

Death's Shadow



Miranda Mint-Cake



Congratulations!

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

Firstly: *Don't Panic!*

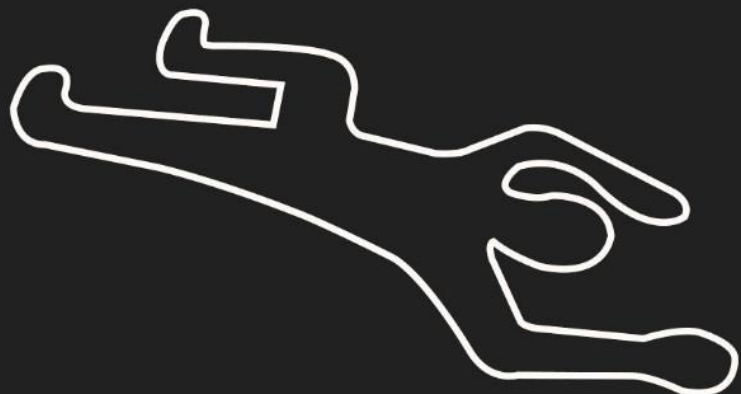
This booklet contains all the information you need to help you act your part throughout the murder mystery; background history, scripted dialogues, questions you should ask and scripted answers to questions you will be asked by the other guests.

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!*



Miranda Mint-Cake

Background Character Information

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

You have beautiful manners and a posh accent. Engage everyone in small talk and try to make them feel welcome. You almost act as if you are the hostess of the party.

You are very fond of Sidney Chalmers, even though he doesn't seem to return your affections at the level you would wish.

If there is artwork in the room, take the time to admire it. After all, you do work at the Dulwich Picture Gallery in London when you're not here on Albert Street.

You are capable of doing what's necessary for the greater good, no matter what the personal cost.

Miranda Mint-Cake - Introductions

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

Miranda Mint-Cake speaks after DC Muss using the following dialogue:

What a dreadfully snobbish thing to say, Muss! I'd have thought a member of the police force would be more discreet. Oh! I do apologise. That was very rude. I'm finding this entire situation very upsetting. Please, let me start again. I'm Miranda Mint-Cake. I've read every book that Dexter Runcie has ever written and loved them all! In fact, I have several of them on my bedside table. There's nothing like a good mystery for bedtime reading, is there? Mind you, it does play havoc with one's beauty sleep!

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

Scripted Dialogue - Round 1

- Sidney Chalmers:** Shall we begin with a moment for silent reflection?
- Mrs Mafire:** A fine suggestion, vicar.
- Trevor Muss:** I appreciate the sentiment, but silence won't catch a murderer. Questions are needed.
- Mrs Mafire:** I gather you're not a religious man, Detective Constable Muss.
- Trevor Muss:** I didn't say that. And please, just Muss.
- Sidney Chalmers:** I think it's important right now not to jump to conclusions.
- Miranda Mint-Cake:** About anything or anyone, wouldn't you say, Sidney?
- Sidney Chalmers:** I would indeed. Thank you, Miranda.
- Sandy Beach:** My goodness, you two certainly have each other's backs!
- Mo Riting:** Aren't you jumping to conclusions?
- Sandy Beach:** I'm being observant. I have to know people in my business. How else would I know what holiday to recommend? And I think we'll all deserve one once we're through with this!
- Mrs Mafire:** What the dickens?! Are you making light of this situation? Please remember that a man has just died.
- Sandy Beach:** I'm sorry, Mrs Mafire. You're right.

Miranda Mint-Cake: Mrs Mafire is always right!

Mrs Mafire: Now stop that! Let's get back to the matter in hand.

Sidney Chalmers: Indeed. The question is, which of us killed poor Mr Runcie?

Sandy Beach: Don't look at me.

Sidney Chalmers: Why not? Have you something to hide?

Mo Riting: You're all welcome to have a good look at me! I've nothing to hide. I'm an open book!

Trevor Muss: I've learned that no one is an open book. All of us have our hidden chapters.

Sandy Beach: Including you, Detective Constable?

Miranda Mint-Cake: Well of course, including him! He said all of us! You'll have to listen more closely.

Mo Riting: We're all going to have to listen very closely.

Sandy Beach: It takes some doing to hear what isn't being said though. That takes experience.

Mo Riting: True words, those.

Miranda Mint-Cake: But I came here to watch the Coronation, not solve a murder!

Sidney Chalmers: As did we all, miss, as did we all. Shall we get on with it?

Miranda Mint-Cake - First Round

Questions you should ask:

DC Muss, is it true that you're currently on a Leave of Absence from the Oxford Police?

Mrs Mafire, you seem to have keen observational skills. Have you seen anything going on you'd call suspicious at the party?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Miranda Mint-Cake, what have you been doing since arriving at the party?

Say: I must confess I'm not of much use in a kitchen. My finishing school taught me how to hire a cook, not how to cook myself! I can boil a kettle, so Mrs Mafire put me in charge of that. I've also been helping to serve and answer the door, and Muss helped me by taking people's coats upstairs.

When asked: Miss Mint-Cake, how well did you know Dexter Runcie?

Say: I only met Mr Runcie recently. My Granny's house is next door and she died recently. I'm just here to collect a few things, but it's taking longer than I thought. Dear Granny left things in a bit of a muddle.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 2

- Trevor Muss:** So Dexter Runcie was poisoned!
- Mrs Mafire:** And by his tea! What the dickens?!
- Mo Riting:** Is it possible that this was a political statement?
- Trevor Muss:** Although all things are possible, I don't think so. I suspect the murderer simply put the arsenic in the most convenient liquid.
- Sidney Chalmers:** But how would he -
- Miranda Mint-Cake:** - or she.
- Sidney Chalmers:** Thank you, Miranda. Or *she* know which tea cup was going to be given to Dexter Runcie?
- Sandy Beach:** That's a very good point.
- Trevor Muss:** You've a keen mind for a vicar, Mr Chalmers.
- Miranda Mint-Cake:** The quality of Mr Chalmers' mind is not the mystery we're trying to solve.
- Trevor Muss:** Quite right.
- Sidney Chalmers:** Let me just say that the way my mind works is a mystery to me as well.
- Sandy Beach:** I'd like to concentrate on that lace handkerchief.
- Sidney Chalmers:** Do you think it's significant?

- Sandy Beach:** I don't think we should rule it out.
- Miranda Mint-Cake:** I don't think we can rule anything out. It's far too early in the investigation for that.
- Trevor Muss:** Well stated, miss.
- Miranda Mint-Cake:** I think, today of all days, we should be asking ourselves, 'What would the Queen wish us to do?'
- Mrs Mafire:** I think the new Queen would have preferred us not to be solving a murder.
- Sandy Beach:** It has rather dampened the mood. Like rain at a picnic.
- Sidney Chalmers:** Ha! If it doesn't rain when you're picnicking, then you're not picnicking in Britain!
- Trevor Muss:** A good point, vicar, but I doubt the party has gone the way Mr Runcie envisioned either.
- Sidney Chalmers:** A fair assumption.
- Mo Riting:** I think we should press on. I heard on the wireless this morning that we've conquered Everest! Let's bottle that kind of spirit and carry onwards and upwards!

Miranda Mint-Cake - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Vicar, when did you arrive here from Grinchester?

Mo Riting, is it true that you've been working as a ghost writer and if so, for whom?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Miranda, why did you rush out of the front room earlier? What had happened?

Say: I'd just made a most embarrassing mistake! I'd seen Sidney Chalmers sitting in the big green chair earlier, so when I got a chance, I came up behind him and whispered, 'Hello, stranger' into his ear and gave it a quick kiss! But it wasn't Sidney at all! It was Dexter Runcie! I think I may've dropped a handkerchief in my hurry to get out.

When asked: Miranda Mint-Cake, did you like Dexter Runcie?

Say: I thought he was a charming man! Discovering that we both knew Sidney Chalmers was a delightful surprise. He mentioned once, when we were out for tea, that he liked my red lipstick, so I made sure to wear it to the party.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 3

- Trevor Muss:** I think it's time to get our ducks in a row.
- Mrs Mafire:** I don't believe I've seen any ducks here on Albert Street.
- Sidney Chalmers:** I think Muss was making a bit of a joke, Mrs Mafire.
- Mrs Mafire:** I hardly think this is a laughing matter, vicar!
- Sidney Chalmers:** No, Mrs Mafire.
- Mrs Mafire:** What the dickens?!
- Miranda Mint-Cake:** Calm down, Mrs Mafire. This will all be over soon and then we'll all have a nice cup of tea. Oh! I didn't mean that.
- Sandy Beach:** I'll never be able to look at a cup of tea the same way again.
- Mo Riting:** On the bright side, his books might be worth a bit more at auction. A tragic death often raises the price of an author's books.
- Miranda Mint-Cake:** What a perfectly vile thought!
- Trevor Muss:** I wouldn't mind betting they'll be reporters here at some time.
- Miranda Mint-Cake:** There's another perfectly vile thought.
- Sandy Beach:** Nothing wrong with reporters in my opinion! They've been very kind about my agency.

Trevor Muss: That's all very nice, but we need to press on. Any suggestions?

Mrs Mafire: Oh dear. I don't have a single one.

Sandy Beach: I do. I say we simply flip a coin. What say the rest of you?

Trevor Muss: Are you in possession of a coin with that many sides? Because if you are, I think the Royal Mint might want a word.

Miranda Mint-Cake: Maybe more than a word.

Sidney Chalmers: Goodness! First murder and now counterfeit money!

Mo Riting: This is going to make one heck of tale down at the pub next week!

Sandy Beach: Personally, I'd rather be told the story than be in it, if you get my meaning.

Trevor Muss: So you'd have us believe. Many murderers relish publicity. Perhaps we should continue with some more questions.

Miranda Mint-Cake - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Mo Riting, did you ever leave the front room?

Sandy, what are your thoughts on the future of the travel business?
Sunny days ahead?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Miranda, have you read Dexter Runcie's latest manuscript?

Say: No, I haven't. Dexter said he'd let me read it, but he was going to give it to me after today's party.

When asked: Miranda, you were seen having a rather intense conversation with Sidney Chalmers earlier. What was it about?

Say: Sidney doesn't approve of me wearing bright red lipstick. When I told him that Dexter... er, Mr Runcie liked it, he got very angry. That's when he told me about Dexter shooting those German soldiers during the war. I was horrified and determined to do something about it for Sidney's sake. There's more to me than just being a decorative debutante!

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Miranda Mint-Cake - Concluding Statement

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

Miranda Mint-Cake speaks after DC Muss using the following dialogue:

I should hope not! It's one thing to read murder mysteries like those Mr Runcie wrote or like Sidney Chalmers tells me about solving back in Grinchester, but being involved in one is perfectly horrid! Why does one have to learn all these terrible things about people? I'd be happy never to think about any of this again. I think I need to concentrate on my wedding preparations.

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

Tell the others.

Notes

[illegible]

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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