



DEATH BY DEPRECIATION

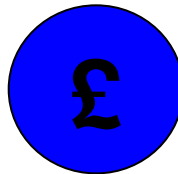
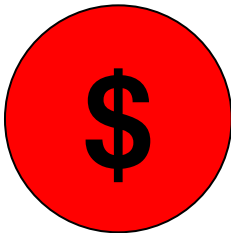
GAME BOOKLET

KEY FACTS

No of People ¹	11-16
% of Successful Solvers	45%
Adult Content Rating	5/10
Price	£19.95

FILES

Instructions PDF File – 1 MB
Invitations PDF Files – 12 MB
Character Booklets PDF File – 5 MB
Clues, Questions, Mystery Witness & Confession PDF File – 3 MB



¹ This game can be played with more people by enlarging the Investigation Panel. However this will result in each Investigator having fewer questions to ask. But everyone can still attempt to solve the murder.



You are invited to help solve the
"DEATH BY DEPRECIATION"
MURDER MYSTERY

On: _____

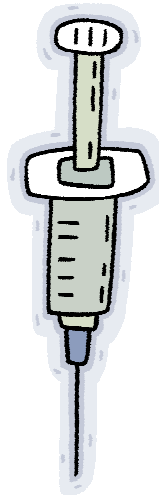
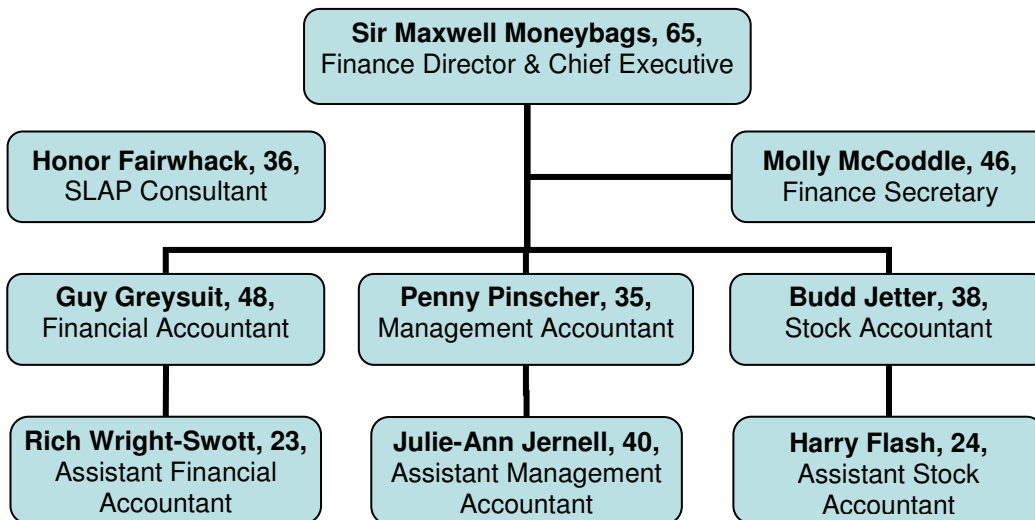
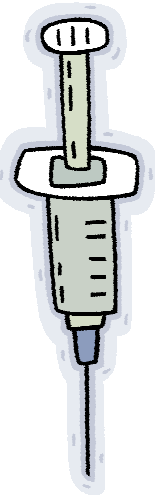
Location: _____

Time: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

RSVP

Sir Maxwell Moneybags, avaricious Finance Director of Phatal Pharmaceuticals, has been found murdered. Poisoned in his afternoon cup of tea. But who in the finance hierarchy decided to write him off!



One of the above bumped off the boss. You are invited to assist:

Inspector Shilling
Top Scotland Yard Detective

To discover

Whodunit!



BACKGROUND

THE COMPANY

Phatal Pharmaceuticals develop, manufacture and sell medicines. Although a considerable size, they are still owned by private shareholders. Rumours suggest that their great business rivals, Charismatic Chemicals Ltd, have been approaching shareholders with a view to taking over the company.



THE VICTIM

Sir Maxwell was both Chief Executive and Finance Director of the company. The last surviving founder member of the company, he controlled a significant amount of the company shares. He gained his title after making several large donations to his favourite political party.

Lady Maxwell died just over two years ago. Sir Maxwell unexpectedly remarried a very short time later. The new Lady Maxwell, a former glamour model, is half Sir Maxwell's age. Preoccupied with his new wife, Sir Maxwell allowed his hand on the company tiller to slip. It is believed several members of staff have taken advantage of this. However the recent threat of a takeover by Charismatic Chemicals caused Sir Maxwell to vigorously renew his interest in the business. To certain staff members dismay...



CRIME SCENE

Sir Maxwell's body was discovered by independent SLAP Consultant Honor Fairwhack on Friday afternoon at 3.15pm. Ms Fairwhack, who is working on a project for Sir Maxwell, had gone into Sir Maxwell's office to have her weekly expenses signed off. Initial autopsy results state that Sir Maxwell met his death from an overdose of "Heart Humper", a new medicine designed to strengthen the beat of a weak heart. Sir Maxwell enjoyed robust health and his own heart was perfectly sound.

A bottle of "Heart Humper" medicine was standing on Sir Maxwell's desk. An empty tea cup was also found on Sir Maxwell's desk, and the dregs of this were found to contain Heart Humper.

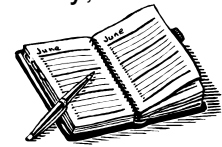


THE FATAL CUP OF TEA

Sir Maxwell's long serving secretary, Molly McCoddle, declares that, as usual, she made Sir Maxwell's tea at 2.30pm and took it to him in his office. Sir Maxwell was then conducting a performance review meeting with Stock Accountant Budd Jetter. The meeting is said to have ended violently.

Management Accountant Penny Pinscher declares that she went into a meeting with Sir Maxwell at 2.40pm, and saw Sir Maxwell drink his tea. She left him at 2.50pm and admits that by the end of the meeting he did seem somewhat comatose. But as it had been a budget meeting, she did not think this unusual. He was found sprawled over his desk, dead, by Honor Fairwhack at 3.15pm. Heart Humper is a very new drug, but experts say this scenario is consistent with an overdose being consumed in the tea.

All members of the finance department, apart from Molly, Budd and Penny, deny having been anywhere near the tea.



SIR MAXWELL'S SCHEDULE

Using Sir Maxwell's diary on the SLAP computer system and witness statements, Inspector Shilling has recreated Sir Maxwell's schedule for the day of his death. It appears his day was an eventful one...

MORNING

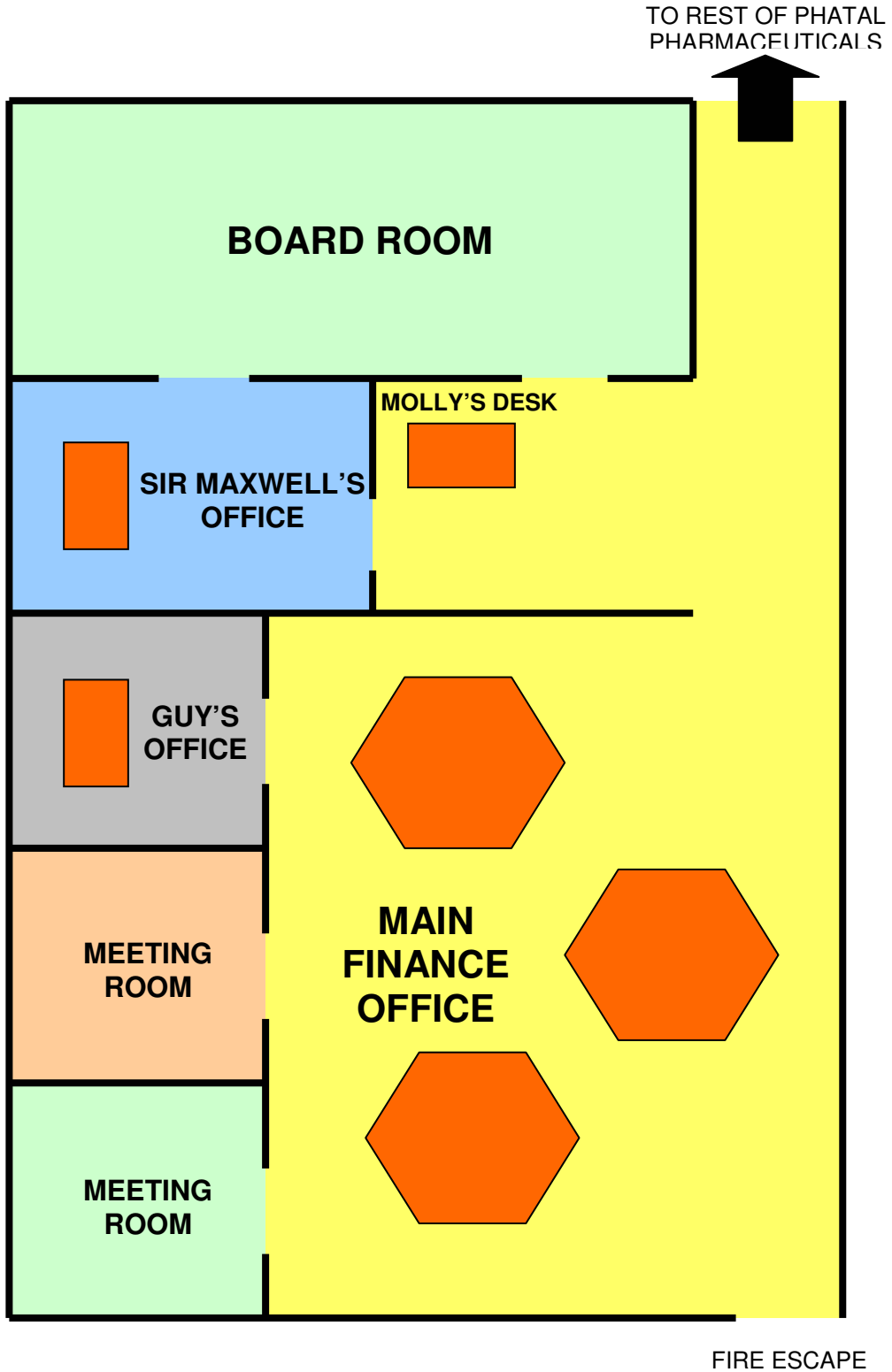
09.00-09.30	Business meeting with Christian Charisma of Charismatic Chemicals. Meeting ended with Sir Maxwell threatening to have Mr Charisma evicted by site security..
09.30-10.00	Sir Maxwell's regular Friday morning update meeting with Guy Greysuit. Sir Maxwell observed yawning repeatedly.
10.00-11.00	Performance Review meeting with Penny Pinscher. Penny observed leaving meeting looking very upset.
11.00-12.00	Meeting with Honor Fairwhack and Julie-Ann Jernell. Both refuse to state purpose of meeting.

AFTERNOON

13.45-13.55	Harry Flash ordered into Sir Maxwell's office. Loud argument overheard. Harry seen coming out of encounter very red in face and swearing.
13.55-14.35	Performance Review meeting with Budd Jetter. Meeting said to have ended prematurely. Budd overheard kicking rubbish bin and shouting "I'm not sure if I want to work for a twat like you anyway!"
14.40-14.50	Penny Pinscher called into Sir Maxwell's office. Observed leaving meeting blinking away tears.
15.15	Body discovered by Honor Fairwhack.

On the day of the murder all other finance staff were offsite on an all day SLAP training course. Inspector Shilling, who is convinced that the motive for the crime is work related, is therefore sure that Sir Maxwell's killer is one of the eight finance professionals who were present in the office that Friday.

MAP OF PHATAL PHARMACEUTICAL FINANCE DEPARTMENT



THE CHARACTERS

The final page of each invitation will inform the recipient of the character that you would like them to play, along with a detailed description of that character's background. So you know the kind of roles that you will have to assign to your guests, copies of those backgrounds are reproduced here.

MOLLY MCCODDLE, 46,

Finance Department Secretary

You are secretary to the finance department. You have been Sir Maxwell's secretary for many years. Your keen brain and memory for faces made you invaluable to him, and it is rumoured that it is really your business acumen and behind the scenes management that catapulted Sir Maxwell into being a success. You were a great friend of Sir Maxwell's late wife and you are also an old friend of Guy Greysuit, Phatal Pharmaceutical's long serving (and somewhat boring) Financial Accountant.

When Phatal Pharmaceuticals implemented the SLAP computer system, you formed part of the implementation team

HONOR FAIRWHACK, 36,

Independent SLAP Consultant

Having worked for many years with the computer system SLAP (Sales, Logistics & Accounting Package), you have recently set up your own consultancy business, Superslappers Ltd. You and your staff go out to businesses and implement versions and upgrades of SLAP. Money is your God and setting up your own business is just another step to your ultimate ambition of retiring at 40.

You are very much into power dressing and can be very autocratic in your dealings with others. Some people call you hard-faced. You are very unforgiving in nature and will try to avenge anyone who has done you an injury.

You are working on a long term project at Phatal Pharmaceuticals to sort out some bugs in the SLAP system.

BUDD JETTER, 38,

Stock Accountant

You are the Stock Accountant at Phatal Pharmaceuticals, where your assistant is Harry Flash. Brash is the word that best describes you. Always showily dressed, you hurl yourself at the ladies, sweeping them off their feet with champagne and weekends in Paris. But you are very fickle, and you have a new woman on your arm every month. Apart from this you are quite good natured, though when you do lose your temper you can be explosive! Being unfairly accused for anything always makes you see red.

Several times recently you have fallen asleep while at work! You have concluded this is a combined result of your womanising ways taking a toll on you, and having to work with Guy Greysuit, the most boring man on earth!

HARRY FLASH, 24,

Assistant Stock Accountant

You are the Assistant Stock Accountant at Phatal Pharmaceuticals, where your manager is Budd Jetter. You are very sharp. Some would say too sharp. You are known as Flash Harry, as you like wearing ostentatious symbols of wealth and are a bit of a “Jack the Lad”. You chose the accountancy profession merely as a means to making a lot of money. You have precious little interest in the subject itself.

You enjoy a flutter on the horses, and your regular lunchtime reading is “Hot Riders”, a men’s magazine that combines racing tips with pictures of hot babes!

You are studying to become a member of COMA – The Chartered Organisation of Management Accountants.

GUY GREYSUIT, 48,,

Financial Accountant

Along with your old friend Molly McCoddle, you are one of the longest serving employees at Phatal Pharmaceuticals. Your seniority has resulted in you having your own office. You are the company's Financial Accountant and your assistant is Rich Wright-Swott. Punctual for every meeting and always predictable, you epitomise the general public's idea of an accountant in that you are well paid but colourless and not very interesting! Your wife recently came to the same conclusion, and walked out and left you.

You spent the day of the murder working from home, although you came to the office first thing for your regular Friday morning update meeting with Sir Maxwell.

You have an addiction to fizzy drinks, and usually need about five cans of coke to see you through the working day!

RICH WRIGHT-SWOTT, 23,

Assistant Financial Accountant

A mathematics graduate from Oxford university, you are now the Assistant Financial Accountant at Phatal Pharmaceuticals, reporting to Guy Greysuit. An academically bright young man, you have a very high opinion of yourself. You are also a bit of a snob, and do not like the fact that Harry Flash, who you see as socially inferior, seems to be doing better than yourself.

You enjoy dabbling in stocks and shares. You also run the finance department's lottery syndicate.

You have been very stressed recently, having twice failed to meet a deadline for a presentation on the launch of "Phatal Breath Freshener" that Sir Maxwell had requested.

You are studying to become a member of COMA – The Chartered Organisation of Management Accountants.

PENELOPE PINSCHER, 35,

Management Accountant

You are the Management Accountant at Phatal Pharmaceuticals, where your assistant is the newly appointed Julie-Ann Jernell. You are originally from Germany, where you once worked for the company who created SLAP, an all inclusive business reporting system. You also worked for the “Gross Bratwurst Kompanie” (Big Sausage Company) and “Munich Auto Manufaktur” (Munich Car Manufacturers).

For reasons you do not wish to disclose, you decided to move to the United Kingdom. You are a very competent accountant, and are known throughout Phatal Pharmaceuticals as Penny Pincher, due to the way you are always cutting other department’s budgets.

You are a diabetic..

JULIE-ANN JERNELL, 40,

Assistant Management Accountant

A former Loss Prevention Accountant, you gave up full time work to start a family. However now that the youngest of your children has started primary school, you have returned to the workplace. You began work at Phatal Pharmaceuticals two weeks ago. You are assistant to Management Accountant Penelope Pinscher.

The Finance Department at Phatal Pharmaceuticals is certainly very different to anywhere else you have ever worked. You feel affairs are conducted in a very slapdash method, and you are not sure whether you will be staying!

INSPECTOR SHILLING

Ex-Fraud Squad Detective

You are Inspector Shilling of New Scotland Yard. A first class detective, for many years you were one of the star performers on the Serious Fraud Squad. Your nimble mental agility meant that you were easily able to keep up with the twists and turns of the felonious financiers, aberrant accountants and swindling stockbrokers that came your way. Most of them are enjoying her majesty's hospitality in prison.

Recently you fancied a change and joined the murder squad. But fate has not been kind to you. Because of your previous role, it was decided that you were the ideal detective to head the investigation into the mysterious poisoning of Phatal Pharmaceutical's Financial Director. Once again you have been thrust into the heart of a financial mystery. Only this time you are on the track of an accountancy killer!

THE INVESTIGATION PANEL

A member of the finance department, you spent the day of the murder off site, attending a SLAP training course. You are therefore not a suspect in this murder. However Inspector Shilling is convinced that the motive for the murder is work related. Because of this, you have been asked to form part of an Investigation Panel. The Inspector feels that your knowledge and insights regarding the eight suspects will be invaluable in pinpointing the murderer.

You will be involved in questioning the suspects and discovering their secret histories and sordid secrets. You will also unearth clues which will help throw light on Sir Maxwell's mysterious murder. And you may be asked to temporarily take the part of a "mystery witness". These character turn up at unexpected moments during the game to offer astonishing, and (for the suspects) often unwelcome, evidence!

MYSTERY WITNESSES

Mystery Witnesses are characters who pop up for one round only. Played by members of the Investigation Panel, they usually offer unexpected (and often unwelcome) evidence! The mystery witnesses in this game are:

Christian Charisma – Head of Charismatic Chemicals Ltd

Jenny the Janitor – a window cleaner from facilities

Samantha Screw – in charge of site security

Dr Ripp Dem Oppein – autopsy expert

STAGES OF GAME

- Opening Speech
- Introductions
- Round 1 Preparations, Investigation & Summary
- Round 2 Preparations, Investigation & Summary
- Round 3 Preparations, Investigation & Summary
- Protestations of Innocence
- Accusations
- Denouement
- Confession

The game should take approximately 1½ to 2½ hours to play.

PURCHASE INFORMATION

All merrymurder games can be purchased online with a credit card.
Alternatively you can place your order online and then post a cheque.

DELIVERY INFORMATION

I aim to upload your game files to the merrymurder website and email you the link so that you can download them within 48 hours of receiving your order.
Usually it is within 24 hours.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM WWW.MERRYMURDER.COM

<p>CARDS ON THE TABLE 4-5 players Slaughtering spades, homicidal hearts, death dealing diamonds and killer clubs.</p>	<p>THE PUNGENT PUMPKIN POISONER 8-10 players An impromptu murder mystery. DOWNLOADABLE FREE</p>
<p>THE MURDER OF MRS WHYTE 8-13 players A horticultural murder mystery, inspired by a famous board game.</p>	<p>NATURAL PORN KILLERS 9-12 players A murder mystery set in the world of blue movies - Adults only.</p>
<p>TEN LITTLE VAMPIRES 10 players Ten little vampires going out to dine, one choked his little self and then there were nine</p>	<p>RANDY BUTT – RIP 10-13 players A fantastic gay murder mystery – Lechery, lust, and copping off – Adults only.</p>
<p>AN EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA 11-15 players An egg inspired murder. Who cracked open Sergei Shell's head at his Easter Fair?</p>	<p>DEATH BY DEPRECIATION 11-16 players An accountancy murder. Fatal finance, crooked accountants & murderous money.</p>
<p>SING A LONG A SOUND OF MURDER 11-17 players A murder mystery crossed with a musical. Who killed Herr Zealot, head of the Nazis?</p>	<p>THE WOMAN IN THE IRON MASK 12-16 players A French Revolution mystery. Louis XV's mistresses & musketeers solve a beheading.</p>
<p>THE WAKE FOR HUMPTY DUMPTY 12-16 players Did Humpty fall? Or was he pushed? No one in Nursery Rhyme Town is shedding tears.</p>	<p>THE MERRYMURDER PANTOCRIME 12-18 players A murder mystery crossed with a pantomime. Good magic, bad jokes and ugly sisters.</p>
<p>THE CUTTING IT KILLER 13-16 players Sexing up the salon. Hollywood hair styles. Drugs with the dyes. And much, much more!</p>	<p>SLAUGHTER AT THE CIRCUS 13-18 players A tale of sabotage, diamonds, insatiable passion, lions, red noses, tarot and carcasses.</p>
<p>MURDER AT THE NORTH POLE 14-18 players Father Christmas? Mrs Christmas? Rudolph? One North Pole resident is a heartless killer...</p>	<p>ORGY OF DEATH 16-20 players A Roman murder mystery – Has a sex game gone wrong or is it murder. Adults only.</p>

www.merrymurder.com

The other merrymurder games