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# Hercule Pernod

Take down  
at the Tate

**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!

**Hercule Pernod**

**Background Character Information:**

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

Unlike your Agatha Christie counterpart, your little grey cells take more abuse from cracking cases of wine, than from cracking criminal cases. Even so, you do quite well for yourself. You have a large apartment, and a large waistline.

You are methodical and pedantic, even when drinking. You like order and arranging everything according to height where possible. You might like to rearrange some of your host's household objects according to your tastes.

Captain Pastings is your sidekick of sorts and the two of you work well together when Pastings is in the country, even if Pastings moves and talks too fast.

You have been investigating Ronnie MacIntosh for some time in relation to another unsolved case.

## Hercule Pernod

### Introductions:

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

### Hercule Pernod speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well, I must say this has all come as a bit of a surprise. Here I was, simply a guest, and now I suppose I ought to adopt my more official capacity and help Inspector Napp here solve the case. My name, for those of you who don't know, is Hercule Pernod. You could call me a private detective. Although, I can discount myself in this sordid affair, I suppose none of you should. We are all suspects in this investigation and as such, none of us is above suspicion.

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

## Scripted Dialogue Round 1

**Hercule Pernod** Do you know – if it wasn't for the fact Ronnie had died producing the work, I think the Tate would probably have accepted "Pickled Artist" for their exhibition.

**Vera Sin** Quite likely – I mean look at all the other things they display that people call art. Personally an unmade bed doesn't do anything for me. I have one of them at home.

**Laura Ghastly** I don't know. I mean next thing it'll be "half a cow" or something. What is the world coming to?

**Hercule Pernod** I remember when artwork was purely paint on canvas or chiselled statues. The galleries were much less cluttered then.

**Captain Pastings** Are you saying Ron's work isn't any good?

**Hercule Pernod** Well, let's just say, if he wasn't born in this country I don't think he'd have got in.

**Amelia Fairfart** Personally I quite like his style.

**Ernest Shingleton** I suppose there's always one. I only came for the wine – and now that it looks like he's gone and drunk all that, there's not much here to interest me.

**Cont.**

<b>Laura Ghastly</b>	Yes. Odd that, drinking all the champagne. I didn't know he liked it that much.
<b>Amelia Fairfart</b>	Oh, Ron has quite a taste for it. He used to ask me to bring some back for him whenever I went abroad.
<b>Vera Sin</b>	He used to get some from "Bottoms Up" too.
<b>Ameila Fairfart</b>	Looks like he got through a whole case tonight.
<b>Hercule Pernod</b>	I don't suppose there's any decent plonk left is there? I could do with a case myself – and I don't mean one to solve.
<b>Captain Pastings</b>	A case of wine won't do your "little grey cells" any good Pernod, and besides we have a murder to solve.

## **Hercule Pernod - First Round**

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

How did Laura Ghastly meet Ernest Shingleton? It seems like an odd combination, an explorer and a fashion designer.

You noticed when you came in that Amelia Fairfart's invitation seems to be handwritten. Was she invited personally?

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

Along with your criminal files, your detective filing system also monitors the rise and fall of any famous persons; for just such an eventuality as this. Your file on Ronnie MacIntosh was quite large. His has been an interesting career.

You were pleased to receive an invitation to such an auspicious night as Ronnie MacIntosh's pre-exhibition evening. Although you didn't know him personally, obviously in your role as private detective you are becoming quite famous in your own right.

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

## Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Captain Pastings** He is a decent fellow, that Inspector Napp, don't you think?
- Hercule Pernod** If you say so Pastings. Personally, his voice affects my little grey cells. He's far too loud.
- Amelia Fairfart** I'm not sure whether that's his voice, or the amount you've drunk Pernod. I didn't realise you had such a taste for wine.
- Laura Ghastly** Nor I.
- Vera Sin** At least we found some. When I first saw all those bottles, I had thought Ronnie had drunk the lot.
- Ameila Fairfart** I suppose you'll know all about the New World wines with your trips to the Andes Captain Pastings?
- Captain Pastings** Just a little. Though I must say I know a lot more about llamas. Beastly creatures. They spit you know? Just like camels.
- Ameila Fairfart** Well I'll cross the Andes off my visiting list then.

**Cont.**

**Laura Ghastly**

What about the clothing? Is that as interesting as I've heard. Do they use a lot of natural dyes?

**Captain Pastings**

I couldn't tell you Laura. I've never got that close. Most of them smell just as bad as the llamas.

**Ernest Shingleton**

I say, you'd probably do better with Sherpas out there, just like I did in the Himalayas. They can carry an awful lot you know. Decent chaps, all of them, but they spit too – though I dare say not as far.

**Vera Sin**

Yes, Ernest. You must tell us all more about your last expedition. I remember your picture in the headlines. You looked cold.

**Amelia Fairfart**

Not half as cold as poor Ronnie is now I dare say.

## Hercule Pernod - Second Round

### Questions you should ask:

You overheard a discussion between Laura Ghastly and Ronnie MacIntosh at “Bottoms Up” the other evening. It was something to do with a painting wasn’t it?

You have noticed that some of Amelia’s ballast sacks are an unusual shape at times. Is she smuggling stolen goods in her hot air balloon? And for whom?

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

You have had dealings with Ronnie MacIntosh before. He was actually one of the suspects in one of your less well known investigations.

As a suspect in this, as yet, unsolved case, you had been keeping a close eye on Ronnie MacIntosh and his activities.

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

## Scripted Dialogue Round 3

<b>Vera Sin</b>	You really find out things you’d rather not know about people in a murder investigation don’t you?
<b>Hercule Pernod</b>	Like who burgled your house you mean?
<b>Vera Sin</b>	Well...
<b>Laura Ghastly</b>	I know what Vera means. Who knows what we’ll find out if we keep probing? I’ve known Ronnie a while and I never would have guessed he was a suspect in another case.
<b>Ernest Shingleton</b>	You never suspect anyone dear. That’s one of the things I like about you – you are so innocent.
<b>Hercule Pernod</b>	Ah, young love. It’s about time you got yourself a woman Pastings.
<b>Captain Pastings</b>	I haven’t had a lot of time recently, what with sports cars, travelling to South America and working with llamas.
<b>Vera Sin</b>	Sounds like you have the same problem as Amelia. She travels a lot too.

**Cont.**

**Amelia Fairfart** Yes, perhaps we should link up on one of your trips? I've never flown to the Andes before. It would be fun.

**Ernest Shingleton** Especially if your ballast tanks were full of illegal imports.

**Laura Ghastly** Yes, and just think about what you could bring back!

**Captain Pastings** I've heard Peruvian guano sells quite well back here.

**Laura Ghastly** That wasn't exactly what I had in mind.

**Ernest Shingleton** He's right though. Guano is a major import.

**Hercule Perno** Ah, the innocence of youth.

**Laura Ghastly** I suppose the balloon would be too small for a llama? I always fancied one of them.

**Vera Sin** Each to their own.

## **Hercule Perno - Third Round**

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

At "Bottoms Up" you overheard Ernest Shingleton arranging to meet privately with Ronnie MacIntosh during the exhibition tonight. Why was the meeting arranged?

You've seen Vera Sin and Ronnie MacIntosh exchange canvasses wrapped in brown paper frequently. Just what exactly is he painting for her, and does he reuse his canvasses?

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

Ronnie MacIntosh wasn't just one of your suspects in a crime, he was the prime suspect. You accused him of murder, but the jury came back with a "not guilty" verdict. Even so, you know you were right.

You have a strong stance on capital punishment, and given how guilty Ronnie MacIntosh obviously was of the crime you originally investigated, in your opinion justice has been served.

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

**Hercule Pernod**

**Concluding Statement**

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

**Hercule Pernod speaks first using the following dialogue:**

It is nice to see that Inspector Napp has learned something from all my years working beside him. Gathering all the suspects together for an evening means that the culprit will be forced into making a simple mistake which will identify him or herself. However please don't look in my direction. After all this drinking my little grey cells are not what they used to be and I certainly can't tell you who did it, except to say it wasn't me.

**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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