

ROUND ONE - The murder is announced

Round Instructions:

WHERE POSSIBLE THERE SHOULD BE A CLEAR MARKED WALKWAY, PERHAPS WITH A STRIP OF RED CARPET LINED WITH LIGHTS, CANDLES OR POTTED PLANTS. THIS LEADS TO A LONG TABLE SET OUT WITH SEVEN CHAIRS ALONG ONE SIDE. AT THE CENTRE STANDS RICH RETURNS, READY TO BRING ON HIS STARS.

ALL THE GUESTS SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO SEE THE ACTING BEFORE THE SCENE BEGINS.

ROUND ONE SCRIPT

RICH RETURNS ATTRACTS THE GUESTS ATTENTION BY STRIKING A GLASS.

Rich Returns: [BEAMING] Welcome to my tropical home, everyone! It's great to have you all here for the launch of my latest hit series of "We're Celebrities: Let's Get Out of Here!" For the sake of any newcomers, this is the celebrity game show with a difference! We encourage our celebrities not to compete, but to *co-operate*. Knowing this will help you to understand my selection of celebrities – [REALISES THIS MIGHT BE TAKEN THE WRONG WAY] quite apart from their star quality, of course!

Later on, we'll be having fireworks on the beach but for now, without further ado, I'll bring on my first star. Let's have a big hand for the well-known TV personality and quiz show host... [DRAMATIC PAUSE] Telly Star! [LEADS APPLAUSE]

TELLY STAR WALKS IN AND TAKES HIS PLACE AT TABLE ON HIS LEFT.

Telly Star: [MAKING SMALL BOW] Thank you Rich. Thank you everybody! I'm really excited and delighted to be a part of the team!

Rich Returns: And next, remember what I said about co-operating? Who better to work together than a husband and wife? Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the queen of Bollywood, Hasbine Star! [LEADS APPLAUSE AGAIN]

HASBINE STAR SASHAYS ACROSS STAGE AND SITS BY TELLY, WHO IGNORES HER.

Hasbine Star: [GRABBING HOLD OF TELLY'S ARM IN A PROPRIETARY WAY]
It's so thrilling to be in this wonderful show, especially with my husband, Telly.

Rich Returns: And our third star, ladies and gentlemen, who I'm sure you will have seen in some key supporting roles... I give you Bea Lister!
[LEADS APPLAUSE]

BEA LISTER, CLEARLY PUT OUT, FLOUNCES ON AND SITS NEXT TO HASBINE.

Bea Lister: Actually, I've had some quite major roles, and more recently than anything the 'Queen of Bollywood' has appeared in!

Hasbine Star: [PURRING] But it's quality, not quantity that counts, Bea dear.

Telly Star: [QUIETLY] Ladies, ladies. Please remember the press are here.

Rich Returns: [THINKS HE IS WHISPERING BUT ISN'T] Ever the gentleman, Telly, but don't worry. There is no such thing as bad publicity.
[LOUDER] And now for a *real* star! [TERRY, HASBINE AND BEA LOOK OFFENDED] I give you pop star extraordinaire and darling of the press, Hope Less! [APPLAUSE]

HOPE LESS SCAMPERS PRETTILY ACROSS STAGE, BESTOWING A KISS ON RICH. TELLY CANNOT TAKE HIS EYES OFF HER. HASBINE SCOWLS.

Hope Less: Hello everyone! It's just so lovely to be here! [SITS DOWN]

Bea Lister: [TO HASBINE] I notice Rich's little protégée gets the big build-up.

Hasbine Star: [TO BEA] I'm sure it's a complete coincidence that he happens to be her agent - *not*!

Rich Returns: My last two celebrities may come as a bit of a surprise as they are not performers as such. First, let me introduce that well-known photographer, Snapper Picks! [LEADS APPLAUSE]

SNAPPER ENTERS LANGUIDLY, FLICKING HIS/HER HAIR BACK AND KISSING THE CAST MEMBERS EXTRAVAGANTLY ON BOTH CHEEKS BEFORE SITTING NEXT TO HOPE.

Snapper Picks: Hello darlings. Just too divine to see you all!

Rich Returns: And finally, last but by no means least, a totally new departure for this show. We have a real rising star from the world of

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politics. A name on everybody's lips and in every paper, broadsheet and tabloid, Mr Victor Reus! [LEADS APPLAUSE]

AS THIS NAME IS CALLED, EVERYONE SEEMS SURPRISED BUT TELLY LOOK HORRIFIED. THERE IS A LONG PAUSE AND THEN VICTOR STROLLS ON CALMLY, SMILING, AND TAKES THE LAST SEAT.

Hope Less: [BOUNCING OVER TO KISS VICTOR] Darling! Am I pleased to see you! How come you never told me you were going to be on the show? Wherever has Rich been hiding you?

Victor Reus: You know Rich – he wanted to go for a surprise to get the maximum impact.

Hasbine Star: [LOOKING AT TELLY] You've certainly made an impact on some people.

Telly Star: [RECOVERING HIMSELF] Good to see you again, young man. I look forward to working with you.

Snapper Picks: I'm sure it's going to be great fun, this whole group being together, and *co-operating*. [GIGGLES NAUGHTILY]

Rich Returns: That's what we like to see, our celebrities all pulling together! Teamwork is something I certainly learned the importance of when I was shooting big game out in Africa.

Bea Lister: You showed us all your gun in the hall cupboard when we arrived, but I don't think it's right to shoot animals for fun.

Victor Reus: I'll tell you what isn't right. Keeping a gun in an unlocked cupboard! Shooting should be taken seriously.

Snapper Picks: Talking about shooting, I'd just love to shoot a few pictures and steal a march on all these journalists. I'll just pop out and get a camera from my bag in the hall. I have my little one I use for special personal pics right here [PATS POCKET MEANINGFULLY, LOOKING AT TELLY AND HOPE] but I'd like to fetch my other one for some more professional shots. [EXITS]

Bea Lister: I just hope Snapper takes some decent pictures of me for once. We all know that Hope and Hasbine are his favourites!

Hope Lister: [SWEETLY] Bea, I'm sure Snapper will take some gorgeous pictures of you! After all, you're looking so lovely.

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THERE IS A LOUD BANG OFF STAGE. BEA JUMPS AND SNAPPER STAGGERS BACK ON. EVERYONE RUSHES OVER, TRYING TO HOLD SNAPPER UP, LOOSENING CLOTHING, LOOKING FOR WOUNDS ETC. SNAPPER FALLS TO THE FLOOR.

Rich Returns: [FEELS FOR PULSE] I don't believe it! He's dead!

THE CAST ALL GASP.

Victor Reus: You don't think there's somebody out there shooting at us, do you?

Rich Returns: Where the hell are my security? I'll go and have a quick look round.

RICH EXITS SWIFTLY TO CHECK WHAT'S HAPPENING. HOPE TURNS TO EMBRACE VICTOR. HASBINE CLINGS TO TELLY. BEA DROPS HER BAG, SPILLING THE CONTENTS. SHE STARTS TO SWOON BUT THEN REALISES SHE HAS NO ONE LEFT TO SWOON ON.

Hope Less: Oh Victor, I'm scared!

Victor Reus: Don't worry, Hope. No one would dare try anything in front of all these witnesses. [GESTURES TOWARDS THE GUESTS]

Telly Star: I hope for all our sakes that you're right, Victor.

RICH RETURNS WITH SNAPPER'S CAMERA BAG.

Rich Returns: It looks like it's been some kind of accident. Look. [SHOWS EVERYONE THE BAG] There's a gun pointing out of Snapper's camera bag. I think we'd best not touch anything. Telly, will you take the ladies over to the table please? Sit them all down and get them some water. No, make that a stiff drink - and get *me* one too. Victor, will you phone the police?

Victor Reus: Of course. I'll go outside where there's a better signal, but I agree that no one should move anything. And no one should leave before the police arrive either.

Telly Star: I think, perhaps, we should move the, er, body. There *are* ladies present!

Rich Returns: Good idea, Telly. Come on, Victor – give us a hand before you make that call.

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BEA PICKS UP THE CONTENTS OF HER BAG AND THE OTHERS HELP HER. VICTOR
RELUCTANTLY HELPS RICH AND TELLY TO REMOVE THE BODY.

Hope Less: I don't know about you two girls, but I need to fix my make-up
and then have that drink Telly never poured. [TO AUDIENCE]
Ladies and gentlemen, I have a feeling this will be a long night.
I'd hate you all to go hungry, so if I were you I'd get on with
your meals while you have the chance.

Bea Lister: I'll drink to that. [RAISES GLASS]