

A vibrant tropical beach scene featuring several tall palm trees on the left, lush green foliage on the right, and a clear turquoise ocean under a bright blue sky with light clouds. The foreground shows a sandy beach with shadows cast by the trees.

# MURDER IN PARADISE

**May West**



# Congratulations!

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

Firstly: *Don't Panic!*

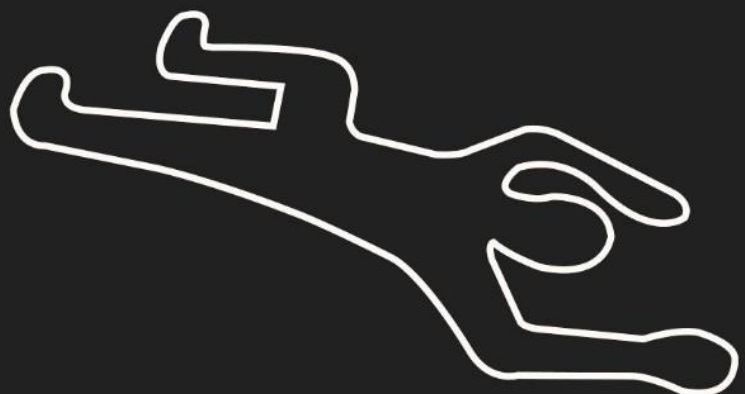
This booklet contains all the information you need to help you act your part throughout the murder mystery; background history, scripted dialogues, questions you should ask and scripted answers to questions you will be asked by the other guests.

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!*



# May West

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## Background Character Information

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

You are used to being hit on by drunk male tourists and are very quick with put downs and cutting sarcasm. Just because you have an amazing beach body, it doesn't make you a blonde bimbo.

You have a degree in life sciences and were midway through a doctorate when you decided that a life of academia really wasn't for you and you switched to life-guarding. The pay is less than most degree level work, but it gives you a better social life and work life balance. You enjoy taking advantage of the surf, sand and sea available to you at St Michelle.

You were Rex Marridges's current girlfriend. He wasn't particularly faithful and so you aren't particularly upset. Still, you might want to spend a little time playing the grieving girlfriend as that's what everyone will expect and it'll make you look less suspicious.

# May West - Introductions

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

**May West speaks first using the following dialogue:**

Why do you have to keep going on about the pool, Inspector? Surely it's bad enough Rex is dead without you continually reminding me it happened in MY POOL. My name's May West. I'm one of the lifeguards here at the Fairbreeze Hotel. I'm also Rex Marridges's, sorry, WAS Rex Marridges's girlfriend and if you think you are all shocked, think about me! I've just lost my boyfriend!

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

# Scripted Dialogue - Round 1

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- Wanda Lust:** I can see why the Chief Commissioner wants to keep this quiet.
- Mazda Bongo:** Me too. It's not exactly the sort of thing that sells holidays, is it?
- Andy Wiccards:** Not unless you're Agatha Christie. Death in Paradise would make a good sequel to Death on the Nile, don't you think?
- Harvey Wallbanger:** Hey! Do you think we can stop talking about Rex's death as if it's some sort of entertainment? He was a good mate of mine!
- May West:** Personally, I don't find it at *all* entertaining. He was my boyfriend after all.
- Mazda Bongo:** And he died in *your* pool. You'll need more than a leaf skimmer to get him out of there!
- Andy Wiccards:** Whoever killed him clearly wasn't thinking about cleaning up after themselves. If so, they'd have disposed of the body somewhere else.
- Wanda Lust:** Exactly! And why the pool? Why not just throw him in the sea?
- Walter Ski:** I suppose whoever did it wanted to make sure he drowned.
- Harvey Wallbanger:** I guess so, but disposing of him at the hotel meant the body was be sure to be found sooner rather than later.

- May West:** Maybe they hadn't realised how difficult it was to move a dead weight out of the water.
- Mazda Bongo:** You speaking from experience?
- May West:** I'm a lifeguard, remember? An unconscious man weighs more than you think.
- Harvey Wallbanger:** I don't understand why no one saw anything. I thought the pool was floodlit.
- Wanda Lust:** The inspector said there was a power cut, remember? No one would have seen anything.
- Walter Ski:** Surely someone would have heard something?
- May West:** Not necessarily. How much attention do people pay to some splashing?
- Harvey Wallbanger:** Surely he put up a struggle?
- Mazda Bongo:** He probably did, but it's hard to scream if your head is underwater.
- Andy Wiccards:** Oh dear, and to think it happened just a stone's throw away from the guest rooms here at the hotel.

# May West - First Round

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## Questions you should ask:

Harvey, how long have you known Rex Marridges?

Mazda, do you have a lot of gigs on the surrounding islands as well as your cabaret at the Fairbreeze Hotel?

## Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

**When asked:** May, how long had you and Rex Marridges been an item?

**Say:** Rex and I had been together for nearly two years. You could say it was a steady relationship, but the truth is we've been far from steady for some time. Rex had a wandering eye.

**When asked:** May, did Rex have any money issues?

**Say:** Yes, you could say that. He was a terror for get-rich quick schemes. He was always trying out supplements or vitamin schemes or gym equipment or other business ventures. He couldn't resist something that sounded too good to be true. I've bailed him out financially a few times even in the short time we've known each other. That's what you do when you're in love, isn't it?

**Do not read further until instructed by your host.**

## Scripted Dialogue - Round 2

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- Mazda Bongo:** You know, there's something to be said for a good murder. It lets us all get to know one another properly.
- Andy Wiccards** You would say that - you've not been here that long. Believe me, the more you know, the less you want to know.
- May West:** So who's the longest serving person on the staff here then?
- Wanda Lust:** Well, in terms of service, you can be waiting a long time at the bar!
- Harvey Wallbanger:** Flair cocktails take time. You can't just rustle up a Brain Haemorrhage or a Screaming Orgasm rapidly!
- Walter Ski:** Some folks can't rustle one up at all!
- Harvey Wallbanger:** And what are you insinuating by that? If my clothes revealed as much as your wetsuit, I'd be keeping my mouth shut!
- Mazda Bongo:** Boys! Boys! We've a murder to solve, not another one to produce!
- Wanda Lust:** I can think of someone that could do with bumping off...
- May West:** The feeling's mutual, I assure you.
- Harvey Wallbanger:** Now now, ladies. Let's just get this one solved first before we look at reducing the suspect list.



- Mazda Bongo:** I thought tragedies were meant to bring people together. Can't you two simply get on for a while?
- Andy Wiccards:** At least you have something in common with each other, as well as living on this island.
- Harvey Wallbanger:** As far as I'm concerned, once I have a drink in my hand, you two ladies can get on with 'sorting each other out' to your hearts' content!
- Mazda Bongo:** I believe mud wrestling is at the other hotel further round the island. And Wednesday's I believe.
- Wanda Lust:** Mud is good for the skin.
- Mazda Bongo:** I'd heard that, Wanda, but I still don't fancy wallowing in it like a pig.
- Walter Ski:** I'd pay good money to watch you two brawl it out.
- Harvey Wallbanger:** Well if you'd pay good money, perhaps I should look into making it a feature at the Fairbreeze hotel...

## May West - Second Round

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### Questions you should ask:

Andy, I heard from a friend that you nearly always lose at the other casinos on the island. Is that true?

Wanda, did you happen to walk near the hotel pool last night? Did you see anything?

### Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

**When asked:** May, why did you suspect Rex was having an affair?

**Say:** Look, I'm no fool. Rex was a babe magnet in that gym and he was always tempted by the visiting tourists. Usually it was just a one night wonder, so I looked the other way, but just recently he'd been acting more and more shifty. I'd seen blobs of massage oil on his gym clothing, and more importantly, a specific colour lipstick on his collar I recognised. I followed him this afternoon. When I saw where he was going, I gave him an ultimatum. Me or Wanda. I'm not a comfort blanket. If he wants a new relationship, he should leave me and start one.

**When asked:** May, do you know how well Rex is doing financially?

**Say:** If you'd asked me last week I would have said badly, but just the other day a letter arrived saying that he'd inherited some money from a long lost relative or something. I thought it was another one of those 'Rich Prince' scams, but it seems it wasn't! He had a cousin in England who'd died with no heirs and he was actually due to inherit quite a sizeable amount.

**Do not read further until instructed by your host.**

## Scripted Dialogue - Round 3

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- May West:** Rex always wanted a burial at sea.
- Harvey Wallbanger:** Whatever for? I thought with him being scared of water, a burial at sea would be the last thing he'd want!
- Wanda Lust:** It's because of what they do, Harvey. He wanted to make sure he was definitely dead. He was scared of being buried alive and he thought the last stitch through the nose was a good failsafe.
- Mazda Bongo:** Well, if it's a burial at sea, does that mean I have to brush up on 'Eternal Father Strong To Save' then? Or 'Frigging in the Rigging?!'
- May West:** You'd sing for his funeral?
- Mazda Bongo:** Seems the least I could do.
- Andy Wiccards:** Nautically themed then. Perhaps 'Will Your Anchor Hold,' just to ring the changes.
- Walter Ski:** I prefer 'We're Riding Along On The Crest Of A Wave.'
- Harvey Wallbanger:** But that's a Boy Scout song, not a hymn.
- Walter Ski:** Doesn't have to be a hymn though, does it?
- Mazda Bongo:** I suppose not. Was Rex a scout then?
- May West:** Not that I know.

**Andy Wiccards:** Well, it doesn't look like he was the prepared sort if you ask me. Someone took him by surprise.

**Walter Ski:** Seems such a shame when he had so much to live for.

**Mazda Bongo:** He did?

**May West:** I think he means his windfall inheritance.

**Harvey Wallbanger:** It didn't do him any good, did it?

**Andy Wiccards:** No, but perhaps his executors will be able to afford a decent funeral.

**Harvey Wallbanger:** Who cares about the funeral? It's the wake I'm interested in. Sounds like he can afford a serious party!

**Andy Wiccards:** We've not even solved his murder yet, Harvey! There'll be no burial until they've identified the killer.

# May West - Third Round

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## Questions you should ask:

Wanda, did you know Rex couldn't swim?

Mazda Bongo, where were you last night? Did you go anywhere near the pool?

## Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

**When asked:** May, did Rex suffer from insomnia?

**Say:** Yes. At least he had been recently. He always slept badly when he was worried about finance and I wondered if he'd been tempted by another gimmick business, but he said he hadn't. I suggested he see a local doctor and get a sedative or something, but he hadn't as far as I know. He was often out late at night pacing around the hotel grounds.

**When asked:** May, I saw you walking around the pool last night in the early evening. Why were you there?

**Say:** I was just trying to get some perspective. I wasn't sure if Rex had only been staying with me for money. Now that he'd got this inheritance, I wondered if this thing with Wanda would become permanent. I was trying to consider whether I loved him enough to fight for him or whether I should dump him before he dumped me. I never saw Rex though. I went back to my room and bolted the door so he couldn't get in. When he rattled the doorhandle, I shouted at him to go and sleep at Wanda's. I'd decided I wanted nothing more to do with him.

**Do not read further until instructed by your host.**



## May West - Concluding Statement

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

**May West speaks first using the following dialogue:**

Quite frankly, I find the whole insinuation that I might have killed off my own boyfriend for his money repugnant. Rex was always very easy to lead astray. He probably didn't realise anything was wrong until he was choking on water. Anyway, if I was going to kill off anyone then it would have been that harlot from the beauty parlour, not Rex.

**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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