

# **Mauve Mysteries for 2-4!**

## **Episode V: The Curse of the Diamond**

### **A One-Shot RPG with the RPG Sleuth v2.1.1 System**

**by Peter William Hurford**

#### **Requirements**

- Game Master who is familiar with this sheet
- 2-4 people who have never played this one-shot before
- Character sheets for this specific RPG (see below)

#### **Setting**

- The time is 1894 in Toronto.

#### **Plot**

- For the past three weeks, the Toronto Constabulary have been receiving letters from Mr. Richland, a local independently wealthy man (**this is a clue**), warning that he would be murdered and demanding protection. However, repeated attempts at following up have lead to no elaboration on the circumstances (**clue**).
- Today, a letter arrived at the Constabulary from Mr. Richland, containing a really valuable diamond and a letter saying “I want to come clean so she finally can know” (**clue**).
- Also, at the same time, the Constabulary was called from Mrs. Richland, who is concerned that her husband has not left his room for the past day. Mr. McKinney also calls, concerned that Mr. Richland was not around for an urgent business meeting.
- ...
- Upon arrival at the scene, Mr. Richland is locked inside his own room. Mrs. Richland last saw him alive, entering his room, and never saw him leave.
- Mr. McKinney smashes the glass to the door and opens the door from the inside, revealing the key was still in the lock.
- Mr. McKinney is murdered, but the room had no windows or other exits, and the door had been locked the entire time.
- ...
- The murder was via poison, but the poison was fast-acting and had to have been consumed very recently.
- Mrs. Richland had been receiving several diamonds over time.

#### **Solution**

- A decade prior, Dr. McKinney and Mr. Richland had committed a grand heist from Garabaldi Jewlers, stealing \$377K in jewels. They then successfully laundered most of the money, but kept some of the jewels for themselves.

- Mr. Richland was having an affair with Ms. Pinsell, and had secretly agreed to give away all his wealth to her upon his death.
- Dr. McKinney knew that Mr. Richland would soon tell Ms. Pinsell about the secret of his wealth, and threatened to expose him to his wife to keep him quiet.
- Mr. Richland was fearful Mr. McKinney would murder him.
- Once Mr. Richland sent a letter to the Constabulary with the diamond, the murder was committed by Dr. McKinney, who wanted to finally prevent himself from being exposed.
- Dr. McKinney had murdered Mr. Richland earlier and left the scene, locking the door. Upon return, he palmed the key, broke the glass, and then unlocked the door using the key he had the entire time, making it appear as if locked from the inside.

## Characters

- Mr. Damien Richland, *deceased*
- Mrs. Paula Richland, *wife*
  - *role*: Red herring as “suspicious wife”
  - *characteristics*: overbearing, controlling
  - *means*:
  - *motive*: In debt, but Mr. Richland would not share his considerable finances.
  - *opportunity*: Presumably had a lot of access to the room, though there was only one key.
  - *alibi*: Was reading a book, alone.
  - clues
    - Was in considerable debt.
    - Had been receiving diamonds, but did not know what they were for or what their value was.
    - Mrs. Richland did not know about the letters that Mr. Richland was sending to the Constabulary.
- Mr. Franklin McKinney, *business partner*
  - *role*: The guy who did it.
  - *characteristics*:
  - *means*: Had knowledge of poisons from fighting in the Northwest Rebellion with Mr. Richland, was able to create the Locked Room illusion.
  - *motive*: Wanted to protect Mr. Richland from outing him.
  - *opportunity*: Was in the house in the morning and had access to the room.
  - *alibi*: Was on a business call with someone in Paris, is not able to produce a call or any logs to verify this.
- Ms. Samantha Pinsell, *housekeeper*
  - *role*: Macguffin, possible red herring.
  - *characteristics*:
  - *means*: None, really.

- *motive*: None, really.
- *opportunity*: Last person to be in Mr. Richland's room.
- *alibi*:
- *clues*
  - Knew of Mr. Richland's notes to the Constabulary (but not the diamond)
- Mr. Reid O'Mally, *groundskeeper*
  - *role*: Red herring
  - *characteristics*:
  - *means*: Used to be a pharmacist until fired, had knowledge of poisons
  - *motive*: Hated Mr. Richland
  - *opportunity*: None, really.
  - *alibi*: None, was outdoors tending the gardens when the murder occurred. Had the opportunity to slip inside, but the door would have been locked since the night before.
  - *clues*

#### **Clues for deducing that there was a heist.**

- Very ambiguously — the note ("I want to come clean so she finally can know")
- Very ambiguously — Mr. Richland's refusal to give details about the upcoming murder.
- Trivial investigation of the diamond reveals it's origin to be from Garabaldi Jewelers. A trivial follow-up reveals that there was a heist there a decade ago.

#### **Clues for deducing that Dr. McKinney and Mr. Richland had committed the heist together (conditional on knowing there was a heist).**

- Ambiguously — Mrs. Richland was receiving diamonds from another source. Tracing the mail reveals that the diamond received at the Constabulary was from Mr. Richland, but the diamonds received by Mrs. Richland were coming from somewhere else. So the heist had to have been completed by two different people, both of which who knew Mrs. Richland. Dr. McKinney is kind of the only other character that is good for it.
- **Holdout clue** — A search of Dr. McKinney's house turns up a cache of diamonds.
- **Holdout clue** — The symbol on the note can be, after a decent deal of work, traced to that of the Métis people, who were displaced in the recent War of Northwest Rebellion. Both Dr. McKinney and Mr. Richland fought in his war together. During their time of service, they planned the heist on Garabaldi Jewelers.

#### **Clues for Mr. Richland and Ms. Pinsell's affair.**

- Very ambiguously — the note ("I want to come clean so she finally can know")
- Very ambiguously — Mr. Richland's refusal to give details about the upcoming murder.
- Ambiguously — Ms. Pinsell knew of Mr. Richland's notes to the Constabulary (but not the diamond), whereas Mrs. Richland did not, pointing to a stronger connection with Mr. Richland.
- Ms. Pinsell is quite distraught over Mr. Richland's murder — moreso than Mrs. Richland!

- **Holdout clue** — An investigation of Mr. Richland's will shows he was planning on leaving all his wealth to Ms. Pinsell.

**Clues for Mr. Richland's plan to give Ms. Pinsell his illicit wealth** (*conditional on knowing there was an affair*).

- Very ambiguously — the note ("I want to come clean so she finally can know")
- Very ambiguously — the diamonds going to Mrs. Richland are a tip-off that Mr. Richland didn't plan to give that illicit wealth to her.
- Very ambiguously — Mrs. Richland's strong disapproval over thievery suggested that she wouldn't take kindly to Mr. Richland giving him wealth.
- Ms. Pinsell buys a house after Mr. Richland's death, indicating a sudden change in wealth.
- Finding a note in Mr. Richland's office wastebasket that says "I don't think you should give it to her."
- **Holdout clue** — An investigation of Mr. Richland's will shows he was planning on leaving all his wealth to Ms. Pinsell.

**Clues for Dr. McKinney knowing about the affair** (*conditional on knowing there was an affair*).

- Ambiguously — Mrs. Richland mentions that Mr. Richland and Dr. McKinney were close, and that Mr. Richland would tell Dr. McKinney everything.
- Ambiguously — Ms. Pinsell is wary of Dr. McKinney.
- Mr. O'Mally heard Dr. McKinney and Mr. Richland arguing over Ms. Pinsell and something about money.
- **Holdout clue** — Can trace the note ("I don't think you should give it to her") to Dr. McKinney.

### **Red Herring Clues.**

- Mr. O'Mally used to work as a pharmacist and had knowledge of poisons, including the poison that killed Mr. Richland.
- Mr. O'Mally and Mr. Richland had been in a fight over Mr. Richland garnishing his wages due to perceived poor performance.
- Dirt in the room matches the outdoor garden where Mr. O'Mally was gardening.
  - *Undercutting clue*: There was some dirt removed from the garden in a manner that Mr. O'Mally would not have done, since it disrupted the garden (points to a frame job instead).
- Getting distracted investigating the room.
- Mrs. Richland and Mr. Richland didn't get along well.
- Mrs. Richland was in debt, but Mr. Richland wouldn't share his finances.

## **Character Class: The Detective**

*Perhaps you're not a Sherlock Holmes, but you can act like him if you so choose. People may just hate you. But either way, you get the crimes solved. ...Usually. Tends to do well at forensic investigation and deduction.*

**Character Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

### **Characters:**

Mr. Damien Richland, *deceased*  
Mrs. Paula Richland, *wife*  
Mr. Franklin McKinney, *business partner*  
Ms. Samantha Pinsell, *housekeeper*  
Mr. Reid O'Mally, *groundskeeper*

## **Character Class: The Detective**

*Perhaps you're not a Sherlock Holmes, but you can act like him if you so choose. People may just hate you. But either way, you get the crimes solved. ...Usually. Tends to do well at forensic investigation and deduction.*

**Character Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

### **Characters:**

Mr. Damien Richland, *deceased*  
Mrs. Paula Richland, *wife*  
Mr. Franklin McKinney, *business partner*  
Ms. Samantha Pinsell, *housekeeper*  
Mr. Reid O'Mally, *groundskeeper*

## **Character Class:** The Dectective

*Perhaps you're not a Sherlock Holmes, but you can act like him if you so choose. People may just hate you. But either way, you get the crimes solved. ...Usually. Tends to do well at forensic investigation and deduction.*

**Character Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

### **Characters:**

Mr. Damien Richland, *deceased*  
Mrs. Paula Richland, *wife*  
Mr. Franklin McKinney, *business partner*  
Ms. Samantha Pinsell, *housekeeper*  
Mr. Reid O'Mally, *groundskeeper*

## **Character Class:** The Dectective

*Perhaps you're not a Sherlock Holmes, but you can act like him if you so choose. People may just hate you. But either way, you get the crimes solved. ...Usually. Tends to do well at forensic investigation and deduction.*

**Character Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

### **Characters:**

Mr. Damien Richland, *deceased*  
Mrs. Paula Richland, *wife*  
Mr. Franklin McKinney, *business partner*  
Ms. Samantha Pinsell, *housekeeper*  
Mr. Reid O'Mally, *groundskeeper*