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Death at the *Distillery*



Blast McGrouse

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!

Blast McGrouse

Background Character Information:

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

You have a strong, almost incomprehensible accent, (or is it the whisky you've been drinking that's made you so hard to understand?).

You are suspicious of everyone, and have very few nice things to say about anyone. Plenty of nasty things to say though. Your father was a wise man and he always used to say strangely cryptic things that you repeat to anyone who will listen. For example, "My Father always used to say it's an ill wind that blows nobody any good, but here in the Far Outer Hebrides, it's gale force nearly all the time."

Blast McGrouse

Introductions:

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

Blast McGrouse speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well I can think of worse ways to go. Dying in a vat of whisky seems like a dream come true, better than being shot at, stabbed or battered to death. My name's Blast McGrouse. I'm the gamekeeper of the Glen Frick Estate. I tend to the haggis population on the moors around the distillery. Detective Inspector McNicked thinks one of us is the murderer? Well as my father always used to say, a haggis in the heather may be difficult to find, but it will show its true colours eventually.

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Blast McGrouse Well, I suppose it falls to me to propose a toast to the deceased. I used to work for him, so I knew him the best. Let's see...

Mac Theknife How about: He was a sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie, with much a panic in his breastie!

Misty Harr Not exactly what I would call original Mac.

Iona Fiddle Though I suppose if he saw his murderer he might have panicked.

Ben Nevis He wasn't exactly cowering and timorous though was he?

Iona Fiddle Perhaps not, but Mac might have hit it on the head with beastly. Someone obviously felt he was beastly to have killed him off.

Misty Harr Beastie, not beastly, Iona. Anyway, if you are trying to keep in the Burn's poetry line why not go for "Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and ne'er be brought to mind"?

Cont.

Paula Nother Someone would have to say “yes” to that surely?

Blast McGrouse If only solving crimes was that simple! Criminals don’t generally give themselves away so easily.

Paula Nother So I can’t just ask someone whether they killed Toby and expect an honest answer?

Blast McGrouse No lass. You can’t.

Misty Harr But you could ask someone if they needed a drink. I am sure you’d get a lot of yeses to that!

Ben Nevis Count me in. I could do with a whisky. And given that it’s Toby that’s dead I think a 25 year old malt would be in order.

Mac Theknife Why stop at 25? I am sure I remember him talking about some stuff they laid down for the Queen’s coronation. A quick look in the bonded locker ought to come up trumps.

Misty Harr What a good idea. If you are going to propose a toast Blast, let us all get some of the good stuff and do it properly.

Blast McGrouse - First Round

Questions you should ask:

You’ve seen Toby Mory round at Mac Theknife’s jazz club on more than one occasion during the day. What do they discuss?

Paula Nother says she can tell a lot about men from what they drink. Did Toby Mory ever come into the bar, and if so what did he have?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Haggises (or haggi – that’s the official plural for many haggises) are strange creatures. There is a popular misconception that Haggis is a stuffed sheep’s stomach, but that was only started because the haggi population became so low it was in danger of becoming extinct. Haggi are actually small furry creatures that roam the Scottish Highlands and Islands. They have three legs, one shorter than the other two to help with running around mountain sides. They are shy and retiring creatures.

Toby Mory had no special regard for haggis, or grouse for that matter. In fact he doesn’t care at all for the moors. He employs you to manage the estate, which was left to him as his inheritance, only because he cannot sell the land without the distillery as the two were tied together in his father’s will. He hates the great outdoors, except for shooting. He always liked shooting things, even as a boy. You don’t think he is a responsible land owner, and you only work for him out of respect for his father who originally employed you.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

Paula Nother Found in the vat with the lid down? Well I must say, that makes a nice change. Men are always leaving the lid up!

Mac Theknife Not quite the same thing I think Paula, though the colour could be deceiving I grant you.

Blast McGrouse Well I can tell you all one thing. He's gone up in my estimation. I always imagined a pair of weedy boxer shorts under his kilt.

Iona Fiddle Fortunately I don't have much of an imagination.

Misty Harr Really? You *do* surprise me.

Mac Theknife I agree. I thought you had the best imagination of everyone here. Next thing you'll be telling us is that it was the monster that did him in!

Ben Nevis You forget Mac, the monster is male. He'd have left the lid up!

Misty Harr So I suppose from that one simple clue you are all assuming the murderer is female? How do you know it's not a man with manners?

Cont.

Blast McGrouse (burp)

Iona Fiddle You were saying?

Mac Theknife I think you are all getting too hooked on circumstantial evidence. Perhaps the lid was simply down to stop him escaping or being discovered before the murderer got away?

Blast McGrouse And perhaps he was just diving for the tasting ladle and knocked the lid closed by accident. I take it we've ruled out suicide. I've heard of one depressed whisky worker who took hours to drown in a vat – he kept getting out to use the toilet.

Iona Fiddle Very funny. Perhaps we should just get back to solving the case?

Blast McGrouse - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Ben Nevis meets a lot of women who work at the Glen Frick distillery. Do they keep him apprised of any developments there and if so, does he happen to know whether any new products will be coming out?

This sailing boat that Iona Fiddle talked of buying from Toby Mory. Did he say why he refused to sell it?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

The haggi population has now returned to a sustainable level last recorded by your great great grandfather in 1859. They have now reached a point where they can be shot for sport (though it is a tough sport – haggi are very difficult to spot in the heather, they don't fly and are not easily flushed out by dogs.)

Haggis shooting can only commence on the 15th of August. (Many will have heard of the Glorious 12th – that's when grouse shooting begins – but few have heard of the glorious 15th, the beginning of haggis shooting season – after all, it is only recently that the population of haggi has grown sufficiently to allow shooting to begin again!) Haggi shooting season always concludes by 13th January (The day after Burns' Night, where tradition requires a haggis for dinner.)

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Blast McGrouse	Well, as the closest thing to family that he has I've been trying to come up with a suitable epitaph for his headstone.
Ben Nevis	What about "Beneath this sod lies another one?"
Mac Theknife	That all assumes he isn't being cremated. He would burn very well. There's enough alcohol in his system.
Paula Nother	Yes, that would be quite pretty, a nice blue flame. It'll be just like Christmas pudding.
Mac Theknife	Remind me not to come to you for Christmas dinner!
Iona Fiddle	If he's cremated he'll only get a plaque won't he? So perhaps "Best Before"?
Misty Harr	Shouldn't we get his murder solved first? We can't do anything with his body until the police have exhausted their enquiries and from what I've been hearing they haven't quite finished with the evidence yet!

Cont.

Ben Nevis

Yes, it's a pity really we weren't allowed to help in that aspect of their enquiries. I wouldn't have minded a little "hands on" detective work. It sounds like they've been enjoying themselves.

Mac Theknife

Forget the investigation, it's the wake I'm interested in. Perhaps we could have it at the distillery with a free bar? I know what I'll be drinking in his memory.

Iona Fiddle

If you are drinking you won't be singing as well will you? You know what they say: "Don't drink and jive."

Paula Nother

Very funny Iona, but, in all seriousness, if any of you are on the road then you'll be meeting up with Toby a little sooner than you may otherwise have planned.

Blast McGrouse - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

You know Iona Fiddle has met with Toby Mory on several occasions to discuss the planned dam. Didn't she have another meeting with him scheduled for today? What conditions for stopping the project were discussed?

You saw Mac Theknife leaving Glen Frick estate very late this evening, probably about the time of the murder. What had he been doing on the estate since his meeting with Toby Mory?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You found Toby Mory with a few of his business friends out on the moors taking pot shots at the haggi out of season. He managed to wing one of the mothers and you took her and her brood back to your cottage to nurse them back to health.

You have been singularly unimpressed with Toby Mory's stewardship of the Glen Frick Estate. Since his father died he has squandered the financial provision for the estate and has been despoiling the natural landscape of the glens with paint ball venues and go-kart racing. You got a bit drunk the other night in the bar and recall telling someone that Toby Mory would be better off being shot and cooked instead of the Burns' Night haggis as the haggi give more back to the estate than Toby Mory ever will. It was a moment of madness. You would never have shot your employer – you don't need to now either – he's dead!

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Blast McGrouse

Concluding Statement

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

Blast McGrouse speaks first using the following dialogue:

Look, admittedly saying my employer would be better off shot and cooked is not a good character reference for me, but the fact remains that Toby Mory was not shot and cooked, he was drowned and pickled, so you can count me out as far as his murder is concerned. That's not to say I don't approve of the method, most humane if you ask me. At least he would have died happy.

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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