A Most Scandalous Murder

The year is 1815, and Britain is still recovering from the Napoleonic Wars. The country is triumphant but mourning its lost men, and post-war poverty has been worsened by an unusually harsh winter. The shadows of the past still linger.

But life goes on, and Fairchild Hall, an imposing country house in Hampshire, is the setting for a lavish party to celebrate the return of peace. The society papers are intrigued: Lady Honoria Fairchild, once famous for her parties, has become notably reclusive since her husband's untimely death. Tonight, for the first time in a decade, Fairchild Hall sparkles with candlelight and echoes with the laughter of Honoria's closest family and friends.

But over after-dinner coffee, Honoria's eccentric guest Madame Renaux causes a commotion when she pulls the Ace of Spades—symbolizing death—from her card deck. And when the guests retire for a Champagne toast in the conservatory, amid palms, citrus, and exotic flowers, the night unravels completely.

After just a few sips of her festive drink, Honoria collapses, twitching, into a bed of camellias. Doctor Avery Finch rushes to her side, but within a matter of seconds, Honoria is dead: her eyes frozen open in horror, her skin pale as the blooms around her head, foam speckling her lips.

Honoria's death seems unnatural—is something sinister at play? Trapped at the remote estate until their carriages return the following morning, her guests have no choice but to stay and find out.

Welcome to *A Most Scandalous Murder!*

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What do you get with *A Most Scandalous Murder?*

- 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.
- Item cards for each guest.
- Handouts, nametags, and other essential items.

How many people are needed?

A Most Scandalous Murder is for 10 to 16 guests—plus one host (the game coordinator). The step-by-step guide explains which characters to omit if you have fewer than 16 guests (you need at least 10, however).

Number of guests	Male characters	Female characters	Characters anyone can play
10	4	4	2
11	4	5	2
12	4	6	2
13	5	6	2
14	5	7	2
15	5	8	2
16	6	8	2

And if you have even more guests, we include an extra character for ***A Most Scandalous Murder.***

How does *A Most Scandalous Murder* work?

A Most Scandalous Murder runs for three or four hours and suits a buffet meal. The host acts as organizer, responsible for making sure everything runs

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smoothly. The host does not count toward the maximum or minimum number of players.

The guests are all present at Fairchild Hall. They each have their own goals, and how they achieve these goals is up to them. ***A Most Scandalous Murder*** is an evening of intrigue and secrets!

What age is *A Most Scandalous Murder* suitable for?

We suggest ***A Most Scandalous Murder*** is suitable for ages 15+, as it includes references to drug and alcohol dependency.

Where can I purchase *A Most Scandalous Murder?*

A Most Scandalous Murder is available from https://www.freeformgames.com/. We accept all major payment methods.

When you buy the game, you'll be taken to a page where you can download it immediately.

We will also email you a download link and password, so you can collect your game later if that's more convenient.

What if I don't like *A Most Scandalous Murder?*

We offer a cast-iron, no-quibble guarantee. If you're not completely satisfied with ***A Most Scandalous Murder,*** let us know within 30 days and we will refund you.

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"It was a lot of fun to play, you do a great job of having multiple storylines not related to the murder for us to weasel out." Kevin Farnsworth





"It was the best crime dinner I ever had. I liked, that we could choose to speak with only a few people at a time and could freely decide, when to do what. I also enjoyed the way we could gather information by looking at secrets/ clues/ rooms." Lotta Bögel

"I found it to be interactive and interestingly challenging, it was not very obvious who could be a murderer and that made it very interesting." Bokang

"We had so much fun, and the game kept everyone involved right until the end." Robyn Gouws







"Great fun was had by all. The players became engaged very quickly. For some of the players, this was their first murder mystery game of any sort, and many had never met before. They also continued talking about the characters after the game had ended." Linda Steele

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The Hampshire Chronicle

Established 1779

A Grand Re-Opening at Fairchild Hall

From our Society Correspondent

The county is much occupied by reports that Lady Honoria Fairchild, long withdrawn from public amusement, is at last to reopen Fairchild Hall, among the finest houses in the county, for an evening of celebration.

Lady Honoria's guests will include Miss Lydia Greystone, her ladyship's niece and ward; Mr. Charles Fairchild, dashing heir to the estate; Miss Evelyn D'Aberon, his intended bride; Captain Elias Harrow, an old family friend; and the much-discussed Madame Renaux, whose talents for cards, visions, and alarming respectable matrons have lately secured her fashionable notice.

Also expected are the botanical artist Mr. Julian Marlowe and Mrs. Beatrice Thorne, who oversees the Hall's celebrated conservatory.

Distress in the Villages

From our County Reporter

Though peace has been proclaimed, hardship remains severe throughout several Hampshire parishes. A harsh winter, diminished wages, and, perhaps most urgently, the high price of bread continue to trouble laboring families.

At Little Pinkerton, one clergyman observed that "Christian duty does not end with the declaration of peace."

Those of means would do well to remember that generosity remains cheaper than unrest.

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On The Cultivation of Exotic Plants

From a Correspondent on Rural Improvements

Under the care of Mrs. Beatrice Thorne, the collection of exotic specimens at Fairchild Hall has flourished remarkably. Mrs. Thorne, however, is said to value usefulness as much as beauty, and frequently remarks that many ornamental plants possess medicinal qualities.

Nature, it seems, has not arranged all lovely things for harmless admiration.

A Lady of Cards & Visions

From our Features Writer

Few figures have occasioned more discussion this Season than the elusive Madame Renaux, a lady whose reputation rests upon her cards.

Sceptics maintain that candlelight performs at least half the miracle… and yet, even they must admit she understands perfectly how to command a room. One county matron declared that Madame Renaux "knew, before I spoke, of a loss in my family and the precise month in which it occurred."

An Artist of Some Originality

From our Arts Column

Among the guests presently at Fairchild Hall is Mr. Julian Marlowe, a London artist whose botanical studies have lately attracted fashionable notice. Every conservatory aspires to immortality in watercolor, and it is said Lady Honoria herself is being captured amid her precious blooms.

County Finance and the New Men

Editorial

The peace abroad has revealed changes at home with uncomfortable clarity. Ancient families find themselves pressed by debt, while fortunes made in trade and wartime supply now move confidently among the county's older names.

Some welcome this as the vigor of an improving age. Others ask by what means certain fortunes were assembled during years of national sacrifice…

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Returned from the Wars

From our General Correspondent

Peace does not always arrive in the heart as swiftly as it does in treaties. Physicians increasingly remark upon the altered spirits of returned gentlemen: disturbed sleep, agitation, and sudden temper.

Stories also continue to circulate of incidents at sea and abroad best forgotten by respectable society: broken commands and officers whose reputations survived only because the Admiralty preferred silence to scandal.

One naval officer observed that "England is fond of cheering men when they return, but less certain what to do with them afterwards."

Marriages Whispered of

From our Society Rooms

Though nothing has been formally announced, several domestic arrangements are discussed with confidence throughout the county.

Miss Evelyn D'Aberon is widely supposed to remain destined for Charles Fairchild, a union joining fresh wealth to ancient standing.

Interest also surrounds Miss Lydia Greystone, Lady Honoria's quiet ward. Some predict dutiful retirement; others insist a clergyman of excellent character has reason to hope.

On the Rise of Anonymous Scandal Sheets

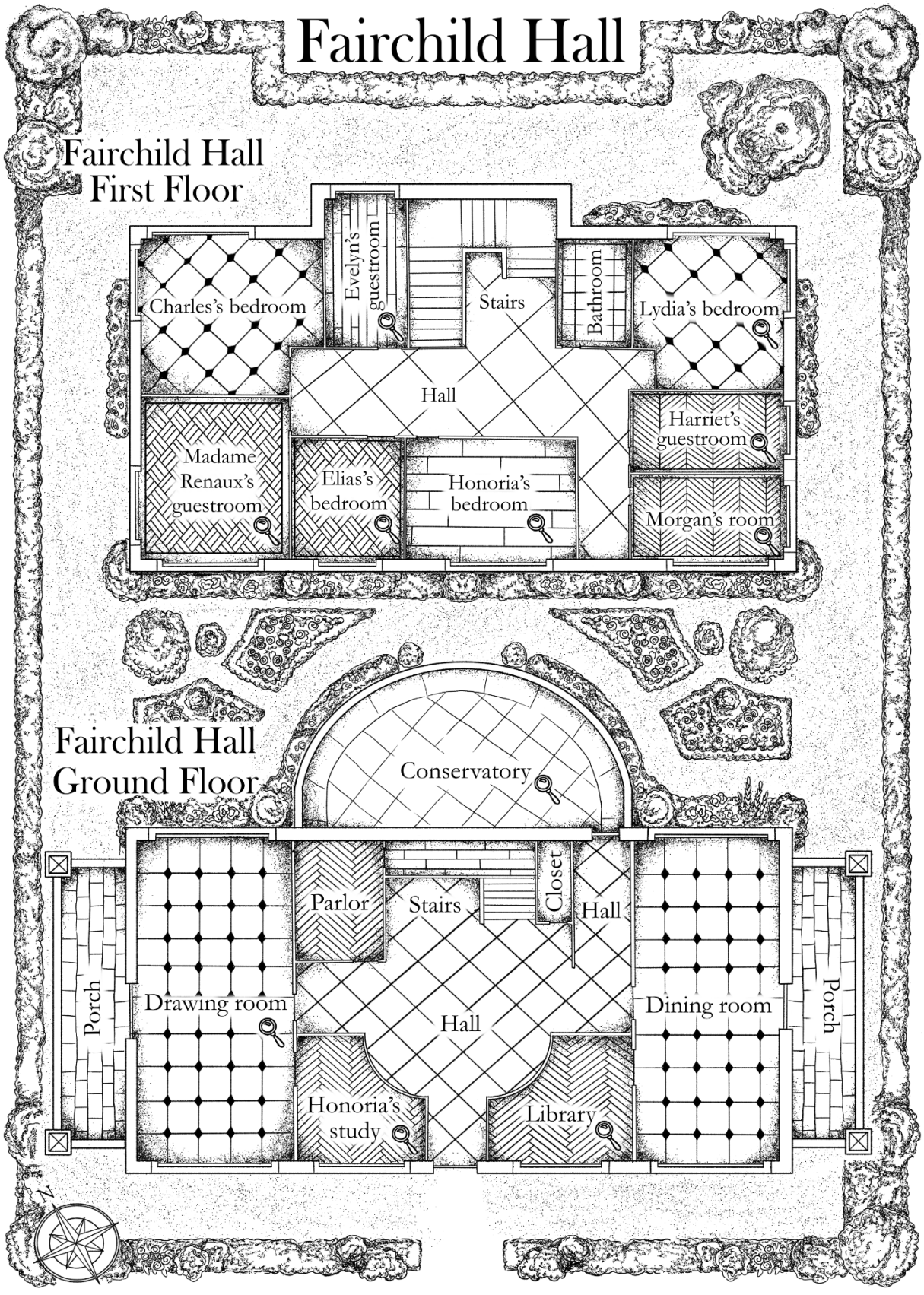
From our Society Correspondent

A curious and unwelcome fashion has lately appeared at several country-house gatherings throughout Hampshire: anonymous "scandal sheets" containing rumors, observations, and insinuations concerning those present.

These productions, often written with wit better employed elsewhere, claim to reveal hidden attachments, financial embarrassments, and other most private matters. Hosts condemn them vigorously. And of course, guests read them eagerly.

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Fairchild Hall



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A Most Scandalous Murder cast list

- **Charles Fairchild:** Honoria's entitled son and heir
- **Evelyn D'Aberon:** Spirited heiress, and Charles's betrothed
- **Captain Elias Harrow:** Retired naval officer, and old family friend
- **Benedict Ashdown:** Agreeable family friend (with an opinionated pug)
- **Lydia Greystone:** Honoria's penniless but charming niece and ward
- **Horace Pemberly:** Businessman recently risen to wealth
- **Petunia Pemberly:** Horace's social climber wife
- **Isobel Pemberly:** Impossible heiress with a passion for jewels
- **Reverend Silas Underhill:** Soft-spoken local vicar
- **Doctor Avery Finch:** Honoria's sharp-eyed local physician
- **Madame Renaux:** Celebrated society fortune-teller
- **Harriet Vale:** Evelyn's best friend, and an aspiring novelist
- **Julian Marlowe:** Free-spirited botanical artist
- **Beatrice Thorne:** Impoverished widow, and the conservatory's botanist
- **Morgan Bellamy:** Honoria's trusty secretary and archivist
- **Clara Merrick:** Shy new parlor maid

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