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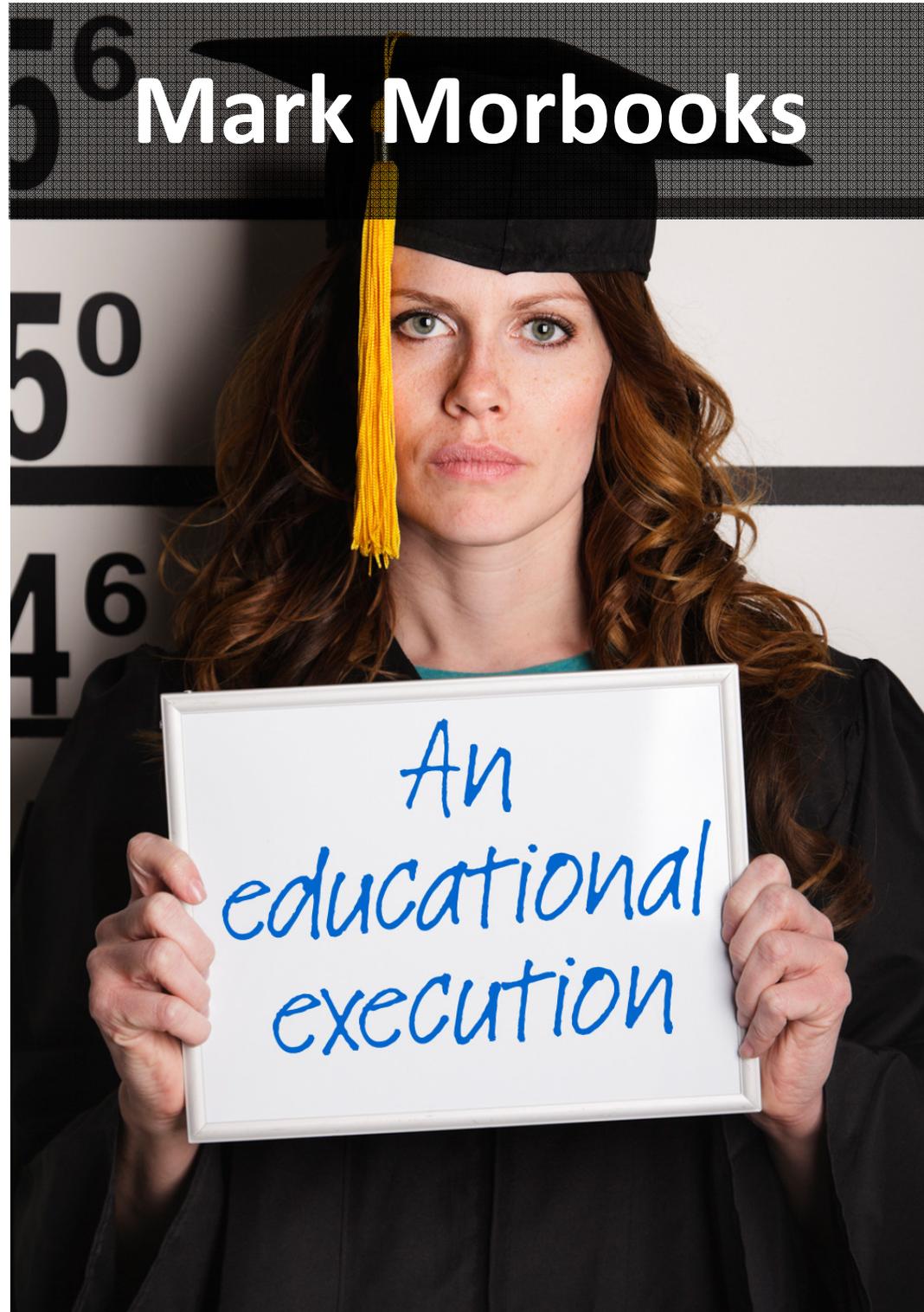
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Mark Morbooks



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!

Mark Morbooks

Background Character Information:

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

You are energetic, bouncy and have lots of enthusiasm.

Unfortunately you tend to treat everyone like you do the children, talking down to people, which really annoys them.

Quote famous writers throughout the evening. Find educational possibilities within the murder mystery. Perhaps it will inspire the kids to write short stories about the deputy head, or newspaper reports for the school newspaper.

Mark Morbooks

Introductions:

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

Mark Morbooks speaks after Gill Ted using the following dialogue:

Ecstatic I should think, if I know them. And the fact he was murdered... well, they'll love that. They are a bloodthirsty lot, though I suppose the same can't be said of the little ones. They are always so in awe of any teacher. I still remember when one of them discovered I had a first name. For some reason they had just assumed I was called Mr. Morbooks by everyone! To find out I had a name like Mark was a real shock to them.

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gill Ted | I must say this has all been rather a shock. Look at me. I'm shaking. |
| Mark Morbooks | Then get yourself a drink Gill. It'll calm your nerves. |
| Anne Abacus | Unless it's coffee. I find that really sets me on edge. |
| Penny Pincher | Oh, you need to start using decaf Anne, it's so much better, and you can't taste the difference. |
| Ben Hackin | I don't know, it sounds like we could all use some caffeine right now to stand any chance of solving this murder. |
| Andy Mann | I'm not sure if I'm even bothered. He had it coming. I'm just glad he's gone. |
| Ben Hackin | Be careful what you say Andy – the detective is still listening. |
| Anne Abacus | And after Gill's scream probably half the area is too. I didn't know you could scream so loudly Gill. |
| Gill Ted | Only when the need arises, and trust me, it arose this evening. |

Cont.

Penny Pincher What shall we tell the kids?

Mark Morbooks Nothing. At least, nothing for now. When this is all cleared up, then we can tell them. We don't want them all upset.

Gill Ted I wouldn't mind betting they wouldn't be upset at all. Not when you told them who'd died.

Anne Abacus Couldn't you have a little more compassion?

Mark Morbooks This is *Gill* you are talking to Chris.

Gill Ted Meaning?

Mark Morbooks Nothing.

Anne Abacus Perhaps we should just get on with the questioning, as Inspector Trinnian has asked?

Andy Mann Don't forget the food - I'm starving!

Gill Ted All right, Andy. Why don't I start us off. I found him after all. I'm sure if you give me a minute I'll have a question for someone.

Mark Morbooks - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Andy Mann about the fight he had with Ed Hunter the other day. What was it about?

Ask Ben Hackin whether he spoke to Ed Hunter this evening before he was found dead.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You overheard the Headmaster and Anne Abacus talking one day about small items being removed from the school and told them immediately you suspected Ed Hunter. You have been checking through the CCTV security cameras to try and catch Ed Hunter out. So far he hasn't removed anything large enough to detect on the cameras.

You didn't like Ed Hunter one bit. You've never trusted him, and of all the staff here, you think you are the only one who realised he was a crook from the word go. He might have pulled the wool over everyone else's eyes, but you like to think of yourself as a little more discerning. You've been keeping an eye on him for some time.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

Andy Mann Well, that was fun.

Gill Ted Not.

Anne Abacus Oh, I don't know. It's a bit more entertaining than the usual staff functions.

Mark Morbooks That's probably because Ed Hunter isn't here.

Penny Pincher Well... not in spirit. But I do believe his body is still lying out there on the ground.

Gill Ted Did you have to mention that again?

Andy Mann Don't worry Gill, I'm sure the police will have it taken away soon.

Ben Hackin Don't count on it. They've got all the photographing and measuring and recording to do first.

Penny Pincher At least they've decided how he was killed now.

Gill Ted Confirmed how he was killed, Penny, confirmed. After all, I already told them *how* he died. Being whacked over the head with a crowbar is kind of an obvious cause of death.

Cont.

Anne Abacus Oh, I don't know. I saw this programme once where it looked like someone had been hit over the head with a poker and it turned out he'd actually hit himself on the mantelpiece and it was made to look like –

Penny Pincher [INTERRUPTS] Yeah! I saw that one too. And this funny moustached person came up and told everyone that it wasn't who they thought it was and –

Mark Morbooks [INTERRUPTS] That was Inspector Poirot, I think. Which means it's fiction, you two, not fact. The police in real life deal with facts. And before you say anything else, this isn't soap opera – his twin brother isn't suddenly going to come walking through the door.

Anne Abacus He has a twin brother? He never told me.

Gill Ted He doesn't have a twin brother Anne. I think it was an illustration.

Andy Mann If you ask me, we're getting nowhere fast talking like this. Shall we get back to the questioning? I'm sure I have a question for someone.

Mark Morbooks - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Penny where she was before the party started. Was she working late?

Ask Gill Ted if she ever heard any complaints about Ed Hunter.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You were the person who originally reported the lifted restrictions on the office computers to Ben Hackin. Ben Hackin told you he'd worked out who had removed the restrictions this evening. He was going to talk to the person concerned about it. He didn't mention any names, but you guessed it was Ed Hunter.

You have long been interested in wrestling and fight clubs. It's a great sport to watch, but just because you watch a violent sport it doesn't make you a violent person. Just like watching baseball doesn't make you a fantastic batsman, or watching synchronised swimming doesn't mean you wear a flowery hat and goggles every time you enter a pool! It's just a bit of fun.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

- Gill Ted** Perhaps now would be a good time to sing a rousing chorus of the school song to cheer ourselves up?
- Mark Morbooks** Are you joking? Have you heard Andy singing?
- Andy Mann** What's the matter with my singing?
- Ben Hackin** It was *singing* was it? I thought you were torturing the school cat!
- Anne Abacus** I can't sing either Andy, don't worry.
- Mark Morbooks** I don't think anyone can sing the school song.
- Penny Pincher** Then why am I always asked to photocopy the words?
- Gill Ted** It's good for morale.
- Mark Morbooks** Well, I think Ed Hunter's death will do more for morale than the school song ever did.
- Gill Ted** You could be right there Mark.

Cont.

Anne Abacus I wish the kids were here tonight. They'd love all this CSI stuff.

Penny Pincher Surely you can't mean that Anne – I hardly think they'd enjoy seeing a dead body for real.

Ben Hackin Clearly you don't know the kids that well. They're a gruesome bunch at the best of times.

Gill Ted Yes, well, shall we carry on with this enquiry? I'd like to get it over and done with and go home at a reasonable hour.

Penny Pincher Can I go first this time? I already have a question for someone.

Gill Ted The floor is yours, Penny.

Mark Morbooks - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

You saw Gill Ted walking out of the men's toilets. Can she explain herself?

Andy Mann left the room earlier this evening before Ed was found dead. Ask Andy Mann if anyone else left the room at the same time as him.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You went out of the room for some air just before Ed Hunter was killed. You went outside for a brisk walk around the car park and saw Andy Mann standing by his car. He seemed to be waiting for someone. When you came back in you saw Anne Abacus talking to Ed Hunter. Ed Hunter had a crow-bar with him. You went to the bathroom before going back into the party. The cold always makes you need to pee. Anne Abacus and Ed Hunter were so deep in conversation they probably didn't see you.

Although you like staff parties, you can sometimes find them quite suffocating, with staff sucking up to the senior leadership team who they've been quite happy to complain about behind their backs for the rest of the year. It's just so two-faced it annoys you. You can only take so much before you have to get some space and calm down.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Mark Morbooks

Concluding Statement

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

Mark Morbooks speaks first using the following dialogue:

I don't care what Mr. Trinnian says, I hardly think I have to prove anything, least of all my innocence, but if you need proof, well, Anne was speaking to Ed Hunter when I went into the bathroom, so it can't have been me who killed him.

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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