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# Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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*presents...*

## “Revenge on the Goldfields?”

Meet and mingle version  
for 17 to 30 guests

*by Angela Murphy*

First edition

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## The Suspects

It is in the midst of the gold-rush. Alec Rashford – the ‘uncrowned king’ of Falcon’s Ridge – was shot dead in Barton Street last night after leaving The Station Hotel shortly after 10.00pm. A cook at The Station Hotel found his body in a road culvert this morning as she headed to work to prepare the breakfasts. Rashford’s body was taken to the hospital and examined by the doctor who estimated the time of death between 10.00pm and 1.00am last night. He determined that a common Colt revolver, the handgun of the goldfields, caused the wound. The doctor also said there were traces of Friar’s Balsam on Mr Rashford’s shirt collar and lips but there were no obvious cuts on his neck or face.

The Falcon’s Ridge police have called certain townfolk to attend a special meeting at The Station Hotel to begin investigations into the murder. Others may have invited themselves.

**Dulcie Rashford** (*widowed wife of Alec Rashford*) I came to Falcon’s Ridge with Alec because that’s what wives with four young children have to do – follow their husbands. Before we came here we lived in Villawood and the children got to see their grandparents and swim in the ocean. I’ve never got used to the dryness here. But Alec said he knew how to make good money from gold mining without getting his hands dirty. He said he knew Falcon’s Ridge would make him a rich man. He was right about that and I guess I shouldn’t complain – but it’s been no fun being Alec’s wife since the miners went on strike and everyone in the town hates us. Six months of strike have meant six months of horror for the children and me – I begged Alec to listen to the miners and give them the same wages as the men in Hurston but he wouldn’t listen. Like always, Alec was never interested in my opinion. *Dress suggestions:* Matronly period clothes 1900-style, long skirt and long sleeved top, buttoned to neck, broach at throat. Hair – long and wrapped into a bun over head.

**Jack ‘Snakeman’ Waller** (*owner of The Station Hotel*) I had an Italian brick-maker create 340,000 bricks to build The Station Hotel in 1902 when Falcon’s Ridge was booming. With the Gilder mine just across the road producing good money I had extra cash, so I installed a hand-pumped water supply system with galvanized horse troughs right beside my hotel. All the town’s horses could drink outside while all the town’s men drank inside my bar. They call me “Snakeman” cause I have a pit of pet snakes in the cellar. They are gentle creatures when you get to know them. I even have a photo of my daughter

draped in snakes hanging in the public bar. I’ve married a beautiful woman but unfortunately all the other men in town think she is irresistible too. Poppy enjoys flirting with them and it makes me mad. She says she is just having fun but I don’t see it that way. I know I can get a bit hot-headed after a few drinks but what man wouldn’t to protect his wife? *Dress suggestions:* Open suit coat, white shirt, 1900-style bow tie or tie, black pants.

**Poppy Waller** (*Jack Waller’s wife*) I serve in the public bar at our hotel – “The Station Hotel” – and I love talking to all the miners when they finish their shifts. I don’t mind the look of a man who’s got muscles and a sweaty brow from hard labour. Jack is good to me but I hate it when he flies into jealous rages and does stupid things – like throwing poor Jose off the balcony last year – he nearly killed him. I only ever wanted a bit of a laugh and the tips are good when the likes of Alec Rashford come in for a meal. Jack didn’t know about those tips but why shouldn’t I take Alec’s gifts if he’s going to give them away? *Dress suggestions:* Wear red lipstick, hair in loose tresses and a dress with a cleavage.

**Warden Dave Cole** (*mine warden*) I have been the mine warden for Alec Rashford for ten years and I have seen him drag this town from one on its knees to one bustling with businesses. Butchers, drapers, cabinetmakers – Falcon’s Ridge boomed thanks to Alec. I know he was a tough boss but I always told the men that he had to be firm to keep the mines open. But now the miners’ strike is into its six month I told Alec he should at least go and talk to the men to negotiate some sort of wage deal. I knew from the barrage of abuse I got he hadn’t appreciated my suggestion. *Dress suggestions:* Felt hat, suit coat, tie, dark pants.

**George Simpson** (*ex-mill manager*) I worked my guts out for Alec Rashford for two years – pulling all those miners into line, makin’ them work in shocking conditions on lousy wages just to keep his mines going. And after two solid years work I asked for a raise and he laughed in my face. After that I decided the only way to make money from the place was to pinch a bit of the gold dust off the wash table when no one was looking. Only trouble was I was seen and reported to Rashford. I offered him 2 weeks wages and 200 Deep Blue Shares worth 6 shillings each to square the matter. I said I only did it to put food in the mouths of my five kids, but Rashford went ahead with the prosecution. I was sent to Villawood Prison for 6 months with hard labour. The only thing you learn in jail is about guns and crime. I got out last week and jumped on the first train to Falcon’s Ridge to see my family. *Dress suggestions:* Unshaven, calico/beige pants, long-sleeved cotton shirt and broad brimmed hat. Carry a replica of a seven and a half inch Colt revolver.

# Investigator (optional but recommended)

**Harriet Simpson** (*wife of George*) When my husband George was given six months with hard labour for stealing gold dust from the New Falcon’s Ridge mine I was devastated. How on earth was I gonna’ support five kids? It was hard enough when George was around. But I don’t blame him for what he did. He only did it because Alec Rashford wouldn’t give him a pay-rise despite all the extra hours he put in. I ended up getting work in the pie shop but it was so hot in summer when the wood stoves were on that I nearly died. My two oldest girls have had to help me with the pastries before school everyday, just so we can make enough to live on. It’s been a really tough time. The flour irritates my eyes. It makes it hard for me to read the Bible. *Dress suggestions:* Drab looking shirt and three-quarter-length skirt, with apron. Hair disheveled, face spotted with flour from making pies & age-lines.

**Clementina Jones** (*runs Sleepy Willow boarding house*) I lost my eye when I was six years old. My brother rubbed blue stone in it and I’ve been blind in it ever since. I built the Sleepy Willow to run as a hotel after my husband died. When I applied for a licence Alec Rashford – in his role as shire chairman – wouldn’t give me one. He said that there were enough hotels in Falcon’s Ridge already – so what made it all right for him to build one? I wear black dresses as a sign of respect for my husband but I know people call me “The Black Widow”. *Dress suggestions:* Long black skirt with long black-sleeved top and a patch over one eye. Hair pulled back severely – look sinister.

**Mick Sheedy** (*Irish miner*) I work in the underground mine and it’s a dirty place full of mud and slush and stale air. I write songs and jingles to sing down the mines and in the hotels at night to keep everyone’s spirits up. I like romancing women and it’s amazing what an aphrodisiac an Irish accent can be. But I’m no fool and my motto is ‘*love is like a mutton chop, sometimes cold and sometimes hot*’. Alec Rashford seemed like a decent bloke at first. I mean if it weren’t for him none of us miners would have jobs at all, but after all these years it’s time we got the same wages as the Towers men. I felt sure the strike would work, but Rashford didn’t give an inch. Blowed if I was gonna’ risk my life for measly 10 shillings a day – Alec Rashford sure wouldn’t have. *Dress suggestions:* Calico pants & shirt, brown belt, dirt on face.

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**Fred Fergus** (*Falcon’s Ridge Police Sergeant*) I’ve lived in Falcon’s Ridge for five years and my job can be very nasty. With the strike into its sixth month the townsfolk have become desperate. Men get real hungry when gold is up for grabs and they end up behaving like animals. Some of them drink away their sorrows and that’s worse, cause they end up shooting each other. There’s always someone spending the night at the cozy Court House cell. *Dress suggestions:* Police cap, coat white shirt, long tight pants, boots and carry trudgeon, handcuffs and replica of a five and a half inch Colt revolver.

**Jo Delaney** (*Investigator and publican of the Royal Hotel*) I grew up in the hotel because my father built the pub back in 1902. My mother, sister and I run the pub now and I’m happy to do it while I’m alive and well. My family has seen a lot of unrest in this town over the years due men’s greed for gold and the harshness of living out here but I’ve always loved living here. *Dress suggestions:* Navy (or dark) dress, belt, covered shoes, hair up and under a cloche hat.

# Witnesses (optional)

**Thomas McFarlane** (*doctor*) I’ve been working at the Falcon’s Ridge Hospital for the past year treating all sorts of lung conditions and broken bones. The mines are shocking places for a man’s health. I’ve seen men barely able to breathe going down 500-foot shafts. Rashford’s got loads of money, but he won’t give any to help with medicines at the hospital. I know for a fact that he sent a coded letter to his backers in London saying he could save even more money if he got rid of my lazy brother. My brother is not lazy. He’s a hard working mine supervisor who has to ask too few men to do too much work. *Dress suggestions:* Drill pants and white shirt, vest and bow tie.

**Marie Townsend** (*a cook at The Station Hotel*) I work six days a week, cooking three meals a day for whoever is in the hotel to eat it. I use my own homegrown vegetables and create fantastic recipes that no one has ever heard of before. All the miners who come to The Station Hotel can’t stop raving about my beer flavored Shepherd’s Pie but Alec Rashford told me it tasted like road tar. *Dress suggestions:* Matronly cotton dress, large apron covering ankle length skirt.

**Bob Fahey** (*an underground mill manager*) I retired last year after ten years of loyal service to Rashford. He said on my last day that I was the worst manager he'd ever had and he was happy to see the last of me. I got two fractured skulls and a chronic chest infection as a result of working underground all my life but Rashford didn't care – he even refused to pay me out with a month's notice but just told me to collect my last check and don't come back. *Dress suggestions:* Old suit, coat, pants and tie – all looking a bit tired.

**Aldo Spiretti** (*Italian brick maker*) I made all da 340,000 bricks for my mate “Snakeman Waller” to build his ‘otel. The Station ‘otel she looks magnifico’ until that big boss man, Alec Rashford goes and builds dat ugly bar of his right next door! It made me so mad I spit on the dirt outside his house. *Dress suggestions:* Check scarf around neck, white short sleeved shirt to show off muscles and drill pants.

**Wilma Wilson** (*bag lady*) I came over from Germany with my parents when I was a little girl, but they are long dead now. I don't have any family left here – the only thing that keeps me going is the love I have for my Irish miner, Sean O'Conner. I've walked from Hurston to the gold fields of Falcon's Ridge with my cats and dogs and all my worldly possessions stuffed into these bags, searching for my Sean. I hope he's all right. *Dress suggestions:* Old blouse and skirt to ankles, hair messed up and calico carry bags of belongings plus a stuffed-toy dog or cat on a leash.

**Norma Carter** (*local teacher*) I teach at the Falcon's Ridge Primary School. I've taught all four of Alec Rashford's children at some stage. None of them take after their father – thank heavens! I used to call on Dulcie Rashford on her invitation to play cards and listen to new pieces she'd learnt on the piano. I think it must be hard for her living with Alec. I think she's a very lonely woman. *Dress suggestions:* Prim pinafore-style dress, mid length.

**Janice Dale** (*housekeeper New Falcon's Ridge Hotel*) I work as a casual housekeeper for Alec Rashford's New Falcon's Ridge Hotel. When I was pregnant Alec Rashford made me do all the hard duties even when I was heavy with child. He said if I wasn't up to the job I should leave. Coming from him that was a laugh, he was always full of the drink and never paid my wages on time. *Dress suggestions:* Long skirt, long sleeve shirt, apron.

**Jeffery Squire** (*cattle farmer*) Since leaving school I've been raising cattle and goats with my father on our farm. *Dress suggestions:* Moleskins, western-style shirt, leather belt, riding boots, Akubra hat and carry a horse whip.

**Deana Peck** (*country woman, bar and housemaid at The Royal Hotel*) I'm a strong woman and I know about living on the land. I love animals, especially horses and I ride whenever I can. Me husband used to deliver tanks for a living – I'd paint'm and he'd put'em up. *Dress suggestions:* Country and western style, knee-length skirt, checked blouse, and boots.

**Joe “Kanga” Rooney** (*boxer, horseman*) I hated school and often wagged it. Being cooped up in a classroom trying to write with a slate pen was awful, ‘specially when all I wanted to do was break horses with my old man. He taught me to stand on a horse's rump when I was only 3 and after that I did lots of trick riding at shows. I worked at Doherty's saddlery fixin' saddles and stuff but when I was old enough I joined a boxing troupe. *Dress suggestions:* Cotton, white long-sleeved shirt rolled up over the elbows, moleskins, riding boots, blackened out missing teeth from boxing.

**Minnie Morrison** (*cake shop owner*) I run the cake shop opposite the Royal Hotel. Apart from selling direct to the general public, I supply most of the hotels with their Madeira and butter cakes. My 3 tiered cream sponge laced with fresh passionfruit has one many prizes but it is my custard apple tart that wins first prize at the show every year. The hours of devotion I put into my work comes out in the taste and the texture. As well as my cake shop I also help out Father Flanagan at the Church, replacing the candles and flowers and offering stale cakes for the needy. I was never blessed with a husband but I was given the talent to work with flour, butter and sugar and create masterpieces. *Dress suggestions:* Knee length skirt, white blouse with full apron & flour on face.

**Jack Jones** (*retired mine manager*) I left in the 1920s and went to work in Collinsville but I've come back now because I believe there is still gold in the ground. In fact I think there is gold underneath the Royal Hotel – that's why I've sunk a mine beside it and tunneled underneath. Well I wasn't going to let a hotel get in the way of a gold find. When my wife died I moved into the Royal Hotel. The arrangements suited me cause I could keep an eye on my mineshaft next door. *Dress suggestions:* Felt hat, dark suit – three piece preferably, white shirt, open neck.

**Helmut Hinkelstein** (*hardware shop owner*) I have a business in the Thorpe Building opposite the Royal Hotel. Upstairs I sell furniture and downstairs it's hardware on one side and groceries on the other. Out back I sell explosives and other chemicals used in mining gold. *Dress suggestions:* White shirt with elastic sleeve holders, waistcoat, braces, dark pants and boots.

**Dixie Daniels** (*runs the shop with Helmut*) I'm not afraid of work! I had six children but one died last Christmas in a tragic horse-riding accident. My husband is always away working on the Cob and Co run. I like to help out in Helmut's grocery shop as it keeps me busy and I make a few extra shillings for my family. I believe that work puts moral fibre into people – thicker than rope – and every day of my adult life, 'cept when I was giving birth, I've got up at dawn and worked long after dark. I'm a mature woman now but I still chop wood, salt beef, starch shirts, dig holes and sew on buttons and everyone knows there's nothing I won't have a go at. *Dress suggestions:* Dark calf length dress, light-coloured buttoned-up blouse, belt and covered, sensible shoes.

**Susie Ah Lum** (*cook at the Royal Hotel*) I grow my own veggies and have a pond with watercress and gold fish in the backyard. Every day I carry food to the hotel in two big baskets hung over my shoulders. I spend a lot of time at the Chinese Temple in Deighton Street with my husband meeting and socialising with the other Chinese people in the community. *Dress suggestions:* Chinese, buttoned dress or shirt and skirt with long black apron, gold jewellery.

**Tess Delaney** (*part owner of the Royal Hotel*). I've grown up in this pub. Spent my whole life cooking the meals and keeping the place working like it should with my mother and sisters. I love to play the piano and entertain the customers at night in the dining room. *Dress suggestions:* Buttoned blouse and calf length skirt, flat shoes.

**John Webster** (*ambulance man*) Since the doctor left town I have to tend to all the medical emergencies. I pull teeth, set bones, deliver babies, stitch wounds and diagnose illnesses. I don't use anesthetics – instead I have a lump of wood for folk to bite on. *Dress suggestions:* Waist coat, dark pants, white shirt, boots – carry a Gladstone bag or similar containing 1930 style first aid kit.

**Sophie Stevens** (*owner of the drapery and agent for catalogues*) We sell the finest materials and I have a seamstress makes dresses up for the ladies. I take catalogue orders for the big city catalogues from men and women around the town, but mainly women. I take orders for MacWhirters and Grace Brothers and firms like that. *Dress suggestions:* Tailored, classy-looking dress, knee length with a decorative cloche hat/scarf and accessories.

**Veronica Waters** (*looks after orphans*) After my husband died and my children left home I opened my house up to all the Catholic orphans who live in the town. Their parents have often passed on through tragic circumstances and I wanted to put some love back into their lonely lives *Dress suggestions:* Matronly dress, belt at waist, long sleeves, covered shoes.

**Fred Arthurs** (*runs the local picture show*) I live alone up behind the convent and I like to tinker with cameras and do some photography. Last year I bought a generator, a projector and a screen and arranged for a distributor to send films to me so I could show a double feature on Saturday nights at the hall. It was always very popular. I liked working the projector but sometimes things don't always go according to plan and the film ends up on the floor. It's good to know the people here are patient. *Dress suggestions:* Black three-piece suit, black shoes and tie. Tailored but a bit eccentric.

Name Tags

Dulcie  
Rashford  
(Suspect)

Snakeman  
Waller  
(Suspect)

Poppy  
Waller  
(Suspect)

Dave  
Cole  
(Suspect)

George  
Simpson  
(Suspect)

Harriet  
Simpson  
(Suspect)

Clementina  
Jones  
(Suspect)

Mick  
Sheedy  
(Suspect)

Thomas  
McFarlane  
(Witness)

Marie  
Townsend  
(Witness)

Bob  
Fahey  
(Witness)

Aldo  
Spiretti  
(Witness)

Wilma  
Wilson  
(Witness)

Norma  
Carter  
(Witness)



Janice  
Dale  
(Witness)

Jeffery Squire  
(Witness)

Deana Peck  
(Witness)

Joe "Kanga"  
Rooney  
(Witness)

Minnie Morrison  
(Witness)

Jack Jones  
(Witness)

Helmut  
Hinkelstein  
(Witness)

Dixie Daniels  
(Witness)

Susie Ah Lum  
(Witness)

Tess Delaney  
(Witness)

John Webster  
(Witness)

Sophie Stevens  
(Witness)

Veronica Waters  
(Witness)

**Fred Arthurs  
(Witness)**

**Jo Delaney  
(Investigator)**

**Fred  
Fergus  
(Investigator)**

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

**“Revenge on the  
Goldfields?”**

*by Angela Murphy*

*These are the:*

*Clues*

Merri Mysteries presents...

## “Revenge on the Goldfields?”

*Clue page for the witnesses or authority  
Print as many copies as you need.  
Staple a copy of their name tag here*

### What I know

*Staple their “why” clues here*

*Staple their “how” clues here*

### What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just the suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* pages.

Merri Mysteries presents...

## “Revenge on the Goldfields?”

*Dulcie Rashford*

### What I can reveal

When I first met Alec I was smitten with his talents. Always in charge. Always a solution to everything. I thought he could never put a step wrong. Bur marriage was all about compromise, so long as I did the compromising. My father was a wealthy aristocrat. I loved going to concerts and plays. I never wanted to come to Falcon’s Ridge. When I met Alec, he was wealthy. I didn’t realize he was planning to come to the country to buy a gold mine. Alec built us a big house in Falcon’s Ridge. He was proud of his wealth and liked to show it which meant I had to have the house gleaming all the time. It was a thankless task with all the mining dust about. Now that Alec is not here to wave his white glove I suspect the furniture will become very dusty and I’ll spend more time playing the piano. At first the strike didn’t matter much to the children and I. Alec’s *affairs* were very much his own! But as the weeks went on the whole town ostracized me and the children were taunted at school. I used to play cards with Harriet Simpson, didn’t I Harriet? But after George was caught stealing and Alec sent him to jail that had to stop too. The Warden was the only friend I had left. I tried to persuade Alec to send the girls to a good girl’s boarding school in the city. I offered to take them there and visit my elderly parents. But he insisted on sending them to Dalesford. There aren’t any symphonies in Dalesford – only the same choruses of crows we have here. No wonder the girls hated it. Last night the Warden did mention to me that Alec hadn’t made a will so I’d get everything if he died. I knew Alec was desperate to go to The Station Hotel to see you Poppy Waller. I wasn’t blind to the way he carried on

## Dulcie Rashford Page 2

with you. The entire town gossiped about it and you – Jack Waller – didn't seem to notice. If the miners' strike wasn't bad enough, I had to endure the humiliation of a husband flirting with every woman he thought attractive. I hated him for treating me so badly after I had always been loyal and faithful to him.

### If someone asks you...

- 1 *(if you own a Colt revolver, say)* I do own a small dainty gun. I have it for my protection when I am traveling on the coach alone – because there are armed robbers and amorous men-folk.
- 2 *(if that was you playing the piano last night, say)* Yes, I often play the piano at night when Alec goes to town.
- 3 *(what it was like living with Alec Rashford, say)* It was very difficult. At times I just wanted to walk out. He didn't care that I had to give up all my love of culture and society. He would never even allow me to visit my parents in Keffey.
- 4 *(if you knew Alec Rashford was going to sell your piano and buy a bigger buggy, say)* Yes, he had been threatening to do it for a long time but when he said it last week I knew he meant it.
- 5 *(about the goat, say)* I did see one last night when I was out walking. It was fierce wild-looking goat and it was heading to the main street. Alec had a real phobia about goats because he was gored in the crutch as a boy.
- 6 *(if you were standing on the corner of Raven and Barton Streets last night, say)* I did leave the house briefly to get some fresh air.
- 7 *(if you use Friar's Balsam in the Rashford household, say)* Yes, of course I do – everybody does, but I know for a fact that Alec hated the smell of it and wouldn't use it.
- 8 *(your whereabouts on the night Alec Rashford was shot, say)* I was at home playing the piano. I had invited my friends the school teacher and the Warden Cole for dinner but Alec had abused the Warden and so they had left without eating. All my preparations were wasted. And Alec hadn't eaten either. He told me he'd rather eat at The Station Hotel than eat another meal with me.

*Revenge on the Goldfields?*

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*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## “Revenge on the Goldfields?”

*Jack 'Snakeman'  
Waller*

### What I can reveal

I was completely shocked when Alec Rashford built his bar next door. My hotel is made from 340,000 handmade bricks the Italian bricklayer created. This building is classy – not like that one Rashford slapped up. The absolute last thing Falcon's Ridge needed was another bar but no one could tell Rashford that. He had to build his. The word was that if you stayed at the New Falcon's Ridge Hotel and drank there you had a better chance of getting a job in Rashford's mine. So you can imagine how that affected my business.

Yeah, I was arguing with Rashford last week. I put up a 'Patron's Only' sign above my horse trough and Rashford said if I was gonna' do that he'd stop the water coming to the trough from the Gilder mine.

Rashford accused me of not being community minded but that got me really angry coming from him. If he had any community spirit he would have listened to the miners to find a way to end the strike and he wouldn't have disconnected the water to my horse trough.

*(see next page)*

*Revenge on the Goldfields?*

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**If someone asks you...**

- 1 *(if you really threw Jose Gomez off the second-story verandah, say)* Yeah I threw Gomez off but he deserved it. The slimy man was after my Poppy and if any man touches my wife he has to answer to me. But he was lucky – he landed in my horse trough.
- 2 *(if you go a bit crazy when you have too much to drink, say)* I'm a big man. I can handle my drink.
- 3 *(if you were with Alec Rashford outside The Station Hotel last night, say)* Yes, I won't deny that. Alec and I always had a dispute over some issue or other. It was the relationship we had.
- 4 *(how come you were not aware of Alec Rashford's dotting attention towards your wife, say)* Alec Rashford wouldn't come into The Station Hotel when I was here. He wasn't game, so I never saw it.
- 5 *(if you went to the snake pit last night, say)* Yeah I did. I wanted to make Rashford know fear.
- 6 *(your whereabouts on the night Alec Rashford was shot, say)* Last night I was across the road re-connecting the water from the Gilder mine to my horse trough. Rashford must have deliberately bent all the plumbing so a simple reconnection wasn't possible and the whole thing took ages. What sort of man does that to a public horse trough? I left the plumbing about nine-thirty and was walking back towards The Station Hotel when I saw Rashford through the front window. He was leaning towards my Poppy, sliding what looked to be a wad of notes along the bar. He had a big ugly smile plastered all over his big ugly face like he'd just brought himself a trophy. I was furious. I wanted to drag him into my snake pit there and then and let the death adders deal with him.

# “Revenge on the Goldfields?”

*Poppy Waller*

**What I can reveal**

Alec could be a very sweet man. I know a lot of people never saw that side of him but he could be very generous and kind. Sometimes he used to buy me chocolates when he went to Villawood. Because he was the ‘uncrowned king’ of this town he felt he owned everything and everybody. I had to remind him several times that I was a married woman.

Alec said I shouldn't use Friar's Balsam because it stained my hands brown and smells horrid but I have a gash on my neck at the moment from when I walked into the hall-stand so I need to use it. He also said I should wear more revealing clothes if I was going to be a barmaid but I told him I wasn't *just a* barmaid. I was the proprietor's wife! He threw his head back and laughed at me.

Alec Rashford often ate at The Station Hotel when Snakeman was out for the night. He'd sit on a barstool opposite me and make promises about bringing me irresistible treats.

Ever since Snakeman made our daughter pose for a photo with his deadly snakes I've had my concerns about my husband's state of mind.

It's common knowledge that Alec and Snakeman never got on but I never realised that Alec would stoop so low as to disconnect the water to the horse trough. That made Snakeman furious. *(see next page)*

## Poppy Waller Page 2

### If someone asks you...

- 1 *(if you own a Colt revolver, say)* No, I don't own a Colt revolver but I know that Snakeman keeps one in his snake pit in case the creatures turn nasty. The snake pit is always kept locked.
- 2 *(if Alec Rashford slid you a large sum of money when you were serving him at the bar last night, say)* Well I said he was a generous man but last night he was just paying for his meal.
- 3 *(if you know what the women of the town think of you, say)* I know they frown at my behavior behind the bar. But I think they are just jealous that their husbands want to look at me instead of them.
- 4 *(why you lied to Dulcie earlier about the amount of money that Alec slid across the bar last night, say)* It was a very large amount, more than he had ever given me before. I was embarrassed and shocked.
- 5 *(if Alec Rashford expected something for his money last night, say )* He was very insistent man – not the type who took no for an answer but I was shocked to realise he thought money could buy me.
- 6 *(if you saw the gun Mick had tucked into his pants last night, say)* All the men seemed to be sporting guns last night, including Mick.
- 7 *(your whereabouts on the night Alec Rashford was shot, say)* Last night I was serving at The Station Hotel bar. Alec had come in for a meal but he looked like he'd had a few drinks already. He was grinning and being very flirtatious. Alec kept asking me to go for a walk up to Mabel Mill with him because there was a seat up there we could sit on. When I said I couldn't leave the hotel he pushed a huge bunch of notes across the bar towards me. It was a lot of money. I didn't know what to do. I left Alec sitting at the bar just after nine-thirty pm because I had been serving all day and wanted to have a wash. I heard Snakeman come in soon after and get some keys. The floorboards always creak in this hotel so I know where people are. When I heard the familiar thud of the trap door I knew he was in the snake pit.

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

# “Revenge on the Goldfields?”

*by Angela Murphy*

*These are the clues for:*

*Extra clues to divide  
up amongst the witnesses  
and investigators*

*Revenge on the Goldfields?*

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## Extra Clues

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*Divide these 68 extra clues up amongst the witnesses and investigators. If you don't have many of these, you may like to also share them with the suspects.*

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*(say to Clementina Jones)* Do you use Friar's Balsam at the Sleepy Willow?

---

*(say to Dulcie Rashford)* Was that you playing the piano last night Dulcie?

---

*(say to Harriet Simpson)* Is it true that Alec Rashford cancelled his bulk pie order for the New Falcon's Ridge Hotel after he heard you were working in the pie shop?

---

*(say to George Simpson)* Why did you come back to Falcon's Ridge so soon George?

---

*(say to Snakeman)* I'm sorry Snakeman but don't you think you get a bit crazy when you've had too much drink?

---

*(say to Poppy Waller)* Do you know what the women of the town think about you?

---

*(say to Dulcie)* What was it really like living with a man like Alec Rashford?

---

*(say to Dave Cole)* Was that you storming out of Alec Rashford's house last Sunday?

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Dulcie Rashford's mother would visit and help her with the four children. Alec never played with them, as he believed children should be seen and not heard. He was always too busy.

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Snakeman Waller had a great little business going with his free water trough for the horses. The town's horses drank at his trough while the town's men drank at his bar.

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