

# A House of Cards

## Instructions

Assign one team member to each of the following characters:

- *Sam Spade*: Senior detective in the group. He starts the conversation.
- *Dirk Diamond*: Former professional gambler. When he hears the name of a card suit during the conversation, he impulsively writes it down.
- *Hugh Heart*: PhD in mathematics. He keeps track of how many times he and each of his colleagues is accused during their conversation.
- *Chris Club*: Transfer from the Bay area office. He received a letter earlier today.

To each team member: Take the script belonging to your character. Read through your character's one line bio above and skim over the lines in the script. Your script describes what you should say as a reaction to something said by another team member.

Not all of the lines in each script will necessarily be read, the script only indicates what could be said. Reading of Greenstreet's letter does not count as part of the conversation.

## Sam Spade's script

- **(Start the conversation with this line)** In all my years of detective work I've never seen a stakeout go south like the mess we saw last night. Those moonshiners knew we would be there. We have a leak in our boat, boys, simple as that.
- **(someone mentions cheddar cheese)** I got a discount on that car, Club, and I don't want to hear any more about it. When I mentioned I bought it before you, you were redder in the face than an undercooked fish!
- **(someone mentions a steak dinner)** You're easier to read than a Hardy Boys book, Diamond. Maybe you wouldn't have ratted us out if you weren't such a bad detective.
- **(someone mentions a trip to New York)** You're a lousy shot, Heart, and everyone in the agency knows it. You probably ratted us out after your transfer was denied.
- **(someone mentions a Calvin and Hobbes character)** And you told us not to jump to conclusions! Now I'm sure of it, Hugh. You ratted us out. You're such a bad detective you couldn't find a prayer in the bible.
- **(someone mentions a stormy night)** Is that so? I don't know fellas, sounds like our friend here is trying to protect himself. I think you ratted on us, Hugh, and you're trying to blind us with more fog than San Francisco on a cloudy day!
- **(someone mentions a slow boat to China)** You want front row seats, Heart, I've got 'em. I bet you sold us out. How much are the mafia boys paying you? What's the matter with the agency, your check not fat enough?

## Dirk Diamond's script

- **(someone mentions stained glass)** So you saw that girl too? Join the club! I've known Sam longer than any of you, and he'd never fall for a girl like that. When it comes to women Sam here is as cold as a cafeteria dinner.
- **(someone mentions a cat out of a bag)** Are you threatening me, Club? You've got a lot of nerve, I ought to accuse you just for saying it. That's it, put 'em up! I'll be playing you like a cheap violin before this is over!
- **(someone mentions a fat paycheck)** You've been accusing people left and right, Spade. I say you're the one that did it. It's written all over your face like graffiti on a wall in Brooklyn.
- **(someone mentions the Hardy Boys)** You're acting like these guys are going to set off a doomsday device! Cool it, we'll catch them sooner or later. What we should really be worried about it Club over here. He's been awfully quiet...
- **(someone mentions a jewel thief)** I remember that job. We caught the guys in Aruba three months later, sipping pina colladas on the beach. You should have seen the looks on their faces!
- **(someone mentions a house of cards)** I only count cards, I don't fall like them. And you all know with my history I'm easier to frame than Whistler's Mother. But our friend Heart over here is being awfully quiet, isn't he? He's probably the rat, waiting for all of us to accuse each other!
- **(someone mentions a taste of paradise)** He was running so fast, He must have been an olympian! How can you blame me for not being able to keep up? If you ask me, Spade should have gone after him! He's always bragging about his track records.

## Hugh Heart's script

- **(someone mentions a bible)** Aren't you all forgetting Club over here? He's a transfer, nobody around here knows him. He's a more likely suspect than a smoking gun!
- **(someone mentions Aruba)** Quit complaining, Spade, we know it was you. Chris here has the evidence to prove it! Chris, show us that letter!
- **(someone mentions a leaky boat)** Cool it, Spade! Let's not jump to conclusions. Only the four of us knew about the stakeout, and the odds of one of us ratting are thinner than a fresh coat of paint on a stormy night.
- **(someone mentions an undercooked fish)** I should have known it was you, Diamond. You'll never get away with it, the Feds will be onto you after they get that letter I sent them. They'll catch you like a bad cold.
- **(someone mentions a cheap violin)** I can't believe I'm hearing this. Club, it was your job to be on lookout, and you're saying you didn't see any of those guys sneak out of the building? What were you doing out there, bird watching?
- **(someone mentions ornithology)** I'm sure your time at Stanford was well spent, Club. Now if you'll excuse us, the rest of us have real detective work to do, so why do you run back to your mafia friends and tell them you won't have any more information for them for a while. I'm sure you'll miss your thumbs after that conversation.
- **(someone mentions a famous piece of art)** I've spent more years on the job than anybody here. Spade's the one that did it, I'm as sure as a tracer bullet.

## Chris Club's script

- **(someone mentions a cafeteria dinner)** Is that so, Diamond? Everybody knows you would fall for her like a house of cards if you had the chance. Maybe you're the rat!
- **(someone mentions a smoking gun)** Listen, all of you! (take out the letter) Heart here is the one that did it, and I have the evidence to prove it! (open the letter)
- **(someone mentions bird watching)** As a matter of fact I studied ornithology in my days at Stanford. It takes an open mind to appreciate the subtle ways of birds. Not something a person like you would understand is it, Heart.
- **(someone mentions your home town)** You sure are quick to accuse, Spade. Maybe you're the one that ratted on us! We all know you've got reasons to leave this job. Maybe you finally fell for that mafia dame, the one with eyes blue enough to make a bishop kick in a stained glass window.
- **(someone mentions a bad cold)** You know I have a cousin who works for the CDC, maybe he could help us out. That is, if Spade doesn't rat us out again!
- **(someone mentions the Olympics)** You two are bickering like an old married couple! Look, Diamond's the one that did it, and I have the evidence to prove it! (take out the letter and open it)
- **(someone mentions a doomsday machine)** Don't you understand? They have the launch codes, they could fire at any minute! I couldn't just stand there and do nothing, knowing what I did. You've got to believe me!

## The Letter

**Gentlemen,**

**My apologies for not making it to our little party last night. One of your friends, Mr. Heart, was kind enough to inform us that you would be attending, and I'm very selective with my guest list. Better luck next time.**

**-Greenstreet**

**P.S. Tell your friend, Mr. Bastard, that I have no idea what "ETFBXKPR" means, and that he should keep his ridiculous mustache out of our business.**