

MAVNE MYSTERIES VII: THE EMPIRE DUET

A one-shot mystery RPG for 2-5 in the RPG Detective v2.1 System, by Peter Hurford

Requirements

- Game Master familiar with this sheet
- 2-5 people who have never played this one shot before
- Time estimate: ~2hrs

Setting

- The time is 1904 in Toronto

Theatrical Description

- X

Exposition

- Mrs. Louise is set to be on trial tomorrow. The evidence of her being a murderer is unequivocal. Her fingerprints are on the knife that was plunged six times into the chest of her husband and the same weapon was discovered lying on her bedside the next morning. She claims to have no memory of these events. Her psychiatrist, Mrs. Laura French, claims she was experiencing a “fugue state” and had a prior history of disturbing fantasies of killing her husband by stabbing him repeatedly in the chest.
- Mrs. French was set to testify in court tomorrow but received a letter saying “You have condemned her. Mary Louise is innocent.”

Characters

- Mrs. Mary Louise, suspected murderer of Mr. Louise, wife of Mr. Louise, insane
- Mr. David Louise, business partner to Mr. Franks, husband to Mrs. Louise, deceased
- Mrs. Laura French, psychiatrist
- Mr. Isaac Franks, business partner to Mr. Louise
- Rodney Jackson, Empire Hotel clerk

Solution

- Mr. Louise and Mr. Franks were business partners. They signed an agreement that in the event of one of their deaths, all the company would go to the other.
- Mr. Franks supplied the money but Mr. Louise supplied the know-how.
- Mr. Louise conspired to murder Mr. Franks by pretending to be Mr. Franks and fleeing.

Indiscriminate Clue: The postcard has been sent from The Empire Hotel but has no identifying marks. It was postmarked the same day.

Indiscriminate Clue: The Empire Hotel provides the postcard complimentary to all guests, so it could've been sent by any guest or anyone passing through the lobby.

Indiscriminate Clue: A "Mrs. Madeline Louise" is on the hotel records as having checked in that night.

Indiscriminate Clue: "Mrs. Madeline Louise" checked out at 3am (in time for the murder).

Indiscriminate Clue: The bartender remembers Mrs. Louise meeting a man at the bar.

Important Indiscriminate Clue: Mrs. Louise and the man at the bar were wearing matching wedding rings.

Indiscriminate Clue: Mr. Franks and Mr. Louise were business partners. They moved to Toronto a few months ago to set up a tire factory. They bought an old mattress factory on Duffin Street and were in the process of converting it when Mr. Louise was killed.

Pointed Clue: Since Mr. Louise's death, Mr. Franks has been liquidating all of the business's assets.

Pointed Clue: Both Mr. Louise and Mr. Franks had signed an agreement stating that in the case of either man's death, all the assets of the business would accrue to the other.

Pointed Clue: The lawyer drafted the agreement at the request of Mr. Franks.

Pointed Clue: The agreement was drafted a week before Mr. Louise died.

Indiscriminate Clue: No one has ever met Mr. Franks - apparently he was a bit of a recluse.

Important Indiscriminate Clue: There's no city record of Mr. Franks or Mr. Louise - their identity is only established based on Mrs. Louise and "Mr. Franks".

Indiscriminate Clue: Mr. Franks brought the money to the arrangement and Mr. Louise brought the know-how.

Plot Point: As soon as the detectives are clue-ing in on Mr. Franks, he is found to have liquidated the business into bearer bonds and fled with his ill-gotten gains.