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'T'was a death before Christmas.



Carole Singer
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

Carole Singer

Background Character Information:

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

You are stern and maintain a headmistress persona even though you retired just last year (you took early retirement – you aren't THAT old).

You have a shrill voice when asking anyone questions and are not averse to putting people in the corner if they are rude, or randomly asking people questions on simple arithmetic. (“What's 8 times 7? – Quickly, quickly!”)

You have a penetrating gaze when it is used and as you obviously couldn't even be considered for committing a crime as scandalous as this, perhaps you ought to use your “teacher glare” on any would be questioners.

You have perfect pitch and head up the church choir. The village carol singing is an offence to your ears as the singing is so bad, but Christmas is the spirit of good cheer and so you lead the rabble as they roam around the houses trying to keep them in order if not in tune.

Carole Singer

Introductions:

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

Carole Singer speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well! I can't think why I need to introduce myself! I've taught most of you at one time or another! Still, you probably all knew me as Miss Singer in those days, in fact, I think many of you still do. For those of you that don't, my name is Carole, Carole Singer, but Miss Singer will do just fine. Jacques – perhaps you should go next.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Jacques Frost: What did he say his name was? Si Lentnite? Can't say I've ever heard of him.

Carole Singer: You'll probably know his sergeant, Holly Knight. She was in your year at school. She was Holly Bush then.

Declan Halls: Holly eh? I wondered where she had ended up.

Chris Tingle: Hmm... Si Lentnite, Holly Knight, sounds like they make quite a team.

Carole Singer: Yes. She's a good detective.

Holly Reath: Well, with a name like Holly – what did you expect?

Gaye Buntin: Well if she's so good, why isn't she here too?

Jacques Frost: She's probably at home with her family, it *is* Christmas Gaye.

Gaye Buntin: I suppose. You forget, don't you, when there's a grisly murder.

Holly Reath: On the positive side, at least there's plenty of food left. I'm starving after all that singing, and those top notes have left me parched.

Cont.

- Carole Singer:** And there was me thinking that the top notes had just left you all together.
- Jacques Frost:** Missie! Come, come, there's no need to get catty. The singing was all done in the spirit of goodwill, not to compete.
- Holly Reath:** Goodwill? I thought it was done for charity. At least, that's why I thought we were collecting money.
- Jacques Frost:** That too – but you know what I mean.
- Carole Singer:** Indeed we do Jacques, but what I still don't understand is why we ended up at Bob Scratchitt's place at the end. He's well known for being a bit of a miser.
- Gaye Buntin:** Probably why he's dead. Maybe he got visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present and he simply decided Bob wasn't worth the effort! Anyway – shall we crack on?

Carole Singer

First Round

Questions you should ask:

You saw Gaye Buntin and Jacques Frost chatting the other week. They seemed to be arranging an evening together. Is there anything going on between them? Ask Gaye.

Does Chris Tingle know anything about the new supermarket that is supposed to be coming to Mid-Trimming?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Mid-Trimming school is in the process of being closed down and plans are afoot to turn the building into a supermarket.

You objected to the closure of the school and as a result you were “retired” by the school governors who thought it would be best if you weren't around to oversee (object to) the closure. It was a simple case of jumping before you were pushed. You had decided to resign in protest, but the governors made taking early retirement a better financial prospect and so you took it.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

- Jacques Frost:** Well, I can't say I'm sure what to do for the best. We were supposed to be having a few carols to finish up this evening. Perhaps we should cancel our last sing song?
- Carole Singer:** Whatever for? Surely "Joy to the World" is more apt than ever now?
- Declan Halls:** You can't say things like that Carole! Not when there's a murder enquiry going on!
- Carole Singer:** Why ever not? It's not as if any of us liked the man.
- Holly Reath:** Hated would be nearer the mark; and the feeling was mutual wasn't it?
- Gaye Buntin:** Yes. Certainly I always thought Bob hated the village. He didn't support any of the local shops.
- Chris Tingle:** Or the local causes. In fact, the only thing he did support was the school governing committee and the proposal to bring that supermarket to the village.
- Jacques Frost:** Yes, well forgetting our differences for a moment, seeing as this *is* the season of good cheer; surely we can find a few songs that would be appropriate at a time like this?

Cont.

7 8

- Chris Tingle:** "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" perhaps?
- Holly Reath:** Or how about "Go Tell it on the Mountain?" I would think most of the village would want to know about something like this!
- Jacques Frost:** Holly! That is hardly what he meant! Still, maybe "Abide with Me" isn't really appropriate either for a Christmas party. Perhaps we should just settle with something traditional like "O Come all ye Faithful".

Carole Singer

Second Round

Questions you should ask:

You saw Holly Reath and Bob Scratchitt having a very frank exchange of views in the village square just the other day. What were they arguing over?

Does Declan Halls know whether Bob Scratchitt likes stolen? Could he have stolen the stolen?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

The school governing body was chaired by Bob Scratchitt. You hated him from the moment he set foot in his first meeting. It was clear Bob hated children. You never did understand why he put himself forward to be a school governor in the first place! And you certainly never understood how he got in as chairperson!

Bob was a strong advocator of closing the school down from the moment the proposal was suggested. You suspect he had ulterior motives and also that he bribed some of the school governors to support the proposal to speed the process up. You don't think they reached the right decision. You think Bob Scratchitt railroaded the proposal through from start to finish.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Chris Tingle: Well – I know I'm not a policeman, but I really can't see where we are all headed with this investigation.

Carole Singer: I agree. Lentnite's technique is - original. Does he ever do any work?

Gaye Buntin: Maybe it's his sergeant Holly that usually does all this sort of stuff?

Jacques Frost: You'd have thought the police force would have been a little more organised, especially at this time of year.

Holly Reath: Well I must say I'm beginning to wonder: do they know it's Christmas time at all? This investigation seems to be taking all night!

Chris Tingle: I couldn't agree more. Still, at least we've got enough food to feed the world here.

Jacques Frost: Well, I suppose it beats last minute Christmas shopping. What were you all doing last Christmas?

Carole Singer: Me? Shovelling the snow off my path I think. It was the white Christmas last year wasn't it?

Cont.

Holly Reath: I think it was. A real winter wonderland.

Chris Tingle: Well, if that was last year, then I was busy taking a sleigh ride. I was playing Santa for the kids.

Jacques Frost: Santa Claus is coming to town eh?

Chris Tingle: Something like that.

Holly Reath: I think I was driving home for Christmas. I must have missed your guest appearance.

Declan Halls I believe I was rocking around the Christmas tree with the village youth group. We'd decorated it, sang the Christmas song, seen Santa here, and then practised "Walking in the Air" for the church service the next day.

Gaye Buntin Well, I was all alone on Christmas. Probably why I set up the singles group in the village. I didn't want to spend another one by myself. Still, maybe I won't be all alone this year.

Declan Halls You won't. At least, not if I have anything to do with it. All I want for Christmas is you.

Jacques Frost: Yeauck! Can we save that sloppy stuff for later? Let's get this enquiry solved first. Anyone have any questions for me?

Carole Singer

Third Round

Questions you should ask:

What did Jacques Frost bring to the party this evening and did he serve any food to Bob Scratchitt?

How can Holly Reath be so sure that the poison pen letter writer didn't kill Bob Scratchitt? Does she know who writes them?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You did not bring any food to this evening's festivities. You were assured by Declan, Jacques and Chris that they would ensure there was more than enough to go around, even with Bob in attendance (Bob is known for gluttony!)

They were right. There has been more than enough food on offer, though surprisingly very little stolen which is one of your favourites. You always did enjoy marzipan! If Declan did bring any then it disappeared very early on in the party as you've not had so much as a bite!

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Carole Singer

Concluding Statement

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

Carole Singer speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well. All I can say is that it wasn't me that killed Bob Scratchitt. If he were poisoned with cyanide, then it would have to have been in the food or drink and I neither served him this evening, nor brought him any food. You don't have to be a grade A pupil to see that I had no means or opportunity.

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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