

The Plot Thickens

The Plot Thickens was performed at the Jesup Memorial Library, in Bar Harbor, as a short teaser to generate ticket sales for the main performance of *Murder is for the Birds*. This preview is a standalone performance designed to introduce the basic theme and characters. A license is available for the actual play that was performed one week later, at the Seal Cove Auto Museum.

Peter and Laura Benson are the first characters to take center stage. They enter from the foyer, the same as the other characters will enter when it is their turn. There will be a table set up with wine bottles and glasses.

Laura Benson

Looks like we're the first to arrive.

Peter Benson spies the bottles of wine on the table.

Peter Benson

I don't know about that, dear. I think I see some old friends on the table over there.

Laura Benson

I'm sure you'll go over and say hello.

Peter Benson

If you play your cards right, I might even introduce you to one or two of them.

Benson examines the bottles.

Here's a fellow that I remember. I think the last time I saw him, we were in California.

Laura Benson

As I recall the last time we were in California, you and he fell asleep on the sofa.

Peter Benson finds a corkscrew, and proceeds to open the bottle.

Peter Benson

Good thing there aren't any sofas in this library.

As Benson pours some wine for he and his wife, the door to the foyer opens and Mr. Alfred P. Sloane and his wife, Margaret, enter the library.

Margaret Sloane

Peter, and Laura, we're so glad you could come!

Alfred Sloane

I knew I could trust Peter Benson to be the first person to open the wine!

Laura crosses the room and embraces each of the Sloane's in turn.

Margaret Sloane

I'm sorry we weren't here to greet you when you arrived. Alfred was running late, as usual. We would have been much later if I hadn't been there to push him out the door.

Alfred Sloane

Yes, I'm afraid I'm perpetually running behind.

Laura Benson

No matter, as you can see, Peter is making himself at home. Thanks so much for inviting us. It's been years since we've seen one another.

Margaret Sloane

So, is it true you've retired, Peter?

Peter calls out from his station beside the wine.

Peter Benson

Your sources are correct, Margaret. My only responsibility now is to count Laura's money.

Laura Benson

Our money, dear.

Margaret Sloane

I can't tell you how much fun it will be to have a former homicide detective involved with our little road rally.

Peter Benson

Clever idea. I must confess this rally will be the first for Laura and me. We're not sure what to expect.

Margaret Sloane

It was all Alfred's idea.

Alfred Sloane

Absolutely! You see, each driver must collect a list of objects to win, but he doesn't know where they are, or what they are. Instead, gets a clue to start the rally. That leads him to the first destination where he is supposed to find the first object and the next clue.

Margaret Sloane

Sort of like a scavenger hunt, except you don't get a list of all the items you need at the beginning.

Alfred Sloane

Exactly, because after you get to the first destination and pick up the first item, there is another riddle that takes you to the second.

Margaret Sloane

Then you pick up your second item, and your next clue.

Laura Benson

With all those clues, it sounds perfect for a homicide detective.

Margaret Sloane

Exactly what we were thinking, Laura.

Peter Benson

I have to say, since we got married, my wife has become rather good at finding clues as well. I don't know why, but even though I'm supposed to be retired, we keep finding ourselves involved in one mystery after another.

Laura Benson

It's been an awful lot of fun. And you can't imagine the list of colorful characters I've had a chance to meet as Peter Benson's wife. Loan sharks, bookies, pickpockets.

Margaret Sloane

Laura! I'm shocked. I'd be scared out of my wits.

Laura Benson

It doesn't bother me. Not a lick. Peter says I'm a natural, don't you dear?

Peter Benson

You're a regular Mrs. Watson.

Alfred Sloane

Well, I certainly hope we don't have anyone murdered while you are here.

Laura Benson

I can't promise anything. Isn't that right, Peter?

Peter Benson

Certainly. Everywhere we go, they just drop like flies. It's a wonder we still get invitations from friends.

Margaret Sloane

Well, I'm sure we don't have to worry about any of our drivers being murdered.

Laura Benson

How many are you expecting?

Alfred Sloane

There will be a total of six, including one of you. I'm assuming Peter will drive for your team.

Margaret Sloane

Alfred, you're always assuming the man must be one who drives. You really need to change your way of thinking. Times are changing.

Alfred Sloane

You know my feelings on this subject, Margaret. I have no problems with women driving. I just don't believe they should be driving in contests that involve racing. It's simply too dangerous.

Margaret Sloane

Just the same, when Alice Ramsay gets here, I expect you to behave yourself.

Laura Benson

Alice Ramsay! Isn't she the woman who just finished driving from New Jersey to California?

Alfred Sloane

Dangerous stunt. That's what I think.

Laura Benson

She was in all the papers. First woman to drive cross country.

Alfred Sloane

I know her husband. Not well, but just the same, I told him what I think about the whole thing.

At that moment, the door to the foyer opens and in walks Dr. Stanley Rinehart and his wife, Mary Roberts Rinehart. Peter and Laura move off to the side.

Margaret Sloane

Good evening. I assume you're here for the reception for the drivers? I'm Mrs. Sloane, but please call me Margaret.

Stanley Rinehart

I see we're not the first to arrive. Name's Rinehart, Dr. Stanley Rinehart. This is my wife, Mary.

The two couples exchange greetings and shake hands. Alfred offers to pour some wine for Stanley and Mary.

Margaret Sloane

I can't tell you how excited I am to finally meet both of you. Dr. Rinehart, I assume from your title that you're a physician?

Stanley Rinehart

Yes, as a matter of fact that was how Mary and I met.

Margaret Sloane

I am a big fan of your mystery novels, Mary. I hope you'll sign one of them for me before you leave.

Mary Roberts Rinehart

Thank you, Margaret. It's been great fun writing them. Which have you read so far?

Margaret Sloane

The Circular Staircase. I found it terribly fascinating. I was completely surprised when I learned the identity of the killer. The book reminded me quite a lot of Bar Harbor and Mount Desert Island.

Mary Roberts Rinehart

I'm glad to hear you say that. That's what I had in mind as I was writing it. My husband and I would like to someday own a home here, on the island.

Margaret Sloane

We'd love to have you as part of our community.

Mary Roberts Rinehart

Well, if you've bought one of my mysteries, then the irony is you've helped to provide the entrance fee for this road rally. We used the royalties from that book to come up with the funds.

Both women laugh. Alfred Sloane comes over with two glasses of wine. Peter and Laura come near, waiting to be introduced.

Alfred Sloane

I'd like to introduce you to some members of the competition, as it were. This is Mr. Peter Benson and his wife, Laura.

Peter and Laura shake hands with Dr. and Mrs. Rinehart. They exchange greetings. As the pleasantries are being exchanged, another driver enters from the foyer. It is Richard Hartwick. The other drivers fade off to the side as Mr. and Mrs. Sloane greet Hartwick.

Margaret Sloane

Good evening. If you're here for the reception for the drivers, you're in the right place. I'm Mrs. Sloane, but you can call me Margaret.

Richard Hartwick

Pleased to meet you, Margaret. My name is Hartwick, but all my friends call me Dick. I was hoping to bring along my wife, but we weren't able to get a sitter. Can't tell you how much I've been looking forward to this here road rally.

Alfred Sloane shakes hands with Hartwick as they exchange greetings.

Alfred Sloane

When you first contacted us about the rally, I remember you said something about the book we're offering as first prize. As I recall, your grandfather owned one of the copies. Am I remembering that correctly?

Richard Hartwick

Ayuh, that's right. It was years ago. When I was just an ankle biter, granddad would sometimes let me handle the book. I remember it was a wicked pretty thing. I can't tell you how disappointed I was when I learned that he'd sold it.

Alfred Sloane

And why was that?

Richard Hartwick

I felt it was the kind of thing that should have been handed down from one generation to the next, sort of like a family heirloom.

Margaret Sloane

So now you've got a chance to reclaim something from your childhood? I must say, that's a rare opportunity.

Richard Hartwick

It's interesting you should put it that way, because it's exactly what I said to the missus. And I want you to know I am going to make the most of this opportunity. I'll do whatever it takes to get my hands on that book, Mr. Sloane. As a matter of fact, I had to use my last cent to cover the cost of the entry fee.

Alfred Sloane

That sounds almost desperate, Mr. Hartwick.

Richard Hartwick

Yes, I suppose it does.

Alfred Sloane

I'd like to warn you, you've got some very stiff competition.

As Alfred Sloane gestures toward the two couples who have been standing off to the side, the action shifts away from Mr. and Mrs. Sloane and over to Dr. and Mrs. Rinehart, who have been talking with Peter and Laura Benson.

Mary Rinehart

I assume you're here because you're in the road rally.

Laura Benson

We are. We've known Alfred and Margaret for years. When they told Peter and me they wanted to stage a rally to benefit the library, we immediately said yes. It should be great fun.

Stanley Rinehart

As I understand it, we'll use clues to get from one destination to the next, driving all over the countryside. I'll be driving. I suspect Mary is the one who will figure out the clues. She's a mystery writer, you know, awfully good at that sort of thing.

Laura Benson

Mysteries? How fascinating. You and my husband should have a lot in common. He used to be a homicide detective before we were married.

Mary Rinehart

I've always wanted to sit down with a real policeman. It would give me a chance to add an air of authenticity to my novels. You'll have to tell me about some of your favorite cases, Peter.

Peter Benson

I'd love to. I must warn you though, the more wine I drink, the more fantastic the stories become.

Stanley Rinehart

You seem awfully young to have retired already. What's your secret?

Peter Benson

It was simple, really.

Laura Benson

That's right. He fell in love with a beautiful woman who just happened to be loaded and then he begged her to marry him.

Peter Benson

That about sums it up.

Stanley Rinehart

You don't know how lucky you are. I'm afraid I lost a fortune in the stock market a few years ago. We had to use the royalties from Mary's first book just to raise the entry fee for this road rally.

Mary Rinehart

If we win, first prize would set everything right again.

Stanley Rinehart

That's why I'd like to warn you, we'll give no quarter during the rally. We plan to pull out all the stops to claim that prize. No holds barred.

Don Antonio Pastorelli is the next guest to enter the library. As he enters, the focus shifts back to Mr. and Mrs. Sloane. Richard Hartwick drifts over to join the other drivers.

Margaret Sloane

How do you do? I assume you're here for the road rally? I'm Mrs. Sloane, but Margaret will do.

Antonio Pastorelli

I am pleased to meet you, Margaret. I am Don Antonio Pastorelli. I had no idea that our hostess would be so beautiful.

Pastorelli makes a short bow. Alfred extends his hand and introduces himself as they shake.

Alfred Sloane

My name is Alfred, Alfred P. Sloane. Did I hear you say your name was Donald?

Antonio Pastorelli

Excuse me, who is this Donald?

Alfred Sloane

I thought that was your name.

Antonio Pastorelli

No, my name is Pastorelli.

Alfred Sloane

Do you mind if we keep this on a first name basis?

Antonio Pastorelli

Surely, Alfred.

Alfred Sloane

So, tell me, Pasta, is it true you came all the way from Italy for this rally?

Antonio Pastorelli

Did you just call me Pasta? Like the spaghetti?

Alfred Sloane

But you just said your name was Pasta Relli, didn't you?

Margaret Sloane

Alfred, please! His name is Antonio Pastorelli. Really, you need to pay more attention. I apologize, Antonio.

Alfred Sloane

Anyway, as I was saying, I understand you came all the way from Italy for this rally.

Antonio Pastorelli

Ah yes, this is true. When I learned you were donating the rare book of Audubon prints, I decided I had to come to America and try to win such a prize.

Margaret Sloane

I would not have guessed Audubon was so well known in Europe.

Antonio Pastorelli

I assure you, the name of John James Audubon is known around the world. In my home country, I am always studying the birds. I even have an aviary on my estate. Always, I have been searching for this book. Did you know there are less than 200 copies?

Alfred Sloane

Yes, I did. But tell me, Antonio, how do you plan to compete? Are you going to borrow a motorcar?

Antonio Pastorelli

Ah, I am glad you ask this question. I have made arrangements to purchase a Stanley Steamer. She is beautiful. This trip has made it possible for me to personally take delivery of my new motorcar to break it inside, during the rally.

Alfred Sloane

I think you meant to say you're going to break it in.

Antonio Pastorelli

Thank you. I am afraid that sometimes my English is not so good. I frequently make the mistakes. Yes, I will break it in, and then I will have it shipped to my estate.

Margaret Sloane

How long have you been trying to find a copy of this book by Audubon?

Antonio Pastorelli

For years I have been on the trail of Mr. Audubon's famous book. Now that I am so close, nothing will stop me. I will not go home without the prize.

Alfred Sloane

I regret to inform you, Antonio, some of your fellow drivers also seem very keen on winning the book.

Gesturing toward the other drivers

Allow me to introduce you to your competitors.

Alfred and Pastorelli walk over to join the other drivers. As they cross the room, Alice Ramsay enters the foyer. She is greeted by Margaret Sloane, who was standing by herself.

Margaret Sloane

Alice, so good of you to come. I've been looking forward to seeing you, again.

Alice Ramsay

Thank you, Margaret. It's good to see you, as well.

Margaret Sloane

It was thrilling to see your name in the newspapers. I can't believe you've done it. First female driver to cross the United States in an automobile. It was a great step forward for women.

Alice Ramsay

I'm glad to hear you say that. Alfred doesn't seem to agree. He thinks women should be left at home, raising children.

Margaret Sloane

Now Alice, he's not as bad as that. He has no problem with women drivers. Why Alfred loves automobiles! He believes one day, everyone will own one. It's just the racing he objects to. He thinks it too dangerous for women.

Alice Ramsay

He's entitled to his opinion, I just wish he would keep it to himself. Did you know he's talked to my husband on this subject? John told me that he had to endure a lecture from Alfred. Said my husband's duty was to protect his wife and his children.

Margaret Sloane

How did John react? Are you really concerned John will forbid you from racing in the future? I can't believe he would do that.

Alice Ramsay

I wish I could agree with you, Margaret, but I can't. If your husband continues to admonish John about women and automobile racing, I'm afraid I won't be able to control my temper.

Margaret Sloane

Now Alice, I've asked Alfred to be on his best behavior for the next few days. I'm asking you to do the same. I would like nothing more than for the two of you to completely avoid this topic.

Alfred starts walking back toward his wife, and Alice.

Alice Ramsay

I can't make any promises. If he raises the subject, I'll tell him what I think.

Alfred Sloane

Hello, Alice. So glad you could make it. Where's John? I was looking forward to seeing him, as well.

Alice Ramsay

I'm afraid he won't be here, Alfred. He had other things to do. We agreed I would come on my own.

Alfred Sloane

So, you drove all the way from New Jersey by yourself?

Alice Ramsay

No, I have a girlfriend who accompanied me. We're staying in one of the hotels in town. She decided to spend the evening in her room.

Alfred Sloane

That's a long way for two young women to travel by themselves.

Margaret Sloane

Now you're being ridiculous, Alfred. Alice just traveled all the way across the country in an automobile. It was in all the newspapers. I know you read them. Every morning, I find myself talking to someone hiding behind the New York Times at the breakfast table. I've always assumed that was you. You realize, of course, a trip from here to New Jersey is nothing, compared to a trip from New Jersey to California.

Alice Ramsay

Besides, I can take care of myself. I keep a gun in my glove box. And I know how to use it.

Alfred Sloane

A gun? Now really, this is too much.

Margaret Sloane

Alfred, you promised. And Alice, you're goading him. I want both of you to behave. I insist.

Alfred Sloane

Margaret, were you listening to what she just said? Her own actions demonstrate she believes what she is doing is dangerous. Why else would she purchase a gun?

Alice Ramsay

Maybe I have a gun, so I can deal with people who try to interfere with my marriage.

Alfred Sloane

Did you hear what she just said to me?

Margaret has become visibly upset. She raises her voice so that everyone can hear.

Margaret Sloane

That's enough! Do you hear! I don't want to hear another word on this topic from either of you. Is that understood?

Neither of them say a word in reply. There is a moment or two of silence while Alice and Alfred glare at each other. Margaret lowers her voice and continues to address both of them.

Margaret Sloane

This is no way for people who are supposed to be friends to behave toward one another. I'm disappointed in both of you. Please, for my sake, I'd like to see the two of you shake hands and agree to disagree.

Alfred Sloane

After an uncomfortable silence

I won't say anything more if she agrees to drop the subject.

Margaret Sloane

And Alice, what about you?

Alice Ramsay

As they both shake hands

It's a deal. For your sake, Margaret.

Evelyn Redmond is the next person to enter the library.

Evelyn Redmond

I'm sorry I'm late. My husband had a problem with the horse.

Evelyn notices there is an uncomfortable silence.

Evelyn Redmond

Is there a problem? Am I interrupting something?

Alfred Sloane

A problem? No, not at all. You said something about a horse?

Evelyn Redmond

Yes. One of our horses didn't seem to be feeling well. My husband had to switch to another.

Alfred Sloane

You need to get yourself a motorcar, Evelyn. They don't get sick and whenever you're ready to go somewhere, the automobile is ready to take you.

Evelyn Redmond

Maybe someday, Mr. Sloane, if they get less expensive.

Alice Ramsay

I don't believe we've been introduced. My name is Alice Ramsay. I'll be competing in the road rally.

Evelyn Redmond

Alice Ramsay? I'm so excited to meet you. My name is Evelyn Redmond. I work at the Seal Cove Auto museum. I was thrilled to read about your exploits in the newspapers. You just finished your trip across country, didn't you? I think they said it took a total of 59 days.

Alice Ramsay

Thank you. It's certainly nice to meet a fan. It was a wonderful adventure for us. There were three women with me.

Evelyn Redmond

Did you share the driving?

Alice Ramsay

No, I did all the driving and all the mechanical work. Over the course of the drive, I had to change 11 tires, clean the spark plugs and repair a broken brake pedal. On more than one occasion, we had to sleep in the automobile when it was stuck in the mud.

Evelyn Redmond

And I think you've also competed in some automobile races.

Alice nods her head affirmatively. As Alice begins to reply to Evelyn's question, the other drivers begin to shift toward her.

Alice Ramsay

As a matter of fact, in September of last year, I competed in the American Automobile Association's Montauk Point endurance race. I was one of only two women who participated. There was another driver there, Carl Kelsey, who did publicity for Maxwell-Briscoe. It was he who proposed the cross-country drive, with backing from his company. They even provided the motorcar.

Antonio Pastorelli

It sounds to me that I will have some very tough competition in the rally.

Pastorelli makes a short bow.

Hello, I am Don Antonio Pastorelli and it is an extreme pleasure to meet with you. Please call me Antonio.

Alice Ramsay

A pleasure to meet you, I am Alice Ramsay. You don't sound like you're from around here, Antonio.

Antonio Pastorelli

I think it is my poor English that is always giving this away.

Alice Ramsay

And perhaps the accent?

Antonio Pastorelli

I have an accent? How can this be?

Alice Ramsay

Now you're teasing me.

Antonio Pastorelli

Yes, I am always with the teasing. My home country is Italia. I am here on vacation, staying with friends. I have come all this way to compete in the road rally. I am determined to win the first prize. I must have this Audubon book with his birds. In my country, I am always watching the birds and listening to the beautiful music they make.

Alice Ramsay

Well Antonio, I am just as determined as you. I don't mind telling you that I'm here to make a point. I intend to win this rally and take the book home, to demonstrate women are capable of achieving great things when they so desire.

Antonio Pastorelli

Well then, as they say in your country, may the best man win! Oh no! I have said the stupid thing again. Always I am making the mistakes. Please accept my apologies.

Antonio raises his glass for everyone to see.

May the best driver win, man or woman!

At this point, Nathan Rittenhouse enters the library.

Nathan Rittenhouse

Here, here! I guess that would be me – best driver, I mean. Afraid the only view the rest of you will see is going to be the back end of my automobile. Rittenhouse is the name, Nathan Rittenhouse.

Peter Benson

That's a bold claim. And you haven't even met the competition yet. What makes you so sure you're going to win?

Nathan Rittenhouse

Because I simply must, old boy. The thousand it cost me to enter this rally was the last I had. Lost the rest. Having a bit of a losing streak. Can't afford not to win. I understand first prize is something I can probably sell easily and for quite a profit. After all, isn't that why we're all here?

Richard Hartwick

Speak for yourself. I have no intention of selling the book. It has great sentimental value for me.

Margaret Sloane

Mr. Hartwick's family owned a copy of the same book, at one time.

Alice Ramsay

Then you must know all about first prize?

Richard Hartwick

That's right. It's a wicked beautiful book called "Birds of North America". Hard to believe but there are only 119 copies in existence. There are 435 drawings in the book, bound together in a four-volume set. The drawings are called plates. Each one measures 39 inches by 26. Every bird is drawn to full scale.

Nathan Rittenhouse

That's all very interesting, but I'd like to know if your family sold the book. If they did, then how much did they get?

Richard Hartwick

Like I said before, it's not about the money. For me, the book is priceless.

Nathan Rittenhouse

Nonsense, old boy. Everything has a price.

Richard Hartwick

Have you ever even seen the book, Rittenhouse?

Nathan Rittenhouse

No, never. However, I have talked to a few people who know a thing or two about it. They assure me it will fetch a good price – more than enough to justify the cost of the entry fee.

Richard Hartwick

Have you ever heard the expression money isn't everything?

Nathan Rittenhouse

Here's another expression for you, to the victor go the spoils.

Richard Hartwick

Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

Alfred takes advantage of a pause in the conversation to get everyone's attention.

Alfred Sloane

If you gentlemen don't mind, now that everyone has arrived, there are some announcements that my wife and I would like to make.

Alfred gestures toward his wife.

Margaret Sloane

We know most of you have travelled a great distance to be here for this event. My husband and I are appreciative and hope you enjoy yourselves for the next few days.

Nathan Rittenhouse

Any chance we'll get to examine the book from this Audubon fellow, tonight?

Richard Hartwick

Ayuh, I think we'd all love to see the book.

Alfred P. Sloane

Ah! I'm afraid I didn't bring the book with me. I was planning to display it for all of you tomorrow night, after the first day of the road rally. As the invitation said, we will be having a reception in your honor, at 6 PM. We'll provide some of the details in just a minute.

Richard Hartwick

The reception is appreciated, Alfred, and I'm sure it will be a lovely dinner but I'm awfully keen to learn more about this here rally.

Following Hartwick's lead, a number of the other drivers shout similar questions about the rally.

Alfred P. Sloane

Raising both hands to silence the crowd

I can see everyone is very excited about the road rally. I promise all of your questions will be answered, shortly. But first, I'd like to introduce all of you to Evelyn Redmond. She is the curator for the auto museum in Seal Cove. In addition to the road rally, the invitation also included a private showing of the automobile collection belonging to Richard Payne. I hope everyone will get a chance to see automobiles they've not seen before. The collection is quite impressive.

Antonio Pastorelli

I can say I have been looking forward to seeing this collection. I have a passion for automobiles!

Nathan Rittenhouse

I thought it was birds you were so crazy about.

Antonio Pastorelli

Those, as well. And women. I cannot help it. I have all of these passions inside of me. I am like a stew that is always bubbling.

Nathan Rittenhouse

More like the pot that holds the stew. A pot with a crack in it, if you know what I mean.

Antonio Pastorelli

No, I don't know what you mean. What good is a pot that has a crack? You cannot cook stew in a pot like that.

Evelyn Redmond

Perhaps, Mr. Sloane, this would be a good time for me to explain the details about the rally?

Alfred Sloane

Yes, Evelyn. Please, by all means.

Evelyn Redmond

Very well then. As I think all of you know, this road rally will provide an endowment that will benefit the Jesup Memorial Library. Each contestant will have to collect a list of items to win. To make things interesting, you won't get a complete list in the morning. Instead, you'll get a first riddle that will lead to the first destination, where you will collect an item and get your next riddle. Because none of you are locals, I suspect it will take you longer to figure out the riddles than it will to drive to wherever it is that you need to be. Any questions so far?

When none of the drivers ask any questions, Evelyn continues.

Evelyn Redmond

The race will begin promptly at 9 AM, tomorrow morning, from the Seal Cove Auto Museum. You will get your first clue at that time. As Mr. Sloane said earlier, we're planning to have a reception for the drivers at the museum, at 6 PM. Ample food and drink will be provided. Anticipating you may want to refresh and change your clothes before the reception, there is a short list of riddles for the first day of the race. We're hoping all of you will be able to finish with time to spare. Any questions?

Stanley Rinehart

As you say, none of us are locals. Are you going to provide some sort of map?

Alfred Sloane

I'm glad you asked that question, Doctor. Each driver, or team of drivers, will be provided with a guide describing the various sites and attractions for this area. Many of them have nothing to do with the road rally. However, if you study the guide carefully, I think you have a reasonable

chance to decipher the riddles and figure out which landmarks are relevant, and which are red herrings.

Alice Ramsay

Capital! Any chance we could get a look at those guides, tonight?

Evelyn Redmond

Yes, I have the guides here and will make sure each driver receives one.

Alfred Sloane

One last piece of business before we relax and get to know one another over a glass of wine. Sometime after lunch, while you are racing around the countryside, gathering clues and collecting various objects, my driver and I will deliver the book of Audubon prints to the Seal Cove Museum. I have even had a special treasure chest made to accommodate all four volumes of the book. The chest will be on display when you arrive at the reception.

Margaret Sloane

And I have my husband's solemn promise he will be on time, for once, to greet you promptly, at 6 PM.

Alfred Sloane

Yes, I'm afraid I have something of a reputation for tardiness. Margaret always says I will be late for my own funeral.

The End – The Plot Thickens