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Bella Pasta

Birthday Girl's
last gasp

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!

Bella Pasta

Background Character Information:

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

You are passionate about bringing some Italian colour, style and taste to Britain.

It is nearly 3 years since you opened your own restaurant here and you are very proud of the excellent reputation it has earned.

You are open to amorous adventures, but only until you find your true Romeo.

You are a natural hostess, putting people at their ease and encouraging lively conversation.

Bella Pasta

Introductions:

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

Bella Pasta speaks first using the following dialogue:

Questo è terribile! Carrie è morta! So sorry, I turn back to so speaking Italian for matters of the heart. I am Bella Pasta, of course, and I am desolated that this should happen in my beautiful restaurant, Bella's Place. I had prepared a special feast for my friend Carrie's birthday. Naturally, you will still eat it – that is what she would have wanted.

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Pip Olfinda | Oh dear, what a day this has been! I just want to go home and have some cocoa. |
| Rita Ring | I know what you mean. When I get home I'm going to have a nice hot bath scented with rose and lavender – I make up my own bath oils from the garden. |
| Leila Taybell | Lucky you! I'd love to have a bath, but I've only got a shower with a mouldy curtain. |
| Dee Scovery | Ugh! Well I hope they haven't banned us from using the Ladies. I want to look my best in case I'm photographed. |
| Bella Pasta | Police photos are never flattering – or so my Mama says. |
| Dee Scovery | Then, I'd better get my agent to pick a good photo to use if there's any press coverage. That one in a solar powered racing car in the desert perhaps – did any of you see that? |
| Leila Taybell | I saw the video at college. It was really cool! |

Cont.

Rita Ring I really don't want to be in the papers. The last time was when I won a prize at the WI chrysanthemum show, but they only photographed the flowers, thank goodness.

Bella Pasta Oh, never mind the photos! What will the press say about my restaurant? Che disastro!

Lotta Boddie Excuse me, but you all seem to be forgetting that this is about my lovely little sister.

Pip Olfinda Brace yourself, Lotta. She may not sound quite so lovely by the end of the evening.

Lotta Boddie Well I know some people didn't appreciate her – I think she noticed that as well.

Bella Pasta Well I liked Carrie. She was a lively lady. And we never even sang her birthday song. Shall we?

All *(sing)* Happy Birthday to Carrie
We're sorry you're dead!

Bella Pasta Mm. Not sure that was quite what I meant. Perhaps we should just get on with the investigation?

Bella Pasta - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Pip Olfinda what Carrie was like to work with.

Offer Lotta Boddie your condolences and ask her what other close family Carrie had.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You had personally selected the ten types of canapé to serve as guests arrived. All were prepared this afternoon by your head chef and her team from the finest fresh ingredients available. They were then brought straight from the kitchen to the restaurant when Carrie and her family arrived.

You became friends with Carrie soon after you settled in England three years ago. She recruited the staff for your restaurant and you found you could have a good laugh together. In fact, you went on holiday with her recently, back to your home in Sicily.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Lotta Boddie** Those canapés were delicious! What a pity the police took the rest of them away for analysis.
- Leila Taybell** Well it saved me a job.
- Bella Pasta** Thank you – all specialities of the house. I will use them again, so do come back.
- Pip Olfinda** A unique selling point for Bella’s Place – Carrie’s death day canapés.
- Bella Pasta** What a shocking idea! Carrie was my friend.
- Dee Scovery** Well, for what it’s worth, I doubt if the canapés were poisoned – we all took them at random. Using the probability theory, the chance of Carrie being the wrong victim would be – let me just find my calculator.
- Bella Pasta** Anyway, Lotta ate far more canapés than Carrie. Lotta, you are good woman who likes good food.

Cont.

- Lotta Boddie** True! I enjoyed every one of those canapés.
- Leila Taybell** Have you thought of publishing a recipe book, Bella?
- Rita Ring** That’s a great idea! I love buying recipe books. Not that I do any fancy cooking now I’m on my own.
- Pip Olfinda** I’ve just bought a book of recipes for home-made dog food. I need to tempt Rex’s appetite.
- Bella Pasta** No, no recipe book, I have no time for writing! Is hard work running a business, as you well know, Pip.
- Pip Olfinda** That is very true. Perhaps we’d better get on with working out who the murderer is, then we can all go home.

Bella Pasta - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Pip Olfinda has a photograph in her wallet. Ask her who it's of and why does she keep looking at it?

You are concerned that Leila looks exhausted. Ask her whether she will be able to give up work soon.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You were not watching Carrie closely enough to know which canapés she had eaten, but you think it likely that she had some of the anchovy stuffed olives. They are a specialty you import from home for your own use. The taste is too strong for most restaurant guests, but you knew Carrie liked them and added a bowl of them to the menu.

You set up Bella's Place three years ago with funding from your father, who is a very successful business man in Sicily. His business interests are wide-ranging and he knows the value of a good restaurant.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Lotta Boddie | Poor Carrie never even got to open her birthday presents. And Sam's not going to want them – I bet they're all jewellery or scent. |
| Leila Taybell | I'm happy to help Sam decide what to do with the presents. |
| Dee Scovery | Not so fast, ladies. I imagine the police will take the presents away as evidence. |
| Rita Ring | Why would they do that? Could there be a clue in a present? |
| Bella Pasta | Oh for sure! A note saying, "Sorry you won't get to wear this, so I'll have it back!" Actually, that's a good idea – mine is a rather glitzy scarf. |
| Rita Ring | If we were allowed to open the presents, we could use mine now. It's a candle with calming scents. |

Cont.

Pip Olfinda	I'll bag that one for the office. We're going to need something soothing to get us through the next few weeks.
Leila Taybell	If they would let me into the kitchen I could make us all some coffee.
Dee Scovery	That's a good idea. I had a long journey to get here and I'm nearly falling asleep.
Bella Pasta	We need to stay alert! We must be nearly at the solution now.

Bella Pasta - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Dee Scovery seems worried about the press. Ask her if she's had any unwanted media attention.

Ask Lotta whether she will benefit financially from Carrie's death.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You are aware that some of the guests think your family have Mafia connections. You see this view as prejudice based on trashy films. Your father has never been charged with any offence and he dines regularly with the local judge. It is true that one of your brothers has been accused of stabbing someone, but that was just youthful high spirits and the family's expert lawyer will get him off the charge.

You took Leila on as a waitress as a favour to Carrie. Carrie told you, in strict confidence, that the baby is Sam's. Leila is too proud to accept money from Carrie, so this was her way of helping.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Bella Pasta

Concluding Statement

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

Bella Pasta speaks after Pip Olfinda, using the following dialogue:

Inconsiderate?! What about the reputation of Bella's Place? Customers may never trust us again after a poisoning! Mafioso are known for their business sense and they don't mess about in their own backyard. Er, not that that matters, of course, as I'm not involved with them.

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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