

## **ROUND ONE - The murder is announced**

Round Instructions: The only cast member in the room at the start is Clarence Mount. He should be sat at the top table next to a veiled trophy. One of the seats at the top table should be empty. The top table should be populated by extras, or ordinary guests who should be moved as the game progresses to let the cast sit in the remaining seats at the top table.

All the guests should be in a position to see the acting before the scene begins.

### **ROUND ONE SCRIPT**

CLARENCE MOUNT STANDS UP TO ADDRESS THE GUESTS, TAKING POSITION AT A PODIUM OR TAPPING HIS GLASS TO ATTRACT ATTENTION

**Clarence Mount** G'd evening Ladies and Gentlemen. First of all let me thank you all for coming to tonight's Charity Gala in aid of the Riding for the Disabled.

Secondly – let me say a big thank you to Victoria Derby [TURNS TO WHERE VICTORIA SHOULD BE SITTING AT THE TOP TABLE – SHE ISN'T THERE] Where is Victoria? Anyone? Oh well. Anyway, as I was saying... secondly a big thank you to Victoria Derby chair of the Riding for the Disabled Club for asking us to help sponsor this event and for hosting the Melbright Trophy for the evening.

The Melbright Cup, as you all know, is *the* race that inspires the nation. The Trophy itself is worth over \$80,000 and rather than keep it sat in a stuffy little office, we at the Melbright Racing Club decided instead to send the Trophy on tour around Australia and the world to inspire others, and help support charitable events such as this.

And now ladies and gentlemen, the moment you've all been waiting for. This is [UNVEILS THE MELBRIGHT TROPHY] the Melbright Trophy.

ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO CLAP. IF YOU HAVE EXTRAS WAITING ON TABLES THEN ASK THEM TO CLAP AT THIS MOMENT TO ENCOURAGE THE OTHER GUESTS TO DO SO.

AS THE CLAPPING FADES ANNE ZACKS AND SHELLY BEECH ENTER THE ROOM LOUDLY IN A FIGHT. SHELLY IS TRYING TO PREVENT ANNE GAINING ACCESS TO THE ROOM. ANNE IS CARRYING A PLACARD WHICH READS "Save the Planet! Go Virtual!" – THEY ARE CREATING A LOT OF NOISE. FEEL FREE TO AD LIB THE LINES.

**Anne Zacks:** I have a legal right to protest!

**Shelly Beech:** Not in here.

**Anne Zacks:** I can protest wherever I want.

**Shelly Beech:** Come on Mrs Zacks. Let's do this peacefully.

**Anne Zacks:** No! [SHOUTS OUT] They need to know – this Tour is costing our planet millions of trees.

**Shelly Beech:** Come on Mrs Zacks. This way.

**Clarence Mount:** I'm sorry for this intrusion ladies and gentlemen. But - it appears our security forces are dealing with it.

**Anne Zacks:** [STILL PROTESTING] I will not be pacified!

FROM ANOTHER DOOR VICTORIA DERBY ENTERS ROOM BACKWARDS SCREAMING LOUDLY AT THE TOP OF HER VOICE. ANNE AND SHELLY CONTINUE TO FIGHT IN THE OTHER ENTRANCE.

**Clarence Mount:** What's the matter Mrs Derby?

**Victoria Derby:** It's Seymour!

**Clarence Mount:** The local security guard?

**Victoria Derby:** He's dead!

VICTORIA FAINTS. CLARENCE RUSHES OVER.

**Clarence Mount:** I need a hand here. Shelly?

**Shelly Beech:** But what about - ? [GESTURES TO ANNE]

**Clarence Mount:** Let her in.

SHELLY BEECH WALKS OVER TO VICTORIA DERBY AND CHECKS HER PULSE. ANNE ENTERS ROOM WITH HER PLACARD. SHE IS ABOUT TO PROTEST, BUT WHEN SHE SEES VICTORIA ON THE FLOOR SHE WALKS SLOWLY OVER TO HER INSTEAD. CONCERNED AND CURIOUS.

**Anne Zacks:** Is she all right?

**Shelly Beech:** Yes – just fainted I think.

**Anne Zacks:** Did she say Seymour was dead?

**Clarence Mount:** That's what I thought I heard

TED KELLY ENTERS ROOM FROM THE SAME DOOR AS VICTORIA DERBY. HE IS BREATHLESS AND AGITATED

**Ted Kelly:** Shelly! Shelly! I've just found Seymour – he's ... [SEES VICTORIA ON THE FLOOR] What's happened here?

**Shelly Beech:** She's just fainted, Ted, that's all.

**Ted Kelly:** Oh.

**Shelly Beech:** You were saying?

**Ted Kelly:** It's Seymour. He's... [SEES ANNE] What are YOU doing in here? I thought I told you this morning to clear out?

**Clarence Mount:** [EAGER FOR TED TO GET TO THE POINT] Ted?

**Ted Kelly:** Seymour – he's dead.

**Clarence Mount:** That's what *she* said. [POINTING TO VICTORIA] Where?

**Ted Kelly:** Out there. [POINTS OUT OF THE DOOR]

**Clarence Mount:** Ted – you watch Victoria – Shelly – come with me. You [POINTING TO ANNE] – behave.

SHELLY AND CLARENCE LEAVE THE ROOM. TED LOOKS AT ANNE AND THEN AT VICTORIA. VICTORIA STIRS.

**Ted Kelly:** Victoria? Are you OK?

**Victoria Derby:** Yes. I think so. It was a nasty shock. That's all. [AS IF SEEING TED FOR THE FIRST TIME] Ted? What are you doing here? I thought Seymour had...

**Ted Kelly:** Couldn't miss the gala dinner. S'not every day the Melbright Trophy comes a-calling.

**Victoria Derby:** Yes. And about the trophy...

**Clarence Mount:** [SHOUT FROM OUTSIDE THE ROOM] Hey you! Stop! Hold it there.

WILLIAM "BILLY" BONG RUNS INTO THE ROOM.

**Clarence Mount:** [STILL SHOUTING FROM OUTSIDE THE ROOM] Grab him somebody!

TED KELLY TACKLES WILLIAM “BILLY” BONG AND PULLS HIM TO THE GROUND. THEY STAND UP TOGETHER AS CLARENCE AND SHELLY COME BACK INTO THE ROOM.

**Shelly Beech:** Billy Bong! I should’ve guessed!

**Clarence Mount:** You know him?

**Shelly Beech:** Old acquaintances you could say.

**Clarence Mount:** Well! I think it’s about time someone called the police. Ted, Shelly, you hold onto him. You [To ANNE] – what *is* your name by the way?

**Anne Zacks:** Anne Zacks

**Clarence Mount:** Well then – you, Anne Zacks – you keep an eye on Victoria here. I’ll phone the police. The rest of you [AUDIENCE] – I’m truly sorry for the interruption. We’ve had none of this type of commotion in the other towns. Please feel free to get on with dinner. There’s no reason to spoil the gala after all!

END OF ROUND ONE