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Death at the Double D Ranch



Phoebe Duncan
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 (dialogue), questions to ask, or information to help you answer questions you will be asked. These questions and answers are not intended to be read out word for word. Instead read them, digest the information and then ask and answer any questions in your own words. You are encouraged to ad lib, but it is very important you do not lie, so please provide the information contained within your booklet when asked.

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

Phoebe Duncan

Background Character Information:

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

Being the daughter of Dray Duncan, the richest rancher in town, you are used to getting your own way and have developed an abrupt, impatient way with other people.

You tend to try and be smarter than everyone else and sometimes make up words that sound “fancy”.

You are extremely attracted to Dusty Trales. Emphasize the fact!

Phoebe Duncan

Introductions:

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

Phoebe Duncan speaks first using the following dialogue:

It was I, Phoebe Duncan, who found my father dead in the bunkhouse and sent for the Sheriff. None of you will ever know how I felt when I saw my Daddy lying there dead!

I always thought something like this would happen. This is such a wild and uncivilised place compared to the refined atmosphere out East. He's been all the family I've had since my mother died when I was just a little girl. (Sobs)

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

- Dusty Trales:** This is some mighty strange business. When I saw Dray Duncan this morning as I rode off, I never would have thought it would be the last time I saw him alive.
- Phoebe Duncan:** How do you think I feel? I'd just talked to him and a few minutes later he was found dead!
- Redfeather:** Seem to me if we going to try figure out what he die from, we first get to know each other little better.
- Lucy Lipps:** I agree, Redfeather. I know everyone here by sight, but I don't really "know" everyone, ya know?
- Phoebe Duncan:** Lucy, that's not the correct grammar. You should strive to refine your English!
- Dusty Trales:** I think her English is just fine and her name suits her. She's a mighty lippy woman and lippy talker, too.
- Lucy Lipps:** Well, all I can say is 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder'.
- Redfeather:** We have old saying. "Pretty is as pretty does".

Cont.

Poccamahinee: Father, please. Don't start repeating old sayings.

Sum Ting: My ancestors have lots of old sayings. If you like, I can go to the kitchen and bake some fortune cookies. We could read them and see if something makes sense. I'm very good with fortune cookies.

Phoebe Duncan: At least you're good at something, Sum Ting. I've always thought you were a lousy cook. I can only hope you are a better baker.

Dusty Trales: Sum Ting, why don't you just go rustle us all up a round of drinks and we'll get on with trying to figure out what happened.

Phoebe Duncan

First Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Poccamahinee if she ever felt it beneath her Princess stature to be a lowly housekeeper.

You notice the shoes Sum Ting wears look to be handmade. Ask him about this.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You really didn't notice anything unusual in the bunkhouse. It always smelled like hay and was always so dirty, with dusty boot and shoe prints all over the floor, just like it was when you found your daddy...you hated going in there!

Dray forced you to move back to the ranch when he found out you were in love with a young man. Although your father had never met the lad, he told you there would be no more money unless you gave up your romance. You were forced to move back home, since your love had no money at the time to support you.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

Dusty Trales: We really haven't gotten to know each other very well this evening. I have a feeling that Sheriff knows more about all of us than we do each other.

Phoebe Duncan: I agree. We'd better find out some more about each other if we're to get to the bottom of what caused Dad's death.

Dusty Trales: There's somethin' that I've been wondering about. I'd like to know the meaning of Poccamahinee's name.

Poccamahinee: I am so flattered you asked. It is an old name from my tribe and the meaning in English is "one who lags behind". I think you'd say, "Slow poke". I didn't walk until I was 4; my mother always held me tight and I was originally known as "Papoose".

Redfeather: Didn't give her tribal name "Poccamahinee" until she 18 and come of age. Think I did good job by waiting. Name suit her well.

Lucy Lipps: Well I'd like to offer her a job at my saloon. We could always use a gal like Poccamahinee.

Cont.

7 8

Poccamahinee: Since there's no future for me here, I just might take you up on that, Miss Lucy.

Phoebe Duncan: Something tells me you'd do very well working for Miss Lucy.

Dusty Trales: Well, I've been wondering about something; Sum Ting's name. Tell us something about yourself, Sum Ting.

Sum Ting: My honorable father saw me right after I was born and his first words were, "something in the way he moves attracts me to this name like no other; his name shall be Sum Ting" and I have been Sum Ting ever since! Isn't that something?

Dusty Trales: Something tells me I'm sorry I asked!

Redfeather: Think we should get back to asking questions about what happened to Dray!

Phoebe Duncan**Second Round****Questions you should ask:**

You remember seeing Redfeather in town at the general store... buying some arsenic. Ask him why he needed arsenic.

Ask Poccamahinee if she saw anything unusual while she was cleaning the house for the party.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Your father left the house right before that party was to start and told you he was going to the bunkhouse to check on Poccamahinee's cleaning in there. When he didn't return, you went to fetch him as the guests for the party had already arrived.

Dusty came to the house after he cleaned up for the hoedown tonight. He wanted to talk to you about some plans he had made for after the party and to check with Dray to make sure he wouldn't be needed for the rest of the weekend.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

- Lucy Lipps:** I don't know about ya'll, but I'm getting pretty tired of being kept here. I have a business to run!
- Phoebe Duncan:** From what I've heard, there's a lot of business going on over at your place, Miss Lucy. Monkey business upstairs, that is!
- Sum Ting:** Did you say monkey? I have very good recipe for monkey brains...it's a delicacy where I come from! I can cook it very well. Honorable mother taught me how.
- Dusty Trales:** Well, I'll be! I've never heard of such a thing. And by the sounds of it, I hope I never do again!
- Redfeather:** Monkey brains? Sometimes I think Sum Ting speak with forked tongue. ...
- Poccamahinee:** Speaking of forks, if I come to work for you, Miss Lucy, would I be a waitress?
- Phoebe Duncan:** Poccamahinee, I'll bet Miss Lucy has a loftier position than waitress in mind for you. She knows her business very well.
- Dusty Trales:** I'll second that!

Cont.

Sum Ting: Please, allow me to do business... of fetching us all another drink before we continue. I'm very good at doing that.

Phoebe Duncan: And then perhaps we can finish this whole investigation off. I'm sick of being questioned.

Dusty Trales: Me too.

Phoebe Duncan

Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Dusty if he was born under another name.

Does Redfeather hold any grudges against Dray Duncan for buying his tribe's land? Ask him.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You seem to remember while Sum Ting was cooking; he had a small bottle out and added it a small bowl of barbeque sauce on the table. You asked him about it and he said it was a special spice...he was going to give your dad a taste to see if he liked it. You told Sum Ting that your father had just left for the bunkhouse. Sum Ting picked up the bowl and left for the bunkhouse. He put the bottle back in the cabinet.

Dusty Trales is really your love from out East, Dudley Dude. You persuaded him to come out West to the ranch. You thought your father would grow to love him as you do...

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Phoebe Duncan

Concluding Statement

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

Phoebe Duncan speaks first, using the following dialogue:

It's true everyone...I have been angry with my father for a long time. He forced me to move back to this awful place and leave my true love, Dudley Dude behind. But now Dudley is here with me, under the alias of Dusty Trales! We had planned to elope after the party tonight, but I didn't have my trousseau ready. Daddy doesn't have a dime in the bank...it's all wrapped up in this stupid ranch. I swear to you all I had nothing to do with my father's death. He was my own flesh and blood! (Sobs)

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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