
BRINDLEWOOD BAY

Complexity: 6

Presenting the Mystery

The Mavens are guests at a Halloween party being thrown at the fabulous Brindlewood Bay home of Abner Vidal, a retired filmmaker famous for gonzo, B-grade pictures. The first scene should be the Mavens being greeted by Abner at the front door. Abner is wearing a King Tut costume.

Paint the Scene: *As you approach Abner's home, what ostentatious thing do you see outside that reminds you Abner doesn't fit in with Brindlewood Bay's stuffy upper crust? Also: tell me about your costume.*

After a short scene with Abner, have a few more scenes where we see the Mavens enjoying themselves at the party. Be sure to introduce all the Suspect characters except Mrs. White in these scenes.

After a few scenes, and after the Suspects who are not Mrs. White have been introduced, the party is interrupted by a shrill scream. Mrs. White has found Abner dead on the covered back porch, his head submerged in a large metal basin being used to bob for apples.

A member of the Brindlewood Bay police is at the party, possibly Sheriff Dalrymple (you can make up another character if you played "Dad Overboard" and Sheriff Dalrymple was implicated in that murder). The police official will begin an investigation on the spot, refusing to allow anyone to leave the party. If the Mavens don't get involved of their own accord, you should make it clear that the police official is making mistakes and not likely to figure out who did it on their own.

Establishing Question: *You're having a bit of a romantic affair with one of the people you've talked to at the party tonight. Who is it?*

Suspects

Elena Visage, an actress

Seductive. Boozy. Vampiress costume. Elena is a former Hollywood actress and frequent star of Abner's films. She

All Hallow's Scream

seems to like Abner, though she will drop hints that he eventually resigned her to "matronly" roles in favor of giving the leads to younger talent.

Quote: *"I mean, surely you've seen my work? Variety once said my performance in Devil Women from Planet X was the most acting they'd ever seen."*

Gordon Thune, a banker

Stuffy. Put-upon. Frankenstein's monster costume. Gordon is a local banker and a pillar of the community. He finds Abner personally distasteful, and if not for the filmmaker's importance as a bank customer, wouldn't be caught dead at this party.

Quote: *"Who knows what kind of depraved nonsense Abner has planned for us at this party. These Hollywood types... they're just different from you and me, you know?"*

Sam Turlington, a business partner

Friendly. Boisterous. Phantom of the Opera costume. Sam is a new business partner of Abner's—they're investing in some prime retail property near the bay. He likes Abner and is having a swell time at the party.

Quote: *"I'll tell you this: Abner Vidal isn't just a filmmaking visionary. No, no—he's also got a great mind for business. The plans we're hatching for the bayside properties are going to make Brindlewood Bay an internationally-renowned vacation spot."*

Coco Vidal, the wife

Air-headed. Sweet. Cleopatra costume. Coco has known Abner since they were teenagers and was frequently an extra in his early films. They've been married for nearly 40 years.

Quote: *"Why would anyone want to kill Abner? He's so harmless. It's true he snores quite a lot, and he's sometimes a bit of a cheapskate when it comes to dining out, but why would anyone want to kill him over stuff like that?"*

Marcus Greaves, the manager

Handsome. Piercing eyes. Not dressed in a costume. Marcus is Abner's business manager. He's been with Abner for over

20 years, looking after his affairs, arranging opportunities, negotiating contracts... and always getting his 10%.

Quote: *"These parties are such a waste of time. The people in this backwater are never going to accept Abner as one of their own, so I'm not sure why he even tries. I need to get him back to Hollywood. Los Angeles misses Abner Vidal."*

June Willoughby, a local

Pretty. Artificially genteel. Sock-hop costume. A local and friend of the Vidals. Secretly having an affair with Abner. Very judgmental towards Coco.

Quote: *"Just look at this place. Everything is so ostentatious. And it's just like Coco to buy this cheap swill. Zhampagne! Whoever heard of Zhampagne?"*

Mrs. White, maid

Curmudgeonly. Snoops about. Maid uniform with cat ears. Mrs. White is quiet and always... there. She knows a lot about what happens in the Vidal home. Secretly in love with Coco.

Quote: *"Mr. Vidal was bound to go and get himself killed at some point. I'm surprised it took this long! The person I'm most worried about is poor Mrs. Vidal. Someone needs to make sure she's looked after."*

Paint the Scene

The "Tinseltown" room

As you step into this den/lounge area of the Vidal home, what object do you see that is supposed to be a reminder of Abner and Coco's life in Hollywood?

The master bedroom

Abner and Coco had a pretty interesting sex life. What evidence of this do you see casually strewn about the room?

Abner's office

Abner is very bad at business. Looking around his office, how do you know this?

Clues

- ☐ A shattered Britty Award.
- ☐ An argument between two Suspects on a seemingly-private balcony; the words they're saying are unclear.
- ☐ A plastic pumpkin filled with half-empty pill bottles; painkillers, mostly.
- ☐ Decorative spider webs with a real human finger tangled in them.
- ☐ Stacks and stacks of rejected movie scripts.
- ☐ A pair of muddy boots in an unusual place.
- ☐ An old reel of film showing a debauched Hollywood party.
- ☐ Women's lingerie, perfumed.
- ☐ A cracked swan sculpture.
- ☐ A sack of rubber Halloween masks in an unusual place.
- ☐ A steamy love letter, unsigned.
- ☐ A fancy car, the brake lines cut.
- ☐ Pictures of the past, discarded.
- ☐ An adult trick-or-treater provokes a glint of recognition from a Suspect.
- ☐ A phone message delivered to the wrong number.
- ☐ A lifetime achievement award with the words "Enjoy it, you worthless bastard" carved on the back of the frame.
- ☐ A tape of spooky Halloween sounds has a message from someone when played in reverse: "I know I'm going to die tonight."
- ☐ Candy that has been tampered with.
- ☐ A duplicate costume, hastily discarded.
- ☐ A rejected building permit application.

Void Clues

- ☐ The sound of a record being played backwards, but upon closer inspection, the sound of someone chanting.
- ☐ A rising mist, strange shapes moving within.
- ☐ An infestation of crawling insects.
- ☐ A bell tolling in the distance, but the hour indicated is wrong.
- ☐ A tree oozing blood-red sap
- ☐ A portrait, the subject of which seems to shift position.