

A close-up photograph of a dark wine bottle tilted to the right, pouring a vibrant red wine into a clear, elegant wine glass. The wine is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash and ripples within the glass. The background is a soft, textured, light brown color. The text 'Demi Liter' is overlaid in a bold, white, sans-serif font at the top, and 'A Bad Vintage' is overlaid in a white, serif font at the bottom.

Demi Liter

A Bad

Vintage

Congratulations!

You are taking part in a murder mystery by Red Herring Games.

Firstly: *Don't Panic!*

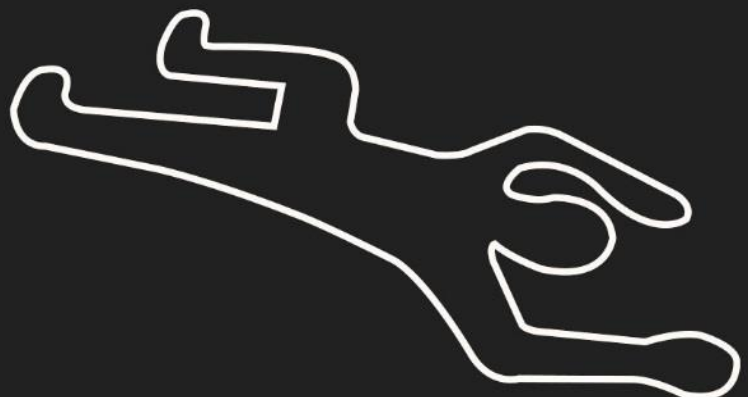
This booklet contains all the information you need to help you act your part throughout the murder mystery; background history, scripted dialogues, questions you should ask and scripted answers to questions you will be asked by the other guests.

You are encouraged to make the most of your part. Feel free to make up new lines and add to your back story or statements if you wish. However, make sure you always provide the information you need to within your answers. We have pre-scripted your statements to make things as simple for you as possible.

Make sure you listen to everyone else's questions and answers.

You won't be told if you're the killer – so feel free to guess yourself at the end – but don't tell anyone else you are! You must protest your innocence until the end!

Lastly: *Have fun!*



Demi Liter

Background Character Information

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

You are high society and have the whole mixing, mingling and small-talking thing down pat.

Although you have been recently widowed, you are still a hostess and will do the whole hostess thing regardless of how you are feeling.

You are, however, not a callous person. Although Max Liter wasn't an easy man to love these last few years, you did still have a bond with him on a very deep level and are saddened by his death. Therefore, you will allow the odd, carefully controlled tear to leak out. You don't go in for uncontrollable sobbing. That just isn't you. Dab at your eyes. Sniff delicately and pull yourself together so you can get back to entertaining.

You and Byron have a bit of a thing going on but you keep it very discreet. Allow yourself to be flattered by him and drop subtle hints towards him.

Demi Liter - Introductions

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

Demi Liter speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well, it seems I, Demi Liter, wife of the deceased, aren't even being allowed the decency of announcing my husband's death to my guests in private. Rather, you've all heard about Max's misfortune from the inspector. I'm so sorry that our evening soiree has turned into this. Please accept my heartfelt apologies. I'm sure the inspector won't keep you longer than necessary.

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

Scripted Dialogue - Round 1

- Byron Case** Oh Demi! I'm so sorry to see you being put through all this. Clearly the police don't have any compassion.
- Cary Dover** I always thought it was a sense of humour they didn't have, but after those puns, clearly, I'm mistaken.
- Nick Bagger** They weren't particularly good ones.
- Cary Dover** I never said they had a *good* sense of humour, Nick.
- Phillipa Delphia** Well, I'm just surprised they didn't make any more. I mean, there's all *sorts* of other puns that could have been used. They want us to *agitate* people by asking questions for a start.
- Nick Bagger** While they mull over the case?
- Jean Le'Carré** Perhaps it would be best if we *reserve* making any more comments for now. This is, after all, a murder enquiry and it's not in particularly good *taste*, is it?
- Phillipa Delphia** No it's not! It's all just all so dreadful! I can't believe Max is dead. You're holding up so well, Demi – I would be in pieces by now if I was his wife.
- Demi Liter** Then it's just as well you *weren't* married to him. If you had been, you might feel a little differently about it.

Byron Case Well, I'm glad he's dead. There – I've said it.

Demi Liter Byron! You can't say things like that – the police are listening!

Nick Blagger You know, I thought it was the police's *duty* to solve cases, not crack jokes.

Cary Dover I think you're scraping the bottom of the *barrel* there.

Byron Case Oh dear! Please! I've heard quite enough! Let's just get on with solving the *case*!

Demi Liter No pun intended, I'm sure! Look – as I'm the host, let me ask a question first. Then perhaps we can move on before this deteriorates any further.

Demi Liter - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Phillipa Delphia, did you and Max have a business arrangement?

Nick, what time did you arrive at the estate? Were you here early enough to see Max alive?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Demi Liter, did you and Max have a happy marriage?

Say: I think it's safe to say that Max and I haven't been in what you might call a happy marriage for sometime. Max had a wandering eye. He's had numerous affairs with different women from the local area and visitors to the vineyard too. Every time I found out about one, he told me it was over and that he has eyes only for me. After many years of this, I decided to see what I was missing out on and had my own affair. And you know what? The grass WAS greener on the other side.

When asked: Demi, do you know the contents of Max Liter's will? Did he perhaps leave everything to you?

Say: Yes he did, but not intentionally. When we married, we made out one of those standard 'either or survivor' wills. We haven't redone our will since, so by default this entire vineyard and estate is mine.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 2

- Byron Case** Dredging through the vats? Oh no! That'll set back the winemaking process by several weeks!
- Demi Liter** And it had all just settled too. Sorry Byron – looks like you're just going to have to wait for your next order a little longer.
- Cary Dover** (TO DEMI) We could give you a loan to tide you over if you wanted.
- Nick Blagger** I hope you aren't intending to resell that particular vintage, Demi.
- Phillipa Delphia** I'm sure Demi isn't talking about reusing the vat Max was found in. There is more than one vat in the wine shed after all.
- Jean Le'Carré** Of course. And thankfully only one has a dead body in it!
- Phillipa Delphia** Does that mean there's only one killer then?
- Byron Case** Not necessarily, but it's rare to have an accomplice in these sorts of matters. Isn't that true, Jean?
- Jean Le'Carré** Yes, you're quite right. The more people involved in a murder, the harder it is to cover up. Besides, this hardly seems like a premeditated killing, not when there are so many witnesses.
- Demi Liter** I'm sure whoever did it expects to get away with it too. Otherwise they'd have left already.
- Phillipa Delphia** Who's to say they haven't?

Jean Le'Carré

The police! Inspector Piador said they were confident the killer was amongst us!

Phillipa Delphia

Perhaps the inspector was just being hopeful.

Byron Case

I'm sure the police have based their investigation on more than just a hunch. These are the professionals after all.

Demi Liter

If you say so. Personally, I find this inspector's techniques a little peculiar. But... it does seem to be working.

Demi Liter - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Nick, do you know why the Grand Cru estate is in such financial difficulties when you spend a significant amount of money here yourself.

Cary, do you have any shares in the bank you work for?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Demi, if your marriage was so unhappy, did you have any plans to leave Max?

Say: Yes. I told him last month I wanted a divorce. We've had some pretty serious rows about it recently and I'm afraid sound carries down the valley. I expect most of the locals have heard us.

When asked: Demi, you mentioned you were having an affair and things were going quite well. May I ask who are you having the affair with?

Say: I've been having an affair with Byron Case. We've been seeing each other for eight months now, off and on. We meet up whenever Byron is in the area. Max never suspected I was seeing him, otherwise he would never have invited him to the soiree tonight.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 3

- Nick Bagger** So, Cary. Max was in *hock*, was he?
- Cary Dover** Oh no... we aren't back to the wine puns, are we?
- Jean Le'Carré** If we are, I'm sure we're down to the *dregs*. I think we covered them all last time.
- Demi Liter** Maybe we could just give the puns a rest this time.
- Byron Case** *Lay them aside*, you mean?
- Demi Liter** Don't you start!
- Cary Dover** Well, I don't know about you, but I don't like the idea of being *labelled* a murderer.
- Jean Le'Carré** I don't think the inspector has labelled anyone yet Cary, but the police do seem to think one of us is responsible.
- Nick Bagger** I noticed that. Still, it'll do wonders for my publicity I'm sure!
- Phillipa Delphia** The last thing we need right now is for you to shout this affair from the rooftops! This is a murder enquiry, NOT a media circus.
- Nick Bagger** Oh, I'm sure we could combine the two.
- Demi Liter** Not with me if you don't mind. I've always preferred the simple life. I like my cottage and my vines. Murder is not something I go in for.

Cary Dover You do prune though, right? Perhaps you thought Max could do with a bit of cutting back.

Byron Case There's a big difference between cutting back and cutting down, Cary. I'm sure Demi wouldn't have taken it too far.

Philippa Delphia What's to say whoever killed Max did it on purpose? Perhaps it was an accident.

Demi Liter Oh! You mean someone accidentally just left him in the wine vat to drown?!

Cary Dover They could have knocked him in by accident and then been unable to get him out again.

Jean Le'Carré There's just the small matter of NOT calling for help though, isn't there?

Demi Liter Look. Why don't we just get back to the case? Perhaps all will become clear.

Nick Blagger I hope so. This dead body in the wine vat has put me off red wine for life!

Demi Liter - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Cary Dover, do you know what situation the bank will be in now that Max is dead? Does his death improve things for the bank?

Byron Case, do you know any of Max Liter's past conquests?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Demi Liter, did you know the situation with the estate's finances?

Say: No I didn't. I had no idea we were as heavily in debt as we seem to be! Max liked to deal with the finances himself and I had no idea things had got so bad. He had been talking about selling some of the tied cottages on the estate for some time, but I thought this was just a business decision, not a necessity to keep the estate afloat.

When asked: Demi Liter, do you have plans to sell the estate now that Max is dead?

Say: Well, to be honest I've not made any decisions yet. I've always loved it here, and Max's death has resolved the estate's difficult financial situation rather nicely. He had a significant life assurance policy and I rather think all the outstanding debts will be paid off with money to spare.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Demi Liter - Concluding Statement

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

Demi Liter speaks after Byron Case using the following dialogue:

I know you would, Byron, but as things have turned out, you get to indulge both your passions. As for the financial situation, well, that wasn't something I planned. It's just fortuitous happenstance.

After you have heard from all the guests make a prediction as to who the murderer is and why.

Tell the others.

We hope you enjoyed playing this Red Herring Games murder mystery and will visit us again to try out our other games.

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Red Herring Games are constantly on the lookout for more authors to add to our portfolio, giving you more choice.



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