

General Odysseus T. Grant - 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:

You were driven to become an outstanding military man by the disgrace of your great-uncle's desertion from the Confederate army. You've dedicated your life to expiating his crime by surpassing him as a soldier.

When you were a cadet, each student was required to research a battle of his choice and give an oral report on military tactics. You used the Siege of Hilltop House as your example, and were in the middle of discussing the fact that nothing was plundered by the troops. You suddenly stopped, exclaimed, "Then that means the gold is still there..." then shook yourself, apologized for your outburst, and finished your report. You refused to elaborate any further on your comment.

What You Know About Others:

Ruth Edding - Her husband is involved in some shady dealings, and she's more than an innocent victim.

Maximillian Von Blucher - The Count is a suave but shady man who's gained his status by a judicious application of money. It's rumored that he even bought his title from a nearly-bankrupt duchy in Moravia.

Thaddeus Lynch - Some of his wealth has been gained by less-than-ethical means. He once told a local widow that the tarry deposits often plowed up in her fields made the land worthless for growing crops and thus almost valueless. After she sold it in a transaction Lynch brokered, the enormous oil reserves underneath rewarded him richly.

Aleister Crawley - His stated belief, *Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law*, makes many wonder if he's truly evil, just amoral, or perhaps even simply immoral.

