



A Game of Scandal

Murder Mystery Pack

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Organiser Guide

In this murder mystery game, a murderer is randomly selected from the group of players.

Every game will need one player to assume the role of Mrs Finch, who will act as detective and cannot be the murderer.

Mrs Finch, a character from *A Season for Scandal*, is the founder of the Aviary: a secret agency of women who specialise in blackmailing troublesome men and solving the unsolvable.

Each character has a script for the player to follow through the different rounds of the game. The Guilty player must follow their 'Guilty' script, whilst the Innocent players must follow their 'Innocent' scripts.

It is the responsibility of Mrs Finch's player to question suspects and keep the game moving along, so it might be a good idea for the organiser to assume this role. However, any player can take on this responsibility if they want to.

This game is for 5–13 players. Suspects can be removed from the mystery for games with fewer players.

Turn over for your step-by-step guide...

Step-by-Step Guide

1. The organiser must assign characters to each player. This could be done in advance of the game so players can dress up and get into character. (If you have fewer than 13 players, then you can remove however many suspects you need from the game.)
2. Welcome your players to the event, and use your organiser guide to explain how the game works.
3. Read the statement “The Mystery” from page 4.
4. Place the Innocent/Guilty slips from pages 7 & 8 in a container and ask all the players (apart from Mrs Finch) to secretly pick a slip of paper and keep their Innocent or Guilty status a secret. There will be only one Guilty player, so please ensure the Guilty slip is included in the draw. All players must write their character name on their slip of paper and then put it back in the container, ready to be revealed at the end of the game.
5. The game is afoot – Mrs Finch’s player is now in charge, and must follow their script to keep everything moving along.
6. After the questioning, Mrs Finch’s player will invite all the players to vote on who they think the murderer is.
7. Finally, Mrs Finch’s player will discover the murderer’s identity by looking through the slips, reveal the murderer, and finally the murderer will make their closing statement.

The Mystery

24th September, 1894: A dinner at Lockingham Manor, to celebrate the recent engagement of Lily Roberts and Charles, the son of the Duke of York – a somewhat controversial affair, due to Lily’s lowly status and Charles’s previously well-publicised aversion to marriage.

Guests were busy mingling, enjoying champagne and vol-au-vents, when suddenly a grisly discovery was made by the housekeeper, Mrs Grimes. Lily’s still-warm body was discovered in the pantry – stabbed to death.

Eager not to involve the police and cause a scandal, the Duchess of York contacted her good friend Mrs Finch to work out who committed the murder in a timely way, without a lengthy – and inconvenient – investigation occurring at the residence.

Now over to Mrs Finch...

Character List

1. Mrs Finch, the detective

2. Mrs Grimes, the housekeeper

Mrs Grimes has been the housekeeper at Lockingham Manor for thirty years.

3. Rowan Peters, the gardener

Rowan Peters works at Lockingham Manor and was friendly with Lily Roberts.

4. The Duchess of York, Charles's mother

The Duchess is a very proud woman, and was tentative about the romance between her son, Charles, and Lily.

5. The Duke of York, Charles's father

A stand-offish man, the Duke of York is very protective of his family's status.

6. Charles Lockingham, heir to the Duke title

The fiancée of Lily Roberts.

Please note the character of Charles Lockingham needs to be present in the game.

7. Samuel Danforth, Charles's childhood friend

Samuel and Charles were inseparable throughout their childhoods. Since Charles' engagement, their friendship has suffered.

8. Bryony Roberts, Lily's sister

Bryony was fiercely jealous of Lily making it into the upper class and leaving her family behind.

9. Mrs Roberts, Lily's widowed mother

Mrs Roberts and Lily always had a fraught relationship since the death of Lily's father.

Please note Bryony and Mrs Roberts' statements intertwine and so both suspects need to be present or removed from the game.

10. Lord Harrington, a guest at the party and neighbour of the Duke

Lily used to work as a maid for Lord and Lady Harrington, before meeting Charles and falling in love.

11. Lady Harrington, a guest at the party

Lady Harrington would do anything to retain her social status and protect her husband.

Please note Lord and Lady Harrington's statements intertwine and so both suspects need to be present or removed from the game.

12. Jude Moss, the hired harpist for the party

Jude is the best musician in the area, and has been hired previously by the Lockingham's neighbours, the Harringtons.

13. Penny French, the cook

Penny has been the cook at Lockingham Manor for five years.

You are

INNOCENT

Please read your innocent scripts for the duration of the game.

You are

INNOCENT

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You are

INNOCENT

Please read your innocent
scripts for the duration of the
game.

You are

GUILTY

Please read your guilty
scripts for the duration of the
game.

Mrs Finch's script

“My name is Mrs Finch, and I am the founder of the Aviary, an all-female detective agency dedicated to righting wrongs against women.

As you are all aware, I have been called here by the Duchess of York to solve this harrowing case tonight. Lily Roberts has been murdered. Her body was discovered in the pantry with four stab wounds to the chest.

Someone in this room has committed a murder—and you can rest assured that they will be found out.

I will uncover the mystery of this case with good old-fashioned questions. I expect you all to answer honestly and to the best of your knowledge.

Firstly, I'd like everyone to introduce themselves—this will prove very useful to me.”

Wait for introductions from all participants

“And now for my first question: how did you know the victim?”

Wait for answers from all participants

“Did you have any disagreements with the victim? Be honest—any holding back on your part will only make you look guiltier.”

Wait for answers from all participants

“Where were you at the time of the murder?”

Wait for answers from all participants

“Thank you very much, that will be all the questioning from me. I am, however, very interested in who *you* think has murdered poor Lily Roberts. I would like you now to take a vote—I will read out the name of each suspect, and I would like you to raise your hands when you think the name of the murderer has been read out.”

Read out the suspect names of the players one by one, waiting for votes to be cast.

“Now, I will make my final deductions.”

Go to the container with the ‘Innocent’ and ‘Guilty’ slips and find the ‘Guilty’ slip. This will have the murderer’s name written upon it.

Choose the corresponding statement below to read out to your party and reveal the murderer.

Mrs Grimes

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is Mrs Grimes. After speaking with everyone, your motive is clear – after the engagement announcement, the Duke let you know that his inheritance was no longer yours. You were overcome with rage, and murder seemed to be the only way to get that money back. As the housekeeper, you had many reasons to lure Lily into the pantry – where you showed your true nature and murdered her in cold blood, with a hastily-grabbed kitchen knife as a weapon.”

Rowan Peters

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is Rowan Peters. After speaking with everyone, your motive is clear – you have downplayed your ‘friendship’ with Lily and were in fact engaged in an affair. When Lily ended this relationship earlier this evening, you were enraged and overcome by a fit of passion. You showed your true nature and murdered the woman you loved in cold blood, with a hastily-grabbed kitchen knife as a weapon.”

The Duchess of York

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is the Duchess of York. After speaking with everyone, your motive is clear – your fear for your family reputation has been apparent since you met Lily. While you outwardly seemed to reluctantly accept the match, you’ve been waiting for an opportunity like this for the last month. In the chaos of service, you swept Lily away to assist with keeping everything running smoothly – and there you showed your true nature and murdered your son’s fiancé in cold blood, with a hastily-grabbed kitchen knife as a weapon.”

The Duke of York

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is the Duke of York. The revelation of Charles wanting out of the Duke title enraged you so deeply that you vowed to take poor Lily out of the picture entirely. In the chaos of service, you confronted Lily in the pantry – and there you showed your true nature and murdered your son’s fiancé in cold blood, with a hastily-grabbed kitchen knife as a weapon.”

Charles Lockingham

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is Charles Lockingham. After answering my questions, your motive is clear – you never planned to spend your life with the poor girl for one moment. Your engagement was a ruse to upset your parents and disrupt society, but upon realising that her use to you was over, you showed your true nature and brutally murdered Lily, with a hastily-grabbed kitchen knife as a weapon.”

Samuel Danforth

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is Samuel Danforth. After speaking with everyone, your motive is clear – you’ve been in love with Charles Lockingham for years, and felt threatened by his impending marriage to Lily. You hoped that he would remember your childhood pact not to marry, but when he didn’t, you took matters into your own hands and lured Lily into the pantry – where you showed your true nature and murdered her in cold blood, with a hastily-grabbed kitchen knife as a weapon.”

Bryony Roberts

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is Bryony Roberts. After speaking with everyone, your motive is clear – desperate to move up in the world, you were jealous of your own sister. The resentment had built over the last few months, culminating in a moment of rage. You lured Lily into the pantry while your mother was waiting in the garden for you – where you showed your true nature and murdered your own sister in cold blood, with a hastily-grabbed kitchen knife as a weapon.”

Mrs Roberts

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is Mrs Roberts. After speaking with everyone, your motive is clear – you’ve never forgiven Lily for forging her own path when your husband was ill, and you blame her entirely for his death. After seeing her for the first time in months, the rage became too much, and murder was on your mind. You lured Lily into the pantry whilst Bryony was waiting in the garden for you – where you showed your true nature and murdered your own daughter in cold blood, with a hastily-grabbed kitchen knife as a weapon.”

Lord Harrington

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is Lord Harrington. After speaking with everyone, your motive is clear – Lily was going to expose your dodgy dealings, which would have destroyed you financially. For you, murdering Lily was the only possible way to ensure the documents never reared their ugly heads. You lured Lily into the pantry whilst your wife covered for your whereabouts – where you showed your true nature and murdered her in cold blood, with a hastily-grabbed kitchen knife as a weapon.”

Lady Harrington

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is Lady Harrington. After speaking with everyone, your motive is clear – you would do anything to retain your social status, which was threatened by Lily’s discovery of your husband’s dodgy dealings. For you, murdering Lily was the only possible way to ensure the documents never reared their ugly heads. You lured Lily into the pantry whilst your husband covered for your whereabouts – where you showed your true nature and murdered her in cold blood, with a hastily-grabbed kitchen knife as a weapon.”

Jude Moss

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is Jude. After speaking with everyone, your motive is clear – you want to hurt Charles as much as he’s hurt you, and ensure he never forgets you. For you, murdering his beloved wife-to-be was the only possible way to ensure this. You lured Lily into the pantry on your pretend ‘bathroom trip’ – where you showed your true nature and murdered her in cold blood, with a hastily-grabbed kitchen knife as a weapon.”

Penny French

“I’ve deduced that the murderer is Penny. After speaking with everyone, your motive is clear – Lily had promised to terminate your employment upon her marriage to Charles. You just couldn’t let this happen, and for you, murder was the only possible solution. You asked her into the pantry for some advice on the dessert menu – where you showed your true nature and murdered her in cold blood, with one of your trusty kitchen knives for a weapon.”

Wait for the murderer’s statement. The murder is solved!

Congratulate the players who voted for the murderer on their shrewd detective skills.

Mrs Grimes' script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

"My name is Mrs Grimes, and I have been the housekeeper here at Lockingham Hall for 30 years."

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: "I knew Lily vaguely when she worked for the Harringtons. I was delighted for her when I found out of her courtship and subsequent engagement to Charles – it is so rare for someone of our standing to be brought up into the upper echelons of society as she was. I got to know her more and more as she spent time visiting the manor and I never had any problems with her."

Guilty: "I knew Lily vaguely when she worked for the Harringtons. I was surprised to hear of her courtship and subsequent engagement to Charles – it is so rare for someone of our standing to be brought up into the upper echelons of society as she was. It was strange to imagine working for her after the wedding."

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: “I haven’t had any disagreements with Lily, but I did receive some surprising news tonight which may be why I’m acting strange. I’ve worked hard for Lockingham Manor for over 30 years and was expecting a generous repayment and now there will be nothing left for me.”

Guilty: “Disagreements? Only that thanks to her, I’ve received some disappointing news tonight. I’ve worked hard for Lockingham Manor for over 30 years and was expecting something in return, and thanks to the engagement, my promised inheritance is all gone.”

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “I was busy getting the dining room ready for the guests. Even if I could have done something as despicable as murder, I wouldn’t have possibly had the time tonight.”

Guilty: “I was busy getting the dining room ready for the guests, all by myself as usual. Even if I wanted to kill Lily, I wouldn’t have had the time – I’ve been run off my feet all night!”

Wait for Mrs Finch's conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch's statement.

“Fine, you got me – but you would have done the same in my position! I’ve done everything for this family for 30 years, and was happy to – safe in the knowledge that my inheritance was due when the dear old Duke dies. When I found out tonight that Lily and Charles’ shock engagement has robbed me of my well-deserved money, I asked her to help me in the pantry when no-one was looking – where I had to take matters into my own hands.”

Rowan Peters' script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

“My name is Rowan Peters, and I am the gardener here at Lockingham Hall.”

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: “I met Lily the first time she visited Lockingham Manor. Meeting her was a breath of fresh air – she was clearly moving up in society but still had time to talk to someone like me. I couldn't believe my luck when she began seeking me out each time she visited Mr Lockingham. Truth be told, I loved her. ”

Guilty: “I met Lily the first time she visited Lockingham Manor. She was the kind of person you couldn't help but notice. We became quite... close over the course of her visits to Mr Lockingham. She was such a sweet girl – I can't believe anyone could do this to her! ”

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: “Not a disagreement as such, but we did have an unhappy conversation earlier this evening. She knew of my love for her and our friendship would hardly have been considered proper in light of her engagement. Of course I was heartbroken, but I only ever wanted the best for her, and I could see the strength of her feeling for Mr Lockingham. I certainly didn’t expect a second heartbreak just minutes later.”

Guilty: “I wouldn’t call it a disagreement exactly. As I said, Lily and I were... close. Earlier this evening she told me that she wouldn’t be able to continue our... friendship. This was upsetting, but hardly surprising. I’ve seen this coming for a while – don’t paint this as a murder of passion!”

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “I was putting on a brave face, trying to enjoy the party. I took a brief moment to myself at one point – to gather my strength – but otherwise I was in company the entire time.”

Guilty: “I was in the library, collecting myself after my conversation with Lily. I needed a moment to myself. ”

Wait for Mrs Finch's conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch's statement.

“Fine, you’re quite right. I couldn’t believe that Lily would choose that man over me – I couldn’t offer her wealth but I thought we were in love! It was impossible to bear the thought that he would have Lily all to himself – better that no-one does. After she took me aside in the pantry to tell me, I had to take matters into my own hands.”

The Duchess of York's script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

"I am the Duchess of York, Charles' mother, and I live here at Lockingham Hall."

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: "Charles introduced me to Lily last month. I have to say, I was quite shocked. She was a sweet girl but certainly not a suitable match for my Charles. Such a surprise after he was so keen not to marry, too. Seeing them together this evening though, I was starting to see the potential."

Guilty: "Charles introduced me to Lily last month. It was such a shock that he had finally settled on a match and chosen her! I was worried for our family's reputation. But Charles was so adamant that I could do nothing but endure. This evening was certainly a test of this endurance."

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: “I have only ever spoken to Lily in company. While I certainly had my reservations about the match, there was never an opportunity to express them to Lily herself. Besides, it would hardly have been polite. And I suppose there were some who opposed my match with my husband all those years ago, so in some ways I could sympathise.”

Guilty: “Not directly, no. I have only ever spoken to Lily in company. I’m sure she could tell that I was opposed to the match, but it was never something I voiced. Not to Lily, anyway. Charles was well aware of how vehemently I felt.”

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “I was flitting between the kitchen and the party, ensuring that everything was running smoothly. Occasions such as these can be so very chaotic – it’s important to keep order. ”

Guilty: “Well it couldn’t have been me – I was far too busy keeping everything running smoothly! One has to be between the kitchen and the party at occasions such as these. There would have been no possible moment for me to commit this despicable crime.”

Wait for Mrs Finch's conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch's statement.

“Yes, fine – I admit it! Charles is our only son and I couldn't bear the thought of what that girl would do to our family reputation. She duped my poor Charles into an engagement which was most unsuitable. No doubt she was after the family fortune. I took advantage of the situation to lure Lily into the pantry, where I had to take matters into my own hands.”

The Duke of York's script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

"I am the Duke of York, Charles' father, and I live here at Lockingham Hall."

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: "Lily was the object of my son's affections. She was the servant of the Harringtons', our dear friends and neighbours, until Charles began his courtship."

Guilty: "Lily was the object of my son's affections – for reasons I couldn't possibly tell you. She was the servant of the Harrington's, our dear friends and neighbours, until Charles began his courtship."

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: "Lily and I never really crossed paths until this evening – I don't think we had anything of note to say to each other. However, I was rather shocked at the evening's events prior to the poor girl's murder: first with the disappointing news of Charles' engagement, but additionally finding out that Charles wants to renounce our family title after the marriage."

Guilty: “I’ve never spoken to the girl. However, I was rather shocked at the evening’s events prior to the poor girl’s murder: first with the disappointing news of Charles’ engagement, but additionally finding out that Charles wants to renounce our family title, and live a life of squalor with the girl.”

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “I was attending to my guests – you must understand the responsibility of a Duke.”

Guilty: “You must understand, being a Duke is extremely time-consuming. As I said, I’ve never spoken to the girl – I had much more important guests to attend to this evening.”

Wait for Mrs Finch’s conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch’s statement.

“I suppose the jig is up – it was I who killed the girl. How could I not? She has dragged Charles down to her level, and the status of my family is in dire straits! After Charles let me know of his despicable renouncement of our family title, I flew into a rage and took my revenge on her. No one threatens the Lockingham family!”

Charles Lockingham's script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

"I am Charles Lockingham, son of the Duke and Duchess of York, and was engaged to my darling Lily."

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: "Lily is my betrothed and I just can't believe what's happened here tonight. Lily worked for our neighbours, the Harringtons. After meeting her at a dinner party a few months ago, I had fallen for her completely."

Guilty: "Lily was my wife-to-be, of course. I'm awfully upset, as you can only imagine. I met Lily at the Harringtons' a few months ago, where she was their servant."

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: "With my darling Lily? Of course not! Our courtship had not gone down hugely well with our guests tonight, but keeping Lily happy was my priority. I had even decided to renounce the inheritance of my father's title and live a simple life of anonymity with her."

Guilty: "Not with Lily, per se, but our engagement had certainly ruffled feathers tonight. Polite society was scandalised!"

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “I was mingling with my guests, of course – I’m sorry, I can’t remember exactly, everything is such an awful blur. I can’t believe this is happening!”

Guilty: “I was talking with my guests, listening to their rather horrified reactions to our engagement. I never for one second imagined that someone may take revenge in such a dreadful way.”

Wait for Mrs Finch’s conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch’s statement.

“Ok, fine – it was I! Lily was only ever a way for me to spite my parents; I knew nothing would boil their blood more than me marrying a mere servant girl – and throwing our family status to the dogs. Seeing my parents’ reaction tonight was more satisfying than I ever imagined... but I soon realised I actually had to marry the girl, and everyone knows I despise the idea of marriage. There was only one way out – and I’m not sorry!”

Samuel Danforth's script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

"My name is Samuel Danforth, and I am a close friend of Charles Lockingham."

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: "I barely knew her. I'd met Lily once before the party tonight. Charles and I have been friends since childhood – we were so close that we agreed we would never marry. It was quite a shock when he introduced me to Lily a few weeks ago. I was finding it tough to let go of our childhood pact but there was no persuading Charles. Still, Lily seemed nice enough."

Guilty: "I'd only met her once before this evening! Charles and I have been friends since childhood – we were so close that we agreed we would never marry. It was quite a shock when he introduced me to Lily a few weeks ago. I was quite upset that Charles had broken our childhood pact for someone like her."

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: “Not exactly. But I think she might have heard a heated conversation between Charles and I the night she and I met. I was upset that he had chosen Lily rather than honouring our pact, but clearly it didn’t mean the same for him as it did to me. It was unfortunate that she overheard.”

Guilty: “Of course not – I barely know her! I think she might have heard a heated conversation between Charles and I the night she and I met. I was upset that he had chosen Lily rather than honouring our pact, but clearly it didn’t mean the same for him as it did to me. But obviously I was angry at Charles, not Lily!”

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “I was quite out of sorts at the party. I flitted from room to room – the library, the dining room, even the garden – to find a moment to myself, but everywhere was occupied.”

Guilty: “I was quite out of sorts at the party. I flitted from room to room – the library, the dining room, even the garden – to find a moment to myself, but everywhere was occupied. I highly doubt I was alone for a moment of the whole evening!”

Wait for Mrs Finch's conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch's statement.

“You’re right. I couldn’t bear the thought of Charles marrying – it was infuriating that he couldn’t see what was right in front of him the whole time. I thought getting Lily out of the way would open his eyes. I know what I did was wrong but it was only out of love for Charles! You would have done the same!”

Bryony Roberts' script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

"My name is Bryony Roberts, and I am Lily's sister."

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: "Lily's my sister. We don't look much alike but we were very close when we were younger – there's only about 18 months between us. We haven't spoken for a while – I think she changed when she met Charles – but I was hoping we could make amends tonight."

Guilty: "Lily was my sister. We don't look much alike but we were very close when we were younger – there's only about 18 months between us. She changed a lot when she met Charles. It felt like we weren't good enough for her anymore. Still, I was glad of the invitation to the party."

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: "As I say, we haven't spoken for a while. My father's illness and death took its toll on our family, and it's felt like Lily has wanted to leave us behind since then. It's been hard to be the sister left behind while she moves up in the world – but it wasn't something we really discussed."

Guilty: “As I say, we haven’t spoken for a while. Lily wasn’t there for my mother and I at the time of my father’s death and it’s been difficult with her every since. And since she started moving up in the world, she definitely didn’t have time for us.”

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “I was outside with my mother. The party was all a bit much and I felt so out of place.”

Guilty: “I was outside with my mother. Honestly, it felt like Lily invited us to show off her new status – it was hard to watch.”

Wait for Mrs Finch’s conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch’s statement.

“Alright, it was me. I’m not proud of it. But Lily made things so difficult when our father died, and then when she met Charles it felt like she was leaving us behind entirely. I felt so betrayed, particularly as we were once so close. Truthfully, I was jealous, and had the opportunity to take her aside at the party to bring her back down. You would have done the same!”

Mrs Roberts' script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

"My name is Mrs Roberts, and I am Lily's mother."

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: "Lily is my daughter of course! I'm sad to say we had fallen out of contact over the past few years since my husband's death but I was pleased to receive an invitation to this evening's affairs. I can't believe what has happened!"

Guilty: "Lily was my daughter! Since the death of my dear husband a few years ago we had fallen out of contact but I was pleased to receive an invitation to this evening's affairs."

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: "Despite our lack of contact, I've missed Lily dearly. I don't think either of us dealt with the death of my husband very well at all, leading to our estrangement."

Guilty: “Obviously everyone is well aware of our estrangement, but I don’t think this paints me as a murderer! Lily’s work at the Harringtons meant that she wasn’t there much to help with my husband’s illness before his death, which contributed to our falling out. But what an affront to suggest I would kill my own daughter!”

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “I was with my other daughter Bryony in the garden – we felt a bit out of place at the dinner party.”

Guilty: “Bryony and I were out in the garden, avoiding the other guests – we stuck out like a sore thumb with our cheap dresses.”

Wait for Mrs Finch’s conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch’s statement.

“Yes, I killed Lily – but it was her fault that my husband died! An eye for an eye and all that. If she hadn’t swanned off and got a job by herself then she would have been able to help more around the house, and she didn’t even share that much of her earnings with us! This was the first time I’d seen her since the funeral, and I was overcome with rage. You would have done the same!”

Lord Harrington's script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

"I am Lord Harrington, here with my wife Lady Harrington. I am a neighbour and close friend of the Lockingham family."

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: "Lily used to be a maid in our manor. The Lockingham family are often in attendance at our balls, and I suspect that is how Charles and Lily met."

Guilty: "Lily was our maid. The Lockingham family are often in attendance at our balls, and I suspect that is how Charles and Lily met."

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: "Lily was a good maid, although perhaps a little nosy at times – I once caught her looking through the drawers in my office and had to tell her off. I wasn't too disappointed to learn of her courtship with Charles and subsequent departure from her role."

Guilty: "Lily wasn't the best maid – I once caught her snooping in my office and had to give her a warning. I wasn't too disappointed to learn of her courtship with Charles and subsequent departure from her role."

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “I was with my wife of course, enjoying our champagne and waiting for dinner. You can’t possibly be accusing ME of murdering the poor girl, can you?”

Guilty: “I was with my wife of course, enjoying our champagne and waiting for dinner. My wife will confirm this, just ask her!”

Wait for Mrs Finch’s conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch’s statement.

“Fine, I admit it – I killed the silly girl. She asked to speak with me in the kitchen at the engagement party and she threatened my good name with blackmail – something she supposedly found whilst working at my manor! How dare she go against her former employer after all I’ve done for her!”

Lady Harrington's script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

"I am Lady Harrington, wife of Lord Harrington and a friend of the Lockingham family."

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: "Lily came to us after her father died and we gave her a role as a maid. I believe the intention was to send money home to her family to support them, but I'm not sure how much of it went to them in the end."

Guilty: "Lily worked for us for a couple of years after her father died. I was disappointed to receive her notice to leave during her courtship with Charles."

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: "Once my husband found Lily looking through his private documents whilst cleaning in his office. I believe a warning was issued and there were no further problems after this."

Guilty: "Once my husband found Lily looking through his private documents whilst cleaning in his office. This was unacceptable – it was just as well Lily left her position during her courtship with Charles as we definitely wouldn't have accepted this sort of behaviour from an employee!"

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “My husband and I were enjoying the party and discussing the surprise engagement announcement.”

Guilty: “My husband and I were together the entire time, enjoying the party.”

Wait for Mrs Finch’s conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch’s statement.

“It looks as if I have no choice – you’ve backed me into a corner here! I did it, and I don’t regret it – Lily was threatening all my husband has worked for with her little discovery. He was going to lose everything, and I can’t face that social humiliation!”

Jude Moss' script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

"I am Jude Moss, renowned harpist, and I was hired to provide entertainment for tonight's soirée."

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: "I don't really know Lily, apart from when she worked at the Harringtons' and I was hired there for a ball. She hired me for this evening, and I was surprised to have been asked, given I had a slight run-in with Charles at the Harringtons', but I was happy to accept and sweep this under the rug."

Guilty: "I don't really know Lily, apart from when she worked at the Harringtons'. I was hired there for a ball once, where I had an unfortunate run-in with Charles. Thankfully this spat didn't affect my being hired tonight – it seems Charles didn't remember at all."

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: "No, Lily hired me for this evening and I'm very sorry to hear of the horrible events that have transpired. I'm not sure whether Charles had ever told her of our little spat, but she never mentioned it."

Guilty: “No, Lily hired me for this evening. I don’t think Charles had ever told her of our – ahem – misunderstanding... it was clearly not very important to him in the end.”

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “I was playing my harp the entire evening – I was told not to take a break as the guests would have noticed a lapse in the ambience.”

Guilty: “I was playing my harp the entire evening, bar a quick trip to the lavatory – I had to play for as much of the evening as possible to ensure the right ambience for the guests.”

Wait for Mrs Finch’s conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch’s statement.

“I did it, fine! I was waiting for the day that Charles and I might cross paths again, after he had offended me so deeply at our last meeting; however, I tried to confront him and was perturbed as he admitted to not even remembering me! I was overcome by rage and vowed that he’d remember me for the rest of his life – as the person who took away the thing he loves the most...”

Penny French's script

Wait for Mrs Finch's introductions

"I am Penny French, the cook here at Lockingham Manor."

Wait for introductions from other participants

How did you know the victim?

Innocent: "I've been the cook here for the last five years. I've got to know Lily as an acquaintance when she worked for the Harringtons', and recently as a prospective boss."

Guilty: "I'm been the cook here for the last five years. I knew Lily when she was a maid at the Harringtons', but recently she's been wielding her newfound power over me."

Did you have any disagreements with the victim?

Innocent: "Her manner towards me has changed since her courtship with Charles – we used to be equals, and now she treats me significantly differently. To be completely transparent, I recently asked her to not look down on me so much, and she didn't like that."

Guilty: “Since she’s gone up in the world, she’s started to treat me significantly differently – ordering me about, looking down on me. I confronted her about this recently and she threatened to have me fired, as soon as she had the “authority”!”

Where were you at the time of the murder?

Innocent: “I was in and out of the kitchen, getting dinner onto the table for the guests to enjoy. Anyone could have slipped in with Lily to the pantry, it’s always chaotic around service!”

Guilty: “I was in the kitchen of course – but that doesn’t mean I did it! It’s always chaotic around service, anyone could have slipped in with Lily without me seeing.”

Wait for Mrs Finch’s conclusion, and cast your vote.

If you are guilty, read out the below after Mrs Finch’s statement.

“Ugh, fine, I killed Lily! How could I not?! She threatened my position here – in fact, she promised she’d be rid of me as soon as she was married to Charles! I couldn’t let my only source of income slip away from me that easily. It was easy to lure her into the pantry and the sharp knives are always within reach... I had to do it!”

Congratulations

Well done on solving the mystery and finding the culprit! The police are on their way and will be locking away Lily Roberts' murderer for a very long time.

If you'd like more of Mrs Finch, then pick up the *Scandal* series by Laura Wood – including three twisty mysteries solved by the Aviary, an all-female detective agency righting wrongs at the end of the nineteenth century.

