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Midnight Malice!



Ihav A. Nobbinovich
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.

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

Ihav A. Nobbinovich

Background Character Information:

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

You enjoy the good life and entertaining high-class friends who hold high places in society.

You still retain a trace of your Russian accent, although you did take extensive elocution lessons once you immigrated to this country.

You think you are irresistible to women. Act like you are. However you have always remained true to your beloved Iphelia.

Ihav A. Nobbinovich

Introductions:

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

Ihav speaks first, using the following dialogue:

Borstchta, our cook, is dead? Why, she was the best cook we've ever hired...been with us for years. She probably knew more about this house than Iphelia and I do. She has endeared herself to us in more ways than one.

You all know me, your host for tonight, Ihav A. Nobbinovich, Count Nobbinovich, that is.

Being from Russian Royalty, I know how to live well, and being here in this country has been the best thing that has ever happened to us. Finding domestic help from our homeland has made the transition more memorable. Iphelia, who would have done such a thing to our Borstchta?

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Ihav A. Nobbinovich What an evening this has become! To learn that our cook has been found dead in the kitchen is quite distressing, to say the least.

Iphelia Nobbinovich Oh Ihav, I am very frightened. Do you suppose the dinner is poisoned? She was our cook after all!

Ihav A. Nobbinovich It's unlikely my dear. After all – who would have poisoned it? Anyway, Cluesnot said “natural causes” didn't he?

Peter Rotteroff He did Ihav, you're right. Even so, it is still very distressing for us all.

Idmira M. Nees Maybe she had a heart attack?

Dora Charles Yes Idmira, that must be it. Maybe she was frightened to death by something in the kitchen and fell over dead into the soup. It can happen, you know.

Dickie Charles Dora, I don't think that's very likely. Borstchta, afraid of something in the kitchen? From what I've heard about her, that woman wasn't afraid of anything!

Cont.

Peter Rotteroff Hmm. It's a real shame one of us isn't a doctor. We could have given her mouth to mouth.

Dora Charles Rather you than me.

Idmira M. Nees Speaking of mouths... Nobbinovich is quite a mouthful wouldn't you say?

Dora Charles He is?

Dickie Charles She means the NAME Dora.

Dora Charles I knew that!

Peter Rotteroff Idmira's right Ihav. Where does your name come from?

Ihav A. Nobbinovich It's a family name. A name of proud heritage. We Nobbinovichs have been around for centuries!

Dora Charles How interesting. Perhaps you could give me some inside information on your proud family line later tonight?

Dickie Charles Look, I hate to be the one to bring the conversation around to the matter in hand, but shouldn't we be getting on with the investigation?

Ihav A. Nobbinovich

First Round

Questions you should ask:

You heard Dora refer to Borstchta as a "spy". Ask Dora why she thought that Borstchta was a spy.

Peter Rotteroff seems a little unsure of the cook's name. You should ask Peter if he had heard the name Borstchta Tvarski before.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You have been Borstchta's employer for three years. You checked her references and knew she was originally from Russia and had worked for a famous movie star previously. You thought she would be wonderful to have as a cook, as she would serve dishes from "the old country".

Borstchta made herself indispensable to your household during her tenure with you, as she kept the kitchen running smoothly and was cooking up delicious meals for you and the Countess. It had gotten to the point she knew what you wanted before you even asked.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

Dickie Charles Forcibly drowned in a pot of beet soup!
How disgusting.

Dora Charles Yes, can you all imagine what she must
look like? Probably like she had
drowned in a pot of her own blood.
How revolting! Oh I
believe I need another drink, after
picturing that...

Peter Rotteroff I need another drink anyway. Any
chance of that Ihav?

Ihav A. Nobbinovich Most definitely. I was about to offer
everyone else a glass anyway.

Iphelia Nobbinovich Not bourbon I hope? We're clean out.
It's on the shopping list.

Idmira M. Nees Really? I didn't see that amongst the
other names.

Iphelia Nobbinovich *That* wasn't the shopping list Idmira. I
was as baffled as everyone else by that
list. That's why I wanted to share it
with all of you.

Peter Rotteroff Well, it did seem rather odd. Why
would Borstchta have all of our names
on that list?

Cont.

7 8

Dora Charles And what about those cryptic figures
and words after each? It all has to mean
something.

Peter Rotteroff I agree.

Iphelia Nobbinovich I think we should concentrate on this list
business. It might give some clues to
the, dare I say it, murder!

Peter Rotteroff Or her leisure interests. I see, for
example, she didn't fancy a game of
chess with me.

Dora Charles Well, I can't quite understand the little
scribble by my name. It doesn't make
any sense!

Dickie Charles Perhaps if we went over all the names
again we might find a common thread?

Dora Charles Threads? What is this, a sewin' bee?

Dickie Charles Dora, calm down! I think you need
something to eat!

Iphelia Nobbinovich I must agree with Dickie, we all need
something more to eat!

Ihav A. Nobbinovich**Second Round****Questions you should ask:**

Earlier, Iphelia mentioned that she found Borstchta to be rather sneaky. Ask Iphelia why she thought this.

Dickie mentioned that he has major investments with a diamond mine in Siberia. Ask Dickie to tell you who he bought it from and whether it was an easy purchase.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You do not have the education and elocution of true Russian nobility. You were not born with a title; you just said you were a Count. During the revolution only titled people could get out of Russia, so you had documents forged for you and Iphelia. By doing this, you both could get out and come to this country.

You and Borstchta are not from the same part of Russia, but you do remember on her résumé' she listed a very wealthy Russian from back in the old country, a Mr. Volga. His reference helped in your decision to hire her. That and her refined manner and speech.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Ihav A. Nobbinovich We have all learned about each other during our time spent together this evening. Perhaps it is time for another drink.

Iphelia Nobbinovich Yes, could I get any of you a glass of champagne?

Peter Rotteroff Very kind of you Iphelia. I could use another one. Maybe something stiffer than champagne?

Dora Charles Me, too! Make mine a double scotch, no ice, if you please.

Idmira M. Nees I wonder if that Inspector Cluesnot has cracked this case yet. He seems to be somewhat inept, in my opinion.

Dickie Charles I doubt if he got to be so famous by being inept. I think he just comes across that way.

Iphelia Nobbinovich Well, he must have made his own fair share of lists tonight, that's for sure.

Ihav Nobbinovich Yes, and I have a feeling each and every one of our names is on at least one of them!

Cont.

Peter Rotteroff

I think we've all been here quite long enough. When will this be over?

Ipheila Nobbinovich

I'm sure that this Inspector will give his opinion very soon. We just have to wait a while longer.

Idmira M. Nees

It's the waiting, that's the hardest part Ipheila!

Ihav A. Nobbinovich

Really? I'll take your word for it my dear. Why don't you let me wait with you? We could chat for a bit about whatever comes up.

Ipheila Nobbinovich

And while you're doing that, the rest of us shall just get on with asking the questions shall we?

Ihav A. Nobbinovich

Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Dickie has always showered Dora with diamonds...expensive ones at that. Ask Dickie about the yearly inspections on his wife's diamonds and if he gets a report from the jewellery inspections.

You just happened to glance at Dora's right hand and noticed that her largest diamond was broken in half and looked to have a rather jagged edge on it. You should ask her how she cracked her diamond

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You have been so busy tonight hosting, that you left the matters of the kitchen to Iphelia to oversee. You have not been in the kitchen all evening.

Borstchta has always had a refined manner and speech and you have suspected that she might have come from a wealthy background. You really never had the time to check out your suspicions.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Ihav A. Nobbinovich

Concluding Statement

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

Ihav A. Nobbinovich speaks first using this dialogue:

My guests, it is such a tragedy about poor Borstchta's murder. It seems many would have probable cause, but to actually do this deed? It would take an evil person to commit this crime. I for one had no cause to do harm to such a fantastic cook. She always seemed to me to have a genteel upbringing and Borstchta never did me any harm. I only hope she rests in peace!

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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