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# THE GREAT BRITISH BUMP OFF

## Victoria Sponge

**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!

**Victoria Sponge**

**Background Character Information:**

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

You know that flash isn't everything and that classics (like yourself) always win in the end.

You are accustomed to being in charge as you have been president of your local WI for the past two years. If too many people talk at once, tap your glass and call for order.

As you have been a tour guide in the past, guide people to their chairs and perhaps point out interesting things (eg "Have you noticed your place card?") or offer interesting facts about your surroundings or past bake offs. They certainly don't need to be true - just said with authority!

You don't like people to disagree with you. After all, you weren't named in honour of Queen Victoria for nothing. Be queenly!

## Victoria Sponge

### Introductions:

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

### Victoria Sponge speaks first using the following dialogue:

This news about Shaw G. Bottom is most unexpected. I am, needless to say, not amused. But, in true British fashion, we shall soldier on! With this in mind, I shall take the lead and be the first to introduce myself. I am Victoria Sponge and I'm from the Isle of Wight. I've led many tourists through the hallways of Osborne House so I'm confident that I'm more than qualified to lead you all out of this maze. So... which of you did it? It certainly wasn't me!

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

## Scripted Dialogue Round 1

- Mac O'Roon:** So here we are on the first tee, ready to tee off! Then again, we've already started, haven't we? So I suppose we're on the second or third hole. No matter. I've a feeling this course will have its share of sand traps, but I've always been good with a wedge. Speaking of wedges, you're looking rather uncomfortable, Spice-Twice. Something up?
- Spice-Twice Bryce:** I'm perfectly well, thank you! Other than being a suspect in a murder investigation that is!
- Victoria Sponge:** I doubt very much if *any* of us are enjoying being under suspicion, Spice-Twice. I'm rather more used to being the one passing judgement, not being judged. However, I will say that I've certainly learned a great deal from listening to everyone's introductions and I've already got my eye on more than a few of you.
- Sasha Torte:** As the owner of a bookshop, I've read my fair share of mysteries, so I consider myself somewhat of an expert in these things. I'm not worried, but if you're the murderer, you should be!
- Whitey Bloomer:** I'm with Sasha! Not in a romantic way, of course - just meaning that I agree with her. Let's get this show on the road - so we can get back to the show, if you take my meaning.

**Cont.**

**Brandy Snap:** How could you *possibly* think that the competition will continue? We've lost our judge! Our wonderful, knowledgeable judge! (SOBS) I'm only interested in uncovering who did it, not who made the best bake.

**Victoria Sponge:** I guess the important thing to do is concentrate on the job at hand and leave our emotions at the door. This is the time to look for proof - not a time -

**Mac O'Roon:** -to goof? Oh, come on! A bit of humour to lighten the mood! Hey! Lighten! Geddit? Even in the midst of a murder investigation, I've still got it!

**Spice-Twice Bryce:** Come on! We're wasting time! Time to pick up tools and get t' work.

**Sacha Torte:** Well I'm certainly willing to do my part in trying to discover who did it. Here's my first bit of help...it wasn't me.

## **Victoria Sponge - First Round**

### **Questions you should ask:**

You noticed that Whitey Bloomer's bread in the bread round had four slashes in the top of it. How did he make the slashes? Ask him.

Did Spice-Twice ever leave the big white tent? Ask him.

### **Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.**

You didn't bring a bread knife to the competition. You hate knives! You knew that Shaw would bring his own knife so that he could cut and sample your bread, so you weren't worried.

You hate knives because they are a reminder of a painful chapter in your past. It's something you never usually talk about, but you will on this occasion as this is a murder enquiry. Many years ago, you lost your temper and stabbed someone. It was all hushed up by your parents, for which you will always be very grateful. Now you are a member of the WI and Head of your local Cookbook Club, known as the Merry Berry Bakers.

**Do not read further until instructed by your host.**

## Scripted Dialogue Round 2

**Victoria Sponge:** I have to say I'm not terribly pleased with the way this investigation is heading. I'd like to request that everyone here keep what they've learned so far and what they may learn to themselves.

**Mac O'Roon:** That's fine with me. I'm used to being quiet, what with all the time I spend on golf courses. Everyone there speaks in whispers which is rather different to what's going on here. I'd appreciate a bit of quiet while I consider my next shot.

**Brandy Snap:** Yes, a bit of quiet would be appreciated. A moment of silence marking the passing of our judge would be a good gesture, don't you think?

**Sasha Torte:** I'd be more than happy to give our late judge a gesture, but I don't think you'd like it, Brandy! And I'm beginning to wonder about your 'sad' act - which is what I think it is – an act!

**Twice-Spice Bryce:** I agree with Sasha. This amount of grief seems rather illogical - even unbalanced.

**Brandy Snap:** You're both being very cruel.

**Whitey Bloomer:** Can I suggest that everyone takes four calming breathes. We need to concentrate on which of us attacked Shaw G. Bottom, not on attacking each other.

**Cont.**

**Brandy Snap:** Mr. Bloomer has made an excellent point. Quiet contemplation is needed for proper thought.

**Mac O'Roon:** I've always believed in laughter to diffuse a situation, not quiet. So...here's a little joke for you all? How do chickens bake a cake? From scratch!

**Sacha Torte:** Why are we all chatting when there's work to be done? I doubt the murderer is going to identify himself or herself voluntarily.

**Victoria Sponge:** This is a time for sharing what we know, not arguing. Sharing is always the best way, I think. Sharing is caring!

## Victoria Sponge - Second Round

### Questions you should ask:

Has Brandy Snap been baking for a long time? Ask her.

You saw Sasha Torte and Shaw G. Bottom having a bit of an argument at her baking counter. From the bits that you overheard it sounded as if they had met before. What was the argument about? Ask Sasha Torte.

### Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You wrote the note that was found by Sasha Torte, but you are NOT in a romantic relationship with Shaw G. Bottom. The idea repulses you! He was an evil man. Shaw G. Bottom had learned about your youthful indiscretion with the knife and had been blackmailing you for many years. You pay him quite a large amount every month.

You and Mac O'Roon are not in a relationship of any sort, other than being fellow competitors. You were holding his hand earlier because you were helping him attach a plaster to one of his fingers. He said he'd cut it when he was reaching inside his golf bag. You suggested that perhaps he shouldn't sharpen his putter in the future.

**Do not read further until instructed by your host.**

## Scripted Dialogue Round 3

- Victoria Sponge:** I am NOT amused at the thought of breaking bread with a murderer - even if this IS the bread round. I'm far more fond of cakes, in any case. Let them eat cake, I say. A cake a day keeps the killer away!
- Spice-Twice Bryce:** A cake a day will keep everyone away! You eat a cake a day, no one will be able to get near you! And I suspect you'd need a stronger chair! Let me just do a few calculations...
- Mac O'Roon:** I call for a delay in play! Mind you, I don't think there's time for Spice-Twice to do his calculations. Perhaps we should just play through and continue this investigation. I think we must be on the last tee.
- Brandy Snap:** Did someone say tea? A cup would do very nicely, thank you!
- Whitey Bloomer:** I think Twice-Spice owes Victoria an apology. If she wants cake, then I support her. I'll support her in any position she wishes to take. I'm very flexible.
- Sasha Torte:** Please! We're not here to discuss cake! We're here to discover a murderer! Can't we just get on with it?
- Twice-Spice Bryce:** Why the hurry, Sasha? Have a cup of coffee and another piece of chocolate. Anyone with a logical mind might think your big rush is a sign of a guilty conscience.

**Cont.**

**Victoria Sponge:** I can't think clearly with all this arguing. I suggest we all sit quietly for a moment and let our thoughts rise naturally to the surface.

**Mac O'Roon:** I suspect Whitey Bloomer's got something rising and I don't think it's his thoughts!

**Brandy Snap:** The outdoors is always the best place to be, isn't it? Unless you're in a tent competing in a bake off, that is! I wouldn't want anyone to think that I'm not absolutely thrilled to be here because I am! I'm sure all this nastiness will be over soon. At least, I hope so.

## **Victoria Sponge - Third Round**

### **Questions you should ask:**

You saw Sasha Torte looking very irritated. What had upset her? Ask her.

Mac O'Roon mentioned that he brought his lucky wooden spoon with him. Wasn't he worried that one of the other bakers would take it accidentally? Ask him.

### **Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.**

At one point during today's competition you left the tent. You went to the judge's tent. However, you can assure everyone that this was BEFORE Shaw G. Bottom was killed because he wasn't there. You were surprised to see a Royal Wedding biscuit tin in the tent as you didn't know Shaw collected such things. You do and you were tempted to take it but you didn't. Instead, you put the money packet on the table and left. On your way back, you thought you saw someone heading in the direction of the toilets. You don't know who it was as you were somewhat distracted at the time.

You heard something suspicious while you were in the judge's tent. You heard someone approaching the tent and you slipped out the back way in a hurry. Although you don't know who it was, they were whistling the bake off theme. You then ran into Whitey Bloomer on your way back and had a very pleasant few minutes.

**Do not read further until instructed by your host.**

**Victoria Sponge**

**Concluding Statement**

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

**Victoria speaks first using the following dialogue:**

Well I didn't do it. I would never murder someone! Yes, it's true that I was the victim of blackmail, but why would I worsen my situation by committing murder? Violence is never the answer. I learned that lesson many years ago.

**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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