

You are invited to come out to the Annual Hickleberry County Fair! Several of the county's most hilarious and notorious people are getting together for a memorable and suspenseful evening of home-cookin', good music, and a mystery to solve that is sure to knock your socks off! Memories will be made, but not all will be so sweet as Mrs. Witherspoon's prize-winning cherry pies. You see, the rumor is there's been a murder...

Please come to the home of		_ at	_o'clock
on the night of	at this address		
R.S.V.P. to			

You will play the role of Ida Witherspoon.

You are a legend in Hickeberry County, also well-known across the state for your record-winning pies and quilts. You brag about your accomplishments and are quite talkative. Your husband is the town's most successful farmer, Jake Witherspoon. You love to tell people what you think they should do, and you constantly use the phrase, "As I always say.." followed by a well-known cliché such as "What goes around, comes around," and any others you can think of. When people are talking around you, eavesdrop on them. Claim to be hard-of-hearing in one ear, but switch ears throughout the night, especially when it isn't particularly flattering! You're also superstitious, especially susceptible to the fortune teller's information.

Costume Suggestion: Wear your hair long and straight or back in a braided bun, curlers, kercheif or otherwise older 'do. Do not wear much make-up unless it is to make yourself look older. Wear a flour-stained apron over a conservative dress with pearls, and/or a brooch on your blouse/dress. Bring an empty flask or other alcoholic beverage bottle filled with water, and do not take it out until instructed during the evening.

Be sure to visit <u>www.suppersleuths.com</u> to learn about the other characters who will attend, and for more helpful resources to prepare for the occasion!



IDA WITHERSPOON PLAYER BOOKLET AND SECRET CLUE

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

This room is full of murder suspects – and you are one of them! You must try to figure out who the murderer is tonight, by both accusing your fellow players and also trying to convince everyone else that you are innocent.

This game has four rounds, each round revealing new pieces of information about each character. Do not turn the page in your player's booklet until the host tells you to do so.

On the top of each page is information you are to share with the whole group. You can either ad lib or read directly from the page, but make sure that before moving on to the next round, you share all information on the top of each page with the whole group.

On the bottom of the page, you will see hidden information about your character. Do not reveal this information until you think it is the appropriate time. You may not lie if someone asks you about this information, but you do not need to offer incriminating evidence about yourself without a direct question. However, if you find out that you are the murderer, DO NOT TELL! If asked about it, you should say, "I am not aware of that information at this time," or just lie if you have to. Likewise, if someone asks you a question you do not know the answer to, just say, "I am not aware of that information at this time." The murderer is the only one permitted to lie at any time in this game.

There are also 8 secret clues that different players will reveal throughout the night. Make sure you do not look at your clue until your player's booklet tells you to look at it and pass it around to the group. When that time comes, just detach it and pass it around. You may also use the next page to take notes throughout the evening.

At the start of the game, the killer is not aware of his or her identity – it could even be you! Be suspicious of everyone's motives, and remain in character throughout the evening. After dessert, you will be given a chance to make your accusation. You may accuse any player of being the killer, including yourself. However, you must give evidence from the clues, and again, DO NOT TELL if the booklet says you are the killer! Have fun!

LIST OF CHARACTERS

Chester Finkowski – An Elvis impersonator who absolutely obsesses over his belief that "the King" is still alive, well and returning soon. Mr. Presley here may be in disguise for a reason deeper than rock and roll!

Madame Mona Soothini - A gypsy who makes her fortune selling yours, Mme Soothini is sure to attend the fair every year, but she can't be found as the fairgrounds close. Why she rushes off and where she goes is not clear, even when viewed through her crystal.

Travis Buckland – This handsome stud rides like he's got nothing to lose. He seems like a good of boy, just lookin' for thrills, but can a guy this reckless be trusted? Is he just talking bull?

Tiffany Ann Canterway – This sophisticated, attractive and arrogant horsewoman is a 4H snob and owner of Canterway Stables, the largest equestrian site in the whole county. She has participated in fundraising for the fair for years, but when she doesn't get her way, how long will her short fuse...and funding last?

J.L. Mackabee – This trucker loves a good county fair and has been to this one for the past 14 years. J.L. may look like any wide-eyed country kin of yours, but when he's on the road and on the radio, he's mixin' with all kinds. Some say he used to be in jail.

Ida Witherspoon - As a farmer's wife and notorious town gossip, Ida is the reigning quilting and cherry-berry pie champ in the county. Mrs. Witherspoon seems to have no real competition for the blue ribbon this year...so why has she been such an "old bitty" lately?

William B. Lackhart – Local mayor, Lackhart, feels the pressure to please all and to have a good fair each year. But whether he also plays fair to get votes is still out at the polls.

Cindy Sue Sweetly – Last year's "Berry-Beauty" queen, this year Cindy reluctantly passed her crown onto another young girl. She wears that flashy smile wherever she goes but some say that she never smiles when she doesn't know who's there.

**UTES		

APPETIZERS

SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE GROUP AFTER J.L. MACKABEE.

Hello all. Well, just for the formality, my names Ida Witherspoon though I am quite sure you all know that already. I'm here, guessing because they want someone who knows the townsfolk as good as I do. I've lived in Hickleberry County my whole life and anyone who asks me my age is going to get my rollin' pin across his or her head (laugh). But seriously folks I am proud to say I am once more the reigning Blue Ribbon winner in the categories of quilting and pies, so it looks like that old bitty Thelma Caraway is going to have to wait another year to see me lose (put hands up to mouth and giggle). It's a shame we'll have to get on with new judges next year, what with some of them now murder suspects and another of 'em dead. Speaking of, I am terribly sad about Roy! That man was so kind and good-hearted. Wouldn't have hurt a flea and boy did he ever have good taste. Oh, and one more thing. I'm a trifle deaf in one ear so kindly speak up if you'd like to talk to me.

HIDDEN INFORMATION: (Do not share until you feel it's necessary.)

An hour or so before he was killed, Roy asked you to meet him out back while the fireworks were going on, so he could "give something to you in private." Don't 'fess up to either ear for your "deaf" ear. It's a fun card to play, so just distract others if anyone asks.

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Do NOT turn the page until your host allows.

Soup/Salad

SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE GROUP AFTER J.L MACKABEE.

Madame Mona, I am so glad to be in your Madame's presence tonight. You have given me much to hope for and much to think about. I hope this wise woman can help us all out. Mona, who do you believe killed the auctioneer? (Don't wait long for an answer).

(Butt in again) I've got my eye on that City Slicker over there (point your rolling pin or finger at J.L.) but I'm also not a big fan of that Cindy Sue. I don't think it's natural for a person to smile like she does. It's like she's got something to hide, and from what I've gathered in the town, she isn't smiling when no one's around.

HIDDEN INFORMATION: (Do not share until you feel it's necessary.)

You hoped Roy called you back behind the port-a-jons so that he would give you a trinket of some sort, as you have always hoped he liked you. Since you are both married, you had never told him how much you liked him. Instead, however, he brought back a recipe card you tried to bribe him with, and said he did not want any part of your scandal to win the blue ribbon. You were fuming mad at him, and after the discussion was terminated, you stormed off in a hurry.

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DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL YOUR HOST ALLOWS.

MAIN COURSE

SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE GROUP AFTER J.L. MACKABEE.

Well, I believe this is the best timing to bring out "a hunk a hunk a burning' love." I happen to be very close with the auctioneer's wife and she has confided to me, knowing what a very private person I am. I printed out her recent email of course so I could show it to Gus, (the groundskeeper), and he and I sure had a hoot! Our Chester over here is a real Don Juan! He's all but asked for a married woman's hand! Did he plan to end the auctioneer's life so they could make a break for Sin City? Have a look, everyone! (Read your clue and show to the group).

HIDDEN INFORMATION: (Do not share until you feel it's necessary.)

You used to be a horrible cook, and your husband threatened you with divorce if you didn't make him "a proud southern farmer." You took culinary arts classes from the local community college and saved your marriage, while also pawning the teacher's recipes off as your own for all of these years! You are finally online, so whenever you are asked for recipes ideas, you get some off of the Internet. Your favorite pastime is not cooking but gossiping, along with the groundskeeper of the fairgrounds, Gus Lavoni. He seems easily impressed him with tidbits of useless information, and your husband isn't fond of your company. You act sweet as pie but you're also enjoying swigs of whisky in that cup of yours. (Pretend to be secretive about it, but go ahead and start slipping some of the water from your flask or bottle into your cup throughout the night).

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DESSERT

SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE GROUP AFTER THE MAYOR READS.

I don't believe for a moment that y'all are accusing this wonderful woman, Mona of doing anything wrong. Of course she ran from the law! The law wasn't savvy enough to know that she probably saved a man's life by telling him to defend himself. She should be honored and just for you, Mona, I am going to stitch you up a real pretty blue ribbon of your own as soon as I can get to my crocheting needles. I swear, a person feels just lost without them!

As I always say, all's well that ends well. I believe everyone here knows that I am a woman of many gifts and talents and have no business killing' off anyone, especially someone who loved my cooking and quilting the way Roy did. I am sad for that man's wife. God help her through her sad feelings, especially with those huge credit card bills I heard she rung up over at Dillany's Jewelry. As I always say, "You CAN have too much of a good thing."

HIDDEN INFORMATION: (Do not share until you feel it's necessary.)

When you are accused of bribing for votes, use your "hearing problem" as much as you can to stall, and then defend yourself for "sharing" your abundance of food. Something to the effect of, "Oh, haste makes waste as I always say," or "Jake and I think it's the right trade off if I'm slaving over the animals and in the kitchen, to at least get my due reward of more blue ribbons. As I always say, if momma ain't happy, ain't nobody happy!"

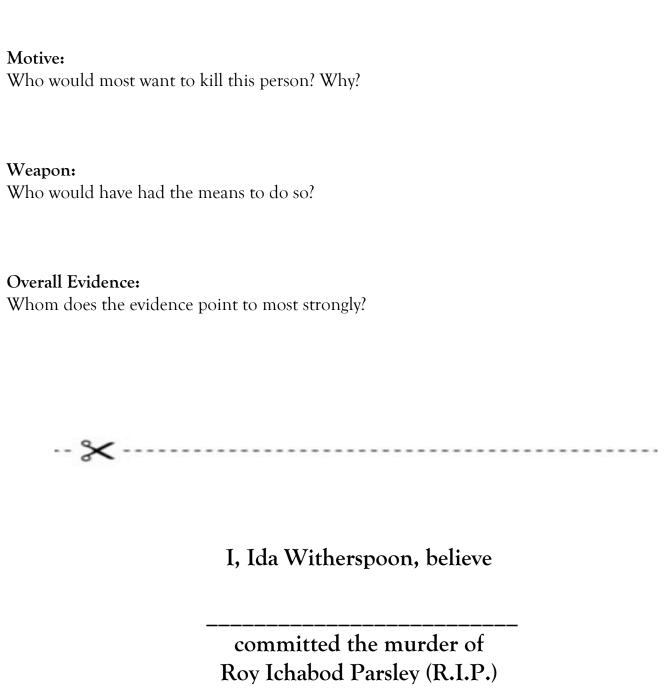
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SOLVE THE MYSTERY

Take a few moments to think through the following questions, look over your notes, and decide for yourself who committed the murder. There are a lot of crooked guests here, but only one is the murderer!



RIME SCENE DU NUI L SECRET CLUE FOR

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POLICE COPY

DO NOT RELEASE WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION UNDER PENALTY OF LAW

From: brownhairedbeauty@kenswick.com

Subject: Read this ASAP!!!

To: cookingqueen@rabblingmeadow.com

lda,

You have to read this! What do you think? Could this be destiny giving me a second chance?!!!

Note: forwarded message attached.

----Original Message-----

From: the kingnumber1@tributearteests.com

Subject: "Return to Sender"

To: brownhairedbeauty@kenswick.com

Dear Mrs. Parsley (soon to be Presley;)

Are you lonesome tonight? I'm thinking about you nonstop lately. That night we almost kissed was the best night of my life, darlin! I want you, I need you, I love you! Let me be your teddy bear, baby. I am so glad you like my music. What do you say we get outta here and go to the promised land. Viva Las Vegas! Come on and love me tender. We could be checked in at Heartbreak Hotel by tomorrow night if we leave now. I know you're a married woman but I can't help falling in love with you.

Yours, Chester