# Death on the Rocks

## Introduction

***Death on the Rocks*** is set in 1936, on the notoriously cold and windy Gull Island, just off the north-east coast of England, whose perilous rocks have claimed many a victim. It is 7pm on the eve of the winter's Solstice, a traditional day of celebration for the villagers of Little Bleakly – much to the horror of the local Reverend. The wind is howling and the rain is coming down in sheets, but inside the village hall has been cheerfully decorated with brightly colored flags and bunting.

The needle of the gramophone is poised over 'Music Maestro Please', and many of the villagers have already arrived in the village hall, when Little Bleakly is suddenly plunged into darkness by a power cut. Stumbling along the shadowy and winding paths with candles in their hands, the remaining villagers are on their way when light returns.

The festivities are ready to begin! Except someone is missing: Hugo Malady, the dashing heir to the legendary Malady fortune, who traditionally kickstarts the Winter Solstice Celebrations, is nowhere to be seen! The villagers spread out over the island in search. Soon, a shrill scream is heard from Lighthouse Bay: Freda, the local pub landlady, has discovered the body of Hugo Malady on the beach, lifeless, with a dagger protruding from the back of his neck! Who murdered Hugo Malady?

*Death on the Rocks* is copyright © 2013 Freeform Games LLP www.freeformgames.com

# What is included when you buy *Death on the Rocks?*

- A step-by-step guide on how to run the game.
- Character booklets for each guest, including background, goals and objectives, rules and special abilities.
- Items for each guest.
- Handouts and other essential items.
- The solution!

## How does *Death on the Rocks* work?

***Death on the Rocks*** has been written for 12 to 16 guests – plus the host or co-ordinator. The step-by-step guide explains which characters to omit should you have fewer than 16 guests (you do need at least 12, however). Here's how that works:

| Number of guests | Male characters | Female characters | Characters that can be played by either sex |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 13 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| 14 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 |
| 16 | 6 | 6 | 4 |

***Death on the Rocks*** runs over the course of three or four hours and is particularly suited to a buffet meal. One person is the Lawyer, and acts as organizer and co-ordinator, responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly and that all the guests have the information they need.

The guests are all present at the Village Hall to celebrate the Solstice, and now to mourn Hugo Malady. They have their own goals and agendas, and how they choose to achieve these goals is up to them. ***Death on the Rocks*** is an evening of romantic scandal, poisonous gossip, political tension and murder!

*Death on the Rocks* is copyright © 2013 Freeform Games LLP www.freeformgames.com

## Where can I get Death on the Rocks?

***Death on the Rocks*** is available from www.freeformgames.com. We accept all major payment methods.

When you purchase the game, you'll be taken to a page where you can download it right away. We will also email you a download link and password, so you can come back to the site and collect your game later if that's more convenient.

## What if I don't like Death on the Rocks?

No product is perfect for everyone. We know that and you know that and that's why we offer a cast-iron, no- quibble guarantee. If you're not completely satisfied with ***Death on the Rocks,*** let us know within 30 days and we will refund you.

*Death on the Rocks* is copyright © 2013 Freeform Games LLP 

# The Gull Island Gazette

## MALADY HEIR TO WED CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART!

At a private function last night, Hugo Malady officially announced his engagement to the beautiful Nova Grey. The glittering event took place at Turnstone Manor, the stunning mansion it is rumoured the pair will inherit.

Guests included Hugo's best friend, bohemian artist Luke Cleary, and Nova's adoring parent Hillary Grey. Also seen were Hugo's glamorous younger sister Charm and radical American doctor Seth Jerome.

Hugo's elegant mother Lady Emily Malady commented: 'I am so glad that dear Hugo has finally grown out of his wild ways and decided to settle down with Nova, who has been a constant source of love and support to him since their childhood. I have no doubt that they will be very happy together and would like to take this opportunity to publicly welcome Nova into the family.'

The wedding will take place in the spring of this year. All villagers wishing to congratulate the happy couple are most cordially invited to watch the ceremony.

The *Gull Island Gazette* would like to add that the late Sir George Malady, who died tragically after contracting a mysterious rash two years previously, will be greatly missed. We have no doubt he will be looking down from the heavens and smiling to see his only son Hugo wedding such a lovely lass.

## BEWARE THE ROMANY CURSE!

With Little Bleakly's wild and wanton Winter Solstice celebrations looming, we at *The Gull Island Gazette* have been investigating the legendary Romany curse that has haunted the island for the past decade.

It is said that the mysterious deaths began happening after a Romany tribe were summarily ordered to leave the island by the third-generation Lord Archibald Malady in 1882. The fleeing Romany vowed revenge, and ever since there have been mysterious deaths on the islands on that very same night.

Most recent was the tragic death of the late Sir George Arthur Malady, who contracted a mysterious and deadly rash on the eve of Winter Solstice two years ago.

Percival Reeves, valet attendant to Lady Malady who has lived on Gull Island for 30 years, foretold further doom saying: 'There's a curse alright. All these young 'moderns' may laugh but there will be tragedy on Gull Island on the eve of Winter Solstice, you mark my words.'

Bohemian beauty of Romany lineage Freda Karamazova had quite a different perspective on the subject. When *The Gull Island Gazette* asked for her opinion she was outraged:

'Nonsense, there is no Romany curse on this island. Such a rumour is the stuff of fairytales. I come from a long line of Romany ancestors and we are passionate people but we are not crazy! These deaths must have just been terrible coincidences.'

*Death on the Rocks* is copyright © 2015 Freeform Games LLP www.freeformgames.com

Whatever the truth, you'd best keep your wits about you this Saturday and your reporter will have his lucky rabbit's foot close at hand – just in case!

The Winter Solstice Celebrations are to be held at the Village Hall at 7.30 sharp. Ceremonies will be opened in the traditional way by a speech from the Malady family's present Lord, the dashing Sir Hugo!

# GULL ISLAND GOSSIP

***Famous cartographer to make new map of Gull Island!***

Little Bleakly is thrilled to welcome newcomer cartographer Louis Le Roux to Gull Island. He has been commissioned by the British government to make a new and more accurate map of the islands perilous coast.

***Charm Malady returns from prestigious etiquette school in Berlin***

*The Gull Island Gazette's* reporter spied the young Charm Malady back from her term of study in Berlin's famous etiquette school. Our little Charm is very nearly a lady now with just one term of study with her governess, the excellent Fräulein Louisa Winter, to go.

She told *The Gull Island Gazette* that she is looking to pursue a career in acting and is determined to become the next Greta Garbo: watch out, Hollywood!

***Lady Emily Malady rumoured to be attending Winter Solstice party***

Rumour has reached the gazette that the elegant Lady Malady will be attending the Winter Solstice party this weekend. This will be the first time the glamorous and reclusive Lady Malady has attended a public function since the tragic death of her husband two years ago. Little Bleakly looks forward to the honour of her presence!

***Hate-mail***

*The Gull Island Gazette* has been receiving reports from all sides of a mysterious hate-mail writer. Village librarian Jens Svederborg had this to say about the letter that he had received:

'It is preposterous. Hah! Me… mad? I am a perfectly sane and brilliant genius. The writer of this letter must be off of his rocket.'

If you have any information at all on this serious matter please contact us immediately at the *Gazette*.

# WAR IS COMING!

Brace yourselves Little Bleakly: war is coming to England, say top political commentators in the city.

'The political situation in Europe is becoming increasingly fragile', said Albert DeClancy, London MP for Westminster. 'The recent alliance between Hitler's regime and General Franco of Spain signals trouble for Britain, you mark my words.'

Here at *The Gull Island Gazette,* we urge you all to be on the lookout for any strange newcomers. As we all know, foreigners cannot be trusted and may well be German spies!

We will also be holding a discussion group in the village hall on Tuesday, entitled 'War: What to Expect', which will include a thrilling demonstration by Robin Hardcastle of how to knit your own gas mask, and a talk by Hillary Grey on how to create a satisfying meal using only carrots and common sense.

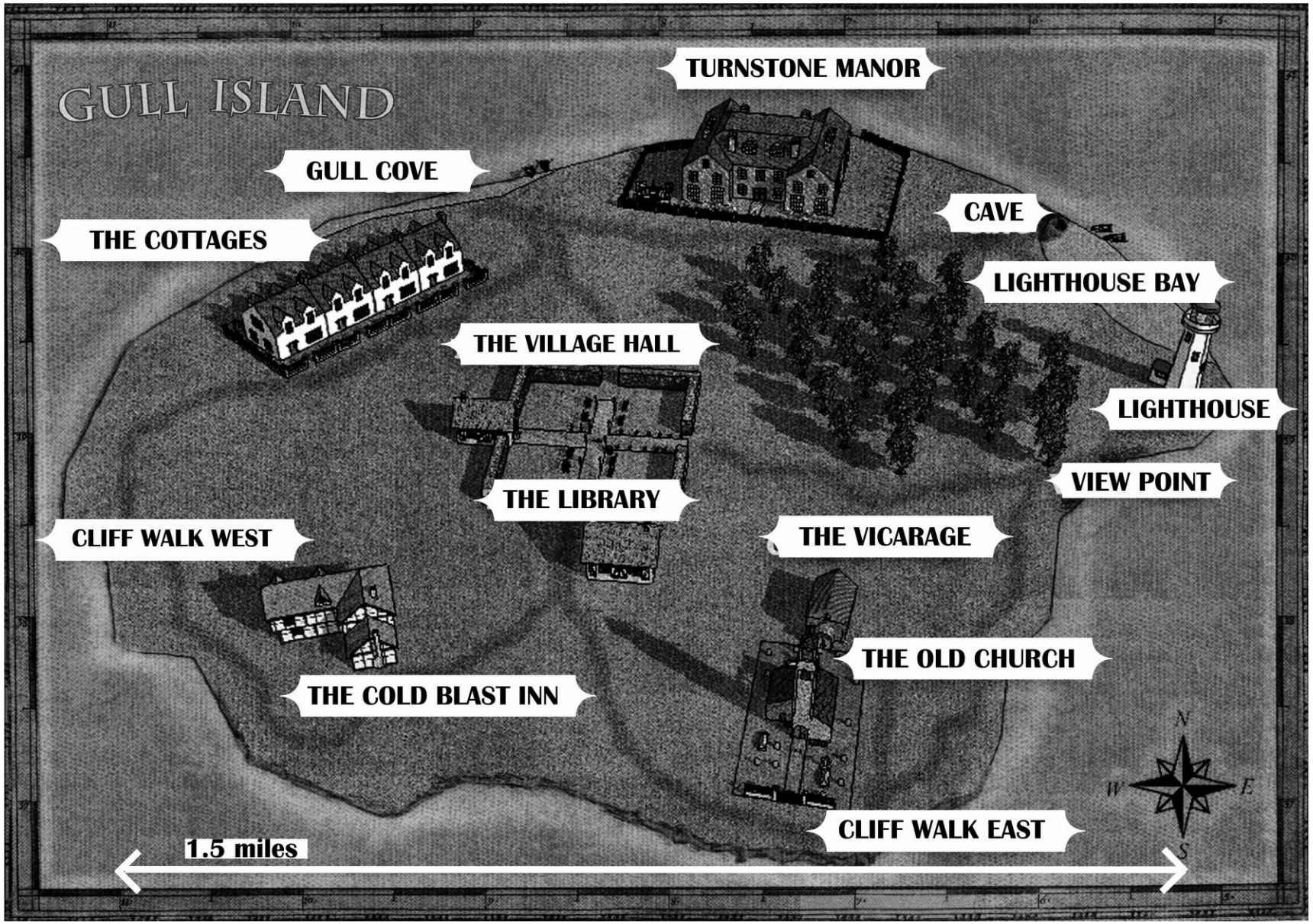
Nobody can accuse Gull Island of being unprepared should the worst come.

**YOUR IMPORTANT NOTICE COULD APPEAR HERE!**

**Please contact the editor for details of advertising in the *Gull Island Gazette.***

*Death on the Rocks* is copyright © 2015 Freeform Games LLP www.freeformgames.com

*Death on the Rocks* is copyright © 2015 Freeform Games LLP 




*Death on the Rocks* is copyright © 2015 Freeform Games LLP 

# *Death on the Rocks* – Cast List

- **Lady Emily Malady:** Hugo's mother, Lady Emily is a notorious recluse, still in mourning for the death of her late husband, Sir George Arthur Malady
- **Charm Malady:** Hugo's glamorous sister, Charm Malady dreams of becoming a Hollywood star
- **Fräulein Louisa Winter:** Charm's super-strict German governess
- **Percival Reeves:** The Malady family's perfectly proper butler
- **Rosie White:** The Malady family's innocent young maid
- **Hillary Grey:** Little Bleakly's highly respectable, tweed-bedecked post person
- **Nova Grey:** Hillary's daughter and Hugo's fiancée, the belle of the village
- **Dr Seth Jerome:** Little Bleakly's new doctor, Seth Jerome is an American and very popular with the ladies
- **Robin Hardcastle:** Dr Seth Jerome's meek and mild assistant
- **Reverend Meredith Brown:** Little Bleakly's fire-and-brimstone vicar
- **Freda Karamazova:** The fiery Romany landlady of The Cold Blast Inn
- **Vivian Oddy:** A visitor to Gull Island and an avid twitcher, Vivian is researching an article for *Bird Watching Weekly*
- **Fräulein Braun:** A visitor to Gull Island, Fräulein Braun was one of Charm Malady's teachers at the etiquette school in Berlin
- **Jens Svederborg:** Little Bleakly's eccentric Swedish librarian
- **Luke Cleary:** A young bohemian artist who lives in the lighthouse and was Hugo's best friend
- **Louis le Roux:** A visitor to Gull Island, Louis is a French cartographer, come to map the island

*Death on the Rocks* is copyright © 2013 Freeform Games LLP