

**AUDITION MATERIALS – MURDER BETWEEN THE LINES**  
NOMADS Fall 2020

*Instructions:* Read over the following monologues and associated character descriptions. The characters are listed in alphabetical order. Then, record a voice memo of you reading your chosen monologue(s) and send it to [MBTLRadio@gmail.com](mailto:MBTLRadio@gmail.com). You may audition for as many characters as you like -- just pause for about two seconds between selections. Please name your recording "firstname\_lastname\_MBTLaudition".

*Recording Tips:* Generally, you will get the best audio quality if you stand 6-12 inches from the microphone in a room with minimal background noise. This distance is not the same for all mics and all voices, so it is best to test your microphone before recording your audition. Remember that you are not onstage, and if you project into your mic it will overload and distort the recording. It is better to speak at a level you might use for an on-camera audition, or at normal speech level. It is important to keep in mind that we will be judging your audition solely on your vocal performance: as we cannot see your facial expression or physicality within the construct of a radio play, your emotion and character must be conveyed entirely with your voice.

*A Note on the Characters:* All characters in this play are authors of detective fiction, and they are based on real authors, characters, and tropes of the mystery genre. While it is important that these references be conveyed, the point is not to give pure imitations, but rather homages to these people with your own individual twist.

*Content Warnings:* This is a murder mystery play and as such this play does include regular mentions of murder and violence as well as a brief mention of suggested suicide, if you would like to discuss privately with a member of the team any issues you may have concerning those content warnings, please reach out to [MBTLRadio@gmail.com](mailto:MBTLRadio@gmail.com). Any scenes that include those content warnings will be clearly marked for you during the production and in the audition sides. **The following audition sides all contain mentions of murder.**

**TOM CAPONE:** 50s. An eccentric, fedora-wearing American author of hard crime novels. Sarcastic, witty, and unwilling to take anything seriously, with a distinctive nasal voice. Truman Capote.

Everybody has their own possible motivations, their own alibis, and their own reasons why they should be suspect. But I've got my money on one man in particular: Arthur Watson! Now let me just put out here that I know more about our situation than I've let on. Admittedly, I didn't know there was going to be murder on my dance card, but here we are. Now, on to my reasoning. This is not a murder mystery at all. We're just playing a giant game of The King of Hearts has Five Sons. You know, the card game where two cards are in the middle and you have to deduce which cards they are based on the ones in everyone's hands? It's okay, no one's ever heard of it. But the point is that there's no actual murder involved, just a lot of deduction. I happen to know that Margie wrote to Arthur Watson while designing this very house. You see, he had written about a house very much like this one, and she wanted to know more detailed plans. I suspect that he knows every trick stored in these walls, and it would give me great pleasure to convict him.

**ALAN FABBRI:** 50s. An author of fables à la Aesop. Tall with a thick beard, and a small tolerance for life-threatening situations. Fabbri is revealed to be the murderer at the end of the night...or is he?

I have to confess, I've been in on this the whole time. Margie sent me a different letter from the one you got, telling me I was to be her fake murderer. All I had to do was be in the right place at the right time and fake my food poisoning. It was actually quite fun. You know, you're all not very good detectives. It was quite amusing to watch you all struggle. I think I might take more of a liking to mysteries now. It's a bit of a change of scene from my books, don't you think? Good to shake up the old routine, eh?

**MARGIE LOCKHARDT:** 60s. A renowned author of murder mysteries, getting ready to put down her pen and retire. Incredibly fond of games and riddles, and eager to "play" with the people she has gathered for the night. The creator of this whole affair, with her own reasons for wanting it to be solved. Jessica Fletcher.

I must admit that I brought you here under false premises. What is true is that I am going to be writing my last cases and retiring from mystery writing. I also really do have an idea for the concluding mystery, and I have indeed called you all here to help me decide if the idea is a good one. However, this is not a conference. I brought you here because I want to try out the mystery...on you. You have until midnight to collect your clues, all of which you will find on these premises, no information withheld or unavailable. Then, you will make your accusations. In the meantime, you all have to decide who and what to trust, and where to look. May your skills guide you. The case is officially open, detectives. Oh, and one more thing: the criminal is in this house. Your time begins...now!

**DUDLEY MORDRUM:** 30s. Margie's butler. Dependable, but can be both slightly dopey and dramatically droll. A mashup of every butler who ever heard "the butler did it."

Good evening. Welcome to Deerskin Island. My name is Dudley Mordrum, and I am the butler and head of this estate. The other party will be arriving soon, and Miss Lockhardt has asked me to delay a formal welcome until that time. In the meantime, please feel free to look around the room, but you mustn't touch anything. Miss Lockhardt is very particular about her collections.

**CHELSEA PALMER:** 30s. A new-to-the-game author of romance mysteries. She was a flapper, but is tired of being looked at as the baby of the group and is determined to prove she is just as good as they are, even if she does that by helping them solve it and winning by association. Nora Charles.

To be honest, I'm pretty nervous right now, and I think this murder is real. The way everyone is so relaxed about it...it's really unnerving. Like they all know something I don't, or they're all trying to mess with me. Well, I'll just beat them at their game then. I've decided that this murderer has to have a personal relation to Margie. Otherwise...why do it in the first place? So, there are two people here with long personal relations to Margie. First, and I really hope I'm wrong about this, Dorothy Strand! Now I really like Dorothy. We hit it off immediately and I think we would be good friends, so I do hope it isn't her. But she told me that her husband is Margie's first cousin, and they met each other through...you guessed it, Margie. Now here's the real kicker: she's divorced. Would she want revenge on her cousin? Did something in her marriage go horribly wrong? I'd read that book. Come to think of it, I'd write that book!

**DOROTHY STRAND:** Late 40s. Constantly observant, and never prone to making premature conclusions. Logical, but not totally calm when faced with danger. She generally writes about robberies and murders for money. A mix of Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers.

It's quite a deduction, but it was wrong. Chelsea, I was on your left when the power went out. I would have had to walk around you to turn on the gramophone and pull the lever, then walk back past into the kitchen, and then plant the butler. It would take at least forty seconds to go into the kitchen and stab the butler, but only 30 seconds into the music Chelsea asked where I was. And I was right here by the end of the table, on the opposite side as the kitchen. It's not nearly enough time and logistically impossible. Besides, there was no dragging noise and we all clearly heard the knife being launched. Yes, it's quite impossible.



I feel that I am already quite close to cracking this case. I am quite concerned that this is, in fact, a real murder case. I think Margie Lockhardt is totally insane and would kill herself solely to make a fool out of us, but I know there is more to come, so someone in this room must be a murderer. Unfortunately, I'm not really an author – I'm a filmmaker, so I don't know everyone here. However, I do recognize two people, so I have taken the most reasonable route and narrowed it down to those two suspects. Suspect Number One: Alan Fabbri! Margie and I had our first discussion of rights at a book fair in Los Angeles. She arrived in a cab driven by none other than Alan Fabbri. If you're wondering how I could possibly have noticed that and remembered his face, I've learned in my life to never trust two things: Margie Lockhardt, and taxi drivers. Why would he kill her? Well...I have no idea. I just don't know how the others would be involved.