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Andy Mann

**Murder
Rehearsed**

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!

Andy Mann

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 practical man, though not particularly intelligent or well educated. Your job as stage manager gives you a certain amount of authority over the other members. You take every opportunity to let them know that you are in charge of everything involving the stage. You like to think that you are responsible for the success or failure of the show rather than the director or the actors.

Andy Mann

Introductions:

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

Andy Mann speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well, you could knock me down with a slapstick. Fancy old Red getting done in before we've even started the first rehearsal. He hasn't even had time to get up everyone's nose yet.

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Roberta Well I've seen a good many murders played out on stage in my time with the Barnstormers but a real murder! That *is* a first.

Preston I too have seen a few. I have even played the part of the murderer on two occasions but this is a different kettle of fish indeed.

Andy For all we know it could be nothing to do with the drama group. It could be just a coincidence that it happened here.

Kitty I'd like to think you're right but I find it hard to believe. Like my cats, I have a sixth sense about such things.

Ada You and me both. An outsider would surely have been noticed. After all, the store room is at the back of the building; they would have had to have passed through the auditorium to get backstage. The outside doors are always locked and bolted from inside.

Rich So what you're saying is that one of us is the killer. A nice thought I must say.

Cont.

Kitty Ooooh no! You're freaking me out. I want to go home to my cats.

Andy Well you can't! We are all in the same boat together. We must make an effort to find out who whacked him and stuffed him into the basket.

Ada Well it's not a nice thought but we have to face it at least one of us has something to hide.

Roberta Quite so. I hadn't given too much thought to that but now that you mention it...

Preston Before we start pointing any fingers I think we should wait until we have heard from the inspector again. After all, we only have the basic details. We don't know when he was killed or even what it was that actually killed him.

Rich I agree. Let's hope the inspector can shed some more light on the subject. He is the expert, after all.

Andy Mann - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Rich Pickens if Red E. Cash reacted badly to the news about his stocks and shares.

Roberta Legge is now the last remaining founder member of the Barnstormers. Was Red E. Cash also a founder member? Maybe you should ask her.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You are not really being disrespectful when you call the director "Old Red"; it's more a sort of "pet name". That said, you didn't particularly hold him in great esteem. As an amateur stage director you thought he did a reasonable job as long as he had the right kind of support.

You have had your fair share of altercations with Red but most directors tend to be a bit bossy it goes with the territory. Red was no different than any other director you've worked for, in that he got a "bit up your nose".

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Rich** Crikey! It's getting a bit serious. We're all suspects, he says.
- Roberta** Well I thought that was obvious. That's why we are all here.
- Preston** OK! But he could still be wrong.
- Andy** Wishful thinking, mate! These coppers are rarely wrong. If he says it's one of us, take it from me, he'll be right.
- Kitty** And what makes you an authority on such matters? Had experience, have you?
- Andy** No I haven't, Miss Catty Pants! I just have a lot of faith in the establishment, that's all.
- Ada** Well I hope you're wrong. I don't like the thought of having shared my hobby with a murderer.
- Kitty** My sentiments exactly, dear. I'm thinking it might not be my hobby for much longer.
- Andy** Well it definitely won't be for one of us. Unless they join the drama group in the nick.

Cont.

- Kitty** Nick! Where's that? I don't think I've heard of that.
- Ada** He means prison, my dear, it's not a person.
- Andy** Yeah, prison, the nick, pokey, jail – they're all the same, and the girl's right, whoever it was that fired that gun is headin' for a long spell at Her Majesty's pleasure and no mistake.
- Kitty** I knew what he meant – I was just being whimsical.
- Preston** A bit out of place, don't you think? I don't find murder very whimsical.
- Roberta** Now, now, I think this should stop. We are all getting too personal and I rather hope that after this is all over our drama group will still be intact. Well almost, anyway.
- Rich** You're right, we should leave the accusations to the inspector. He is the one looking at all the evidence.

Andy Mann - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Preston Smart if he noticed how many other members had arrived when he got to the theatre.

Ask Kitty Cuddler where she was when she heard about the murder.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You arrived at the theatre quite early because you wanted to see how the set builders were getting on. Preston and Roberta were already there talking to the crew.

Soon after you arrived you went to check that the props room was open and that everything was ready. On your way there you passed Red E. Cash, who was standing in the doorway of the men's dressing room talking to someone inside. They appeared to be having a heated argument. They were still at it when you returned but you didn't stay to witness the outcome.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Ada Wow, who'd have thought that lovely Chinese vase would finish up as a murder weapon?

Kitty Quite so! And we thought it was just another stage prop.

Preston How wrong can one be?

Roberta Pity we were using it in this play. This awful thing might never have happened.

Beau Are you suggesting that this was an accident?

Andy I hardly think so! How can you accidentally hit someone over the head with a dirty great vase? Pull the other one.

Roberta Not exactly an accident but they might not have meant to kill him.

Rich Don't you think you're being a bit naïve?

Roberta I suppose you're right. I just don't like to think it was a cold blooded killing.

Cont.

Kitty Anyway, that inspector is certainly convinced that he will have one or more of us in custody before the night is out. It certainly won't be me. I shall be at home curled up with my beautiful cats.

Beau Well you would say that wouldn't you? After all nobody is going to put up their hand and say "Yes it was me".

Preston "Yes it was I".

Andy So you're confessing are you?

Preston No! I was merely pointing out that it is not grammatically correct to say "It was me". The correct word is "I".

Roberta Trust you to be pedantic at a time like this.

Andy All these posh words are coming out but we're no closer to solving the murder and I for one am very confused.

Ada You're not the only one.

Andy Mann - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Ada Crimp who she would like to see as the new director.

Preston Smart told everyone that he was joined on stage by Roberta while he was talking to the set builders. Ask him if they both saw the carpenters leave.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

When you checked the props room the vase and the powder were on the table with several other items that were required for the play. You knew that the props mistress had called in sick so you checked to see that everything was as it should be and then you left to go back to the stage.

You can't be sure who it was that Red was arguing with because the other person was inside the room but on returning from the props room you passed him again and thought you heard the word money two or three times and a sort of tapping noise like something being struck on the floor or a table. You thought at the time it was probably the carpenters on stage.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Andy Mann

Concluding Statement

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

Andy Mann speaks first using the following dialogue:

Yes, I was in the store room but Mr Cash was still outside the men's dressing room. I checked everything and when I left the room nothing was amiss.

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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