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Who Killed Cupid?



Joan Bollins
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!

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Joan Bollins

Background Character Information:

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

You are a star of stage and screen. Act like one. You are loud and attention seeking, self-aware, self-reliant and self-interested. (One could say selfish, but you were prepared to share your life with Valentine Cupid so perhaps that wouldn't be entirely true.)

You are upset at his death. (Well you would be, wouldn't you? You planned to marry him!) But there are lots of photographers about so you don't want to ruin your make up. (It cost you as much as the dress.)

Lucinda Marbles is your dotty aunt. She always has stories to tell, but can never remember if they are about you, or another of her nieces. If they are embarrassing make sure everyone knows it was another niece!

Joan Bollins**Introductions:**

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

Joan Bollins speaks after Lucinda Marbles using the following dialogue:

Well it seems I have no choice Aunt Lucy – the inspector said he was DEAD not that he had FLED! Oh my poor, poor Valentine! I think he would have been my last husband you know, not just number four in a string. We were very happy together Valentine and me. He used to call me “bubbly” it was a little play on my name, Joan Bollins, Bollins being short for Bollinger he always used to say. Well I don’t feel at all bubbly now... Oh it breaks my heart! It really does!

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

- Joan Bollins:** My poor, poor Valentine. What will I do without him?
- Lucinda Marbles:** There are plenty more fish left in the sea Joan. Some better looking ones too!
- Seymour Films:** You’ll get over him Joan – just throw yourself into your work – he’ll soon be a distant memory!
- Chloe Zonanoff:** Like your last three husbands.
- Mike Dupp:** So – this is now a murder enquiry and not a wedding then? I needn’t have bothered getting all dressed up!
- Chloe Zonanoff:** I hadn’t noticed you had!
- Tony Deff:** Well, black is in for both weddings and funerals these days, but I’m not sure what you wear for murder enquiries.
- Lucinda Marbles:** Columbo always wore a Gabardine Mac.
- Chloe Zonanoff:** You wouldn’t catch me in one of those! They are just so gauche!
- Lucinda Marbles:** Really? I always thought they were buff or beige myself. But then, I am a little colour blind.

Cont.

Mike Dupp: Forget about clothing a minute – does anyone know how to interrogate?

Seymour Films: Interrogate, gossip, they are all much the same thing in Hollywood. I’m sure we’ll get by OK.

Tony Deff: I never was one for gossip – but singing, well that’s a different story.

Chloe Zonanoff: And quite a different method of murder as far as you are concerned! We would be most grateful if you could keep your voice to yourself from now on.

Seymour Films: Unless of course you are the murderer –in which case you will be singing like a canary when we’ve finished. Shall we begin?

Joan Bollins

First Round

Questions you should ask:

What is Chloe Zonanoff doing in Hollywood right now? Is she auditioning for a motion picture?

Ask Tony Deff what he usually does for a living – surely he can’t get that much call for his gondoliering skills in Hollywood!

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You met Valentine last year. He sang at your last wedding. You hit it off really well and you got divorced in time for him to propose by August. (At least, you got divorced in time to MAKE him propose to you in August! Valentine was never that quick off the mark and usually needed subtle, or not so subtle prompting.)

You always fancied a Valentine’s day wedding (it’s so romantic), and with his name being Valentine as well you just thought it would be simply marvellous! You pulled every heart string you could and got your heart’s desire. Valentine agreed (caved in) to the Valentine’s day wedding idea, and between you, you worked really hard to make it happen. And now he’s dead! (sob sob!)

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Joan Bollins** Oh dear – to think of my poor Valentine getting hacked about on that Post Mortem table – it makes my heart bleed!
- Chloe Zonanoff:** Yes – it makes me quite sick thinking about it.
- Tony Deff:** You girls! You just aren't used to fishing. I'm always gutting things – once they're dead there is really very little blood. It all congeals.
- Chloe Zonanoff:** Does anyone mind if I tape his mouth shut? It might save us from his singing as well.
- Lucinda Marbles:** Perhaps they'll find more than they bargained for. I can remember when my old Labrador got cut open at the vets – they found half a dozen of my best silk drawers and a ruby ring! He always was a bit of a vacuum cleaner that dog – sucked up anything!
- Seymour Films:** Thanks for that Lucinda – a very insightful and I am sure helpful comment! Not.
- Mike Dupp:** Well at least with a PM they'll find out what killed him. Who knows – maybe it'll be natural causes?
- Chloe Zonanoff:** He said poisoning remember! I've never heard of natural poisoning yet! **Cont.**

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- Tony Deff:** Oh yeah – I forgot about that bit.
- Seymour Films:** Still, at least we have something to go on now. If Valentine was poisoned we just have to find out what with and then who had access to it.
- Lucinda Marbles:** It all depends on which poison was used. Some poisons are household names these days – bleach for instance, and most prescription drugs will kill in large enough doses. It's amazing what you can pick up from TV.
- Tony Deff:** So unless the PM returns with a definite result before the end, we'll need to keep looking for motive as well as means.
- Seymour Films:** Well, I've directed loads of these murder mystery style things. In the end the murderer always gives themselves away.
- Chloe Zonanoff:** They do? How?
- Seymour Films:** Most usually they just stand up and say something like: "I admit it – I killed him".
- Lucinda Marbles:** You did? Great! Now we can all go home!
- Joan Bollins:** I'm sorry Aunt Lucinda – it isn't that simple. Shall we get back to the questioning?

Joan Bollins**Second Round****Questions you should ask:**

Lucinda Marbles seems to be very protective of her niece Joan. When she found about her wedding did she do any background checks on Valentine – and if so – did she turn up anything?

Mike has never looked very comfortable about Joan Bollins' latest marriage. Does he know of any lawful, or unlawful impediment that might have prevented Valentine and Joan marrying today?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Your last three husbands have been rich, rich, rich. In each divorce you have come out of the relationship with more than you put into it – that goes for wrinkles and finances!

Added to that you are a world class actress with a high salary of your own. Needless to say you don't date men for their financial attributes these days. Valentine was just such an example. He was never going to make it big being a wedding singer – they get paid peanuts! So when you entered the relationship you knew you would have to support both of you if you were to continue living the high life you are accustomed too which is why you have taken every acting job on offer lately.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Lucinda Marbles: I always said he drank like a fish – just goes to show you die how you live.

Joan Bollins: The inspector said the alcohol was poisoned Aunt Lucinda – not that he got alcohol poisoning!

Lucinda Marbles: Shame. I always thought you might as well die happy, and getting blotto seems like a great way to go to me.

Mike Dupp: So he needed a bit of dutch courage then to go through with the wedding. Can't say I blame him.

Joan Bollins: Gee thanks!

Mike Dupp: No slight intended Joan. I think you'll find most grooms get a little cold footed on the big day. It's the transition from happy bachelor to suppressed husband that does it.

Seymour Films: Well if he drank poisoned alcohol it wasn't from my mini bar- that's stocked with only the best supplies! It must be something he took into the limo with him.

Lucinda Marbles: But what did he take in with him? Surely he just went in wearing his top hat and tails?

Cont.

- Chloe Zonanoff:** Hopefully a bit more than that!
- Lucinda Marbles:** You *know* what I mean!
- Tony Deff:** If it had been me – I’d have taken a pack of cards. Waiting for the bride to arrive can be a terrible bore.
- Mike Dupp:** That’s why you have a band silly – it’s not just to provide the wedding march – it’s all about in-house entertainment prior to the big event. And not just that – they provide *atmosphere*! I should know – I work with sounds every day. Films would be nothing without the soundtrack to cue the audience into the action. Imagine Jaws without the dah duh dah duh dah duh. It would just be a shark coming out of the water, there would be no suspense. No seat-of-the-pants thing.
- Tony Deff:** So really – when the inspector came in here to announce Valentine’s death we should have had a bank of violinists to pick out a tragic melody?
- Seymour Films:** All I can say is let’s just be grateful this isn’t cinema! The last thing we need right now is more waterworks prompted by the strings section! Can’t we just get back to business? Some of us have work to do!

Joan Bollins

Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Isn’t the limo Valentine died in one of Seymour Film’s cars? Why did Seymour agree to lend him the car if they fell out last week?

You heard Tony Deff threatening Valentine Cupid this morning. Why were they arguing?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You had never doubted Valentine’s love for you. He has always been so ardent in his pursuit! It has been a real shock to you today to find out that Julia was Valentine’s wife! He had told you about Julia – but had simply said she was his sister. You had even given him money to help her financially from time to time as Valentine said she was struggling!

You gave Valentine a hip flask for his wedding gift, and you know he opened it this morning because he rang to say thanks. You had filled it with his favourite whisky and had it engraved with “For MY Valentine”.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Joan Bollins

Concluding Statement

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

Joan Bollins speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well! It comes to something when it takes a murder enquiry to find out that your husband to be is nothing but a cheating liar only after you for your money! To tell you the truth – I'm quite glad he's dead now. He and his REAL wife won't be seeing a penny of my money now!

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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