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There's something *fishy* going on

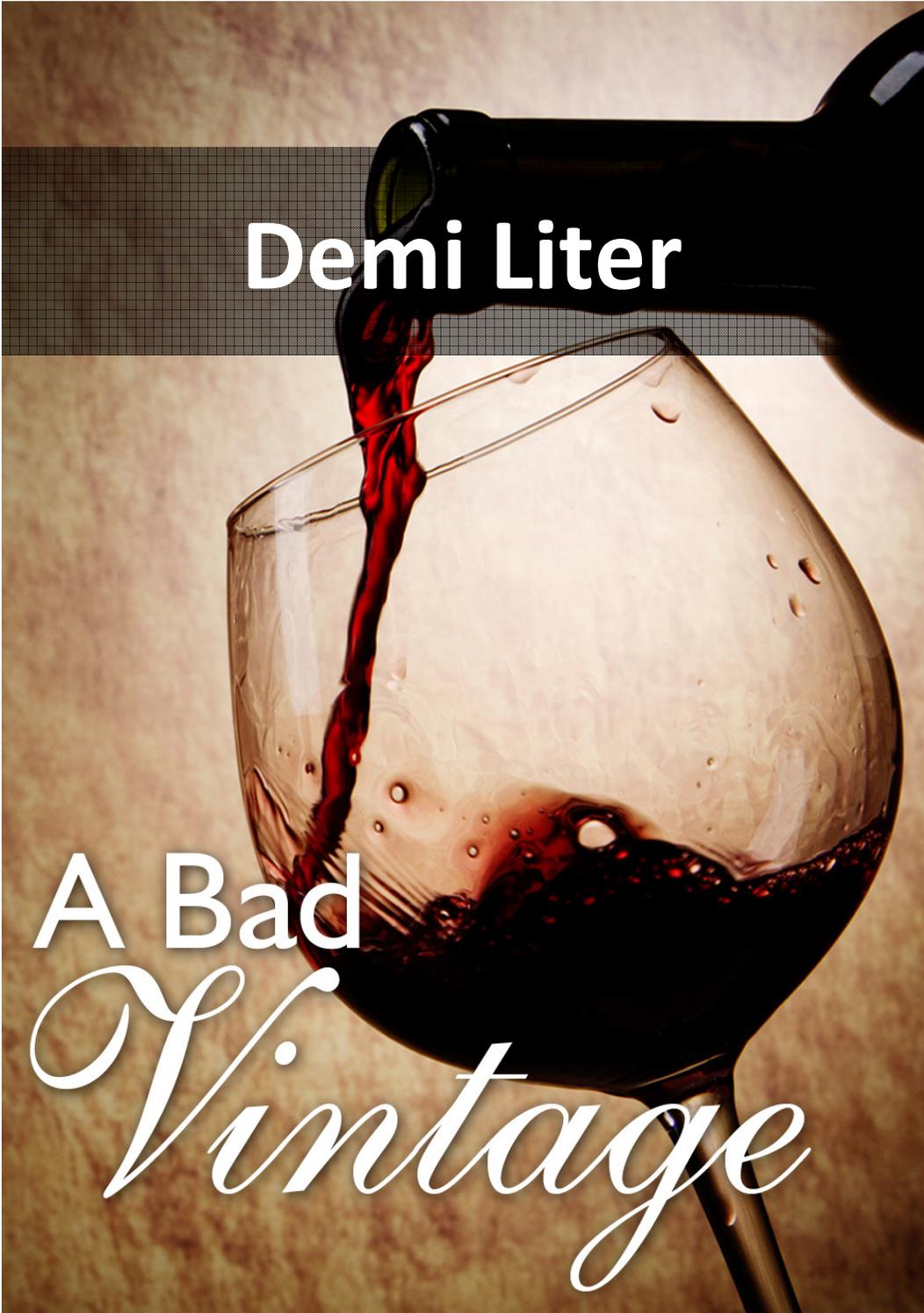
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A close-up photograph of a dark wine bottle being poured into a large, clear glass. The red wine is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash and bubbles within the glass. The background is a warm, textured, light brown color.

**Demi Liter**

**A Bad**  
*Vintage*

**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!

**Demi Liter**

**Background Character Information:**

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

You are high society and have the whole mixing, mingling and small-talking thing down pat.

You may have been recently widowed but you are still a hostess and will do the whole "hostess thing" regardless of how you are feeling.

You are, however, not a callous person. Although Max Liter wasn't an easy man to love these last few years, you did still have a bond with him on a very deep level and are saddened by his death. Therefore you will allow the odd, carefully controlled tear to leak out. You don't go in for uncontrollable sobbing. That just isn't you. Dab at your eyes. Sniff delicately and pull yourself together so you can get back to entertaining.

You and Byron have a "thing" going on but you keep it very discreet. Allow yourself to be flattered by him and drop subtle hints towards him.

## Demi Liter

### Introductions:

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

Demi Liter speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well, it seems I, Demi Liter, wife of the deceased, aren't even being allowed the decency of announcing my husband's death to my guests in private. Rather, you've all heard about Max's misfortune from the inspector. I'm so sorry that our evening soiree has turned into this. Please accept my heartfelt apologies. I'm sure the inspector won't keep you longer than necessary.

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

## Scripted Dialogue Round 1

- Byron Case** Oh Demi – I am so sorry you're having to be put through this. Clearly the police don't have any compassion.
- Ava Draft** I always thought they didn't have a sense of humour as well, but after those puns, clearly I'm mistaken.
- Nick Blogger** Those puns weren't particularly good.
- Ava Draft** I never said they had a *good* sense of humour Nick.
- Phillipa Delphia** Well, I'm just surprised they didn't make any more. I mean... there's all sort of other puns he could have used. He wants us to *agitate* people by asking questions for a start.
- Nick Blogger** While he *mulls* over the case?
- Tarquin Tokay** Perhaps it would be best if we *reserve* making any more comments for now. This is a murder enquiry and it's not particularly *good taste* is it?
- Phillipa Delphia** Yes, and it's all just all so dreadful! I can't believe Max is dead. You're holding up so well Demi – I would be in pieces.

**Cont.**

**Demi Liter** Then it's just as well you *weren't* married to him.

**Ava Draft** If you had been, you might feel a little differently about it.

**Byron Case** Well, I'm glad he's dead. There – I've said it.

**Phillipa Delphia** Byron! You can't say things like that – the police are listening!

**Demi Liter** Well, let's just get on with solving the case then shall we?

## **Demi Liter - First Round**

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

You know Phillipa Delphia hasn't been feeling well recently. Ask her if there is anything wrong?

Ask Tarquin Tokay if he had a lot of dealings with Max Liter. Was Tarquin a regular visitor at the estate?

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

You and Max Liter have not been happy in your marriage for sometime. Max has always had a wandering eye and has had a series of relationships with other women during the time you've been married. Every time you find out about a woman he tells you that it's over and that he has eyes only for you. After 20 years of his serial affairs, you embarked on one yourself and with that relationship blossoming you told him you wanted a divorce. Needless to say the rows at the mansion have been somewhat heated recently.

When you married, you and Max made out one of these standard 'either or survivor' wills. Now that Max has died, you will inherit the entire estate.

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

## Scripted Dialogue Round 2

**Nick Bagger** So Ava – Max was in *hock* was he.

**Ava Draft** Oh no... we aren't back to the wine puns are we?

**Tarquin Tokay** If we are – I'm sure we're down to the *dregs* – I think we covered them all last time.

**Demi Liter** Maybe we could just give the puns a rest this time?

**Byron Case** Put them aside you mean?

**Demi Liter** Don't you start!

**Nick Bagger** Well, I don't know about you – I don't like the idea of being labeled a murderer.

**Tarquin Tokay** I don't think he's labeled anyone yet Nick, but he does seem to think one of us is responsible.

**Demi Liter** I noticed that, but why they think I might have killed him I don't know. I've always lived a simple life. I like the cottage and the vines. Murder is not something I go in for.

**Cont.**

**Tarquin Tokay** You do prune though right? Perhaps you thought your husband could do with a bit of cutting back.

**Ava Draft** There's cutting back and cutting down Tarquin. I'm sure Demi wouldn't have taken it too far.

**Phillipa Delphia** What's to say whoever killed Max did it on purpose. Perhaps it was an accident?

**Nick Bagger** Someone accidentally just left him in the wine vat to drown?

**Phillipa Delphia** They could have knocked him in by accident and then been unable to get him out again.

**Tarquin Tokay** There's just the small matter of NOT calling for help though isn't there?

**Demi Liter** Look - why don't we just get back to the enquiry. Perhaps all will become clear.

## Demi Liter - Second Round

### Questions you should ask:

Ask Ava Draft whether she has any shares in the bank she works for. Does she have a vested interest in keeping the bank running smoothly?

Ask Nick Blagger if he knows why the Grand Cru estate could be in such financial difficulties when he himself spends a significant amount of money here.

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

Despite several attempts, you and Max were never able to conceive a child. It has been a bone of contention for you in the marriage. You always wanted a baby. Max would never agree to having any tests. He said there wasn't any point. He was very fatalistic about it all and said if you were supposed to have a family then you would have. He much preferred the freedom that having no children brought.

You are having an affair with Byron Case. You have been seeing each other for eight months now, whenever Bryon is in the area. Max never suspected you were seeing him, otherwise he wouldn't have invited Byron to the soiree tonight.

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

## Scripted Dialogue Round 3

<b>Byron Case</b>	Dredging through the vats? Oh that'll set back the wine making process by several weeks.
<b>Demi Liter</b>	And it had all just settled too. Sorry Byron – looks like you're just going to have to wait for your next order a little longer
<b>Ava Draft</b>	We could give you loan to tide you over if you wanted.
<b>Nick Blagger</b>	I hope you aren't intending to resell that particular vintage? Demi.
<b>Tarquin Tokay</b>	Yes, Max may have been a brute – but I don't think even I'd want his personally tainted wine.
<b>Phillipa Delphia</b>	I'm sure Demi isn't talking about reusing the vat Max was found in. There is more than one vat in the wine shed after all.
<b>Byron Case</b>	Yes, and thankfully only one has a dead body in it!
<b>Phillipa Delphia</b>	Does that mean only one killer?
<b>Ava Draft</b>	Not necessarily – but it's more rare to have an accomplice in these matters, isn't that true Tarquin?

**Cont.**

**Tarquin Tokay** Yes, it's true. The more people involved in a murder the harder it is to cover up. Besides – this hardly seems like a premeditated killing, not when there are so many witnesses.

**Byron Case** I'm sure whoever did it expects to get away with it – otherwise they'd have left already.

**Phillipa Delphia** What's to say they haven't?

**Demi Liter** The police! Inspector Piador said he was confident the killer was among us. They must have ways of knowing that.

**Nick Blagger** I'm sure they do, in the meantime, why don't you let me go first this time? I'm sure someone here has a question for me.

## **Demi Liter - Third Round**

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

Ask Ava Draft whether she saw anyone arguing with Max Liter in the vicinity of the wine vat in which his body was found.

Ask Nick Blagger if he saw anyone enter the shed where Max's body was found.

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

You were unaware that Max had become as heavily in debt as he was. He liked to deal with the finances himself and you had no idea things had got so bad. He had been talking about selling some of the tied cottages on the estate for some time but you just thought this was a business decision, not a necessity to keep the estate afloat.

As it happens, Max's death has resolved the estates's difficult financial situation. He had a significant life assurance policy and you suspect all the debts will be paid off with money to spare when it pays up. Needless to say, if you have no money worries<sup>5</sup> you won't be selling the estate! You love it here!

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

**Demi Liter**

**Concluding Statement**

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

**Demi Liter speaks after Byron Case using the following dialogue:**

I know you would Byron but as things have turned out you get to indulge both your passions. As for the financial situation – well, that wasn't something I planned. It's just fortuitous happenstance.

**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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