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**THEY THINK
IT'S ALL
MURDER!**



Max Murderson



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!

Max Murderson

Background Character Information:

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

An arrogant, self-opinionated Scot with no sense of humour, you are dour and serious.

Keep shaking your head, and tut and sigh with monotonous regularity.. You think everyone is an “idiot” and that everything is “outrageous!”

You are prone to angry outbursts if you don't get your own way and throw things around.

You are a penny-pincher and like to get value for money. Every tea bag gets an extra squeeze when you're in the boardroom. Tot up the price of each course at the after-match dinner, then grumble about how much it is costing the club.

Max Murderson

Introductions:

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

Max Murderson speaks first using the following dialogue:

“Max Murderson’s the name. Manager of Fuddlesborough FC, currently the worst team in the league but somebody’s got to do the job! As for Giovanni Costalotta, well, it’s true a team should embrace a good player, but a good player has to work to earn their respect. Sadly this wasn’t the case with Costalotta. Old ‘Italian Balls’ swaggered into this club thinking everyone should fall at his overly pampered feet.

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Celia Smythe	This is a tragedy! Our best player – our most expensive player – lying dead in the showers!
Max Murderson	I know! I can hardly believe it! He had two really good feet.
Lacey Stocking	When he could be bovered to use ‘em.
Max Murderson	Come on – the man was a legend!
Chopper Harry	Don’t make me laugh! Are we talking about the same man?
Lacey Stocking	Chopper’s right. He’d definitely lost form. We all know it.
Celia Smythe	I don’t agree. Everyone has bad days. He was just going through a rough patch.
Chopper Harry	And dragging the rest of us down with him. He needed to up his game.
Rick Fleecem	Well it couldn’t sink much lower, could it?
Max Murderson	I told him! Too many pies, too many late nights and too much drinking, but would he listen to me?
Lacey Stocking	He wouldn’t listen to anyone! He was too busy yakking about himself.
Chopper Harry	He was keen though. He was always at the edge of the box.

Cont.

Max Murderson	Anyone can score from the six yard box!
Rick Fleecem	What I don't understand is why we're being held here? It was clearly an accident.
Lacey Stocking	What, he slipped on a bar of soap? You don't seriously believe that, do you?
Rick Fleecem	Why not?
Renee Todd	Because everyone in this room wanted him dead!
Chopper Harry	Dead's a bit strong, pet. Out of the equation, maybe. I certainly never intended doing him any harm.
Lacey Stocking	Are you owning up to this or what?
Renee Todd	Don't be daft!
Chopper Harry	I'd stick to the day job if I were you. If you've got one, that is. You're certainly no detective.
Max Murderson	And you're no footballer, butcher boy, whatever you might think.

Max Murderson - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Rick why he is at the football match if he paid no attention to the play.

Ask Lacey what attracted her to Giovanni.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You're not here to mollycoddle the players. You have a short fuse and everyone knows it. In fact, you criticised Costalotta quite publicly after the last match and said he was lacking the hunger and desire that a truly top player needs to stay on top of his game.

You don't usually go into the changing rooms but you went looking for Costalotta after he was sent off in the second half. He'd had an appalling row with the referee in full view of the players and fans over a disallowed goal. You found him kicking his locker and swearing. He was stuffing something into it and muttering about 'a lack of quality'. You told him that he was a disgrace and you were considering a disciplinary.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

Rick Fleecem So why do they call you 'Chopper'? Is it because you have murderous intentions?

Max Murderson Idiot! It's because he chops down his opponents on the pitch with his aggressive play.

Renee Todd I thought it was because he had a massive –

Celia Smythe Per-lease! This conversation is getting rather coarse!

Renee Todd I was going to say meat cleaver.

Max Murderson Which is NOT, as I must point out, currently sticking out of Costalotta's back!

Lacey Stocking I don't get it. Is Chopper the murderer or wot?

Renee Todd No! He's just a butcher.

Chopper Harry I can't help what I do for a living.

Rick Fleecem Is it true that the club don't pay you, old chap?

Chopper Harry Virtually nowt man. It's a pittance! I have to spend my weekdays making pies. Playing is my passion, pie-making is a means to an end.

Rick Fleecem But I thought Costalotta was on a packet?

Chopper Harry He was, but I wasn't. Far from it.

Cont.

Celia Smythe We can't pay everyone! You were getting world class training.

Rick Fleecem What sort of club is this?

Chopper Harry A mismanaged one, that's for sure.

Max Murderson Watch it!

Renee Todd But it's true! You were paying that idiot way over the odds.

Rick Fleecem No wonder everybody hated him.

Lacey Stocking I didn't hate him.

Celia Smythe Then why were you arguing with him? I saw you!

Max Murderson You only wanted his money.

Lacey Stocking You wanna watch your mouth! But if you fink I'm bovvered by the likes of you, I'm not. I'm so not!

Max Murderson - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Chopper whether he ate the pie that he bought from Renee.

Ask Renee how long she has been selling pies at Fuddlesboro.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You can tolerate bad play occasionally, after all everyone is human. Unfortunately, with Costalotta it was becoming every match. He wasn't even making an effort, just coasting along and relying on former glories. Your reputation as the best club manager the country has ever seen has been ruined. You've had a flawless and unbroken record of Cup and League wins over the past ten years. Then Costalotta came along.

You didn't see Costalotta before the match. You were too busy sorting out a dispute with the groundsmen. Celia had taken away their weedkiller and told them to use an eco-friendly product. You think it's utterly ridiculous. There are now weeds all over the pitch and the groundsmen are threatening a walkout. You've brought some Weedwell in a drink's bottle from home and are keeping it in the boardroom. You intended to give it to the groundsmen so they could spray it over the pitch after the match.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

- Rick Fleecem** I didn't come here to discuss a murder. I thought I was going to have a good afternoon's entertainment.
- Celia Smythe** What, watching Fuddlesboro play? You must be joking!
- Chopper Harry** Hang on a minute! You're forgetting there were two teams on the pitch today and Chumley Arthritic were world class.
- Lacey Stocking** I fink the word you're lookin' for is lucky.
- Chopper Harry** Rubbish! They were solid, impressive, and tactically astute. I could go on...
- Max Murderson** I hate to say it but he's right. They dominated the game today.
- Chopper Harry** They had the hunger and desire that Fuddlesboro lacked. Costalotta particularly.
- Celia Smythe** Oh he was hungry all right – for his half-time pie!
- Renee Todd** Not that hungry. He only ate half of it, which is unusual you have to admit.
- Lacey Stocking** True. I've seen 'im stuff two in his gullet before.
- Max Murderson** Two? He always said he was buying one for his girlfriend!

Cont.

Lacey Stocking	Wot? Me? Eat that horsemeat? You're having a laugh, ain't yer?! I'd never touch that stuff! It's gross, know what I'm saying?
Renee Todd	Those pies are premium quality meat and Chopper might have won pie of the year had it not it been for Costalotta.
Celia Smythe	How come? He was promoting them, wasn't he? I've seen the adverts.
Renee Todd	Er, yes, er, never mind.
Rick Fleecem	No, don't hold back. We want to know why Costalotta is to blame.
Max Murderson	Well, his acting was a bit wooden and the pies aren't that great.
Chopper Harry	Watch it!
Renee Todd	But we still haven't found out why he only ate half?
Lacey Stocking	I ain't bovvered about that. I just wanna know why he's dead?
Rick Fleecem	I disagree. We have so little to go on, everything is potentially significant.
Chopper Harry	Who d'you think you are, bleeding Sherlock Holmes?

Max Murderson - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Rick to say more about Costalotta's account. Has his money been invested wisely?

Ask Lacey whether she was angry with Costalotta when he threatened to dump her. Did she lash out at him?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You couldn't sack Costalotta as Celia had signed him up for a three year deal and you were stuck with him. However, the January transfer window is approaching and you knew you had to do something to get rid of him as you want to buy the German striker, Schnell.

When you spoke to Costalotta in the changing rooms he sneered, turned his back on you and walked away. You snatched up a bottle of shower gel and lobbed it at him. He ducked to avoid it and slipped on the floor. You left him floundering, thinking it was nothing more than one of his characteristic 'dives' and that he'd be back on his feet in no time.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Max Murderson

Concluding Statement

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

Max Murderson speaks first using the following dialogue:

“Death by shower gel? You are kidding me! Do you think I killed Costalotta? I wouldna kill a player! What a waste of money that would be! I’d sell him to my rivals and let them put up with him! The idiot!”

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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