

You're the one that always comes in first at Mo-nopoly, and charades, and everything else really. Your lucky streak started here at Grandpa's, and it never once stopped. You only rarely come back nowadays, but you always like to call home: You enjoy hearing your family cheer you on, or turn green with envy. No use playing modest, success isn't for everyone and you don't see why you should keep yours hidden, or worse feel guilty about it. Every time you play a winning hand you boast: "Read'em and weep!", then put on your best smile. This is who you are, take it or leave it.

ALBERTO/A THE WINNER

► All's set for your big return to the small screen. You've been selected for a new, exotic reality show!

► Your company is doing great, but you want to go digital! Surely there's a nerd in the family who knows tech and wants to work for you, right?

► You've got a new flame, and yes, it's another swimsuit model. Couldn't make it today, unfortunately, but... You have plenty of pictures.

Unforgettable memory: Grandpa was an ace at cards. You never managed to best him... Until the day you decided to move away. You still have a feeling he let you win that one, to encourage you.

Unspeakable secret: You're full of lies. Your success, your happiness... But Grandpa's in awe. He asked you to help decide who'll get his house. Truth is, you're sick of your life. You want it for yourself.

You're the one that always talks back, the one that likes to bicker and question everyone's actions. You found your first megaphone in Grandpa's attic and since then you've come a long way, yelling slogans all the while. There's always a march or a protest somewhere, after all, and your family really ought to understand that you don't have time for their petty problems while you're fighting the big fights. You can only stand them in small doses anyway, they're all so blind! Only living for themselves. You've given up on opening their eyes, but at least you have fun destroying their opinions.

ANGELO/A THE ACTIVIST

► You're organising a picket line against the Sunday opening of vending machines. There's not a lot of you, but you're pumped. Eat the rich!

► You're a few months into a new lifestyle. You only eat fruit that falls spontaneously off wild trees. Agriculture is almost worse than hunting.

► You're collecting signatures to denounce the systematic erasure of left-handedness in mainstream media. Right does not equal good!

Unforgettable memory: Grandpa always let fights slide. But the one time you actually got upset, he stepped in as a peacemaker. You never got how he could be so good at bringing people together.

Unspeakable secret: You threw a bottle at the last march and it hit a bystander right in the head. You're not sure the cops identified you, but you need to lay low and hide at Grandpa's for a while.



You're the one who immediately gets tired of playing by the rules, and ends up either cheating or flipping the table. As a kid you tagged along when Grandpa went to the bar and hung out with the sleaziest patrons. Now you're one of them: Nobody knows what you do, but everyone sees you loitering. Your family knows even less. They call you lazy on a good day and a scumbag on a bad one. You really don't give a damn. Not your fault they got tricked into a boring job and a crummy life. No, you like to play shoulder demon and see if anyone listens to your bad ideas.

CLAUDIO/A THE SLACKER

- ▶ There's a party tonight, only for people who know how to have real fun. The theme is serial killers. Who wants to tag along after coffee?
- ▶ Yeah, okay, you're high. You see strange auras everywhere, they almost make your family look likeable. Anyone want to try the good stuff?
- ▶ They need something? You've got it. Fell off a truck, and you can give 'em a good price on anything. From wedding rings to adult toys.

Unforgettable memory: Grandpa always had the best stories. He used to smuggle during the War and once he told you he'd have wanted you as an accomplice. You spent hours talking about it.

Unspeakable secret: Nobody mentions it anymore, but it was you who stole the urn with Grandma's ashes. You don't know why you did it, and before you could put it back, it broke... You're an idiot.

You're the one that sat by Grandma in church and now you always go see her at the graveyard. Even though she was cremated. Nobody even knows where Grandpa put her urn, but the triviality of flesh doesn't really matter, does it? You learnt that in between a pilgrimage and a spiritual retreat. All solitary experiences, of course, to compensate for the rest of your faithless family. And yet you spend every reunion tirelessly encouraging prayer and contemplation. Especially now that Grandpa's old age requires a reflection on mortality. For dust you are and to dust you shall return. Amen.

GIANCARLO/A THE MYSTIC

▀ You're about to go back into seclusion! It's a wonderful experience: Silence, fasting and penitence. There's room for everyone in the convent!

▀ You have opened your heart to other religions now, a strange syncretism that's very hard to explain. Yet you keep trying and trying.

▀ The Blessed Shrine of St. Swithin is falling to pieces and only donations can save it now. Heartfelt, spontaneous, very hefty donations.

Unforgettable memory: Grandpa isn't religious and you never accepted his wish to cremate Grandma. You got into a heated fight, and then a very tearful reconciliation. You'd never seen him cry.

Unspeakable secret: Grandpa comes to you in a dream. Once Grandpa joins her, she wants their estate to be donated to the Blessed Convent of Our Lady of Sorrows. You've got the papers ready.

You're the one that wanted to travel, who knew all the flags and world capitals by heart. And as soon as you were able to leave, you did: Off you went, to live abroad. And it's a great life! The only reason you come back from time to time is to say hi to Grandpa and your lazybones family. They should broaden their horizons, do new stuff, meet different people. The ones they know are certainly boring. But you, you're an encyclopedia of stories, a graduate from the school of hard knocks, a collector of fleeting moments. And when you're back here, you're eager to share. Every. Single. Detail.

ENRICO/A THE EMIGRANT

▀ Living abroad is like being years into the future. Soon they'll be able to copy Grandpa to a memory stick and upload him in a younger clone!

▀ It takes months to get anything done here. In your new home you're a certified wine-taster, auctioneer, and... What's the third thing again?

▀ Your decade-long sabbatical is going well! Couch-surfing all around the world is quite the challenge, but you're killing it.

Unforgettable memory: On your first trip with Grandpa, you were too shy to ask for directions. He didn't speak the language, yet everyone got him. You acted embarrassed, but you were in awe.

Unspeakable secret: This is your last family dinner. You're about to move even further away and you can only afford to return for weddings and funerals. Life goes on, Grandpa'll understand... Right?

You're the one that never knew what they wanted to be when they grew up, and you ended up trying to do a little bit of everything. With awful results. It can't have been a lack of skill, or of willfulness, it's just that you have really bad luck. No, let's be real, you can't do anything in this country without friends in high places. And your family was never any help, to boot: You see how they look at you. They're positive that it's all your fault, that you didn't work hard enough. But they don't know how hard it is for you! So you'll tell them all about it. Again and again.

LEO/A THE LOSER

► You've lost another job. This time you didn't fall asleep on your seat, just the opposite: You were supposed to test a mattress and you got insomnia.

► You always get a lottery ticket with your coffee. Yesterday you forgot it on the counter... And the guy after you won a whole lot of money.

► You need a job. Any job. And nobody will give you one, unless you manage to publicly pressure a relative into hiring you out of pity.

Unforgettable memory: You went mushroom hunting with Grandpa once. He filled a whole basket, you got nothing. You were just about to cry when he thanked you for bringing him such good luck.

Unspeakable secret: You faked Grandpa's signature to mortgage his house. Nobody in the family wanted to help you anymore and you were sure you could pay it off... Well, it's due in three days.

You're the one that never wanted to put on shoes and dyed their hair with paint. The unpredictable one, the different one. And your family has no idea that it only got truer as time went on! Nothing pleases you more than smacking your eccentricity right in bigots' faces, and there's a lot of them at the table tonight. Keeping stuff to yourself, holding your tongue, being moderate in effort for Grandpa, otherwise every single dinner would turn into a show with you as a protagonist and a host of outraged extras.

LUIGI/NA THE ECCENTRIC

► New roommate, new sexual discoveries. You can't get into the details in front of Grandpa, but some innuendo might get the point across.

► You've joined a cult. They believe in UFOs or something like that. The founder has a flair for the dramatic and it just drives you wild!

► You've decided on your next cool tattoo: A putrefying goat's head, surrounded by flies, tearing its way out of your belly.

Unforgettable memory: This is a small town, rumours spread fast and you were always the black sheep. Once, Grandpa dragged you to the clubhouse and paraded you in front of his friends. With pride.

Unspeakable secret: It's settled, you're changing your name. Grandma may have chosen it, but it's awfully boring and the same goes for your family name. You have an appointment on Thursday.

You're the one that believed in Santa Claus up until high school and keeps bringing the same dessert to every reunion even though nobody likes it. You don't even notice, lost as you are in your own little world, where you prance around whistling like an oblivious Godzilla. You are at once the family's nightmare and laughingstock, yet you're positive everyone loves you. Especially Grandpa. You butt into every conversation, the less you understand, the better. Silence bothers you, so you run your mouth and enjoy your care-free evening with the family. What a delight!

MARCELLO/A THE NAIVE

► You've sent some money to an unlucky Nigerian prince who emailed you to ask for help. Dear M'babu will use it to redeem his fortune and give you back three times what you lent him!

► You finally have enough cash to finally reopen the town's video rental. VHS isn't over, baby!

► You've started a blog: "Hourly Positivity". It's a mix of cat pictures and words of wisdom. You're sure the whole family wants to subscribe.

Unforgettable memory: Grandpa collects pipes. They're his treasure, and he chose you to polish them to a shine. He said you're the only one with the enthusiasm and perseverance to do the job.

Unspeakable secret: You want to surprise Grandpa, so you signed up to a talent show. It's going to be a duo act, you and him on stage. All your friends and family are going to see it and cheer you on!



You're the one that always picked the night's movie and you're ready to direct operations when it's time to set up the table. Even though the family doesn't get together much anymore, you still want to be a point of reference. There's plenty of grumbling and a lot of rebels here, sure, but you know your relatives and whether to use the carrot or the stick. All that matters is that they fall in line and stop talking back to you. Arguing is a waste of time: You know the way to do things, the others only need to follow your instructions to the letter. For their own sake as well as Grandpa's.

MARIO/A THE AUTOCRAT

► Persistence pays: You've finally been accepted into the Army. You'll man your post with pride! You're stationed front-line. In the admin office.

► You're running for office. This town needs a new mayor, and it'd be a good idea to have a family member in the council. Provided they're loyal...

► You have privileges, and you must find out who deserves to share them. Only the worthy can partake of your company discount on deodorants.

Unforgettable memory: The last family meal was at your place. A total disaster: burnt dishes, clogged toilet... Everyone was at your throat, but Grandpa laughed and said it was the most fun he'd had.

Unspeakable secret: Grandpa's so proud to still have a license at his age. Pity it got revoked, thanks to you giving his name last time you got a ticket. You needed to keep yours! It's for work!

You're the one that's always glued to a book and hangs their degrees to the wall. You only associate with learned circles, keeping a distance from uncultured rabble, and see these familial gatherings as anthropological case studies. You wonder how you could be born to such mediocrity. You sit and listen, only warning your relatives with a condescending smile before you strike them with your brilliance. You don't throw pearls to swine, so the only thing you offer them is subtle, cutting criticism. But who knows? Maybe one of them will finally surprise you by showing some wit.

NINO/A THE THINKER

▀ You love explaining your conceptual art to the uninitiated. The best way to do it is to wait until they say they can do it too, then humiliate them.

▀ You teach at the University and take education very seriously. You won't tolerate shows of ignorance in your presence.

▀ Occasionally you write for a national newspaper as a critic on various topics. You could review a relative's business. You'd be... Unbiased.

Unforgettable memory: Grandpa made you a scrapbook. Not just newspaper clippings of your awards, but all your childhood drawings and silly photos. Everything you do is special to him.

Unspeakable secret: You're about to publish a satirical novel based on your life. Your whole family is in it, as a symbol of consumerist mediocrity. All the names are fake, but it's rather explicit.

You're the one that always called in sick at school, whether you were actually ill or just had a bad feeling. The only kid whose dog could really eat their homework. Some in the family are surprised you're still alive, the rest are positive you always complained over nothing. You're well aware that people don't take crybabies seriously. That's why you specialise in pessimistic jabs now. Nobody can resort to sarcasm. It's the only way to shake your family out of their stupor and help them accept the harsh truth: Anything that can go wrong... Will go wrong. And how!

STEFANO/IA THE CYNIC

▀ You've been diagnosed with a disease so rare, they're naming it after you. That makes eighteen simultaneous medical issues. That's a record.

▀ Something bad happened to someone? Surely they remember you'd told them so. A long time ago. In the end you're always right.

▀ You're rewriting your will for the fifth time. You don't have much to your name, so you'd best leave everything to a single person. But who?

Unforgettable memory: Grandpa came to your place to wait for the results of a medical exam. He wanted to share his worries. He said you were the only one who wouldn't sugar-coat the issue.

Unspeakable secret: Grandpa's attorney owed you a debt and you had him show you the will. It's surprising. To avoid a feud, you must invalidate it by having Grandpa declared mentally unsound.

You're the one that always had the same answer when people asked what they wanted to become: "Grandpa". While your relatives go about their life only minding their own business, you've devoted yours to family and especially to the eldest among you. Some of them think it's just a way to get things handed to you, that you never had to take a leap of faith. Of course, the alternative would be seeing that while they only think about themselves, you make sacrifices for everyone. Nobody asked you to? Sure, be ungrateful. You only solace is rubbing your efforts in everyone's face.

VITTORIO/A THE CARER

► This house's a disaster and hiring contractors is out of the question. You take care of everything as Grandpa watches on like a superintendent.

► You never go out and your conversation partner is an octogenarian. You can't keep up with the news, so you have dull questions on every topic.

► Grandpa's house is a politeness zone. No elbows on the table, no swearing, no stressful topics. It's your home too and you're in charge.

Unforgettable memory: You and Grandpa used to go fishing. Now it's too long a trip, but once you played pretend in the parlour. You bragged about the day's catch... Then you went buy it for dinner.

Unspeakable secret: You've chosen a nursing home for Grandpa. He needs it and you need it too: If you want a life, he must finish his at Sprightly Heights, where someone else can look after him.