

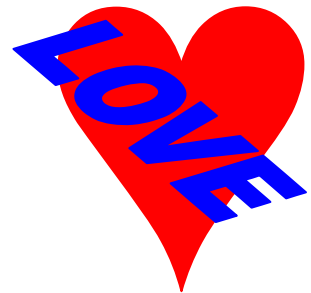
CARDS ON THE TABLE

GAME BOOKLET

KEY FACTS

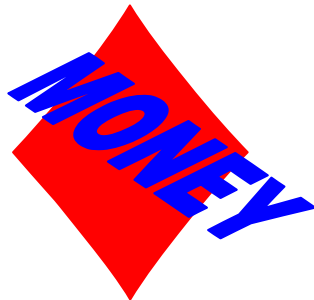


No of People	4-5
% of Successful Solvers	40%
Adult Content Rating	5/10
Price	£19.95



EMAIL VERSION FILES

- Instructions PDF File – 1 MB
- Round 1 Court Cards PDF Files – 1 MB
- Round 2 Court Cards PDF File – 1 MB
- Round 3 Court Cards PDF File – 1 MB
- Clues-Betting Plus File – 1 MB



MR BETTS INTRODUCTORY SPEECH

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. Allow me to introduce myself. I am Mr Betts the Bookmaker, also known as “Bertie Betts” and “Honest Albert”. I am one of the Happy Family cards and famed throughout the racecourses of England as the only bookmaker to give the punters honest odds. I am going to be your guide for tonight’s entertainment.

(Nod at the cards on the table)

Know what’s going on down there? They’re investigating a murder. The King of Hearts, sometimes known as “the suicide king”, is dead. He is known by that name because of the way he holds his sword as though he is stabbing himself in the head. But today he lies dead and the wound could not have been self-inflicted. Someone has taken a sword and tried to hack off his head from behind. And Mr Justice Joker is determined to find out whodunnit. It must be one of the other picture cards. After all, they are the only ones with hands! So how is this game going to pan out? Well in most murder mysteries the winner is the person who spots the murderer. But this one is going to be a bit different. As cards are traditionally used for gambling and because I’m a bookmaker, I have decided to give this game a twist. And so tonight’s winner is going to be the person who wins the most money on Mr Betts’ Homicidal Handicap!

(Put Betting Sheet No 1 on the table)

Yes, here’s a betting sheet. At various points of the game I’ll be allowing you to have a bet on who you think the murderer is. You will be having four bets in all. I will be paying out at the odds stated on each sheet. As more information is revealed I will be changing the odds accordingly. If you bet on the murderer you will get paid off at the full odds. But because I’m that rare thing, a kind and generous bookmaker, if you bet on a would-be killer, or an accomplice (witting or unwitting), I will pay you off at half the stated odds.

OK, let us have the first round of betting now. The King of Hearts is obviously a non-runner, but all the other suspects are currently at ten to one. As you haven’t heard any evidence yet, this bet is pretty much a blind guess. I suggest that you scan the faces of the playing cards, look at what they represent in the world of fortune telling, and decide who you think looks most suspicious. Then, when you’ve written your choice at the foot of the betting sheet, we can get on with round one....

MR JUSTICE JOKER'S INTRODUCTORY SPEECH

Aces, Kings, Queens and Jacks. I am the joker and it is time to begin our court of enquiry. As the card least changed from our origins within the tarot pack, I shall be directing the court proceedings. The King of Hearts has been killed. His body was found on waste ground halfway between the spade castle and the heart castle. He had been killed by a savage blow to the back of the neck which almost decapitated him. The murder weapon, a sword, was found by his body. As it is inconceivable that any of the spot cards committed this murder, I am convinced that his killer is one of the remaining eleven picture cards. And it is the purpose of this court of enquiry to discover which of these eleven suspects terminated his life.

The investigation will take place over three rounds. During those rounds questions will be asked of the suspects and enlightening answers obtained. Clue items will also turn up which may help to throw light on the mystery. And I can see in the public gallery various representatives from the Happy Families pack. It may turn out that these individuals have evidence to offer. Then, at the end of the game, I will give my verdict on who I believe killed the king.

Although not suspects, the aces of each suit are here to represent the interests of their respective king, queen and jack. The aces will be asking questions to hopefully unmask the killer. But first I am going to ask each ace to give the court an introduction to their particular suit. And I would like the Ace of Spades to begin.

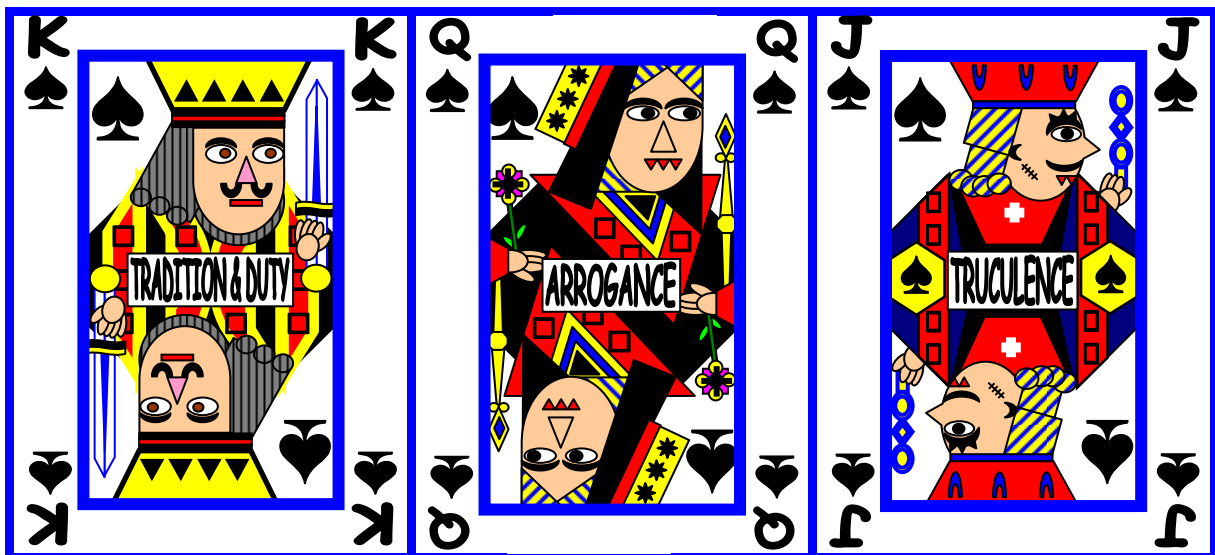


THE SPADES

THE ACE OF SPADES' INTRODUCTORY SPEECH

(Speak in an aristocratic, curt voice) I am the Ace of Spades, and I am representing the interests of the spade court cards. Spades are the top dogs in the card deck pecking order. When playing cards were first introduced to France, the French decided that each suit should represent a rung of the social hierarchy. Spades represent the aristocracy, the very top level of society. This can still be seen today in the card game “bridge” where a bid of one spade is superior to a bid of one heart, one diamond or one club.

The name spade is derived from “sword” and in the tarot pack we are still known as swords. On the positive side spades are associated with power and command. On the negative side we are associated with aggression and arrogance. But because we are the social elite of the card deck, it is ridiculous to even think that any of the spade suit could be concerned in the King of Hearts' death.

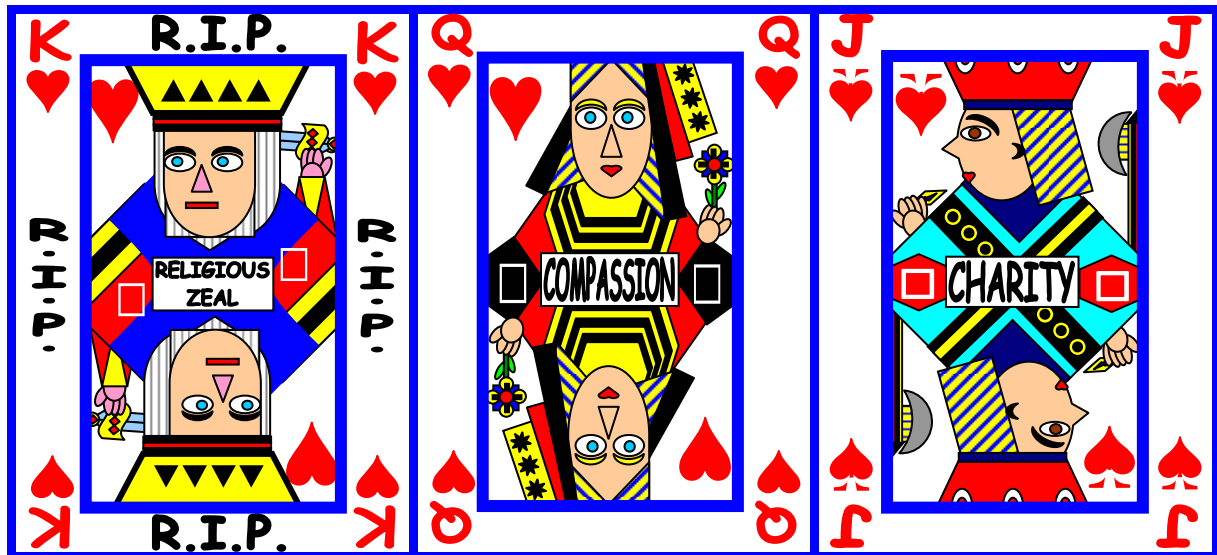


THE HEARTS

THE ACE OF HEARTS' INTRODUCTORY SPEECH

(Speak in a hushed, spiritual voice) I am the Ace of Hearts and I am representing the interests of the heart court cards. When playing cards were introduced into France they made hearts represent the priesthood. We are second only to spades in the social structure of the deck. Which is why, in the game of bridge, a bid of one heart is superior to those of one diamond or one club.

Hearts are connected with love and religion. In the tarot pack we were represented by cups. But today it is the religious part that we are more concerned with. It is our king who lies practically decapitated. The bible says "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". So when the killer is discovered, all the hearts will be crying "Off with his head!"

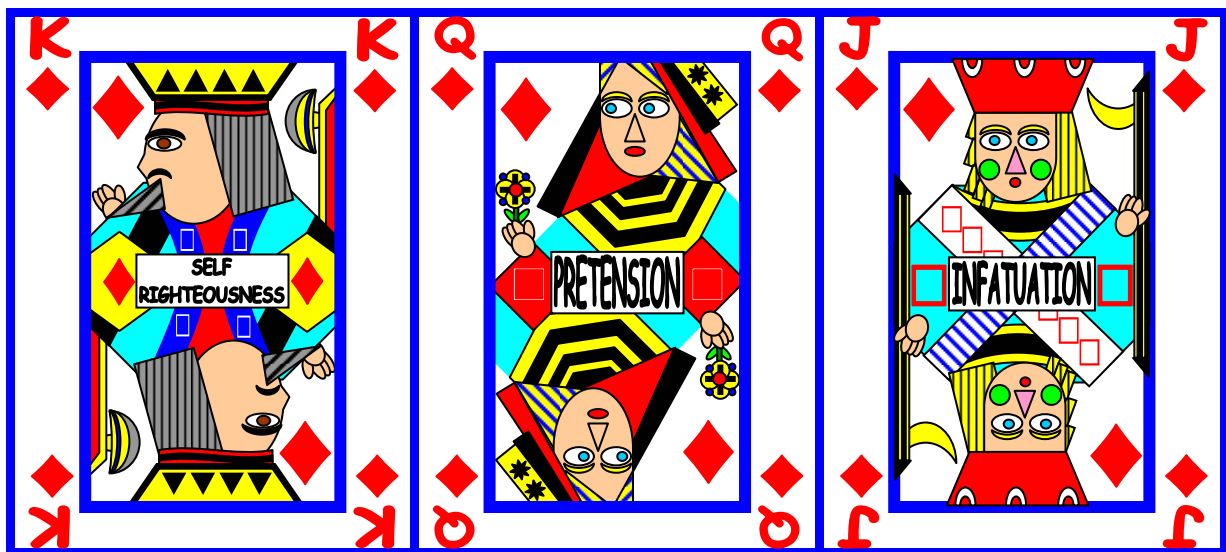


THE DIAMONDS

THE ACE OF DIAMONDS' INTRODUCTORY SPEECH

(Speak in a snobbish, precise voice) I am the Ace of Diamonds and I am representing the interests of the diamond court cards. Diamonds represent the merchant classes of fifteenth century France and therefore my suit is particularly interested in social position, wealth and the acquisition of money. Indeed in the tarot pack we are represented by coins.

Despite our immense wealth, within the social structure of the deck we are quite low. In the game of bridge the only call that is inferior to that of one diamond is one club.

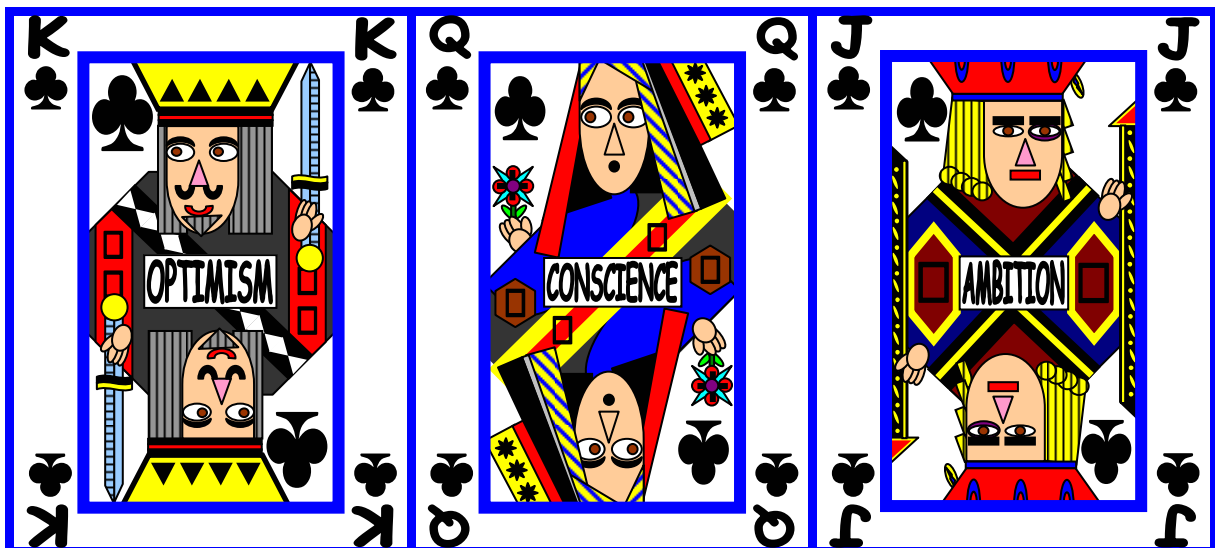


THE CLUBS

THE ACE OF CLUBS' INTRODUCTORY SPEECH

(Speak in a rough, down to earth voice) I am the Ace of Clubs and I am representing the interests of the club court cards. As the other suits have had the fun of boasting how important they are, I might as well confess now that clubs are the lowest of the low. In ancient France our suit was meant to represent the poor, the riff raff and the hoi polloi. And I will tell you now. One club is the most miserable call that you can make in the game of bridge.

So, like the common people, we are pretty mean, crude and vulgar. In the relentless struggle to make a living we do not have much time for scruples or ethics. In the tarot our suit was represented by staves, perfect for crudely bashing someone's head in. But it is precisely because we are the lowest of the low that our suit is connected with ambition. The desire to better ourselves. But it is up to you to decide whether we would undertake murder to achieve this!



HAPPY FAMILY WITNESSES

Various members of the Happy Families pack are sitting in the public gallery of the court room. These include:

- Mrs Bordello the Brothel Keeper's Wife
- Miss Garnier the Beautician's Daughter
- Mr Morpheus the Hypnotist
- Master Arrowhead the Armourer's Son
- Mr Shrink the Psychiatrist

It may be that they will feel the urge to step forward and contribute to proceedings.

STAGES OF GAME

- Mr Betts Opening Speech
- 1st Bet
- Round 1
- 2nd Bet
- Round 2
- 3rd Bet
- Round 3
- Final Bet
- Mr Justice Joker's Summing Up
- Confession
- Betting returns calculated and winner declared

The game should take approximately 2 to 3 hours to play.

PURCHASE INFORMATION

All merrymurder games can be purchased online with a credit card. Alternatively you can place your order online and then post a cheque.

DELIVERY INFORMATION

I aim to upload your game files to the merrymurder website and email you the link so that you can download them within 48 hours of receiving your order. Usually it is within 24 hours.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM WWW.MERRYMURDER.COM

<p>CARDS ON THE TABLE 4-5 players Slaughtering spades, homicidal hearts, death dealing diamonds and killer clubs.</p>	<p>THE PUNGENT PUMPKIN POISONER 8-10 players An impromptu murder mystery. DOWNLOADABLE FREE</p>
<p>THE MURDER OF MRS WHYTE 8-13 players A horticultural murder mystery, inspired by a famous board game.</p>	<p>NATURAL PORN KILLERS 9-12 players A murder mystery set in the world of blue movies - Adults only.</p>
<p>TEN LITTLE VAMPIRES 10 players Ten little vampires going out to dine, one choked his little self and then there were nine</p>	<p>RANDY BUTT – RIP 10-13 players A fantastic gay murder mystery – Lechery, lust, and copping off – Adults only.</p>
<p>AN EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA 11-15 players An egg inspired murder. Who cracked open Sergei Shell's head at his Easter Fair?</p>	<p>DEATH BY DEPRECIATION 11-16 players An accountancy murder. Fatal finance, crooked accountants & murderous money.</p>
<p>SING A LONG A SOUND OF MURDER 11-17 players A murder mystery crossed with a musical. Who killed Herr Zealot, head of the Nazis?</p>	<p>THE WOMAN IN THE IRON MASK 12-16 players A French Revolution mystery. Louis XV's mistresses & musketeers solve a beheading.</p>
<p>THE WAKE FOR HUMPTY DUMPTY 12-16 players Did Humpty fall? Or was he pushed? No one in Nursery Rhyme Town is shedding tears.</p>	<p>THE MERRYMURDER PANTOCRIME 12-18 players A murder mystery crossed with a pantomime. Good magic, bad jokes and ugly sisters.</p>
<p>THE CUTTING IT KILLER 13-16 players Sexing up the salon. Hollywood hair styles. Drugs with the dyes. And much, much more!</p>	<p>SLAUGHTER AT THE CIRCUS 13-18 players A tale of sabotage, diamonds, insatiable passion, lions, red noses, tarot and carcasses.</p>
<p>MURDER AT THE NORTH POLE 14-18 players Father Christmas? Mrs Christmas? Rudolph? One North Pole resident is a heartless killer...</p>	<p>ORGY OF DEATH 16-20 players A Roman murder mystery – Has a sex game gone wrong or is it murder. Adults only.</p>

www.merrymurder.com

The other merrymurder games