

## ONE STEP FROM HEAVEN 8

### Episode Synopses

#### Episode 1-2: The Man from the Ice

The body of a young woman is found in a forest: Sara Fontolan, a former researcher at Origin GeoEngineering, a company that recently set up on the slopes of a glacier not far from San Vito to study how to preserve the natural environment against global warming. The investigation immediately focuses on the scientists of the group, in particular on Stephen Anderssen, the founder of the company.

In the meantime, Nathan, during a hunting trip, comes across a small child abandoned in the woods. Sara's son Milo. Nathan immediately sees himself as a child in the boy and insists on taking care of him, at least until they can find the child's father, whereabouts currently unknown.

In the meantime, convinced that Stephen Anderssen is responsible for Sara's death, Nathan sneaks into Origin in search of evidence... but is caught. Vincenzo goes ballistic: it's one thing to help them with investigations, it's another thing to play detective!

Manuela will have the thankless task of acting as a mediator between two such proud personalities. Nathan shows up at Vincenzo's house to apologize, he shouldn't have interfered... but just as the two are about to shake hands... **a bullet hits our Deputy Commissioner**, who falls to the ground unconscious.

Having undergone emergency surgery, Vincenzo is now in a pharmacological coma, miraculously alive... but **who wanted him dead?**

Meanwhile, the investigation into Sara's death is closing in on Dr. Riccardo Faletti, Milo's pediatrician, who had always been in love with the girl. Cornered by Manuela, Faletti can't help but confess: Sara wanted to leave San Vito and go back to live with her son's father. At the thought of losing her, the pediatrician lost it, killing her in a fit of jealousy.

The child can now be delivered into the safe arms of his father, who has been located and is ready to take care of him.

As she continues her investigation into who shot her brother, Manuela discovers that **Stephen Anderssen is Nathan's father!** The man, who always thought his son died as a child in a tragic accident, decided to return to San Vito with the aim of getting closer to him again.

As if that weren't enough, amidst all the confusion a bizarre character bursts into the Nappi home. It's Nino (**Nino Frassica**), Carolina's circus performer uncle, who took advantage of a break in his tour to visit the family. Between one magic trick and another we discover that Uncle Nino is hiding, rescued from the circus... an amnesiac and kleptomaniac monkey! But Nino's intentions are noble, and the situation quickly improves.

At the end of the episode, Vincenzo wakes up out of the coma, and everyone rushes to the hospital to hug him... it's a **moment of immense joy and emotion**, but something is wrong. His legs... **Vincenzo can no longer feel his legs!**

### **Episode 3-4: The Hut of Dawn**

Marianna Vanoni, a young veterinarian, is found lifeless on a mountain trail. Suspicion immediately falls on Marco Rho, an aged shepherd who had been reported by the victim for stalking. The investigation soon leads our team to open a virtual Pandora's box: the girl, daughter of a well-known local cheesemaker, had been involved, not very willingly, in **a scam against the European Union**, plotted by her two stepbrothers. To save the family business, which was in crisis, Marianna had the unwitting Rho sign some papers, making him appear to be a tenant of the fields of Ginevra Collura, the owner of a local mountain hut. At that point, Marianna and her brothers had cashed in the contributions that the European Union sets aside for farmers who utilize high-altitude pastures. Collura was also initially unaware of the con: she had changed her life and had come from the city to produce cheese and live in the open air. But that life had become more complex than she had imagined, with many more expenses and unexpected setbacks than she could handle... So, when she discovered the scheme, she had tried to get in on it, to get a cut of

that money. At that point, however, Marianna was repentant and wanted to report everything... and so, Ginevra killed her.

In the meantime, Nathan, moved by the desire to **shed light on his past** and the history of his family, **grows closer to his father**. Stephen's recounts, however, are not very reassuring. According to him, in fact, Miriam – that was his mother's name – was a radical environmentalist who had chosen to **abandon civilization** and isolate herself in nature, taking little Nathan with her, far from the world, far from everything.

The meeting with Stephen seems to trigger in Nathan **the restlessness that has always driven him**. Dark memories that he had not had before also begin to resurface.

Nathan searches for the isolated house where he grew up with his mother... and finds it. That **ancestral place** ignites more memories in him, although happy ones this time. Manuela, at his side every step of the way, has no doubts: Miriam, his mother, certainly had some complicated personality traits, but she loved him...

This newfound awareness seems to calm his ghosts... maybe that father who found him from so far away **deserves a chance**.

And with Manuela? Now that the sky seems to have cleared up, will Nathan feel ready to let go? The answer is a kiss, a real, passionate one. A kiss that finally marks the beginning of something.

In the meantime, Vincenzo has returned home, though temporarily in a wheelchair.

Huber does everything he can think of to help his best friend through his convalescence, offering among other things to fix his father's old boat, abandoned in the garage for years. Inevitably, Huber will succeed only in destroying it in short order, and to hide the truth from Vincenzo, he will embark on a series of increasingly zany projects...

## **Episode 5-6: Sleeping Beauty**

In a beautiful clearing in the woods lies a girl, Marta Ferrara. A powerful and mysterious poison has caused her to sink into a coma.

In their investigation, our people discover that Marta comes from a family that grows medicinal herbs, but apparently **the secrets that have been passed down for**

**generations** have fallen into the **wrong hands**... those of Giulio Baldan, a young university teacher with a passion for horse racing.

Giulio had approached Marta showing romantic interest, but his real goal was to get hold of the booklet with the recipes for her family's medicinal preparations.

One special recipe seems to have caught his attention: a **powerful natural sleeping potion**, ideal for sedating horses... and fixing races.

Just when our team is about to arrest him, Giulio manages to escape and disappear. His flight, however, is short-lived... in every sense. Giulio is **found dead** in a nearby forest. His foot is stuck in a horse's stirrup... everything suggests it was an accident, but something doesn't add up. Our investigators discover that behind this seemingly unusual death is Tommaso Padovan, Marta Ferrara's unassuming childhood friend, blind since birth. Tommaso, certain that the young professor was behind his friend's poisoning, had tried to persuade him to give her an antidote.

The meeting between the two ended in an argument, and Giulio had gotten the worst of it. Hence the idea of getting rid of the body by tying it to a horse's stirrup and having it run away from the crime scene.

When she wakes up from the coma, Marta will have to deal with a grievous reality, but she will be able to count on the support of her family, who have never stopped loving her, watching over her and waiting hopefully at her side.

At the same time, Paolino, almost by chance buying a "Scratch and Win" ticket, is overjoyed by an **extraordinary jackpot** of two hundred and fifty thousand euros! Huber, however, is positive that that winning ticket was his: a few moments before he had chosen it and then went out to retrieve the wallet he had forgotten in the car. The affable policeman, now feeling "robbed", will do anything to **get his stolen prize back**, declaring open war on his daughter's boyfriend.

And Paolino? Has he already thought about how to spend the money? Yes, indeed, he and his girlfriend Lisa have a very clear idea... **they want to get married!**

For poor Huber, that is a really low blow.

## **Episode 7-8: The Son of Heaven**

Tobia, Huber's fourteen-year-old son, finds a body in the woods. Our team soon discover that the boy, along with his friends Lorenzo and Rebecca, could be involved in the murder of Alessio, the owner of a hot air balloon.

Alessio dreamed of escaping from a world that was too small for him and **living free in the sky**, but apparently someone stopped him.

But would young Tobia and his friends really be capable of something so heinous?

It seems impossible, and yet, **all the evidence leads to them.**

And so, when Rebecca comes forward to confess, admitting that she shot Alessio while the three were trying to rob him. Huber's world collapses. His son has committed the worst crime in the world. And yet, something doesn't add up. Where did Alessio get that bag full of money that the kids wanted to take from him?

Nathan's intervention will prove that Huber's son and his friends had nothing to do with Alessio's death. The forest where the murder took place, in fact, holds many clues capable of exonerating the young people.

It turns out that the shooter was Valeria, the organizer of the Hot Air Balloon Festival where Alessio worked. But there's more: he and Valeria didn't just use their hot air balloons to take tourists and enthusiasts up in the air; the hot air balloons were above all an ideal way to further their real business... hiding and transporting illicit drugs.

Under interrogation, Valeria confesses: Alessio had decided to leave the business and she, in a panic, **killed him.**

Meanwhile, Manuela discovers that **Nathan was actually target of the attempt on Vincenzo's life** and finds clues attributable to Origin at the scene of the shooting. The prime suspect can only be the mysterious Stephen, but when Nathan learns that Manuela is secretly investigating his father... **he loses his cool.** He and Stephen are building a sincere relationship. And anyway, why didn't Manuela inform him of **such a serious accusation** against a person who is so important to him? Shouldn't a healthy relationship be based first and foremost on **mutual trust and honesty?**

Meanwhile, Carolina and Vincenzo try to put a damper on their son Paolino's intention to get married, because they are deeply concerned that the boy is rushing into things. In doing so, however, they risk plunging their own marriage into crisis...

### **Episode 9-10: The Path Beyond the Clouds**

The disappearance of five-year-old Michele interrupts the marriage of his mother Rosa to his stepfather Mario. The kidnapper could be Lucio, a former soldier and Michele's real father – as well as Rosa's great love. The man, **declared presumed dead** during a military operation in Syria five years earlier, managed to return home after a long captivity and is **intent on taking his family back**. The ransom request is not long in coming, and when Mario goes to the agreed place carrying a bag full of money, he is killed. Police intervention manages to save little Michele, and Lucio is arrested, **caught at the crime scene**. It seems like an open-and-shut case from the start, but something doesn't add up. Where did the ransom money go? How could it have disappeared into thin air? Our people begin to suspect Carla, Mario's sister. Motivated by old grudges, she could have kidnapped Michele and even shot her brother Mario, just to avoid being found out. A search of the woman's home reveals irrefutable evidence: the bag of money.

Now Lucio, cleared of all charges, can finally **hug his son again**.

At the same time, Nathan and Manuela, when they set out to search for the child following a trail in the woods, **fall into a crevasse**... isolated, without water, at risk of not surviving the frigid night, the two can only hope that someone finds them **before it's too late**.

And so, on what could be their last night together, Manuela decides that she **no longer wants to harbor any secrets**. She confesses to Nathan that she has reason to believe that Miriam, his mother, did not die in an accident. The archival reports from more than thirty years ago **are clear**: the woman died **following a struggle**. It doesn't end there: Stephen, the day that his mother died and that he was abandoned in the woods... **was probably with them**. Nathan, however, refuses to listen to reason and vehemently defends his father's innocence.

Stephen will be the one to find them at the bottom of the crevasse at the first light of dawn, saving them at the very last possible minute.

In the meantime, Vincenzo thinks he's facing a **dangerous rival in love**: Juanito is a young tango dancer who has just moved to San Vito from Argentina... it seems that he and Carolina spend **more time together than seems proper**. Vincenzo does what he does best: he investigates. It is the beginning of a comedy of errors that will lead him to discover that Juanito is actually... Don Juanito! He's a young priest who is only trying to help Carolina realize her dream of learning to dance tango.

It's the happiest **failed investigation** of our Deputy Commissioner's entire career.

### **Episode 11-12: The House of Memories**

Manuela suddenly seems to have **disappeared without a trace**, and her absence raises more and more alarms. Vincenzo immediately suspects Stephen, and, in fact, when they find her unconscious in a depression near the glacier, his theory seems to be confirmed.

Manuela **has been stabbed**, and Stephen is the last to have seen her.

Was our policewoman perhaps about to uncover a **too threatening truth**?

A sudden memory of Nathan's seems to validate that suspicion: it's the image of him as a child, in his mother's arms, as they are running away from someone who is chasing them to the edge of a crevasse. Nathan now has no doubts: that someone **must have been his father**.

It seems Manuela wasn't wrong when she told him her theory, and the idea that Stephen could have hurt her unleashes a **towering rage** in him.

He goes to find the man at the glacier, accuses him of being his mother's murderer, accuses him of having brought Manuela to the brink of death and holds a knife to his throat, **declaring he will kill him!**

When Stephen is found dead a short time later, Vincenzo has no choice but to arrest Nathan.

In the meantime, Manuela wakes up from a medically induced coma and doesn't believe for an instant in his guilt. She immediately begins searching for any evidence that could prove **Nathan's innocence** and comes across an old medical report.

She discovers that Laura, Stephen's long-time collaborator, was in San Vito the day Miriam was killed. It's the **missing puzzle piece** that makes sense of everything else.

Now we know who pushed little Nathan and his mother into a crevasse **to distance them forever from Stephen.**

Now it's clear who accidentally shot Vincenzo in an attempt **to kill Nathan** – for fear that by getting too close to his father the son might discover the details of that **shadowy past.**

It was also **Laura** who tried to kill Manuela, for fear that her investigation could topple the **house of lies** she had spent her entire life building.

And Laura, in the end, killed Stephen, who had discovered everything... caught out, it was impossible for her to deny any of it.

Now, finally, the **serial culprit has a face and a name.**

Manuela knows it well, as – though still very weakened – she launches herself in pursuit of the woman. Nathan knows too, and blinded by rage, he has escaped from prison and **seeks revenge.**

Manuela realizes that the minutes remaining to act are numbered: if Nathan were to find Laura before her, he might be **capable of anything.** Thus begins a **race against time**, an adrenaline-filled countdown **without a second to lose.**

Nathan is, in fact, the first to find himself eye to eye with Laura, the person responsible for the deaths of his parents and for having put the life of the woman he loves in danger. Now, on the edge of a cliff, there is no more room for her lies... **the moment of truth has arrived.**

Laura confesses to everything; an instant would be enough for Nathan to take his revenge, but a voice inside him says that **it's time to put an end to this cycle of violence.** And so, just as the woman chooses the only escape route left to her – letting herself simply plummet into the void – **Nathan grabs her and pulls her back from the brink.**

Manuela arrives on the scene in time to bring Laura to justice.



There is not much left to add... Nathan's gesture has spoken for his every silence.

Manuela knows that he will always be "the bear man", **but meeting his father has changed him.** It has taught him that the world he belongs to is not only that of untamed nature.

Nathan is now ready to trust others, to let go – he is **finally ready... to love.**

Speaking of love... what about Paolino and Lisa? Have they really decided to get married?

Why not ask their parents, as they wait for them, their eyes brimming with emotion, outside a small country church...

In the face of love... **everything else simply seems not all that important.**