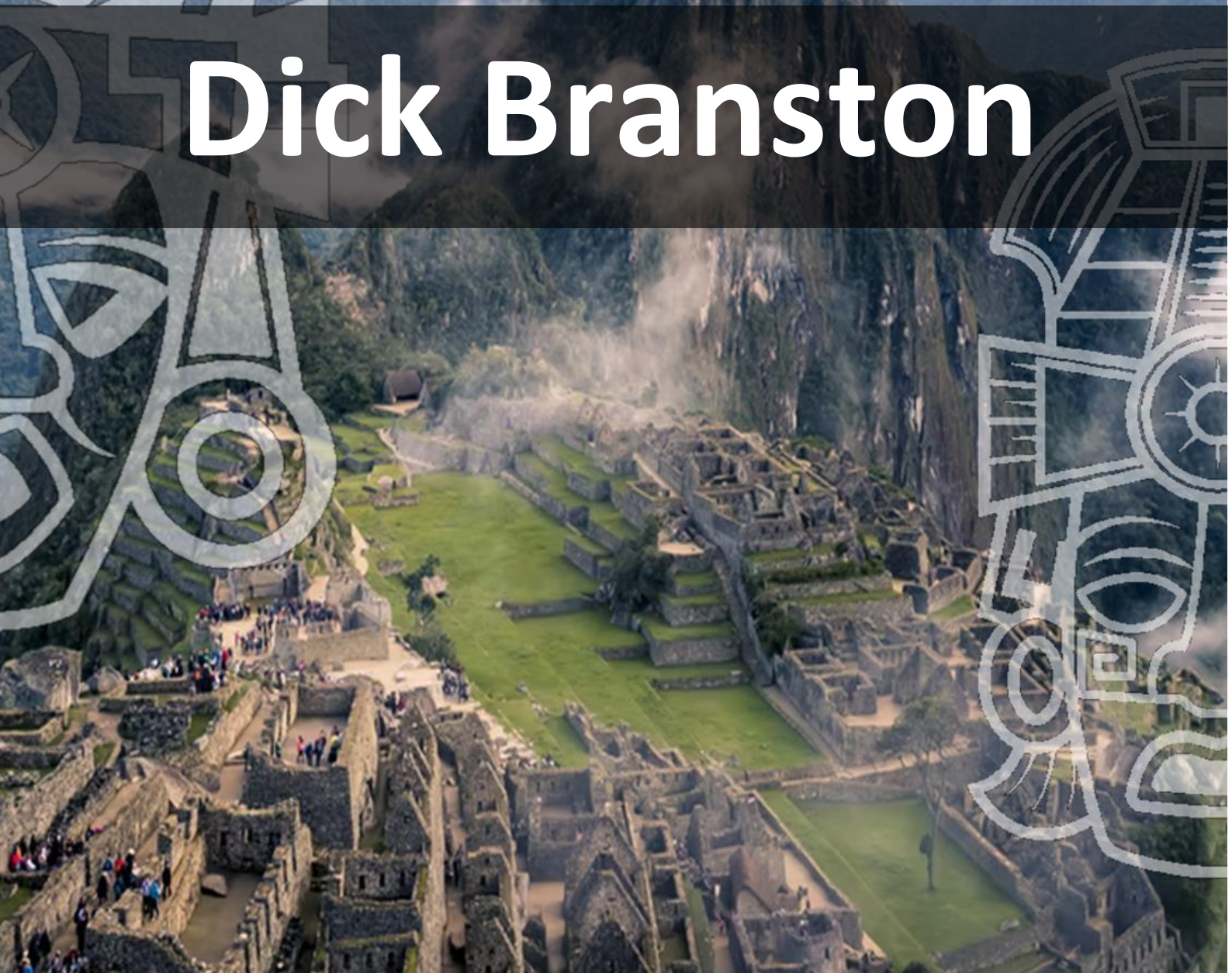


MURDER IN THE LOST CITY

Dick Branston



Congratulations!

You are taking part in a murder mystery by Red Herring Games.

Firstly: *Don't Panic!*

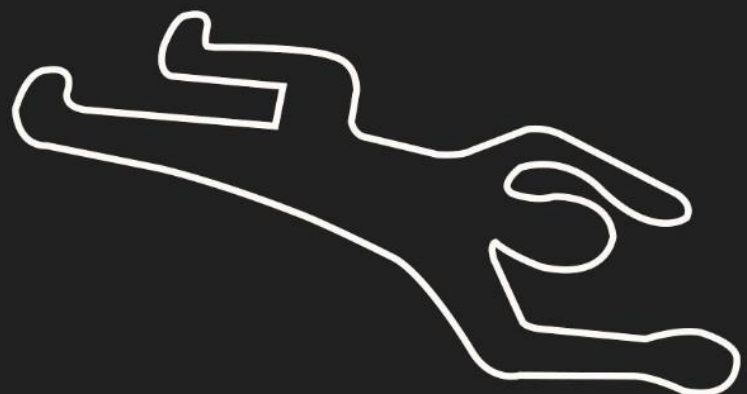
This booklet contains all the information you need to help you act your part throughout the murder mystery; background history, scripted dialogues, questions you should ask and scripted answers to questions you will be asked by the other guests.

You are encouraged to make the most of your part. Feel free to make up new lines and add to your back story or statements if you wish. However, make sure you always provide the information you need to within your answers. We have pre-scripted your statements to make things as simple for you as possible.

Make sure you listen to everyone else's questions and answers.

You won't be told if you're the killer – so feel free to guess yourself at the end – but don't tell anyone else you are! You must protest your innocence until the end!

Lastly: *Have fun!*



Dick Branston

Background Character Information

Keep this information to yourself, and use it to help you to act in character throughout the mystery:

You are totally business focussed and constantly on the lookout for new ideas and companies to add to your extensive portfolio. You've also invested heavily in several areas of research in the hope that some new idea might make you more millions. You've been a major sponsor of projects like the excavations at Nova Corona in the hope that they might also turn up something sellable.

Try to sell people business ideas or proposals, however odd they might sound. After all, no one thought a bagless vacuum cleaner would sell, so who knows what could be around the corner? Shame that wasn't one of your ideas...

Find out what people want or need. It doesn't matter what it is that they're looking for, you will have something to suit their needs somewhere in your industrial set-up. You are, after all, a big business person with lots of companies.

You are energetic, full of fun and have a tendency to dominate conversations. Be loud, be expressive and be memorable!

You love new ideas and trying new things, so see if you can get anyone else here interested in breaking a world record. There must be something dangerous to do around the Yucatan...

Dick Branston - Introductions

Use the following dialogue to introduce yourself to the other guests, speaking when indicated below.

Dick Branston speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well, can I just say that first of all, I'm terribly sorry that you've all been caught up in this mess. And secondly, despite what the inspector might think of me, it's my good name, the name of Dick Branston, that is being dragged through the mud with this enquiry more than any of the rest of you. If I could have avoided this public scandal you can be sure I would have done. These things are much better done out of the public eye. As things stand, we have a roomful of VIP guests and I look like a callous individual at best, potential murderer at worst!

After you have heard from everyone, please continue reading and begin round 1.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 1

Dick Branston	What can I say? I'm sorry. How was I to know that the police would suddenly decide Doug had been murdered?
Lotta Cacao	You mean you planned to go ahead anyway, without even mentioning he'd died?
Charles Champagne	Seems a bit callous, even for you.
Erma Dazzle	Oh, leave the man alone. Ignore them, Dick. They just hate a millionaire. To them, everything is so significant.
August Kompanie	And what's that supposed to mean, Erma?
Andy Chissel	It means, August, that she's got so much money she doesn't care either.
August Kompanie	Who wants to be a millionaire?
Erma Dazzle	I do!
Dick Branston	You <i>are</i> , Erma!
Andy Chissel	August, you're young. Inexperienced. When you're older, you'll realize the truth. You can't do anything without money.
Erma Dazzle	You know what they say. Money makes the world go round!
Lotta Cacao	Money's not important. Quality of life, that's important. If you enjoy what you do, it doesn't matter if you're rich or not.

Andy Chissel

Lotta here has a point. My dad always said, "if you find a job you enjoy, then you never work another day in your life."

Lotta Cacao

He was a very clever man then, your dad.

August Kompanie

Clever. And rich as I recall, but perhaps we should get back to discussing the murder. We seem to have drifted a little onto social politics.

Erma Dazzle

You don't think Doug was killed for money then? I mean, the inspector said some important artifact was stolen.

Lotta Cacao

Perhaps he surprised the thief.

Dick Branston

On top of the acropolis? Hardly! It's not the obvious place to hide, is it? In full view of everyone!

Charles Champagne

It might have been in full view, but no one seems to have seen anything.

Lotta Cacao

Or have they? The inspector said we were all suspects, but perhaps one of us saw something. Shall we find out?

Dick Branston - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Andy, what are you doing at the dig site?

August, I don't mean to be indiscreet, but are your artworks paying your way here in the Yucatan?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Dick, why is it you are interested in Nova Corona?

Say: I know it doesn't seem like my usual investment, but sometimes you just have to take a chance on things paying off. Nova Corona isn't the only project I sponsor. My PR team like to call it philanthropy, but in reality I'm just hoping to get the inside track on anything profitable. The Mayan's were very advanced in astronomy and maths and I wanted to be the first to hear about any new discoveries. Part of the funding agreement was that I was to be briefed on all the latest finds.

When asked: Mr Branston, did the archaeological team uncover anything interesting at Nova Corona?

Say: They did, yes! Doug rang me to tell me he'd found something he called the 'Chich'. It's an inner predictive wheel of the Mayan Calendar, so obviously an extremely important find! I've an information sheet here which explains a bit about it. (SHOW EVERYONE CLUE 1)

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 2

Erma Dazzle	Oh! How awful! Covered in bruises? Oh! It makes my stomach turn to think what state he must have been in.
August Kompanie	I think you'll find that was what you've just eaten. I'm feeling a bit uncomfortable too.
Dick Branston	I'll have you know I ordered only the best. The food is completely fresh.
Andy Chissel	Then maybe it's just a guilty conscience that's making you both feel sick.
Lotta Cacao	Or sunstroke. It has been rather bright today.
Charles Champagne	I'm sure Erma is perfectly innocent. She's too beautiful to have been involved in anything sordid.
Erma Dazzle	Thank you, Charles.
August Kompanie	What about me?
Andy Chissel	I'm sure you're perfectly innocent too, August. They're just goading you.
Charles Champagne	Isn't that what the inspector wants? They want us to get information out of people.
Erma Dazzle	Yes, but I'm sure the inspector didn't mean we had to use hard interrogation techniques.
8 Charles Champagne	Why use hard ones when soft ones will do?
Lotta Cacao	What do you mean by that?

Andy Chissel He means flattery, Lotta. Charles knows how to get information out of people.

August Kompanie You mean he seduces the ladies?

Charles Champagne It's called a honeytrap in the trade. It works too. Usually.

August Kompanie Maybe I could do with some lessons. Not that I'm interested in getting information out of people, but a date would be nice!

Lotta Cacao You only have to ask in the right way. A little bit of romance goes a long way. Doug used to send me flowers.

Erma Dazzle Did he? I'll make a note of that. It could be a clue.

Lotta Cacao This isn't the cinema, Erma.

Dick Branston Shame, because if it was, the bad guys always enter stage left.

Erma Dazzle They do? In that case, which side of the dig site did you come from this evening?

Andy Chissel It's NOT the cinema, remember? Oh come on, Erma! Think up a sensible question, will you? You must have one!

Dick Branston - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Erma, are you having a serious relationship with anyone?

Monsieur Champagne, this statue you commissioned from Andy Chissel. It wouldn't look very similar to the 'Chich', would it?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Mr Branston, were you at Nova Corona at the time of Doug Ole's murder?

Say: Yes. I got here before everyone else. I wanted to make sure that Doug had arranged the Preview Dinner correctly and I wanted to hear what he was going to say. Doug was very agitated when I arrived. He said that something had happened to the inner wheel. He showed it to me, but I couldn't see anything wrong with it. I told him it was probably just nerves, but he insisted on checking something at the site before the meal, so I let him go. I hoped a bit of jungle air might calm him down.

When asked: Dick, did you happen to see Doug's body before the police got here?

Say: Yes. I was called over to the acropolis by one of the site personnel just before the guests arrived. I assumed Doug must've slipped at the top of the pyramid. The sides are quite steep and constructed of solid stone. The fall must have broken his neck, as well as a few other bones. He had nothing with him that I could see.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 3

- Lotta Cacao** So... it's the 'Chich' that's missing. Well, that puts another light on this investigation.
- Erma Dazzle** How so?
- Andy Chissel** Wouldn't you want to know the future, Erma?
- Charles Champagne** But we DO know how to predict the future using the Mayan calendar, Andy. The 'Chich' was just the physical representation of the mathematical model.
- August Kompanie** Does that mean we've narrowed it down to someone that isn't good at maths and doesn't know enough archaeology to know that the 'Chich' is actually worthless?
- Charles Champagne** Worthless? Oh, it's hardly that, August. People don't want mathematical theories, they want practical applications. The 'Chich' gives people a quick and easy way of predicting things without struggling for hours with pen and paper. But it's probably only about as reliable as astrology.
- August Companie** My horoscope said I'd be up to my neck in it this week.
- Andy Chissel** I don't put much faith in the stars. It's what drives us inside that counts.
- Dick Branston** Money drives me.

Lotta Cacao I think we'd all realized that, Dick. And I still haven't forgiven you for embroiling us all in this murder enquiry as yet.

Erma Dazzle Well, it's like I always say, "you can please some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time."

Andy Chissel Actually, I think you've borrowed that from Abe Lincoln, Erma, and it was about fooling people, not pleasing people.

Erma Dazzle It was? Oh. Well, I'm so used to playing other people, I forget what's actually mine and what's just my lines.

Lotta Cacao You mean you played Abe Lincoln?

Charles Champagne Probably played opposite him, Lotta. Even Hollywood wouldn't try to dress up a girl as Abraham Lincoln.

Dick Branston I should think not! What would the critics say?

Charles Champagne Probably more than the police have to say at this particular juncture. Shall we crack on?

Dick Branston - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Monsieur Champagne, I heard a rumour that a Frenchman had recently been arrested and sent home on suspicion of serious burglary. Is this true?

Lotta, if you were, as you've said, at the market this afternoon, why was your car seen in the site's car park?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Dick, you were overheard arguing with Doug Oles while the Preview Dinner was being planned. What were you arguing about?

Say: I was trying to persuade Doug that the existence of the wheel should be kept secret. If the wheel was as good a predictor as he claimed, then it would afford me a predictive power which I could sell. Unfortunately, Doug refused to keep it a secret, hence the argument.

When asked: Mr Branston, you were spotted packing something vaguely circular into your case in the back of your jeep at the edge of the site just before dinner. What was it?

Say: Fine, I'll come clean. After I found Doug's body, I became concerned that he might've been carrying the inner wheel of the calendar when he fell. Perfectly understandable, right? I did a quick search of the pyramid's base and sure enough, I found the inner wheel. Unfortunately, it had broken into two sections. Anyway, I decided to keep it for myself so it would remain a secret.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Dick Branston - Concluding Statement

Use the following dialogue to summarise your position, speaking when indicated below.

Dick Branston speaks after Andy Chissel using the following dialogue:

And I suppose we just have to believe you didn't think that his request was a little odd, do we? Let's not forget that you've been paid for your services and I'm sure you have no intention of paying that back! As for me, well, I certainly didn't kill Doug and that ring of stone in my boot is worthless to me now... though... perhaps I can sell it back to you, Charles. You did, after all, commission the statue and the way I see it, La France will want something to show for their investment.

After you have heard from all the guests make a prediction as to who the murderer is and why.

Tell the others.

We hope you enjoyed playing this Red Herring Games murder mystery and will visit us again to try out our other games.

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