

ADAM / ALICE PENSELL-SMITH

A NEWSPAPER EDITOR

Brisk and efficient; mindful and polite, but a little wary.

COSTUME TIPS

All paisley and purple; maybe a roll neck and a blazer; vintage. Stuck in a delightful past.

WHERE WAS I EARLIER? DO I HAVE AN ALIBI?

I was in the library, looking for a book about local history. They'll confirm that. As a previous winner, my fingerprints may still be on the Silver Slice. The last time I met Ictim he took a phone call and said, "Ah yes, let's talk about that..."

MOTIVE

Ictim's badly written autobiography suggested I was embezzling funds from the Localtown Gazette – as if there are any funds to embezzle!

RELATIONSHIPS

I'm an old college friend of Sheetspread – the times we had! I'm not so keen on Litmus – why does everything have to change?

ALLIANCE?

I may offer an alliance to the person with the best posture. I may agree to an alliance with the second person to ask me.

GHOST STORY TIPS

Knocking pipes all night – a persistent cat – "Her daffodil birthmark."

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Good luck!

LOUIS / LOUISE GAULOISE

A FRENCH BISTRO OWNER

Je suis Gallic and fashionable; dry; I act oblivious but I am always intrigued.

COSTUME TIPS

Maybe all black in the Parisian style or Breton stripes and a beret.

WHERE WAS I EARLIER? DO I HAVE AN ALIBI?

I was walking along the street, contemplating existence, witnessed only by the universe. I saw Ictim pick up his dry cleaning today – the shirts were non-descript.

MOTIVE

Ictim threatened to close down my café after slipping on some soft cheese. That is how the cheese should be – idiot!

RELATIONSHIPS

I always watch Goodbake's TV show as I admire the simplicity of English baking. I find Matcha's energy to be oh-too much.

ALLIANCE?

I may offer an alliance to the person I find most suspicious. I may agree to the first offer of alliance and then break it during the voting.

GHOST STORY TIPS

A cold wind in the trees – an abandoned shed – “He always carried that rag.”

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SIMON / SIMONE GOODBAKE

A TELEVISION BAKER

A smooth, confident sort; twinkly eyed; a charmer.

COSTUME TIPS

Think crisp shirts or blouses, pastels, a neat jacket or twin-set, pressed chinos etc.

WHERE WAS I EARLIER? DO I HAVE AN ALIBI?

I was buying bronzer, to ensure I look excellent on television. I remember Ictim telling me recently he was being pestered by someone he knew well.

MOTIVE

Ictim claimed to have cracked a tooth on one of my cupcakes and so briefly I was considered to be ridiculous. I am the exact opposite. It was unacceptable behaviour – but hardly a motive for murder.

RELATIONSHIPS

I supply Upright with cakes and pies so I am on good terms with them. I'm suspicious of Shoreditch's ambition – they need to pay their dues.

ALLIANCE?

I may only offer an alliance to the first person turned down by somebody else. I may only accept alliance offers from persons of my gender.

GHOST STORY TIPS

A second-hand van – road directions to nowhere – a haunted CD.

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WILLIAM / WILHELMINA UPRIGHT

A VICTORIAN THEMED CAFÉ OWNER

I wear period costume; I'm very correct but maybe a little strict with others.

COSTUME TIPS

Certainly black clothes, possibly with the occasional antique adornment.

WHERE WAS I EARLIER? DO I HAVE AN ALIBI?

I was in the Localtown Museum observing its paintings; sadly I believe them to be fakes. Tasteless too. I noticed Ictim had left an umbrella at the museum which I claimed and would return to him in due course.

MOTIVE

Ictim gazumped me when this house was on the market, and I have an exceedingly long memory for such matters.

RELATIONSHIPS

I employed Litmus when they were a teenager; they were acceptable. I regard Trainer-Cross as terribly modern with all this fitness – what's wrong with a good walk?

ALLIANCE?

I may offer no alliances. I may only accept an alliance if the person is polite.

GHOST STORY TIPS

An empty doll's house – the taste of licorice – a rising river.

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CARL / CARLIE TRAINER-CROSS

A LOCAL GYM OWNER

I'm sporty and keen; I'd rather be running; do I talk too quickly?

COSTUME TIPS

Headband and fitness gear; not necessarily a tracksuit; maybe a polo shirt or a sports team kit.

WHERE WAS I EARLIER? DO I HAVE AN ALIBI?

I was at an outdoor gym, working out a crick in my neck by doing 500 pull-ups. Last time I saw Ictim I suggested he was looking a little overweight – not popular!

MOTIVE

Ictim took me to court about spraining his wrist picking up a water bottle, overfilled with heavy electrolytes.

RELATIONSHIPS

I like Matcha because of their commitment to the outdoor life – healthy!
I find Goodbake a little stodgy – all those heavy cakes.

ALLIANCE?

I may offer an alliance to the tallest of the other guests. I may only accept an alliance if the person offering is wearing a wristwatch.

GHOST STORY TIPS

The last train of the night – the emerald fox – “I never went back.”

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JAX / JAX SHOREDITCH

A HIPSTER FOOD BLOGGER

I'm like sooo cool; I'm open and switched on and focused on tomorrow.

COSTUME TIPS

An ironic T-shirt, skinny jeans, sweet trainers; black framed glasses and baseball cap; or maybe an updated vintage look. Quirky and unique.

WHERE WAS I EARLIER? DO I HAVE AN ALIBI?

I was at the record store, looking for obscure music to feature on my social media feeds – they're hungry for sound! I noticed Ictim's Twitter account has been inactive lately.

MOTIVE

Ictim accused me in the newspaper of plagiarism, potentially destroying my readership.

RELATIONSHIPS

I like Oakhead for their retro vegetable style – so The Good Life. I have no time for Pensell-Smith and the old media – get out of the way!

ALLIANCE?

I may offer an alliance to tonight's host (or, if I am the host, the person on my right). I may only accept an alliance from a person of the opposite gender.

GHOST STORY TIPS

A road sign in the weeds – a warm torch – “But the boots didn't fit him.”

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FRANK / FRANCESCA SHEETSPREAD

A PRODUCE IMPORTER

Business is my business; I'm sleekly turned out and keen to get on.

COSTUME TIPS

Pinstripes and shiny shoes; satin or silk may well be involved; a bit of business bling.

WHERE WAS I EARLIER? DO I HAVE AN ALIBI?

I was on the phone to Localtown Airport, sorting out a consignment. I was on hold for ages. Ictim told me once he was going to retire – at least he thought this would be his last Silver Slice award.

MOTIVE

An article Ictim wrote suggested my suppliers were using phony organic credentials – potentially destroying my entire business.

RELATIONSHIPS

I am a partner in Shoreditch's blog and audit their accounts. I resent Gauloise for their effortless continental coolness.

ALLIANCE?

I may offer an alliance to anyone wearing spectacles.
I may accept an alliance from someone who has cleared their plate.

GHOST STORY TIPS

No signal – sirens in the distance – the playground of the betrayed.

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LARRY / LARA LITMUS

AN ACADEMIC NUTRITION SCIENTIST

I consider life to be an experiment and I take my time; everyone is fascinating.

COSTUME TIPS

A scientist, geeky but with a hint of cool; maybe a superhero T-shirt or polo neck sweater.

WHERE WAS I EARLIER? DO I HAVE AN ALIBI?

I was in the next street, taking ambient air measurements as this could affect the quality of tonight's cooking. I laser-polished the Silver Slice before tonight's event so I may have touched it. I told Ictim that restaurant reviewers would soon be replaced by robots and algorithms. He dismissed it.

MOTIVE

Ictim wrote a column in which he tried and failed to recreate my experiments. He believed I had won fame by faking results. Wrong!

RELATIONSHIPS

I approve of Trainer-Cross for their reliance on well-proven supplements. I find Oakhead's traditional techniques to be of questionable benefit.

ALLIANCE?

I may offer an alliance to the person on my left. I may accept no offers of alliance to me – I will observe.

GHOST STORY TIPS

The gravestone staircase – unreliable fairy lights – “The gloves didn't match.”

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DONALD / DOROTHY OAKHEAD

A RUSTIC GREENGROCER

Rough and ready; outdoorsy; maybe a little gullible.

COSTUME TIPS

Corduroys and scarves, tweeds and button holes; a hanky or the like; sensible shoes.

WHERE WAS I EARLIER? DO I HAVE AN ALIBI?

I was in the park, admiring the wonderful trees and bushes. I think Ictim passed me in the park but it could have been anyone.

MOTIVE

Ictim's series of Instagram posts mocked the shape of my vegetables and orders fell through the floor. But I'm looking on the bright side!

RELATIONSHIPS

I'm an old friend of Pensell-Smith – we grew up together here in Localtown. I find Sheetspread unbearable – all this talk about money and figures – there's more to life!

ALLIANCE?

I may offer an alliance to a person wearing green. I may accept an alliance with anyone who smiles as they ask me.

GHOST STORY TIPS

The sound of moths – a bleak holiday postcard – “It's not dark enough!”

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BERNARD / BERNADETTE MATCHA

A STREET FOOD VENDOR

A citizen of everywhere in the world; friendly but a bit frantic.

COSTUME TIPS

Something global; a mix of cultures and continents; face paint too?

WHERE WAS I EARLIER? DO I HAVE AN ALIBI?

I was at the local vehicle pound, checking out broken parts to see if there was something I could help with. I saw and heard nothing from Ictim recently – I'm in my own world.

MOTIVE

Ictim had my food truck clamped one time when it blocked his/ her taxi. Not cool at all.

RELATIONSHIPS

I love Gauloise – it's great to open to other cultures. I find Upright a little stiff – loosen up, you know?

ALLIANCE?

I may offer an alliance to the last person to sit down.
I may accept an alliance from a person sitting next to me.

GHOST STORY TIPS

The back of the photo – snakes and ladders – “It was never opened again.”

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