



Death at the Tenth

by
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*A Murder Mystery Pack
Customer Taster*

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Death at the Tenth

A Murder Mystery
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Green keeper Herbert Gloom has long harboured a grudge against the Primrose Hill Golf Club committee. He has been gathering evidence against each one of them and promising a showdown - the annual club dinner is the perfect opportunity! But someone has a grudge against Herbert as well, and the dinner is also an opportunity for murder...

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About this pack

This taster contains an extract from the full pack (which should provide everything you need to stage your own Murder Mystery).

It is intended for use at a three course sit down meal where the principle characters will act out a set of events to the assembled guests.

Please remember from the outset that this pack is intended for an **improvised performance** although there are set lines for some characters.

Your cast must use the information provided to develop their characters, their “back stories” and improvise the action when and where the situation arises.

They must stay in character from the moment the guests arrive until the plot is complete and the murderer is unmasked

This means that your performers are less constrained and restricted, can react and interact with each other and the guests at will and have a lot more fun!

The full pack documents include:

A plot overview

General staging notes

Character overview including **motive** and **opportunity** to murder the victim

A Narrative Arc to show how the event should flow.

Questions to be asked by DCI Holmes by character

Denouement by DCI Holmes by character

Table cards listing characters as information for your guests

“Whodunnit” sheets for guests to complete

Plot Overview

Herbert Gloom, once club professional but now green keeper at the Primrose Hill Golf Club, has harboured a grudge against the entire club committee ever since a new young golfing professional was hired to take his place.

He quietly collects evidence of fraud, secret liaisons (he even has photographs to prove it!) and other nefarious doings ready to present when he feels the moment is ripe. The annual Club Dinner is the perfect opportunity.

Present at the dinner are:

Herbert Gloom

Major Winstanton-Bromley, the Club Captain

Lady Dorothy Winstanton-Bromley, The Major’s wife and Lady Captain

Damien Francis, Club Professional

Anita Throckmorton, Club Secretary

Sheila Sotterley, Club Treasurer

Doris Gloom, Herbert’s wife and club housekeeper

Rodger Rodgers, Club President

And later, **DCI Sherbet Holmes...**

During the evening he goes out of his way to be obnoxious to both committee and guests ending with a tirade against everyone present.

Some time later a death is discovered...

Enter **DCI Sherbert Holmes**, who soon discovers that ... has been foully murdered. His forensic staff have discovered a large wooden splinter...

All the committee are suspects as each was seen to leave the room after...

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General Staging Notes

Casting / rehearsal

Your chosen performers should be issued with a copy of the entire pack.

You should hold as many rehearsals as required depending on experience of performers

The first rehearsal should concentrate on reading through this pack and getting a feel for how the event is structured and the role that each character has to play in the plot.

Before the second rehearsal the performers should further prepare their back stories using the basic character analysis sheets as a base. At the second rehearsal these should be read out by each performer in character.

As it is impossible to rehearse the whole event without that all-important audience to react to, you should concentrate on cementing motives and relationships within the group. These can be rehearsed by the performers, more to prove they can improvise and keep up a convincing performance than word for word content!

DCI Holmes can use a notepad from which to read the set questions and denouements.

Facilities required for the performers

The performers need a separate private room for their use. They will use this prior to the event to get changed and prepared and will use the room during the event where they can exchange notes and discuss any change of tactics. The murder victim will also use this room once deceased!

The performers will ideally be given the same food as the guests.

It would be sensible to check the facilities before the event to make sure sufficient space is available to stage the “Interrogation” by DCI Holmes.

Recommended event format

The evening works best if structured round a sit down meal. If the event is being staged in hotel this may be a formal, served, multi-course meal, but if the event is staged in a hall or private venue you could lay-on a simpler meal or even a table buffet. Ideally there should be a table free area in which cast and guests can mix (Pre dinner drinks) before sitting down to the meal in an area set aside for that purpose. If this is not possible guests can be shown to their tables immediately. A table for the Golf Committee could be at the head of the room, raised if possible, to highlight the action.

Suggested timetable

7.00 pm	Guests arrive and are greeted by cast at the door
7.30 pm	Pre dinner drinks
8.15 pm	First course served... cast circulate round tables
8.40 pm	Main course served... arrival of DCI Sherbert Holmes
8.50 pm	Interrogation by Holmes
9.30 pm	Questions asked by guests
9.40 pm	Cast leave, guests complete “Whodunnit” forms. Dessert served
10.00 pm	Cast return... denouement
10.30 pm	End

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A Character Overview, Motive and Opportunity

Major Winstanton-Bromley

Club Captain. 67 years old. A retired army Major, he lives in Pillowell, Gloucestershire on the edge of the Forest of Dean. There he has a four bedroomed detached residence in half an acre of land. He has been married to Lady Dorothy for forty years, they have three children aged 34 (Daniel), 30 (Daniella) and 22 (Dani).

The major is upper-class, very well spoken, but has no idea how to socialise.

This is his first year as Chairman of Primrose Hill Golf Club. He plays off a handicap of eighteen.

He works tirelessly to make the club as successful as possible. Stickler for protocol and makes sure everybody knows it.

He is not in favour of female members, being a 'traditional' player; grudgingly accepts the fact that he cannot stop them joining but constantly moans at their poor and particularly slow play.

He was Vehemently opposed the election of his wife as Woman's Captain of the club for several reasons - among them the fact that the committee already consists of more female members than male. In the end he was over-ruled by other committee members.

Puts on an act of being in control of his wife and house but in actual fact it is his wife who 'wears the trousers'. She makes all the financial decisions and allows the Major "pocket money".

Unbeknown to his wife, the Major has a secret bank account.

Winstanton-Bromley is having an affair with Sheila Sotterley. His wife knows nothing about the affair.

Motive:

... had found out about his affair with Sheila Sotterley and is threatening blackmail.

Opportunity:

He leaves the dinner briefly after Both he and ... were absent together.

Customer Taster of the Narrative Arc

(Please note that non-guilty parties *must* tell the truth although they do not have to volunteer information if not asked for it.)

Guests (the audience!) are regarded as members and friends of Primrose Hill Golf Club.

There is a full set of Better Balls golf clubs against the wall near the entrance/exit .

Meet and Greet

(As guests arrive they are given a brief written resume of each character and are then greeted by the committee who identify themselves and their position within the club. It is vitally important that the characters assume their identities immediately and stay strictly in character throughout)

(After everybody is in the room an announcement is made by the MC.)

MC: Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for attending the annual Primrose Hill Golf Club dinner. The first forty five minutes or so will be devoted to socialising with members of your committee. They will give information that may or may not be relevant to future proceedings. Please feel free to ask them anything you like but remember that any guilty party can, and will, lie as they please whereas all innocent parties *must* tell the truth. The key is to *listen* and *observe*. Thank you.

Pre-dinner drinks (Approximately 45 mins)

The cast circulate and chat with the guests, allowing guests to ask questions about their lives, the club, and anything else they wish to talk about.

The following actions should happen after approximately 20 minutes:

- Anita slaps Herbert Gloom across the face because he keeps pestering her;
- Herbert produces photographs and distributes them to the guests;
- Rodgers intervenes and is punched to the floor by Herbert;
- Herbert finally snaps and delivers the following tirade (*and more!*):

Herbert: Get away from me all of you! I've had enough of this stinking, corrupted, fornicating club anyway. Call yourselves civilised? I've seen sewer rats more civilised than all of you put together. You've got a Chairman more interested in the female members' underwear than the good of the club! Perhaps he should be paying more attention to ...

(Herbert leaves, hustled out by the Major and Damien Francis, and other actions take place.)

Major: Sorry about this Ladies and Gentlemen, ...will be dealt with in due course....now please, let's continue with our evening.

After this, many more actions take place and other discourse including...

MC: Ladies and gentlemen, a dreadful tragedy seems to have occurred. Please take your seats in the dining room whilst management calls the local constabulary.

(The cast stays still until all are seated and then quietly leave the room whilst the first course is served.)

First Course (Approximately 25 mins)

(After food is served, cast return and circulate amongst the tables. They reiterate all the previous clues and misinformation whilst expressing sorrow at the accident and all stating quite clearly that

it had nothing to do with them. Police sirens are heard in the background as the course draws to a close. When the food is finished and plates are being cleared Detective Chief Inspector Sherbert Holmes enters. Holmes calls for quiet and then speaks as follows...)

Holmes: Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain calm and maintain your composure. We've been called to an incident at this club and it will be necessary for you all to remain here until further notice. Will the members of the committee please come to the front and take the seats provided. Whilst my team and I make the necessary investigations, please continue to enjoy your dinner.

Main Course Service (Approximately 10 mins)

(The main course is served now. Holmes may walk in and out, or receive information from his aides, played by additional cast members. The main cast make their way to the seats indicated by Holmes.)

Interrogation (Approximately 40 mins)

(Once the main course is served, whilst the guests are dining, Holmes addresses them again.)

Interrogation removed from this taster pack

Then:-

Holmes: Thank you. Please be seated. **(To audience)** Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe I have enough information to find the perpetrator of this foul crime, however, I will hand the committee over to you for questioning for the next ten minutes. Please feel free to ask anything you want.

(The audience take their turn to question the cast for ten minutes. At the end of the questioning, Holmes stands forward again.)

Holmes: I shall take the committee to a side room for a full body search. Upon my return I will reveal the identity of the killer by process of elimination.

(Holmes leads the committee out.)

Dessert (Approximately 20 minutes)

MC: Ladies and Gentlemen, please complete your Whodunnit forms.

(After this, Holmes leads the dishevelled committee back.)

Denouement

Not revealed in this Taster Pack!