

# RECIPE FOR MURDER

A Ten-Minute Comedy Duet

by  
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BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS, LLC

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*\*Both characters should speak with British accents, if possible.\**

**CAST: RUPE and CLAUDIA**

**SETTING: Somewhere in England**

**AT RISE: A parlor in the rather large estate of Mr. Brant Cowley**

RUPE: You understand why I'm here, I presume?

CLAUDIA: Yes, Detective, I think I do. It has something to do with the mistress.

RUPE: Yes, and more to the point, the fact that you claim to have discovered Mrs. Cowley.

CLAUDIA: I discovered her dead body, if that's what you mean.

RUPE: I'm Detective Rupe Godfrey. Would you state your name and position for the record?

CLAUDIA: Claudia May Binghamton, Detective Godfrey. I'm the maid. Essentially, I'm in charge of taking care of the mistress.

RUPE: It's obvious someone took *care* of the mistress. You may still refer to her as Mrs. Cowley if you wish.

CLAUDIA: Oh, we never referred to her as Mrs. Cowley. She rather thought it imparted too much familiarity. I dare say we weren't on good terms. Of course, there wasn't the person alive that was on good terms with our lady.

RUPE: I see. Nonetheless, Mr. Cowley states that at the time of her death, no one was in the house, except his staff, and he has asked me to question each of you.

CLAUDIA: So he suspects us of knocking off the old bag, does he?

RUPE: I didn't say that. After all, you did report the crime.

CLAUDIA: It would be just like him, too. He kills her himself and expects to put the blame on his staff. I wouldn't put it past him to kill her, the entire staff, and even you, if you dared get in his bloody way. If he tries to hang this crime around my neck, they'll be one more murder. And I'll lose my head for that one, you can bet.

RUPE: Calm down. We're only after the real killer. If you're clean, you've got no problems. Did any of the staff have a reason for wanting her dead?

CLAUDIA: Well, no, we didn't sit around on our break time and discuss various ways of buffing off the mistress, if that's what you're getting at. We just sort of hoped she'd die on her own.

RUPE: And Mr. Cowley?

CLAUDIA: The master? I doubt it. He scarcely noticed she was alive, and if I hadn't discovered the body, I dare say she'd still be there. The flies and buzzards would be feasting before anyone else would care.

RUPE: When did you first discover the body?

CLAUDIA: I suppose it was about 1:15 in the morning.

RUPE: We place the time of death at around 11:30 P.M. Why weren't you sleeping at such a late hour?

CLAUDIA: I had to go to the loo.

RUPE: The loo, Miss Binghamton?

CLAUDIA: Yes, Detective, the loo. A person can go to the loo without being under suspicion for murder, can she not?

RUPE: In some houses, yes, but not this one. Just how long were you in the loo?

CLAUDIA: Oh, approximately an hour and three quarters, I suppose.

RUPE: An hour and three quarters? What were you doing there for an hour and three quarters?

CLAUDIA: What do you think I was doing? I was singing the theme song to "Titanic"...every time I flushed, I screamed "Iceberg, dead ahead!", and the ship flushed into Celine Dion's sewer system. I told you where I was. Can't a lady have any privacy during this investigation?

RUPE: Don't get cute, Miss Binghamton. I can always take you in for questioning. Now, it seems odd that you would have to remain two hours in the loo at the same time the mistress was being murdered.

CLAUDIA: It was the spinach pie, sir. Every time Cook makes the spinach pie, I wind up spending the majority of the night in the loo.

RUPE: Has it ever occurred to you not to eat it?

CLAUDIA: Not really. Last night was the first time I made the correlation. It's only the third time he's cooked it in the years I've been here.

RUPE: And every time he makes the pie...

CLAUDIA: I wind up in the loo. But it's getting better. The first time it happened, I went in at approximately ten thirty and didn't get out until about two in the morning, and the second, I think I went in at eleven and came out at one. So you see, I'm getting more accustomed to it.

RUPE: And if this happened years ago, how do you remember exactly what time you went in and what time you came out?

CLAUDIA: With an episode like that, sir, you just don't forget. But it took until this time around to realize that it might be caused by eating the spinach pie. It's tasty, all right, but certainly not worth all that.

RUPE: And while you were in the loo, Madame, did you hear any strange noises about?

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