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MURDER IN THE ALPS

Rich Bustard

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!

Rich Bustard

Background Character Information:

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

You were born with a silver spoon in your mouth and have always enjoyed a life of luxury. Having your own staff and being waited on night and day has left you free to enjoy the finer things in life, such as a fine Scotch or a vintage motorcar.

You are your father's favourite and will welcome the inheritance and title.

Feel free to look down on the rest of the ruffians Daddy deals with. After all, there's barely a gentleman among them!

Rich Bustard

Introductions:

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

Rich Bustard speaks first using the following dialogue:

What ho! Is there no one to announce us? Suppose we'll have to do it ourselves then. Very well, I'll go first. My name is Rich Bustard, first son of Ed Bustard, the 15th Earl of Duffolk. How do you do?

Such a pity about poor Daddy. The old man's finally snuffed it. He's had a tremendous innings though, even if it was cut short by some foul play. Cyanide, if I'm not mistaken! That's certainly not cricket! Although I suppose with him gone, that makes me the Earl now.

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Rich Bustard: Damn poor show, I say. Daddy's bought the farm. And they say its cyanide poisoning. Whoever heard of such a thing?

Mike Rochip: Maybe he ate some of your cooking, Francois.

François Hollandaise: Pah!

Gary Vinegar: I heard he was loaded.

Snoop Hedgehog: That's none of your business, man.

Mike Rochip: He certainly never used his money to help anyone. Charity began at home for him - that's where it ended too. I heard that of all the family, he was the meanest Bustard of all.

Snoop Hedgehog: Sure wouldn't know that.

Ben Lomond: Well I say this. What a man does with his money is his concern alone.

Rich Bustard: I thought the Earl was always a very generous man.

François Hollandaise: Pah!

Cont.

Mike Rochip: When do we get to go home? All this fresh air is bad for me.

Ben Lomond: What do you mean? Switzerland's got the great outdoors and some real mountains and...

François Hollandaise: Pah!

Ben Lomond: Watch yourself, Monsieur Chef. I know things about you.

Gary Vinegar: If there's a fight happening, I like a good scrap.

Snoop Hedgehog: Get outa here, Gary! Pulling on someone's shirt then rolling on the floor clutching your face doesn't count as fighting, man. Not in the ghetto.

Ben Lomond: Unless you're playing dead, of course. That's how I deal with grizzly bears you know.

Rich Bustard: Silence you fools, or we'll have another victim to deal with! Perhaps we should just try and work out who did this dreadful deed?

Rich Bustard - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Does François Hollandaise recognise anyone else here tonight?

Did Mike Rochip know the victim?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You have always got on well with your father. As a boy you didn't see much of him as you had a nanny. You can't remember her name. However, you do remember your twelfth birthday. That was when Daddy called you to his study, introduced himself, told you that you were a man now and gave you the family cufflinks. Since then he's always looked out for you, as his son and heir. In his cold, distant and repressed way he really loved you.

You had an important discussion with your father yesterday on the slopes. He told you that he was changing his will, so that all of his fortune went to you. To be honest, you thought you were due to inherit it all anyway, but it was sweet of Daddy to clear that up.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Snoop Hedgehog:** Killed by a nut. The dude shoulda bin more careful, man.
- Gary Vinegar:** So a macadamia is a nut! Who knew that?
- Mike Rochip:** I thought it was that dance craze from the 90s. You know! (SINGS) Aye, macadamia!
- François Hollandaise:** Pah! You ignorant English! You know nothing about food!
- Ben Lomond:** I had a friend from the Highlands called MacAdamia. Big fella he was. We called him Big Mac.
- Gary Vinegar:** Now you're talking! I could murder a Big Mac! That's some proper food!
- François Hollandaise:** Pah!
- Snoop Hedgehog:** This ain't no surprise to me, bros. A lotta people are allergic to nuts. It's nature's way of telling you to stay clear of her precious seeds.
- Gary Vinegar:** Load of rot! You can't beat a bag of Nobby's Nuts!
- Ben Lomond:** Nobby! That was his name! Nobby MacAdamia! Always wore a raincoat. Sometimes we called him MacIntosh.

Cont.

- Rich Bustard:** Will you please stop being such fools! Don't you see a man is dead!
- Snoop Hedgehog:** Perhaps it was just an accident.
- Ben Lomond:** A very deadly accident.
- François Hollandaise:** Pah!
- Mike Rochip:** Accidents during ski-ing holidays are quite common, aren't they?
- Ben Lomond:** Yes, but he wasn't even on the slopes when it happened. The poor fool was indoors!
- Rich Bustard:** Then who on Earth killed him? I'll be jiggered if I know. Perhaps we should question each other further.

Rich Bustard - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

You've heard Mike Rochip has been hacking into the phone line to eavesdrop on calls. Ask him if he's heard anything interesting.

You've heard that Gary Vinegar doesn't like travelling much. Ask him if he enjoys exotic food.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Of course you know about your father's macadamia allergy! In fact, you have the same gene yourself so you never touch macadamias either. Like father, like son.

You are quite the businessman, in your own eyes at least. Commodities is your game. Turkish strawberries, Madagascan vanilla and Ghanaian cocoa. All the flavours in Neapolitan ice cream.

Unfortunately, a few bad harvests have hit you pretty hard, so you're now calling them long term investments. Thankfully Daddy's always there to bail you out if the losses get too great. That man was like a father to you!

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Snoop Hedgehog: Fingerprints on the glass! Aw man! I'd say someone's been caught red handed, bro!

Ben Lomond: I had red hands once. Got stung two hundred times by a lionfish. Had the last laugh though. Ate him for my supper. Absolutely revolting!

Mike Rochip: But what about the fingerprints on the glass?

Rich Bustard: Just hold your horses! I'm sure there's an innocent explanation and I assure you I had nothing to do with it. A gentleman's word is his bond.

Ben Lomond: In Scotland we say, "look after your family and they'll look after you".

Mike Rochip: Of course, that depends on who is in your family.

Rich Bustard: I agree with Ben – family is everything!

Ben Lomond: Of course, for me it was a bit different. My father was a bear and my mother a wolf. That's why I have such ferocity and speed.

Gary Vinegar: What? You lost me...

Cont.

Mike Rochip: Never mind, Gary. Now, what about all the money then? When's that getting shared out? This house alone must be worth a fortune!

Rich Bustard: But this is a family home. The Earls of Duffolk have been here for centuries.

Gary Vinegar: Centuries? That's a long time. Perhaps the Earl died of old age.

François Hollandaise: Pah! He was poisoned you imbecile! Murder most foul!

Gary Vinegar: Oh yes! You mean with that nutty thing?

Rich Bustard: Yes, Gary. And it's up to us to find out who did it.

Ben Lomond: I'll rustle up the killer, don't you worry! Shall we get started?

Rich Bustard - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Did Snoop Hedgehogg ever rely on his rich Dad for money?

Does François Hollandaise have anything missing from his pantry?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You passed a nightcap to your father after the après-ski drinks – but it certainly wasn't you who poisoned him! You don't know how he could have been poisoned. It's all very unfortunate, but you really had nothing to do with it.

When you were growing up you knew you had two other brothers. Although you grew up with Snoop Hedgehogg, you didn't see him all that much as he lived in the East Wing. He left the family home as soon as possible. Snoop never really fitted in with the Bustard way of life. You also knew about Mike Rochip but Daddy always said that Mike didn't count. In fact, you think you were the only one that Daddy cared for at all.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Rich Bustard

Concluding Statement

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

Rich Bustard speaks after Mike Rochip using the following dialogue:

Vine? The only vines we'll be having are a fine Merlot or a Cabernet Sauvignon! How Daddy enjoyed popping a bottle of Chateau Lafite. I miss him terribly. Did you know I was the only one he really cared for? He was going to give the whole inheritance to me. He told me as much.

And now you think I might have poisoned him! What tosh! It's really ever so simple. I tell you I didn't do it and that's that. Surely the word of a gentleman still has some bearing on matters, doesn't it?

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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