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Anyone for Murder

Ken Doll

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

A few simple instructions to help you along:

Firstly: Don't Panic!

This booklet contains all the information you need as a guest to help you act your part throughout the murder mystery party.

The first page provides you with additional background information to help you get into character, however there are no special acting abilities required and you can make as much or as little of your character as you wish.

After that on each page you are given either something to read out (dialogue), questions to ask, or information to help you answer questions you will be asked. These questions and answers are not intended to be read out word for word. Instead read them, digest the information and then ask and answer any questions in your own words. You are encouraged to ad lib, but it is very important you do not lie, so please provide the information contained within your booklet when asked.

Your host for the evening will direct you where necessary and tell you when to move on to the next round when the time is right.

If you are the murderer you will not be told. When you finally come to guess who did it – it could easily be you and feel free to point the finger at yourself if you feel you must!

And lastly: Have fun!

Ken Doll

Background Character Information:

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

You are the estranged husband of the deceased, and like her you are a member of the Wollatonne Tennis Club. A successful executive for a computer software company and the driver of a BMW X5, you are very keen to tell the world of your earnings. Nevertheless, your lifestyle has been very dependent on the success of your wife's bakery business.

You are a competent tennis player, not quite of league standard but in any case you deny the team access to your talents "through pressure of work".

You are very quick to put others down who are not in your income bracket because as far as you are concerned, money is the only measure of a person.

That makes the fact that you are now struggling to maintain your standard of living all the more difficult...

Ken Doll

Introductions:

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

Ken Doll speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well, it's a poor show and no mistake. I'm Ken Doll, and separated from Barbie a few months ago after 3 turbulent years.

We've had our ups and downs as everyone knows, but I can't believe poor Barbie is dead. It almost seems more impossible with her being such a larger than life character, doesn't it?

Certainly there will be a few less quips and smart Alec remarks around here to keep us entertained from now on...

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Serena Woolliams The coffin doesn't have to be cardboard, you know. You can also get willow, wicker, bamboo, seagrass, jute, or sustainable wood and they are all environmentally friendly.

Ken Doll Serena, please! Not everything has to be a statement, you know.

John Macintosh Well that's rich, coming from Mr Ray-Bans! Mind you, perhaps I shouldn't be joking about things. Poor Barbie...

Martina Nuttyturnover Well, let's not dwell on it too much. I've got something to ask you all. I'm considering offering a breakfast bap delivery service to the club on weekend mornings. What do you think?

Ken Doll I'm not sure that it would fit in well with the image of the Wollatonne Tennis club if we all wandered around with fried egg sandwiches.

Venus Woolliams Has anyone ever accused you of perhaps being a little shallow, Ken? How about if we only eat fried egg sandwiches when wearing Rolex watches?

Cont.

Martina Nuttyturnover Well, I don't know why tennis can't be for everyone. It's not as though racquets are all that expensive.

Pete Compass Image aside, I don't know why people would want to poison their bodies with breakfast baps. Besides, if Wollatonne Tennis Club is supposed to be an exclusive organisation, a murder isn't going to do much for its image, is it?

Venus Woolliams I'm not sure that rumours of liaisons between members does much for its reputation either. But it doesn't stop them happening.

John Macintosh I'm sure that happens everywhere, but murder certainly doesn't. But a murder has certainly happened here, and at the moment we don't know why. Who is to say that we're not all at risk?

Ken Doll - First Round

Questions you should ask:

John Macintosh is still recovering from a nasty accident on his bike a few months ago. Ask him if he has any further information about who might have done it.

You have heard that Serena Woolliams was at the centre of a disturbance in the town centre over the weekend. Talk to her and discuss what it was about.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You have visited the solicitors several times lately. There has been a lot to sort out with the divorce proceedings, especially with regards to the bakery business.

Your credit card was rejected at a petrol station recently. The one you used was over its credit limit.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Ken Doll** Well, I suppose we can take some comfort from the fact that at least Barbie didn't suffer.
- Martina Nuttyturnover** I guess you're right, although the way she was dragged about afterwards left her little in the way of dignity. Someone treated Barbie Doll as though she was some kind of child's toy.
- John Macintosh** It makes your blood boil, doesn't it? I can't pretend to have liked the woman, but I've never been so angry since I was dismissed from teaching because of my short temper.
- Pete Compass** Have you ever considered some sort of anger management course?
- Serena Woolliams** Well, if you're going to do a course then try to find one locally. There's no need to travel for such things, and travel is so bad for the environment...
- John Macintosh** I'd rather go by bike anyway. Presumably that suits you too, Serena! Still, the chance would be a fine thing.

Cont.

Ken Doll

Yes, well, we've all got an axe to grind. That's why we're all here. It makes you wonder where the cut off point was for this little gathering. I wonder how many other people she has upset?

Pete Compass

Perhaps beauty always causes jealousy, and that's when the problems arise.

Venus Woolliams

You can't blame beauty in itself. The crux of the matter is in how people handle it. There's certainly evidence here to suggest that neither the beautiful nor their admirers come out with too much credit.

Ken Doll - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Pete Compass mentioned that he has some new tubs for his vitamin pills. Has he found any uses for them outside work?

Venus Woolliams mentioned that Martina Nuttyturnover had been helping with her tennis, but there are rumours that they have also started to spend a lot of time in discussion, and at each other's houses. Ask Venus why that is.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

The ownership of the bakery business is a contentious issue. Your solicitor is arguing that you should be entitled to a share of that, whereas Barbie's has been taking the position that the marriage was so short that you should be entitled to none of it. Not only is she still living in the marital home, it seems likely that she will win the day on the bakery business too.

You have recently ordered a new BMW 3 series on lease hire. The lease period has just concluded on your X5, and you have decided on something smaller this time.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Martina Nuttyturnover Well it's all pretty sneaky, isn't it? At least if you get stabbed or shot then you know about it.

Pete Compass I imagine that you've caused a few deaths yourself in that sandwich shop of yours. I can only imagine what all those breakfast baps do to people.

Serena Woolliams Aren't we supposed to be thinking about who committed the murder?

Martina Nuttyturnover Well, I suppose we could call this brainstorming.

Ken Doll I think that brainstorming is supposed to stick at least to the subject in hand. I'm not sure that breakfast baps entered into Barbie's death at all.

Serena Woolliams She was a very beautiful and kind woman, but there was an underlying nasty streak there. Do you think that she could be deliberately hurtful, or just unthinking?

Pete Compass Unthinking. Most definitely.

Cont.

Venus Woolliams

Deliberate. Most definitely.

John Macintosh

Well, either way, maybe that's what has put her where she is today...

Ken Doll - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

There was a police car outside Martina Nuttyturnover's shop recently. Why were they visiting?

Ask Pete Compass why he split up from Venus Woolliams.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You recently went to Barbie's house to discuss the divorce face to face, as you feel that the way things are going, you won't be getting your fair share of your collective property. It is possible that someone may have seen you parked there.

You cut your hand during the argument with Barbie about the divorce settlement. You were drinking coffee together in the kitchen when things got a little heated. You threw down your cup in frustration, and cut your hand clearing up the pieces. You applied a Band-Aid to it, removing it later when the bleeding stopped.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Ken Doll

Concluding Statement

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

Ken Doll speaks first using the following dialogue:

I suppose I must be one of the prime suspects here – divorce does the strangest things to people, and I did visit Barbie during the time in question.

It is a fact that Barbie and I didn't see eye to eye at the end of our marriage, and that maybe we should never have married. It is also true that I felt that she was not being reasonable with regards to the financial settlement between us, and that I was surprised and angry about that. I'm certainly not naïve enough to imagine that I will feature in her will, so her being dead won't help financial matters at all!

However, we just weren't made to be together – simple as that. I wouldn't have wanted her dead; there were too many smiles and good times to look back on for that.

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

Tell the others.

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