

The Chariots of Death Murder Mystery

(Or how Herod the Great became Herod the Dead)

By Kathy Applebee

Host Packet

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

Page 1	A brief overview
Pages 1 & 2	Characters
Pages 2 & 3	Roman Banquet information
Pages 3 & 4	Host Time Line
Page 5	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)
Page 8-12	Clues packet with second thoughts
Pages 13 -25	Character sheets/dossiers

Brief overview of Herod the Great Is Dead

While many of the main characters are historical, names have been changed to make it easier to keep track of who is who (Many wives' names began with "M") and some characters have been added. The backstory of this particular game is described in the invitation and opening statements.

Characters

The following characters are essential: Salampsio, Salome, Doris, Hannah (female) OR Hanaiah (male), Prince Petra, and Alexander Helios. For historical accuracy, Hananiah should be male but feel free to change the name to Hannah and have a female food/wine taster.

The following six additional character dossiers are included:

Phillip, son of Herod the Great by Cleopatra of Jerusalem (should be used before the other male characters)

Eli, a servant

Maria II, 3rd wife, daughter of current high priest Simon.

Judith, 4th wife of Herod

Cleopatra of Jerusalem, Herod's 5th wife

Aaron, a servant

Scipio, former captain in the Roman cavalry

If you have more than 13 guests they can take the roles of foreign dignitaries, servants or relatives of Herod (Herod Boethus, son of Maria II), Roxanne (daughter), Pallas (cousin)

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.

Roman recipes

Romans valued expense and rarity over flavor and often ate things that did not taste good but were rare and exotic (peacock tongues for example.) Cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and pepper were imported from the east and used to spice things up. Dill, thyme, oregano, basil, and mint were local spices.

For peacock tongues substitute pimentos from stuffed olives OR black olives quartered lengthwise

For roast eels substitute boiled whole wheat or spinach lasagna noodles tossed in olive oil and sprinkled with parmesan cheese

Glazed apples are made from peeled and sliced apples, sprinkled with lemon juice then glazed with honey or caramel.

The following have some authenticity but will also be palatable for your guests.

Boiled eggs

Fruits such as pears, nectarines, grapes, dates and plums (or the dried form – prunes)

Chicken or seafood

Wheat, barley or Pita bread, dipped in olive oil

Cucumbers in oil and vinegar or a yogurt and garlic sauce

Walnuts and roasted chestnuts

Apple tarts with honey

More somewhat authentic recipes at:

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~mjw/recipes/ethnic/historical/ant-rom-coll.html>

Host Time Line for Herod the Great Is Dead

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

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 (Chariot racing was a Roman pastime. However, characters would likely dress in attire native to their country of origin) 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.

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.

Read aloud the opening statement.

Allow characters to introduce themselves and begin questioning each other.

(If you are serving a meal, now is the time to eat the main course)

****After 15-20 minutes:**

Read physician's report and Will 1.

****After 10- 15 minutes more: (or just prior to dessert if it is a sit down meal) Distribute "Second thoughts".**

Allow characters time to express their second thoughts.

****After another 10-60 minutes (use your judgment based on the guest's interactions or immediately following dessert) read Will 2**

****Assemble the group.**

Allow each person one last opportunity to say what they know and what they guess.

Distribute a pen to each guest. Explain they are to decide and write down 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 game to life. When guests are finished collect the forms and read each aloud. (Optional to read who made the guess)

****Read the Arrest Warrant**

Invitation

You are cordially invited (make that commanded) to attend chariot racing in Caesarea. This event is being hosted by King Herod the Great. Be prepared for the finest of foods and entertainment! But beware, the king has a tendency to behead and ask questions afterwards.

PS. You are actually 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 at a party in Caesarea in AD 4. Herod the Great is entertaining guest with chariot races similar to those in Rome. Each guest will have a dual role as one of the suspects and one of the investigators in this murder inquiry. 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:

Salampsio, daughter of Herod and major airhead
 Doris, first wife of Herod
 Herod's bossy sister, Salome.
 Sheik Petra of the Nabateans
 Virgil, a Roman comrade of Egyptian prince Alexander Helios
 Phillip, son of Herod the Great by Cleopatra of Jerusalem
 Hannah/Hananiah – servant of Herod's
 Eli, son of the former High Priest
 Maria II, 3rd wife, daughter of current High Priest Simon.
 Judith, conniving 4th wife of Herod
 Cleopatra of Jerusalem, Herod's exotic 5th wife
 Aaron, a Jewish servant
 Scipio, former captain in the Roman cavalry

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.
2. Lying is not permitted, unless you are the 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.
8. Have fun and see what you can learn about life in the first century.



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 Packet for Herod the Great

The clues packet contains 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

Reports

Second thoughts

Arrest Warrant (We strongly suggest this be placed unread in a sealed labeled envelope immediately after printing)

HEROD THE GREAT OPENING STATEMENT

Someone in this room is responsible for the death of King Herod the Great. Augustus Caesar is very busy trying to consolidate his empire. Anthony and Cleopatra made a real mess of things. He is not going to be happy if he has to send a legion or two here to sort this entire mess out so I suggest we get to the bottom of this ourselves. Who killed Herod the Great?

A court physician is checking out all food and beverages. What you are currently being served was made fresh, so eat, drink and be merry. It will be the last meal one of you ever dines on.

I suggest we each take a turn explain who we are and how we are related by blood, business or politics to Herod the Great. After we do that, we better figure out who had motive to kill the king (probably allot of people) means and opportunity to kill him.

COURT PHYSICIAN'S REPORT

King Herod died of poisoning by a very cleverly devised scheme. Two ingredients had to be eaten (roasted eels and peacock tongue) in order for the poison to be activated. In order for anyone to become ill and die, they would have to eat BOTH foods. An antidote was mixed in with Herod's least favorite food, the glazed apples.

WILL 1

The Last Will and Testimony of Herod the Great, written and signed by me in the 36th year of Augustus Caesar's reign.

I Herod the Great, being of sound mind and body do hereby divide my kingdom three ways upon my death:

I proclaim Archelaus, firstborn son of my wife Sarai, heir to my throne and name him Ethnarch of Judea, Samaria, and Idumea. As Ethnarch, he holds more power than the sons named Tetrarch. See to it that any children NOT named in this will are given a place to live and financial support.

I proclaim Antipas, second son of my wife, Sarai tetrarch over Galilee and Perea.

I proclaim my son Philip by my wife Cleopatra of Jerusalem, tetrarch of the regions east of Galilee.

To my sister Salome, I leave the vineyard west of Jerusalem. You may live off the proceeds.

WILL 2

The Last Will and Testimony of Herod the Great, written and signed by me in the 40th year of Augustus Caesar's reign.

I Herod the Great, being of sound mind and body do hereby divide my kingdom three ways upon my death:

I proclaim Antipas, second son of my wife, Sarai, heir to my throne and name him Ethnarch of Judea, Galilee, Samaria, and Idumea. As Ethnarch, he holds more power than Phillip the Tetrarch.

To Archelaus, firstborn son of my wife Sarai, I leave nothing. He is incompetent and disrespectful. As per Augustus Caesar's request, he will be sent to Rome where he will not cause problems.

I proclaim my son Philip by my wife Cleopatra of Jerusalem, tetrarch of the Golan Heights

BY THE AUTHORITY OF CAESAR AUGUSTUS
ARREST WARRANT

“Revenge is a dish best served cold” has been attributed to the 18th century French, Star Trek’s Klingons and the Mafia. But maybe it dates back even further to the first century. Herod lived and died in fear of losing his throne and committed atrocities that attracted revenge.

Who had motive for the crime? Just about everyone except Salome who needed Herod to revise his will and remember her in it specifically. So the better question is who had the means and opportunity?

We can eliminate Prince Petra who could have mixed poisons in the spices but he had no way of making sure Herod ate the foods or wines containing them. Salampsio was in the kitchen briefly, but under the watchful eye of Doris the entire time, so she had no opportunity. That leaves us with the two who were in the kitchen many times.

Doris hated Herod for murdering her two sons, taking other wives and of course for his bad breath. Doris had plenty of opportunity. But she was being played. Played by a person who was willing to die to avenge the death of two sons under the age of two. Paranoid Herod killed all the babies in Bethlehem to maintain his throne.

It is not easy to murder a king who controls access to his person. Herod even hired a food and wine tester who would be motivated to know every ingredient that went into his meals. Hannah/Hananiah like the rest of the Jews had never accepted an appointee of Rome as their legitimate head of state. But while most went on with their lives under Roman rule the best they could, Hannah/Hananiah plotted and planned and concocted a two part poison with the antidote in the apples which he assumed Herod would not eat.

Arrest and detain Hannah/Hananiah for regicide, the homicide of a king.

HEROD ANTIPAS SECOND THOUGHTS

(run off, cut apart and fold up and distribute 20-30 minutes after the opening statement is read. Instruct the guests to open so that they see only the “NOT FOR _____” portion at first. If they get one with their name in the “NOT FOR” portion, they should NOT look at the rest of it. They should return it and select a different second thought.

NOT Phillip	Phillip ate none of the food
NOT Doris/Hannah/Hananiah	Doris, Hannah/Hananiah had the most access to the food
NOT Salampsio	Salampsio lost the most family members in Herod’s executions.
NOT Salome	Herod forgot to mention Salome specifically in his most current will
NOT Petra	When the Nabateans fell behind in paying this tribute, Herod invaded them twice, costing them a lucrative Northern trade route.
NOT Petra	Prince Petra is rumored to say (often) “Herod’s a madman who murdered his own family and a great many rabbis.”
NOT Phillip	Last night while carousing, you overheard Phillip telling someone “It is better to be Herod's <i>swine</i> than a <i>son</i> of Herod.” (In the original Latin the words sound very close “hus” and “husios”)
Hannah, Hananiah or Doris	Eli is NOT one of the regular kitchen slaves or servants. Where did he come from?
NOT Hannah/Hananiah	Hannah/Hananiah speaks with a Bethlehem accent. Something happened in Bethlehem a couple years ago. What was it?
NOT Petra	Petra cursed Herod in Arabic just before he died. Do curses work? Could it have killed him?
NOT Eli	Eli was one of the priests at the Jewish temple. His father was kicked out of the High Priest role by Herod and died shortly thereafter.
NOT Petra	You hope that with him gone, the ensuing civil war or a power struggle will give you the opportunity to get your Northern trade route and its income back
Not Petra	Prince Petra is known for describing Herod (but not to his face) as a madman who murdered his own family and a great many rabbis”

Not Salome	Salome only acted like she was glad Herod killed her husband. Secretly she cried over it and you overheard her saying “My brother will pay dearly for this”.
Not Helios	Helios is the son of Anthony and Cleopatra and considered by Herod to be a threat.
Not Helios	Helios’ comrade looks exactly Helios did when you saw him earlier. Helios looks like the servant you saw attending the previous Helios. Which one is the real Helios?
Anyone	Herod originally sided with Anthony and Cleopatra against Augustus Caesar. Is Caesar himself behind this?

WHO YOU ARE: Salampsio, daughter of Herod by his second wife, Maria. You appear to be a happy go-lucky airhead but only so Herod doesn't see you as a threat.

WHO YOU KNOW: The wives and Salome. Doris, as the first wife, tends to run the household affairs while whoever the newest wife is tends to spend time with Herod. You think both a terrible ways to spend your time. Salome is Herod's sister and seems to always get what her bossy self wants.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Herod had your mother Maria, grandmother Alexandra, brothers Alexander and Aristotle and your 17 year old cousin, (a priest) Samuel murdered. Herod is a cruel, paranoid and tries to impress people. You can't stand him. You thought Salome would become your ally when Herod killed her husband because she always went on and on about how wonderful Kostoba was. But once Kostoba died, she pretended that she was glad he died. But you did overhear her crying at his grave and swearing to avenge his death.

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: How smart and cunning you really are.

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: You missed the first race because Doris insisted you try the glazed apples. Apparently they were some new "secret" recipe she had the servants try. It was awfully tart; you couldn't taste the honey at all. You told her they were delicious to be nice but they seemed awfully tart. You took your seat while smiling at all the right people, preparing to be bored. You started paying attention when a dispute arose over who crossed the finish line first. As everyone looked to the king to declare the winner, Herod dragged out the suspense. He seemed about to speak, reached for a roasted eel and chewed slowly while everyone waited. He washed the mouthful down with some yellow wine, proclaimed the blue team as winners, grabbed his throat and fell over. Dead.

WHO YOU ARE: Doris, first wife of Herod. Seemingly mousy and shy, you are really smart, cunning and try to go unnoticed to hide your seething anger and rage. You hate Herod for, taking other wives and especially for murdering your son Antipater, (who at one time was the designated heir to the kingdom). You fell out of favor with Herod and hate being the low-wife-on-the-totem-pole. You get stuck with kitchen supervision and blamed every time a meal goes wrong. It is not a wonder Herod has bad breath – he eats like a pig and when he gets indigestion, blames it on you.

WHO YOU KNOW: The other wives, Herod's daughter (Salampsio) and Herod's sister Salome. You feel sorry for Salampio because her mother, grandmother, two brothers and cousin were all killed by Herod for conspiracy to kill the king. Salampsio acts like she's stupid but you know for a fact she's not as dumb as she acts, even if she isn't as cunning as her father Herod. You detest Salome because she's bossy, overbearing and seems to always get her way.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Herod invaded Prince Petra's lands and took control of the money making trade route to the east. You can't believe paranoid Herod invited the prince to this event. If you were Petra and lost that much income, you'd be upset enough to kill over it. Herod is bound and determined to impress his guests from Rome so he probably had to invite Prince Petra. You have to get back into Herod's good graces or you could be the next to die.

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: Herod's chief steward and food taster recommended changing the menu for the party to impress the Roman guests and curry Herod's favor. You readily agreed. If they like the food, Herod will be pleased and you'll see to it you get the credit for it. You had the glazed apples done with lemon instead of honey. Salampsio sampled them and said they were good so you've been telling everyone they were your special recipe. You have been so busy making sure the snacks were right that you missed the start of the races. You got there just in time to see Herod grab his throat and fall over. Dead.

WHO YOU ARE: Herod's sister, Salome. You are assertive (rude people call you "bossy") and used to having your way with everyone except the king. What he says, goes. On the outside, you support Herod but on the inside, consider him a paranoid fool, seeing assassins where there are none. You placate him and stay on his good side so 1) you don't get killed 2) you get what you want.

WHO YOU KNOW: The wives. A bunch of petty morons. Salampsio, Herod's daughter, another moron.

WHAT YOU KNOW: There actually have been some attempts on Herod's life. He's made many enemies. Your brother killed your husband, Kostoba, because he suspected him of being part of a conspiracy to assassinate him.

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: You went along when Herod murdered your husband, pretending Kostoba had treated you poorly. Actually you hate Herod for it. You were the chief witness against Maria.

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: You stood next to your brother, greeted the guests, looking charming as you always do. You graciously accepted a gift of spices from Prince Petra from Nabat. He insisted they be given to the cooking staff immediately so they "wouldn't spoil" in the heat and asked they be used to spice the wines. (like he didn't drag them through the heat from that stupid dusty desert he lives in). Just before the third race, the clumsy food taster tripped and splashed some glazed apples all over, including on your toga. You went to change. When you got back, Herod was dead.

WHO YOU ARE: Prince Petra of the Nabateans, a sheik of the desert, prince of the sands and lover of great renown. Your people are exceptionally skilled traders, facilitating commerce between China, India, the Far East, Egypt, Syria, Greece and Rome. You deal in spices, incense, gold, animals, iron, copper, sugar, medicines, ivory, perfumes and fabrics, just to name a few. Because of the desert area you live in your people are skilled in water conservation and carving their homes out of desert sandstone. Your fortress city, Petra, is a wealthy commercial crossroads between the Arabian, Assyrian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman cultures. Controlling this trade route was a crucial source of income, the lifeblood of the Nabatean Empire. Herod twice invaded your territory, grabbing control of the lucrative trading routes into Syria. This is costing you money.

WHO YOU KNOW: You have met Prince Helios of Egypt before. He certainly has changed his looks allot in the past year. Maybe it was all that stupid eyeliner he used to wear that's in fashion in Egypt.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Herod is as crazy as a rabid dog. You tell your people "Herod's a madman who murdered his own family and a great many children and rabbis."

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: What you say about Herod behind his back. Also, you have been quietly working behind the scenes, supporting assassination attempts on Herod's life. You hope that with him gone, the ensuing civil war or a power struggle will give you the opportunity to get your Northern trade route and its income back.

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: You arrived just before the races started, presenting Herod with some spices. You asked they be used to spice the wines hoping the Roman and other foreign guests would like them and then buy more from you. You bragged about how much faster your Arabian horses are than the ones the Roman charioteers were using and just knew the green team you brought would win the 4th race. When it appeared they merely tied and Herod chose the blue Roman team instead you cursed him in your own language. Then he died, just like that.

WHO YOU ARE: Virgil, a Roman comrade of Egyptian prince Alexander Helios, the son of Cleopatra and Marc Anthony. You exude a quiet competence and move with the bearing of royalty.

WHO YOU KNOW: Phillip, Herod's son. You both were young last you met but it was strange because he's ashamed of his royal Egyptian blood. (Maybe he caught crazy from his dad?) You plan to avoid him just in case he recognizes you and blows your cover.

WHAT YOU KNOW: A long time ago, Anthony gave a chunk of Herod's kingdom to Cleopatra and Egypt. Herod resented it, but was in no position to argue. You know he sees you as a threat since he's gotten more paranoid with age, killing sons and other relatives he thought were trying to steal his throne. Maybe this is a trap to kill you and remove any possible claim your family has to certain territories. But not attending could be construed as an insult. Your Egyptian advisors suggested you accept, but be careful. They thought Herod would try to poison you. You came up with a brilliant plan to thwart the king.

As a child you listened with wide eyed delight when your mother, Cleopatra recounted the tale of how she outmaneuvered Julius Caesar when he refused to grant her an audience. She had herself rolled up in a Persian carpet and delivered as a gift. That bold and clever fete gained her not only an audience but also Caesar's respect and admiration. So you decided to crash the party, so to speak. Herod has never seen you so hopefully, all "Egyptians look alike" (to non-Egyptians). To be doubly careful, you'll eat only what Herod eats.

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: Your true identity. (Actually you ARE Alexander and are proud of being half Roman and half Egyptian (and not just any Egyptian but from the royal blood of the Ptolemys); your servant is going to pretend to be you while you pretend to be "Virgil", a comrade.

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: Unfortunately, as soon as you arrived, the servant who was posing as you became violently ill after eating a peacock tongue. He had to leave so you are a solo act. You have been telling people "Helios will be right back."

You kept a low profile, munching on only what Herod ate (skipping the peacock tongues after what happened to the real Virgil). You hardly watched the first three races but noticed Prince Phillip ate nothing and wondered why. You love spiced apples but got none because a clumsy servant dropped them. The fourth race was too close and while Prince Petra bragged about his green team and how they won, Herod ate a roasted eel and proclaimed the blue team the winner. Petra was furious and cursed him in Arabic. Then Herod keeled over, dead.

WHO YOU ARE: Phillip, son of Herod the Great by Cleopatra of Jerusalem (a descendent of the Cleopatra). You were sent to Rome for an education (actually as more like hostage to guarantee your father's loyalty to Rome). You were often made fun of because your ancestry includes Egyptian, Edomite and Arab blood. This makes you mad because you are as Roman as the rest of them, better in fact. You excel in politics, philosophy, martial arts and anything else you put your mind to. You are not arrogant nor do you have a chip on your shoulder as you have heard whispered behind your back. You and some Roman companions (probably Caesar's spies) have been permitted to travel to Judea to see your father.

WHO YOU KNOW: Your mother, Cleopatra of Jerusalem. You were pretty young when you were sent to Rome so you know most other people more by reputation than face to face encounters.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Many people in Rome think your father is a paranoid fool. They may be right. Your father has had three of your brothers executed for conspiring against him. You have no intention of being number four. Herod also changes his will more often than women change togas so you best keep a low, respectful profile to stay in the will and alive.

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: You went drinking the night before and said all kinds of bad things about your father. You hope everyone else was too drunk to remember. Your mom's looking older and stressed (but you'd never mention to her. Women are all about their looks)

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: You eagerly watched the races, annoyed by Prince Petra's constant bragging about Arabian horses. It was too loud since you were hung over. You ate nothing since your stomach was still doing flip flops. By the time the glazed apples were being served, you thought you could keep them down only to be further annoyed by the servant dropping apples. Then Salome stepped on you when she left to change her clothes (what is it with women, changing clothes twice a day?) You were trying to place a bet on the 5th race when your father grabbed his throat and died.

WHO YOU ARE: Hannah/Hananiah – a Jewish wine maker and Zealot from Bethlehem. Several years ago, Herod decided to exterminate potential threats to his throne and had soldiers kill your two year old and newborn sons. (See Matthew 2, especially 16-18). You vowed revenge. You have infiltrated Herod’s household circle as his personal food tester.

WHO YOU KNOW: Doris, Herod’s first, washed up wife. Salome, Herod’s sister who is bossier than a rooster in a hen house.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Herod’s preferences and weaknesses. You know exactly what he will and won’t eat and drink at this party. With the help of your Zealot friends, you have perfected the perfect poison. It is a two part, slow acting poison (both parts must be consumed to cause death). You will make sure the two parts are the roasted eel and peacock tongues (foods Herod loves), while the antidote is in honey glazed apples (which Herod hates, but everyone else loves). You will taste test everything in his presence, thus getting the antidote. For good measure, you’ll take the antidote before because it would not due to die prematurely. If it seems like you will be caught, you have a small container of arsenic which you will use to commit suicide and avoid torture.

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: When Herod the Great ordered all the children in Bethlehem massacred; you lost your 1 ½ year old son and newborn daughter. You hate Herod. You want him dead.

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: You consulted with Doris about the menus making sure she was overheard boasting about all the “secret ingredients.” You hope she’ll get blamed for Herod’s death. Before the first race you downed some antidote then served Herod the peacock tongues with red wine. After the third race you brought the apples around. Doris made a big deal over Herod trying them. You could not have that happen, so you “tripped” spilling the contents of the bowl. By the time you arrived with more apples, Herod was dead.

WHO YOU ARE: Cleopatra of Jerusalem. You are Herod's 5th wife and mother of Prince Phillip. You take after your namesake – the Cleopatra of Egypt, beautiful, willowy and intelligent. You always wanted to be a queen like her, admired, honored, and powerful. Instead you wound up the 5th wife of a backwoods king with bad breath.

WHO YOU KNOW: The other wives. Doris is a has-been. Maria 2 is a whiner and Sarai is a conniving schemer who will do anything to see her sons, and only her sons, on thrones after Herod's death.

Phillip, your only son, although you haven't seen him for years because he was sent to school in Rome.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Doris made a big deal over what was to be served today. She spent hours talking over recipes with the cook, Hannah/Hananiah. You overheard her boasting about some "secret" ingredient in the apples.

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: You resent the fact that despite your and Phillip's loyalty to Herod, he never once considered Phillip as primary heir and only left him a small area and the title "Tetrarch" in his will.

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: The first three races were rather bland with the predicted charioteer winning. The fourth race, however, was a nail biter with the green and blue chariots finishing together. A dispute arose over who crossed the finish line first. As everyone looked to the king to declare the winner, Herod dragged out the suspense. He seemed about to speak, reached for a roasted eel and chewed slowly while everyone waited. He washed the mouthful down with some yellow wine, proclaimed the blue team as winners, grabbed his throat and fell over. Dead.

WHO YOU ARE: Maria II, 3rd wife, daughter of the current high priest Simon. Herod tossed out the former high priest to give your father the job. Then he married you and legally changed your name from Marta to Maria, the name of his second wife, whom he murdered. You hope you don't end up like your name sake, therefore you stay quiet about things that could get you in trouble and are the first to point out when someone else does something wrong.

WHO YOU KNOW: The other wives.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Herod changes his will as often as some women change their clothes or hair styles.

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: How much you dislike Herod Halitosis (you call him that in your head because he has bad breath).

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: The first three races were rather bland with the predicted charioteer winning. The fourth race, however, was a nail biter with the green and blue chariots finishing together. A dispute arose over who crossed the finish line first. As everyone looked to the king to declare the winner, Herod dragged out the suspense. He seemed about to speak, reached for a roasted eel and chewed slowly while everyone waited. He washed the mouthful down with some yellow wine, proclaimed the blue team as winners, grabbed his throat and fell over. Dead.

WHO YOU ARE: Judith, 4th wife of Herod and a skillful manipulator. Happy to bide your time, you started the rumors that incited Herod to kill several of his sons, paving the way for your older son, Archelaus to inherit the biggest chunk of the kingdom and your younger son, Antipas to get a quarter of the kingdom.

WHO YOU KNOW: The other wives, Salome and Salampsio. You particularly hate Cleopatra of Jerusalem because Herod thought her more beautiful and graceful than you. You therefore can't stand her son Phillip, who should not be allowed to rule anything. You want it all for your sons.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Doris has it in for Herod because he executed her sons for conspiring to kill him.

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: Herod changed his will, banishing your first son, Archelaus to Rome, upon his death. You hope the will is never discovered and if it is, you plan to discredit it.

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION:

WHO YOU ARE: Aaron, a Jewish rabbi and Pharisee with a holier than thou attitude. You are posing as a servant to see if you can figure out a way to kill the king.

WHO YOU KNOW: No one personally. You have heard the Prince Petra the Nabatean hates Herod. When the Nabateans fell behind in paying this tribute, Herod invaded them twice, costing them a lucrative Northern trade route.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Herod erected a blasphemous golden eagle, an idolatrous Roman symbol, over the main entrance to the temple. When the king fell ill, two popular teachers, Judas and Matthias, incited their pupils to remove the golden eagle from the entrance of the Temple: after all, according to the Ten Commandments, it was a sin to make idols. The teachers and all the pupils except you were burned alive.

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: Your role in the golden eagle smashing.

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: The first three races were rather bland with the predicted charioteer winning. The fourth race, however, was a nail biter with the green and blue chariots finishing together. A dispute arose over who crossed the finish line first. As everyone looked to the king to declare the winner, Herod dragged out the suspense. He seemed about to speak, reached for a roasted eel and chewed slowly while everyone waited. He washed the mouthful down with some yellow wine, proclaimed the blue team as winners, grabbed his throat and fell over. Dead.

WHO YOU ARE: Eli, son of the former High Priest Phabet. You were supposed to have the honor of being the next High Priest. When Herod married his third wife, Maria II, the daughter of the priest Simon, he appointed Simon High Priest and banished you and your father. Your dad died of grief and shame.

WHO YOU KNOW: Doris and Salome. You were banished before he married the other wives. Salome is a control freak and Doris is mousy and plain.

WHAT YOU KNOW: Herod hates glazed apples.

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: Your true identity.

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: You traded places with a Jewish kitchen servant who hates Herod. You prepared food under the watchful eye of Herod's personal food taster and Doris. Doris was very concerned about what went into each dish, including some "secret ingredients".

WHO YOU ARE: Scipio, a captain in Marc Anthony's cavalry.

WHO YOU KNOW: Herod's sons. You adored Marc Anthony, your hero. Anthony needed a spy in Rome and pretended to throw you out of his army for insulting Cleopatra. You went but before you could be of any use to Anthony, he died. Since then you have outwardly appeared loyal to Augustus who put you in charge of watching over Herod's sons and spying on Herod.

WHAT YOU KNOW: If Herod hadn't turned on Anthony (just like that Brutus did to Julius Caesar) and sided with Octavian, Anthony would still be alive. Herod is a two faced patsy to Rome but not really a Roman. (Herod's father was from Edom and his mother was the daughter of an Arab sheik.)

SECRET YOU WANT TO KEEP: Your true loyalties. You'd like to see Herod dead.

ON THE AFTERNOON IN QUESTION: The first three races were rather bland with the predicted charioteer winning. You did overhear Prince Petra telling someone that Herod's a madman who murdered his own family and a bunch of babies in Bethlehem. You decided to get to know him better since you feel the same way about Herod. The fourth race, however, was a nail biter with the green and blue chariots finishing together. A dispute arose over who crossed the finish line first. As everyone looked to the king to declare the winner, Herod reached for a roasted eel and chewed slowly while everyone waited. He washed the mouthful down with some yellow wine, proclaimed the blue team as winners, grabbed his throat and fell over. Dead.