

MURDER AT RIVETS & GRIPPS A BOOKSHOP MURDER MYSTERY GAME

Created by **Puffin Books**
inspired by **ROBIN STEVENS'**
MURDER MOST UNLADYLIKE
series

A note from The Honourable Daisy Wells, President of the Wells & Wong Detective Society:

Dear Detective,

You may well know me from my excellent detective work. Along with my vice-president Hazel Wong, I have already solved five murders - very cleverly, I might add. So I am in a perfect position to guide you through this murder mystery game, which has been created to last approximately one hour.

In this pack you will find all the materials you need to work through the mystery - this script (expertly guided by me, Daisy Wells), profiles for each character, the crucial alibis and confessions for the main suspects and activity sheets for you to photocopy and share with participants for all their detective theories.

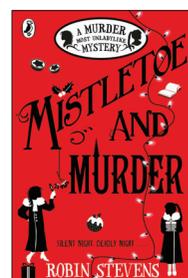
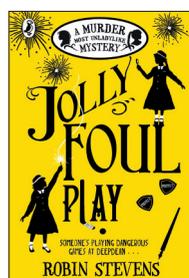
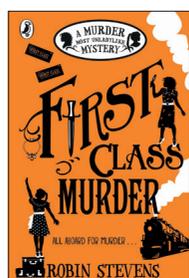
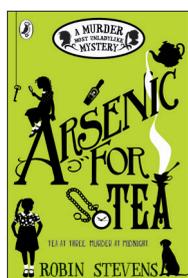
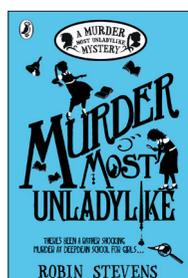
You or a member of your group are invited to lead the mystery and therefore take the part of the detective, Inspector Norse, the first officer at the scene of the crime. With the help of the other participants, it is your role to question the suspects, work out their motives and search for clues. There are three rounds, with an assortment of suspects, clues and revelations.

The only things you will need to provide are a fountain pen and pair of spectacles, both key clues in the murder. If you have any queries, please contact Annie Moore (Amoore@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk)

Good luck - I expect you'll need it. I, of course, would not.

Happy detecting!

The Honourable Daisy wells





Murder at Rivets & Gripes The Script

ROUND ONE

It's time for you to introduce yourself as Inspector Norse, and then read out the introduction and list of suspects' names.

Then allocate a suspect to each member of the group at random, and hand out the character profile sheets and name labels. Any additional attendees can act as extra detectives (although if I was in charge of this investigation, no extra detectives would be required. Hazel, reading over my shoulder, is rolling her eyes at this. She is becoming rather bold lately).

The suspects can then introduce themselves and read out their brief character descriptions.

INTRODUCTION

WHO KILLED MONTGOMERY G. Le FANU?

The murder mystery bookshop event game

SET IN

RIVETS & GRIPPS

A 1930s bookshop in London, England

Proprietor: Miss Eleanor Gripes

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Gripes. This establishment is a family-run bookshop at 83 Charing Cross Road, well-known for its extravagant children's book displays and sweeping marble spiral staircase.

The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs. It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired – at a highly contested auction in Paris – the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by Pamela Richtea. It was the first book in the late Mrs Richtea's series of over sixty stories starring the famous parrot detective, and an internationally acclaimed bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with Miss Gripes to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Gripes. The circumstances surrounding his death are a mystery – and you are one of the suspects.

THE SUSPECTS ARE (in order of priority):

Miss Eleanor Gripes

Miss Jane Carmichael-Hartley

The Great WhoDeanie

Mrs Barbara Le Fanu

Mr George Howes

Mrs Liza Nancy Crewe

Mr Clement Drinkwater

Mrs Theodora Archibald

Sergeant Nell Harris

Miss Amelia Backgammon

Master James Kendall





Murder at Rivets & Gripps The Script

THE LIST OF SUSPECTS:

1 Miss Eleanor Gripps

Proprietor of Rivets & Gripps bookshop, 83 Charing Cross Road, inherited from her grandfather.

I am a smart, no-nonsense business woman and books are my absolute pride and joy. I live and breathe them and will do anything in pursuit of the next great masterpiece, for either my business or personal collection.

Distinguishing feature: I am forever writing down ideas and always have a pencil tucked behind my ear.

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between you leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

It had been a long day; after I left work I called in to visit my elderly mother to prepare her supper before heading home for a much needed G&T.

- What was your relationship to the victim?

I knew Mr LeFanu as a colleague, we moved in the same publishing circles and he had visited the shop a few times to discuss business.

- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Once or twice!

- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

I had the pleasure of meeting Pamela when we hosted a book launch for her at Rivets & Gripps. It was a great privilege to meet her, I had always admired her work.

2 Miss Jane Carmichael-Hartley

The bookseller who discovered Mr Le Fanu's body.

I am very new to bookselling and this has disturbed me greatly. I had met Mr Le Fanu a handful of times when he came to meet with my manager, Miss Gripps. I had always found him to be pleasant, though boastful of his success and fortunes.

Distinguishing feature: The shock of finding a murder victim upon arriving at work has left me with a temporary stutter.

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and yourself arriving at 7am?

My husband and I had attended a dinner party next door, we returned home around midnight, I arose at 6am to get ready for work and arrived at 7am to this terrible discovery.

- What was your relationship to the victim?

I only knew him in passing, as I stated above.

- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Well yes, obviously!

- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

Unfortunately no, though I believe a book launch was once held for her at Rivets & Gripps, before my time.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps The Script

3 The Great WhoDeanie

The renowned magician.

I live in the same exclusive apartment building as Mr Le Fanu in Greenwich, London.

I am very loud and lively, always smiling. I began practising magic as a young boy, and am a proud member of The Magician's Circle. I was on friendly terms with Mr Le Fanu and I'm an avid reader.

Distinguishing feature: I always keep my magician's wand (black with white tips) in the top pocket of my black jacket.

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was performing a show in Bow until 10pm, I retired to the bar afterwards for a cocktail before returning to Greenwich and going to bed at midnight.

- What was your relationship to the victim?

We didn't have a relationship, I had seen him coming and going at our apartments and was always friendly to him, though I found him to be pompous and rather offhand.

- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

I'm far too busy practising magic to be preoccupied with books.

- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

My grandmother was Mrs Richtea's sister. They were never close; in fact, I never knew she was my great-aunt until after she died – it was quite the shock!

4 Mrs Barbara Le Fanu

Estranged wife of Montgomery, known as Barb.

Originally from New York, I separated from Montgomery last year, but we remained on speaking terms. I am bossy with razor sharp wit (hence 'Barb') and am fond of interrupting, long holidays and tea.

Distinguishing feature: My ever-changing spectacles, which I enjoy peering over and narrowing my eyes when keen to intimidate and/or make a point.

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was dining at The Savoy with my sister and niece. We left around 10pm and I stayed at my sister's home in Highbury and Islington.

- What was your relationship to the victim?

He is – oh goodness! He was my estranged husband.

- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

I have not, though I know of it.

- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

I met her at a few parties with Montgomery; I always found her to be charming and great company.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps The Script

5 Mr George Howes

A journalist.

I broke the story of Mr Le Fanu acquiring Hercule Parrot Investigates and was desperate for an interview with him, which he would not grant me. I am not one to take no for an answer.

Distinguishing feature: My notepad and fountain pen, which I carry everywhere.

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was at home, writing. At around 11pm there was the most alarming catfight in the street, my neighbour and I both leaned out of our windows to see what was going on. After that my concentration was lost and I went to bed.

- What was your relationship to the victim?

As I mentioned, I broke the story of Mr LeFanu's acquisition and telephoned his office several times to request an interview, which he declined.

- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Many times, yes.

- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

I was fortunate enough to interview Pamela once, a most engaging woman, I found.

6 Mrs Liza Nancy Crewe (nee Richtea)

Daughter of the internationally acclaimed children's mystery writer, Pamela Richtea.

I am shy, quiet and ill-at-ease with my mother's fame. Unfortunately, I fell out with my mother before her death and her estate was subsequently left to the local dogs home. I had proclaimed her to be 'barking mad' and this seems to have been her payback.

Distinguishing feature: I'm always biting my nails, favouring my thumb.

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was looking after my grandson at my daughter's house in Hampstead Heath. My daughter has been ill recently and my grandson is teething – it was a rather testing night, as she and her neighbours can corroborate!

- What was your relationship to the victim?

I met Mr Le Fanu briefly a few years ago – ironically it was at a book launch held for my mother at Rivets & Gripps.

- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Yes, on several occasions.

- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

You could say that.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps The Script

7 Mr Clement Drinkwater

Godson of the internationally acclaimed children's mystery writer, Pamela Richtea.

Some might say that I am spoilt and feel extremely entitled towards my godmother's fortunes, despite only wanting to know her better after her success with Hercule Parrot. I am also rather prone to exaggeration.

Distinguishing feature: A loud, braying laugh that is more of a snort.

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was enjoying a night at the opera at The Duke of York Theatre in the West End with friends. We then went on to a soiree at my cousin's house in Belgravia until around 1am.

- What was your relationship to the victim?

I had never met this poor unfortunate soul, though I had read about his acquisition of my godmother's book in the press.

- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

It's my local bookshop, I am there all the time.

- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

Indeed. Whilst we may not have been close, I have always held her in the highest esteem.

8 Mrs Theodora Archibald

Pamela Richtea's agent and longstanding friend.

I am Pamela's greatest champion and it is my job to ensure she remains one of the world's most popular and best-loved authors. Pamela dedicated several of her books to me and Hercule Parrot Investigates was my favourite of all her stories.

Distinguishing feature: My strong Scottish accent.

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was working at my office in Holborn until 8pm, before meeting my husband for supper and then heading home to Ealing.

- What was your relationship to the victim?

I had met Mr Le Fanu on a couple of social occasions, that's all. What a dreadful way to go.

- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

On many occasions – I recall a wonderful book launch there for Pamela a few years ago.

- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

It was a privilege to know Pamela. A real honour.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **The Script**



9 Sergeant Nell Harris

The second officer at the scene alongside Inspector Norse.

It is my role to support him in questioning the suspects, working out their motives and searching for clues.

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was on the night shift down at the station.

- What was your relationship to the victim?

I didn't know of him and he was not known to the police.

- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Many times, it's my favourite bookshop in London.

- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

I was a big fan of her books.

10 Miss Angela Backgammon

A passer-by.

I heard Miss Carmichael-Hartley's bloodcurdling screams on my way to work this morning and looked through the shop window, but as it was dark I couldn't see anything other than a figure stooped over a heap on the floor. I couldn't stop as unfortunately I just couldn't risk being late and sacked by my 'orrible manager.

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was at home all evening with my family and went to bed at 10.30 to be up early for work.

- What was your relationship to the victim?

Never heard of him.

- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

A few times but it's not my local bookshop.

- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

No but my daughter loves her books.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **The Script**



11 Master James Kendall

A paperboy.

I was delivering newspapers along Charing Cross Road when I heard the bells of the police car. I didn't see anything, but there was a great commotion outside Rivets & Gripps. Then in the later edition of the paper I read news of a murder inside that very bookshop!

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was at home with my mum and dad doing my homework and went to bed at 10pm.

- What was your relationship to the victim?

I didn't know him did I! But I remember my dad reading me that story about him and that rare book. I used to love those Hercule Parrot stories.

- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Yes

- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

No, I just liked her books.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **The Script**



Dear Detective,

Daisy here again, with further instructions – though with my natural investigative talents this all seems rather obvious.

Now the characters have been introduced, please encourage them to ask questions of each other based on the information they have been given, using the suggestions below. Characters can refer to the 'Round 2' section of their character biographies for their answers to these questions.

In order to keep this round moving, each suspect could ask/answer a maximum of three questions, moving around the group. It will then be time to search for the clues, which are outlined below. All clear? Do keep up . . .

ROUND TWO

Questions and Clues

Question suggestions for the characters to ask each other:

- Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?
- What was your relationship to the victim?
- Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?
- Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

If possible, please scatter the following items around the room to be discovered, then encourage participants to look around and find them. There are two red herrings and one real clue, which will lead to the murderer being revealed.

- A dropped fountain pen
- A pair of glasses
- A crumpled envelope with 'PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL: For the attention of Mr D. Dartford Esq.' scribbled on the front and on the inside, a handwritten note, which states:

D,

I have to warn you;TMC are sending in the debt collectors and will be at your flat on Monday to demand the outstanding debts you owe. There are dastardly rumours you've been stealing from us too – I don't believe them, but many do. Jolly poor show. Whatever happens, don't let on I've told you. Good luck.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps

Dear Detective,

We have reached the final round - though I of course solved the mystery almost immediately. Did I mention that one day I expect to be the greatest consulting detective the world has ever known? But perhaps that is still a case or two away.

Anyway, back to Rivets & Gripps. Now that we have our clues, this is a great time to ask participants to make their accusations. Ask everyone to write down who they think the murderer is. That way we can see who (like me) are the natural detectives in the group at the end.

This final round is designed to point the finger of suspicion at two prime suspects and then finally reveal the murderer by deducing their identity from the third clue. The fountain pen belongs to Mr George Howes and the glasses could belong to Mrs Barbara Le Fanu, as indicated in their character profiles.

However, these two clues are red herrings and the scribbled note contains the answers. Please do encourage the characters to identify the suspects that each clue points to, then quiz Mr Howes and Mrs Le Fanu on their whereabouts, before focusing on the note.

ROUND THREE

Alibis and Confessions

Upon questioning, Mr Howes can reveal:

'I had found out Mr Le Fanu was meeting Miss Gripps in the afternoon, and so I went sniffing around to see if I could get my interview. But a colleague called in to the shop with details of a scandalous story breaking across town, and I dashed out, dropping my fountain pen as I left. By the time I came back, the shop was shut and I was on my way to spend the evening dining with friends, before taking the bus to my fiancée's house in Old Street for the rest of the night.'

Upon questioning, Mrs Barbara Le Fanu can reveal:

'I only returned to London this morning from a month-long holiday in St Ives, Cornwall, with my girlfriends. Monty and I may have separated but we remained friends and I am devastated. And as for those ghastly glasses, I take offence that any of you could have thought they were mine!'

The revelation

In the note, 'D' stands for 'Dean' and 'TMC' stands for 'The Magic Circle'. Lead participants to reach this conclusion by focusing on the acronyms and what they could relate to.

The murderer is ... The (not so) Great WhoDeanie, aka Mr Dean Dartford - the great nephew of Pamela Richtea!





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **The Script**



Confession

'So you see, I'm not so happy and smiling after all. And I'm certainly not The Great WhoDeanie, commanding high performance fees and an honoured member of The Magic Circle. That cliquy group of snobs turned on me faster than you can say 'Abracadabra' when I fell into debt and lost my family, my home. I knew how rich that conceited oaf Le Fanu was, and here I am, facing bankruptcy and life on the streets!

My grandmother was Mrs Richtea's sister. They were never close, and they lost touch as they grew older. Mrs Richtea didn't leave my grandmother a penny in her will. I never knew she was my great-aunt until after she died – what a shock that was! To think I was related to one of the wealthiest writers in the world, but that I couldn't touch any of the money, no matter how desperate I was.

So when I read about LeFanu's possession of my great aunt's book, and the millions he'd make from it, I saw red. I wanted that book, I needed it to be mine. I believed it should be mine. And I knew I could have sold it on the black market - I can still just make things disappear. I followed Le Fanu to Rivets and Gripps late that afternoon and simply waited as he met with Miss Gripps . . . He never knew I was there until it was too late. But I had to make an error, didn't I? I left the note from my fellow magician behind – he was the only member of The Magic Circle left I could trust, and I'm still grateful to him for trying to help me. By the time I realised the note was no longer in my pocket, the police had already found it. There's my confession. Now you can take me away – but don't make me hand over my wand. It's all I've got left.'

THE END!

So there you have it, you have successfully solved your first case! Of course I, The Honourable Daisy Wells, had deduced WhoDeanie as the murderer right from the start - clearly not a very good egg. I suppose you all didn't do too badly. UNTIL NEXT TIME . . .





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **The Suspects**

Give a label to each participant
to wear throughout the event.



INSPECTOR NORSE

The first officer at the scene
of the crime.

MRS LIZA NANCY CREWE (NÉE RICHTEA)

Daughter of the internationally
acclaimed children's mystery writer,
Pamela Richtea.

MISS ELEANOR GRIPPS

Proprietor of Rivets & Gripps bookshop,
83 Charing Cross Road.

MR CLEMENT DRINKWATER

Godson of the internationally
acclaimed children's mystery writer,
Pamela Richtea.

MISS JANE CARMICHAEL-HARTLEY

The bookseller who discovered
Mr Le Fanu's body.

MRS THEODORA ARCHIBALD

Pamela Richtea's agent and
longstanding friend.

THE GREAT WHODEANIE

The Magic Circle magician.

SERGEANT NELL HARRIS

The second officer at the scene alongside
Inspector Norse.

MRS BARBARA LE FANU

Estranged wife of Montgomery,
known as Barb.

MISS ANGELA BACKGAMMON

A passer-by.

MR GEORGE HOWES

A journalist.

MASTER JAMES KENDALL

A paperboy.



Murder at Rivets & Gripps Character profiles



MISS ELEANOR GRIPPS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer **Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu** was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Gripps bookshop. The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs.

It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired - at a highly contested auction in Paris - the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by **Pamela Richtea**, an international bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with the bookshop proprietor, Miss Gripps, to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Gripps.

ROUND 1 - please read aloud the below when instructed to do so by Inspector Norse.

I am the proprietor of Rivets & Gripps bookshop, 83 Charing Cross Road, which I inherited from my grandfather.

I am a smart, no-nonsense business woman and books are my absolute pride and joy. I live and breathe them and will do anything in pursuit of the next great masterpiece, for either my business or personal collection.

Distinguishing feature: I am forever writing down ideas and always have a pencil tucked behind my ear.

ROUND 2 - please reveal the information below, if asked these questions by one of your fellow suspects.

Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between you leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

It had been a long day; after I left work I called in to visit my elderly mother to prepare her supper before heading home for a much needed G&T.

What was your relationship to the victim?

I knew Mr LeFanu as a colleague, we moved in the same publishing circles and he had visited the shop a few times to discuss business.

Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Once or twice!

Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

I had the pleasure of meeting Pamela when we hosted a book launch for her at Rivets & Gripps. It was a great privilege to meet her, I had always admired her work.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps Character profiles

MISS JANE CARMICHAEL-HARTLEY

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer **Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu** was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Gripps bookshop. The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs.

It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired - at a highly contested auction in Paris - the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by **Pamela Richtea**, an international bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with the bookshop proprietor, Miss Gripps, to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Gripps.

ROUND 1 - please read aloud the below when instructed to do so by Inspector Norse.

I am the bookseller who discovered Mr Le Fanu's body. I am very new to bookselling and this has disturbed me greatly. I had met Mr Le Fanu a handful of times when he came to meet with my manager, Miss Gripps. I had always found him to be pleasant, though boastful of his success and fortunes.

Distinguishing feature: The shock of finding a murder victim upon arriving at work has left me with a temporary stutter.

ROUND 2 - please reveal the information below, if asked these questions by one of your fellow suspects.

Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and yourself arriving at 7am?

My husband and I had attended a dinner party next door, we returned home around midnight, I arose at 6am to get ready for work and arrived at 7am to this terrible discovery.

What was your relationship to the victim?

I only knew him in passing, as I stated above.

Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Well yes, obviously!

Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

Unfortunately no, though I believe a book launch was once held for her at Rivets & Gripps, before my time.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps Character profiles



THE GREAT WHODEANIE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer **Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu** was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Gripps bookshop. The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs.

It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired - at a highly contested auction in Paris - the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by **Pamela Richtea**, an international bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with the bookshop proprietor, Miss Gripps, to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Gripps.

ROUND 1 - please read aloud the below when instructed to do so by Inspector Norse.

I live in the same exclusive apartment building as Mr Le Fanu in Greenwich, London.

I am very loud and lively, always smiling. I began practising magic as a young and am a proud member of The Magician's Circle. I was on friendly terms with Mr Le Fanu and I'm an avid reader.

Distinguishing feature: I always keep my magician's wand (black with white tips) in the top pocket of my black jacket.

ROUND 2 - please reveal the information below, if asked these questions by one of your fellow suspects.

Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was performing a show in Bow until 10pm, I retired to the bar afterwards for a cocktail before returning to Greenwich and going to bed at midnight.

What was your relationship to the victim?

We didn't have a relationship, I had seen him coming and going at our apartments and was always friendly to him, though I found him to be pompous and rather offhand.

Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

I'm far too busy practising magic to be preoccupied with books.

Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

My grandmother was Mrs Richtea's sister. They were never close; in fact, I never knew she was my great-aunt until after she died – it was quite the shock!





Murder at Rivets & Gripps Character profiles



MRS BARBARA LE FANU

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer **Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu** was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Gripps bookshop. The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs.

It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired - at a highly contested auction in Paris - the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by **Pamela Richtea**, an international bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with the bookshop proprietor, Miss Gripps, to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Gripps.

ROUND 1 - please read aloud the below when instructed to do so by Inspector Norse.

I am the estranged wife of Montgomery, and people know me as Barb. Originally from New York, I separated from Montgomery last year, but we remained on speaking terms. I am bossy with razor sharp wit (hence 'Barb') and am fond of interrupting, long holidays and tea.

Distinguishing feature: My ever-changing spectacles, which I enjoy peering over and narrowing my eyes when keen to intimidate and/or make a point.

ROUND 2 - please reveal the information below, if asked these questions by one of your fellow suspects.

Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was dining at The Savoy with my sister and niece. We left around 10pm and I stayed at my sister's home in Highbury and Islington.

What was your relationship to the victim?

He is – oh goodness! He was my estranged husband.

Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

I have not, though I know of it.

Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

I met her at a few parties with Montgomery; I always found her to be charming and great company.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps Character profiles



MR GEORGE HOWES

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer **Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu** was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Gripps bookshop. The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs.

It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired - at a highly contested auction in Paris - the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by **Pamela Richtea**, an international bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with the bookshop proprietor, Miss Gripps, to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Gripps.

ROUND 1 - please read aloud the below when instructed to do so by Inspector Norse.

I am the journalist who I broke the story of Mr Le Fanu acquiring *Hercule Parrot Investigates* and was desperate for an interview with him, which he would not grant me. I am not one to take no for an answer.

Distinguishing feature: My notepad and fountain pen, which I carry everywhere.

ROUND 2 - please reveal the information below, if asked these questions by one of your fellow suspects.

Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was at home, writing. At around 11pm there was the most alarming catfight in the street, my neighbour and I both leaned out of our windows to see what was going on. After that my concentration was lost and I went to bed.

What was your relationship to the victim?

As I mentioned, I broke the story of Mr LeFanu's acquisition and telephoned his office several times to request an interview, which he declined.

Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Many times, yes.

Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

I was fortunate enough to interview Pamela once, a most engaging woman, I found.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Character** profiles

MRS LIZA NANCY CREWE (NEE RICHTEA)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer **Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu** was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Gripps bookshop. The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs.

It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired - at a highly contested auction in Paris - the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by **Pamela Richtea**, an international bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with the bookshop proprietor, Miss Gripps, to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Gripps.

ROUND 1 - please read aloud the below when instructed to do so by Inspector Norse.

I am the daughter of the internationally acclaimed children's mystery writer, Pamela Richtea. I am shy, quiet and ill-at-ease with my mother's fame. Unfortunately, I fell out with my mother before her death and her estate was subsequently left to the local dogs home. I had proclaimed her to be 'barking mad' and this seems to have been her payback.

Distinguishing feature: I'm always biting my nails, favouring my thumb.

ROUND 2 - please reveal the information below, if asked these questions by one of your fellow suspects.

Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was looking after my grandson at my daughter's house in Hampstead Heath. My daughter has been ill recently and my grandson is teething – it was a rather testing night, as she and her neighbours can corroborate!

What was your relationship to the victim?

I met Mr LeFanu briefly a few years ago – ironically it was at a book launch held for my mother at Rivets & Gripps.

Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Yes, on several occasions.

Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

You could say that.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps Character profiles



MR CLEMENT DRINKWATER

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer **Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu** was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Gripps bookshop. The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs.

It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired - at a highly contested auction in Paris - the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by **Pamela Richtea**, an international bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with the bookshop proprietor, Miss Gripps, to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Gripps.

ROUND 1 - please read aloud the below when instructed to do so by Inspector Norse.

I am the Godson of the internationally acclaimed children's mystery writer, Pamela Richtea.

Some might say that I am spoilt and feel extremely entitled towards my godmother's fortunes, despite only wanting to know her better after her success with *Hercule Parrot*. I am also rather prone to exaggeration.

Distinguishing feature: A loud, braying laugh that is more of a snort.

ROUND 2 - please reveal the information below, if asked these questions by one of your fellow suspects.

Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was enjoying a night at the opera at The Duke of York Theatre in the West End with friends. We then went on to a soiree at my cousin's house in Belgravia until around 1am.

What was your relationship to the victim?

I had never met this poor unfortunate soul, though I had read about his acquisition of my godmother's book in the press.

Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

It's my local bookshop, I am there all the time.

Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

Indeed. Whilst we may not have been close, I have always held her in the highest esteem.





Murder at Rivets & Grippls Character profiles



MRS THEODORA ARCHIBALD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer **Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu** was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Grippls bookshop. The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs.

It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired - at a highly contested auction in Paris - the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by **Pamela Richtea**, an international bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with the bookshop proprietor, Miss Grippls, to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Grippls.

ROUND 1 - please read aloud the below when instructed to do so by Inspector Norse.

I am Pamela Richtea's agent and longstanding friend. I am Pamela's greatest champion and it is my job to ensure she remains one of the world's most popular and best-loved authors. Pamela dedicated several of her books to me and *Hercule Parrot Investigates* was my favourite of all her stories.

Distinguishing feature: My strong Scottish accent.

ROUND 2 - please reveal the information below, if asked these questions by one of your fellow suspects.

Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was working at my office in Holborn until 8pm, before meeting my husband for supper and then heading home to Ealing.

What was your relationship to the victim?

I had met Mr Fanu on a couple of social occasions, that's all. What a dreadful way to go.

Have you ever visited Rivets and Grippls bookshop before?

On many occasions – I recall a wonderful book launch there for Pamela a few years ago.

Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

It was a privilege to know Pamela. A real honour.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps Character profiles



SERGEANT NELL HARRIS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer **Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu** was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Gripps bookshop. The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs.

It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired - at a highly contested auction in Paris - the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by **Pamela Richtea**, an international bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with the bookshop proprietor, Miss Gripps, to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Gripps.

ROUND 1 - please read aloud the below when instructed to do so by Inspector Norse.

I was the second officer at the scene alongside Inspector Norse. It is my role to support him in questioning the suspects, working out their motives and searching for clues.

ROUND 2 - please reveal the information below, if asked these questions by one of your fellow suspects.

Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was on the night shift down at the station.

What was your relationship to the victim?

I didn't know of him and he was not known to the police.

Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Many times, it's my favourite bookshop in London.

Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

I was a big fan of her books.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps Character profiles



MISS ANGELA BACKGAMMON

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer **Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu** was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Gripps bookshop. The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs.

It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired - at a highly contested auction in Paris - the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by **Pamela Richtea**, an international bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with the bookshop proprietor, Miss Gripps, to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Gripps.

ROUND 1 - please read aloud the below when instructed to do so by Inspector Norse.

I heard Miss Carmichael-Hartley's bloodcurdling screams on my way to work this morning and looked through the shop window, but as it was dark I couldn't see anything other than a figure stooped over a heap on the floor. I couldn't stop as unfortunately I just couldn't risk being late and sacked by my 'orrible manager.

ROUND 2 - please reveal the information below, if asked these questions by one of your fellow suspects.

Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was at home all evening with my family and went to bed at 10.30 to be up early for work.

What was your relationship to the victim?

Never heard of him.

Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

A few times but it's not my local bookshop.

Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

No but my daughter loves her books.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps Character profiles



MASTER JAMES KENDALL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The esteemed, rare children's books dealer **Mr Montgomery G. Le Fanu** was yesterday found murdered in Rivets & Gripps bookshop. The victim was in his early forties and famed for his priceless antique books collection, wild silver hair and flamboyant neckerchiefs.

It was widely reported last week that Mr Le Fanu had acquired - at a highly contested auction in Paris - the coveted first edition of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* by **Pamela Richtea**, an international bestseller.

Mr Le Fanu was discovered in the early hours of yesterday morning, strangled with one of his own neckerchiefs at the foot of the bookshop stairs. It is believed he came to the shop to meet with the bookshop proprietor, Miss Gripps, to discuss his famous recent purchase; sadly, he never left. The valuable copy of *Hercule Parrot Investigates* has not been located in his Greenwich home; nor was it found on his body or anywhere on the premises of Rivets and Gripps.

ROUND 1 - please read aloud the below when instructed to do so by Inspector Norse.

I was delivering newspapers along Charing Cross Road when I heard the bells of the police car. I didn't see anything, but there was a great commotion outside Rivets & Gripps. Then in the later edition of the paper I read news of a murder inside that very bookshop!

ROUND 2 - please reveal the information below, if asked these questions by one of your fellow suspects.

Where were you at the time of Mr Le Fanu's murder, which is placed between Miss Gripp leaving the premises at 7.30pm after a stocktake and Miss Carmichael-Hartley arriving at 7am?

I was at home with my mum and dad doing my homework and went to bed at 10pm.

What was your relationship to the victim?

I didn't know him did I! But I remember my dad reading me that story about him and that rare book. I used to love those Hercule Parrot stories.

Have you ever visited Rivets and Gripps bookshop before?

Yes.

Did you know or had you ever met the author, Pamela Richtea?

No, I just liked her books.





Murder at Rivets & Gripps The Clues

The Letter

Cut this out and enclose in an envelope.

No.....

Date.....

D,

I have to warn you; TMC are sending in the debt collectors and will be at your flat on Monday to demand the outstanding debts you owe.

There are dastardly rumours you've been stealing from us too - I don't believe them, but many do. Jolly poor show. Whatever happens, don't let on I've told you.

Good luck.



Murder at Rivets & Gripps **The Clues**



The Letter

Cut out this label and stick onto an envelope.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL:
For the attention of
Mr D. Dartford Esq.



Murder at Rivets & Gripps The Clues

Cut out these labels and attach them to the clues so that participants know they have correctly identified the incriminating objects.

Clue 1.

Clue 2.

Clue 3.



Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Alibis and Confession**



TO BE READ BY MR GEORGE HOWES
AT THE BEGINNING OF ROUND THREE

Upon questioning, Mr Howes can reveal:

'I had found out Mr Le Fanu was meeting Miss Gripps in the afternoon, and so I went sniffing around to see if I could get my interview. But a colleague called in to the shop with details of a scandalous story breaking across town, and I dashed out, dropping my fountain pen as I left. By the time I came back, the shop was shut and I was on my way to spend the evening dining with friends, before taking the bus to my fiancée's house in Old Street for the rest of the night.'



#MistletoeandMurder @redbreastedbird @PuffinBooks

CUT HERE ✂



Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Alibis and Confession**



TO BE READ BY MRS BARBARA LE FANU
AT THE BEGINNING OF ROUND THREE

Upon questioning, Mrs Le Fanu can reveal:

'I only returned to London this morning from a month-long holiday in St Ives, Cornwall, with my girlfriends. Monty and I may have separated but we remained friends and I am devastated. And as for those ghastly glasses, I take offence that any of you could have thought they were mine!'



#MistletoeandMurder @redbreastedbird @PuffinBooks



Murder at Rivets & Gripps Alibis and Confession

TO BE READ BY THE (NOT SO) GREAT WHODEANIE AT THE END OF ROUND THREE

Once suspicion has been cast on WhoDeanie from the note, he can reveal:

'So you see, I'm not so happy and smiling after all. And I'm certainly not The Great WhoDeanie, commanding high performance fees and an honoured member of The Magic Circle. That cliquy group of snobs turned on me faster than you can say 'Abracadabra' when I fell into debt and lost my family, my home. I knew how rich that conceited oaf Le Fanu was, and here I am, facing bankruptcy and life on the streets!

My grandmother was Mrs Richtea's sister. They were never close, and they lost touch as they grew older. Mrs Richtea didn't leave my grandmother a penny in her will. I never knew she was my great-aunt until after she died – what a shock that was! To think I was related to one of the wealthiest writers in the world, but that I couldn't touch any of the money, no matter how desperate I was.

So when I read about LeFanu's possession of my great aunt's book, and the millions he'd make from it, I saw red. I wanted that book, I needed it to be mine. I believed it should be mine. And I knew I could have sold it on the black market - I can still just make things disappear. I followed Le Fanu to Rivets and Gripps late that afternoon and simply waited as he met with Miss Gripps . . . He never knew I was there until it was too late. But I had to make an error, didn't I? I left the note from my fellow magician behind – he was the only member of The Magic Circle left I could trust, and I'm still grateful to him for trying to help me. By the time I realised the note was no longer in my pocket, the police had already found it. There's my confession. Now you can take me away – but don't make me hand over my wand. It's all I've got left.'





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



MISS ELEANOR GRIPPS

Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .



Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



MISS JANE CARMICHAEL-HARTLEY

Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



THE GREAT WHODEANIE

Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .



Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



MRS BARBARA LE FANU

Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



MR GEORGE HOWES

Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .



Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



MRS LIZA NANCY CREWE

Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



MR CLEMENT DRINKWATER

Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .



Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



MRS THEODORA ARCHIBALD

Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



SERGEANT NELL HARRIS

Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .



Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



MISS ANGELA BACKGAMMON

Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .





Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



MASTER JAMES KENDALL

Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .



Murder at Rivets & Gripps **Detective Notes: The Suspects**



Introductions . . .

Upon questioning . . .

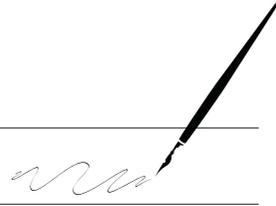




Murder at Rivets & Gripps Detective Notes: The Clues



Clue 1



Clue 2



Clue 3



