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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!

Koffey the Clown

Background Character Information:

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

You are a typical circus clown, dressed traditionally in multicoloured clothes. In common with many other clowns and comedians, when out of the ring or offstage you can be very serious and sometimes morose. You are quick to snap at people if they voice an opinion which opposes yours or if they criticise you in any way. Criticism you do not take kindly to as you are fastidious about your craft and believe yourself to be under-rated in the eyes of your colleagues.

Koffey the Clown

Introductions:

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

Koffey the Clown speaks first using the following dialogue:

Oh yes. As you know I am Koffey the clown, no relation to Coco I hasten to add. No, I come from a long line of caffeinated clowns, descended from the greatest clown of all time, Max Wellhouse. So, Whiplash is dead! Three cheers! At last I'm free from the miserable tyrant! "Koffey do this", "Koffey do that", "Koffey you are the lowest form of animal life". Well, not any more. Just because I was kicked out of my last job for stealing a lousy stick of greasepaint. And I only borrowed it really, honestly, but the charge stuck. Whiplash took me on, gave me a second chance, but he treated me like dirt. Oh, I suppose it's true that no other circus would touch me with a bargepole. Circus people are very hot on honesty among 'the family'. That's what we call ourselves, one big family.

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

- Koffey** Well I don't know about the rest of you but I'll make no secret of it. I'm not going to lose a minute's sleep over the demise of Ivor Whiplash! As long as Burnham and Barley keeps going I don't care who the governor is!
- Angel Wings** Me neither! Anyone would be better than him! Just as long as they don't inherit his cruel streak!
- Dirk Hurlitt** You're right Angel, his cruelty was hard to take. But I don't think we need worry. If I know Ella, and I think I do, this circus will be a happier place under her direction.
- Ella Vated** Thank you for those kind words, Dirk. Rest assured we're all going to benefit from this awful event. As they say, "It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good!"
- Amy Strate** That's all very well, but my poor Bengie and my fiancé are still dead and nothing can bring them back (sob sob).
- Xavier Fallin** Before we all start celebrating, we should remember that a murder investigation is underway and that Detective Inspector Miles A. Head isn't leaving until he solves the case. I think we should start considering our immediate situation.

Cont.

Amy Strate Yes, there are certainly a few important questions to be asked.

Xavier Fallin More to the point I think, is that they have to be answered.

Dirk Hurlitt Trust you to split hairs, Xavier.

Xavier Fallin On the contrary my friend, I believe it is you who can split hairs with those knives of yours.

Amy Strate Well I for one am grateful for that! It's my body stood against the target. If his aim was off I too could die!

Angel Wings The circus is a dangerous place. Any of us could die any day.

Koffey Maybe so, but none of us expect to be murdered, do we?

Ella Vated I'm not so sure. This is the second murder at this circus in three years.

Dirk Hurlitt Very true. But the man who committed the first one is now dead. Or is he?

Koffey the Clown - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Why did Ella Vated not go to the police with the evidence she found?

Amy Strate was engaged to Ivor's brother. What did Ivor think about that?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You were formerly employed at Blondin's Holiday Camp as 'Uncle Koffey, the Children's Entertainer'. You were kicked out for stealing. Blondin's has since closed down.

You resented the way you were treated by Ivor Whiplash and there were times when you could happily have killed him but he did, after all said and done, take you on when nobody else would employ you.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Dirk Hurlitt** I don't know why you're all looking at me. It might have been one of my knives but I didn't throw it. At least, not at Ivor Whiplash!
- Amy Strate** I can believe that! It's me that those knives are aimed at but not when my back is turned! Dirk wouldn't be so cowardly.
- Ella Vated** That's a bit pointed, Amy! No pun intended.
- Xavier Fallin** No! She's right. A stab in the back is a stab in the back whichever way you look at it.
- Angel Wings** Well if you ask me, none of the men in this circus are cowards. It seems more likely to have been a woman, but that's just a stab in the dark.
- Ella Vated** Now who's making puns?
- Koffey** If somebody's making buns, I'll have one now. I feel a bit peckish!
- Amy Strate** Koffey!! This is no time for jesting! A man has been killed!
- Koffey** All right! Keep your shirt on! I'm only trying to lighten up the situation. That is my job after all!
- Dirk Hurlitt** Speaking of jobs, let's hope we all still have one after this business is finally resolved.

Cont.

- Xavier Fallin** That inspector isn't giving much away. I wonder whose name he's withholding? I can't believe it's me, but I suppose it could be any of us.
- Angel Wings** Maybe no-one. Policemen use little hints like that to get people rattled. He hopes someone will let something slip.
- Ella Vated** That's assuming we have something to hide.
- Amy Strate** Well one of us has, that's for sure. The sooner we get to the bottom of it the better.
- Dirk Hurlitt** Talk about stating the obvious. Tell us something we don't know.
- Koffey** Well I can tell you something we do know. There are a lot of questions that we need to be asking before that policeman comes back. I have a feeling he expects us to do his job for him. He didn't seem too happy to have had his holiday cut short and I can't say I blame him. So perhaps we should try to oblige him by probing a bit deeper into the evidence.
- Ella Vated** Fair comment. After all, it's in our interest to get it sorted. Tonight's performance has already been cancelled and we can't afford to lose any more.
- Koffey** Thinking about the profits already, Ella? That's a typical governor for you. The King is dead, long live the Queen, eh?

Koffey the Clown - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Has Angel Wings ever had a serious fall from the trapeze? Ask her if Xavier has ever failed to catch her?

Somebody commented that Dirk Hurlitt could split hairs. Ask Dirk if he really is that good.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Now that Blondin's has closed down and your accusation of stealing has lapsed with it's demise you have tried to apply for other jobs to get away from Ivor Whiplash. You applied for a job with Willie Slick's Circus but Willie told you that he had more than enough clowns already.

You have never been invited into Whiplash's van and you had no desire to go there.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

- Ella Vated** Well I don't know about you, but I don't feel like I'm any nearer the answer than when we started! Perhaps we've been asking the wrong questions.
- Koffey** Or getting the wrong answers!
- Dirk Hurlitt** Well I for one haven't been holding anything back.
- Amy Strate** That goes for me too!
- Angel Wings** I'm not sure that I want to be answering any more questions. It's all very upsetting.
- Xavier Fallin** The whole thing is upsetting. After all, it's not everyday we find ourselves investigating a murder. We're circus performers, not detectives. I think we should leave it to the police to solve. That's what they get paid for!
- Koffey** I think he has a point. But on the other hand if we don't help the Inspector to sort it out we could be here for days! We all have work to do and sitting here is not getting it done, is it?
- Amy Strate** I tend to agree with Koffey. We all need to rack our brains and come up with the sort of questions that'll lead us to the killer and we need to do it quickly. Then maybe we can get back to normal.

Cont.

Angel Wings It's a nice thought, but I don't see us ever getting back to normal as you put it. We have had two suspicious deaths in three years. We circus folks are very superstitious. I begin to wonder if there's a jinx on this place.

Ella Vated You could be right! Maybe it wouldn't be such a bad thing if Willie Slick took us over. Perhaps it would break the spell.

Dirk Hurlitt Superstitious we might be, but jinx or no jinx, it was no ghost or gremlin that murdered our boss. Unfortunately it was one of us and I'm beginning to have my suspicions. Only time will tell if I am right.

Amy Strate I too have a few clues but I really need to get some things straightened out before I can be sure.

Ella Vated It's like I said, we've a lot more probing to do. We're missing some vital information.

Xavier Fallin Alright, alright! Probe away but let's get on with it and get it over with! I'm losing the will to live!

Amy Strate A bit dramatic, don't you think? You're not on the trapeze now.

Xavier Fallin More's the pity! That's where I belong, up there, where everything is calm and beautiful. Just me and my lovely Angel, gliding like two eagles in a cloudless sky.

Koffey And squawking like crows on a leafless tree!

Koffey the Clown - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Xavier Fallin if he possesses one of Dirk Hurlit's knives.

Angel Wings had a nasty moment during the matinee show. Ask her how it affected her.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

After the matinee performance, you went back to your caravan and chopped firewood, using one of Dirk Hurlitt's discarded knives. They are still very sharp and you cut your right hand quite badly and went to the First Aid tent to get it dressed.

On returning from the First Aid tent, you were gathering up the wood you had chopped when you heard two whip cracks and a sharp scream. They seemed to come from the Big Top. A few moments later you heard a groan and a thud. You thought that you'd better investigate and on entering the Big Top you found Ivor Whiplash lying face down in the ring with a knife in his back. No one else was in the Big Top, but you did catch a glimpse of somebody disappearing out of the rear exit. Unfortunately you couldn't see who it was. You ran out of the Big Top and called for help.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Koffey the Clown

Concluding Statement

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

Koffey the Clown speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well I've told you before and I'll tell you again. Ivor was already dead when I found him and anyway, I left the knife I was using outside my van after I cut my hand on it. Yes, I'm glad the man is dead, but it was not my doing.

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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