

1.1 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_: I want you each to tell me how you came to know Jerry and to be at this party. During our discussion I would also like you to tell us more about yourselves and your relationship with Jerry.

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1.3 **Ginger Rogers:** Last month at a charity ball I saw Jerry look in my direction and say “Stupid old cow”. I wasn’t sure if he was referring to me or one of my prize-winning dairy cows. But either way I found his remark offensive as my cows certainly aren’t stupid. I came to this party because I wanted to give him some of his own cheek back – the rich cow-hating bully. But I certainly didn’t come here to murder him.

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1.5 **Janis Joplin:** As you all probably know, Jerry crashed into my car recently. That’s how I met him. But stingy as he was, he was refusing to pay me fully for the repairs. Then he had the hide to invite me to this party as if everything was fine between us. I had planned to give him an earful at the party. But I hadn’t planned to kill him.

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1.7 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_ (*except Lucy*): Jerry Oilman was a big fan of Lucy and recently he offered to be a backer for the new film she really wants to do about a woman pilot. But he wanted her ex-husband Desi to be her co-star and she doesn’t want to ever work with him again.

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1.9 **Judy Garland:** Jerry was my husband’s friend, not mine. Sometimes he came to our house. I didn’t invite my husband to this party, because he’s in my bad books at the moment.

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1.2 **Bette Davis:** I’m still being cast for movies. Only Jerry thought I was past it. He kept trying to talk people out of casting me in parts. That’s what my friends in the movie business have been telling me lately. So I’m not sorry to see the last of the slimy bloodsucker, not sorry at all. He was too pushy.

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1.4 **Marilyn Monroe:** Jerry was a fan of mine. Most men are. They can’t help themselves. But I don’t want to just be an “hour glass shape”. I’m sick of being a sex symbol. I want to be taken seriously as an actress. Believe me, I’m not acting when I say I had nothing to do with Jerry’s death.

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1.6 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_: Judging from the bump on Jerry’s head, it appears Jerry’s killer came at him from behind.

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1.8 **Lucille Ball:** This is the first big party I’ve been to since I divorced Desi. Shame there had to be a murder at it. But I certainly had nothing to do with that. I do comedy not tragedy. The whole party seems like a balls up to me. But that could be because my name is Lucille Ball.

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1.10 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_: Jerry’s arm was bruised, possibly by the fall to the ground after he was hit on the head.

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## CELEBRITY CELEBRATIONS

1.11 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_: Jerry's wife Emma died under suspicious circumstances three years ago. She was found dead, possibly poisoned, but the type of poison was never fully identified and nor was her murderer.

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1.13 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_: Jerry Oilman only invited us because he liked everyone to think that he was popular and had many famous friends. But that certainly wasn't the case. He was as popular as cod liver oil. But people will go anywhere for decent caviar.

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1.15 **Ginger Rogers:** I dance a bit and sing a bit, but besides that I'm a pretty ordinary lady – not a murderer.

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1.17 **Marilyn Monroe:** Jerry was a blabbermouth. I came to this party to try to get him to keep quiet about my private life. But I didn't intend to shut him up forever. I didn't kill him.

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1.19 **Janis Joplin:** Some people in this group just don't appreciate rock music. They kept complaining just because I played a few rock records when I arrived. They've got to get with it.

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## ACT ONE CONTINUED

1.12 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_ (*except Rita or Ginger*): Rita Hayworth and Ginger Rogers are first cousins? Do you think that maybe they worked together to kill Jerry?

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1.14 **Janis Joplin:** The famous all mix with the famous and the poor with the poor. Birds of a feather and "all my friends drive Porsches" kind of stuff. That's why we're here. But we didn't come here expecting someone to be killed. I really only came tonight because I heard Jimi Hendrix was coming and I wanted to get some electric guitar lessons from him.

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1.16 **Rita Hayworth:** (*take around the appetizers and say*) Would any of you like an appetizer?

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1.18 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_ (*except Lucy*): Lucille Ball is a bit of a worry. Weird cookie. Maybe she killed Jerry. Or is it just my suspicious mind?

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1.20 **Ginger Rogers:** I work hard to maintain my status. Young people get away with too much these days. They need discipline. The music these days – they're not tunes. You can't dance to them because the beat's all wonky. I'm not surprised he's been murdered. He wasn't at all likeable. But let's forget about the murder. If someone put on some decent music, I could dance. I'd love that.

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## CELEBRITY CELEBRATIONS

1.21 **Marilyn Monroe:** While I'm here, maybe I should hitch up with someone younger and more hip like Jimi Hendrix. But he's been busy restringing his guitar and he hasn't had time to notice me yet.

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1.23 **Patsy Cline:** Jerry kept asking me sing to him. He even offered to pay me, but I turned him down. He didn't like the same songs I liked and he was a creep – what with all those bats everywhere. I think he probably killed his wife. I didn't like being with him. I know what death is like. I came close to it when I had my car accident. But I recorded a song straight after it. You've got to get back on the saddle, like they say.

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1.25 **Janis Joplin:** Judy, just because I didn't pretend to be a child like you did, and because I don't always comb my hair and look pretty doesn't mean I'm a cheat. Now I have to go to the bathroom because I'm ill.

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1.27 **Judy Garland:** I sing and dance and try and put on a good show, but I am definitely not a murderess. Jerry was a big fan of mine. He liked "Somewhere Over The Rainbow". Would you like to hear me sing it?

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1.29 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_ (*except Bette Davis*): Bette Davis is known for her "bitchy" roles. Maybe her bad behavior found an outlet in murder this time.

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## ACT ONE CONTINUED

1.22 **Janis Joplin:** I have brought my electric guitar along. If you're lucky I might play and sing for you later on.

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1.24 **Judy Garland:** Janis – you're cheating. But I suppose you can't help being a cheat at cards. You're just gutter material and cheating is part of your makeup. I just can't see how anyone like you – with a raspy barbwire voice and all – could possibly have become famous as a singer.

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1.26 **Patsy Cline:** Can't we put on some country music? Wouldn't everyone like me to sing "Lovesick Blues"?

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1.28 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_ (*except Patsy, Judy, Janis & Ginger*): Did you hear Patsy, the cowgirl, offering to sing? And Judy and Janis too? And Ginger offering to dance? Sounds like they still think everyone's still "Crazy" about them. Their egos are as big as John Wayne's ten-gallon hat. People with egos like theirs think they can get away with anything – even murder.

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1.30 **Bette Davis:** That's not true. I'm a nice person once you get to know me. I think Jerry thought he was doing the right thing, but sometimes, he'd poked into other people's private affairs when it was none of his business to do so.

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1.31 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_ (*except Judy, Patsy or Lucy*): Judy Garland is a bit flashy, but she does have a good voice. Although I don't like Patsy Cline's music, she's a real showman. But that Lucille Ball – she's the one I don't trust. She looks like a murderer to me.

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1.33 **Lucille Ball:** Janis – so you're the Queen of Rock 'n Roll? What is the currency in your Kingdom? Records? How many records does it cost for a loaf of bread?

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1.35 **Lucille Ball:** Well, anyone who talks about being a ball and chain and about giving people a piece of their heart, sounds a bit confused to me. I just wanted to check you weren't going to return me to my maker like you did Jerry?

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1.37 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_: Jerry Oilman didn't like bats. In fact, he hated them. That is why he collected dead, stuffed bats. It was his revenge for when a bat spat undigested fruit on him while he was visiting the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne, Australia.

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1.39 **Janis Joplin:** Hey – peace man. Not death. Rock 'n Roll, not Patsy Cline. Love not war. That's what it's all about. Shame about Jerry dying at his own party. Not that I had any time for the man. He was the kind of guy who liked to appear hip but then he said nasty things about you later. He was a hip-o-crit – quite the opposite to a hip-critter. I 'spect he only invited me so he'd look hip.

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1.32 **Judy Garland:** I had hoped to use this party as an opportunity to speak to Jerry about the financial nightmare he has created for my husband and I. But I suppose I won't get to talk to him now. I've missed my opportunity. I guess I'll just have to carry on singing for my supper.

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1.34 **Janis Joplin:** What sort of questions are those? Are you also making fun of me?

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1.36 **Janis Joplin:** (*getting angry say*) I find that offensive. You need to apologize. I think you've got a screw loose and if you keep on saying things like that to people you'll end up with a bad case of the "Kozmic Blues".

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1.38 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_: Yes I heard they have about 4000 bats in the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne, Australia, with the number swelling to 8000 during April. Some people now want to cull the number of bats because they think they are destroying the gardens and deterring visitors.

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1.40 **Patsy Cline:** I don't condone violence of any sort and I am not the kind of woman that murders. I'm just a sweet God-fearing country gal at heart.

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## CELEBRITY CELEBRATIONS

1.41 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_: I wonder if Jerry's ghost will come to haunt us. He must be furious to be dead. From what I have overheard lately he was just about to clinch a deal that would have made him lots more money.

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1.43 **Host** \_\_\_\_\_: I'm sick of all this morbid talk. Why don't we pretend we're around a campfire and have a sing-a-long? *(Get all the famous singers to sing a few bars from one of their songs. Or play the compilation tape and have them mime along to their songs. If there isn't time, just get them to sing their song to their immediate neighbors.)*

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## ACT ONE CONTINUED

1.42 **Anyone** \_\_\_\_\_: Jerry wanted to be around to make sure his son makes the right decisions about his future. Maybe the house will become a real haunted Mansion.

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1.44 **Rita Hayworth**: I'd like you to all to quit singing. It's like a bunch of chickens in the chicken coop. I was expecting a much better class of person at this party. I'm not just an actress after all. I became a Princess when I married Aly Khan. I don't know why Jerry invited peasants like Janis. Now he's dead, I'll never know.

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