



**MURDER
MYSTERY**

PARTY[®]



*Murder at
Mardi Gras*

J. Stephen Peek
**Character
Booklet**

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BACKGROUND

J. Stephen Peek

Use this information to introduce yourself to the group.

Good evening, I am J. Stephen Peek, Esquire, Monsieur DuPre's personal attorney and best friend. I am also our darling Alexis' godfather. Her late mother, God rest her soul, was my second cousin. I live down the street at Peek Mansion. Pierre was my only client. I feel as though I've lost a brother. I couldn't have asked for a better client or friend. This is devastating! I need a drink!

When I'm not tending to the extensive legal affairs of the DuPre family, I am busy overseeing the restoration of my magnificent Garden District mansion. It is my life's dream to restore Peek Mansion to its former glory, before those damn Yankees invaded the South!

Keep this information secret until you are asked:

I'm desperate for cash. The remodeling costs at Peek Mansion are out of control. I am about \$500,000 over the original contractor's estimate. I won't buy anything but the best for Peek Mansion. Under my guidance, it will be known as the jewel of the Garden District.

I AM THE MURDERER. I've been stealing from Pierre's precious DuPre Historical Foundation to pay for the restoration of Peek Mansion. Pierre discovered this earlier today and confronted me. He told me he was going to write me out of his will and report me to the police. I pled with him to forgive me, but he wouldn't listen. The Mardi Gras necklace was on the table. I grabbed it and strangled him before I could even think about what I was doing. I ran back downstairs to the party and tried to act natural afterwards.



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CAST

Matthew “Gator” Crovitz: A boy from the Bayou who worked his way up through law school. He is madly in love with Alexis DuPre.

Alexis DuPre: Pierre’s socialite daughter. A southern belle and the reigning “Magnolia Queen” at Dixie University.

Bourbon DuPre: A jazz musician from the French quarter.

Melissa F. DuPre: Pierre DuPre’s new wife from Las Vegas.

Connika Gothika: An eccentric novelist and Pierre DuPre’s next door neighbor.

Cayenne Pepper: The DuPre family chef and an aspiring TV star.

Elise St. Gresch: The young and attractive live-in maid at DuPre Chateau.

MMO

During a murder investigation, a detective must answer these three questions:

Motive: Who had a reason to kill the victim? Does any particular person benefit – financially or romantically – from the victim’s death?

Means: Who had access to the murder weapon? Does any particular person have the unique knowledge, skill or physical ability necessary to use the murder weapon?

Opportunity: Who had a chance to kill the victim? Is any particular person unaccounted for (has no alibi) during the time the victim was killed?

Your challenge is to use the three elements to form a hypothesis about the murder, which will result in an accusation. Keep these questions in mind as you pursue your investigation. Good luck!



STOP: DO NOT TURN TO
THE FIRST CHAPTER UNTIL
TOLD TO DO SO.



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CHAPTER 1

Behind the Masquerade Mask

Use these facts to converse with and question other players; you MUST reveal all of these facts in this chapter.

Pierre DuPre kept me very busy with his complicated legal affairs. He was always suing or threatening to sue somebody! He also changed his will frequently. Every time he had an argument with a family member, he would call me to draft a new will and disinherit that person. It was exhausting. I don’t know what I would have done if I wasn’t being paid by the hour... A wealthy client with a short temper and a volatile family is a lawyer’s dream come true.



STOP: DO NOT TURN TO
THE NEXT CHAPTER UNTIL
TOLD TO DO SO.



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CHAPTER 2

Beignets and Mardi Gras Beads

Use these facts to converse with and question other players; you **MUST** reveal all of these facts in this chapter.

Connika must be thrilled that Pierre DuPre is dead. She can finally host the Krewe of Midas Mardi Gras Ball next year. Ever since we threw her a bone and invited her to join the Krewe of Midas, she's been plotting to get Pierre ousted as our King and become the first ruling Queen! She's always been the jealous type.

She made such sad attempts to lure us to her refurbished ballroom for this year's ball. In fact, they were just pathetic. Did you really think that spending a million dollars on a remodeled bathroom would buy our loyalty?

Connika was also involved in an online bidding war with Pierre over these antique Mardi Gras beads – the same ones he was strangled with! You must have been furious when he won the auction, Connika! Were you hoping to wear them when you were crowned Queen of the Krewe of Midas? You are delusional! We all know Pierre was planning to give the beads to Melissa tonight at the ball.

If you are questioned about the renovations for Peek Mansion, your response should be:

Of course I'm getting my mansion renovated. I'm concerned for the reputation and well-being of this district, and it's important for my mansion to look beautiful.



STOP: DO NOT TURN TO
THE NEXT CHAPTER UNTIL
TOLD TO DO SO.



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CHAPTER 3

On the Bayou

Use these facts to converse with and question other players; you **MUST** reveal all of these facts in this chapter.

I'm not buying Melissa's devoted wife act and neither should any of you. Last week, she called me at 10pm and asked me to come over ASAP. She told me to bring my briefcase and my notary stamp. I knew something important was going on.

I arrived to a horrific scene. Melissa answered the door in a feathered black negligée with matching heels. She told me to bring my briefcase up to the master suite. When I opened the door, I found Pierre handcuffed to his antique bed. He was drunk and nearly passed out. There were empty whipped cream cans and chocolate syrup bottles on the floor. After I finally got over my initial shock, Melissa showed me a new will that named her as the sole beneficiary of Pierre's entire estate. She took the handcuffs off Pierre and asked him to sign the will. I knew Pierre wasn't in his right mind to sign any papers. I told Pierre to sober up and we'd talk the next day in my office without Melissa and her bag of tricks influencing him. You're a real piece of work, lady!

I was in the kitchen earlier tonight. Cayenne had a recipe folder out on the counter. I couldn't help but sneak a peek at his latest culinary masterpiece. In the folder, I found this old contract. Looks like Cayenne was pretty much chained to the DuPre Chateau while Pierre was alive.

Share **Clue #6** with the group.



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THE NEXT CHAPTER UNTIL
TOLD TO DO SO.



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CHAPTER 4

French Quarter Amusement

Use these facts to converse with and question other players; you MUST reveal all of these facts in this chapter.

Last week, Gator came to visit me at my mansion. He told me about his love for our darling Alexis. Gator was desperate to marry her, but he knew that Pierre would put up one hell of a fight over a boy from the Bayou marrying our little princess.

Gator informed me that he was about to graduate at the top of his law school class. He asked me to take him on as an associate in my law firm in the hope that Pierre would then accept him into the family. I couldn't help but laugh.

Why would I want to help that boy? One thing I hate almost as much as Yankees is Cajun swamp trash! Alexis, how could you shame your family this way? You need to marry a good southern boy from your own social class! That swamp rat isn't good enough for you, honey!

If questioned about the check for \$150,000, your response should be:

Pierre gave me an advance on my paycheck. I told him I was doing some work on my mansion. Pierre and I were best friends. He would have done anything to help me out – not like it's any of your business. Stick to cooking, Cayenne, and stay out of my finances.



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THE NEXT CHAPTER UNTIL
TOLD TO DO SO.



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Who Killed Pierre DuPre?

Now it's time to identify who murdered Pierre DuPre.

Go back to MMO and ask yourself:

Motive: Who had a reason to kill the victim? Does any particular person benefit – financially or romantically – from the victim's death?

Means: Who had access to the murder weapon? Does any particular person have the unique knowledge, skill or physical ability to use the murder weapon?

Opportunity: Who had a chance to kill the victim? Is any particular person unaccounted for (has no alibi) at the time the victim was killed?

Take a few minutes to look over your notes and recall what you have learned.

What's your theory about Pierre's murder? Write the identity of Pierre's murderer below:



STOP: DO NOT TURN TO
THE SOLUTION PAGE UNTIL
TOLD TO DO SO.



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Solution #8 J. Stephen Peek

Read this solution to everyone:

Today, Pierre discovered I was stealing from his precious Pierre DuPre Historical Foundation to pay for the restoration of Peek Mansion. I had no choice. I needed that cash to keep my dream alive. Do you think it's easy living on the richest street in the Garden District? My home is falling apart around me! Why shouldn't I enjoy the same luxuries as my neighbors? I worked night and day for that old man. He owed me! I deserve the money Pierre set aside for that foundation. Technically, my home is a historical building and it deserves to be restored to its former grandeur! My plans for Peek Mansion would have made Connika's house and the DuPre Chateau look like mere garden sheds!

I didn't plan to murder Pierre. He called me into the billiards room and presented me with a copy of the check I cashed for \$150,000. I thought the copy that self-centered chef found was the only one, but I was wrong. I guess the bank sent him another one, and he must have been going through the bank statements before the party. I had hoped that if I did get caught, Pierre would be more sympathetic. I was wrong. I was being completely written out of his will! He told me that as soon as he took his new will to the courthouse, he was going to the police station to press charges for embezzlement.

Not only was I losing my job, but I would be disbarred and face jail time if I was convicted. I needed to do something that would keep Pierre's mouth shut for good. I pled with Pierre to forgive me. He wouldn't listen. I saw the Mardi Gras necklace on the table, grabbed it and strangled him before I even realized what I was doing. I ran back downstairs to the party and made sure that everyone in the house thought I had just arrived through the front door. I was hoping that since Pierre had so many enemies, the police would never suspect his best friend.

I'll take out a second mortgage on Peek Mansion to fight this case. I'm friends with the best lawyers in Louisiana, so I shouldn't have a problem. I was temporarily insane. I'll beat this rap...just wait!



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