

# MURDER AT SEA

In early August in 1914 the American cruise liner SS *Libertania* set sail from New York, bound for Southampton. On 14 August the Captain requested that all crew and passengers meet him in the Grand Ballroom. In solemn tones, Captain Bayard announced that he had just been informed that German military forces had invaded Russia and Belgium, and that the British and French governments had declared war on Germany.

There was stunned silence from the assembled passengers and crew. Then, just as voices were getting louder, the lights went out. There were screams, and a shot. By the time the lights came on again, many people had left the ballroom and the Captain's body was slumped on the floor. He had been shot dead.

But by whom?

*Murder at Sea* is a murder mystery game set at the start of the First World War for 17 to 33 players, plus one or two hosts. It takes an evening to play, and is ideally suited for a buffet meal or finger food.

Everyone invited to *Murder at Sea* is given a character with goals and objectives that they must complete by the end of the evening. Everyone has their own goals – and not all goals are compatible. If one person achieves their goals, another may fail. The passengers have various items, such as guns and money. They may also have abilities to help them uncover secrets and achieve their goals.

The passengers may form alliances, blackmail each other, steal items and money and maybe even try to kill one another. Along the way they may solve some of *Murder at Sea's* mysteries. Who was at the secret Captain's meeting? Who shot Captain Bayard – and why? Join us aboard the *Libertania* and find out in *Murder at Sea*.

## WELCOME ABOARD!

### What is included when you buy *Murder at Sea*?

- Character sheets for each guest, including background, goals and objectives.
- A rule sheet for your guests.
- A step-by-step guide on how to run the game.
- Handouts and other essential items.

### How many people are needed for *Murder at Sea*?

*Murder at Sea* has been written for 17 to 33 guests – plus one or two hosts. The step-by-step guide explains which characters to omit should you have fewer than 17 guests (you do need at least 17, however). Here's how that works:

| Number of guests | Male characters | Female characters | Characters that can be played by either sex |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| 17               | 7               | 7                 | 3   |
| 18               | 7               | 7                 | 4   |
| 19               | 7               | 8                 | 4   |
| 20               | 8               | 8                 | 4   |
| 21               | 8               | 9                 | 4   |
| 22               | 8               | 10                | 4   |
| 23               | 9               | 10                | 4   |
| 24               | 9               | 11                | 4   |
| 25               | 9               | 11                | 5   |
| 26               | 10              | 11                | 5   |
| 27               | 10              | 12                | 5   |
| 28               | 10              | 12                | 6   |
| 29               | 11              | 12                | 6   |
| 30               | 11              | 12                | 7   |
| 31               | 12              | 12                | 7   |
| 32               | 13              | 12                | 7   |
| 33               | 14              | 12                | 7   |

*Murder at Sea* runs over the course of three or four hours and is particularly suited to a buffet meal. One person is the Host, and acts as organiser and co-ordinator, responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly and that all the guests have the information they need. They also act as referee should an impartial decision be required.

The guests will be passengers and crew aboard the *Libertania*. They have their own goals and agendas, and how they choose to achieve those goals is entirely up to them. *Murder at Sea* is an evening of extortion, blackmail, treachery and even murder!

### **Who has taken part in *Murder at Sea* before?**

*Murder at Sea* has been run on numerous occasions, usually with people with no previous knowledge of murder-mystery parties or events. It contains everything you need to run the game, but please don't think that you can download the game and let it run itself. The co-ordinator will obviously have to put some work in to make it a real success.

And if you have even more guests, we have free extra characters for *Murder at Sea* available on our website.

### **Where can I get *Murder at Sea*?**

*Murder at Sea* is available from <http://www.freeformgames.com/>. We accept all major credit cards – and Paypal.

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 collect your game later if that's more convenient.

### **What if I don't like *Murder at Sea*?**

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 *Murder at Sea*, let us know within 30 days and we will refund you.



*I was delighted with the effort put into the costumes -- as you can see, people really got into the spirit and created a good atmosphere! All in all, an enjoyable evening. I'm hoping we can do another one next year. Thanks again for all your help. Wilf*



*I ran **Murder at Sea** as a cocktail party last Saturday night for my 33rd birthday. I had a cast of approximately 40 people and it was total chaos (in a good way)!! . . . And total fun, thanks for a great game. Esther-Amy*

*Overall, I really enjoyed the game [**Murder at Sea**]. I ran it for my 30th Birthday party and everyone had a great time. I have family in the entertainment business and they were able to provide a large variety of props that helped set the mood and scene for the game. It felt like we were setting up for a movie. Once everyone became familiar with their character details and the rules of the game, everyone really seemed to take on their own character and had a great time. Many people came dressed in character. I had one of the most memorable nights of my life and it is a birthday I will never forget. Thank you for providing such a fun evening. Holly*



## CAST OF *MURDER AT SEA* - CREW

**First Officer Daniel Warren, 35.**

American. Competent First Officer, well liked by the crew and expected to be given command of a ship as soon as possible. Reports to the Captain.

**Second Officer David Whitworth, 47.**

English. Reliable and competent officer, previously sailed with the Royal Merchant Navy. Reports to the First Officer.

**Third Officer Christina Younger, 36.**

American. The highest placed woman in the Cruise Line and has sacrificed her personal life for her career. Reports to the Second Officer.

**Chief Engineer Brynneth Cawdra, 54.**

Welsh. An absolute genius with the mechanical and engineering operation of the ship. Reports to the First Officer.

**Engineer Reiner Tannhauser, 34.**

German. A fine engineer who speaks perfect English and thus may be suitable for promotion to another ship. Reports to the Chief Engineer.

**Entertainments Officer Vic**

**Hammerstein, 49.** American. Always provides lavish entertainment spectacles for passengers. Reports to the First Officer.

**Master Chef Blaise de Richelieu, 50.**

French. Temperamental culinary genius, signed on by Hammerstein at great expense. This is de Richelieu's first voyage aboard the *Libertania*, and so far the cuisine is not up to expectations. Reports to the Third Officer.

**Chief Purser Chris Gamble, 33.**

American. Keeps a tight rein on the stewards and stewardesses, always impeccably neat and tidy. Reports to the Second Officer.

**Cocktail Stewardess Julia Morteblanca,**

25. Italian. Previously worked in the Waldorf Astoria as America's first professional female cocktail mixer. Reports to the Chief Purser.

**Cabin Stewardess Catherine New, 18.**

English. Only recently joined the *Libertania*, but already knows everything about anything on board the ship. Reports to the Chief Purser.

**Cabin Stewardess Cynthia Petal, 32.**

Has been working aboard liners for half of her life, and is competent and well liked by crew and passengers. Reports to the Chief Purser.

**Trainee Steward Eric Lassiter, 20.**

Scottish. Training to be a steward. Reports to the Chief Purser.

**Cabaret Singer Jennifer Floreste, 41.**

American. Previously starred at the London Palladium, a famous singer on her last voyage. Reports to the Entertainments Officer.

**Ship's Padre Patrick Malloy, 55.**

Irish. Although a Catholic, administers to the spiritual needs of all passengers, regardless of their religion. Reports to the First Officer.

## CAST OF *MURDER AT SEA* - PASSENGERS

**Sir Rory Canter**, Baronet, 54. Rumoured to be the richest man in Great Britain.

**Lady Isabelle Canter**, 33. Young and pretty wife of Sir Rory, was previously an actress and ballet dancer.

**Jeremiah Finkelstein**, Industrial Businessman, 61. Owner of several large American manufacturing concerns, as well as the first aircraft factory outside of Europe.

**Rachel Finkelstein**, Jeremiah's wife and business partner, 58. Rachel is renowned for her financial acumen.

**PJ Nichols**, Singer, 27. Although predominantly a Music Hall singer and entertainer, PJ has recently returned from Hollywood, after 'trying out' for several of the main studios.

**Clark Ridgeway**, PJ's Manager, 35. Has arranged several stupendously successful shows and tours for PJ in the past.

**Gilbert Ryce**, American Secretary of State, 68. Ageing friend of the American President.

**Wilma Drew**, Ryce's assistant, 32. Gilbert Ryce's assistant in the American State Department, always smooth and unruffled.

**Sir Ranulph Royston**, British Minister of War, 63. A widower, Sir Ranulph's wife recently died in a riding accident.

**Elizabeth James**, Sir Ranulph's Daughter, 19. Elizabeth is divorcing her husband after he had an affair.

**Maximilian von Grafenberg**, German Procurement Minister, 47. Has been in America for the last year, and is now returning to Germany.

**Armin Oberhausen**, Maximilian's assistant, 39. Armin is ambitious and some say fancies the Maximilian's job.

**Sasha Alexandrovich Ilyatkin**, Russian Minister, 45. Sasha was in New York to sign trade agreements with the American Government.

**Eldon Dumlop II**, American socialite, 47. Rich American heir to the Dumlop rubber fortune.

**Candice Dumlop**, American socialite and Eldon's wife, 21. Very glamorous and flirtatious rich American.

**Marie Hati**, French journalist, 40. Writes passionate columns for *Le Monde*, demanding equal rights for women, and increased spending on hospitals.

**Albert Wiggins**, Sir Ranulph's assistant, 20. Often seen making notes about things during the journey.

**Aggie Marbles**, American, 26. Aggie is travelling with the Finkelsteins. She has made a name for herself as an amateur sleuth.

**Lou Noble**, American journalist, 41. Lou writes a bitchy society gossip column.

