A Murder Most Fowl

**Character List:**

Rodo

Attila

Psyduck

Step mom

Frank Sinatra

President

Scarlet Knight

Stevens Police Officers #1 and #2

Café extras 1,2,3

Members of the Bill and Feathers #1, #2, #3

Murdered Mother

Narrator

**Prop List:**

Knife (red, preferably)

Red feather

Police badges

A bed or some makeshift mattress or something

Scarlet Knight’s sword

Tall chair and a few other chairs.

Two “pictures” (could be anything)

Scene 1: Attila in a bakery

Attila (narration): So there I was, in Carlo’s (seedy/sketchy) bakery in downtown Hoboken talking to Frank Sinatra about clearing my father’s name. It’s a long story, but before I continue, let me tell you how I got here.

Scene 2: Bedroom

Rodo’s wife is sleeping in bed. The Scarlet Knight comes in, brandishing his large sword. He then stops to think for a moment, sets the sword down, takes a small knife out, showing it to the audience. Then he shrugs, throws the knife offstage, takes his sword, dramatically swings it over his head, and strikes the wife. She screams, then she’s dead. He takes a red feather, shows it to the audience, and then places it on the bed. He sneaks out of the room.

(Enter Stevens Police Officers #1 and #2)

Officer 1: We heard a scream! \*examines room, sees Rodo’s wife\* Rodo’s wife! She’s dead! \*more examining\* Look, this knife, next to a bloodstained feather! Rodo must have done this himself!

Officer 2: It seems we’re dealing with a murder…*most fowl.* (puts on sunglasses, dramatic chord) YEAHHHHHHHHHH. \*walks off stage\*

(Rodo enters from opposite side of stage, having been listening)

Rodo: They think I murdered my own wife! If I go in they’ll sentence me to a public roasting! I heard they even marinate with honey these days! If that happens, no one will be able to take care of my kids…I have to take them somewhere safe. \*runs off stage\*

Narrator: Rodo ran away with his 2 kids, Psyduck…

Psyduck: Psy……….duck.

Narrator: …and Attila. They stowed away on a boat to Europe, and they eventually ended up in Switzerland. Along the way Rodo met who would become his second wife. Together, they and the kids started a new, happy, successful life.

30 YEARS LATER

Scene 3: Attila and Rodo are sitting in a room.

Attila: We used to live in America, right?

Rodo: Yes we did, but you were too young at the time to remember.

Attila: Why did we leave?

Rodo: (sighs) Your mother, my first wife, was murdered in cold blood after I was stupid and arrogant as the Stevens Mascot at a football game. The opposing team’s mascot, the Scarlet Knight, was so mad he murdered my wife in cold blood, then framed me for the murder. There was no way I could prove my innocence so I ran with you and your brother. (Psyduck peeps in from offstage and goes “Psy……duck”)

Attila (outraged): How could you just leave without proving your innocence? Without getting justice for my mom?!

Rodo: Your safety was the most important thing to me. And look, we’ve made a happy life for ourselves here!

Attila: If you’re not gonna find justice for my mom, I’ll go back and do it myself! (waddlestomps offstage)

Rodo: (calling to Attila as he stomps away) No! It’s too dangerous!

Scene 4: Attila and his stepmom in the living room

Attila: I found out about my mom, and I want to prove dad’s innocence and get justice for her.

Stepmom: …I understand. I’m gonna miss you. Head for downtown Hoboken, New Jersey. Find Carlo’s Bakery, and ask for Frank. He’s a regular. Tell them who you are, and tell them I sent you.

Attila: I will. Thank you so much. (Flies out of window)

Scene 4.5: Attila flies slowly across the stage

Narrator: Attila went on to complete the world’s first transatlantic duck flight. It was a terrible struggle, filled with hardship and pain. Unfortunately there’s no time to show this, because the play can’t go on for 10 years. So, we’re going to skip to Attila reaching Hoboken.

Scene 5: Attila comes out of the Hudson River.

Attila: God, that river is filthy. I hope I can still have children in the future…

Scene 6: Carlo’s Bakery

Attila walks in and asks the person behind the counter for Frank.

(Frank saunters in, humming “New York, New York)

Frank (singing): Who’s asking?

Attila: My name is Attila. My dad’s name is Rodo, and his second wife’s name is—

Frank (singing): Woah woah woah. You had me at Rodo. He killed his wife, right?

Attila: No, he didn’t! He was falsely accused. The real culprit is the Scarlet Knight!

Frank (singing): I know just who you need to see. Come with me.

Scene 7: Attila and Frank walk into a room

Attila: where are we?

(Frank groovily walks offstage without giving an explanation)

(Optional quacking from offstage, the three members of the Bill and Feathers waddle onstage dramatically)

Leader: We’ve been expecting you. We know the truth about what happened, but could not do anything ourselves. You must confront the president and clear your father’s name.

Attila: Where can I find the president?

(Third member of the group takes off his hood and reveals that he is the president)

President: I am the president.

All on stage: (GASP)

Attila: Wait…what?!

President: I really believe in Rodo’s innocence, but to officially prove it, we have to con-duck (winks at audience)-t a formal trial. With you here in his absence, the trial can finally happen.

Scene 8: Courtroom (President is the judge, Attila is defense, and Officer #1 is prosecution)

President: Court is now in session for the case of Rodo the Duck. Is the defense ready?

Attila: Yes, Mr. President.

President: Is the prosecution ready?

Officer #1: Yes, Your Honor.

President: The prosecution will give its opening statement.

Officer #1: Yes, Your Honor. 60 years ago, Rodo’s wife was found dead in her bed. The only evidence left at the scene was a bloodstained feather, which clearly links Rodo to the crime. With no other evidence to go by, the only possible culprit is Rodo.

President: I see. Defense, your response?

Attila: I—I uh…He didn’t do it! He was framed!

Officer #1: Hah! Do you have any proof that that could have happened?

President: As much as I’d like to believe you Attila, without conclusive proof that could link someone else to the crime, you can’t just assert things like that.

Attila: I…uh…

President: (sighs) I’m afraid, with no new evidence to go on, I’m forced to declare the defendant, Rodo the duck, gui—

OBJECTION!

Attila: (GASPS, and looks out to the back of the theater)

Officer #1: (GASPS, and looks out to the back of the theater)

President: (GASPS, and looks out to the back of the theater)

(Frank Sinatra dramatically walks in from the back of the theater, then hops onto the stage)

Frank (dramatically singing): Has no one stopped to consider, the murder weaponnn?

(pause)

Officer #1: …uh, there wasn’t one found at the scene?

Frank (dramatically singing): But look at the injury! (shows picture)

Officer #1: What about it?

Frank (dramatically singing): Doesn’t that look like…a large sword?

Attila: Yeah, it does! And I can tell you whose sword inflicted that injury!

(Lights fade, narrator speaks)

Narrator: Attila indicted the Scarlet Knight, who was later proven guilty. Having found justice for his mother and having cleared his father’s name, Attila went on to become the new Stevens mascot—a role he held ever since. He’d love to pass it on to his children, but it turns out his little swim through the Hudson left him sterile, and thus unable to have children. He is happy with his new role in his life, and he knows his father, mother, and stepmom are all proud of him.

THE END