



Once upon a murder

Old King Cole



Congratulations!

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

Firstly: *Don't Panic!*

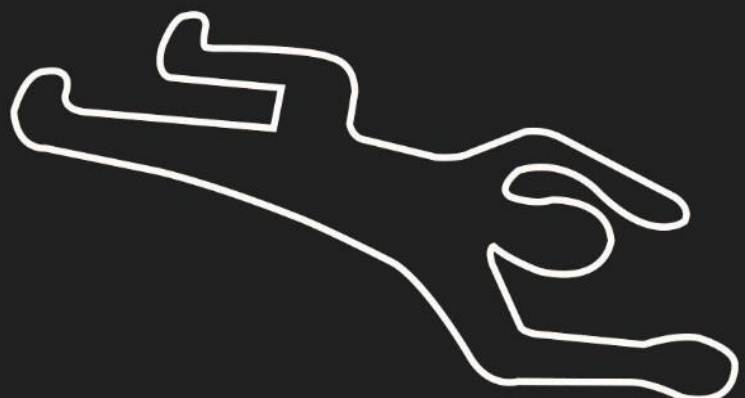
This booklet contains all the information you need to help you act your part throughout the murder mystery; background history, scripted dialogues, questions you should ask and scripted answers to questions you will be asked by the other guests.

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!*



Old King Cole

Background Character Information

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

You're the current 'Old King' which is the title of the monarch in Happily Ever After. You're a merry soul who's always ready with a joke. However, if people don't laugh at your jokes, you are apt to sulk.

Speak in a loud voice and expect everyone to agree with you no matter what opinion you happen to hold - and you change your mind frequently! As the monarch, your opinion is always the correct one!

Remember you are royal. Command others to fetch and carry for you. Insist that you are the first served and that everyone stands if you stand. No one sits when royalty is standing! If there are other crowned heads present, insist that you have precedence. Being the 'Old King' has its advantages.

Old King Cole - Introductions

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

Old King Cole speaks first using the following dialogue:

I shall speak first. Of course, it's completely unnecessary for me to introduce myself, but as the monarch I understand the necessity of formalities! Ahem! I am Old King Cole, the 975th ruler of this land known as Happily Ever After. I'm known for my merriness and my patronage of violin trios - or you might say, my fiddlers three! Of course, this news about Humpty's fall is very sad. I was made aware of it last night, when I sent all of my horses and all of my men to Humpty's aid. I'm sure each of them did all that they could. Jack, you will speak next.

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

Scripted Dialogue - Round 1

Alice: Is it possible that we've had our first murder here in Happily Ever After? And I'm one of the suspects? This is terrific!

Blind Mouse: Speaking for myself - no, it's not.

Alice: No - what I meant to say is that it'll be great for my job. I want everyone here to give me interviews once we're done!

Blind Mouse: Count me out.

Dread Pirate: Me too. I don't do interviews.

Alice: But...

Old King Cole: Quiet! I think we've got bigger problems on our hands than whether or not to give Alice an interview.

Jack: You're right of course, Your Majesty.

Old King Cole: Of course I'm right! I'm always right!

QG: Except when you're left.

Old King Cole: Excuse me?

QG: Sometimes you're left. Left behind, I mean. Didn't you used to ride out with your horses and men? You don't now.

Old King Cole: That was a safety concern.

Jack: Oh... if only Humpty had taken some safety concerns!

QG: But he didn't. And now we're in this mess.

Jack: No, Humpty was the one in a mess.

Alice: Completely scrambled, so I heard!

Old King Cole: Did you say 'scrabble'? Oh, I love that game! I suppose now's not the time, is it? What are we supposed to be doing again?

Alice: I think we're supposed to make a start in figuring out which of us is responsible.

Dread Pirate: It's not me! Does anyone want to disagree with a pirate?

Jack: When did Happily Ever After become a murder mystery story? I thought this was where things were Happily Ever After - it's in THE NAME.

QG: Someone has written a new chapter in all of our stories.

Alice: Curiouser and curiouser!

Dread Pirate: Some people don't pay attention to the rules.

Blind Mouse: Some say that rules were meant to be broken - like being on a diet. Sometimes you just WANT it... am I right?

Old King Cole: You are! Sometimes you have to do what's right!! For the greater good!!

QG: You're sounding rather cranky. Do you need a nap?

Old King Cole: Well, I don't like any of this. I don't like it at all.

Old King Cole - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Blind Mouse, when did you arrive here in Happily Ever After?

QG, has Humpty ever refused to endorse a Fairest of Them All product?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Your Majesty Old King Cole, how did the arrangement to send all of your horses and all of your men to Humpty's aid come about?

Say: The arrangement for sending all of my horses and men was made many years ago. Humpty was my tutor back when I was studying for my C levels - that's Crown levels. In return for his academic help, I promised I would dispatch all my horses and men if he were ever to fall off his wall. Humpty was a very well-loved egg.

When asked: Your Majesty Old King Cole, have you ever had to send out your horses and men before last night?

Say: I've only had to send out my horses and men twice before now. The first time was many years ago, when Humpty was new to his wall and had insisted on sitting up there even though he'd spent most of the night sampling Giant wine. The second time was two days ago.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 2

- Old King Cole:** Did I hear that candlemaker correctly? We're supposed to solve the case while he goes and checks his candles?
- QG:** I believe that's what was said.
- Alice:** I took plenty of notes, Your Majesty. I am a reporter after all!
- Old King Cole:** But... but... no one tells the monarch of this land what to do!!
- Dread Pirate:** A humble candlemaker did! How does it feel to have someone else in charge, eh, your royal nibs??
- Old King Cole:** Stop that at once! We need to get back to the facts.
- Jack:** We know that someone pushed Humpty from his wall.
- Alice:** I can't believe that someone here would do that!
- Jack:** And yet you can believe six impossible things before breakfast. You are very strange.
- Blind Mouse:** The point is that this isn't impossible. It's a fact.
- Dread Pirate:** And we need to get on with solving this mystery.
- QG:** You seem in a bit of a hurry to finish. Wanting to leave, are you?

Dread Pirate: Even pirates have responsibilities. I may be dread, but I'm still responsible.

Blind Mouse: What about those golden flecks and golden straw that were found in Humpty's nest, Jack?

Jack: No idea what you're talking about.

Dread Pirate: Would the straw still be there, do you think? Just wondering.

Alice: And those broken bottles. What do they mean?

Old King Cole: That they're broken?

QG: We should make a start.

Jack: We should. Who'll begin?

Old King Cole - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Blind Mouse, can you please explain how you were seen yesterday on the village green with a cup of tea, working on the Once Upon a Times' crossword puzzle?

QG, what did you do last night?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Your Majesty Old King Cole, where were you last night?

Say: Last night I was hosting a concert celebrating my Silver Jubilee! Tradition demanded that there be some sort of celebration and I knew that my people would be so disappointed if I didn't do anything! I'm not known as a merry old soul for nothing!

When asked: Your Majesty Old King Cole, would you say that you are merry all the time?

Say: I do try to be merry all the time and I can usually see the humour in most situations. When QG threw Humpty into the fountain, I thought it was hilarious! Poor old Humpty! He did look surprised! No harm done of course. Just good fun. That QG has a wicked sense of humour and Humpty, as I've said before, was well-loved by all. In fact, he told me that his pocket watch was a gift from a loving fan - that's why it was engraved with a heart. Well, that's what he said.

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Scripted Dialogue - Round 3

Old King Cole: We're running out of time!

QG: We've plenty of time. Calm down.

Alice: I think I might know who did it.

Blind Mouse: Who? Who?

Alice: I'd rather not say.

Jack: Then why say anything?

Old King Cole: I demand that you say!

QG: But what if you're the one named?

Old King Cole: I'm Old King Cole! It can't be me!

Dread Pirate: Does he say that all the time?

QG: Oh yes.

Dread Pirate: Must make for an interesting monarchy.

Alice: I once heard Humpty define 'interesting' as 'a polite way of saying appalling'.

Old King Cole: I don't think that helps.

QG: Don't worry, my dear. You're trying your best. That's all any of us can do, isn't it?

Blind Mouse: This is all very interesting, but perhaps we should get back to the problem in hand. Someone here really didn't like Humpty.

Alice: Maybe it was an accident. They do happen, you know.

Jack: That's why you wear safety equipment!

Blind Mouse: I always wear gloves when I work.

Jack: And what sort of work is that?

Blind Mouse: I'd rather not say.

Old King Cole: Then don't! Look, if we're going to question each other, then let's ask questions about this case. Who'll begin?

Old King Cole - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

QG, did Humpty ever tell you if he had any enemies?

Jack, what's your opinion of Old King Cole?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Your Majesty Old King Cole, is it ever possible for you to get away and travel incognito?

Say: It is utterly impossible for me to travel incognito. Nor would I want to! Half the fun of being a crowned head is being recognised! Besides, even if I could change my appearance, my voice would still be the same.

When asked: Your Majesty Old King Cole, since the CCB (Content Conclusions Broadcasting) is a royal corporation, do you have any influence over what Humpty put on his programme?

Say: As monarch, I get final approval over everything heard on the radio. I'm afraid Humpty was failing to provide his script for my approval. People don't realise that the reason this is Happily Ever After is because there is someone - me - firmly in control.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Old King Cole - Concluding Statement

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

Old King Cole speaks first using the following dialogue:

It's true that Humpty was not submitting his radio scripts for my approval, but as I'm the ruling monarch, I don't feel I need to defend myself. I did not push Humpty. If I had, why would I have sent all my horses and all my men to his aid?

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

Tell the others.

Notes

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