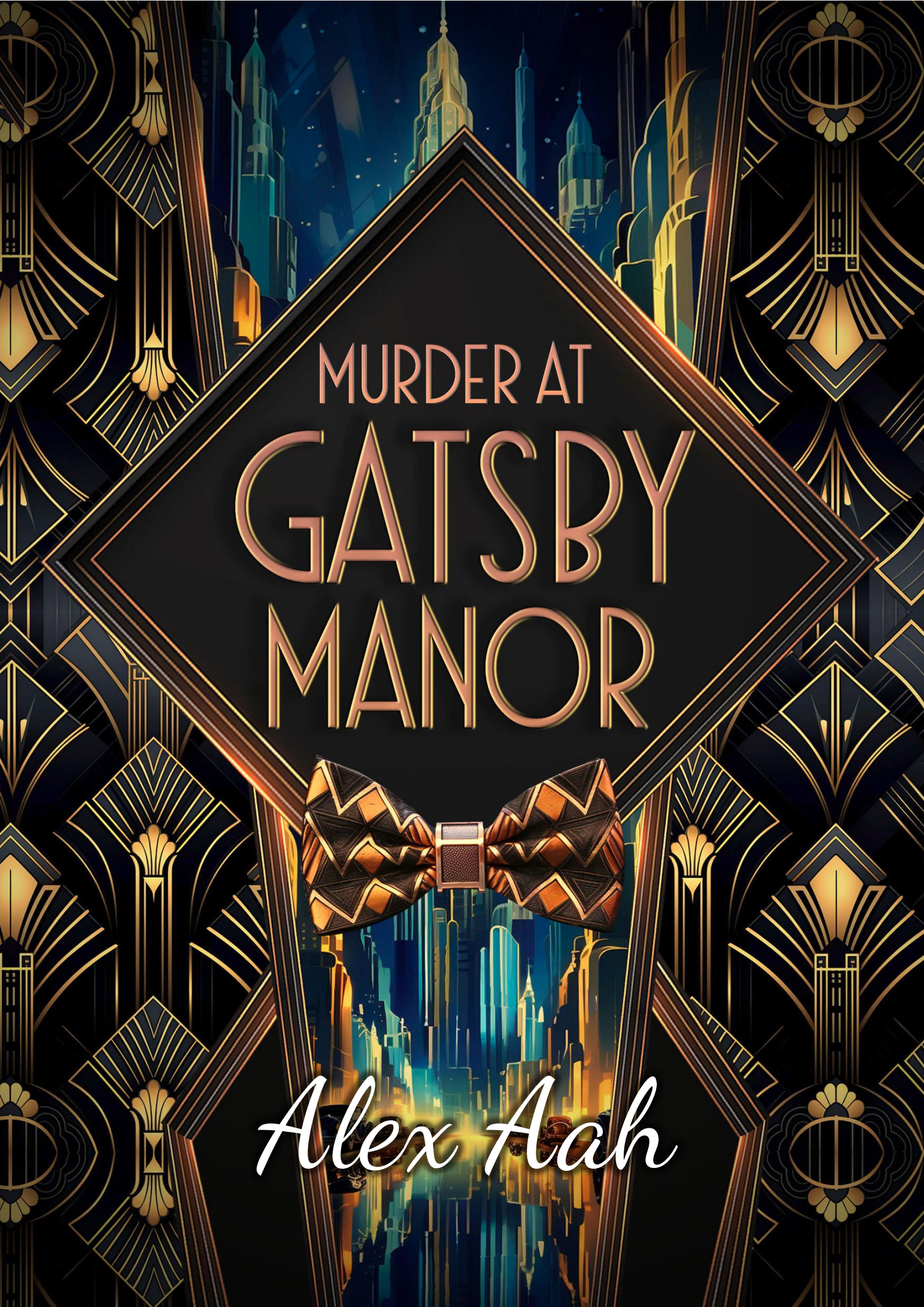

MURDER AT
GATSBY
MANOR
Alex Aah

Congratulations!

You are taking part in a murder mystery by Red Herring Games.

Firstly: Don't Panic!

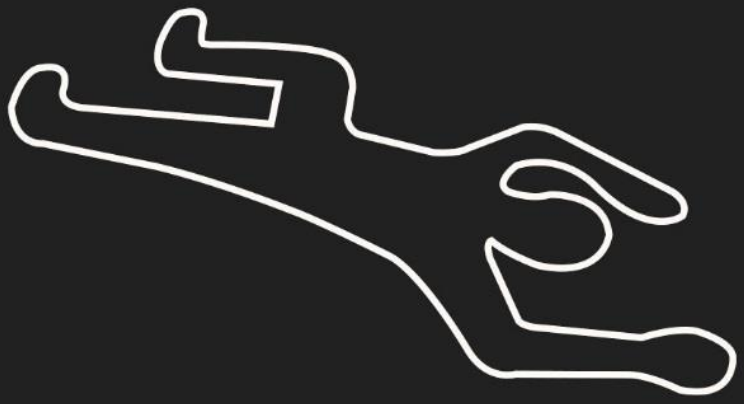
This booklet contains all the information you need to help you act your part throughout the murder mystery; background history, scripted dialogues, questions you should ask and scripted answers to questions you will be asked by the other guests.

You are encouraged to make the most of your part so feel free to make up new lines and add to your back story or statements if you wish. However, make sure you always provide the information you need to within your answers. We have pre-scripted your statements to make things as simple for you as possible.

Make sure you listen to everyone else's questions and answers.

You won't be told if you're the killer – so feel free to guess yourself at the end – but don't tell anyone else you are! You must protest your innocence until the end!

Lastly: Have fun!



Alex Aah

Background Character Information

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

You are positively bursting with current affairs gossip and trivia. News gives you a total buzz and being at the centre of a murder enquiry is just so “you” as to be overwhelmingly exciting!

Take copious notes; ask detailed and totally unrelated questions to get back story on people and really get into your investigative journalist persona.

You like word play. Try out a few headlines with people, and enjoy any alliteration, rhyming, assonance or onomatopoeic language you can shoehorn into your work.

Alex Aah - Introductions

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

Alex Aah speaks after Ryan Aire saying:

Well no one can say you don't have ambition there Ryan. As for me, my name is already well known. People look to me, Alex Aah for all the up-to-date news. If I haven't reported it, it hasn't happened. And I tell jokes too!

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

Scripted Dialogue - Round 1

Ally Monie So, just to recap—Randolph is dead, we're all suspects, and we can't leave until the inspector decides which one of us did it.

Jay Walker Sounds about right. Any other obvious facts you'd like to announce? Maybe tell us that water is wet?

Alex Aah Actually, chemically speaking, water isn't wet. Wetness is a sensation caused when...

Ryan Aire Alex - not the time!

Ally Monie Look, we can either sit here and twiddle our thumbs or try to help solve this.

Alex Ahh Help solve it? Ally, the last time you tried to 'help', you accidentally set fire to your own hair!

Ally Monie That was *one* time. And it was a defective candle!

Angel Voices Look, I know the inspector doesn't think it's self-inflicted, but perhaps it was an accident? The gun *may* have just gone off by itself.

Jay Walker I don't think so Angel - guns don't generally do that.

Alex Ahh So that rules out an accident then.

Ryan Aire Not true Alex – it COULD have been an accident. Someone may have been looking at the gun when it went off.

Jay Walker Is that your defence Ryan?

Ryan Aire Me? Don't try to pin this on me Jay! I was just clarifying things. **I** know what happens when you pull a trigger, but someone else might not.

Angel Voices Surely even if someone isn't familiar with a gun, they know how they work.

Ally Monie Point and shoot. Isn't that how all guns work?

Alex Ahh It's certainly how this murderer's gun worked. How did they get away though?

Angel Voices I don't think they did - that's why the inspector has identified one of us as the murderer.

Ally Monie Well, I think until we've established there's not another way out of the building, they should call us all witnesses rather than suspects.

Chris Tingle Maybe you should put that to the inspector when they come back.

Ryan Aire Then again probably best not to antagonize the police. I don't want to be taken in for questioning. If they can clear us all here, surely that's better?

Chris Tingle It'll certainly help me if we can get this cleared up quickly. I have a business to run!

Ryan Aire Don't you think it about time we start asking questions?

Alex Aah - First Round

Questions you should ask:

Ryan, how are you getting along with your latest aeroplane design?

Chris, when was your last fashion show?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Alex, did you work for Randolph?

Say: Yes I did, and he wasn't an easy man to work for let me tell you, but that doesn't mean I killed him. As my boss, we may have had the odd disagreement - but nothing I'd pull a gun on him for!

When asked: Alex, was Randolph a nice man?

Say: No; he was corrupt and dishonest. He used everything he learned to raise money through blackmail … he wasn't a nice man at all. And to tell you the truth, I'm not surprised he's dead. What I'm surprised about is that it took someone this long!

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 2

Jay Walker Well, if they're combing the grounds, they might also want to dredge the well that's on my land. It's close enough to be in throwing distance.

Ally Monie You're just wanting someone to clean that out Jay. No one would have managed to toss a gun that far!

Chris Tingle They wouldn't need to Ally, not when we have the river just at the end of the garden. That's surely going to be the best place to look.

Ryan Aire There have been people in the gardens on and off all evening. Anyone could have thrown the weapon away.

Alex Aah I doubt anyone would have heard the splash either, not with all the music going on.

Ryan Aire Without the weapon will they be able to identify the killer?

Angel Voices I'm sure even the police can create a case without a murder weapon. They have a body, isn't that all they need?

Ally Monie I don't know ... it's been a while since I read a crime novel.

Alex Aah Means, Motive, Opportunity. Aren't those the three things crimes are solved with?

Jay Walker Well we're all here so that's not a good start Alex.

Chris Tingle And likely why the police think it's one of us.

Jay Walker All right then... Let's be honest—how many of us actually *liked* Randolph?

Ally Monie Erm... Liking him wasn't exactly a requirement for attending his parties.

Chris Tingle No, but tolerating him certainly was.

Ally Monie I found him *charming*.

Ryan Aire Charming?

Ally Monie In a deeply unpleasant, morally bankrupt and borderline criminal sort of way. But yeah... there's a reason he attracted so many people to his parties.

Alex Aah You mean we didn't just come for the free booze?

Chris Tingle Prohibition being what it is, I'm happy to be stuck in a house that still has a fully stocked wine cellar!

Ally Monie And not just wine by the looks of things. The number of parties Randolph throws, he must have stockpiled before the law came in force.

Alex Ahh I'm sure we're all happy to believe that while the police are here Ally, but you know as well as I do, he can't possibly have had that much stockpiled. He's been bootlegging it, he must have been.

Alex Aah - Second Round

Questions you should ask:

Jay, how come you're at the party tonight if you and Randolph didn't get along?

Ally, I heard you and Randolph arguing just the other day in the gardens. What was the problem?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Alex, where were you when Randolph was shot?

Say: I was in the house people watching. You can learn a lot about people just from watching how they interact in the room. Randolph had been circulating, and I was watching how people flinched as he came close. He had dirt on just about everyone; he was a man of power and the room was his to own. I'd lost track of him as the room filled up, so I didn't see him go into the study, though he must have done. I'm fairly sure I saw Ally Monie come out of there though.

When asked: Alex, do you carry a gun?

Say: I do. I'm a reporter; that means I have to visit some of the seedier parts of town so I keep it for personal safety. That doesn't mean I killed him with it though, and the police said Randolph's own gun was used. That means it could really have been anyone here.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue - Round 3

Chris Tingle If you think so inspector ... I can't see it myself.

Alex Aah That's because you're not an investigative journalist like me. We should be looking at motives... who had *actual* reason to want him dead.

Ryan Aire Well, I don't want to *point fingers*, but...

Ally Monie *Ryan*, you have literally just extended your index finger at me.

Jay Walker Now isn't the time to point fingers. Besides I think most of us had a reason to fall out with the man. But kill him? That's a whole other ball game.

Alex Ahh The man had the business ethics of a raccoon in a jewellery store.

Ryan Aire Not to mention the personality of a spoiled ham.

Ally Monie Let's not start with the 'pointing fingers' part yet. We haven't even finished our drinks.

Angel Voices Some of us haven't even started! The tragedy here is that Randolph had an entire storm cellar full of liquor and now it might go to waste.

Ally Monie *That's* the tragedy? Not the fact that he's dead?

Jay Walker We can mourn and multi-task.

Alex Ahh I rather expect the police are looking forward to impounding all of it. I dare say it's not all kept in the evidence room either.

Chris Tingle I should think not. I've seen the police balls, before the ban came in... I know how much they like to drink.

Alex Aah Well, in that case I see it as our duty to drink as much as we can before they name the killer and ask us all to leave.

Jay Walker I couldn't agree with you more. I'm sure I saw some malt whisky on a shelf somewhere.

Ally Monie Oh yes, he was quite the connoisseur of scotch. He got quite a bit from Ireland too.

Jay Walker Yes, they've got a number of whisky distilleries there too.

Ally Monie Well... if there is a chance of stringing out this murder enquiry until we've drunk Randolph's 25-year-old cask malt I'll be much obliged!

Alex Aah - Third Round

Questions you should ask:

Jay, did Randolph make you an offer to buy the well?

Angel, were you in the study when Randolph was shot?

Answers you should give when asked the right questions.

When asked: Alex, did Randolph pay you to write bad reviews?

Say: He didn't pay me, he offered me a promotion if I did it – only he never actually made good on that offer, at least not yet. But it was always the carrot he dangled. The stick of course, was losing my job, and I've always wanted to be a reporter, so I did what I was told. I'm sorry Chris, but it was me who wrote that last bad review of your fashion. And it was also me he made leak your designs to your rival, Ryan.

When asked: Alex, how good are you as an investigative journalist?

Say: How good? I'm blooming brilliant! I tell you, I was just waiting to have enough dirt on Randolph to actually take **his** story to his rival! I learned from the best after all! If he wouldn't give me a promotion, then I was going to get it somewhere else. I did all the research that meant Randolph could blackmail everyone … including all that research on those armed bank robberies that meant he could blackmail his next-door neighbours!

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Alex Aah - Concluding Statement

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

Alex Ahh speaks after Chris Tingle saying:

Don't you worry about me Chris, I'm my own person with my own moral compass. Working for Randolph was just a means to an end, a rung on a ladder, a stepping stone I had to use to get to where I wanted to be.

After you have heard from all the guests make a prediction as to who the murderer is and why.

Tell the others.

Notes

We hope you enjoyed playing this Red Herring Games murder mystery and will visit us again to try out our other games.

Red Herring Games have a collection of experienced authors, who are continually producing new games for your enjoyment.

Red Herring Games are constantly on the lookout for more authors to add to our portfolio, giving you more choice.

Red Herring Games

There's something *fishy* going on

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