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The New Year's Resolution



Ma Scapone
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!

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Ma Scapone

Background Character Information:

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

You are the archetypical Italian mother and tend to mother everyone and anyone around – treat them all like your sons and daughters, fuss over them, adjust their clothing, make comments on how tired they look or what they should be eating etc.

Obviously you are very upset by Al's untimely demise – he was your favourite (and only) son and he will be very sorely missed.

You have a huge emotional range, and are very much larger than life in any conversation.

Ma Scapone

Introductions:

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

Ma Scapone speaks first using the following dialogue:

Al dead! I can hardly believe it, though deep down inside I suppose I always knew it would come to this. If Al was the big cheese of the family, then I suppose, as his mother, you could call me the soft cheese – I always had a soft spot for my favourite (and only) son. The gangster life can be tough on the mothers you know. Depending on how business is going we either gain or lose sons. Daughters are much less of a worry – so it's just as well my others were all girls. Anyway - everyone has always called me "Ma" so I don't expect any of you to do any differently. Ma Scapone – that's me.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Ma Scapone I just can't believe it! My own son – dead! Murdered in his own club – surrounded by his own people! Could none of you have protected him? I thought that's what you guys were here for!

Rick Otta Al knew the risks Ma, but he still liked his privacy. It was the only place in the club he left his bodyguards behind. It just goes to show that it was an inside job. Someone *knew* where he was most vulnerable.

Toni Calzone Well that's just horrific! Even I would never stoop so low as to shoot a man in the... ahhh...

Francesca Pancetta He meant Al was shot in his office Toni – not in a "vulnerable area!"

Toni Calzone Well that's all right then. For a minute I thought he was shot in the...well in the...

Margarita Pizza It's all right Toni – I think we girls all get the picture.

Toni Calzone Not that gun shots need to be in vulnerable places. I've had fairly good results from shooting people just about anywhere – you lose enough blood you die anyway.

Cont.

Nicky De'Lott It certainly sounds as though there was enough blood in this case. Did anyone see the body before Elliot Mess arrived?

Ma Scapone I did, and I wish to goodness I hadn't. It was gruesome, ghastly, gory and any other word beginning with 'G' that you can think of. Blood and brains everywhere.

Nicky De'Lott I take it that it was a head wound then.

Margarita Pizza She didn't say that – but then, as has been pointed out already – Al wasn't shot *there*.

Toni Calzone So where does that leave us then?

Margarita Pizza Without the boss Toni – and with a lot of cleaning up to do.

Rick Otta In more ways than one. After we've solved the case we might have a *lot* of 'cleaning' to do wouldn't you say Toni?

Toni Calzone Do you think so? Maybe I should increase my New Year targets then to 8 pairs in January rather than just 5?

Rick Otta Sounds like it Toni. Shall we get on then?

Ma Scapone

First Round

Questions you should ask:

Margarita Pizza was at the club this afternoon. Did she come in to see Al?

You've never trusted accountants, but Al seemed to like Nicky De'Lott. How would Nicky describe their relationship?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Al was named after your husband (God rest his soul): Alfonso Scapone. Like father like son your friends always said, and they really were two of a kind, right down to their shared interest in baseball. You always said if you'd met one of them, you'd met the other.

Your husband died when Al was eighteen, leaving your son right in the thick of things where business was concerned. Fortunately he had the business sense of his father and had an iron grip on things real quick. You would hardly have noticed the transition, it was almost like Al was ready to take over the business. You've always been really proud of the way Al knuckled down to work in spite of the bereavement.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Rick Otta** The petty cash tin is empty? I am fairly sure it was full this morning. I saw Al put something in it myself.
- Toni Calzone** He did have a few visitors between then and now – well the time of his death anyway.
- Margarita Pizza** Yeah Toni – the murderer for one!
- Francesca Pancetta** Very astute *Maggie*.
- Margarita Pizza** Don't mention it *Franny*. Some of us are better endowed in certain areas than others – personally I would rather have brains than vocal chords...
- Ma Scapone** Now then girls! No fighting – this is an investigation into a murder – let's have a little decorum please.
- Nicky De'Lott** So what did happen to the money then?
- Ma Scapone** Well he didn't give any to me – that's for certain. Not that I'm saying he doesn't look after his old Ma, he did – but he never handed me cash – said it felt wrong. If he wanted to give me something by way of an extra gift he usually went out and bought something nice.

Cont.

7 8

- Margarita Pizza** Yeah – he was good at picking out nice things. Had an eye for it.
- Toni Calzone** Actually it was always me that Al sent to do his shopping. I'm glad you girls all liked the stuff. The shop assistants were very helpful. I suppose I must have looked a little out of place in the lingerie departments.
- Francesca Pancetta** Yeah I bet! And that gun in your pocket would certainly have made them wonder!
- Rick Otta** Pockets are never a safe place for firearms Toni – you know that. I always make sure mine are holstered properly, or at least away from any sensitive areas – you don't want to be taking any additional risks.
- Ma Scapone** So does anyone know how *much* cash was in that tin?
- Nicky De'Lott** Al always took out a couple of hundred at a time. It made things easier on the accounts. And as I always said to Al, gifts are tax deductible – depending on who they go to – not that I'm saying you girls are a charitable donation or anything, but there are ways and means of making sure the money goes to the right people without giving the tax man his share.

Ma Scapone**Second Round****Questions you should ask:**

Is Francesca Pancetta presently interested in anyone romantically?

Where was Toni Calzone this afternoon when Al was shot? Was he at the club, and did he hear anything?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Alfonso Scapone (your husband not your son) died in very similar circumstances to Al (your son). He was shot in his private office with no witnesses.

Al (Your son) was the last to see him alive and was one of the first on the scene after the incident too. He threatened revenge as soon as he saw what had happened, but the killer was never found. Not that it stopped Al from putting a few other families out of business – just in case.

Although Al had a really tough skin, you could tell his father's death had really affected him – he became just that little bit colder inside, hardened, dangerous. You feared what he might do if he ever found Alfonso's killer.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Toni Calzone Aren't specialists? I always fancied myself as one.

Francesca Pancetta You mean you always fancied helping out Sharon Stone!

Toni Calzone I admit she holds a certain fascination – but...

Rick Otta We can't all be experts at everything. I mean – I don't know the first thing about accounts. Nicky here is the only one who can do complex math.

Nicky De'Lott It's really not that complicated and it actually works better if you make sure nothing adds up properly, lose a few zeros now and again if you get my drift?

Francesca Pancetta I hear you Nicky. But I don't suppose I'd have ever have got away with that myself.

Nicky De'Lott If you see me later – I'm sure we could work something out.

Rick Otta I'm sure you *would*.

Toni Calzone Speaking of working things out – I've been thinking...

Cont.

- Ma Scapone** That's pretty dangerous talk!
- Toni Calzone** As I was saying; I've been thinking – this gun shot wound to Al. Elliot said it was a close range shot – you don't have to be too good with a gun to hit something at close range – especially if you caught them by surprise.
- Margarita Pizza** Which means I suppose that it could be any one of us?
- Toni Calzone** Exactly. But I know it wasn't me – so that takes the suspect list down to five.
- Ma Scapone** *Very helpful!* I'm glad it's not you in charge of the investigation Toni – we'd be here until next New Year!
- Margarita Pizza** Speaking of which does anyone have the time? I wouldn't want to miss midnight!

Ma Scapone

Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Has Rick Otta ever been taken into Al's private office?

Where was Francesca Pancetta this afternoon? You remember Al saying he had an appointment with her – but did she ever go to it?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Finally, after all these years you realised that you had been blind! Your motherly love had put blinkers on your eyes! You had never seen it before – but suddenly it was clear as day to you – Al killed his own father!

You called in to see Al this afternoon and confront him with what you knew. He laughed in your face! Apparently he was really surprised that you had only just realised what had gone on all those years ago. You pulled out your gun (you only have one, but you carry it everywhere in your purse just in case) and threatened him with it. He said "Go right ahead Ma!" And then laughed again. He knew you loved him too much to pull the trigger. You threw the gun across the room at him instead, the butt caught the side of his head and left him with a cut on the edge of his eye. You knew what his temper was like and so you fled before he got real mad at you.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Ma Scapone

Concluding Statement

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

Ma Scapone speaks first using the following dialogue:

Okay so my own son killed my husband; but I didn't kill him! I mean what good would it do me? As Al himself said, I'd lose the only other man I really loved – so what benefit was there to me? Al may have been a murderer – but he was a really loving son. I'd never have killed him!

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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