

## **ROUND ONE - The murder is announced**

Round Instructions:

Before Round One begins all of the cast should have been circulating with the guests in character.

If the setting allows a separate room to meet in prior to dinner, then it is suggested that the cast circulate in character with the guests in there.

James Blonde can flirt with the ladies and introduce himself to all as “Blonde, James Blonde”. Ernst could try to recruit to his organisation. Kitty With-Claws, Cuttlefishy and Miss Honey Funnymoney should engage the guests in conversation by asking them who they are here to represent, MI6 or S.P.O.O.K.T.E.R., and then tailoring the conversation to suit after the guests have explained who they are.

The guests should be called through for dinner by one of the hotel / restaurant staff. James Blonde should not enter the room with the guests.

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

### **ROUND ONE SCRIPT**

ALL THE CAST SHOULD BE SEATED AT ONE TABLE AT THE HEAD OF THE ROOM. THE SEATING ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD ALLOW FOR M, WHO IS MISSING. MI6 SHOULD BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE TABLE AND S.P.O.O.K.T.E.R. ON THE OTHER.

OUTSIDE THE ROOM JAMES BLONDE SHOULD SMEAR SOME SOOTY MARKS ON HIS FACE, MESS UP HIS COLLAR AND SHAKE SOME FLOUR OR ASH OVER HIS SUIT AND HAIR READY FOR HIS BIG ENTRANCE.

SFX: **LOUD** BOMB BLAST PLAYED THROUGH SOUND SYSTEM.

SIMULTANEOUS TO THE SFX THE DOOR CRASHES OPEN AND JAMES BLONDE DIVES INTO THE ROOM AS IF ESCAPING A BOMB BLAST.

IF YOU HAVE PYROTECHNICS OR SIMILAR SPECIAL EFFECTS AND WANTED TO MAKE HIS ENTRANCE REALLY DRAMATIC – THEN FEEL FREE!

MISS HONEY FUNNYMONEY, KITTY WITH-CLAWS AND CUTTLEFISHY RUSH OVER.

**TOGETHER:**

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** James!

**Cuttlefishy:** James!

**Kitty With-Claws:** James!

JAMES BLONDE STANDS AND DUSTS HIMSELF OFF, BRUSHING AWAY THE GIRLS’ ATTENTION AND WALKING TOWARDS THE TABLE AND ERNST.

**James Blonde:** I'm all right. Pity the same can't be said for M.

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** You mean to say?

**James Blonde:** Dead.

JAMES BLONDE GLARES AT ERNST.

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** How unfortunate.

JAMES BLONDE CONTINUES TO GLARE.

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** I hope you aren't inferring that I had something to do with this?

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** Blonde! You can't just go around accusing people.

**James Blonde:** Oh?

JAMES BLONDE DRAWS HIS GUN AND POINTS IT AT ERNST.

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** Really Mr Blonde! You expect me to talk?

**James Blonde:** No Ernst – I expect you to die.

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** James!

**James Blonde:** I never did like the idea of these peace talks Funnymoney. I always thought...

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** I *know* what you thought James. So did M.

**James Blonde:** And look where it got him.

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** You can't go around killing people Blonde. Not without evidence.

**James Blonde:** That's never bothered MI6 before.

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** It *will* do now.

**James Blonde:** Now?

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** We need a new M, or had you forgotten?

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** A new M? You mean N surely?

**James Blonde:** I didn't say you could talk.

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** My apologies. Kitty?

KITTY WITH-CLAWS PULLS OUT A GUN AND POINTS IT AT BLONDE.

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** She is an excellent marksman.

**James Blonde:** Woman surely?

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** Depends on who you ask, but then, *you* would know wouldn't you Mr Blonde? Queen and country was it?

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** This is getting us nowhere! James! Put away your gun. Now!

JAMES BLONDE RELUCTANTLY PUTS HIS GUN AWAY. KITTY WITH-CLAWS ALSO PUTS AWAY HER GUN.

**James Blonde:** You wouldn't have shot me would you?

**Kitty With-Claws:** We'll never know will we?

**Cuttlefishy:** What now?

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** I need to call the new M.

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** N.

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** M. Blonde - watch them.

**James Blonde:** With pleasure.

JAMES BLONDE TAKES A PERCH ON ONE OF THE GUESTS' TABLES FACING THE TOP TABLE AND S.P.O.O.K.T.E.R. AGENTS. MISS HONEY FUNNYMONEY LEAVES THE ROOM.

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** Cuttlefishy?

**Cuttlefishy:** Yes No. 1?

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** My glass is empty.

**Cuttlefishy:** Yes No. 1.

CUTTLEFISHY TAKES THE GLASS AND MOVES TO LEAVE. JAMES BLONDE HOLDS OUT HIS OWN EMPTY GLASS.

**James Blonde:** Vodka Martini.

**Cuttlefishy:** Shaken, not stirred?

**James Blonde:** That's the one.

CUTTLEFISHY LEAVES THE ROOM.

**Kitty With-Claws:** What now?

**James Blonde:** Well, that all depends.

**Kitty With-Claws:** On what?

**James Blonde:** On how you like your [MENTION WHAT IS FOR FIRST COURSE]. Personally I prefer mine [HOT OR COLD DEPENDING ON THE MENU].

**Kitty With-Claws:** You mean we eat?

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** Why not? It's not as if we are going anywhere. Come, sit my dear. Blonde can see you just as well over here.

**James Blonde:** In fact – I might see considerably more of you.

KITTY WITH-CLAWS LIFTS HER CLOTHES AT HER BUST AND PULLS DOWN HER SKIRT.

**James Blonde:** Ah. Shame.

CUTTLEFISHY COMES BACK IN WITH THE DRINKS.

**Cuttlefishy:** Vodka Martini, shaken, not stirred.

CUTTLEFISHY HANDS BLONDE HIS GLASS.

**Cuttlefishy:** Distilled water.

CUTTLEFISHY HANDS ERNST THE OTHER GLASS.

**James Blonde:** Urgh. Never touch the stuff.

MISS HONEY FUNNYMONEY WALKS BACK IN.

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** M's on her way.

**Ernst Fuzzyfelt:** Oh really?

**James Blonde:** Did you say *her*?

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** Her.

JAMES BLONDE DOWNS HIS DRINK IN ONE. MISS HONEY FUNNYMONEY TURNS TO ADDRESS THE GUESTS

**Miss Honey Funnymoney:** Double O's, S.P.O.O.K.T.E.R. agents and assorted others. I'm terribly sorry that our peace talks have come to such an abrupt halt. However, I know M would have wanted us to continue eating together as a gesture of good faith, and the new M is even more eager to keep you all together in the hope that she'll be able to root out the assassin this evening. And so – I would ask that you bear with us. Your meal will be served shortly, and justice soon thereafter.

END OF ROUND ONE.

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