

“Emerald Jim” Calhoun - Gossip

There are rumors and gossip about each of the characters at the party. Some is true, some might not be. Below are all of the rumors about your character, plus one or two tidbits about others.

You're being told the rumors about you so that you won't be surprised when someone mentions them. You can decide whether the gossip is true or not (although others may believe it's true regardless); your decision will affect your reaction (you can indignantly deny it, stammer and change the subject, freely admit it...whatever you like).

During the course of the evening, you should try to mention the gossip you know about others. Try to work it casually into the conversation: Don't walk in the door and blurt out, "She's a diabetic, and he's addicted to morphine, and she's having an affair with a circus midget." Instead, you might notice that someone has refused dessert and ask if that's due to her diabetes, or mention an acquaintance of yours that you know is the other fellow's pusher (you're on your own with the circus midget).

Also, please try not to share your clues with others before the party. The puzzle is more fun if everyone has only a few pieces.

What Someone Knows About You:

Rumor has it that you sometimes acquire property by somewhat shady means. You somehow persuade reluctant tenants to sell their homes, and the prices you pay for land are often surprisingly low. It isn't unusual for landowners who stubbornly refuse to sell to meet with calamity--livestock stolen or killed, wells poisoned, anonymous tips to the local authorities about past misdeeds.

What You Know About Others:

General Grant - He was driven to become an outstanding military man by the disgrace of his great-uncle's desertion from the Confederate army. He's dedicated his life to expiating his ancestor's crime by surpassing him as a soldier.

Margaret Honeywine - Her husband was killed in Africa, and Honeywine has always claimed it was a lion attack. The body was never found and he was heavily insured.

Thaddeus Lynch - The Spindletop deal wasn't the first time that Lynch has profited by somewhat shady means. He's particularly keen on treasure-hunting...not only is it fascinating archaeology, but it's easy to under-report his profits. More than one private collector knows about his "sideline."

Aleister Crawley - He's mentioned plans to establish an occult research center and university, where those interested in his work could congregate. He wants to find the right spot, though--preferably, one with a lot of psychic turbulence.