

ROUND ONE - The murder is announced

Round Instructions:

Before round one begins the following cast should have been circulating (in character) with the guests: Toby Mory, Dee Stillerie, Glenn Morangie.

Nessie Loch and Blast McGrouse should only come in when indicated in the script.

If the setting allows a separate room to meet in prior to dinner, then it is suggested that Toby Mory enters the room to socialise 10 minutes after everyone else and takes up position at the bar. He can interact with any guests that go over to buy drinks.

Dee Stillerie should be circulating around the guests asking about their day, what they have enjoyed the best, how they are enjoying their holiday, whether they managed to shoot anything with Blast McGrouse etc. This will help the guests get into character as well.

Glenn Morangie should appear slightly drunk and should interact with the guests only when Dee Stillerie prompts him, leading him into their conversation. E.g. "Laird Morangie, come over here and meet Mr and Mrs X. They have an interest in fishing." Dee should introduce Glenn formally as Laird Morangie, owner of the Blair Hillock Estate and go on to explain that Laird Morangie and his wife Irene will be joining them for dinner.

Glenn should be conversationally inept, trying his best to copy Toby Mory's James Bond persona, but doing it badly.

If the guests do meet in a separate room then it should be Dee who calls them all through for dinner.

THE GUESTS SHOULD BE SEATED AT THEIR TABLES BEFORE THE SCENE BEGINS.

ROUND ONE SCRIPT

DEE, GLENN AND TOBY SHOULD CONTINUE TO WALK AROUND THE TABLES CHATTING.

TOBY SHOULD FIND A SUITABLE GUEST NEAR THE "STAGE" AREA THAT WILL BE ABLE TO CATCH HIM WHEN HE STAGGERS LATER IN THE SCRIPT AND PRE-WARN THEM IN A ROUNDABOUT FASHION. E.G. "You look like a strong fellow. How strong would you say you were? Strong enough to lift me? Maybe strong enough to catch me perhaps, you know if I suddenly should fall..."

DEE SHOULD PICK A TABLE AND FIND FAULT WITH SOMETHING ON IT. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT. PERHAPS A PLATE OF BUTTER OR AN UNWASHED KNIFE.

TO ANNOUNCE ATTENTION TO THE FACT THE SCENE IS STARTING A LOUD EXCLAMATION FROM DEE STILERRIE OF “OH MY WORD!” SHOULD QUIET THE AUDIENCE.

DEE SHOULD APOLOGISE TO THE GUESTS AND REMOVE THE ITEM FROM THEIR TABLE (IT WOULD BE WISE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE HOTEL BEFORE DOING IT – SO THEY REALISE IT IS PART OF THE ACT AND ALSO REMEMBER TO BRING IT BACK.)

AFTER APOLOGISING PROFUSELY FOR THE ERROR DEE SHOULD WALK TO THE DOOR OPEN IT AND CALL OUT FOR NESSIE LOCH.

Dee Stillerrie: Nessie? Nessie!

NESSIE ARRIVES.

Nessie Loch: Yes Ms Stillerrie.

Dee Stillerrie: Look at this! [HANDS OVER OFFENDING ITEM AND EXPLAINS SUPPOSED FAULT]. This simply won't do Nessie. I've told you about this sort of thing time and time again. It won't do Nessie. I won't stand for it.

Nessie Loch: [TEARFULLY] Yes Ms Stillerrie, I mean no Ms Stillerrie.

NESSIE TURNS TO LEAVE LOOKING TEARFUL.

Dee Stillerrie: And while you're away, see if you can find Lady Morangie. She likes to be here for dinner. You might find her in the living room.

Nessie Loch: [TEARFULLY] Yes Ms Stillerrie.

NESSIE WALKS OUT AS BLAST MCGROUSE WALKS IN. HE LOOKS WORRYINGLY AFTER NESSIE.

Dee Stillerrie: You! What are YOU doing here, especially dressed like that! You know the guests are *eating*.

Blast McGrouse: [GRUFFLY] 'Phone.

Dee Stillerrie: What?

Blast McGrouse: [RAISING VOICE AS IF SHE IS DEAF] Phone.

Dee Stillerrie: Phone?

Blast McGrouse: [LOUDER] Phone!

Dee Stillerrie: You answered the phone? Oh my word! Why may I ask?

Blast McGrouse: It was ringing.

Dee Stillerrie: May the saints preserve us! What did you say?

Blast McGrouse: Say?

Dee Stillerrie: To the people on the phone!

Blast McGrouse: [MIMICS PHONE CALL WITH HAND TO EAR] 'ello?

Dee Stillerrie: What? Like that? Just "'ello"?

Blast McGrouse: What do you want me to say?

Dee Stillerrie: Say? I don't want YOU to say anything! You're a gamekeeper McGrouse, not a secretary, though that much is clear enough. We have an answering machine. An ANSWERING MACHINE.

Blast McGrouse: Never did like those bleedin' things. All that bloody bleepin'. I've always said....

NESSIE RUNS INTO ROOM SCREAMING. BLAST CATCHES HER.

Dee Stillerrie: Oh my word! What NOW?

NESSIE SOBS HYSTERICALLY.

GLENN AND TOBY WALK OVER.

Blast McGrouse: There, there lass. What is it?

Nessie Loch: [BETWEEN SOBS] It's Mrs Morangie Ma'am.

Dee Stillerrie: Mrs Morangie?

Glenn Morangie: Irene?

Toby Mory: What's that?

Glenn Morangie: Something about Irene?

Dee Stillerrie: Probably given her the sack. 'bout time if you ask me.

Blast McGrouse: What about Mrs Morangie Nessie?

Nessie Loch: She's dead! [MORE SOBS]

MCGROUSE CONTINUES TO HOLD AND COMFORT NESSIE

Toby Mory: Did she say... dead?

Glenn Morangie: Certainly sounded that way. [SUDDENLY REALISING THE IMPLICATIONS] Dead! What's that? Irene... dead? MY Irene?

NESSIE SOBS

Dee Stilerrie: You're quite sure she isn't just... asleep?

NESSIE SOBS LOUDER.

Dee Stilerrie: [ADDRESSING GUESTS] I'm terribly sorry ladies and gentlemen for this interruption. Nessie is prone to hysteria. Nothing to worry about I'm sure. Remain where you are. Dinner will be served shortly. [TO BLAST] You – follow me.

Blast McGrouse: Me? What about...? [INDICATES NESSIE IN HIS ARMS]

Glenn Morangie: I'll take her.

BLAST MCGROUSE PASSES SOBBING NESSIE TO GLENN MORANGIE

DEE STILERRIE AND BLAST MCGROUSE EXIT ROOM. NESSIE KEEPS SOBBING.

Toby Mory: [TO GUESTS] I'm sure it's nothing everyone. Just get back to whatever you were doing. We'll deal with Nessie. [TO GLENN] How is she?

Glenn Morangie: Very nice... I mean, all shaken.

DEE STILERRIE COMES BACK IN WITH BLAST MCGROUSE BEHIND HER.

Toby Mory: Well?

Dee Stilerrie: [QUIETLY AS IF NOT TO DISTURB THE GUESTS] She's dead.

Glenn Morangie: What's that?

Blast McGrouse: [LOUD] She's dead sir. [IMITATES HOLDING A GUN TO HEAD AND PULLING TRIGGER. MAKES BLASTING NOISE]

NESSIE SOBS. GLENN AND TOBY SPEAK NEXT LINES TOGETHER. TOBY STAGGERS BACK. DROPS INTO THE PRE-WARNED GUEST'S LAP AS HE SPEAKS.

Glenn Morangie: Dead?

Toby Mory: Irene? No! Not Irene.

TOBY SHOULD PICK HIMSELF BACK UP AND DUST DOWN THE GUEST APOLOGISING.

Toby Mory: Sorry. It was just a ... shock. Glenn? Are you all right?

Glenn Morangie: Yes. Yes I think so. What are we going to do?

Dee Stillerrie: Do? Call the police of course. And if it wasn't for this, this, MAN here, no one need have known except us. We could have kept it quiet. At least, until later.

Glenn Morangie: But Dee!

Dee Stillerrie: Don't worry Laird Morangie. I'll have it all in hand in a few moments. [TO GUESTS] I'm terribly sorry ladies and gentlemen. It appears Lady Morangie will not be joining us for dinner after all. We, um..., have a small personal matter to attend to this evening. However, I am sure that it is nothing that will prevent you all from enjoying your meal. Nessie!

NESSIE SOBS.

Dee Stillerrie: [SHARPLY] Nessie! Come on girl. Pull yourself together. We need you in the kitchens. Come on. Chop chop!

NESSIE PULLS AWAY FROM GLENN'S EMBRACE AND RUNS OUT OF THE ROOM STILL TEARFUL AND SOBBING.

Dee Stillerrie: [TO GUESTS] Dinner will be served shortly. [TO GLENN] I have a phone call to make sir. I'll be back. [TO BLAST] McGrouse – follow me.

DEE STILERRIE LEAVES THE ROOM WITH BLAST MCGROUSE FOLLOWING BEHIND HER.

TOBY WALKS OVER TO GLENN.

Toby Mory: Come on. You need a drink.

Glenn Morangie: [A BIT DAZED] A drink?

Toby Mory: For the shock.

TOBY MORY AND GLENN MORANGIE WALK OUT OF THE ROOM.

END OF ROUND ONE.

The guests should all now be served with their first course.

The cast should not re-enter the room until round two begins.