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# THE GREAT HIGH SCHOOL WHODUNIT

*An Audience-Participation Mystery*  
by  
EILEEN MOUSHEY

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# THE GREAT HIGH SCHOOL WHODUNIT

## The Cast of Characters

### The Teachers and Staff of Dudley High

**MR. RUFUS RICHMOND** - The principal of Dudley High. An enthusiastic, very dedicated individual. The children are his prime concern and he believes the very best of all of them. In other words, RUFUS is very, very gullible. He is dressed in a suit, tie, etc.

**MS. BERTHA ROOPER** - The vice-principal. She's as tough as nails and the real power at Dudley High. Constantly suspicious of the students and ever-watchful for the tiniest infraction of the rules. She's a frustrated spinster, with a long-standing crush on MR. TRUMBULL. She is dressed severely, in a "no nonsense" suit or dress and wears her hair pulled back tightly.

**MR. RICK TRUMBULL** - The English teacher. A real "ladies man." An immaculate dresser and a real charmer. Half the girls at the high school are in love with him. His teaching career is just something to do until he finds a wealthy girl to marry and keep him in the style he thinks he deserves. He thought he had this when he was engaged to DAPHNE DUDLEY. Her parents, however, broke it off. He is dressed casually with great care given to his appearance.

**COACH R. F. STONE** - No one knows what the "R" stands for. COACH STONE is the athletic director and none too bright. He is singularly obsessed with winning and constantly lobbies for new equipment and "scholarships" for athletes. He is dressed in sweats and is chewing gum throughout.

**BECKY BOLTON** - The school secretary. A former debutante and socialite, BECKY has had a hard time adjusting to being poor. Her husband left her after losing all their money. She is a terrible speller and grammarian and only got the job because RUFUS idolized her when they were young. And he still does. She is dressed conservatively and is chewing gum BEFORE the play and during the clue hunt.

**SECURITY GUARD RANDY CAMPBELL** - Eager, wants to be a cop. Devoured Hardy Boys books as a kid. Unfortunately, his meek and unassuming manner make a career in law enforcement unlikely. He is dressed in a security guard uniform and appears rather nerdy. (*In Version B, RANDY is the "victim" and has no lines and only one scene - but what a scene!*)

The Students (Some of them) of Dudley High

**RITA REMINGTON** - Student Council President, Head cheer-leader, etc. The ultimate rah-rah girl. Sickeningly sweet, a real "suck-up" and ruthless with anyone who gets in her way. It should be noted that things seem to "disappear" when she's around. She is wearing a cheerleading outfit. She is chewing gum during the clue hunt.

**BREEZE HARPER-RINSKY** - The child of former hippies, BREEZE is constantly working on "causes". She wants to save the whales and free O.J. She protests any apparent infringement of her rights by the teachers or school administrators. She is dressed in jeans and a tee shirt which proclaims a cause OR in full 60's hippie regalia.

**JASON "REPTILE" CARPENTINO** - The school

troublemaker and hoodlum. Spends most of his time in detention - when he bothers to show up for school at all. A tough guy on the outside, but a real straight dude on the inside. Is obsessed with getting his first Harley. He is dressed either in "leathers" or in ripped jeans and a tee shirt (*preferably a "biker" one.*) He keeps a pack of cigarettes in the rolled sleeve. He is chewing gum BEFORE the play. A tattoo (*fake!*) is on his upper arm.

**CARLENE "RUSTY" RESTON** - REPTILE'S girlfriend. A tough cookie and not overly bright. CARLENE is hoping for a career as a receptionist after she graduates. If she graduates. This is RUSTY'S fifth year at Dudley High. Her dream is to spend the summer riding with REPTILE. She is dressed in a tight mini-skirt (black) and tank top. She has a matching tattoo (*also fake!*) and is chewing gum BEFORE and DURING the play.

### The Dudley's

**DEBBIE DUDLEY** - Fifties. Domineering. Rarely lets anyone else in the family get a word in edgewise. There is no doubt who rules the DUDLEY roost. She is dressed to the "nines" and wearing furs, etc.

**DALE DUDLEY** - Also in his Fifties. A real wimp. Between DEBBIE and DAPHNE he doesn't have a chance. He is dressed in a rather rumpled business suit.

**DAPHNE DUDLEY** - The DUDLEY'S only child. A whiner. Says she wants to escape her parents' influence, but has no money of her own and RICK won't marry her without it. She is dressed in an overly fussy dress and altogether is not an attractive package. She chews gum BEFORE the play.

## The Fed and Her Most Wanted

**AGENT AMELIA BLUNT** - A no-nonsense, extremely competent FBI agent. She has been tracking the notorious "Jack of Hearts" for 2 years as he's stolen millions of dollars in gems. Dressed in a conservative suit or pantsuit.

**JACK JEROME** - Also known as the "Jack of Hearts". JACK is an international jewel thief. He's suave, he's polished, he's charming. And completely irresistible. He is wearing a trench coat and fedora.

AND FINALLY, THE MYSTERY CO-ORDINATOR who may also be THE DIRECTOR. This is the person (or persons!) who know everything about the event. They work behind the scenes during the evening, and give the "ground rules" for the clue hunt.

## PART I - PRE-SHOW

The audience arrives and finds their teams (if teams are used.) Displayed prominently is a sign:

*"As you pass through these doors you are entering Dudley High School. You are currently a student at Dudley and you are to report to (the location of your playing area) for a first period assembly. The purpose of this assembly is to thank MR. DALE DUDLEY for his latest donation to the school."*

The following describes, in general, the whereabouts of each character and how they are behaving. All, with the exception of AGENT BLUNT, are wearing nametags.

**MR. RICHMOND** is standing near the sign, greeting "the children" warmly. He's so happy to see all the boys and girls on this beautiful morning. He's also excited about the first period assembly which he knows they will enjoy.

**MS. ROOPER** is patrolling the hallways and gym, ever on the lookout for miscreants. She will inspect mouths for gum and urge the students to keep moving and keep their mouths shut. If she spies MR. TRUMBULL she will flirt and act coy. He is not impressed.

**MR. TRUMBULL** is also on hand, basically trying to avoid the advances of MS. ROOPER. He will try to get DAPHNE'S attention after her arrival. They will have whispered conversations out of sight of MRS. DUDLEY.

**COACH STONE** has a small table set up to take donations for the athletic department. He will grab passersby and tell them how much new equipment is needed and how they could skip lunch in order to donate. He will also complain about how MR. RICHMOND cut his budget yet he can afford to hire the incompetent MS. BOLTON.

**MS. BOLTON** is in the gym, looking harried. She has lost MR. RICHMOND'S notes for the assembly and is frantically looking for them. They were written, she says, in pencil on some notebook paper. She was going to make copies but the copier got jammed. She is a ninny. MR. RICHMOND, however, is unfailingly sweet to her. It's plain that he is in love.

**SECURITY GUARD RANDY CAMPBELL** is not seen in this section because he's "guarding the Dudley Diamond" in the office.

**RITA REMINGTON** is there, in her cheerleading outfit. She's practicing some cheers and flirting madly with all the guys.

**BREEZE HARPER-RINSKY** is marching with a sign that reads: "Free Dudley High" and is carrying a clipboard with a petition for the "students" to sign. She will lecture anyone who will listen. Her basic complaint is that the DUDLEYS practically own the school because of all their donations, etc. She believes the school should no longer accept DUDLEY money and therefore be free of the DUDLEY influence. Needless to say, this doesn't sit well with most of the others, who want her to shut up. And of course this is a violation of her civil rights and her right to free speech, etc.

**REPTILE** is hanging out with RUSTY. They both have an obvious "attitude" and will give any teacher or staff person a rough time. No doubt MS. ROOPER will have to give them both detentions for chewing gum, but they will just rip these up contemptuously.

Shortly before the play begins, the DUDLEY'S will arrive. DEBBIE is complaining about the hotel where they were staying, the food, everything. She's also trying to keep an eye on DALE (*who's trying to find a poker game - he's a real gambler*) and DAPHNE (*who is still obviously smitten with MR. TRUMBULL.*)

**MRS. DUDLEY** also tells all in earshot that she must pick up her ring which she has left in the school safe. Everyone knows that hotels have terrible security, that's why she always feels so much better about putting "The Dudley Diamond" in the school safe. No one would think of looking for a 10 carat diamond there.

**AGENT AMELIA BLUNT** is there, trying to remain as inobtrusive as possible, and will therefore, no doubt, be immediately noticed. She will avoid conversation as much as possible.

**JACK JEROME** is not present at this time.

## PART II THE PLAY

### Scene One - Both Versions

As soon as all participants have arrived and been seated, MR. RICHMOND, MS. ROOPER, AND THE DUDLEYS will go onstage where SIX chairs are placed. MR. RICHMOND'S CHAIR WILL BE "CENTER" AND SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE REST. THE DUDLEY'S ARE "GROUPED" IN THREE CHAIRS SLIGHTLY STAGE LEFT. BECKY will be "in the wings". MR. TRUMBULL, COACH STONE, and AGENT BLUNT will be standing around the periphery of the room. RITA, BREEZE, REPTILE, & RUSTY will be seated with the audience. MR. RICHMOND will begin his speech, relying heavily on his notes.

RICHMOND: Good morning, boys and girls. *(Pause)* May I have a "Good Morning, Mr. Richmond."

ALL: Good morning, Mr. Richmond. *(If this isn't enthusiastic enough, he may ask for a repetition.)*

RICHMOND: On this beautiful morning it is so good to look out and see all your bright faces and happy smiles. I have called this assembly this morning so that we would all have the opportunity to personally express our *(he squints at the paper, tries to read it, maybe turns it upside down. BECKY runs on and looks at it, whispers to him.)*....Oh, yes, I can see that's what it is....to express our appreciation to our most generous....*(he squints again)* our most generous...Oh, I've got it....our most generous benefactor...It's an "f" this time, Becky,...Mrs. Bolton....not a "ph".

BECKY: Sorry, Mr. Richmond.

RICHMOND: *(continuing)* I know that I speak for all of us here at Dudley High when I say that without the continued support of the Dudleys, we would not have many of the wonderful things that our school needs in order to offer the very best in educational...

BREEZE: *(Standing on her chair)* But at least we'd have our freedom! Fellow students! Do not be blinded by the so-called generosity of the Dudleys! They want to buy our high school, just the way they've bought this whole town! They have no

principles!

ROOPER: Sit down, Breeze. You are out of order....

BREEZE: Don't you see what is happening! The Dudleys are sucking the life out of our school...

RITA: *(Standing)* Oh, Breeze, sit down! We've heard it all before.

RICHMOND: Breeze, dear, please sit down. *(To the DUDLEYS)* I am sorry. Her parents were at Woodstock.

RITA: Mr. Dudley, Mrs. Dudley, I think I'm a much better representative of the student body and I would like to say that....

RICHMOND: That's right. Mr. and Mrs. Dudley, have you met Rita Remington. She's a real leader here at Dudley and a straight "A" student. And yes, Rita, I do think you represent all the children here at school, you do an excellent job of representing them.

RITA: Thank you, Mr. Richmond, I do my very best.

RUSTY: Yeah? Well, I don't think so. You ain't representin' THIS child very well, Remington. This child gets pretty fed up with the Jan Brady act. And if I catch you anywhere near my locker again, I just may have to pull out a few of those "hairs of gold, like your mother's". Ain't that right, Reptile?

REPTILE: Yeah! We're all gettin' pretty tired of bein' told how you "represent" us, Remington. Nobody, NOBODY represents Reptile Carpentino, but Reptile Carpentino.

ROOPER: Carpentino! Reston! Sit!

RICHMOND: Children! Please!

COACH: You want me to do something here, Mr. Richmond? I've handled Reptile before.

RICHMOND: Thank you, no, Coach...

COACH: Just because the Dudley's haven't supported our

athletic program - which as you know has a real shot at state championships this year - that's still no reason to let a punk kid like Reptile mouth off...

REPTILE: I ain't mouthin' off. I'm giving an opinion, okay, Coach?

RICHMOND: Um, Coach...

COACH: I mean, the Dudleys don't OWE us money, they give it out of the goodness of their hearts...

RICHMOND: That's right and...

COACH: And if Mrs. Moneybags hates sports and doesn't want to hear about things like decent uniforms and buses and ...

RICHMOND: Please, Coach...

COACH: No, really, I was just gonna say I can handle Reptile. And when a lot of other decent kids turn out just like him because they didn't have the advantage of sports, I'll handle them too. So shut up, Reptile.

REPTILE: Hey, I got a right to my opinion. And what's so bad about turnin' out like me! I'm a great guy. Ain't I, Rusty Baby?

RUSTY: The best. I'm tired of everyone lookin' down at us, Reptile. Just 'cause of the tattoos and stuff. And just because we don't go around shakin' pom-poms and sharpenin' pencils and clappin' eraser don't mean we ain't got feelings. And opinions. Like I got a real strong opinion about what I'm gonna do to Remington if she doesn't keep her little sticky fingers to herself!

BREEZE: That's right! Opinions? We've got 'em! But more than that we have principles! Do you hear me? PRINCIPLES! And we're not afraid to stand up for them! Power to the students! Storm the cafeteria! Rename Dudley High!

ROOPER: Sit down, all of you, this minute!

REPTILE: OOOH...Trooper Rooper is gettin' mad...

RUSTY: I'm so scared, ooh, Reptile, hold me...

RITA: Students, as your Student Council President, I am asking that we show the Dudleys the respect and gratitude that...

BREEZE: We'll show them something all right, Rita! We'll show them that the students of Dudley High aren't afraid to speak up. They aren't afraid to stand up and be counted. They aren't...

MRS. DUDLEY: THAT'S IT! HOLD IT! SHUT UP, EVERYONE OF YOU. (To DALE) If you think I'm going to give another dime to your precious alma mater...

RICHMOND: Mrs. Dudley, I'm so sorry...

MRS. DUDLEY: Put a cork in it, Richmond, I'm talking to Dudley here. Look, buster, it's bad enough having to put up with your gambling - I am NOT going to put up with any more abuse from these...these...juvenile delinquents...

RICHMOND: Dear, dear Mrs. Dudley....

MR. DUDLEY: Now, Mommy, they're just a little high spirited, that's all...

DAPHNE: Weren't you ever young, Mom?

MRS. DUDLEY: Daphne, you stay out of this. Dudley, I am going now to collect my ring....to collect some personal items from the office. When I get back, we are going to leave. Does that make you happy, all of you? The Dudleys will be outta here.

RICHMOND: Oh please, Mrs. Dudley, please, let's talk this over...

MRS. DUDLEY: Nothing to talk about, Richmond. You blew it. I will be back in two minutes, Dale, Daphne. And then we are leaving. And we will never, NEVER, NEVER, return to this...this....REFORM SCHOOL...again! (*She exits.*)

RICHMOND: Oh, dear....

MR. DUDLEY: The little woman has a bit of a temper. Sorry.

ROOPER: Do you think she'll change her mind? I can take care of our troublemakers, here. Don't think I can't. There are worse things than detentions. Much worse.

DAPHNE: (*Bursting into tears*). You don't know Mom. Once she says something, she never backs down. (*She searches audience for RICK*) Oh, RICKY!! Now we won't ever see each other. Ricky, Ricky, where are you....(*she exits offstage to RICK and throws her arms around him*).

MR. DUDLEY: Daphne, Daphne, come back here! If she sees you with him, she'll really go over the top.

RICHMOND: That wasn't the top?

DAPHNE: I don't care!! I don't care!! I love Ricky and he loves me and I don't care anymore if she cuts me off without a penny! We don't need money. We can live on love. Can't we, my darling.

RICK: Well, of course we can, Daphne honey. Of course we can. And I want to. Really. Only I have to worry about supporting you and giving you all the things you've grown up with. And you know I don't make that much here and without the Dudley money there probably will be some cutbacks and, hey, I could be out of a job. So maybe we should just wait a bit.

ROOPER: That's right, Mr. Trumbull. Very sensible. And remember, there ARE other fish in the sea. Other fish, right under your nose. (*She preens.*)

MR. DUDLEY: Daphne, please! Come here before your mother gets back! You know how she gets! (*BECKY starts to cry audibly.*)

RICHMOND: Why, Becky....Mrs. Bolton. Whatever is wrong?

BECKY: (*Crying*) It's not fair that's all!

ROOPER: It's perfectly fair. If Rick....Mr. Trumbull... wants to wait before committing and maybe look around to see if there

isn't someone else who he sees every day that is more deserving of his love, why it's very fair. And makes good sense, I might add.

DAPHNE: No one can keep us apart! Can they, darling?

RICK: Well, your mother is only thinking of your best interest, Daffy honey.

BECKY: (*Still crying*) It's just so sad!

RICHMOND: Actually, Becky....I mean, Mrs. Bolton, I always thought he was only after her, you know...(*whispers*) money. They aren't exactly Romeo and Juliet. Please stop crying.

BECKY: I'm not crying because of them. I'm crying 'cause our school...our wonderful school will suffer because...those kids.... Oh, Rufus, and you've worked so hard!

RICHMOND: Rufus. You called me Rufus.

BECKY: I haven't felt this bad since Charles lost all my money, divorced me and took the dog.

RICHMOND: It was a really nasty dog, Becky.

## **Scene Two - VERSION "A" - WITHOUT MURDER**

*(For Scene Two - Version "B" - With Murder - See page 19)*

BECKY: I don't care! Just when my life is getting back together, and I have a job I love even though I can't spell very well and everything. Then THIS has to happen. Oh, I know where the first budget cut will fall. The stupid, old, incompetent secretary.

ROOPER: Oh, come on, Bolton. You aren't old.

*(A scream is heard. It continues as MRS. DUDLEY returns to the room. She is followed by Security Guard RANDY CAMPBELL who is holding a bloody handkerchief to his head with one hand. In the other hand he is holding the Jack of Hearts. They reach the stage. During the next few exchanges RANDY will be helped to a chair. BECKY will run offstage and return with a bandage, which she will apply to RANDY'S forehead.)*

MRS. DUDLEY: IT'S GONE! THEY'VE TAKEN IT! ONE OF THOSE NASTY, VICIOUS KIDS HAS STOLEN MY DIAMOND. Which one of you has it? No one leaves here until I get my rock! Richmond, you're supposed to be in charge here! And this guy is one sorry excuse for a security guard! Useless! Totally useless!

RICHMOND: Oh, no! Oh, no! Are you sure? It's really gone?

MRS DUDLEY: Of course, it's gone, you idiot! The safe was open, everything thrown about and my ring was gone. Columbo here was passed out cold on the floor. Some security. Do you know how much that ring was worth, Richmond?

RICHMOND: I don't want to know.

MRS. DUDLEY: Three million.

BECKY: He said he didn't want to know.

*(JACK enters the room and stands in a location where he is clearly visible to all.)*

MRS. DUDLEY: And here I was - worried about hotel security.

I should have known, Dudley, that any school that would graduate you, would have to be pretty lame.

RANDY: (*Coming out of his daze.*) I'm sorry, Mrs. Dudley. Mr. Richmond, gosh. I mean, really, this is like awful. I really feel like I let you down.

MRS. DUDLEY: Now there's an understatement.

ROOPER: Do you know what happened, Campbell?

RANDY: I was standing there, guarding the safe, like you told me, Mr. Richmond. Although, I thought that was kinda funny 'cause all that's in there, usually, is the cafeteria money and considering that most of the kids would rather eat dirt than our cafeteria food, there usually isn't much cash.

RICHMOND: You're right, Randy. USUALLY, that safe's almost empty. Unless the Dudleys are in town.

ROOPER: Then she parks her ring there. Because she doesn't trust the hotel safe. What you might call a bad judgement call, eh, Dudley?

RANDY: And then I heard a noise. I turned around and someone musta hit me. I went down like a shot.

RICHMOND: You didn't see anyone?

RANDY: No, sorry.

ROOPER: You don't know when it happened?

RANDY: No...except, wait a minute. Right before it happened, I glanced at my watch 'cause I was wonderin' when I'd get a break. It was (one hour before the event began).

MRS. DUDLEY: Who cares what time it happened? Line 'em all up against the wall and search 'em. I want my ring. Dudley, DO SOMETHING. Call the cops! Why hasn't someone called the cops?

RANDY: I woke up about 5 minutes ago. I was looking in the safe, and tryin' to figure out what could be missing when Mrs. Dudley came screamin' in.

ROOPER: Was the safe blown up? We should have heard the explosion.

RANDY: No, it was just open.

MR. DUDLEY: Then it must be someone who knows the combination! (*The DUDLEY HIGH STAFF looks uncomfortable.*)

MRS. DUDLEY: That's right! That ought to narrow it down! In fact, I'd say it narrows it down to you (*To RICHMOND*) and anyone else who knew the combination!

RICHMOND: Well, now, that does kinda create a problem.

MRS. DUDLEY: What kind of a problem? There shouldn't be more than a handful of people who know the com...(*She notices the obvious discomfort.*) All right, spit it out, Richmond. (*BECKY starts to cry again.*)

RICHMOND: Well, it was just an honest, little mistake, Mrs. Dudley.

BECKY: Don't try to protect me, Mr. Richmond! (*To MRS. DUDLEY*) You see, the first week of school I had so many things to learn.

ROOPER: Yes, like typing and filing and spelling.

BECKY: Well, one thing I had to do was learn how to open the safe. So I asked Mr. Richmond to write down the combination to the safe. And he did. On a little piece of paper. He wrote, "The combination to the safe is....."

MRS. DUDLEY: So? You knew the combination.

BECKY: (*Crying*) But another thing I had to do was make the morning announcements.

MRS. DUDLEY: What does that have to do with....(*She*

*understands*) Oh, no, you didn't.

BECKY: Well, everybody writes their announcements on little pieces of paper, too! It must have gotten mixed in. Oh, I'm so sorry! *(She is really crying now.)*

MRS. DUDLEY: Let me see if I've got this straight. You allowed me put my three million dollar ring into a safe, after giving out the combination over the public address system?

RICHMOND: Well, I was going to tell you it wasn't a good idea, but you always insist and it's one little thing we can do to repay you and Mr. Dudley for your generosity. I just hoped the children weren't paying attention to the announcements. They usually don't, you know.

ROOPER: Kinda widens the circle of suspects doesn't it?

MRS. DUDLEY: This is outrageous! Richmond, call the police! DO SOMETHING!

RICHMOND: Yes, I suppose I must. Randy, you'd better come with me. No doubt the police will want to question you. *(Notices the playing card in RANDY'S hand.)* Where'd you get that?

RANDY: This? Oh, I was going to ask why you kept this in the safe. *(He holds it up.)* A playing card. The Jack of Hearts.

RICHMOND: That's not kept in the safe!

***For Scene Three, go to Page 28***

## Scene Two - VERSION "B" - WITH MURDER

BECKY: I don't care! Just when my life is getting back together, and I have a job I love even though I can't spell very well and everything. Then THIS has to happen. Oh, I know where the first budget cut will fall. The stupid, old, incompetent secretary.

ROOPER: Oh, come on, Bolton. You aren't old.

*(Mrs. Dudley runs screaming into the room, followed by Security Guard RANDY CAMPBELL, who staggers in, bloodied from the knife stuck in his chest. He is clutching the Jack of Hearts. MRS DUDLEY reaches the stage, ad-libbing about the guard and her ring being stolen. CAMPBELL reaches the front of the room and dies dramatically. All gather 'round him. MR. DUDLEY and DAPHNE attempt to calm the hysterical MRS. DUDLEY.)*

ROOPER: Is he?

MR. RICHMOND: I'm afraid so, poor guy.

*(All ad-lib horror and shock. "He was a good guy." "Used to come to all the games." "Was workin' on his GED." etc.)*

BECKY: Oh, no! Oh, dear! This is just AWFUL! Oh, Rufus, what are we gonna do?

RICHMOND: Cover him up, I guess. *(They do - with a tablecloth or whatever's handy.)* Coach, do you think you could maybe get a stretcher and a couple of your guys to get him out of here."

COACH: Sure thing, Richmond. *(He exits to do so.)*

ROOPER: Shouldn't we leave the body there - for the police to examine???

BECKY: Oh, no, I mean - poor Randy! I can't bear to look at him!

RICHMOND: There, there, Becky. You won't have to look at him. We're taking him out of here. This is too much for her. He won't get any deader if we move him. It can't get any worse than it

is already.

MRS. DUDLEY: *(Making a rapid recovery.)* Wanna bet, Richmond? My ring is gone! Stolen! Someone stabbed your guard and took my ring! *(The full realization "hits" her.)* IT'S GONE! THEY'VE TAKEN IT! ONE OF THOSE NASTY, VICIOUS KIDS MURDERED THE GUARD AND TOOK MY RING! Which one of you has it? No one leaves here until I get my rock! Richmond, you're supposed to be in charge here!

RICHMOND: But how? It's gone? It's really gone?

MRS DUDLEY: Of course, it's gone, you idiot! The safe was open, everything thrown about and my ring was gone. The guard was stabbed - I thought he was dead at first - I about had a heart attack when he stood up and staggered after me. Some security. Do you know how much that ring was worth, Richmond?

RICHMOND: I don't want to know.

MRS. DUDLEY: Three million.

BECKY: He said he didn't want to know.  
*(JACK enters the room and stands where he is clearly visible. Also, COACH returns with a stretcher and two "football players" who proceed to load RANDY onto it.)*

MRS. DUDLEY: And here I was - worried about hotel security. I should have known, Dudley, that any school that would graduate you, would have to be pretty lame.  
*(As COACH is supervising the body removal, he notices something.)*

COACH: Hey, that's funny. Richmond. Look at this. His watch is broken. Probably when he fell.

MRS. DUDLEY: Who cares about his watch? I want my ring! Line 'em all up against the wall and search 'em. I want my ring. Dudley, DO SOMETHING. Call the cops! Why hasn't someone called the cops?

RICHMOND: It says *(he names a time one hour before the event began.)* That's what time it must have happened. And whoever did it must have known that Mrs. Dudley stores her ring there for

safe keeping when she's in town.

*(The body removal team takes RANDY out, accompanied by COACH.)*

MRS. DUDLEY: Well, everyone knows hotel safes are not secure. Who would think to rob your safe?

ROOPER: Well, someone did. Was it blown open or forced? We should have heard the explosion.

MRS. DUDLEY: No, it was just open.

MR. DUDLEY: Then it must be someone who knows the combination! *(The DUDLEY HIGH STAFF looks uncomfortable.)*

MRS. DUDLEY: That's right! That ought to narrow it down! In fact, I'd say it narrows it down to you (*RICHMOND*) and anyone else who knew the combination!

RICHMOND: Well, now, that does kinda create a problem.

MRS. DUDLEY: What kind of a problem? There shouldn't be more than a handful of people who know the com...*(She notices the obvious discomfort.)* All right, spit it out, Richmond. *(BECKY starts to cry again.)*

RICHMOND: Well, it was just an honest, little mistake, Mrs. Dudley.

BECKY: Don't try to protect me, Mr. Richmond! *(To MRS. DUDLEY)* You see, the first week of school I had so many things to learn.

ROOPER: Yes, like typing and filing and spelling.

BECKY: Well, one thing I had to do was learn how to open the safe. So I asked Mr. Richmond to write down the combination to the safe. And he did. On a little piece of paper. He wrote, "The combination to the safe is....."

MRS. DUDLEY: So? You knew the combination.

BECKY: *(Crying)* But another thing I had to do was make the morning announcements.

MRS. DUDLEY: What does that have to do with....*(She understands)* Oh, no, you didn't.

BECKY: Well, everybody writes their announcements on little pieces of paper, too! It must have gotten mixed in. Oh, I'm so sorry! *(She is really crying now.)*

MRS. DUDLEY: Let me see if I've got this straight. You let me put my three million dollar ring into a safe, after giving out the combination over the public address system?

RICHMOND: Well, I was going to tell you it wasn't a good idea, but you always insist and it's one little thing we can do to repay you and Mr. Dudley for your generosity. I just hoped the children weren't paying attention to the announcements. They usually don't, you know.

ROOPER: Kinda widens the circle of suspects doesn't it?

MRS. DUDLEY: This is outrageous! Richmond, call the police!  
DO SOMETHING!

RICHMOND: Yes, I suppose I must.  
*(COACH enters, with the playing card in his hand.)*

COACH: Hey, Richmond, I found this in Randy's hand. *(He gives it to RICHMOND.)*

MR. RICHMOND: A playing card. The Jack of Hearts.

### Scene Three - Both Versions

BECKY: It must be a clue!!

JACK: *(From the audience.)* It's more than that. It's a calling card. It tells us exactly who is responsible for the theft. *(He BRIEFLY flashes what appears to be a badge.)* Special Agent John Jerome. FBI. *(General surprise, etc., as he joins them onstage.)*

MR. DUDLEY: You guys are fast.

MRS. DUDLEY: Thank goodness. Someone to take charge of the investigation. Find my ring.

JACK: I'm afraid it won't be that easy, Mrs. Dudley. The playing card left in the safe is the calling card for one of the world's cleverest and most diabolical jewel thieves. Nobody knows his name, or what he looks like. The Bureau has been working with Interpol for years, trying to catch him. But all we ever find is that card. That's why we call him the Jack of Hearts.

MR. DUDLEY: Agent...

JACK: Jerome. John Jerome.

MR. DUDLEY: Agent Jerome, when you say all you ever find, do you mean....?

JACK: That's right. None of the stolen jewels are ever recovered.

BECKY: Oh, dear.

MRS. DUDLEY: Well, my ring is going to be recovered. Or someone is going to pay.

JACK: What I'd like to do is take a look around the school, examine the safe, that sort of thing.

RICHMOND: That's an excellent idea, Agent Jerome. You'll see, Mrs. Dudley, the FBI will find your ring.

JACK: Well, I'm going to do my best to find it.

AMELIA: *(From the audience.)* Oh, I'm sure you will, Jerome. *(General surprise (again!) and exclamations, etc.)*

ROOPER: Now what?

RICHMOND: Who's that?

MR. DUDLEY: What is going on?

JACK: Were you talking to me?

AMELIA: Yes, "Special Agent Jerome", I'm talking to you. Or do you mind if I call you John. *(She pulls a gun, they react, etc.)* Or perhaps just "Jack." *(She displays her badge.)* Special Agent Amelia Blunt. FBI.

DAPHNE: Oh, goody. We've got two of them to work on the case.

MR. DUDLEY: Oh, dear.

AMELIA: *(To JACK)* Get 'em up and keep 'em up. *(Everyone but JACK immediately raise their hands)* Not YOU - HIM *(They lower theirs as JACK raises his hands.)* Say hello to your jewel thief, Mrs. Dudley. It's been a long time, Jack.

JACK: And you're as beautiful as ever, Agent Blunt. Amelia.

AMELIA: Don't bother, Jack. I won't fall for that again.

RICHMOND: I've got to admit to a little confusion here. Which one is the real FBI?

JACK: *(Bowing.)* The fair Amelia is the genuine article. I'm afraid I lied to all of you before. Dreadful habit, lying. Because you see, The Jack of Hearts was caught. Once. By a beautiful and talented

FBI agent who, unfortunately, let her guard slip at just the wrong time.

AMELIA: Something that won't happen again, Jack.

MRS. DUDLEY: I don't care about any of that! I want my ring. Now. Give it to me this instant, you...you....you

JACK: Alas, dear Mrs. Dudley, I cannot do that. I do not have your ring, I never had your ring, and now, sadly, it looks like I will never get your ring.

MRS. DUDLEY: That's it. Shoot him.

MR. DUDLEY: Now, Mommy.

MRS. DUDLEY: I mean it, you. Shoot him. My tax dollars pay your salary. I say shoot him. In the kneecap. Then he'll talk.

JACK: Why, Mrs. Dudley, I'm surprised at you! You seemed such a sweet, gentle woman.

MR. DUDLEY: HUH??!!

JACK: I had nothing whatsoever to do with the theft of your ring, dear lady. And I can prove it. If the intrepid Amelia will just lower that gun.

AMELIA: Not on your life, Jack, not on your life.

JACK: Amelia, dear, you have been tracking me for three years. In that time have I ever used violence? Have I ever hurt anyone?

AMELIA: There's always a first time, Jack, my boy.

JACK: I abhor violence. Guns frighten me. I'm a thief, darling girl, not a killer. Please, just lower it a tiny bit. I want to get something out of my pocket. *(He starts to reach in his coat.)*

AMELIA: Stop! *(To the group in general)* See what's in his pocket. *(They look at each other in fear, and a shoving match ensues which culminates in the crowd forcing MR. RICHMOND to advance and gingerly reach into JACK'S pocket. He removes a plane ticket gives it to AMELIA.)* It's a plane ticket. So?

JACK: Check out the arrival time at the \_\_\_\_\_ Airport.  
(*She glances at it and passes it back to MR. RICHMOND.*)

RICHMOND: It says his plane arrived at (*He names a time that is one-half hour before the event began.*)

MR. DUDLEY: He couldn't have robbed the safe! He hadn't even landed when it happened.

DAPHNE: His plane could have been delayed.

ROOPER: Or maybe he wasn't even on it. That ticket doesn't prove a thing.

MRS. DUDLEY: Shoot him.

JACK: Tsk, tsk, Mrs. Dudley. You need to get some sort of outlet for these aggressions. Agent Blunt....Amelia. Check it out. The plane was on time and I was on it. I'm sure the stewardess will remember me. Our charming conversation and my fifty dollar tip will no doubt live in her memory. So I have an ironclad alibi. So sorry to shoot down, forgive the pun, your theory.

AMELIA: You expect me to believe that there's no connection between the theft of a three million dollar ring and your unexpected presence here tonight? I came here on a hunch, Jack. I figured the Dudley Diamond was on your list. And I don't think it's a coincidence that you showed up.

JACK: Coincidence? Of course it's a coincidence! You'd be hard pressed to prove anything else, considering I have an ironclad alibi.

AMELIA: Does the word "accomplice" mean anything to you, Jack? I know everything about you after 3 years, including the fact that you rarely work alone. (*To others.*) You see, our Jack of Hearts likes

to work from the "inside out". He recruits someone close to the "target" to do the actual stealing. Then he disposes of the jewelry and gives his accomplice a cut of the action.

JACK: And I'm very generous, Amelia. Are you certain you wouldn't like to join me on a project. I think we'd be wonderful together.

AMELIA: The only joint project we'll do, Jack, involves sending you there. To the joint.

RICHMOND: An accomplice? You mean?

AMELIA: Right. Somebody at this school. Somebody in this room stole the Dudley Diamond. My guess is that they have hidden it somewhere in the building. Probably all kinds of clues around here. How to find them - that's the tough part.

**MYSTERY CO-ORDINATOR:** *(From the audience.)* That's right, Agent Blunt, there ARE clues all over this school. And, students, it is your job to find them. Because the Jack of Hearts DID have an accomplice. He or she took the diamond and hid it and then left a message for Jack, telling him where to find it. Your detection skills will now be put to the test as you find this message - a message which not only reveals where the diamond is hidden, but which also identifies the accomplice. You will have an opportunity to question the suspects individually regarding their motives. Clipboards with clue packets will be distributed to each team. Please take a minute to read directions - it will save you time in the long run. There are    clues that will lead you to the message. **BEGIN WITH THE CLUE MARKED WITH A RED STAR AND TAKE THEM IN ORDER AFTER THAT.** Some clues are placed or posted in the building somewhere. **DO NOT REMOVE THESE.** To do so is grounds for instant disqualification. Do not go into areas marked "OUT OF BOUNDS". When you think you have discovered the hiding place of the diamond, **DO NOT GO THERE.** Just indicate it on your solution sheet. You have approximately        (minutes, hours) to find the clues. When you have found the message, answer the questions found on the last page of your clue packet. Dessert will be served (?) at this time and my mystery helpers will collect your solution sheets. Happy detecting.

### **PART III - THE CLUE HUNT**

The clue hunt can be as involved as a your facility will allow or as simple as distributing the clues. [NOTE: *The CLUE PACKET used in the original production may be used as a model. This will be sent upon receipt of the signed royalty agreement, and payment of the first-use fee.*] The physical evidence in the GREAT HIGH SCHOOL WHODUNIT is a poem - a poem written by JACK'S accomplice to lead him to the diamond.

**Jack,**

**It's hidden around the school somewhere  
Think of a musical game  
The principles behind will keep it there  
Although they are almost the same.**

**With a stick or two for security  
Don't worry about the cop  
It'll harden to maturaty  
With a snap, crackle, and pop.**

**R.**

Throughout the clue hunt, mystery helpers will be posted throughout to make sure that clues are not taken, etc. They will have extra copies just in case. Also, several helpers will act as security around the stage, making sure that no one goes onstage.

Additionally, during the clue hunt, the actors will circulate, "in character" and their motives will be revealed. The following is some of the things that will be revealed during this time.

**MR. DUDLEY** - is an incurable gambler. He's lost hundreds of thousands of dollars at the track and at poker games and he's deeply in debt to bookies. He could have stolen the ring himself - since NO WAY would MRS. DUDLEY let it go. The ring was insured so he would be able to sell it AND collect the insurance. He saw MRS. DUDLEY near the office.

**MRS. DUDLEY** - really has no obvious motive. But she saw BECKY BOLTON heading in the direction of the office.

**DAPHNE DUDLEY** - deeply in love with RICK TRUMBULL but her parents are convinced he's a fortune hunter (which he is). He's indicated to her that without money he won't marry her. The diamond could provide the cash which would win his heart. She saw MS. ROOPER near the office.

**RUFUS RICHMOND** - has no real motive, other than wanting to have enough money to marry the woman of HIS dreams - BECKY BOLTON - and keep her in the style to which she had been accustomed. He saw REPTILE CARPENTINO near the office.

**BERTHA ROOPER** - also in love with that cad, RICK TRUMBULL. She knows him for exactly what he is and doesn't care. She also knows he'd be hers in a flash if she was rich. Saw DAPHNE DUDLEY walking in the direction of the office.

**RICK TRUMBULL** - wants money in the worst sort of way. Willing to marry in order to get it - but a short cut might be to just steal the diamond. That way he has his freedom and money. Saw RITA REMINGTON looking suspicious as she came walking from the direction of the office. Saw BREEZE HARPER-RINSKY hanging out by the office.

**BECKY BOLTON** - grew up in wealth and privilege. This continued in her marriage. It was only after her husband lost their money and divorced her that she was forced to live like the rest of us. She hates that. Saw RUSTY running from the direction of the office.

**COACH MARK STONE** - really wants a winning team. He is convinced that with the proper uniforms and equipment this could happen. He is furious that the DUDLEYS have given tens of thousands to the school with the specification that NO money be used for sports. MRS. DUDLEY hates sports which gives him an even bigger grudge against her. Says he spotted MR. RICHMOND near the office.

**RANDY CAMPBELL** - In Version "A" - no motive, really, outside of the obvious. But he was present at the scene of the crime and could have staged it to look like he was hit, etc. And, of course, in Version "B" he's already dead!

**REPTILE CARPENTINO** - really, really wants a Harley. And he really HATES working. Was on his way out to sneak a smoke when he saw COACH R.F. STONE hurrying down the hall from the direction of the office.

**RUSTY RESTON** - loves REPTILE and therefore really, really wants him to get a Harley. She gives him all her money now as it is, from her job at the Putt-Putt. Saw RITA doing cheers in the hallway near the office.

**BREEZE HARPER-RINSKY** - is a Socialist who believes ardently in the equal distribution of wealth. She could have stolen the diamond in order to finance her causes, etc. Saw MR. DUDLEY sneaking in the hall near the office. She will continue to protest, etc.

NOTE: ANYONE CONNECTED TO THE HIGH SCHOOL - FACULTY OR STUDENT SHOULD USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION THAT BREEZE WAS A SPELLING BEE CHAMP AND EVEN WENT TO D.C. (HER PARENTS USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET IN A LITTLE PROTESTING AND ALMOST GOT ARRESTED AT THE LINCOLN MONUMENT.)

**RITA REMINGTON** - the All-American girl, cheerleader, President of Student Council, etc., is a kleptomaniac. She's been banned from all the local malls. And she really loves jewelry. Saw MR. TRUMBULL heading in the direction of the office.

Part of the CLUE PACKET is a page for notes on suspects. The last page of the CLUE PACKET is the Solution Sheet. This is the page which everyone must complete in order to offer their solution to the crime. As soon as everyone has submitted these solution sheets the MYSTERY CO-ORDINATOR madly grades them. Then, the final scene is played.

**THE VERY BRIEF SOLUTION SCENES (one for each version) ARE NOT INCLUDED IN REVIEW SCRIPTS. IF YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST HAVE THE ENTIRE ACTING COPY BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ABOUT PRODUCING, PLEASE CONTACT US:**

**330-678-3893**

**[info@mysteriesbymoushey.com](mailto:info@mysteriesbymoushey.com)**

**PROPERTIES - BOTH VERSIONS**

COACH - can for donationS, whistle, basketball (to carry)

ROOPER - detentions

AMELIA - I.D./badge

BREEZE - petition on clipboard, protest sign

RANDY - Jack of Hearts playing card

MR. DUDLEY - Ace of Hearts playing card

JACK - I.D./badge, plane ticket

RANDY - bloody handkerchief (A) knife effect and bloody shirt (B). To make knife effect, cut off blade of knife 4" from handle. Pound this edge into a thin square of board. Glue all around.

Slash shirt and bloody-up edges of hole. RANDY wears t-shirt.

Position knife effect near where slash will be. Duct

tape board to t-shirt. Fit shirt on so slash fits over protruding knife.

Gum

Guns

Dudley Diamond

Equipment (or personnel) for body removal

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