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Rung out in the New Year



Bernie Down
Character Booklet

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

A few simple instructions to help you along:

Firstly: Don't Panic!

This booklet contains all the information you need as a guest to help you act your part throughout the murder mystery party.

The first page provides you with additional background information to help you get into character, however there are no special acting abilities required and you can make as much or as little of your character as you wish.

After that on each page you are given either something to read out, questions to ask, or answers to questions you may be asked. Although you are encouraged to ad lib, it is very important you do not lie, so provide the information contained within your booklet when it is asked of you.

If you have been given an additional clue packet/envelope you will be directed as to when to open it within the booklet.

Your host for the evening will direct you where necessary and tell you when to move on to the next round when the time is right.

If you are the murderer you will not be told. When you finally come to guess who did it – it could easily be you and feel free to point the finger at yourself if you feel you must!

And lastly: Have fun!

1 2

Bernie Down

Background Character Information:

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

You are a firefighter through and through. You like danger and excel in dampening down fires, both real, and personal. You tackle any situation with gusto and this murder enquiry is just another such example of where your skills can come into play. Make sure if there is a disagreement you are there immediately to calm things down.

You have a loud voice. (You need one to be able to shout over the fires and water pumps.)

You used to go out with Mark Roundim's girlfriend Leah Tard, but she left you for Mark. All's fair in love and war, and actually you have found another interest: Penny Cillin. You've been called out to a lot of fires at the hospital lately, and Penny has always been there among the admiring crowd. You have the feeling tonight is your night to make an impression and show her there is more to you than the uniform.

Bernie Down

Introductions:

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

Bernie Down speaks after Eileen Over using the following dialogue:

Thanks Eileen. I'll be sure to remember that. My name's Bernie Down. I work for the fire department – putting out fires mainly, though there is an odd cat that needs rescuing from time to time. I'm good with ladders and mechanical cutters, but murder? Well, I dare say that's not my thing.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Eileen Over: Well, I don't really know how we should begin. I mean, I've delivered babies at 25,000 feet, but solving a murder? It's not something I do every day on board a Boeing 757.

Bernie Down: To be fair, I don't think any of the regular public goes about solving murders. (Unless they happen to be called Jessica Fletcher or something.) We're all new to this. I suggest we all just do what we do best.

Leah Tard: You aren't suggesting that you douse the building in water and I pump my pom-poms are you?

Bernie Down: No. I was just thinking we all have different skills and perhaps when we combine them we might have enough to get about solving the case.

Justin Port: Though in my opinion the pom-poms would help.

Penny Cillin: Really! You men are all the same.

Rusty Crankshaft: You can't tar us all with the same brush Penny. Some of us operate on many different levels. Personally I think about more than one thing. **Cont.**

Justin Port:

I know what you mean. There are *two* very nice pom-poms from where I'm standing.

Leah Tard:

Justin! And to think you were Mark's best friend. I tell you, if he was here, he'd have more than a little to say about that. Can't we all just get on with solving this case?

Bernie Down**First Round****Questions you should ask:**

Rusty has never struck you as the mechanical type. You always thought he was quite intellectual. What was he like at school, and did he ever have any other aspirations?

Eileen never said which air route she worked on. Did she do the Trans-Atlantic route and is that how she met Mark Roundim?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You didn't really know Mark Roundim personally. (Millionaires and firemen don't normally associate unless their house happens to burn down.) You were invited to this party by his girlfriend Leah Tard. You and she used to go out together, but she left you for Mark. He had more money.

You were a bit late leaving work tonight, and as you were in a rush to get round to the party you decided to take the fire truck. It has flashing lights and sirens you see and you could get through all the red lights.

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Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Leah Tard:** I know I'm meant to be cheering us all on and stuff, but from where I'm standing it doesn't look like we've managed to get very far.
- Bernie Down:** Probably just as well... Oh, sorry you mean the murder don't you?
- Justin Port:** There you go again, always thinking with your hose!
- Penny Cillin:** Tsk! This *is* a *murder* enquiry gentlemen. I expect all our comments will be going on tape somewhere for analysis later. Personally I would watch what you say!
- Eileen Over:** A tape you say? Oh well, that that doesn't bother me. I always speak to an audience. I'm quite good at it. I use a special voice just to get picked up by the microphone....“Ladies and gentlemen, I, on behalf of the captain and crew would like to welcome you on board the...”
- Rusty Crankshaft:** Very good Eileen. I'm sure if we need a pre-scripted set of lines we'll know where to come; right now though we need to find a murderer.

Bernie Down

Second Round

Questions you should ask:

You are pretty sure you saw Penny with a paper bag earlier heading upstairs. It was one of the type of bags you get from a pharmacy. What was in it, and where is it now?

Rusty has been fixing a lot of Mark Roundim's cars of late, at least, there always seems to be one in his garage. Who brings them down to him? Is it always Mark? Ask Rusty.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

It was great catching up with Leah tonight. You haven't seen each other in ages. You had something good for a while, but although she still has a special place in your heart, you've moved on.

You brought the fire truck with the ladders on it round. You weren't going to bring the water tank ones, they get used the most. The ladder truck only gets called out occasionally, so you thought that was a safe bet.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

- Justin Port:** Well, this has sure been an interesting night. I don't normally get to talk to people in this much depth.
- Penny Cillin:** No, I'm sure. You don't strike me as someone who penetrates deeply at all.
- Bernie Down:** I know what Justin means. You get to see a whole different side to folk when you are investigating a crime.
- Leah Tard:** The true side. Most people only tell you what they want you to know.
- Eileen Over:** Maybe, but safety announcements are important, you can't really say, "Hi folks. I'd much rather push you all out of the airlock at 25,000 feet, but just so's I can't these are the seatbelts."
- Rusty Crankshaft:** It might make for a far more interesting safety announcement though. You might get there attention that way.
- Leah Tard:** You mean like somebody got Marks? Can't we all just get on with solving the case? I don't know about you guys but I'm tired.

Bernie Down

Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Did Mark ever find out about Leah and Rusty Crankshaft? Ask Leah.

You hate spiders. Is it really true that these Australian spiders can kill people? How do they do it?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Actually, you never came in through the main door of the house tonight. You thought you'd surprise Leah and so you came in the window of her bedroom. You did surprise her, (and yourself too). She was in her room with Rusty Crankshaft of all people!

You have been making eyes at Penny Cillin all night. (You never knew she was Mark's ex.) You have a thing for uniforms, and Penny seems to like you too. Perhaps it might lead somewhere, but you don't want to push things just now. Not really appropriate is it? To chat up one of the suspects, and begin a relationship at a murder enquiry.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Bernie Down**Concluding Statement**

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

Bernie Down speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well, all I can say is: It wasn't me! OK, I agree it didn't look good coming in through a top floor window, and OK Mark may have stolen my girlfriend, but, well, I have a new love interest now, and it sounds to me as though Mark was about to lose Leah anyway, so no hard feelings.

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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Leah Tard

Concluding Statement

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

Leah Tard speaks after Rusty Crankshaft using the following dialogue:

Yeah. Like Rusty said, I was going to tell Mark tonight. He was going to get a double whammy, the pregnancy and Rusty all in one go. Just as well he didn't die of a heart attack I suppose; otherwise you all might have thought it was me!

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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