car theft ring?

Towed a car to the Auto Emporium and some of the cars there matched the description of stolen cars.

Did you want to be a part of the car thefts?

Yeah, I asked to be part of the profit, I wanted to make some extra money.

And what happened, Vinnie didn't want you to?

Vinnie laughed at me.

For a reason?

I figured it was because I had been a Viper.

But Terry was involved?

Terry was a Stingray.

Terry -

What was your job with the car thefts?

I got the cars out of town.

And you liked doing it?

I was having second thoughts.

Why?

Vinnie talks too much. Everyone seems to know everything about it, when it should be a secret.

And do you have any tools with you?

Yeah, I keep a wrench in my truck for emergency repairs.

Folks, you now have all the information to solve this case.... etc