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Murder at Curst Mansion



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!

William Curst

Background Character Information:

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

You are a very rich and very powerful man that has a significant influence in the press.

You are currently in a relationship with Carrie Onvamping. She is significantly younger than you.

You are a very jealous man and often suspect your mistress, Carrie Onvamping, of having affairs with other men.

William Curst

Introductions:

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

William Curst speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well, (SIGH) it's no surprise to me that Oscar Tame is dead. He had it coming to him if you ask me. Always sticking his nose in where it's not wanted. Not that I wanted him dead you understand!

In fact, I spoke to him just the other day. Seems he wanted a position as my publicist - fat chance of that happening! That position is already filled and we've never exactly seen eye to eye. (SARCASTIC LAUGH) I'm William Curst. You've probably heard of me and my influence on all the local press. I'd like to think I'm a pretty powerful man, and a wealthy one at that. I can't say that I had much to do Mr Tame, but I'd be lying if I said I was sorry he's dead.

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| William Curst | I can't believe the body of a journalist has been discovered on my property! This is going to do nothing for my reputation. |
| Al Capop | What reputation, old man? I'm the one that should be worrying – people are going to say I murdered him, just because I have a bit of a murky history... |
| Lois Bong | What if it was murder, and the murderer is trying to kill all the journalists here tonight? I could be in danger! |
| Alice Sedd | If you're right then I could be in danger too! |
| Carrie Onvamping | (GIGGLES) I think a bit of danger would be very exciting! I like to live on the wild side!
(WINKS) |
| Alice Sedd | Don't be so daft, you silly girl. This isn't a game! Some poor man is dead! |
| William Curst | I quite agree, Alice. This is no laughing matter. |

Cont.

Lessie Smore

I think that we should do as the nice detective said. Seeing as how we're stuck here anyway, we might as well see what we can do to help speed up the investigation!

Al Capop

Good idea! And I think there's no better place to start than to establish just how well we all knew Oscar Tame.

William Curst - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Why didn't Lessie Smore's relationship with the journalist end well?

You couldn't help but notice that Lois arrived with a very nice bag tonight. Where did she get it from?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

As everyone knows, you have a big influence over the press. Mr Tame and yourself have had differences of opinion in the past - what should be published, what should be left out, that sort of thing. Recently he's been overstepping his boundaries, both professionally and personally.

You hired Oscar because you wanted to keep a close eye on him. He's been spending a lot of time with your Carrie recently and you really don't like it. You thought that if you had them both in the same place you could work out what was really going on between them.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Lessie Smore** Well I never, a murder! That certainly wasn't the after-dinner entertainment I was expecting!
- William Curst** What does that detective think he's playing at, considering us all as suspects?
- Al Capop** I'm thinking he needs to spend some time with the fishes - Curst's impressive fish collection is often overlooked!
- Alice Sedd** This is no time for jokes, Al. Someone at this table is a murderer!
- Carrie Onvamping** There's no need to spook us all out Alice!
(GIGGLES AND WINKS)
- Lois Bong** Say, this would make a great story! I'm just itching to start writing about Tame!
- Alice Sedd** Tame has been written off more like!
- Lessie Smore** And you call yourself a journalist with lines like that?!
- William Curst** Well I think this inane conversation is getting us nowhere! Perhaps we should follow the inspector's orders and continue with this investigation.

William Curst - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Does Lessie hold a grudge about being dumped by the journalist for another woman?

Was Al Capop suggesting that Oscar Tame had tried to get in on one of Al's dodgy dealings?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You've always liked to make a grand entrance so you decided to wait until all your guests had arrived before you came to greet them. While the guests were arriving, you were alone upstairs, shaving. You have a lovely view of your gardens from your bedroom and you were enjoying listening to the guests arrive.

You went upstairs to get ready before the guests arrived so you don't actually know if Carrie left the kitchen, although you instructed her not to do so.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

William Curst Why would anyone want to move the body?

Lessie Smore Someone was obviously trying to throw the investigation team off the scent!

Carrie Onvamping Sounds like you've thought this through, Lessie. (WINKS)

William Curst I think we're all supposed to be thinking it through, Carrie. That's the whole point! We'll never get to leave if we don't figure it out!

Al Capop Quit your complaining William, ya big pansy!

William Curst Anyone would think I'm not providing you with enough entertainment!

Alice Sedd I think next time I'd prefer something a little less dramatic. Perhaps Lessie would oblige by singing some of her jazz for us!

Carrie Onvamping Or I could do a monologue from a recent play I've starred in!

Cont.

Alice Sedd I said something *less* dramatic dear.

Al Capop And I think 'starred' is a bit of an overstatement!

Carrie Onvamping All this tension is making me feel uncomfortable (SHUDDER)

Lois Bong And this unsolved murder is making *me* feel uncomfortable, so lets get back to trying to solve it!

William Curst - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

What sort of persuasion was the journalist using to get Carrie to publicise her affair?

Has Lessie seen the journalist since they had their nasty break-up?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You told Carrie that you were going upstairs to prepare yourself for the imminent arrival of your guests but as all your staff were busy setting the table in the dining room, no one actually saw you enter your bedroom. You definitely went upstairs though and you even have a shaving cut on your face to validate your story!

As your bedroom window faces out onto the driveway, you saw and heard all your guests arriving. One thing struck you as particularly odd. You saw Al Capop arrive and enter the mansion but as you were leaving your bedroom to join the party, you glanced through the window and could have sworn you saw him walking through the grounds.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

William Curst

Concluding Statement

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

William Curst speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well, I think it must be pretty obvious to all of you that it wasn't me who murdered Oscar Tame! Yes, it's true that I believed he was having an affair with my wife but if I was going to murder the poor man then why would I choose to do it tonight? I invited the journalist here tonight to cover the event and that was the only reason!

After you have heard from all the guests make a prediction as to who the murderer is and why.

Tell the others.