

# **The Play**

## **NARRATOR:**

The package arrived, a little later than usual at the Royal Residence number 2, Amman Jordan. Saleem Hussein opened it with the same eagerness a little girl would open her Christmas presents. Nana Chapman always included letters from friends, the latest Cosmopolitan magazine, Victoria Secrets catalogs and Alicia's (Saleem's American name) own copy of Single Professional Magazine. Included this time was a free invitation from Single Professional magazine for a mystery cruise to unknown destinations. Alicia remembered reading about the cruise in the July issue and it sounded exciting.

Living in an Arab country, especially as the king's brother's, first born daughter, extremely curtailed the free spirit side of this half American beauty. Because of the Palestinian homeland crisis, and the recent non aggression pact Jordan is about to sign with Israel, the Ministry of External Security would not allow the trip unless Saleem had a personal body guard and traveled under her American passport.

Alicia Chapman left the following Saturday on a commercial flight to Miami, Florida USA with Moe E. Hammit, her personal body guard (oh boy! real original name, from the ministry of external security). From Miami, the magazine provided a charter flight to Key West. From there, all guests were escorted to the cruise ship anchored in Key West harbor. On the boat, there are 36 passengers, the captain, and a crew of ten. After a welcoming address by the representatives of the magazine and the ship's captain, Captain Fillmore, the passengers were divided in groups of six. Each group was headed by a magazine's staff person. Alicia and Moe's group was headed by Mark Angelton, political editor for the magazine.

Mark informs his group that they will sail all evening to an unknown destination. He tells them that even Captain Fillmore does not yet know the first island they will anchor at, but he does have a compass heading to set sail. The ship's name is Witches Haunt and her registry is Port Charlotte. The captain announces that they have cleared the harbor and are about to set sails. He also informs them that there is a storm west of their heading but it should present no more than some choppy seas for them

***EAST OF THE STORM***  
***A MURDER MYSTERY PLAY***  
***By***  
***Robert G. Borelli***

*NARRATOR*

**THE CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:**

**MARK ANGELTON  
JACK GALLAGHER  
SARAH WHALEN  
TONY MARDUCCI  
HARMONY FISHMAN  
ALICIA CHAPMAN  
MOE E. HAMMIT  
CAPTAIN JONATHON FILLMORE  
GUN BOAT CAPTAIN  
ARMED GUARDS (2)**

*MARK*

**Hi everyone! My Name is Mark Angelton, Political Editor for Professional Magazine.**

*ALL*

**Hello Mark!**

*MARK:*

**I want to welcome everyone on behalf of Professional Magazine to our first annual mystery cruise. Thank you for subscribing to our magazine. All of you have been selected, at random, for this exciting trip. This is an opportunity to meet new friends, get closer to the one your with, or just get in touch with yourself. For ease of communications, the passengers have been divided into groups of six. We will dine together as a group and our cabins are located near each other; again, this is just for communications. It is not to imply that we stay together in all activities. I truly expect you to mingle with the other passengers. Let's start by each of the invited guest introducing themselves, and then their guest. Try to give us a little resume about yourself, just follow my lead. I'll start then we will go left to right.**

**MARK**

Hi! I'm Mark Angelton I am the political editor for professional magazine. I live in Summerville, New Jersey, but was born in Syria. I'm single, love women, sailing, and sports, in that order. I like to travel especially to Europe. Hate Jackets, ties and office politics. Wildest fantasy; to make love to Monica Sellers, on the Austrian Alps, dressed in ski boots, only, while watching Monday night football.

O.K., got the idea? (Direction, pointing to Jack Gallagher) you're next.

**JACK GALLAGHER**

Hi! I'm Jack, Jack Gallagher; I'm single as well. I love women,

**SARAH WHALEN** (*giving Jack a Dirty look*)

**HEY!**

**JACK GALLAGHER**

aah... I mean I love this woman I'm with. I live in Boston. Work for Smith Barney investments. I love skiing, cross country, football, Dallas fan, jogging and working out. My wildest fantasy? Guess I'm with you Mark, except it's with Sarah.

**MARK**

Your guest Jack?

**SARAH WHALEN**

You said enough Jack! I'm Sarah Whalen. I'm Jack's date, and Jack probably would be wearing crutches instead of ski boots if he tried to make love to me on the Alps. I live in Salem, Mass, Good to see the ship named Witches Haunt, kind of makes me feel right at home.

I work as a buyer for rugs "r" us, a carpet store in Salem specializing in Oriental and Persian rugs. Drop in if you're in the area sometime. I had to add a little plug for the rug.

I love all kinds of sports especially kick boxing.

Wildest fantasy? To make the talk shows as one of the British female ex-royals. Well! In reality, I'll take any royals, ex, or not. That's all I really have to say.

**TONY MARDUCCI**

Hello everybody! My name is Tony Marducci. I live in Nu Yawk. Actually I'm one of Nu Yawk's finest. A cop. ya know, like NYPD, the TV show. I love sports, yo! go Knicks, and more sports. Oh yea, less you get the rong idea, I love the, this women I'm with. Wildest fantasy? To quarterback the Giants in a super bowl. My companion and foist mate is Harmony Fishman.

**HARMONY FISHMAN**

Hi everybody! My name is Harmony Fishman. First of all, I want to thank Professional Magazine for this trip. I was flabbergasted when Tony came home and told me he was selected. I live in New York, not like Tony who lives somewhere called Nu Yawk. I work at the United Nations as a secretary for the Israeli delegation. I love art, especially modern, the theater, of course with Broadway at my doorstep and some sports, ah maybe football. Wildest fantasy? Gee, I guess it probably should not be discussed in public.

**MARK**

**NEXT!**

**ALICIA CHAPMAN**

Hello everyone! My name is Alicia Chapman. I live in Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard. I work in my grandmother's boutique. I do some selling, some bookwork. I love reading, favorite author, Danielle Steele. I also love boating and swimming. My wildest fantasy? It's to sail away to a deserted island with some close friends and do absolutely nothing, forever. I guess this trip is close to fulfilling my fantasy, thank you Professional Magazine for inviting me.

**MARK**

You're welcome Alicia. And your guest?

**ALICIA CHAPMAN**

Oh yes! My guest is Moe Hammit

***MOE HAMMIT (Speaking in Fractured English)***

Greetings to all peoples. I am known as by my name, Moe Hammit

**MARK**

Is that Moe, as in Morris?

***MOE (Still Speaking in Fractured English)***

No, it is Moe, as in Moe E. Hammit.

Forgive to you if English not speaked well.

Mechanic in garage, I do, and I at home in the Turkey, Istanbul city. To the happiest in me sport, was soccer and I play well very. I also ride the camel in the races, months a once in Istanbul, the city. Wildest funasy? To make happy to the wowman I with, while playing soccer ball on the camel back. Did I say all Mark?

**MARK**

May Allah bless you with Guidance and Wisdom and Moe you said it all! Does anyone have any questions?

**HARMONY**

When will we know our destination?

**MARK**

You won't know until we anchor.

**SARAH**

Surely the captain knows our destination, by now, right?

**MARK**

Really, he doesn't know yet. And don't call me Shirley (old joke) we went out of our way to make this cruise as mysterious as we possibly could.

**JACK**

This is absolutely ridiculous. Why would anyone want to keep the captain literally in the dark? Imagine, we're under sail and no one except your magazine knows our destination.

**MARK**

Guys! That's the way it is. Look no more questions. You all have been assigned your cabins. Your free to do whatever you want the rest of the evening. The galley is always open, help yourself to anything. Remember booze and sea sickness, don't sleep well together. See you here tomorrow around 10am. Good night.

**ALL**

## GOOD NIGHT MARK

***NARRATOR***

Mark leaves the room. The group head to their cabins, settle in, and do whatever couples do when they are alone. Let's pause and think about that. O.k. clear those dirty minds as we must continue. Around 2 am the inter-com beeps

***CAPTAIN FILLMORE (in an inter-com voice)***

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the captain speaking, I hate to bother you at this time of night, but I have to inform you that it appears that we will not miss the storm. Evidently our instruments have been in error. Looks like we are in for a rough night. I suggest you keep your life vest close to you till we ride out this storm. We will have a life boat drill in 30 minutes. Please be on the main deck in 20 minutes. Thank you.

***NARRATOR***

Alicia calls out from her divided room.

***ALICIA***

Moe come out here, did you here the captains message? We are to be on the main deck in 20 minutes. We're heading into a storm.

***MOE (Use your best fake Arabic)***

(DIRECTION.....MOE, SPEAKS SOMETHING IN ARABIC)

***NARRATOR***

Translated, Moe informs her that he is extremely sea sick and tells her he would rather sleep in camel dung than leave the cabin.

***ALICIA***

Ok Moe stay here, I'll inform the captain.

**NARRATOR**

Alicia, after tending to Moe, heads up to join the rest of her group already on deck.

**SARAH**

Its real dark up here how are we suppose to see the life boats?

**JACK**

Feel your way there like this. Oops I'm sorry.

**HARMONY**

Hey! Get your hands off my chest or I'll deck you

**TONY (Imitating Moe)**

Greetings to all peoples, forgive your English to me. I love the soccer to play and also too, camel dung toasting. My wildly funasy? To make happy to the tall wowman in heels that are highest, while my team friends pass balls around, of soccer, to us, so we for play with. No more to say.

**SARAH**

Is that you Moe?

**TONY**

Yea wowman it me.

**MARK**

Is everyone here? It's hard to see in the dark; be careful. Please, all of you, put your life vest on. I'll be with the captain. Oh by the way, our group number is 5. Remember that it's important. Did you hear me Moe? Moe! Number 5.

**TONY**

5 number to me, ok

**MARK**

GOOD!

**NARRATOR**

Mark leaves the group. A little while later, Alicia joins the group.

**ALICIA**

Guys, Moe's really sick, he can't make it up here. In his words "he would rather sleep on",... I rather not say.

**SARAH**

Then who the hell was that? That sounded just like him?

**HARMONY**

That was Tony, he always clowns around.

**SARAH**

God in this light, he even looks like him, same size, same color hair.

***CAPTAIN FILLMORE (In an Announcement Voice)***

Can everyone hear me? I'm sorry for this inconvenience. We're way off course. I didn't think we would be anywhere near this storm. But we're heading right into it. For some reason our instruments got out of calibration and we lost our radio. Basically folks, we're on our own. And I will pull no bones. We are heading directly into a very, very nasty storm. We're going to have to ride it out. I will leave the spot lights on the life boats. If we have to abandon ship, I will announce it over the P.A. and the crew will come to your cabins and escort you onto the main deck. Groups with the numbers 1, 3 and 5, will be assigned the life boats on the right. 2, 4, 6 life boats on the left. It is important that you all remember that.

Remember if we have to abandon ship, we will have very little time to react. And walking may be difficult. Remember too, the rails on this ship are made of rope. The seas are already very choppy. I strongly suggest you stay in your cabins or with the crew in the Galley. Keep your life vest on until the storm is over or until we call you. As you can see, the waves are already breaking over the bow. We are on an extremely sea worthy ship and your crew is very experienced. It is likely that we will weather this storm and tomorrow it will be all over. And you can go back to fun and games. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

***NARRATOR***

The group disbands and heads toward their cabins.

***TONY***

Harmony Honey, I'm going to stay on deck. This is like riding on a roller coaster in Coney Island.

***HARMONY***

Tony! You're crazy! I'm going back to our cabin.

***NARRATOR***

Around 6:30 am the ship clears the storm. A little while later Harmony wakes up and realizes that Tony never made it back to the cabin. She rushes up on deck and calls out for Tony. No reply. She goes back down and bangs on Mark's cabin door.

***HARMONY***

Mark! Mark! Tony's not anywhere to be found. Mark! Open the door.

***NARRATOR***

Mark opens the door.

***MARK***

What are you talking about? Weren't the two of you in your cabin all night?

***HARMONY***

No, Tony wanted to get some thrills from the storm. Oh my god! Something happened to him.

***MARK***

Are you sure? Tony didn't go back to your cabin? Maybe he's in someone else's cabin.

***NARRATOR***

With that, Harmony starts banging on the other cabin doors, waking everyone up.

***CAPTAIN FILLMORE***

What's going on here?

**HARMONY**

My boyfriend Tony is missing; he stayed up on deck after the life boat drill!!

**CAPTAIN FILLMORE**

Why in god's name would he stay up there when I told everyone to go back to their cabins? We got enough problems, we have no radio, and we're in the middle of the ocean. No way to know where we are. I tell you, you kids are something.

**MARK**

Maybe it wasn't Tony, maybe it was someone else.

**HARMONY**

No! It was Tony. Just don't stand there! Do something! Go find Tony.

**JACK**

We better all go up and look for him. He probably fell asleep on deck somewhere. It looks like the storms over. Maybe he's in one of the life boats with the tarpon over him, fast asleep, like a baby. Let's not panic.

**HARMONY**

No! No! Something has happened to him. Tony! Tony!

**NARRATOR**

The group heads up to the main deck

**JACK**

Alicia, where's Moe?

**ALICIA**

Moe's still deadly sick. He can just about move. That's why he didn't make the life boat drill last night.

**MARK**

Moe wasn't on deck last night? Then who the hell sounded and looked like him.

**SARAH**

That was Tony imitating Moe. Hey guys come over here! I think I found something

**NARRATOR**

The group heads toward Sarah

**SARAH**

It looks like the rail rope is broken.

**HARMONY (in an Angry Voice)**

NO! OH GOD NO! Tony! Damn You! Damn You! What did you do? Where are you? Damn! You ruined everything.

**SARAH**

I knew it! The ship is cursed. Witch's Haunt,... the name wreaks trouble.

**CAPTAIN FILLMORE (In an angry Voice)**

The rail's not broken it was cut. Look and there's blood on the deck floor. Something's going on here and I want to know where everyone was last night. I have a right, as captain of this ship, to arrest anyone responsible for whatever happened here.

***NARRATOR***

The captain calls the group leaders over and discusses the situation, dismisses the other groups, addressing Mark's group.

***CAPTAIN FILLMORE***

I want to tell you; your group was the only group that went to their cabins last night. The other groups stayed in the galley with my crew, and no one left, no one. If anything happened here, someone in this group knows. I want everyone to stay here.

Who's missing in your group Mark, beside Tony?

***ALICIA***

Moe is missing but surely you can't possibly think Moe did anything? He's sea sick; all you have to do is look at him.

***NARRATOR***

We will resist the Shirley comment but just this once. The captain motions to one of his crew members to get Moe.

***JACK***

Captain! Come over here! There's something floating in the water. It looks like a body.

***NARRATOR***

They all rush over to where Jack is.

***SARAH***

Oh God! It is a body. Can that be Tony'? Oh my God it is! He's tied to some kind of rope.

**NARRATOR**

The captain orders the crew to get the body and bring it on deck. The crew informs the captain that they found Moe, not in his room, but at the bow side of the deck. Moe joins the group.

***MOE (speaking in perfect UK English)***

I can tell you, Captain, his throat is cut. Just by chance, he tied himself off last night when he stayed on deck or we wouldn't have a body. He left enough slack in the rope so if he fell in the water; he would still be tied to the ship. The killer didn't see the rope in the dark or we would not have a body.

**JACK**

How do you know that? And what the hell happened to your accent. Moe if you had anything to do with this, I swear, I'll kill you myself.

**CAPTAIN FILLMORE**

OK I'm in charge here and I'll ask the questions. All right Moe! You were the only one missing at last night's drill, Putting on a phony accent, pretending to be sick, and no alibi for last night, makes you the prime suspect.. Until we get to Port., I'm putting you under armed guard as the person responsible for the murder of Anthony Marducci.

***MOE ( Speaking in English for rest of play)***

You're wrong! I'm not your killer.

**CAPTAIN FILLMORE**

As far as I'm concerned you killed a fellow passenger. Unless you can prove otherwise.

**MOE**

Captain, I can't right now.

**NARRATOR**

Captain Fillmore order's his crew to search Moe, They find Moe's gun and disarm him.

**CAPTAIN FILLMORE**

Moe or whoever you are you don't need gun if your innocent.

**JACK**

Captain! There's a ship coming towards us.

**NARRATOR**

The captain looks from his binoculars at the approaching ship the ship.

**CAPTAIN FILLMORE**

It's a Cuban gun ship. I've seen them before when I was in the Coast Guard. What the hell is going on here?

**NARRATOR**

The captain of the Cuban gun ship, through his outboard speaker system, announces that his crew is going to board the Witches Haunt and they are armed. The Cuban gun ship ties his ship off to Captain Fillmore's ship and he and two of his crew board the Witches Haunt.

**CAPTAIN FILLMORE**

What the hells going on here? We're not in Cuban waters. What authority do you have to board my ship armed! Like pirates? We are a flagged United States vessel in international waters. This is a violation of all International treaties. You won't get away with this.

**....NARRATOR...**

Hmmm audience! This seems like a good place to pause. Let's see, Tony Marducci has been murdered, and the ship has now been boarded by Cubans. Moe E. Hammit, security guard for Saleem Hussein (Alicia Chapman) is under house arrest for the murder. What's going on here? Do you think Moe did it, or maybe someone else? Please render your guess and by the way, you need to guess the motive. Hint! A little study of history will help. The motive is not that obvious. We will resume the play after you all have had a chance to guess. Ask questions of the cast if you like. Oh! remember the killer will lie.

**....NARRATOR... Continues**

*But before we get into guessing who the murder is, Lets again introduce our players and let's hear a big round of applause for each one as I introduce them. Cast when your name is called, Come forward and take your bow.*

**GUN BOAT CAPTAIN.**

**ARMED GUARDS (2)**

**JACK GALLAGHER.**

**SARAH WHALEN**

**HARMONY FISHMAN**

**ALICIA CHAPMAN also known as Saleem Hussein**

**CAPTAIN JONATHON FILLMORE**

**TONY MARDUCCI**

**MARK ANGELTON**

**MOE E. HAMMIT**

**Note to Narrator: Do not read aloud.**

### ***Review of Guessing & Scoring Methods***

There is always a cumbersome point in the play when the Narrator stops and asks the guest to render their opinion on whom the murderer is and what was the motive. Suggestions on what format these opinions should take are strictly up to the Narrator. A great deal depends on how the play has been perceived, good or bad? The play ran too short or too long? There may be other considerations on extending or limiting the time for guessing that cannot be covered here. Again the Narrator has to be fluid about this. This is true, especially if an award is given to the person(s) getting the correct answer(s). Since in this particular play the Players will simply continue the play to reveal the murderer, the correct guesser(s) will have to wait to be told. Remember there are two parts of the plot, the murderer and the motive and both should be guessed before the play resumes. The murderer will be easier to guess than the motive. Consequently there should be a higher score for guessing the motive than for guessing the murderer.

If picking the highest individual score is not that important, you may want to have groups guess. This could be done by having the Narrator asking for a show of hands on who the audience thinks the murderer is. This of course takes place after the play pauses and after the audience gets a chance to ask the players questions. **Reminder: MAKE SURE PLAYERS WEAR THEIR NAME TAGS.**

When it becomes obvious that several guests are picking a particular player or another, the Narrator or the Director puts them in groups. The groups then discuss possible motives and render their opinions as a group. In this way a group can win rather than an individual.

**End of Note: START THE GUESSING PROCESS**

<b><i>NARRATOR</i></b>
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**THE PLAY RESUMES AFTER AUDIENCE RENDERS THEIR SUPPOSITIONS.**

## **SEALED SECTION**

**Open after Audience rendered their Guess**

***CUBAN GUN BOAT CAPTAIN (IN A SPANISH ACCENT)***

Just a little inconvenience captain, while we tend to some political business. We only want the company of one of your passengers. We are not pirates. We are just trying to help our Palestinian friends retake their rightful homeland. I'm sorry that we had to miss-align your instruments. It put you directly into the storm. I thought you weren't going to make the rendezvous. Thank you Captain Fillmore's for your skills as a helmsman and thank you for disarming the Jordanian Security Agent.

***GUN BOAT CAPTAIN (speaking to his armed guards)***

Grab the princess.

***NARRATOR***

Moe shields himself between the armed guards and Alicia.

***MARK***

Get out of the way Moe; you were lucky once, when I killed Tony thinking he was you. You're an Arab, just like me, surely you don't believe in your government's peace initiatives with the Israelis. Maybe holding their beloved princess will make them reconsider their evil acts, the infidels. Arab or no Arab, I won't hesitate to kill you. Get out of the way!

***MOE***

Mark, the Jordanian security agency and the United States CIA have been on to this plot from the beginning. You are not leaving this ship with the princess. I have been in constant contact with a United States navy submarine and their position is right off our port bow. They should be surfacing any minute and should have a clear shot at your Cuban friend's gun ship. And I'll forget you called me Shirley.

***NARRATOR***

Mark, turning to the Cuban captain

**MARK**

**KILL HIM! KILL HIM NOW.**

**CUBAN GUN BOAT CAPTAIN**

If he's right Señor, to quote a famous Arab Intelligence agent, "I rather sleep in camel's dung" than shoot him.

**MARK**

I'll kill him myself. Give me your gun

**NARRATOR**

Just then the U.S. sub surfaces. Mark grabs the Cuban Captain's Uzi and turns toward Moe but before he can fire, a shot rings out shooting the gun out of Mark's hand.

***Harmony (with her own gun in hand)***

You terrorist pig, Moe forgot to tell you that the Israelis were on to you as well. I can't type but I can shoot.

**NARRATOR**

Captain Fillmore's crew apprehends Mark. The rest of the Cubans drop their guns and put up their hands in surrender. And so our murder mystery ends. Hope you all picked Mark as the murderer and the motive? Well it was to stop Jordan from signing a peace initiative with Israel by holding their Princess as a hostage. Too bad Mark seemed like such a nice guy. Oh Well! It appears that we reached the end of the play. Surely the director should yell "Cut! It's a wrap".

**DIRECTOR**

**OK! .. CUT IT'S A WRAP! And, again, please don't call me Shirley. Thank you all for coming and once again thanks to our talented cast. I hoped you all enjoyed yourself.**