



CASINO

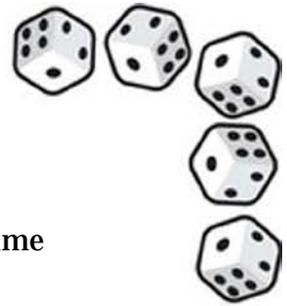
Dead Money

Two red dice are positioned to the right of the word "Dead Money". One is slightly behind and to the right of the other.

A MURDER MYSTERY AND NIGHT AT THE CASINO IN TWO ACTS

You have been invited to an evening of gambling and entertainment at the *Lady Lux*, a casino owned by the wealthy Dona Mancini. The guest list includes a number of gambling enthusiasts—from high rollers to novices—as well as the performers, dealers, and other staff employed by Dona Mancini. Everyone is expecting an evening replete with games of chance, dinner, drinks, and maybe a show—they aren't expecting a power outage, the murder of a member of the surveillance team, or a lockdown that prevents them from leaving the casino.





Dead Money

by Ken Blumreich and Noma De'Plume

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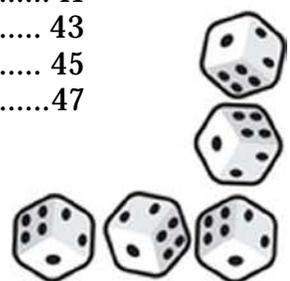
Playing with Murder

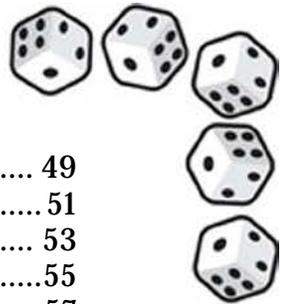




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I. INTRODUCTORY MATERIALS

Section I of this instruction manual contains all of the introductory materials necessary for planning and preparing your party. In this section you will find a basic overview of the plot; a description of each of the characters; tips on preparing your playing area, choosing a menu, and organizing your printouts; and detailed instructions on how to go about inviting players and assigning characters.

Please note: The majority of the contents of this book are intended for the eyes of the Host/Hostess only! The success of your party hinges on a strong element of intrigue and mystery, so be certain not to share this book with the other players. The material that should be provided to your guests is clearly described in this book. Under no circumstances should you allow any of your players access to this book!



WELCOME!

Thank you for choosing *Dead Money*, another fine product by PWM Press; this package contains everything you need to host a spectacular Murder Mystery Party that your guests will remember for many years to come. Included are materials for hosting a party for anywhere from ten to 24 participants (including yourself).

Mystery Parties are essentially a combination of improvisational acting, storytelling, and creative problem solving. Your guests will each assume the role of a particular character and will play the part of that character throughout the course of the game. Each character has specific personality traits, goals, secrets, and information, all of which are included in the character sheet. A big part of the entertainment value of Mystery Parties is getting into character and trying to achieve your character's individual goals.

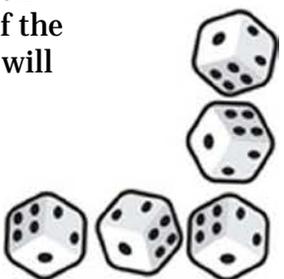
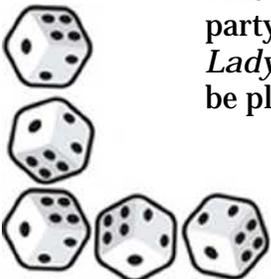
At some point during the party, an Event will occur that will force the players to come together in order to solve a problem or unravel a mystery. Traditionally, the Event in question will be the murder of one of the characters (as played by a guest), but the basic framework of a Mystery Party can accommodate numerous different types of Events.

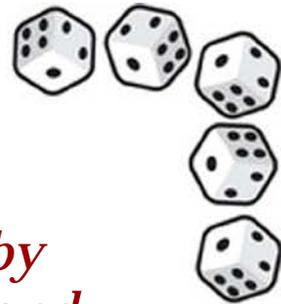
The guests will need to use the information that their characters know (as well as additional clues that are provided during the game) to solve the mystery or overcome the problem posed by the Event. Typically this culminates in the guests voting on the identity of the murderer, but again, different parties will have different specific goals. The party may also have certain additional subgames built into the framework; for example, many Mystery Parties will have some form of scavenger hunt built into the story.

Once the mystery has been solved or the problem has been overcome, the party draws to a close. Guests are provided with an opportunity to vote on the best actor/actress, the best-dressed player, and so forth, and are then given certificates and awards for their participation in the game.

Throughout the course of the party, the Host/Hostess is responsible for ensuring that the event continues to run smoothly. He or she sets the scene, provides dinner and drinks, and moves the plot along at key points by reading scripted descriptions of what is happening. Frequently the Host/Hostess will also play the part of one of the characters.

This particular Mystery Party, *Dead Money*, is a murder mystery wherein each party guest will be playing the role of a patron, performer, or staff member of the *Lady Lux*, a casino owned by the wealthy Dona Mancini. The Host/Hostess will be playing the part of the Casino Operations Manager.





Please be advised: *The parties developed by PWM Press are substantially more complex and detailed than other similar products. Even if you are experienced at hosting Murder Mystery Parties, it is imperative that you read chapters one through seven carefully and completely before beginning to plan out your party!*





WHAT IS MY ROLE?

As the Host or Hostess, your role in the party is that of a facilitator or storyteller. It is your job to plan the event, prepare the playing area, and, once the game begins, move the story along and make certain that everyone is on task and enjoying themselves.

In many Mystery Parties the Host or Hostess is given the option to not learn the identity of the murderer before the game, thereby allowing him or her to participate in the party in the same way as the other guests. However, because *Dead Money* is a more complex party, it is necessary for the Host or Hostess to have a clear understanding of all key plot points in order to ensure that the game runs smoothly. This means that you will be aware of the killer and victim's identities in advance.





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RUNNING THE PARTY

This portion of the instruction manual will walk you through all of the steps you need to follow once your guests arrive. Read over this section carefully as it contains information vital to the success of the event.

GUEST ARRIVAL

As each guest arrives, you should pass out their nametag and character sheet (if needed) from the first folder and then allow them to mingle until everyone arrives.

During this stage of the event, the Host/Hostess should:

- Make certain that everyone has a visible nametag.
- Make certain that everyone has a copy of their character sheet.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GUESTS

Once everyone has arrived, gather them together in the main room and read aloud the “Welcome to the Party” text, which will explain to them the basic framework of the event. This text is provided below and is also included in Section III of this handbook as a printout; if you are so inclined, you can print out a copy for each guest for easy reference.

During this stage of the event, the Host/Hostess should:

- Make certain that all the guests understand how the party is going to be run.
- Answer any questions regarding the introduction.





WELCOME TO THE PARTY

Script 1: To be read by the Host or Hostess after all of the guests have arrived but before the event officially begins.

Welcome, everyone, and thank you for attending *Dead Money*. As all of you know, this is a Murder Mystery Party. During the party, each of you will be playing the role of a patron or staff member of the casino and night club, the *Lady Lux*. Each of you has a character sheet that details special knowledge and goals that your character has, along with certain instructions for ways that your character should respond to specific situations. Aside from these instructions, and the general role-playing tips on your character sheets, there is no particular script that you need to follow; simply do your best to act as you believe your character would act.

During the course of the evening, I will be playing the part of Vic(toria) Angelo, the Casino Operations Manager. However, I will also be available to answer any questions about how the game works. Just let me know if you need to ask me something “out of character.”

Before we begin, we’ll give everyone a couple of minutes to read over your character sheets and make sure you understand everything. Remember not to show your character sheet to anyone else and to be careful with what information you end up sharing with other players. Most of you have secret information listed on your sheet that your character wouldn’t want disclosed to just anyone.

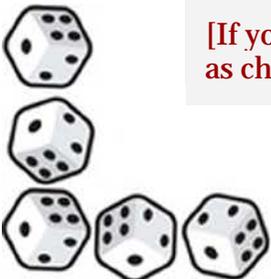
[Once everyone has had a chance to read over their sheets, give them an opportunity to ask questions about how the game will work. Once all of their questions have been answered, continue with this script.]

Alright, if there are no further questions, let me describe the scene for you. You are in the main gaming room of the *Lady Lux* casino. You are here either for an evening of eating, drinking, and gaming, or because you are an employee of the casino.

[Point out each of the different rooms that are considered part of the game, and explain what part of the casino they represent. You should have at least one large room for the gaming area and another area that represents the casino’s back rooms, including the surveillance room. You can specify other areas as you wish, depending on the size of the playing area.]

You are now free to mingle with each other and enjoy the bar, buffet, and games of chance. Let the good times roll!

[If you have included the Bartender (Regina Guiseppa) and the Waitress (Bette Fitz) as characters, take them aside and explain that part of their role tonight will be to





VIC
ANGELO

*The Casino Operations
Manager*



KAT
BLOOMBERG

The Surveillance Manager



BETTE
FITZ

The Waitress



LEE
STRAUSS

Dealer



MO
BERRY

Dealer



JESSE
MARTIN

Dealer



CASEY
PARKER

Dealer



CARLA
LEWIS

The Cashier



REGINA
GUISEPPE

The Bartender



VINCENZO
THE
AMAZING

The Magician



MARVELLA
MALCOLM

*The Magician's
Assistant*



JOHN
MAYNARD

The Security Guard



CHRIS
LUND

Tourist



PAT
THOMPSON

Tourist



LARRY
CHASTAIN

The Businessman



NANCY
PLIMPTON

The Saleswoman



LOUIE
LEPINSKI
The Driver



LORENZO
CALDERONE
The Bodyguard



GINO
CABELLA
The Security Manager



DONA
ANTONIETTA
MANCINI
The Widow



MICHAEL
VON
AMMON
The High Roller



MORTIMER
STOUT
The Banker



ANNA
LUCIANO
The Mistress



SHAWNA
LABEAU
The Showgirl



You are cordially invited to

CASINO

Dead Money

Two red dice are positioned to the right of the word "Dead Money". One is slightly behind and to the right of the other, both showing different faces.

A Murder Mystery Party

Date

Time

Location

Details Enclosed.

Please RSVP no later than





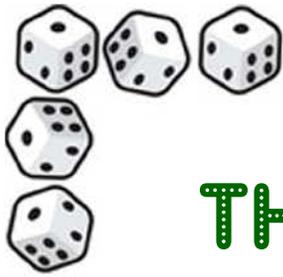
WHAT IS A MURDER MYSTERY PARTY?

YOU HAVE BEEN INVITED to try your luck at the *Lady Lux* casino, owned by the wealthy Dona Antonietta (“Toni”) Mancini. The guest list includes a number of gambling enthusiasts—from high rollers to novices—as well as the performers, dealers, and other staff employed by Dona Mancini. Everyone is expecting an evening replete with games of chance, dinner, drinks, and maybe a show—they aren’t expecting a power outage, the murder of a member of the surveillance team, or a lockdown that prevents them from leaving the casino.

DEAD MONEY is a Murder Mystery Party wherein the guests will take on the roles of Dona Mancini and her patrons and staff and play as those characters throughout the course of the event. At some point during the evening, one of the guests will be “killed” by one of the other participants, and the remainder of the evening will be spent piecing together clues in an attempt to determine who the murderer is. Food and drink will be provided.

INCLUDED WITH THIS INVITATION are an RSVP card and a brief description of the characters. Please return the RSVP card as soon as possible!





THE GUEST LIST

Male roles are marked ♂, female roles are marked ♀, and characters that can be either gender are marked ♀♂.

♂ **Michael Von Ammon (The High Roller)**: The well-to-do owner of the pleasure yacht the *Elizabeth May*, Captain Von Ammon is a rakish playboy type and well liked by most.

♀ **Dona Antonietta “Toni” Mancini (The Widow)**: Widow of Don Mancini, Dona Antonietta was willed the *Lady Lux* casino after the Don’s untimely death. After years spent running the casino by her husband’s side, she is a shrewd businesswoman who is not to be trifled with.

♂ **Mortimer Stout (The Banker)**: Mortimer Stout is a financial genius who has a better understanding of accounting than he does of people.

♀ **Anna Luciano (The Mistress)**: Anna Luciano was Don Mancini’s mistress when he was alive. She is a sultry beauty, and men flock to her.

♂ **Gino Cabella (The Security Manager)**: Gino Cabella is well dressed, soft-spoken, and cold-as-ice. He worked for Don Mancini for many years.

♂ **Lorenzo Calderone (The Bodyguard)**: Lorenzo Chalderone is Dona “Toni” Mancini’s handsome, young bodyguard.

♀♂ **Chris Lund (Tourist)**: Chris Lund is a tourist on vacation with partner Pat Thompson. Chris and Pat have lived in a rural town in Minnesota their entire lives, and this is their first visit to the Big City.

♀♂ **Pat Thompson (Tourist)**: Pat Thompson is a tourist on vacation with partner Chris Lund. Pat and Chris have lived in a rural town in Minnesota their entire lives, and this is their first visit to the Big City.

♂ **Jake Morrison (The Gambler)**: A gambling addict and loveable scoundrel, Jake Morrison’s greatest pleasures in life are fine whisky, fine women, fine cigars, and the lure of the poker table (in no particular order).

♀ **Shawna LaBeau (The Showgirl)**: **Glamorous, bawdy, and with legs for miles, Shawna LaBeau performs with a Rockettes-like dance troupe at the *Lady Lux*.**

♀♂ **Lee Strauss (Dealer)**: Equally capable of running the poker, blackjack, or craps tables, Lee Strauss has worked at the *Lady Lux* for a number of years.

♀♂ **Mo Berry (Dealer)**: Equally capable of running the poker, blackjack, or craps tables, Mo Berry has worked at the *Lady Lux* for the past three months.

♀♂ **Jesse Martin (Dealer)**: Equally capable of running the poker, blackjack, or craps tables, Jesse Martin has worked at the *Lady Lux* for two years.

♀♂ **Casey Parker (Dealer)**: A university student equally capable of running the poker, blackjack, or craps tables, Casey Parker has worked at the *Lady Lux* for two semesters.

♀♂ **Vic(toria) Angelo (The Casino Operations Manager)**: (*Played by the Host/Hostess*) Responsible for the day-to-day operations of the casino, Vic Angelo answers directly to Dona Mancini, the casino’s owner.

♂ **Louie Lepinski (The Driver)**: Louie Lepinski is Michael Von Ammon’s chauffeur and confidante.

♂ **John Maynard (The Security Guard)**: Effectively a rent-a-cop, John Maynard couldn’t cut it on the police force and security work seemed like the next best thing.

♂ **Vincenzo the Amazing (The Magician)**: Vincenzo the Amazing astounds the casino’s audiences with deft acts of prestidigitation and awe-inspiring illusions every Friday and Saturday night.

♀ **Marvella Malcolm (The Magician’s Assistant)**: Assistant to Vincenzo the Amazing, Marvella Malcolm is the eye candy of the stage act.

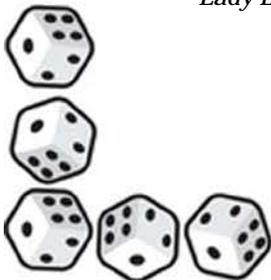
♂ **Larry Chastain (The Businessman)**: A businessman from Rhode Island, Larry Chastain is in town to meet with clients and have a little fun.

♀ **Regina Guissepe (The Bartender)**: Polite, professional, and very discrete, Regina Guissepe has a sympathetic ear into which the loose lips of imbibing patrons can pour their stories.

♀ **Bette Fitz (The Waitress)**: Attractive but not as young as she once was, Bette is a little rough around the edges after years of hard work, harassment by customers, and chain-smoking.

♀ **Nancy Plimpton (The Saleswoman)**: Nancy Plimpton, a saleswoman from Dallas, is in town for a training seminar.

♀ **Kat Bloomberg (The Surveillance Manager)**: Kat Bloomberg, the Surveillance Manager for the *Lady Lux*, handles all of the surveillance hardware for the casino..





WHO DID IT?

VOTING SHEET

Your character's name

Name of the guest or player who you believe was responsible for the murder

*Name of the guest or player who you feel did the best job acting
in character this evening*

Name of the guest or player who you feel had the best costume this evening

How many casino tokens did you win during the games of chance?

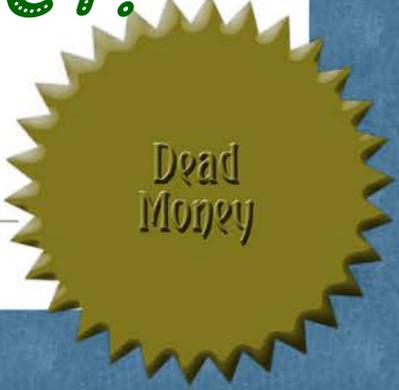


OUTSTANDING ACTING Award

For receiving the most votes for best acting,

*is hereby awarded the Outstanding Acting Award.
Great job, and thanks for playing **DEAD MONEY!***

Awarded on _____



Dead
Money