



## Assassination on the Ancient Nile

This packet contains the following to help you set up a fabulous game.

- Page 2            A brief overview, characters and props
- Pages 2 - 4     Egyptian banquet information
- Pages 4-5      Host time line & suggestions for Bible classes and youth groups
- Page 6          Invitation to the game (You will insert your information and print one per guest)
- Page 7          Rules of the game (read aloud or print one per guest for distribution)
- Pages 8-11     Opening statement, arrest warrant & second thoughts
- Pages 12-24    Character sheets/dossiers

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## Brief overview of Assassination on the Ancient Nile

The land of Egypt is enjoying the first of seven years of plenty. To celebrate the bountiful harvest, Pharaoh Fuddy-tut-tut invited some of his inner circle to a floating feast on his royal barge. The evening was going splendidly when a cobra attacked and bit Pharaoh Fuddy. He nearly died from the bite. Mercifully his life was spared but whoever was behind the plot will be shown no mercy.

All the guests and servants have been thrown in the royal dungeon, until such time as the identity of who was behind the attempted assassination is determined. As an added incentive, if the would-be murderer is not discovered before sunrise, Fuddy-tut-tut plans to execute everyone who was on the barge – just to be safe.

### Characters

Dossiers may be handed out randomly by gender or as host you may cast your guests in the roles you choose for them. If you want to be surprised by the ending use just the WHO YOU ARE portion of the character descriptions to select roles. If you read the complete character descriptions you will know all the details of the murder including who did it.

You may choose to hand them out several days before the giving people more time to prepare their character, costume, props, etc. counting on everyone to be present. You may wish to hold them until the guests arrive in case you have cancellations or no shows. Last minute cancellations and no shows occasionally occur. It's wise to line someone up in advance in case of a no show.

### Props

Pencils or pens will be necessary to fill out the Whodunit forms

### A feast fit for a Pharaoh

Because the Nile River teemed with fish, it was often incorporated into ancient Egyptian recipes. Due to the desert surrounding them, Egyptians rarely ate pork (they thought it could cause leprosy) and beef. However, Pharaoh would have access to the bulls and lambs sacrificed in the temples so a banquet for nobility could contain these meats.

Egyptians ate peas, beans, lentils, lettuce, cabbages and turnips along with barley and wheat breads (loaves or pitas). If the host could afford it, bread was dipped in either honey or olive oil at the guest's pleasure. Olives were available to the rich.

They spiced their foods with onion, garlic and while sweetening foods with honey. Figs, grapes, raisins and dates were popular desserts. Dates were stuffed with almonds then dipped in honey or stuffed with garlic and onion flavored goat cheese. Below are a couple of easy recipes.

## Fava Beans in Tahini sauce

### Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive oil  
 1 medium onion, chopped  
 1 (15 ounce) can fava beans, drained (can substitute another sort of bean to make it easier)  
 1 lemon, juiced or 2 tbsp. Lemon juice  
 1/3 cup tahini (toasted & ground sesame seeds mixed with olive or vegetable oil)  
 5 cloves garlic, crushed  
 Salt and pepper to taste

### Directions

1. Heat olive oil in small to medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Cook onion in oil until softened.
2. Stir in the beans and lemon juice. Next, stir in the tahini until mixture is thick. Then, add the garlic, and cook for a few minutes more. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Dukkah was a favorite flavoring.

### Ingredients:

2/3 cup hazelnuts  
 1/2 cup sesame seeds  
 2 tablespoons coriander seeds  
 2 tablespoons cumin seeds  
 2 tablespoons black pepper  
 1 teaspoon salt

### Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Place the hazelnuts on a baking sheet, and bake for about 5 minutes, or until fragrant. While the nuts are still hot, pour them onto a tea towel. Fold the towel over them and rub vigorously to remove the skins. Set aside to cool.
2. Toast the sesame seeds in a pan over medium heat until light golden brown. Remove to a bowl then toast coriander and cumin seeds while stirring occasionally until they begin to pop.
3. Transfer everything once cooled into a food processor. Process until finely ground, season with salt and pepper, mix well and place in a bowl with service spoon.

## Egyptian table manners

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Commoners ate around reed mats while nobility used tables. Everyone dipped their hands in a bowl of water to wash up. Pharaoh and his court might use rose scented water. Knives were used to cut up meat but everyone ate with their hands. It was considered rude to stare at your food. Anything uneaten was given to servants or the goats.

### Host Time Line for Assassination on the Ancient Nile

For first time hosts we recommend you follow the time line more carefully than hosts with experience. It is however a suggested timeline not a cast-in-stone law.

#### To start:

Select a date, location, guests and refreshments

Decide if you will give characters sheets before the game or after guests arrive.

Decide on refreshments

Think about if you want the guest to come in costume

An alternative to a dungeon setting is to pretend that the suspects are being held on the pharaoh's barge, and unless they determine who the would-be assassin is, they will be thrown to the crocodiles.

#### Two to three weeks before the game:

Modify invitations for your event and print one for each prospective guest.

Decide if you are going to have guests come in costume

Finalize your menu.

Have alternative guests in mind in case of an emergency cancellation.

Run off character dossiers for reference or to give to guests accepting the invitation to attend

#### The day of the game:

Set the scene with any music, additional props and the set up for refreshments that you have chosen.

Run off clue packet and one rules/Whodunit sheet per player.

Fold all the second thoughts so that the left column shows (who should and should not have the clue) then tape them shut so the right hand column does not show. Place them in a container so they can be drawn randomly. A reed basket or piece of "Egyptian" pottery works well for atmosphere.

#### When the guests have arrived:

If guests are bringing some of the refreshments indicate where they should be placed.

Distribute character dossiers if you did not give them out earlier. (Nametags if using them)

Distribute a copy of the rules to each player and read them over

Begin by reading aloud the opening statement

Have the guests introduce themselves by reading WHO/round one statements from their character sheets.

Allow for characters to interject comments, both those scripted and ad libs.

Have characters read their round two statements.

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Allow guests to mingle, question and interact for 10 -20 minutes

(If you are doing a sit down meal we suggest you do so here)

After 20 minutes (or for a sit down meal, just before dessert is served) have characters share their round three information *in their own words*.

(Dessert if you have a sit down meal) Allow another 5-10 minutes of interaction then assemble the group. Explain characters are having second thoughts. Each one should draw out a random “second thoughts” clue. Before opening the clue, they should check to see if it is appropriate for them to have. If it is NOT, they put it back in the container and draw again. Have everyone continue to draw until all the clues are taken (some people may have multiples). After each person has had a chance to read their clue allow another 5-10 minutes before allowing each character one last opportunity to say what they know and what they guess.

Distribute “The Jury Speaks” forms and pen to each guest. Explain they are to decide and write who they think did it, how and why. Explain if they are the murderer they should write a misleading guess. If they wish, they may nominate someone for an Academy Award for bringing their character and the party to life. When guests are finished collect the forms and read each aloud.

Read the Arrest Warrant.

### Suggestions for Bible classes and youth groups

This party game can be used as a launching point or supplement to a Bible study. Delving into character analysis helps students of history or the Bible to make deeper and longer lasting connections and provides a context in which further study can take place. Have students Genesis 39-41 (or for a more comprehensive look at Joseph Genesis 37-50)

### Invitation

You are invited to attend a murder mystery game being hosted by [fill in your name] at [fill in game location, time, date and phone number].

This mystery takes place in the royal dungeon of Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut's. Each guest will have a dual role as one of the suspects and one of the investigators to determine who tried to assassinate their leader. All the guests will try to solve the mystery while protecting any secrets they might have. You do not need to be an actor or have knowledge of investigations or first century culture to have a great time.

When your host gives you your character dossier, please do not show it to anyone, before or during the game. The dossier will explain who you are, who and what you know and what happened just prior to the murder. It is for your eyes only. If you have questions prior to the game contact [fill in host name and phone number]

A few of the people you may meet are:

Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard. Why didn't he protect his pharaoh?

Ammon, the ambitious architect and builder of pyramids and the pharaohs' burial chambers.

Ramses, younger brother of Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut. What secret is he trying to hide?

Sekhet, feminist sister of Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut. Has envy driven her mad?

Cleopitterpatra, a versatile musician. Does she need to face the music herself?

Asenath, daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. Why was attending the feast a "matter of life or death"?

Joseph, former slave & royal prisoner now Grand Vizier to Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut. Should he have been kept in jail? Was it a very bad idea to drop all charges against him?

Abububakar, cupbearer to the mighty Pharaoh, and another former prisoner.

Potiphera, priest of On. Is he afraid the pharaoh will no longer respect the gods and bring disaster on Egypt?

Nefertiti, a lesser wife of Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut. Is she really as vain and dumb as she seems?

Kebi, girlfriend of Ramses and a healer. Are her cures worse than the ailments?

Ismati, the chief jeweler and cosmetologist to Nefertiti. Exactly what is in her bag of tricks?

As it is essential all characters be present, please inform the host if something arises preventing you from attending.

## PLAYING RULES

1. No one may look at another person's character dossier. While you are encouraged to read from your dossier for rounds one and two, you should use your own words and phrasing the rest of the game.
2. Lying is not permitted, unless you are the (attempted) murderer. Only the murderer may lie.
3. Fabrication to enhance one's character is not only allowed but encouraged.
4. If one does not want to answer truthfully one may do as in real life - evade the question, change the subject, tell partial truths or flat out refuse to answer.
5. It is possible to have more than one murderer.
6. At the end of the game you will be asked who you think did it, how and why.

Who dunit? (Your host will tell you when to fill this out)

Your name:

Who did it? \_\_\_\_\_

How? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

The character I nominate to get the Academy Award of the evening:

## Clues for Assassination on the Ancient Nile

The flowing pages contain the clues you will need to print before the party starts. You will read the opening statement at the start of the party.

Opening Statement

Second thoughts

Arrest Warrant (We strongly suggest this be placed unread in a sealed labeled envelope immediately after printing. It names the would be assassin.)

### ASSASSINATION OPENING STATEMENT

Like a giant snake, the Nile River slithers through some of the driest desert on earth but because the snow in the mountains of East Africa melts, the Nile overflows its banks dropping silt which the excellent topsoil that provides two or three crops every year. Many boats travel the river. Some fish, some trade, the most exclusive as river party dinner barges. Instead of being one of the best nights of your life, tonight has become a nightmare of sorts.

It was bad enough that someone tried to assassinate the Pharaoh. Now you are one of the prime suspects in the attempted regicide.

By order and decree of Pharaoh Fatty-tut-tut, you are all confined to these quarters until such time as you discover who attempted his assassination by cobra venom or sunrise. If you are able to ferret out the culprit, the innocent will go free. But if you cannot determine who tried to kill the king of Egypt by sunrise, pharaoh has ordered you all be executed. He's not taking any chances that the next attempt will succeed.

Most criminals have motive for committing a crime. They must also have the opportunity and the means to commit the crime. So ask yourselves, "Who has the most to gain?" "Who had the opportunity?" – obviously it must have been someone on the barge. "Who had the means?" – a small cobra and the means to get a small cobra not only on the barge, but close to the pharaoh?

May the gods or God smile on you all.



BY THE AUTHORITY OF PHARAOH FUTTY-TUT-TUT  
ARREST WARRANT

This was not a crime of passion, nor was it for power or money. We can assume that anyone who knows anything about cobras would realize that a baby cobra would only sicken, not kill, a full grown man. Thus, we must look for who had motive, not to kill the pharaoh, but to make it look like there had been an attack on Fuddy-tut-tut's life.

Had it been an actual attempt on the pharaoh's life we could have eliminated all those who would have NO motive to see him buried in the Valley of Kings. But Fuddy-tut-tut was only to appear to be in danger rather than actual danger so we can eliminate those suspects who might have wanted him dead: his siblings, Ramses and Sekhet.

Next we can eliminate those who had nothing to gain by the cobra's bite: Ismati, who would not have wasted the venom on anyone besides her rival Kebi; Potiphar who now is in jeopardy of losing his position for failure to see it coming and Ammon. If Fuddy-tut-tut died now, Ammon would be out of a lucrative job and lose his elevated status.

Kebi has a stormy temperament and wouldn't have bothered to plan something this elaborate. Nefertiti couldn't have planned it.

Potiphar might have been trying to scare the pharaoh away from the God of the Hebrews, but he never would have jeopardized his reward in the afterlife by resorting to subterfuge. His daughter would never have done anything that might jeopardize Joseph's position because she's in love with him.

That leaves us with Joseph, the owner of the silver cup from which the cobra launched his attack; Cleopitterpatra, or should we say Apep; and Abububakar.

The killer wanted Pharaoh alive and well enough to catch and execute the one he believed had tried to assassinate him. Two men had already been in prison on violent crime charges. Both were believed to be innocent. Both were innocent not only of their past charges but this crime as well.

The old saying "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned" is certainly true in this case. The schemer had hoped to eliminate a man she hated for spurning her advanced and who was now in a position to take vengeance on her. While she was at it, she hoped in a best case scenario to punish her husband as well for only imprisoning the man rather than killing him. She hoped he would be dismissed from his position as captain of pharaoh's guard. Her real name, Apep means "evil personified as a serpent" and sounds a lot like the Egyptian root word for "slither".

Arrest and detain Apep, AKA Cleopitterpatra for attempted regicide.

### ASSASSINATION SECOND THOUGHTS

(Run off, cut apart and fold up so that the left column can be seen but the information on the right column is hidden. Then tape shut. When they are distributed, instruct the guests to look at the “NOT FOR \_\_\_\_\_” portion first. If they get one with their name in the “NOT FOR” portion, they put it back and draw a different one.

NOT JOSEPH	You noticed the cobra wrapped around the stem of Joseph’s silver cup but thought it was just art work and the setting sun playing tricks on your eyes. It probably was the cobra.
POTIPHAR	Cleopitterpatra could be a close cousin or sister to your missing wife, Apep.
NOT RAMSES	Ramses could have smuggled a snake in Senet game
NOT KEBI, ISMATI or RAMSES	Rumor has it that Ramses is seeing someone on the side. A someone who likes shiny metals and rare gems. Could somebody be setting Ramses up?
NOT KEBI	Was it more than co-incidence that Ramses just happened to invite a healer on board this evening?
NOT RAMSES	You could have sworn you saw a silver cobra slithering out of Ramses’ Senet box.
NOT AMMON	During dinner you thought you saw something moving around inside of Ammon’s scroll. Why did he bring work to a pleasure cruise, anyway? Seems suspicious.
NOT JOSEPH	Maybe Joseph was mad that Abububakar forgot about him in prison. Maybe he is trying to pin a murder on him for revenge.
RAMSES	Your sister could have slipped the cobra in your box when she asked to look at it before boarding the barge.
JOSEPH	A snake charmer could have lured the cobra out with the right kind of music or prey.
ABUBUBAKAR	Someone in Potiphar’s household took music lessons to learn how to charm snakes.
NEFERTITI	Ismati has been acting strangely lately, almost as if she’s love sick.
NOT POTIPHERA or ASENETH	Why did Aseneth insist her father bring her? What was the life or death issue?
NOT SEKHET	Sekhet mentioned she thought she would be getting a chance soon to prove she’d make a better leader and Fuddy-tut-tut.
NOT ABUBUBAKAR	Abububakar could have easily smuggled in a cobra in the food and drinks.

JOSEPH	Abububakar said some pretty unkind things about Futtu-tut-tut when he was tossed in the prison. But that was two years ago. He probably is just happy not to have wound up dead like the baker.
CLEOPITTEPATRA	Joseph could have tried to incapacitate the pharaoh so he could be in charge. Hebrews are sneaky, greedy liars.
NOT POTIPHERA	Potipher was preaching doom and gloom for all of Egypt should the pharaoh start worshipping the Hebrew God because of Joseph's influence on him. Could he be trying to head off disaster for the country by sacrificing its ruler?
NOT POTIPHAR	How come the captain of the guard missed the snake?
NOT NEFERTITI	Nefertiti has always been mad she wasn't chosen as Great Wife and Queen to Futtu-tut-tut. She could have hidden the baby cobra in with her jewelry.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am POTIPHER, the famous captain of Pharaoh's guard. I have fought and served in many campaigns and guard the pharaoh's life. We Egyptians believed in "ma 'at" - order and justice therefore I vow to get to the bottom of this horrible plot. I will see justice done.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** We must be fair and just at all times. While it is true that the last time someone tried to kill our pharaoh, Abububakar the cupbearer was thrown in jail, he was innocent of any crime. Pharaoh later freed him because it was the baker, who was behind the plot. The baker was executed.

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** I hope Joseph isn't trying to get me fired as revenge for me throwing him in prison because my wife accused him of attempted sexual assault. She's left town so let's let bygones be gone.

**YOU SHARE THE FOLLOWING WHEN APPROPRIATE:** Part of your job was keeping Pharaoh safe on hyena and lion hunts. You are very good with a bow or a boomerang but up close you prefer a bronze spear or copper dagger.

**WHAT YOU HIDE (at least at first):** Joseph makes you nervous. He's said he has no hard feelings over you throwing him into prison and you did put him in charge of the prison but maybe he carries a grudge. Your wife left for a distant cousin's house in Thebes as soon as Joseph was made the number two guy in all of Egypt. She was afraid that Joseph would come after her. Secretly you believe everything bad that happens to you is as a result of bad things happening to Joseph. But you had to put him in prison. You couldn't very well believe a slave over your wife, could you?

**ON THE EVENING IN QUESTION:** All the guests were ushered onto the brightly decorated barge for a trip on the longest river in the world, the Nile. You of course, stayed right next to Fatty, in case he needed protection.

The musician, Cleopitterpatra played soothing music on the harp while the barge got underway. Ammon wanted to show the Pharaoh something about the tomb he was building but Fatty-tut-tut told him to wait until after dinner. Sekhet challenged Fatty to a game of Senet but he declined. Nefertiti's hair was blowing all over and tickled Fatty. He told her to go sit somewhere else. She went off in a corner, upset to be sent away.

Fatty asked Kebi if she could give him something for an upset stomach, so she did. Ramses and Sekhet played Senet. Abububakar brought everyone wine and started placing the feast on the table.

To keep his siblings from arguing, Fatty declared it was time to eat. Everyone laughed and enjoyed the feast, that is until Fatty yelled. A small silver cobra was dangling off of his hand. He jerked, tossing the snake overboard. It was chaotic but Joseph restored order. Kebi treated the pharaoh's wound while Sekhet tried to boss everyone including you around.

Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am AMMON, the ambitious architect and builder of great pyramids and glorious burial chambers for the rich and famous. I am grateful that Pharaoh provides more spacious housing for the highly skilled workers who build the tombs in the Valley of the Kings. I appreciate the fact my family is better off than most peasant families because of his generosity and eye for talent.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** Joseph, who does not worship Egyptian gods. While he may be a very wise man, probably this is all his fault because he has angered Ra and Bastet and Anubis.

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** Some of Kebi's medicines taste awful (like garlic and honey for stomach infections). She keeps snakes in the House of Healing to make cures with.

**WHAT YOU HIDE (at least at first):** You are very superstitious despite being a brilliant engineer. You brought some sketches and diagrams to show Futtu-tut-tut. They were brought, rolled up, from the new construction in the Valley of Kings. They had been pretty close to where a cobra's nest had been discovered. Could one of them possibly slithered into the papyrus scrolls and been accidentally brought on board?

**ON THE EVENING IN QUESTION:** You were very excited to be invited to this exclusive dinner party. You brought your diagrams of the building of Futtu's tomb because you wanted to get his approval on a brilliant idea of yours. He said "later". You tried not to show your disappointment or get upset at the snide remarks Ramses and Sehket were making about your status and peasant past.

You enjoyed the music Cleopitterpatra played and looked forward to her story telling after dinner. Sehket challenged Futtu to a game of Senet but he declined. Futtu asked Kebi if she could give him something for an upset stomach, so she did. Probably that was why he asked you to wait until later, when he was feeling better.

Everyone was laughing and enjoying the feast, when Futtu yelled. A small silver cobra was dangling off of his hand. He jerked, tossing the snake overboard. Joseph immediately took charge ordering Kebi to stop the venom from spreading, Potiphara prayed, Nefertiti cried and Sehket tried to boss everyone around.

Abububakar told Aseneth, "It wasn't me. I can't go to jail again. I just can't."

Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am RAMSES, which means son of Ra and younger brother of Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut. I was the one who invited my darling Kebi to come.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** My sister Sekhet is always talking about how there should be a female pharaoh and what a good job she would do if she were pharaoh. Maybe she decided to kill our brother so she could rule.

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** Your favorite game is called Senet or Snake. The board is shaped like a curled snake with its head in the center. The body is divided into squares, half of which were hallowed out. The playing pieces are shaped like lions, lionesses and marbles. Sekhet specifically asked you to bring the Senet game. She even was holding it for you before you boarded the barge.

**YOU SHARE THE FOLLOWING WHEN APPROPRIATE:** If Sekhet goes off on one of her feminist tirades you'll remind her that besides being equal to men under Egyptian law they are equally subject to whatever responsibilities normally accompanied those rights.

**WHAT YOU HIDE (at least at first):** While it is no secret you and Kebi are romantically involved, it is a secret you have been seeing Ismati on the side.

**ON THE EVENING IN QUESTION:** You were not too happy to be invited to this dinner party. Both the women you are seeing would be there and that is never very good

The soothing music played by Cleopitterpatra did nothing to help your uneasiness. Sekhet challenged Futtu to a game of Senet but he declined so the two of you ended up playing. She cheated somehow but you were too busy trying to catch Ismati's attention without Kebi noticing to catch how your sister won.

To keep the two of you from arguing, Futtu declared it was time to eat. Cleopitterpatra switched to some more rousing music, everyone laughed and enjoyed the feast, that is until Futtu yelled. A small silver cobra was dangling off of his hand. He jerked, tossing the snake overboard. Joseph immediately took charge ordering Kebi to stop the venom from spreading, Potiphera prayed, Nefertiti cried and Sekhet tried to boss everyone around.

You used the chaos as a cover to whisper to Ismati. You told her to meet you later tonight at the royal gardens Ammon looked very nervous and kept saying "He can't die. I haven't finished his tomb yet." Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am SEKHET, sister to Pharaoh Futtu –tut-tut. I can't believe my own brother would suspect me and throw me in this dungeon. That just goes to show you what kind of leader he is – too weak, too suspicious. He trusts commoners but not his own loving family.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** Ramses may be my brother but we are nothing alike. Ammon was nothing but a lowly slave who was rapidly promoted because of his talents with building and constructing burial chambers, monuments and pyramids. Ammon is only a peasant and should never have brought those diagrams to a party. A person of breeding would not have made that mistake.

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** Sometimes the pharaohs have killed the architects and builders of their tombs so the secret passageways and rooms remain secret. Perhaps Ammon's in a hurry to see Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut buried!

**YOU SHARE THE FOLLOWING WHEN APPROPRIATE:** While women can become Pharaoh only in very special circumstances, they were otherwise regarded as totally equal to men as far as the law is concerned. We can own property, borrow money, sign contracts, initiate divorce, appear in court as a witness, etc.

**WHAT YOU HIDE (at least at first):** Your name means powerful one. You are a snob. You like to control things. You very much resent commoners, ex-cons and slaves rising to high positions in the land.

**ON THE EVENING IN QUESTION:** You were not happy to be invited. You have more important things to do, like convince everyone you'd make a better Pharaoh than your brother. So it wouldn't be too boring, you asked your brother Ramses to bring his Senet game. Perhaps you could beat your brother the pharaoh.

You challenged Futtu to a game of Senet but he declined. Nefertiti's hair was blowing all over and tickled Futtu. He told her to go sit somewhere else. She went off in a corner, mad, and had Ismati put her hair in braids.

You and Ramses played Sekhet. It was easy to beat him since he seemed so distracted. You wonder what he was thinking about. Then he tried to accuse you of cheating. Futtu broke the argument up before you could put Ramses in his place.

Cleopitterpatra switched to some more rousing music on her drums and most everyone laughed and enjoyed the feast, that is until Futtu yelled. A small silver cobra was dangling off of his hand. He jerked, tossing the snake overboard. Joseph immediately took charge when it should have been your duty as next in line to the throne. Nefertiti cried like a baby.

You overheard Abububakar telling Aseneth, "It wasn't me. I can't go to jail again. I just can't." Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am CLEOPITTERPATRA, a musician who plays not only the lute drums and harp but the lyre and flute as well. I am also a historian and teller of tales; making me your best choice for entertainment should you have a celebration banquet when we are all released from this dungeon.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** As a historian, I can tell you Hebrews have been trouble for Egyptians for a long time. The current pharaoh's great grandfather got tricked by a Hebrew named Abram. When Abram came to Egypt, he claimed his drop dead gorgeous wife was his sister. Pharaoh's officials praised her beauty to Pharaoh, and she brought to him to become his wife. Pharaoh treated Abram well for her sake, giving him sheep, cattle, donkeys, servants and camels. But then disaster struck. Pharaoh's whole household was afflicted with serious diseases because of Abram's wife Sarai. So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife?" He kicked them both out. He should have executed them. Hebrews are trouble. Mark my words. That Joseph is probably the guilty one.

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** I just know it's that foreigner, Joseph. I remember my grandmother Hagar telling me how awful she was treated by Abram and Sarai. She was Sarai's servant and was having a child for them since Sarai couldn't have a baby. Sarai treated her like dirt, even after she gave birth to Ishmael. Then by some Hebrew witchcraft, Sarai has a baby at age 90 and throws Hagar and Ishmael out into the desert to die of dehydration or starvation. That's the kind of things those Hebrews do. Joseph is the guilty one, I tell you.

**YOUR SECRET:** You are actually Apep, wife of Potiphar. When you failed to seduce the Hebrew slave, Joseph, you accused him of rape. You were horrified when he got out of prison and became the Grand Vizier, second only to Pharaoh. You are afraid he'll look for a way to get revenge on you and you want him gone before he can. You pretended to escape to some foreign country but have actually been living incognito in the area. As a child you learned to play several instruments and as an adult, how to use music to charm snakes.

**YOU SHARE THE FOLLOWING IF NECESSARY:** (this is a lie) I am Potiphar's wife's second cousin on her father's side of the family. We hear she's doing well in some foreign country.

**WHAT YOU HIDE (as much as possible):** Your identity. Your real name, Apep, means "evil personified as a serpent" and sounds a lot like the Egyptian root word for "slither".

**BEFORE THE ATTEMPTED MURDER:** You learned that Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut was having a floating dinner party and got yourself hired to provide the music and stories. Being a rather accomplished musician yourself, you decided to don a disguise and take her place on the barge. You would smuggle a sleeping baby cobra inside your lute and when the opportunity presented itself, unleash the cobra on the pharaoh in such a way Joseph would get blamed. He'd be executed for attempted regicide and you would have your revenge.



You played the harp at first, very soothing music to keep the cobra quiet and asleep. Fatty seemed annoyed with Nefertiti. She went off in a corner, mad, and had Ismati put her hair in braids. Who brings a hair stylist to a party?

During the meal, you switched to the flute and woke the cobra. You “charmed “him into crawling through Nefertiti’s jewelry box, behind the serpent game Ramses brought, through Ammon’s rolled up papyrus, up the table leg and then around the handle of Joseph’s silver cup. From there it was easy to wait until Pharaoh’s hand was close to the silver cup. You quickly changed to the drums and started a war beat which incited the snake to strike.

Fatty yelled and jerked his arm to toss the snake overboard. You stayed in the background which is probably why you noticed Ramses whispering to Ismati. Ammon looked more and more nervous while Abububakar was excitedly telling Aseneth something.

Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out.

When the host has everyone fill out the Whodunit sheets, fill your out accusing Joseph.

This will keep everyone in suspense about who attempted to murder Pharaoh until the arrest warrant is read.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am ASENATH, (A-sen-nath) daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. I'm not yet married but hope to be someday. I am a very good cook.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** My father is a gentle man. Too gentle to be a killer. Joseph is a wise man, far too wise to do something that would put him out of the number two position in the kingdom. I think we should try to figure out how a baby cobra got on board. What did people bring on the barge that could have concealed a baby cobra?

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** Ismati makes jewelry all the time; including the popular scarab beetles. This is done by painting a live beetle. Ismati would be able to paint a cobra silver.

**YOU SHARE THE FOLLOWING WHEN APPROPRIATE:** Love and emotional support are considered to be important parts of marriage in Egypt. Egyptians love children as people and not just as potential workers and care-takers. You'll then ask Joseph what the Hebrew concept of marriage is. You'll make sure he knows that in Egypt, children are the heart of the family. They must be taught to be caring, kind and honest, to respect their parents, to help with the family business, and to care for the elder members of their family

**YOUR SECRET:** You think Joseph is husband material, and not just because he's the #2 guy in all of Egypt. You're whole purpose in coming here tonight was to get noticed by Egypt and if possible, convince Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut that it would be good for Joseph to marry an Egyptian, particularly the daughter of a priest.

**WHAT YOU HIDE (at least at first):** You begged your father to wrangle you an invitation. You wanted to meet Joseph up close and personal but didn't want to let your father know that was the reason. He did not approve of a foreigner being promoted from a slave in prison to the number two official in the land. You told him it "was a matter of life or death" and let him assume you had had a vision or something from the gods.

**ON THE EVENING IN QUESTION:** You were very excited to convince your father to get you an invitation to this exclusive dinner party. You did your best to hang around Joseph without being too obvious. You wished Cleopitterpatra would have played some love songs. Joseph was watching Ramses and Sekhet play Senet so you joined them. Abububakar brought everyone wine and started placing the feast on the table. Sekhet won and Ramses accused her of cheating. To keep them from having an argument, Futtu declared it was time to eat. Cleopitterpatra switched to some more rousing music, everyone laughed and enjoyed the feast, that is until Futtu yelled. A small silver cobra was dangling off of his hand. He jerked, tossing the snake overboard. Joseph immediately took charge which made Sekhet very mad. Kebi stopped the venom from spreading, your father, Potiphera, prayed for the pharaoh.

Ismati was listening to some secret Ramses was whispering. She nodded then moved away to try to comfort the weeping and wailing Nefertiti. Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am JOSEPH, Grand Vizier to Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut. I am known as a wise administrator and that if I hear a dream I can interpret it, but that is not true. It is God who gives the answers. I am merely one he speaks through. I agree that we must see that ma 'at is done and not descend into Isfet or chaos. God will provide an answer. It is up to us to look for the clues and use the minds God gave us to put them together.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** I know of everyone here but know Potiphar, who was once my master when I was a slave and Abububakar, the forgetful man who I interpreted dreams for the most. .

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** One of Kebi's patients died having brain surgery. Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut was thinking about restricting her medical activities. She'd have access to snakes for medicinal purposes.

**YOU SHARE THE FOLLOWING WHEN APPROPRIATE:** God is the one who gives everyone their abilities. You were incarcerated for a crime you did not commit. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce you and when you would not sin against your master, she made false accusations.

**ON THE EVENING IN QUESTION:** You were pleased to be invited to this exclusive dinner party. All the guests were ushered onto the brightly decorated barge for a trip on the longest river in the world, the Nile. It still amazes you since you grew up in the deserts of your father, Israel.

The musician, Cleopitterpatra played soothing music on the harp while the barge got underway. Ammon wanted to show the Pharaoh something about the tomb he was building but Futtu-tut-tut told him to wait until after dinner.

Sehket challenged Futtu to a game of Senet but he declined. Nefertiti's hair was blowing all over and tickled Futtu. He told her to go sit somewhere else. She went off in a corner, mad, and had Ismati put her hair in braids. You noticed the brush was kept in a box that also contained metallic jewelry. Why would someone bring jewelry on a boat that could tip over?

Futtu asked Kebi if she could give him something for an upset stomach, so she did. Ramses and Sehket played Senet while you, Aseneth and Potiphara watched. Aseneth might have been flirting with you. Sehket won and Ramses accused her of cheating. To keep them from having an argument, Futtu declared it was time to eat. Cleopitterpatra switched to some more rousing music, everyone laughed and enjoyed the feast that is until Futtu yelled. A small silver cobra was dangling off of his hand. He jerked, tossing the snake overboard. You immediately took charge ordering Kebi to stop the venom from spreading, Potiphara prayed, Nefertiti cried and Sehket glared at you.

Ammon looked more and more nervous and kept saying "He can't die. I haven't finished his tomb yet." Abububakar told Aseneth, "It wasn't me. I can't go to jail again. I just can't."

Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out. You are not worried. God has always taken care of you and he always will.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am ABUBUBAKAR, (Ah-boo-boo-bah-kar) cupbearer to the mighty Pharaoh. I am his culinary bodyguard, if you please. My job is not just carrying a cup of wine. I am in charge of wine production to make sure Pharaoh had the finest and safest. I oversee the winemakers who put grapes inside a cloth bag which is twisted with the help of two staffs as a press. This squeezes the last drops of grape juice out of the pulp. To flavor the wine I add flowers, roots, berries, chunks of resin etc. that are first mashed or ground up and then either pressed to squeeze the scents out or steeped in grape or palm wine in order to dissolve the fragrant alcohols. Sometimes I heat the ingredients. I make sure all food and drink is safely stored away. I also make sure I first taste any wine brought to the pharaoh to ensure it is not spoiled or poisoned. Just because I was a suspect in the last plot to kill pharaoh is no reason to suspect me again.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** I am an honest man even if I am somewhat forgetful. I am so sorry I forget to tell pharaoh about Joseph being unjustly imprisoned. At least I did remember when pharaoh needed his dreams interpreted. While it is true that Joseph was once a slave and once a prisoner on attempted rape charges, I find no faults in him. He's not a man given to vengeance or he would have been mean to me for forgetting to tell pharaoh about him for two whole years.

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** Pharaohs have several wives, although only one bears the title Great Wife and functions as Queen. The current Queen is due to have a baby soon and therefore did not come on the trip. Since there is a high death rate, particularly in childbirth, Nefertiti has been speculating that she might be the next Great Wife.

**WHAT YOU HIDE (at least at first):** You are a windbag and like to hear yourself talk. You forgot to double check all the food brought on board. Maybe the baby cobra was in the bowl of fruit or hiding in the pita bread because it was toasty warm out of the oven.

**ON THE EVENING IN QUESTION:** You were a bit nervous since there were no other servants and you'd have to do everything yourself. So many things to do and no one to help you. Once all the guests were ushered onto the brightly decorated barge you started serving wine and getting the meal ready. Ammon wanted to show the Pharaoh something about the tomb he was building but Fatty-tut-tut told him to wait until after dinner. Fatty asked Kebi if she could give him something for an upset stomach, so she did. You hoped it wasn't from the lunch of fried fish and olives you served Fatty. Ramses and Sekhet played Senet. When Sekhet won, Ramses accused her of cheating so Fatty declared it was time to eat to stop the sibling rivalry. They fight all the time, Ramses and Sekhet. And bossy both of them.

Everything was going well until Fatty yelled. A small silver cobra was dangling off of his hand. He jerked, tossing the viper overboard. Joseph immediately took charge ordering Kebi to stop the venom from spreading, Potiphera prayed, Nefertiti cried and Sekhet tried to boss everyone around. While you are thankful it wasn't food poisoning, you are still deeply concerned. You told Aseneth, "It wasn't me. I can't go to jail again. I just can't."

Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am POTIPHERA, priest of On. Please do not get me confused with Potiphar, captain of the guard. I know it sounds similar but we are very different people. I serve the gods of Egypt and I serve the pharaoh. I would never have killed him. My gods would curse me for taking a life – any life.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** I had my doubts when pharaoh appointed this former slave and prisoner to be his top official but Joseph seems to be a capable administrator. Even if I don't approve of the god he worships. It's not an Egyptian god but if it works for him, I guess it is ok.

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** There is gossip going around (just gossip, you can't verify any of it) that a certain well placed member of the royal family has too many members of the opposite sex in their life.

**YOU SHARE THE FOLLOWING WHEN APPROPRIATE:** Your typical day begins with chanting "Awake in peace" as you unseal the temple. You light the scented lamps & incense pass out food to the temple servants have them clean the floor with salts and resins in case pharaoh drops by. Some days you have to officiate at VIP funerals or weddings; oversee mummifications, bless the Nile River since it brings the gift of soil each year, attend to the teaching and training of other priests and your own children. You have never once seen a god or goddess. This Joseph seems to have a much more powerful God than you do.

**WHAT YOU HIDE (at least at first):** Your daughter begged you to bring her. She claimed it was a matter of life or death. You wonder if she might be thinking about getting married to Ramses or Joseph.

**ON THE EVENING IN QUESTION:** You were very excited to be invited to this exclusive dinner party and glad pharaoh allowed Aseneth to come. Sehket challenged Futty to a game of Senet but he declined so she played against her other brother, Ramses.

You, Joseph and Aseneth watched the game. Ramses was distracted and made several errors. Aseneth kept smiling at Joseph. Sehket won and Ramses accused her of cheating. To keep them from having an argument, Futty declared it was time to eat. The food was delightful and you wondered how Abububakar managed by himself.

Cleopitterpatra switched to some more rousing music, everyone laughed and enjoyed the feast, that is until Futty yelled. A small silver cobra was dangling off of his hand. He jerked, tossing the snake overboard. Joseph immediately took charge, making Sehket mad. He ordered Kebi to stop the venom from spreading, you prayed to Anubis, Nefertiti cried and Sehket tried to boss everyone around.

Ramses whispered something to Ismati while Ammon looked more and more nervous and kept saying "He can't die. I haven't finished his tomb yet." Abububakar said something to Aseneth. All you heard was "... I just can't."

Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am NEFERTITI, wife and cousin to Pharaoh Futtu-tut-tut. My name means beautiful one and I am concerned that spending time in this dirty, drafty dungeon will ruin my sensational skin. Besides, if Futtu-tut-tut's current Great Wife and queen dies in childbirth, I will probably be the next Queen of Egypt. Now, everyone move so my attendant can re-braid my hair so I don't catch lice in this filthy prison.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** Like other Egyptians I enjoy music, parties, swimming, fishing, hunting and sailing. I can't imagine why someone would want to ruin a perfectly good dinner party with a murder.

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** You think you saw something silver crawling across the table earlier this evening. Could it have been a necklace that magically turned into a snake?

**YOU SHARE THE FOLLOWING WHEN APPROPRIATE:** Sehket is not nice to you. She makes fun of how much attention you pay to your appearance. Maybe if she paid more attention to her hair and skin and less to politics she could catch herself a good husband.

**WHAT YOU HIDE (at least at first):** Aseneth has been asking a whole lot of questions about Joseph. Mostly to women about if he is interested in anyone. You think they'd make a lovely couple.

**ON THE EVENING IN QUESTION:** You were very excited to be invited to this exclusive dinner party. It must mean your Futtu's second favorite wife. You asked Cleopitterpatra to play some love songs and she wasn't as courteous and she would have been if you were Great Wife and Queen. She was too worried you'd step on her instruments to really pay attention to what you were asking.

Your hair was blowing all over and tickled Futtu's nose so much he sneezed. He then waved you away. You were crushed. You ran to Ismati and told her to quickly braid your hair so it would not irritate Futtu.

It took her ever so long. Probably because she was paying too much attention to the Senet game between Futtu's brother and sister, Ramses and Sehket. Sehket won and Ramses accused her of cheating. To keep them from having an argument, Futtu declared it was time to eat.

You were having a wonderful time and Futtu was paying allot of attention to you when suddenly he yelled. Next thing you knew, this silver cobra was dangling from his hand. For a moment you thought it was a gift, some sort of new jewelry but it was an actual snake. You cried and stupid Ismati was ignoring you to talk to that Ramses and it was awful. Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out. Your dress is ruined. You broke your sandal. And your hair is a mess.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am KEBI, which means honey. It is appropriate since it means “sweet” and I’m sweet. I am a renowned healer from the House of Life. I create medicines from plants, not poisons. As all good Egyptians know, we can only reach a good place in the afterlife if our heart is light. The only way our hearts will be light is if we are kind and honest. I endeavor in all things to be both kind and honest.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** Ismati could easily have hidden a small serpent in that box of jewelry and cosmetics she dragged on board. It would be really easy since some of the bracelets are silver serpents. Whoever heard of bringing that much stuff on a dinner cruise?

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** A worker at the Valley of Kings had to be treated for cobra venom. The man did not die but only became ill because it was a small cobra. He mentioned that the workers had accidentally stumbled upon a nest of cobra’s while digging and Ammon had cleaned out the nest so work could continue.

**WHAT YOU HIDE (at least at first):** You suspect Ramses is seeing someone on the side. You had hoped to maybe get his sister or the pharaoh to let slip what they know.

**ON THE EVENING IN QUESTION:** You were very excited Ramses invited you to be his “date” to this exclusive dinner party. As you were waiting on the dock, Ramses had to fix his pectoral necklace. He was handing you the Senet game when Sehket snatched saying she’d hold it. You don’t think she likes you.

Sehket challenged Futtu to a game of Senet but he declined so she and Ramses played. He couldn’t keep his mind on the game and kept looking over at Nefertiti getting her hair braided. You wonder if maybe he’s two timing with his own brother’s wife. Of course, she’s not the favorite wife, who was too pregnant to come and she’s by far not the sharpest tool in the shed.

Futtu asked you to give him something for an upset stomach, so you did. He seemed rather tense. Ramses accused Sehket of cheating so declared it was time to eat to shut them up. Cleopitterpatra switched to some more rousing music, everyone laughed and enjoyed the feast, that is until Futtu yelled. A small silver cobra was dangling off of his hand. He jerked, tossing the snake overboard.

Joseph immediately took charge ordering you to stop the venom from spreading. While you tended Futtu, you noticed Ramses and Ismati having a secretive conversation.

Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out.

**WHO YOU ARE/ROUND ONE:** I am ISMATI, the chief jeweler and cosmetologist to Nefertiti the most beautiful, if not the most senior of the pharaoh's wives. My mother was Egyptian royalty wed to the master jeweler of the Nile. I have inherited my mother's good taste and my father's ability to craft masterpieces. Keep me in mind next time you need something exquisite.

**NOTE:** You do NOT like Kebi, your rival for Ramses' affections. You will do all you can to break her and Ramses up tonight. When Kebi introduces herself you'll insert that her name should be Kepi because Kepi means tempest and she has one of the stormiest tempers known to all Egypt.

**WHO YOU KNOW/ROUND TWO:** Kebi brought a whole bag of stuff on board. Maybe she smuggled the cobra on. Maybe it was just an accident or maybe she was trying to help somebody out, somebody who might want to get rid of Futtu-tut-tut so he or she can become Pharaoh.

**WHAT YOU SHARE/ROUND THREE:** The box you carried has cosmetics and jewelry just in case Nefertiti needed to freshen up or change. The box contains a small fortune in lapis Lazuli rings, turquoise bracelets, amethyst amulets, scarabs, large pectoral necklaces. Nefertiti insisted you bring it.

**YOU SHARE THE FOLLOWING WHEN APPROPRIATE:** Since cosmetics were such an important part of the lives of Egyptian royalty, you are valued. You apply henna to hands, feet and eyes as well as other eye cosmetics. You mix up a batch of kohl (grease and soot) daily for eyeliner. You make sure Nefertiti has the most soothing creams and oils for her skin. You select and sometimes craft the jewelry she wears. Beetles or scarabs are popular now as they symbolize life after death. You use shells, stone, clay, pieces of bone and wood, resin, ivory and glass to embellish the jewelry and hair of your mistress.

**WHAT YOU HIDE (at least at first):** Yes, one of the bracelets is a silver snake. But it's just jewelry. No one cast a magic spell and made it real. You despise Sehket the snob and would like to see Ramses second in line to the throne, not her. Then he could have several wives, one of which would be you.

**ON THE EVENING IN QUESTION:** You were very excited Nefertiti was invited to this exclusive dinner party. You can better see how Ramses and Kebi really get along. Everyone assumes they will marry. Not if you can help it. Your blood is every bit as royal as hers.

The musician, Cleopitterpatra played soothing music on the harp but it didn't calm your nerves. Ammon wanted to show the Pharaoh something about the tomb he was building but Futtu-tut-tut told him to wait until after dinner. Sehket challenged Futtu to a game of Senet but he declined. Nefertiti's hair was blowing all over and tickled Futtu, making him sneeze. He told her to go sit somewhere else. She insisted you braid her hair right then and there.

Futtu asked Kebi something so you tried to get Ramses attention. He couldn't keep track of you and the game so he lost. To keep his brother and sister from arguing, Futtu declared it was time to eat.

Cleopitterpatra switched to some more rousing music, everyone laughed and enjoyed the feast, that is until Futtu yelled. A small silver cobra was dangling off of his hand. He jerked, tossing the snake overboard. Joseph immediately took charge ordering Kebi to stop the venom from spreading. You took the opportunity to arrange a tryst with Ramses for later in the evening.

Pharaoh revived enough to order the barge to port. He called soldiers and had you all thrown in the prison until this mess gets sorted out.