

## "Help"-ing Out

First, we'd like to thank you yet again for volunteering to be a member of the Count and Countess' staff. It's rather more difficult to project the air of the idle rich if one is answering one's own doorbell.

Second, never fear--even though you'll appear to be doing most of the work, you'll be getting plenty of help from behind the scenes. (For example, dinner will be arranged on everyone's plates in the kitchen by Jenna, who will duck out for a minute to "give Cook last-minute instructions." All you'll have to do is bring them to the table.) You're party guests as well, so we have no intention of working you to death (so to speak).

The butler's main duty will be to answer the door. Each guest will present you with a calling card with their name and occupation. Please read it aloud to the assemblage, so that they know who's just arrived.

The maid's main task is to "work the room" before dinner--point guests to the rest room, resupply them with ice, and so forth.

You'll both be serving dinner, which amounts to bringing dishes from the kitchen and taking them back to the kitchen for each course. (Jenna and Dade will deal with them after the party.) You'll be dining with the guests, due to the Countess' strange and egalitarian habit of treating the "help" almost as equals. This is a faux pas on her part, but she seems to have a strange empathy for the servants.

Since you're both brand-new employees of the Von Bluchers, it's to be expected that you don't know each other that well, and you might not know all of the answers to guests' questions. The maid will know the layout of the house, of course, but might be ignorant of its haunted past. Just direct the guests to the Count or Countess for additional information.

The house has just been reopened after being boarded up for almost 70 years. Work has yet to be completed, which is why most of the house is closed off, much of the furniture is slipcovered, and wiring hasn't been installed in the upstairs areas.

The guests have all been given rumors about some of the other attendees, and a few have been told about the dark pasts of the "help." Below is what some people might know about you. If someone mentions your past, you can react however you wish (you can indignantly deny it, stammer and change the subject, freely admit it...whatever you like).

- A few years ago, Worthington, the butler, was arrested for murdering a former employer. He was released for lack of evidence (they didn't find enough of the body to make a case), but no one would hire him after the trial.
- Threnody, the maid, has a seedy reputation. She drinks, smokes, and carouses with the guys who hang around on the corner. No one of any character would hire her.
- No one ever sees Cook. She's shy and suspicious of strangers. There are rumors that she spent some time in an asylum, but she's much better now. Really.  
(Note - There \*is\* no character playing Cook. But you can pretend there is.)