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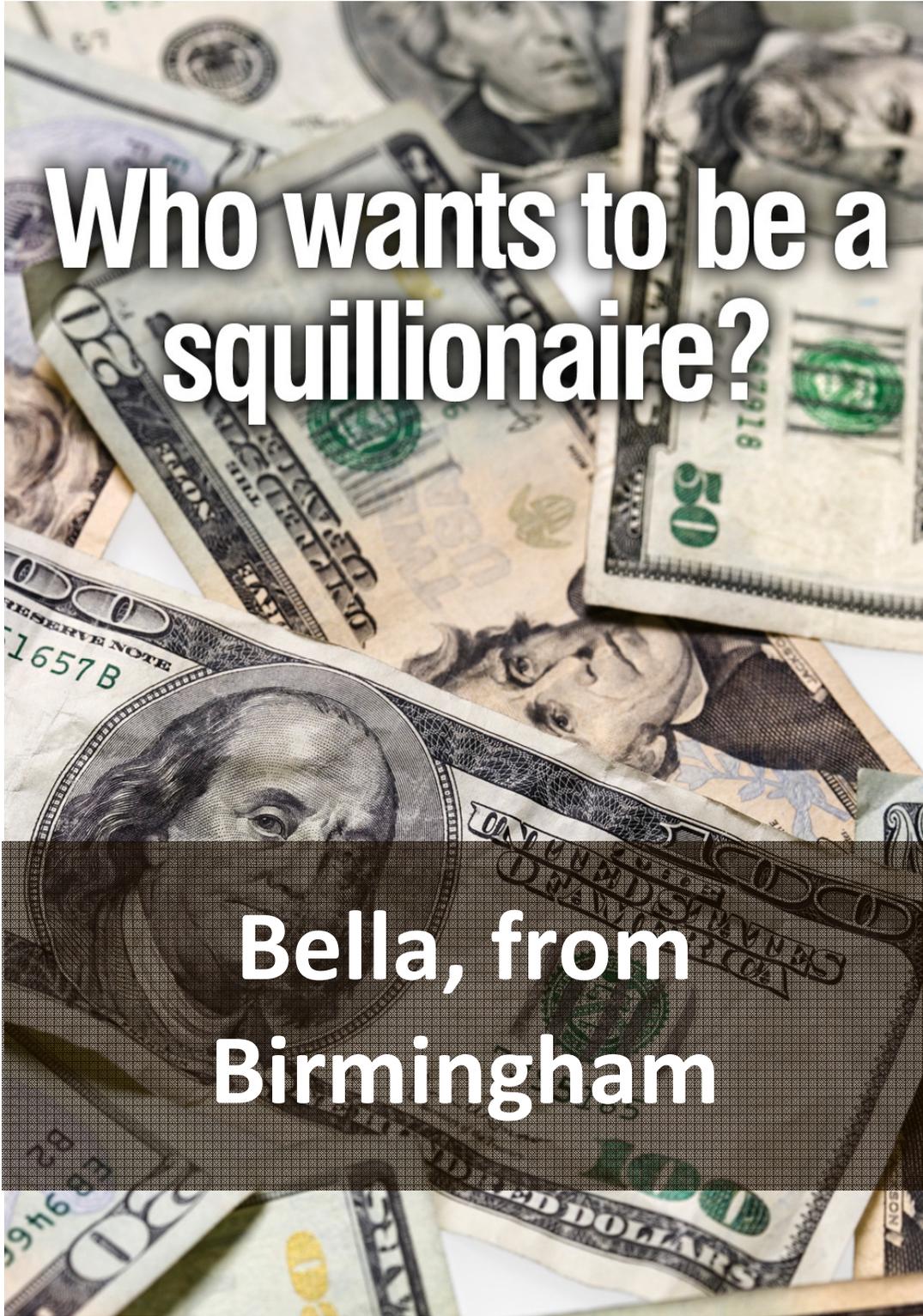
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The background of the right page is a collage of various US dollar bills, including \$100, \$50, and \$20 bills, scattered and overlapping. The text is overlaid on this background.

**Who wants to be a
squillionaire?**

**Bella, from
Birmingham**

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!

Bella, from Birmingham

Background Character Information:

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

You are a single mother with a son aged 17. You were a teen bride, choosing to marry a soldier rather than go to university, and your new husband died in a training accident. You feel life has cheated you.

You work on the checkout at the supermarket but are desperate to get to where you believe you should be, as an intelligent, educated, knowledgeable person.

Your youth has been lost, having to bring up your son alone - he's a good boy and not at all wild - and work in menial jobs, and study at night on every correspondence course going. Currently you are following your third creative writing course. Your ambition is to be a novelist and so you act as you think a lady novelist might act - rather over the top.

Bella, from Birmingham

Introductions:

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

Bella speaks first using the following dialogue:

I can't get over it. She was sitting next to me, and...sorry. Pull yourself together, Bella. Yes, I'm Bella, and I'm a writer. Funnily enough, I'm working on a novel right now about a quiz show which isn't all it seems. They say that truth imitates art, don't they. Anyway, I'm a single mum. I lost my husband a long time ago and was left with a baby to bring up all by myself. Matthew's grown up now. I know I'm his mother, so I'm bound to say it, but he's a good boy, and a bright boy. He understands computers and all that electronics stuff. I'm more of an Iris Murdoch type myself.

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

- Bella** I cannot believe what we've just seen, can you? I mean, what was happening there? I'm quite sure I did the question first.
- Graham** And why did all the lights and everything go out? Obviously, Alison was electrocuted by her keyboard, not that any of us realised it at the time because we were all trying to answer the question. But why knock out the entire studio, if all you wanted to do was knock out one of us? Looks like a foul-up to me.
- Fiona** Just a minute. Let's think back and work out what happened. The Inquizzitor did his intro. The timer starts. We all began pressing buttons.
- Charlie** I'd say that was the odd thing. We all had our eyes on our screens, then we gradually realised we'd all finished, and nothing had happened. The ten seconds went by, and I looked along the line, and we were all sitting up, waiting.
- Delia** That's right. Then all hell broke loose, lights flashing, bells ringing, then everything went dark.
- Bella** We weren't all sitting up. I was next to Alison, don't forget. She wasn't. She was slumped over, head on her keyboard. And I could smell it. Like fatty meat in the oven and hair being singed. Sorry, but that's what I could smell. I'll never forget it.

Cont.

- Delia** She was certainly overweight. Tubby, you might say. Living off the fat of the land.
- Charlie** Her arteries were probably clogged right up with cholesterol. Verdict: accidental death due to natural causes.
- Graham** Or the first ever occurrence of being your own personal deep-fat fryer.
- Ernie** Well I think you're all being rather cruel. I thought she was nice looking. She was pretty. She reminded me a bit of my poor dead mother.

Bella, from Birmingham - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Fiona why she came on the show.

Ask Graham what he's been up to since he left the army.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Your husband died on an exercise when he fell from a cliff and broke his back. He hadn't been in the army long so you were kicked out of army quarters and had to live entirely on social security until your son Matthew could go to school. More recently, you have had various cleaning jobs and other work demeaning for one of your intelligence, such as being a supermarket checkout operator. You have studied poetry, drama and tv script writing, but think you'll make a better novelist.

Your dream is to have a cottage in the country. There, with a new computer and no money worries, you would settle down to write your novel without having to go out to work. And, of course, you would like to be able to give your son some money, to start his business building computers.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Bella** So, it was murder. And by someone who knew about electrics and computers. Someone said to me this game was bent, and you can't get more bent than killing the contestants. And you heard what The Inquizzitor said about the security here. You're in security, aren't you, Graham?
- Graham** And I know about electrics and computers. So does Ernie. Don't you, Ernie? So, how's your knowledge. Is it (a) zero (b) average, (c) better than average, (d) excellent? And you can't phone a friend because the phones don't work.
- Ernie** Well, I, I mean, it's not really, you couldn't call it excellent, no, not really.
- Fiona** Don't be such a bully, Graham. You know your problem? You eat too much meat. It makes you aggressive.
- Delia** Don't you think we're getting off the point? Why did we all do so badly at the question? We can't all be guilty of murder.
- Bella** Well, I did it really quickly. At least, in the excitement, that's what it seemed like.
- Fiona** I was quick too. Could have been quicker, maybe, if I'd not been trying so hard.

Cont.

Charlie

That's if you were trying. I know we all did badly on the Squillionaire clock, but who came last? Ernie. Highly suspicious, I'd say.

Bella, from Birmingham - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Delia if she was upset to find Alison on the show and if it affected her attitude.

Ask Ernie if he ever wanted a more interesting job and if he did, what jobs he's tried for.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Like everybody else in the known universe, you've seen Alison on daytime TV a dozen times, pushing herself and her work. One of her recent books (Bang Bang, I'm Dead) made the bestseller's list over Christmas and her photo was in every bookstore. You picked it up in the shop and read a couple of pages. To be honest, you don't think her work has much literary merit. It lacks depth. 'The Folks Next Door' is a load of dumbed-down rubbish for the masses.

The novel you are presently writing is about a quiz show contestant who feels aggrieved at being asked stupid questions about tv soap operas when she is so knowledgeable about proper subjects like literature and history. She takes her revenge in a way you haven't quite worked out yet. You've only just started the novel. Well, actually, you are only halfway through chapter one so you haven't shown it to anyone yet.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Charlie Well, there you have it. One victim targeted. Nothing left to chance. Somebody wanted to kill Alison. I'd say we all have motives. Except me, of course.

Bella Even Charlie's got a motive. Money. If you make the assumption, which I do as a novelist and student of human nature, that a murderer has to be slightly mad anyway, then the slightest of motives could be enough. Lots of money, in exchange for a little tub of novelist lard?

Delia Absolutely. Look at Fiona. She's never forgiven Alison for pinching her favourite boyfriends.

Fiona She didn't pinch my favourites. She pinched *all* of them. What about Bella? Obviously jealous. Alison was a famous, published, in-demand writer. Where has your work appeared, Bella? Is it (a) in Vanity Fair, (b) on Amazon dot com, (c) in the parish newsletter, (d) nowhere at all?

Charlie Go fifty-fifty. Take away two random wrong answers and we're left with the parish newsletter and nowhere. And in my defence, I should say that the murderer almost always knows the victim, or, I mean, the victim usually knows the murderer.

Cont.

Graham Not quite the same thing, Charlie. And it's usually. Not every time. What do you think, Ernie? Still waters run deep, don't they? I never met the woman, but you did.

Ernie No, I didn't. I never said I met her. I only saw her. I didn't really meet her, as such.

Graham Maybe the key's in why we came on the show. What about Charlie, hey? Champagne Charlie. I'd know his type anywhere. Hey, Charlie? I bet he has six credit cards, all up to the limit. And he's from the computer world.

Delia Hey, he's an expert in games software. Well, we came to play a game, a very simple game, and Squillionaire computers run on software like every other computer. He could have found out about the hard-wiring side from a mate at work. Yeah, Charlie. He'd be open to offers. From whoever.

Charlie I earn good money, very good money, but it's never enough, is it? If I want to buy a girl an expensive present, I don't want to have to think twice about it. I'm not like Ernie, worshipping pictures on my wall. That's like being a stalker. No, I want to get out there and win the fair lady's hand. So I need money.

Fiona Me too. Everybody wants more money. Except Delia, of course. And Alison. Why was she on it?

Bella Just to show off. She never could get enough coverage of her fat little self.

Bella, from Birmingham - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Delia how much she knows about the electrical goods and computers her firm sells.

You get the impression Ernie is sweet on Alison, almost to the point of fixation. Ask Ernie if he's president of Alison's fan club, and what he does to worship her.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Your son has a qualification as a domestic electrician, and is studying for a qualification in computer construction.

You asked Alison for the name of her literary agent. Alison said her agent only dealt with successful writers. How could she say that? How could she be so horrid? When you told Alison about the plot of your novel, she said it was a silly, trite idea that would never be published in a million years. You were so upset. What an absolutely foul thing to say. But you felt ashamed at letting her get to you like that.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Bella, from Birmingham

Concluding Statement

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

Bella speaks first using the following dialogue:

I admit I was envious of Alison's success. She was everything I wanted to be, and I'm at least as good a writer as she is. Or was, should I say. I only need the opportunity. At least, now she's out of the way, maybe her agent will take me on in her place. Well, why not?

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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