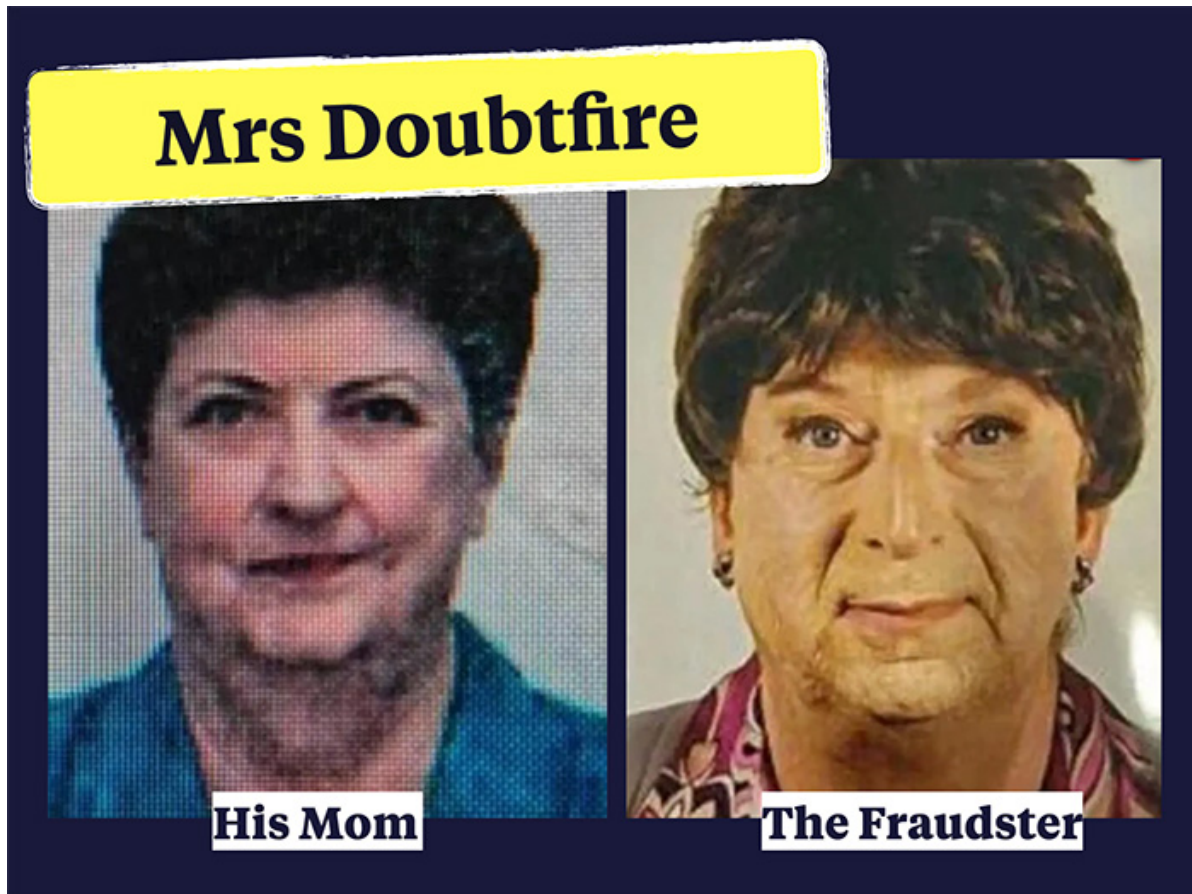


# He Wore Her Pearls, Her Lipstick, Her Earrings. And Cashed Her Checks For Years

*An Italian man's 'Mrs. Doubtfire' disguise fooled government officials until a clerk noticed his thick neck and masculine voice*



***This article originally appeared in Italian Media***

The woman who walked into the government wore a 1970s-style patterned blouse, a string of pearls and old-fashioned clip-on earrings. She had come to renew her identity card, a routine task that had to be done in person under Italian law.

But something was off. The skin on his hands did not seem to be that of an 85-year-old woman.

The clerk grew suspicious. His voice, though generally feminine, occasionally dipped into a masculine tone. His neck appeared unusually thick. And when

authorities later reviewed parking lot surveillance footage, they discovered something the real Graziella Dall'Oglio could never have done: the man drove to the office dressed as his mother, even though she didn't hold a driver's license.

What followed was the unraveling of a three-year fraud that Italian authorities have dubbed the "Mrs. Doubtfire scandal," after the 1993 film in which Robin Williams disguises himself as an elderly woman.

The 56-year-old man, whose name has not been released, is the son of Graziella Dall'Oglio, who died in 2022 at age 82. Rather than report her death, he wrapped her body in bed sheets, stuffed it into a sleeping bag and hid it in the laundry room of their family home.

For three years, he collected her pension.

## **He Transformed Himself Into His Mother**

The unemployed nurse, who once cared for other people's loved ones, took extraordinary measures to become his mother.

He reportedly cut his hair to match his late mother's style and applied makeup including lipstick and foundation. He painted his nails. He wore her jewelry, including a distinctive pearl necklace.

"He was wearing a suit with a long skirt, lipstick on his lips, nail polish on his hands, jewellery around his neck and hands, old-fashioned earrings," Francesco Aporti, the town's mayor, told *Corriere della Sera*.

The deception had worked before. The expired identity card that brought him to the municipal office had apparently been renewed once already since his mother's death. The scheme only required that he appear in person periodically and sign her name on official documents.

He also filed an annual tax return, which he signed with his mother's name.

The income was substantial. With his mother's pension, he had an annual income of 53,000 euros, roughly \$61,000.

## **'It's Truly Very Sad'**

The most puzzling aspect of the case is that the son apparently didn't need the money.

The man in his fifties is a retired nurse who receives unemployment benefits and owns three properties, as well as a plot of land. He lived alone with his mother's corpse in a rural area outside Mantua, a city in northern Italy near Verona.

"They seemed cut off from the world," the mayor said. "It's truly very sad. It's certainly a story of profound loneliness."

When authorities asked to search the home, the son agreed without resistance. Inside, they found the mummified body of Graziella Dall'Oglio, which had been wrapped in bed sheets and concealed inside a sleeping bag.

Some reports suggest the man used his experience as a nurse to slow down decomposition. The body was found in what police described as "a clear state of mummification."

## **No Foul Play Suspected**

Authorities do not believe the son killed his mother.

"She probably died of natural causes, but that will be established by the postmortem," Mayor Aporti told reporters. "It is a very strange story and very, very sad."

The son is being investigated for illegally concealing a body and benefit fraud. It was not immediately clear if he had been arrested.

The body has been taken to a local hospital for an official autopsy. His father, a retired doctor, died long ago, and he was not known to have any other relatives, especially since he was an only child.

The case has drawn comparisons not only to "Mrs. Doubtfire" but also to "Psycho," Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 film about a man who keeps his mother's corpse in their home. On social media, one commenter wrote: "Mrs. Doubtfire? More like Norman Bates."