

I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T A CLUEDO

By Rod

This sketch is designed to accompany a talk on 'The evidence for the resurrection'. It illustrates the point that Jesus' body was never found – indicating that He is, in fact, very much alive.

CAST

Superintendent Lockhart

Senior plainclothes policeman

Inspector Darling

Lockhart's assistant

Kate Smith

A murder suspect. Can be anyone – use their own name. Kate played the part last time!

Mr Alan Jones

The 'murder victim'. Ideally someone well-known to the audience. Alan fitted the bill last time!

There is a table on stage with one chair behind it facing the audience. Enter Lockhart and Darling to address the audience, who are all suspects in a murder enquiry. Kate is seated as part of the audience at this stage.

Lockhart Evening all. Let me begin by introducing myself: I am Superintendent Lockhart of the Gloucestershire Constabulary and this is my sidekick, Inspector Darling. *[Darling kicks Lockhart from the side – not violently. Lockhart flinches and looks surprised]*

Darling *[Grinning]* Sidekick. Geddit?

L *[Deliberately]* Ow that hurt.

D Sorry, Super.

L I forgive you, Darling. *{They look at each other suspiciously and edge away}*

D Why are we here, sir?

L We are here to investigate a heinous crime: towit, the murder of Mr Alan Jones.

D Oh, wizard! I love a 'Who dunnit'. How are we going to solve the crime, sir?

L That's easy. *[Produces a set of Cluedo cards]* I have here a set of cards – one for each suspect. *[Places the cards on the table]*

D Who are the suspects?

L *[Indicating the audience]* Everyone here, of course.

- D But surely we should consider other suspects, Super. There must be other people who could have committed the murder apart from those here.
- L Don't you watch any television detective series, Darling? The murderer is always somebody well-known to the victim, and is always assembled in the room when the great detective solves the crime. *[To audience]* What do they teach them at police college these days?
- D Oh goody. When is the Great Detective arriving? Is it Herules Poirot or that Miss Marple. I hope it's Miss Marple, I really like her....*[Lockhart has been growing increasingly annoyed. Darling looks at him and realises he has been referring to himself. Breaks off and points at Lockhart mouthing "You"]*
- L May we continue? Where was I?
- D Playing with cards, sir.
- L Ah, yes. I have a set of cards for all the suspects, *[Producing two more sets of Cluedo cards]* and also have sets of cards for all the possible murder venues, and for all the possible murder weapons. *[Places the cards on the table alongside the others]*
- D And how will we use the cards, sir?
- L We simply select one from each pile and then interview the suspects in turn. Using our advanced psychological interview techniques it won't take us long to get to the truth.
- D Brilliant, sir.
- L Choose the first suspect card, Darling.
- D *[Selecting a suspect card]* Right. Our first suspect is Miss Kate Smith. Miss Smith, would you be kind enough to step forward and sit yourself here. *[Indicates chair. Kate comes from audience and sits down.]*
- L *[Aside to Darling]* Right, Darling. I'll be Mr Nasty, you be Mr Nice.
- D Okay, sir. Mr Nice it is.
- L *[Aggressively and turning over the venue and weapon cards]* Right, Smith, I put it to you that you brutally murdered Mr Alan Jones in the dining-hall with the candlestick.

Kate No, I didn't do it.

L *[taking further card from the pile]* With the rope?

Kate No.

L What about the lead pipe? You can do a lot of damage with a nice piece of lead pipe.

K *[Sobbing]* No, I tell you I didn't do it.

D *[Being particularly 'nice'. Puts arm reassuringly around Kate's shoulders]* Okay, Kate, I can see you're an honest upright sort of girl. We just want to know: "Did you murder Mr Alan Jones?"

K *[Quietly]* No, I didn't. I promise you.

D Your word is good enough for us, Kate. You can go.

Kate Oh, thank you. You're so kind – unlike grumpydraws over there. *[Indicates Lockhart. Then returns to the audience guided by Darling]*

L *[Angry at Darling overdoing the 'nice' bit]* I can see this could take some time.

D Perhaps we should review the evidence, sir.

L Good idea, Darling. Where shall we start?

D Well, where exactly was the body found?

L The body?

D Yes, sir, the body of Mr Alan Jones.

L Ah, ... we haven't exactly got a body as such.

D Forgive me, Super, but if we have no body - then how do we know a murder has actually been committed?

L You've only got to look around this room to know that, Darling. *[Looks at audience accusingly]* I've never seen such an ugly, suspicious bunch. Trust me; I have a copper's nose for these things – one of this lot is our murderer. And, besides, I overheard them talking amongst themselves about 'the late Mr Alan Jones'.

D I see.....*[Thinking]* There is another possibility, sir; another reason why there is no body to be found.

- L What's that, Darling?
- D Well, perhaps he isn't actually dead. Maybe we should be looking for the living Mr Jones rather than assuming he is dead.
- L Don't be ridiculous, Darling, of course he is. *[Moving to the front of the stage]* The only way Mr Alan Jones could walk in here this morning would be if he appeared as a ghost. *[Enter Mr Alan Jones behind Lockhart]*
- AJ Hello everybody, sorry I'm late. *[Lockhart spins round and looks petrified – as if he has seen a ghost]*

THE END