

We hope you enjoyed taking part in this Red Herring Games murder mystery and will visit us again to try out our other games.

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A Christmas Cracker Killing



Paula Kracker
Character Booklet

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!

1 2

Paula Kracker

Background Character Information:

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

You have a bubbly and entertaining nature and have always enjoyed circulating with high society.

Your recent loss has not hampered your ability to act as the perfect hostess, so circulate, keep glasses topped up, entertain people with short anecdotes and witty conversation and generally have a ball. Remember to dab at the eye occasionally to show you are still grieving your loss.

Gaye Garland is your daughter from your first marriage to Hugh Garland – a disaster of a relationship with only one redeeming feature - Gaye. Gaye is currently in a relationship with Phil Stockins, someone of whom you don't particularly approve. Make that very clear and try to match make her with any other eligible male at the party. She's sure to see sense one of these days!

You think Frank Incense might be attracted to you. Encourage him.

Paula Kracker**Introductions:**

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

Paula Kracker speaks first using the following dialogue:

What is he talking about? Murder? Buster wasn't murdered! He died of natural causes – the coroner said so! And surely Christmas is not the time to bring up such things? What letter? What conspiracy? The man's a fraud I tell you! Buster always loved Christmas. It was "his time to shine" as he put it. He left me, Paula, his wife, arranging this last party in his honour, not as some sort of personal vendetta.

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Phil Stockins | I don't know about "rocking around the Christmas tree". This news has left me reeling! |
| Gaye Garland | If that was meant to be a joke Phil – it wasn't funny. |
| Paula Kracker | I agree. Now is not the time for silly quips. |
| Rudolph Snose | You could say it was Snow laughing matter. |
| Holly Sprigg | Rudolph! Really! I KNOW it's Christmas and you want everyone to be full of festive cheer – |
| Frank Incense | So long as they've purchased it from him. |
| Holly Sprig | Am I allowed to finish without interruptions? |
| Frank Incense | Do go on my dear. You will anyway. |
| Holly Sprig | As I was saying... |
| Gaye Garland | Oh Holly, you really are boring! Lighten up! It's Christmas! Buster's been dead for six months, he's not going to mind. Besides it was he that organised the party remember? |
| Paula Kracker | With ulterior motives my dear, in case you've forgotten. It wasn't a polite invitation. More of an impolite accusation. |

Cont.

- Holly Sprig** Are you sure he wasn't just playing a prank on us? It was his way...
- Frank Incense** And he died of natural causes, his obituary said as much.
- Holly Sprig** His obituary was quite long as I recall, and like you say Frank, it didn't mention anything about suspicious death. Just the usual achievements and accolades.
- Frank Incense** Why not simply just ask his wife. Surely she'd know if he died of anything other than natural causes. Paula?
- Paula Kracker** I believe I've already said as much Frank, and if there's one thing I hate more than being accused of murdering my husband, it's repeating myself over and over again.
- Gaye Garland** Then it's a joke, it has to be.
- Phil Stockins** But it wouldn't hurt to ask each other a few questions like the inspector said. Let's just make it part of the Christmas festivities, you know, like those conversation cards you get sometimes.
- Holly Sprig** In that case who'd like to ask me a question? Just don't make it anything embarrassing...

Paula Kracker

First Round

Questions you should ask:

You heard that Buster was struggling to do anything before he died, and that he had lost the use of his hands. Ask Gaye Garland how he managed to keep running a business when he couldn't hold a pen to provide any signatures.

Ask Rudolph Snose if he had a business arrangement with Buster?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Buster had cancer, so do reassure everyone that his death was entirely natural. You can't understand why the police inspector has been called in to investigate now. Even the GP said he died of cancer. Before Buster died he was suffering with a lot of pain and was taking some seriously strong painkillers. Towards the end the morphine was administered by injection.

Buster always wrote the jokes inside the crackers. He was always a practical joker and thought he was terribly funny. He wasn't. Everyone knows how banal cracker jokes can be and although he wasn't funny, he was an expert in banality! This "incident" with the police inspector tonight is very typical of Buster's sick sense of humour and you aren't impressed.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Rudolph Snose** It's all a bit tenuous if you ask me. Chronic exposure to arsenic and now a murder enquiry. What do you think Phil?
- Phil Stockins** Very tenuous. Arsenic is a naturally occurring compound.
- Gaye Garland** But mummy isn't sick remember? Surely if it was natural she'd be ill too?
- Holly Sprig** Which rather implicates someone in the house don't you think?
- Paula Kracker** Do you really think I'd have asked you all here if I'd killed Buster? Honestly – what do you take me for?
- Frank Incense** I'd take you for anything, anytime Paula – but I guess that's not what you mean.
- Phil Stockins** Don't you know a rhetorical question when you hear one Frank?
- Frank Incense** I'm not sure. Was that rhetorical or not?
- Holly Sprig** Well, I don't know about any of you – but *I* want to find out who killed Buster. If he thinks someone at this table did it – and I know it wasn't me, that leaves me with 5 possibilities.

Cont.

7 8

- Gaye Garland** This is all assuming we trust Dr Watt's diagnosis of course.
- Phil Stockins** Dr ... who?
- Gaye Garland** No Dr Watt. Dr Who is the television thing Robin, Dr Watt is our local practitioner.
- Phil Stockins** I didn't mean Dr Who, I meant Dr... who? I'd not heard the name before. Is he reliable?
- Rudolph Snose** He's always accurately diagnosed my problems.
- Gaye Garland** Yes, just a shame he can't fix them isn't it?
- Holly Sprig** Now, now Gaye! Be polite to your mother's guests.
- Paula Kracker** [Polite cough] er... perhaps we should continue with the real enquiry ladies. Perhaps one of you would like to as a question to get us started?
- Holly Sprig** I think I have a question for someone. Let me start this time.

Paula Kracker - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask your daughter Gaye what she thought of the fact that Buster Kracker made arrangements for this special box of crackers to be used at the dinner party this evening.

Rudolph Snose had an argument with Buster earlier in the year before Buster got sick. What was the argument about? Ask Rudolph.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You were very unhappy in your marriage to Buster. He was a boring man. Rich but boring. You like the razzle-dazzle, he didn't. The marriage was one long exercise in boredom. Fortunately Buster was happy so long as you were happy, so he let you spend as much as you wanted and see who you liked. There was no romance. You simply shared a house and a surname and you had very little in common.

You employed several staff to maintain Trimming Mansion, many of whom have become good friends. Bob the gardener has spent many hours with you in the garden - and in the shed! He's always been very good with his hands and can get any number of things to grow. Certain plants suffer with blackfly and you've seen Bob using pesticides on them from time to time. You've heard that pesticides contain arsenic as well, so you guess there would have been some arsenic on the property in Bob's shed.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Paula Kracker | Well I don't feel like we're any closer to solving the case. |
| Frank Incence | No, but I feel a bit closer to you. |
| Gaye Garland | Not now Frank. Honestly! You do pick your moments. Can't you see mummy's upset? |
| Phil Stockins | I know what he means though Gaye, I feel like we've got to know each other that little bit better. |
| Gaye Garland | Yes, I've found out you're a coward. |
| Holly Sprig | A coward maybe, but at least he is persistent. I'm sure he'd have one Buster around eventually. |
| Paula Kracker | I've found most men struggle with the "asking the father" thing. Though I have to say, it's getting less common these days. |
| Rudolph Snose | Some people don't even get married. |
| Frank Incense | Yes, and I bet the Vicar worries about that. It'd put him out of a job rather wouldn't it? |

Cont.

- Holly Sprig** Still, he doesn't have to wait any longer. I take it we'll be hearing news of a new year engagement Phil?
- Phil Stockins** Shh! Don't ruin the surprise.
- Gaye Garland** Oh! Have you bought a ring?
- Paula Kracker** Don't tell her Phil! Let it be a surprise! Trust me Gaye. It's always much more romantic when it's a surprise. Besides, you can take the ring back if you don't like it.
- Rudolph Snose** I have some very good Don Perrignon stored in the cellar here, and I'm prepared to cut you a good rate.
- Phil Stockins** So long as I don't mention your little relabeling scam to the papers?
- Rudolph Snose** Something like that. Only it wasn't MY relabeling scheme if you remember, it was Buster's. Still, it wouldn't hurt to keep the name of the firm out of the press. I'm still recovering customers, the last thing I need is to lose more.
- Frank Incense** In that case, let's get back to the questioning. I think I have a question for someone.

Paula Kracker

Third Round

Questions you should ask:

You saw an Arabian gentleman at Holly Sprig's riding stables the other day. Was he buying a horse? If so, which one?

Buster and Frank Incense had a blazing row back in the spring. Can Frank shed some light on the argument? What was it about?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You were often left to socialise on your own. The only party he ever regularly attended was the yearly Christmas one you held at Trimming Mansion, much as you're doing tonight. It has to be said, it was much easier organising it without him. However, Buster always supplied special crackers for the Christmas party and when these arrived today, you felt that it was a last sweet parting gesture from him. How wrong you were!

Buster and you rarely ate together and you actually had very different tastes. He drank whisky, red wine and bottled water - not all in the same glass! You never drank any of those in the house. He also liked different muesli for breakfast, used different toothpaste (as you didn't share a bathroom) and took different medication. It would have been fairly easy to poison one of you and not the other.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Paula Kracker

Concluding Statement

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

Paula Kracker speaks first using the following dialogue:

Something to say? Something to say?! Of course I've got something to say! This is just typical of Buster! Him and his practical jokes! Well I don't find it very funny at all. In fact, I think it's in very poor taste. Here am I, a grieving widow and now with a murder accusation slung at me, for a man who died of cancer!

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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