

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...

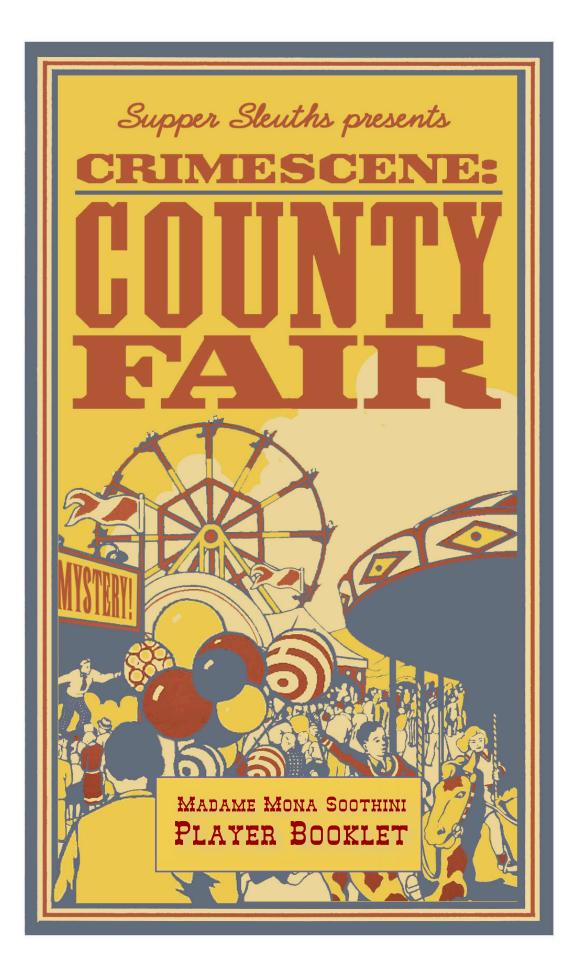
| Please come to the home of |                 | ato'clock |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| on the night of            | at this address |           |
| R.S.V.P. to                |                 |           |

You will play the role of Madame Mona Soothini.

As an eccentric gypsy, you are proud, bold, and opinionated. You allude to an Italian heritage but your actual roots are smack in the middle of the Bronx, NY. Have fun with this combination accent and allow your complete NYC chords to come out at will. Be vague about your current living arrangements. You make silly and bogus prophecies throughout the night. Get mad and curse people with funny hexes that rhyme when you are accused. For example, something like "Weega weega mee, a rat you'll be!"

**Costume Suggestion:** You should wear a shawl over a blouse and an ornamental skirt (or patterned dress) and a bunch of cheap jewelry. If we could describe your outfit in one word it would be "gaudy." Wear long brightly colored fingernails and heavy makeup, with dark eye shadow. Wear a scarf or handkerchief on your head. A fake mole on your face would be a most exquisite touch as would skin bronzer for a darker complexion. You could also use an old snow globe for a crystal ball, and use that in your act, though it's not a must.

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!



# MADAME MONA SOOTHINI 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 ol' 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.

# NOTES

# APPETIZERS

## SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE GROUP AFTER MAYOR B. LACKHART.

Greetings fellow sojourners! We are all traveling in this great BIG world we call earth, and I have been, how to do you say in America...commissioned, to help each of you along your journey to truth and peace. I am Madame Mona Soothini and I have a specialty in showing people their Destiny!

(Softly) I am getting very spiritual and pure vibes from you gentlemen here tonight.....an aura of mystery and enchantment. (Louder) You women, as I shall not say ladies, shame on you, you have acted deceitfully and tonight you shall be undone!

I work here at the lovely Hickleberry County Fair, as a fortune teller. I am in touch with many spirits as you have just heard me testify, and have seen many of *you* as clients in the recent past. If I can assist the police in any way to find the killer tonight, I will do my part. I am often called upon in such dangerous situations, as I only use my special powers for good things. I am also here to sample the delicious cuisine, which reminds me of the old country, Palermo, quite a bit. Mange! Mange! (Pronounced Mahnja, Mahnja)

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

Ida Witherspoon is a regular client of yours, and she is an exception to your distrust for women. Instead of seeing her as competition, you view her as a pathetic old spinster who is a pushover for spending the extra buck on a good fortune or more often, a juicy piece of gossip from someone else's life which you readily supply to her for easy cash!

And one more note, not only are you from the Bronx, but you do not speak Italian, and you are not Italian at all. Your family is as American as one could be!

MADAME MONA SOOTHINI



# SOUP/SALAD

### SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE GROUP AFTER TRAVIS.

As I said, I am very glad to help solve the murder trial and the now the horse robbery, although my crystal ball has seen better days. Such a tragedy! (sigh) The auctioneer was a fine man, a friend and one of my best clients. But I warned him. I saw grave danger in his near future and told him not to venture off by himself, to watch his behind...and such a cute behind it was too! I don't know which of you ladies could have wielded him with your own seductive powers, but I don't trust you at all. A chant for the group,

(Raise hands as if casting a spell or making prophecy.) "Not to trust the foolish girls for danger lurks and dark clouds whirl!"

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

You are not in this business because of anything even remotely related to goodness, truth, or a desire to help. In NYC, you were a successful fortune teller, robbing everyone you could by telling them enticing and exciting lies. Your wild imagination got carried away a few years ago and you told a client that they would either need to "Kill or get killed." Well, they killed and you got word that you would be prosecuted as an accomplice. No one knows any of this, except the auctioneer (your boss), who recently confronted you with a copy of your felony (that nosy Internet crime report!) and demanded answers! Keep the heat off yourself and on other characters especially Travis and Cindy Sue.

MADAME MONA SOOTHINI



# MAIN COURSE

#### SHARE WITH THE GROUP BEFORE ANYONE ELSE.

To Elvis/Chester: I love your name, and hmmm.. a nickname, "Chest-Hair." It is a full and beautiful mane you have, and I long to run my fingers through it. I see innocence in your life, and (grab his hand) a long prosperous life with an Italian beauty in it. Travis is just jealous, and he will grow out of this youthful passion when he is your age. I believe you have all been fooled by this youthful studhorse. Some may not know it but he also moonlights as a rodeo clown. He's desperate for money, and when he was riding last night, I saw something fall out of his pocket. After everyone left, thinking it was money, which I would have returned of course, I was disappointed to find a horseracing ticket stub. It looks like Mr. Buckland owed \$2,500 dollars for betting on the wrong horse. Too bad, Travis, you should have asked for my insights on the winner for only \$29.95. I do know one more thing, because of the auctioneer confiding in me. Believe me if you wish, but Roy told me that this Slim Jim owed him a good couple thousand. I think Mr. Desperado got one debt off his back very easily. Show the group your clue.

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

You live in a cheap motel a few towns away and have your things all packed to skip town forever! The auctioneer threatened to fire you from the fair this year after he caught wind of your felony. He confronted you last week and gave you only one week to come up with a police report clearing you, or he was turning you in.

MADAME MONA SOOTHINI



# DESSERT

#### SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE GROUP AFTER EVERYONE ELSE.

My past haunts me as does my accent from the Bronx! I don't feel so good....I think it was those greasy entrees, as I am used to choice delectables! I want all of you trying to solve this murder to understand that my innocence is revealed in the skies! My friend Roy's blood cries out of my innocence and I appeal you to look at the vixens here to find the jealous, lying killer! (Point menacingly to Travis and Cindy Sue and say...) "A weega, weega mee, a rat you'll be, if you mess with Soothini!"

#### HIDDEN INFORMATION: (SHARE WHEN YOU ARE ACCUSED OF RUNNING FROM THE LAW.)

"I do not believe the fates have brought these stories against me yet again.....I can't seem to get away from the minor details of the past ----Wait, I hear a summons from the afterlife! (In a deeper voice) It is me, Roy Ichabod Parsley and I tell you that Madame Soothini is an innocent and beautiful woman...do I hear 5, 10, 15, how 'bout 20, 25?"

#### MADAME MONA SOOTHINI



# 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!

Motive:

Who would most want to kill this person? Why?

Weapon: Who would have had the means to do so?

**Overall Evidence:** Whom does the evidence point to most strongly?



I, Mona Soothini, believe

committed the murder of Roy Ichabod Parsley (R.I.P.)

# RIVE SCENE DUNU SECRET ELUE FOR Mona Soothini

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