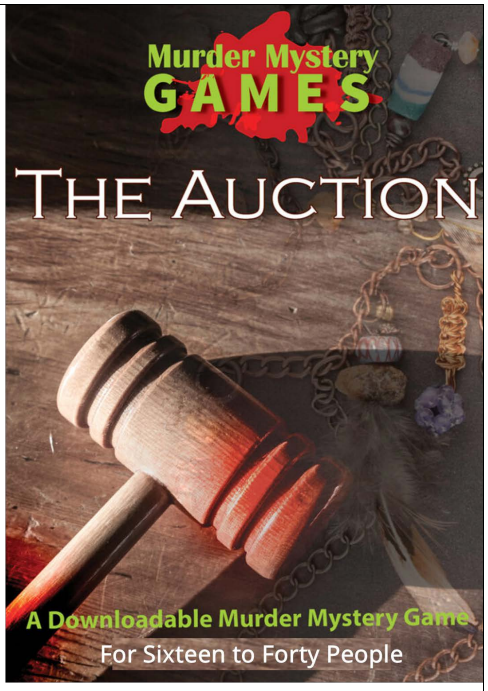
THE AUCTION

Exhibit A



A downloadable murder mystery for 16-40 people

The "unfortunate" death of Baroness Audry von Munchen has led to the auction of her archaeological treasures.

At "The Auction" you get to play a character in a fascinating mystery filled with double-dealing, bribery, blackmail and intrigue. You won't just be watching, you will be completely involved in the action – as a lord, perhaps. A lady. An antiques dealer. A butler. Even a spy…

No one is quite what they seem. Finding out what other characters know and what they've really been up to is all part of the challenge. Dirty deeds, surprises, clues and possible solutions abound.

Towards the end, the auction of the fabulous von Munchen relics takes place. Treasures are won and lost in a flurry of bidding. Then everyone has a chance to make their accusations before the inspector reveals all.

Age Rating/Content Rating

We have two versions of this game. When you buy it from us, we'll make both versions available to you as PDFs. Drugs feature in one version and the murder victim is killed with an overdose of heroin. Because of the drug references, we think this version is suitable for people aged 16 and over. In the other version, the drug references have been removed and replaced. The characters aren't angels but this version is a safer choice for groups containing people who might be offended or upset by drug references. We believe it is suitable for people aged 12 and over.

When is this whodunit set?

You can choose. The Auction is set in the present day but you can change this without too much trouble. You may prefer it to take place in a different period – e.g. the Thirties, Forties, Fifties or Sixties. If so, tell everyone at your party which period you've chosen and ask them to ignore the handful of contemporary references in it.

Hire an actor

If you are in the UK and would like a professional actor to run your game for you, please go to Best Value Games on this link: https://www.mayhem.org.uk/our-murder-mysteries/different-types-of-murder-mystery/

Welcome to the Auction

Thank you for taking the time to download this document. Most of the information you need to put the plot together is contained in the main game, for which you will have to pay. Before you do that, please check that your software and hardware are compatible with ours by printing out this whole document.

What is in this section?

- A summary of how our murder mystery works.
- A list of all the character parts.
- An invitation. Please don't send this out until you have bought the rest of the plot, where you will find out which characters to include in your version of it.
- A copy of the antique dealers' magazine "Yesterday's News". This gives guests some background on the plot.
- Notes on how to buy your game.

What is included when you actually buy it?

- Character sheets, one for each guest.
- A chart which shows how to allocate the character parts: which to keep, which to drop.
- A step-by-step guide on how to run the game.
- Paper money.
- All the other essential paper props: Wills, Birth Certificates, Pathologist's Reports, etc.
- The solution!

How does the Auction work?

Designed for groups of 12 to 40 people, the Auction lasts up to 4 hours and works particularly well over dinner. One person acts as co-ordinator, responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly and that guests receive all the information they need. They, like all the other guests, also have a character to play in the mystery.

The co-ordinator plays the role of the lawyer overseeing the auction, Freddie Farr (Freddie's gender isn't specified). One of the guests will be the murderer. As well as trying to identify who this is, other characters also have objectives of their own to pursue. These will get them talking to everyone else as they make deals, bribe, blackmail and become involved in various dodgy goings-on.

As proceedings draw to a close, everyone will be given the opportunity to make their accusations, before the correct solution is revealed and the murderer is unmasked.

Who has taken part in the Auction before?

We have been running murder mysteries professionally in the UK since 1989. Hundreds of blue-chip businesses have booked us, and a list of satisfied corporate customers is on this link to the website of our Murder Mystery and Mayhem sister company:

www.mayhem.org.uk/about-us/

Please do not think, however, that you can just download the game and let it run itself. By getting it at a much lower price than it usually sells for, you will obviously have to put in some work to make it a real success. If you want us to organise and run it all for you, please e-mail us c/o info@mayhem.org.uk and we will tell you what we provide and what we charge. Or look us up at www.mayhem.org.uk/

Exhibit C

PLEASE BRING THIS INVITE WITH YOU. IT CONTAINS USEFUL INFORMATION

You are cordially invited to take part in a murder mystery called "The Auction".

Following the tragic death of the Baroness Audry von Munchen, her famous artefacts are being sold to the highest bidder. We would welcome your presence at this auction and to the reading of her will. This will take place at:

(address).....

.....

On: (date).....

Starting at .....o'clock.

The character we would like you to attend as is:

.....

If you wish to dress in an appropriate way, please do so. Also, if the gender of your character isn't clear, you can decide for yourself which gender you want them to be.

Please confirm whether or not you will be attending by phoning or emailing:

(organiser): .....

on (phone/email): .....

Yours faithfully, *Freddie Farr, Lawyer*

(alias .....)

Exhibit D

Guest List for the Auction of the von Munchen Relics

Freddie Farr: The Baroness's lawyer and also a personal friend for many years. Farr will decide who inherits the money raised by the auction.

Cardinal Bowden: Once the Baroness's local priest; the Cardinal is here on behalf of the Vatican. Rumour suggests he may become the next Pope.

Glenda Goodheart: Still an assistant librarian at the age of thirty-four, Glenda must be here out of curiosity, as she surely can't afford anything.

Joan Dunn: President of C.O.N.S. (the Care of Newborns Society): a charity which looks after unwanted children from rich backgrounds. It seems C.O.N.S. will inherit most of Audry's fortune.

Sir John Bates: A wealthy banker and good friend of the Baroness. Sir John is expected to bid highly.

Jay da Silva: A rich South American, Jay often travels to Britain on business.

Simmie Shade: T.J.'s adopted child, Simmie used to be quite a tearaway but, at the age of thirty, has now settled into a promising career in home security.

Inspector Clu d'Eau: The detective investigating the death of the Baroness has never got over the embarrassment of having such a silly name.

Jeeves: The Baroness's long-suffering butler, Jeeves will be attending the auction as a mark of respect for his late employer.

Alison Williams: Alison owns a small shop in a nearby village. Not likely to be able to afford anything here.

Linda Lovitt: The Baroness's maid for the past three years. She is out of a job now, as well as being heavily pregnant!

Lionel Big: The owner of 'Wartime Antiques', Lionel has a short temper and an unpleasant manner. He is T.J. Shade's main business rival.

J.J. Sly: This surly, aggressive man is not known in the antiques trade and no one can think of a reason why he should be at the auction.

T.J. Shade: Shade runs the famous 'Shady Regalia Antiques' shop in London. It specialises in military artefacts.

Pat Gaffney: This wealthy Irish property owner is rumoured to be the new owner of Audry's estate. Pat's strong accent and sense of humour add life to any party.

Sterling Saunders: An entrepreneur from Soho whose millions were made out of whatever Soho does best.

Harvey Salmon: A money-lender of great repute. It is always wise to make repayments to Salmon Enterprises on time...

Father O'Leary: The local priest who took over from the now Cardinal Bowden twenty-five years ago. He conducted private services for the Baroness regularly.

John Doe: After spending many years in South America, John is now a journalist for 'Yesterday's News', the magazine for antique dealers.

Glee Bloomfield: An antiques dealer from London, Glee has an eye for a bargain and is looking for one at the auction.

Sue Bromley: A young and promising archaeologist who was on the expedition with the Baroness when the artefacts were discovered.

Exhibit D

Guest List for the Auction (continued)

Lady Miriam Bates: Sir John's charming wife, Lady Miriam looks down on all those she believes lack her wealth and breeding.

Sam Snoop: Wherever there's money, you will also find the gutter press. Sam is the News of the People's foremost 'investigative journalist'.

Ringwald Crump: Crump is a talented but struggling artist whose main role model is Vincent Van Gogh.

A.B.Burns: Recruited by Freddie Farr to run the auction, A.B. has worked for the family firm of Burns, Burns & Burns for many years.

Elsie Earnapenny: A keen member of her local girl guides group, Elsie is often seen raising money for good causes.

Dan, the gardener: Dan has been Audry's gardener for the last fifteen years. A cheerful old soul, he is very proud of his cabbages and raspberries.

Jeff Williamson: Jeff is a local lad whose mischievous nature frequently gets him into trouble with the police.

Ann Smith: Ann guarded the relics for the Baroness when they were abroad. She is responsible for ensuring no one tries to steal or damage them at the auction.

James Bond: Bond doesn't talk much about work except to say that it involves plenty of travel and meeting new people.

Yngvar Nilsson: Yngvar is "big in fish". This charming and mild-mannered Norwegian can talk for hours about the best way to smoke a herring.

Mark Beard: Mark is an earnest American journalist who writes about antiquities for various specialist magazines. He thinks the auction relics should be returned to Turkey.

Karla Herbflauer: A German academic based at the University of Bremen, Karla is here to see for herself the wonderful treasures Audry found on her expedition.

Jason Velour: Stylist for the glossy magazine 'An Englishman's Home', Jason is always on the lookout for inspiration for his sumptuous photo shoots.

Mickey Two-Fingers: Mickey's main interests include biting the heads off chickens, attacking people with his hammer and being nice to his mum.

Alabama Mason: A writer and biographer, Alabama was just starting to write the Baroness's life history when the tragic death occurred.

Note on copyright:
This murder mystery is the copyright of Murder Mystery Games (mmgames@mayhem.org.uk). Meant for private parties, it may not be run for profit by commercial organisations, except by special agreement. Legal action will be taken against any copyright infringements.

Buffy South: Buffy is very artistic, as you can tell from how she dresses. She can do all kinds of clever things with ink and drawing paper. The three year sentence she served for forging a legal document was, no doubt, just an unfortunate misunderstanding.

Councillor Fry: This local councillor would attend the opening of an envelope and loves hobnobbing with the rich and famous.

F. Coppit: An antiques dealer whose main interest is jewellery. If you have any valuable items to sell, Coppit should give you a good price.

H. Hacker: Sam Snoop's main rival. Works for the Daily Dirt and enjoys talking about and reporting on crime.

Yesterday's News

Exhibit E

Baroness dead!
Police suspect foul play

Distinguished archaeologist Baroness Audry von Munchen died last week. Her maid, Miss Linda Lovitt, found her dead in bed when bringing in her breakfast. An enquiry into the death has been set up and is being led by Inspector Clu d'Eau - a bumbling idiot who, it has been suggested, could not organise a drinks party in a brewery. The police are already describing the death as 'suspicious'.

AUCTION OF THE YEAR

Following the tragic death of the Baroness Audry von Munchen, three of her glorious relics are to be auctioned.

A fourth relic, the 'Brooch of Salaar', went missing on the night she died. Its value is much reduced now that it is stolen property but perhaps it will resurface at the auction and be legally sold.

The auction is expected to attract interest from a wide variety of people including a Cardinal and several antiques dealers. Expect the bidding to be high.

The Baroness found all these the relics herself on her expedition in Turkey last year. All date from early Medieval times and have "good provenance" as all are described in "Semper Malum" - Geoffrey The Unwell's illuminating account of his visit to Antioch in 1124 A.D.

The Baroness no doubt paid the Turkish authorities a large sum of money to claim ownership of the items and take them home with her. Finding is one thing. Keeping another!

THE RELICS

The Cross of Unity

The Cross belonged to Robert Curthose who carried it with him on the First Crusade to help keep his fellow knights united in faith. He threw it in a ditch after one of them insulted him. It has been missing ever since.

The Japanese Sword

Legend has it that this weapon once belonged to an aide to the Emperor of Japan. After a breach of the Samurai code, the aide was banished and fought as a mercenary for the Crusaders.

The Crown of Salaar

Salaar was a Seljuk leader who died in battle while trying to stop his crown from falling off. This is believed to be that crown.

The Brooch of Salaar

The Brooch is also believed to have belonged to Salaar. It has now gone missing and can only be sold at the auction if someone finds it and returns it.

Obituary: Baroness Audry von Munchen

The Baroness died at the age of sixty-seven, after leading a most extraordinary life. She moved to England from Germany in her early twenties and soon became known as an accomplished historian and archaeologist.

Her fame in the antiques world was accentuated last year after her extremely successful excavation of a site near the ancient city of Antioch in Turkey. Some of the remarkable relics she uncovered are described on the left.

The Baroness did once marry, but it is believed her husband died very soon afterwards. She rarely talked about him. There are no known heirs to her fortune and it is believed that all the money raised by the sale of her relics will go to her favourite charity, C.O.N.S. (the Care of Newborns Society).

On behalf of us all at Yesterday's News, may I say that she will be sorely missed.

John Doe

NEXT WEEK:
EXCLUSIVE GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL, STRATEGIC AND STRESS-FREE BIDDING!

the magazine for honest antique dealers everywhere

HOW TO BUY YOUR GAME

THANK YOU for getting this far. Now please buy the game!

Available from anywhere in the world, the game is only available by download from the Internet. When buying a game from us, you must respect the copyright terms as set out on our www.murdermysterygames.net website and to abide by our Terms and Conditions. In particular, you agree not to run your game commercially or for profit unless you have received our **specific, written consent** to do so.

To buy online

The payment system is very secure. We don't receive or store any of your bank details ourselves. Instead, your payment will be processed via PayPal which encrypts and protects your personal details using SSL.

Please go to www.murdermysterygames.net and follow the instructions you find there. When we receive your payment, we will e-mail you a password which will enable you to download the main game. Yours for around US$45. (We are based in the UK and prices may vary slightly according to the latest exchange rate changes.)

Disclaimer

The game comes “as is”. Any disputes arising from the sale of the game are subject to the laws of England and Wales, regardless of the geographical location of the customer.