

1.1 **Anyone** _____ : I want you each to tell me how you came to know Jerry and to be at this party. During our discussion I would also like you to tell us more about yourselves and your relationship with Jerry.

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1.3 **Judy Garland:** Last month, at a charity ball, I saw Jerry look in my direction and say “Stupid old cow”. I found his remark offensive, as I’m not stupid. I came to this party because I wanted to give him some of his own cheek back – the bully. But I certainly didn’t come here to murder him.

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1.5 **Janis Joplin:** As you all probably know, Jerry crashed into my car recently. That’s how I met him. But stingy as he was, he was refusing to pay me fully for the repairs. Then he had the hide to invite me to this party as if everything was fine between us. I had planned to give him an earful at the party. But I hadn’t planned to kill him.

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1.7 **Elvis Presley:** I’m all shook up over Jerry Oilman’s death. God gave us our lives and our lives are precious. I’ve learned a lot about death. My precious Ma’s been taken from me and I’ve served my time in the army where death is talked about a lot. I don’t have a wooden heart.

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1.9 **Groucho Marx:** I came to this party because I knew some lovely young ladies would be here. My last wife was 44 years younger than I was. And I wanted to give Jerry a taste of my humor. I didn’t come expecting to find a corpse.

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1.2 **Fred Astaire:** I’m still being cast for movies. Only Jerry thought I was past it. He kept trying to talk people out of casting me in parts. That’s what my friends in the movie business have been telling me lately. So I’m not sorry to see the last of the slimy bloodsucker, not sorry at all. He was too pushy.

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1.4 **Jimi Hendrix:** Jerry invited me to this party because I am a friend of his son Lorne, who I met in the army. I’m on leave. I’ve met Jerry before when I have visited Lorne. I think he wanted to ask me how Lorne was doing.

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1.6 **Marilyn Monroe:** Jerry was a fan of mine. Most men are. They can’t help themselves. But I don’t want to just be an “hour glass shape”. I’m sick of being a sex symbol. I want to be taken seriously as an actress. Believe me, I’m not acting when I say I had nothing to do with Jerry’s death.

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1.8 **Judy Garland:** Jerry was my husband’s friend, not mine. Sometimes he came to our house. I didn’t invite my husband to this party, because he’s in my bad books at the moment.

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1.10 **Anyone** _____ : Judging from the bump on Jerry’s head, it appears Jerry’s killer came at him from behind.

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1.11 **Anyone** _____: Jerry's arm was bruised, possibly by the fall to the ground after he was hit on the head.

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1.13 **Anyone** _____: Jerry's only child Lorne is in the army. He can't believe that his father is dead. He said Jerry had asked him to arrange for a twelve-gun salute at his funeral if he ever died.

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1.15 **Anyone** _____: Jerry Oilman only invited us because he liked everyone to think that he was popular and had many famous friends. But that certainly wasn't the case. He was as popular as cod liver oil. But people will go anywhere for decent caviar.

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1.17 **Fred Astaire**: I dance a bit and sing a bit, but besides that I'm a pretty ordinary guy – not a murderer.

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1.19 **Marilyn Monroe**: Jerry was a blabbermouth. I came to this party to try to get him to keep quiet about my private life. But I didn't intend to shut him up forever. I didn't kill him.

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1.12 **Anyone** _____: Jerry's wife Emma died under suspicious circumstances three years ago. She was found dead, possibly poisoned, but the type of poison was never fully identified and nor was her murderer.

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1.14 **Anyone** _____: Lorne and his father don't get on. Although he'll still grieve a little over his dad's death. Lorne is a really good bass player and he and Jimi are thinking of forming a band together once they get out of the army. They've come up with a really tight, bluesy sound. I tell you, man, it's out of sight. Jerry didn't like the idea of Lorne playing in a rock band, so he planned to talk Jimi out of it at this party.

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1.16 **Janis Joplin**: The famous all mix with the famous and the poor with the poor. Birds of a feather and "all my friends drive Porsches" kind of stuff. That's why we're here. But we didn't come here expecting someone to be killed. I really only came tonight because I heard Jimi was coming.

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1.18 **Anyone** _____: I'm not really enjoying this party. Having your host murdered tends to put a dampener on proceedings.

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1.20 **Elvis Presley**: Groucho Marx is a bit of a worry. Weird guy. Maybe he killed Jerry. Or is it just my suspicious mind?

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1.21 **Janis Joplin:** Some people in this group just don't appreciate rock music. They kept complaining just because I played a few rock records when I arrived. They've got to get with it, man.

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1.23 **Marilyn Monroe:** While I'm here, maybe I should hitch up with someone younger and more hip like Jimi Hendrix. But he's been busy restringing his guitar and he hasn't had time to notice me yet.

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1.25 **Patsy Cline:** Jerry kept asking me sing to him. He even offered to pay me, but I turned him down. He didn't like the same songs I liked & he was a creep – what with all those bats everywhere. I think he probably killed his wife. I didn't like being with him. I know what death is like. I came close to it when I had my car accident. But I recorded a song straight after it. You've got to get back on the saddle, like they say.

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1.27 **Janis Joplin:** Judy, just because I didn't pretend to be a child like you did, and because I don't always comb my hair and look pretty doesn't mean I'm a cheat. Now I have to go to the bathroom because I'm ill.

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1.29 **Judy Garland:** I sing and dance and try and put on a good show, but I am definitely not a murderess. Jerry was a big fan of mine. He liked "Somewhere Over The Rainbow". Would you like to hear me sing it?

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1.22 **Fred Astaire:** I work hard to maintain my status. Young men get away with too much these days. They need discipline. The music these days – they're not tunes. The lines don't rhyme and you can't dance to them because the beat's all wonky. I'm not surprised he's been murdered. He wasn't at all likeable. But let's forget about the murder. If someone put on some decent music, I could dance. I'd love that.

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1.24 **Jimi Hendrix:** I have brought my electric guitar along. So, if you're lucky I might play for you later on. I know you're interested in me Marilyn, but white bread chicks like you don't interest me man. They're just not real. I go more for wild chicks like Janis.

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1.26 **Judy Garland:** Janis – you're cheating. But I suppose you can't help being a cheat at cards. You're just gutter material and cheating is part of your makeup. I just can't see how anyone like you – with a raspy barb-wire voice and all – could possibly have become famous as a singer.

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1.28 **Patsy Cline:** Can't we put on some country music? Wouldn't everyone like me to sing "Lovesick Blues"?

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1.30 **Anyone _____:** Did you hear Patsy, the cowgirl, offering to sing? And Judy too? And Fred offering to dance? Sounds like they still think everyone's still "Crazy" about them. Their egos are as big as John Wayne's ten-gallon hat. People with egos like theirs think they can get away with anything – even murder.

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1.31 **Anyone** _____: Jerry Oilman didn't like animals. Jerry's son Lorne had a cat. He is away in the army at the moment. Jerry used to kick Lorne's cat whenever he saw it.

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1.33 **Anyone** _____: Hey Elvis. Or should I say "Hound-dog"?

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1.35 **Anyone** _____: Elvis is a bit flashy, but he does have a good voice. Jimi Hendrix is a quiet sort of guy and, although I don't particularly like his music, he's a real showman. But that Groucho Marx – he's the one I don't trust. He looks like a murderer to me.

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1.37 **Groucho Marx**: Elvis – so you're the King of Rock 'n Roll? What is the currency in your Kingdom? Records? How many records does it cost for a loaf of bread?

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1.39 **Groucho Marx**: Well, anyone who says they want to be a teddy bear surely isn't a genius. But aren't you the one that said, "Don't be cruel"? I just wanted to check you weren't going to return me to my maker like you did Jerry?

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1.32 **Elvis Presley**: (*take around the appetizers and say*) Would any of you like an appetizer?

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1.34 **Elvis Presley**: Stop calling me "Hound-dog". That's a nickname I can't stand. I don't know what I ever did to you? I think Jerry thought he was doing the right thing, but sometimes, he'd poked into other people's private affairs when it was none of his business to do so.

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1.36 **Judy Garland**: I had hoped to use this party as an opportunity to speak to Jerry about the financial nightmare he has created for my husband and I. But I suppose I won't get to talk to him now. I've missed my opportunity. I guess I'll just have to carry on singing for my supper.

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1.38 **Elvis Presley**: What sort of questions are those? Are you also making fun of me?

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1.40 **Elvis Presley**: (*getting angry say*) I find that remark offensive. Please apologize. With all due respects, I think you've got a screw loose and if you keep on saying things like that to people you'll end up in a fiery backwater of a place called "Hell".

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CELEBRITY CELEBRATIONS

1.41 **Janis Joplin:** Hey – peace man. Not death. Rock ‘n Roll, not Patsy Cline. Love not war. That’s what it’s all about. Shame about Jerry dying at his own party. Not that I had any time for the man. He was the kind of guy who liked to appear hip but then he said nasty things about you later. He was a hip-o-crit – quite the opposite to a hip-critter. I ‘spect he only invited me so he’d look hip.

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1.43 **Anyone _____:** Jerry Oilman didn’t like bats. In fact, he hated them. That is why he collected dead, stuffed bats. It was his revenge for when a bat spat undigested fruit on him while he was visiting the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne, Australia.

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1.45 **Anyone _____:** I wonder if Jerry’s ghost will come to haunt us. He must be furious to be dead. From what I have overheard lately he was just about to clinch a deal that would have made him lots more money.

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ACT ONE CONTINUED

1.42 **Patsy Cline:** I don’t condone violence of any sort and I am not the kind of woman that murders. I’m just a sweet God-fearing country gal at heart.

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1.44 **Anyone _____:** Yes I heard they have about 4000 bats in the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne, Australia, with the number swelling to 8000 during April. Some people now want to cull the number of bats because they think they are destroying the gardens and deterring visitors.

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1.46 **Anyone _____:** Jerry wanted to be around to make sure his son makes the right decisions about his future. Maybe the house will become a real haunted Mansion.

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