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Floods of suspicion

Anton Addemup

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!

Anton Addemup

Background Character Information:

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

You are clever, successful and a senior partner in an accountancy practice with a wealthy client list. Your excellent advice has helped Gregory Groucher grow ever richer over the years but you are far too smooth to boast directly about that.

The attention you pay to the other men is in proportion to their wealth. As for the women, it is their looks that count with you.

You make no secret of being bored in the countryside and want to get back to your city office and luxury penthouse apartment.

Anton Addemup

Introductions:

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

Anton speaks after Jessie using the following dialogue:

That's very good of you Jessie, but I doubt if we have much choice. The police clearly want us to stay put while they plod through their procedures.

What a damn nuisance! I only called in for a short visit to discuss Gregory's investments. I'm Anton Addemup, his accountant, and I've already been kept away from my office for far too long.

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

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Fred Fixer	We'll have to make the best of things and help each other out. I wonder when they'll let me back to my workshop, so I can get some more cars back on the road?
Katie Keene	It's not just the cars, Fred. What about all those people who pop in to the garage for their milk and papers? Wethering Garage – the place to be! At least, until something better turns up.
Fred Fixer	Well I'm more than happy to have a few hours off to enjoy the old Groucher's mansion! As good as any hotel, especially with the lovely Jessie to look after us!
Anton Addemup	I doubt if we stay at the same type of hotels, Fred. But I've always enjoyed Jessie's lunches on my visits and Gregory certainly didn't stint on the furnishings.
Roxanne Reddie	It is a lovely room, though I wouldn't have chosen No. I won't say more. I'll cry if I think about the beautiful things floating around in our house.
Robin Reddie	There there, darling. We'll sort it all out through the insurance. Which is more than the birds that have lost their nests can do. Cont.

Jessie Jolly

I know what you mean, Roxanne. Men don't always appreciate the care women put into choosing things.

Fred Fixer

Perhaps that's because they get on with the real work rather than shopping!

Anton Addemup

I could certainly do with getting on with some real work. I hope the police appreciate how important it is for me to get back to the office.

Jessie Jolly

All right, everyone. We've all had a very stressful day. Let's all get comfortable and then see if we can help the Inspector by sorting out what we know between us.

Anton Addemup - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Robin why he was unaware of the risk of flooding. Surely he made some checks before buying the house?

A love story might cheer up the party. Ask Roxanne how she and Robin met.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

As Gregory Groucher's accountant you know a great deal about his business dealings. He became wealthy through dealing in land and property, initially in this area but now right across the country. Quite an achievement considering that he wasn't from a rich family and dropped out of university.

While you normally meet accountancy clients at your city office, you would often meet Gregory Groucher here at Wattering Hall. After all, he was an important client and you rather enjoy spending time in this lovely house and its gardens.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

Jessie Jolly	Such a sad way for a life to end.
Katie Keene	Well his money's no use to him anymore. I wonder who's going to get it?
Robin Reedie	If there's any justice in this world it should go to nature conservation to repair the huge damage greedy people like him have caused.
Roxanne Reedie	Don't be angry with him, darling. The time for that has passed.
Fred Fixer	I wonder whether I should offer to help the police trace the course of the stream?
Anton Addemup	Oh yes? And hide some evidence while you're at it? You're staying where we can all see you!
Jessie Jolly	Hush, Anton! Fred's no more under suspicion than the rest of us. We'll all stay together and make the most of it. I don't want any of my food wasted.
Roxanne Reedie	Well I read that after a shock a good meal does help to steady you again.

Cont.

Anton Addemup

	And the meal will be good if I know Jessie! You must give me a call before you start looking for your next post. I'm sure some of my other clients would make you a very attractive offer.
Robin Reedie	Selling people now are you, Anton? Perhaps Jessie doesn't want to go on waiting on the idle rich. Perhaps she won't need to.
Katie Keene	There's no rush, Jessie. You'll be needed to look after the house until it's sold.
Roxanne Reedie	I do hope the property isn't split up. The design of the gardens is so lovely and goes back long before Gregory's time.
Anton Addemup	I guess that all depends on who inherits it. If it's a charity for example, they have a duty to get the best value they can from it.
Fred Fixer	Charity? I doubt if the Groucher even knew the meaning of the word!
Katie Keene	Oh, come on everyone. Let's share some more of what we know so we can impress that muddy inspector when he comes back.

Anton Addemup - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Robin mentioned that Roxanne has relatives living nearby. Ask her what family connections she has with the Wattering area.

Roxanne looks stressed. Ask her how the flooding has affected her.

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Your meeting with Gregory today was arranged at short notice. He left a message with your secretary yesterday asking for a personal meeting at your earliest convenience. Naturally you gave this priority over your other plans. You arrived just after lunch as Gregory had indicated he was not available in the morning.

As you were aware of the risk of further flooding, you went straight to your car as soon as your meeting with Gregory ended. As you were leaving however, Jessie came to ask Gregory about putting up some people stranded by the floods. Discovering you were only able to drive as far as the garage on the main road, you had to turn back and ask for refuge yourself as there are 'road closed' signs in both directions. Although you didn't speak to Gregory again, you did see him through a window later on, walking in the grounds at the back of the house. You assumed that he was trying to avoid meeting the other unexpected guests.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Anton Addemup	There you go! I said he might have left the estate to charities! He did care about his mother, you know.
Jessie Jolly	Well I never! I think she must've been the only person he ever got close to.
Katie Keene	We can't know that for sure. He seems to have been rather good at keeping secrets.
Fred Fixer	I guess people aren't always what they seem to be. Actually you'd be surprised what you learn about people when you fix their cars.
Anton Addemup	Or do their accounts!.
Jessie Jolly	I'm just glad he'd made arrangements for the library. I know it contains some very rare items.
Fred Fixer	Ah! The lovely Jessie! It looks like you might be my new landlord now! I hope you remember how handy it is to have a garage round the corner.
Jessie Jolly	I'll be sure to tell the new owner, Fred. Mind you, I'm not sure I'll have any influence over them, whoever they are. All I'll get is a cheque.

Cont.

Anton Addemup	Let me assure you all. Nothing will happen immediately. Gregory's financial affairs were quite complex. In fact, perhaps while I'm here I could help by tidying up some of his papers.
Jessie Jolly	You'll do no such thing, Anton! You've still got some questions to answer yourself.
Robin Reedie	Well whoever the owner of this estate is, you can bet your bottom dollar they'll be hearing from our insurers. We haven't had a £50,000 windfall!
Roxanne Reedie	Oh this is so sad! We're scrapping with each other now! Gregory's gone! However it happened, his time is over, so let's cheer up and make sure West Wethering and the Hall have a good future!
Katie Keene	Well said, Roxanne. But I don't think we've answered all the questions yet. Shall we try and get to the bottom of this awful affair?

Anton Addemup - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Ask Jessie what difference the legacy will make to her financial position.

Ask Fred what business question he put to Gregory Groucher this morning?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Your business meetings with Gregory would normally be confidential but you suppose, as there is a police investigation, you will have to disclose them. You find this embarrassing as, despite being Gregory's trusted advisor for years, he had asked to see you because he had concerns about your work. Some of the funds you manage for him have not performed as well as expected and he actually suggested this might be due to fraudulent activity on your part! Naturally you denied this, and offered to provide him with any further information he needed to put his mind at rest.

Apart from your one attempt to drive home after the meeting, you spent the whole afternoon in the house. At first you tried to get on with some work, as your computer and phone records will prove. Unfortunately the internet connection soon went down. You decided to do your bit and help Jessie welcome new arrivals and show them round the house. Katie asked you for some career advice. You've always got time to help out a bright young woman, so you've been having a long talk with her in the drawing room.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Anton Addemup

Concluding Statement

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

Anton speaks first using the following dialogue:

I trust that my honesty in admitting that Gregory accused me of fraud will in fact assure you of my integrity. It seems that many of you were causing him a great deal of stress and that probably affected his judgment. I am confident the police will not be able to prove any financial misconduct on my part.

That therefore means I have no motive for killing Gregory. On the contrary, I have lost a high value client. I've been in sight of one or other of you in the house all afternoon. And if you want further proof, look at my shoes – no garden mud on them!

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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