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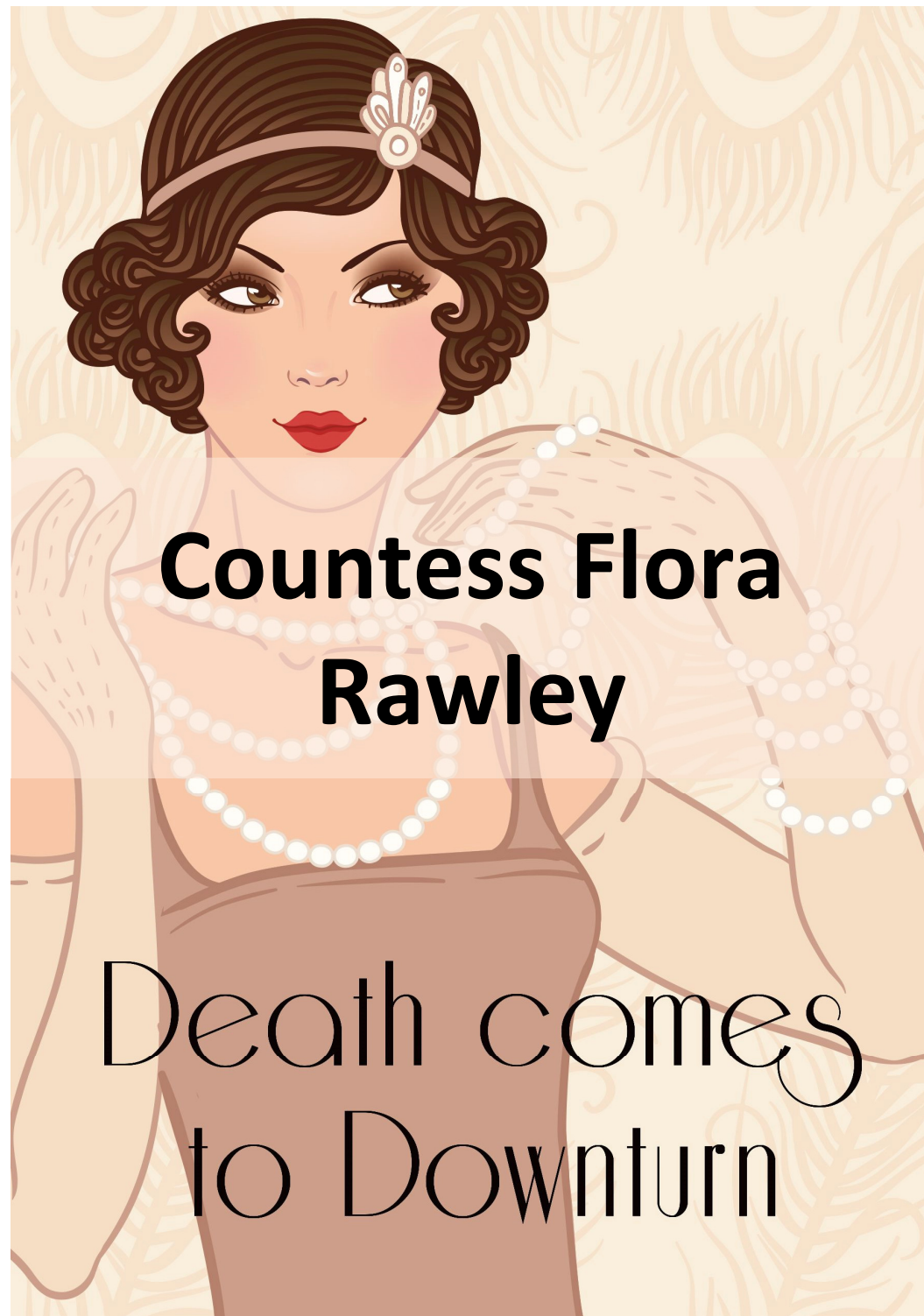
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Congratulations! You are taking part in a murder mystery by Red Herring Games.

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!

Countess Flora Rawley

Background Character Information:

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

You are an American heiress who has bagged a title. Now, as the Countess of Grandham, you are the richest woman in the county.

You are kind and gracious to your guests. That crushing snobbery that the English excel in is not in your nature. However, you find your daughter Ethel a little irritating.

Make sure everyone is well looked after and keep ordering tea.

Countess Flora Rawley

Introductions:

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

Lady Flora speaks first using the following dialogue:

“Dear Mrs Pratmore, could you ring for some tea? We’ve all had a terrible shock! Poor Richard! I thought he was a little off colour. And he kept complaining of a poorly tummy. Oh, how I wish I’d called Doctor Parkinson!

I’m Lady Flora Rawley, Countess of Grandham. Please accept my apologies for this unfortunate turn of events. Life is usually so quiet at Downturn.”

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Lady Martha	Poor Papa is dead.
Lady Ethel	How beastly!
Miss O’Ryan	Will you cancel the party tonight, your ladyship?
Lady Flora	I’m not sure. Mrs Pratmore’s been making food all day. It would be a shame to waste it.
Maisy	You’ll have to tell the guests.
Lady Flora	No, one doesn’t mention such things in polite society.
Mrs Pratmore	But begging your pardon, they’ll wonder where he is.
Lady Ethel	She can hardly say he’s been murdered.
Miss O’Ryan	We should send for the gentlemen.
Lady Flora	Let’s not spoil the shoot. This is the only dry day they’ve had.
Lady Martha	Yes, leave them to their pleasures, after all it’s unlikely he was killed by one of them. They’ve been out for hours.
Maisy	Which means the murderer is here.

Cont.

Miss O’Ryan	Regrettably, yes.
Mrs Pratmore	I fear Prudence will keep us up all night with her questions.
Lady Martha	Yes, I was hoping to turn in. I’m not in the mood for the party.
Lady Ethel	How can you say that? I couldn’t possibly get a wink of sleep.
Lady Martha	I don’t want you to get the wrong idea. I’m not heartless, just tired.
Mrs Pratmore	This is a complete nightmare!.
Lady Ethel	I know, it’s like being in one of those ghastly novels they sell at railway stations.
Lady Flora	I’ll ring for tea, shall I? I think we’re all in need of a cup.
Mrs Pratmore	Make mine a sweet one. I could faint away!
Maisy	Nonsense, you’re as strong as an ox!

Countess Flora Rawley - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Miss O’ Ryan what she’s doing at Downturn. She left the house under a storm cloud over a year ago and nothing has been heard of her since.

Ask Maisy whether she enjoys working at Downturn.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Well, Richard was generally hale and hearty and rarely suffered from stomach problems. This morning, however, he told you he was feeling under the weather and complained of a severe stomach ache, adding he would have to miss the shoot. You thought it may be down to the amount of alcohol he consumed last night. He has been drinking rather a lot lately.

It is easy to imagine that someone would want to harm Richard. He was a difficult man to live with - very stuck in his ways and too quick to judge others. He was also under a lot of financial strain and had become very argumentative. You heard him shouting at someone in the library just after twelve, although you don’t really want to discuss it any further as there are, ahem, servants present.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

Lady Flora I'm most frightfully cut up about this

Miss O'Ryan Have another cup of tea, your Ladyship.

Lady Ethel Will you pour Mrs Pratmore?

Lady Martha Heavens what have you done to your hand?

Mrs Pratmore Nothing, ma'am.

Lady Flora But it's bandaged.

Mrs Pratmore I cut myself on the food mixer. I can't get on with these new-fangled inventions.

Lady Ethel Prudence Tuppenny said that the killer would need strength...

Lady Martha ..someone of the servile classes, someone used to hard work.

Maisy She's a cook, not a navy!

Lady Flora Yes, don't be a ninny Mrs Pratmore wouldn't kill Richard.

Lady Ethel I didn't say she did. I was merely pointing out that with a bandaged hand she would have struggled to lift the candlestick.

Cont.

Lady Martha Who's to say she didn't bandage it herself after she murdered him?

Maisy For goodness sake!

Mrs Pratmore I didn't do it, your ladyship. Oh please believe me.

Lady Flora No one is accusing you, Mrs Pratmore.

Miss O'Ryan Personally, I haven't heard a more frank accusation.

Mrs Pratmore But I wanted him dead – and now he is dead. And what's worse he died just like I said he would.

Lady Martha What on earth do you mean?

Maisy She said she wished he'd drop dead.

Lady Ethel But why would she say that?

Miss O'Ryan I can't imagine.

Countess Flora Rawley - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Mrs Pratmore why she feels she is no longer wanted at Downturn.

Ask Lady Ethel whether she saw her father today.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You didn't call Doctor Parkinson as you thought Richard was pulling the wool over your eyes. He's never unwell! He left his breakfast kippers untouched but as he'd already been at the bottle you had no sympathy for him. Personally, you thought he invented the excuse about feeling unwell so that he didn't have to face his guests!

You heard raised voices in the library and found Richard arguing with Lady Martha. You told them to keep their voices down as the guests could hear everything! It is your firm belief that one shouldn't wash one's dirty linen in public. He was waving a letter at her and saying that she should be more careful next time.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Lady Martha	Heavens this is a nasty business!
Maisy	I think it's all very exciting.
Mrs Pratmore	Don't be ridiculous!
Lady Martha	I can't fathom it. I thought everyone loved Papa.
Lady Flora	Perhaps that was the problem.
Lady Martha	I don't understand what you mean.
Miss O'Ryan	No you wouldn't dear.
Mrs Pratmore	Well, is anyone going to enlighten her?
Lady Flora	No, best not.
Lady Martha	I think you're rather unkind.
Miss O'Ryan	Let's not get sidetracked. We need to concentrate on the letter.
Mrs Pratmore	But why?
Maisy	Because he was being blackmailed!
Miss O'Ryan	Yes, but by whom?

Cont.

Mrs Pratmore If she knew that she'd open her own detective agency.

Lady Ethel Well it wasn't me!

Mrs Pratmore We didn't say it was.

Lady Flora You're being rather defensive. Are you hiding something?

Lady Ethel No more than you are.

Lady Flora I beg your pardon

Lady Ethel I'm sorry I was unintentionally rude.

Lady Martha Yes, I think we're all letting our anxiety get the better of us.

Maisy Do you think we should have another cup of tea?

Miss O'Ryan Is that the answer to everything?

Countess Flora Rawley - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Lady Ethel why she gave her daughter away. Surely her father would have supported her?

Ask Martha if anything else was keeping her up last night.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Richard didn't want to face the guests as he had offended some of them by asking them to pay for the shoot! He was rather short of cash and found the weekend shooting parties prohibitively expensive. You think the whole idea of making money from friends and family completely abhorrent! First it was the shoot, next he was talking about charging for drinks! It had to stop!

Richard and Martha were arguing over an anonymous letter he had received saying that Lady Martha had cavorted with a Turk under his very own roof! Richard said that this sort of behaviour left him open to blackmail and he would not tolerate it in his own house. You told him he was being a hypocrite! After all, his own behaviour has been less than exemplary in the past and he has left himself open to blackmail on more than one occasion! He might think he can treat you badly but you will not tolerate him bullying your daughter over one small peccadillo.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Countess Flora Rawley

Concluding Statement

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

Lady Flora speaks first using the following dialogue:

“All husbands and wives argue and we were no different. He could be a bully at times, using his position in society to get what he wanted and who he wanted. Well, now he’s had his come-uppance! And I can’t say I’m entirely sorry. He was far too controlling and very difficult to live with!”

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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