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**WANTED**

• **DEAD OR ALIVE** •

**Ned Nickerley**

**OR  
YOUR LIFE**

**REWARD \$1000**

**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!

**Ned Nickerley**

**Background Character Information:**

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

You are a suave, charming individual, able to flatter the ladies and relate casually with men. You thoroughly enjoy eating and drinking the best food and wine.

As the secret highwayman, Black Ned, you are often away for days at a time on business matters but are secretive about your earnings and the nature of your business. You constantly question everyone on their future travelling plans and ask how they conceal their valuables from those rapsallion highwaymen on the roads these days.

You are adamant that you are not a highwayman and invent numerous stories to explain your questions. Be as adventurous as you wish because you never tell the same story twice. Should anyone persist in questioning you on the art of highway robbery you will give obviously misleading and over the top advice to put off any future competition.

## **Ned Nickerley**

### **Introductions:**

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

### **Ned Nickerley speaks first using the following dialogue:**

A murder at this inn, eh? Now there's a pretty thing. I always knew the Reverend Erasmus Soulsaver was too good to be true. There's likely to be more left in the collection box now he's gone.

My name's Ned, by the way. Ned Nickerley, though I tend not to use my last name, for obvious reasons.

Now, I wonder which of you is a murderer?

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

## **Scripted Dialogue Round 1**

**Doris** This is a rare happening for a civil transportation. Not what one expects for the price paid. I shall travel by a different coach next time.

**Alfie** That'll prove difficult. There's only my mail coach comes this way. My schedule's right up the whatsit without howsyerfather thing. Did anyone bring any dry newspapers with them? Proper wet outside, it was.

**Amelia** I have a slim copy of The Lady. I fear it will do little to satisfy your needs. That poor dead parson may have some clerical missives that may suffice.

**Hubert** There's no need for that. We keep old newspapers in the poopdeck, if you get my drift.

**Doris** I'm sure a refined lady like myself does not. I'm also sure this vulgar establishment merely perpetuates the kind of crime which has occurred.

**Hubert** Shiver me barnacles but there's some right bilge comes out of that scupper! This inn is NOT vulgar. We always has meat for dinner!

**Cont.**

**Ned** I can vouch for that. I've also noticed that the number of horses in the stable has considerably reduced of late. Maybe we can now dine on roast parson? Or griddled preacher?

**Doris** This is a terrible thing to happen. Miss Amelia must be mortified. We shall leave as soon as it is possible to do so. This is a murderous place we have been brought to. I have no desire to join the parson on his last journey.

**Panthea** What a crime! I've read about them, of course, but this just goes to show how easy it is to be slain for ones valuables.

## **Ned Nickerley - First Round**

### **Questions you should ask:**

What does Doris know of Amelia's past? Ask her.

You saw Lady Panthea Katt hiding her face from Soulsaver earlier this evening. Why is this? Ask her.

### **Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.**

You have, at times, hidden at the back of the church whilst evading Constables who have mistaken you for a highwayman (you can't think why!). Whilst hiding, you have occasionally witnessed Soulsaver dividing up the collection after the service. Not all of it, in fact not even half of it, went into the church coffers. Instead, most of it went into Soulsavers own pockets!

You were never a friend of Soulsaver and didn't know him in any depth. There were rumours that he started out in life as a missionary, but you don't know where. It could have been Africa or even London. Rumour has it he left his Mission under some sort of a cloud.

**Do not read further until instructed by your host.**

## Scripted Dialogue Round 2

**Panthea** Dash it all but we're still no nearer to unmasking the villain! I hope this Magistrate fellow has his wits about him. I have business to attend to forthwith.

**Ned** Sounds to me as though someone is trying to say she's innocent, and trying too hard. This will all come out right in the end. One person swinging on a gibbet and the rest of us carrying on with our lives.

**Doris** You sound very sure that you will be found innocent. The jails, however, are full of such innocent people. I have read of this in the newspapers.

**Alfie** I'll have those newspapers if you've still got 'em.

**Hubert** Scupper me keel but The Highwayman's Halt will be in those papers soon. I always knew the press would get me one day but I thought they'd be dressed navy fashion and carrying sticks.

**Amelia** I don't suppose that poor man upstairs will care now about the fuss that his demise has created. I believe I am getting a mild attack of the vapours.

**Cont.**

**Doris** I have a large bottle of smelling salts, Miss Amelia. Please try to think of more cheerful things, such as your forthcoming marriage and all it entails.

**Panthea** I shall place my trust in what is under my dress to keep me safe this night.

**Alfie** I must say, I've been having thoughts along those lines, too. I had to have a cold bath!

**Hubert** You young things should consider yourselves lucky you weren't on a pirate ship. Splice the mizzen and grottle the sheepshank but you'd be wed one minute, grindled in a hammock and then find you're widowed on the next expedition. That's life!

**Ned** Don't talk to me about life. It's as cheap today as it always was. On board ship, in a factory or on a battlefield.

## Ned Nickerley - Second Round

### Questions you should ask:

Ask Doris what she thinks of Miss Amelia's impending marriage. Does she support it?

Does Alfie carry any weapons for protection whilst driving his coach? A sharp knife, perhaps? Ask him.

### Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

After spotting Soulsaver stealing from the collection money, you decided to try your hand at a spot of blackmail. Sadly he wasn't paying up. Instead, he tried to blackmail you, threatening to tell the officers of the law that you were the highwayman Black Ned! You hadn't realised your disguise was so thin! Needless to say, you formed a mutually beneficial arrangement. You wouldn't inform on him if he didn't inform on you.

You did a spot of digging when you decided to blackmail Soulsaver and found out that he left his Mission due to a small financial irregularity. Small in that the savings of the small missionary outpost went missing.

### Do not read further until instructed by your host.

## Scripted Dialogue Round 3

- Hubert** I must say I'm getting weary of this upset. Does anyone here want to play shove ha'penny? If I don't do something I'll most like explode like a force-fed trout that's been sitting in a bowl of grog for a fortnight!
- Doris** That's spoken just like a man, with no finer feelings. Have you no thoughts for the deceased?
- Ned** This is how a man behaves, my good woman. I'll have a shove with you, sir. Tuppence a point? Then possibly a pint of rum.
- Hubert** Aargh! That be a man's drink, rum! Couldn't get enough of it in the Carib. Me old pal, Shrimp, he drowned in it! Miss the old salt, so help me, when the nights are long and the winds in the west.
- Miss Amelia** That must have been a lot of rum, captain, for to so drown your friend.
- Hubert** Don't take much rum to drown a parrot, miss. Fell off of 'is perch and landed head first in my tankard!
- Alfie** Well, it takes our minds off old Soulsaver, don't it? I'll come in as well. Tuppence a point, eh?

**Cont.**

- Doris** I don't think it appropriate to gamble at such a time. This is really just too bad! I shall never understand the mind of the common man.
- Hubert** Won't be for much longer. The Magistrate will have someone dancing from a yardarm by this time tomorrow. I wonder whose bed I won't need to make up tonight? One of you will sneak over the side and run ashore, I'm thinking.
- Panthea** My thoughts, too. I shall just make sure my own luggage is locked up well. I can't afford to lose what I have to a thief.
- Hubert** If the stables are locked then no one's going anywhere tonight.
- Ned** Well I wasn't thinking of going anywhere. I just need to be sure that my horse isn't, either. I'm not the one who's guilty!

## **Ned Nickerley - Third Round**

### **Questions you should ask:**

Is there any history of violence in Alfie's past? Ask him.

Ask Miss Amelia about a letter opener you saw her wielding in the bar. It seemed rather more sharp than it had a right to be.

### **Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.**

The room you stay in at the inn overlooks the stable (room 1 on the plans). It is important that you have easy access to the stable (for your own reasons) rather than easy access to the main guest rooms. You had the door closed yesterday evening as you were "discussing things" with Lady Panthea Katt, but even if the door had been open, and even if you'd been looking out of it, you still wouldn't have seen anyone walking towards Soulsaver's room. In fact, due to the rambling nature of the inn, you'd be surprised if anyone saw the culprit.

You did break into Soulsaver's room, but only after his body was discovered dead and while everyone was distracted with his murder. Although breaking and entering isn't your main profession, you knew that Soulsaver had a lot of money hidden in his room and stealing from a thief, especially a dead thief, is hardly a crime, surely? Especially as the money would be going to Panthea to make her an honest woman...

**Do not read further until instructed by your host.**

**Ned Nickerley**

**Concluding Statement**

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

**Ned speaks after Lady Panthea using the following dialogue:**

I don't really like being in a reducing pool of suspects. In my view, everyone in this room had either a motive or the opportunity to murder Soulsaver. Unless the Magistrate agrees, I don't think the mail coach will run tomorrow. Whoever is the guilty party has just tonight to remain free. Tomorrow will see the unmasking and I wouldn't expect a fair hearing at the court in this manor.

**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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