

Intrigue in the Shadow of the Élysée

An unscripted murder mystery

Moderator – make the pages from the following sections (*The Setting, Cast of characters, How to play*) available to all players *well before* the game

The Setting – interwar Paris

NB: This is a heavily fictionalised and ahistorical interwar Paris. It's best not to assume that much from "real life" carries over to the game world – particularly if you're at all expert in French politics of the time. The Liberal Party doesn't have an exact historical counterpart nor are the events alluded to remotely historically accurate...

It's the last day of 1928 and the Standing Committee of the Liberal Party, France's leading left-wing political party, is meeting to elect a new leader. No one would have foreseen this two weeks ago. The party was led by the popular and charismatic Maurice Bourbon and was riding high in the polls, with a strong chance of forming the next government following next year's Presidential Election. The party was optimistic and positive as the year drew to a close.

Then that was shattered quite suddenly: Bourbon was found in the street under his fifth-floor balcony, having apparently fallen to his death. He was known to enjoy a stiff drink or four in the evening and there were no witnesses, so the police concluded that it was a tragic accident. But rumours are flying of a cover up. There are many parties with an interest in seeing Bourbon dead, not least the growing number of ultra-nationalists and outright fascists who had much to lose from his ascendancy.

There are rumours that Bourbon's death is just part of a broader conspiracy – that the party's senior ranks, perhaps even the Standing Committee itself, have been infiltrated by a fascist mole, bent on destroying the party from the inside.

In this frenzied atmosphere, the Standing Committee meets to determine who will lead it into the next election. The two leading candidates are Andre Robespierre, from the left of the party, and Marie Desmoulins, from the party's centre. Each member of the Standing Committee has a vote at the end of the evening and candidates need a plurality of the votes cast to be elected Leader (see the extract from the party's constitution, enclosed).

But before that, there is much to be discussed: promises, alliances and deals will be made and broken – and conspiracies investigated...

Cast of characters

Below is the list of members of the Standing Committee, along with their public reputations. Each player will receive more detailed information in their private briefing pack.

Andre Robespierre - A firebrand politician on the left of the Liberal party and joint favourite to be elected the next leader of the party, following the tragic death of Maurice Bourbon. A classic “champagne socialist”, Andre maintains one of the most glamorous social circles in Paris (thanks to his wife’s money...), while also inserting himself in labour disputes, industrial action and every left-wing cause going...

Marie Desmoulins - Vivacious, popular and moderate, Marie is joint-favourite to be elected the party’s new leader. She and Andre Robespierre are known as bitter rivals and the future of the party may depend on the outcome. Marie represents continuity and stability. She was close to Maurice Bourbon, who was a father figure and mentor to her, and is determined to continue his legacy of pragmatic, sensible politics that can win a national majority.

Thomas Danton - One of the party’s elder statesman and power brokers. Years ago, he was favourite to be elected leader, but when it was revealed in the press that he was having an extra-marital affair, he fell from grace and Maurice Bourbon was elected. He’s decided to sit this leadership contest out and has thrown his weight behind what he calls a “party unity” ticket: he will vote for Marie as leader, on the condition that she picks Andre as her deputy.

Emilie Robespierre - As well as being a leading Liberal activist in her own right, Emilie is Andre’s wealthy and gregarious wife. She funds his socialite lifestyle – and his leadership campaign. She is fiercely loyal to her husband and his greatest advocate in his bid to become leader.

Camille Bonaparte - A veteran party activist, left-wing firebrand and famed anti-fascist campaigner. By some distance the most ideologically uncompromising member of the Standing Committee, Camille epitomises tribal loyalty. She’s also the only member of the Committee who is yet to declare publicly for a leadership candidate, which means her vote is highly prized.

How to play

This is an *unscripted* murder mystery. Other than the characters and some documents, nothing is pre-determined. Everything is up for grabs. Not only is the murderer not pre-determined, but it's possible that there won't even be a murder. It all depends on how you choose to act.

There are a structure and some basic rules to make the game work, but the Golden Rule is that you should act as much in the spirit of the game, the background and your character as you can. If you do that, most other things should follow. This does make the game relatively high effort – you can't just read from a script – but it should make it more fun.

The basic structure

1. Each character has a number of Goals (provided in their Character Briefing) that they must try to achieve at the end of the game
2. There are two main Rounds of the game and then a "Resolution Phase".
3. Before each Round, some extra information will be revealed to certain players, which may change their plans or strategies.
4. During each Round, you have freeform conversations *in character* with the other players. Your character briefing and any other information you've been given should give some pretty strong pointers. You gossip, negotiate, trade, threaten, cajole, etc, as appropriate. Some of these conversations you'll want to have in public – others you'll want to find a quiet space where you can talk *tete-a-tete* (though of course, other characters may not want to respect your privacy).
5. At the start of the Resolution phase, each character submits their Resolution card to the Moderator. This will include (a) your vote for Party Leader; (b) up to one Decisive Action, which is one of MURDER, GUARD or INVESTIGATE followed by a name, and (c) an optional declaration, which can be any statement that they want the whole group to know – this can be a declaration of any fact you wish to be generally known or an accusation (e.g. of being a mole, committing some crime, etc). A person who is Guarded twice cannot be murdered (you may Guard yourself); a person who is Investigated twice cannot murder. Otherwise, anyone who is named *once* as a murder victim is killed. The declaration of anyone who is *not* killed becomes public. The moderator then resolves each declaration and its implications (any accusation that is backed by evidence or witnesses stands – i.e. no accusation invented without substance does).
6. At this point the Moderator also announces who has been elected Party Leader. NB: the Decisive Actions and declarations are resolved *before* votes are counted. Clearly anyone who is dead or ineligible after this can neither vote nor be elected Leader.

7. If there has been a murder, there is a mini-round of 5 minutes during which everyone can confer on who they believe is the murderer. After this, each member of the group who is alive writes down who they believe is the murderer. Whoever receives the most votes is deemed to be formally accused. The Moderator will then reveal whether the accused is guilty. If they are, they are deemed to be convicted and executed.
8. Each player then reveals their goals and whether they have achieved them. The Moderator may judge who has “won”, though it will probably be more fun for the players to debate this among themselves.

Basic rules

1. Every character should act in keeping with the background material and events at all times
2. Every character should act as though they value their own lives, unless otherwise stated
3. If one or more of your goals becomes redundant or nonsensical given events, you may ignore it or ask the Moderator for advice
4. If you need to break character – e.g. if you have a question about the rules or materials – tell the Moderator

General guidance

1. The more you can get into character the better. The game will work best if you don't focus *too* relentlessly on winning, but on living your character. For example, it's strongly encouraged for you to improvise questions and conversations that are not directly related to your goals, subject to the Golden Rule, of course
2. *Information* is the main currency of the game. It is foolish to hoard it unthinkingly – you may find that the time during which it is valuable passes – but you should use it sparingly and be extremely cautious who you share it with. Mistakes could cost you your life. In general, you will not want to share secrets unless it explicitly advances one of your listed goals or if it buys you more information in return. You may sometimes want to indicate that you *have* information, but not reveal what it is.
3. Alliances are key. The game is designed so that no character can achieve their goals alone. Equally, though, breaking alliances may also be key for some of you...

Moderator – give each character their relevant pages from the following section in advance of playing.

Important: Do not allow any player to see the pages for any other character!

ANDRE ROBESPIERRE

Public briefing

A firebrand politician on the left of the Liberal party and joint favourite to be elected the next leader of the party, following the tragic death of Maurice Bourbon. A classic “champagne socialist”, Andre maintains one of the most glamorous social circles in Paris (thanks to his wife’s money...), while also inserting himself in labour disputes, industrial action and every left wing cause going...

Private briefing

You’ve spent the last 12 years building your platform within the party and you’re now on the cusp of being elected its leader... but your true loyalties lie elsewhere. You are the mole. You were brought up in an ultra-nationalist family outside Paris that feared above all else the rise of a hard left populist movement coming to power. You were groomed from an early age to hide your true identity and beliefs and 12 years ago a nationalist splinter group “planted” you inside the Liberal party with the goal of rising up the ranks... and ultimately destroying it. Maurice Bourbon’s death was highly convenient, but you had nothing to do with it. Now, with the party on the cusp of power and you one vote away from taking on its leadership, the plot looks to be on the verge of succeeding beyond your group’s wildest hopes.

Now you just need to ensure that no one – least of all your bitter rival, Marie Desmoulins – gets in your way at this final stage. As well as the obvious danger of your true identity being discovered, there are a few complications – not least that despite your public rivalry, you and Marie have been secretly having an affair for the last six months. Your wife, Emilie, knows nothing of it and if it comes out, it could sink your leadership bid.

You need to decide what to do about both women in your life. The affair has been passionate, but very foolish. It’s given Marie – and any other enemies – a dangerous potential weapon to use against you. She seems to have fallen for you, but she’s utterly determined to defeat you politically and is completely ruthless. Meanwhile, Emilie is very popular with large segments of the electorate and is financing your campaign with family money. Neither of them will be easy to get rid of.

You’ll need to have your cover story straight to hide your past. Fortunately, you’ve rehearsed it many times over the years, so it’s second nature: your story is that you were born to a doctor and his wife in Marseille; they both died around the time you left home and so you came to Paris to change the world.

You are utterly ruthless and will stop at nothing to achieve your goals...

Goals

1. Be elected leader of the party
2. Hide your secret identity and past

Your relationships

Marie Desmoulins	<p>The greatest obstacle to achieving your goal – but also now, awkwardly, your lover. You need to find a way to win without pushing her to mutually assured destruction: if she reveals your affair, your chances are shot. Fortunately, she's in the same boat, but you'll need to find a way to reach a mutual understanding without attracting too much attention...</p>
Thomas Danton	<p>A long time colleague – if never quite friend – in the party. His fall from grace over an extra-marital affair opened up the way for you to become favourite for the party leadership. You suspect he resents that, which explains why he's thrown his weight behind Marie's leadership bid – albeit under a "party unity" banner, with the idea that you would become her Deputy.</p> <p>Thomas may be persuadable though. You're not convinced by his "elder statesman" act and suspect that if you can find the right leverage, he could switch his vote to you. Equally, however, he's a schemer and a gossip, so very dangerous to anyone with secrets to keep...</p>
Emilie Robespierre	<p>Your wife of 10 years and, despite her left-wing politics, heir to a large fortune when her ailing industrialist father dies. She's already financing your leadership campaign with family money, which is proving very expensive. Fortunately, she adores you and passionately believes that your election to the Presidency would be transformational for the country... which it would be, just not in the way she expects. Unfortunately, she's not likely to be tolerant of your affair, which she knows nothing about – so it's important you keep it that way.</p>
Camille Bonaparte	<p>A veteran party activist and left-wing firebrand, known to be the most ideologically uncompromising member of the Standing Committee. She's the swing vote in the leadership election, given Tom's declaration for Marie and the fact that Emilie will (presumably!) vote for you. Ideally you would find some leverage to bring her on side – and at the very least you'll want to spend time courting her vote and emphasising how aligned your beliefs are. The fact that Marie is the more moderate candidate might give you an opening.</p>

MARIE DESMOULINS

Public briefing

Charismatic, popular and moderate, Marie is joint-favourite to be elected the party's new leader. She and Andre Robespierre are known as bitter rivals and the future of the party may depend on the outcome. Marie represents continuity and stability. She was close to Maurice Bourbon, who was a father figure and mentor to her, and is determined to continue his legacy of pragmatic, sensible politics that can win a national majority.

Private briefing

You are utterly determined to be elected leader of the party. You believe Andre Robespierre would be a disaster: uncompromising, radical and recklessly partisan at a time when accommodation is needed. That said, you know that the Standing Committee – especially Camille, who is likely to be the swing vote – is to your left, so you'll need to be careful not to alienate them. Your best argument is that you're far more popular with the general public than Andre, so you're the obvious choice if the party wants a serious chance of winning power.

Your situation is fraught with complications, however. Most precariously, you have – despite your political rivalry – been conducting a passionate affair with Andre for the last six months. It's been rather addictive, but it's now becoming a serious liability. Given his marriage – and his wife Emilie's popularity with the public – it's likely that the political consequences for both of you would be ugly if the affair were to be revealed.

At the same time, you're very worried about the rumours surrounding Maurice Bourbon's death and the possibility of a fascist mole in the party. You were close to Maurice – by far the closest of any member of the Standing Committee – and thought of him like a father (Your actual father was a judge in Marseille, but he died shortly after you were born and you moved to Paris with your mother). If there was any foul play in Maurice's death, you'll want your revenge on the people responsible. And, of course, there's the danger that if he was a victim of a fascist conspiracy, as his natural successor, you're in danger too. Watch your back. You've put out feelers to your extensive network to try to find out more.

You're naturally averse to violence. You wouldn't kill simply to get what you want, though you might snap in extreme circumstances.

Goals

1. Be elected leader of the party
2. Find out what happened to Maurice Bourbon
3. Discover whether there is a mole in the party and, if so, their identity
4. Keep your affair with Andre a secret

Your relationships

Andre Robespierre	Your arch-rival politically – and also your lover. You admire his passion romantically, but it's also what makes you political enemies. Fortunately, it's as important to him as it is to you that your affair remains a secret – though who knows how he might react if it looks like he'll lose the election. You'll want to reach an understanding without attracting too much attention.
Thomas Danton	<p>A long-time colleague in the party with whom you're friendly but not especially close. He recently announced that he would back you for leader if you would agree, in the interests of party unity, to make Andre your Deputy. That's not what you would have chosen (you'd actually have preferred Tom himself), but it may be worth it to get the top job.</p> <p>Despite Tom's public declaration, Andre will likely be courting him vociferously, so it will be important to spend time with him to ensure you don't lose his support. He's also one of the best-connected people in the party, so may be a good source of information as you investigate the mole and Maurice's death.</p>
Emilie Robespierre	<p>Andre's wife. Although she's a wealthy heiress, she's a sincere Liberal and long-time party activist from before she met Andre. She can't stand you – and the feeling is mutual. She doesn't even know about the affair, but is deeply loyal and detests anyone who stands in her husband's way. You can't help but smile when you think about what she doesn't know and you may not be able to avoid making some snide remarks...</p> <p>That said, she's a shrewd and wealthy political operator and makes a dangerous enemy, so even if you can't avoid antagonising her, anything you can do to neutralise her impact on the race is a good idea.</p>
Camille Bonaparte	A veteran party activist and left-wing firebrand, known to be the most ideologically uncompromising member of the Standing Committee. She's the swing vote in the leadership election, given Tom's declaration for you and the fact that Emilie will vote for Andre. Ideally you would find some leverage to bring her on side – and at the very least you'll want to spend time courting her vote. The fact that you are the more moderate candidate makes things tricky, but you may be able to find areas of common interest, particularly when it comes to uncovering the mole...

THOMAS DANTON

Public briefing

One of the party's elder statesman and power brokers. Years ago, he was favourite to be elected leader, but when it was revealed in the press that he was having an extra-marital affair, he fell from grace and Maurice Bourbon was elected. He's decided to sit this leadership contest out and has thrown his weight behind what he calls a "party unity" ticket: he will vote for Marie as leader, on the condition that she picks Andre as her deputy.

Private briefing

You've given your life to the party – and you're still bitter that you were not elected leader when Maurice was. You have a compelling personal story: born the son of a doctor in Paris, you started volunteering in hospitals and street clinics from an early age and have ostensibly devoted your life to public service. Why should a simple affair have ended your chances of the top job? You're sure many others have risen higher having done worse. You had nothing to do with Maurice's death, but you can't help feeling that justice was done: you found him spineless, sanctimonious and dull.

You remain deeply personally ambitious, but decided that – for financial reasons - you didn't have a shot in this election, so your best bet was to play the role of a "above the fray" elder statesman – hence your suggestion of a party unity ticket. There are a number of advantages to you: it should put both leading lights of the party in your debt and, given that they're bitter enemies, if they can't make it work and everything collapses, you'll be the natural person to pick up the pieces.

Elections are expensive and you have more pressing matters right now: you've developed a serious gambling problem and are half a millions francs in debt. No one knows you're insolvent yet, but it won't be long before your creditors are on to you, which will have nasty consequences, both political and personal. You therefore need to find money, urgently.

You're a schemer and a gossip. You love knowing things that others don't, which makes you curious about the rumours concerning a mole in the party and Maurice's death. You've put out feelers to your extensive network to try to find out more.

You're selfish and amoral, but you won't kill lightly, at least not if you have to wield the knife yourself. You will, however, be willing to hold your nose and cut almost any sort of deal that advantages you and will happily engage in blackmail, bribery or coercion if that's what it takes to save your skin...

Goals

1. Avoid bankruptcy
2. Secure as politically advantageous a position as possible for yourself

Your relationships

Andre Robespierre	A long-time colleague in the party, though not a close friend. You suspect he'd be harder to influence than Marie (and would owe you less), which is why you've publicly backed Marie, even though your politics are more similar to Andre's. He'll doubtless be frustrated that you've chosen to support his rival, so expect him to come knocking to try to get you to change your mind. You'd rather not mention your debts to him – too dangerous if he turns against you – but his wife certainly has the means to clear them...
Marie Desmoulins	Another party veteran and colleague. She owes you big time for your support, but as far as you know she doesn't have the means to clear your debts, even if she had the inclination. You'll want to see if you can find other ways to make her useful... and you may need to remind her that without your support she wouldn't stand a chance.
Emilie Robespierre	Andre's wealthy wife. She's certainly the richest person on the Standing Committee and could easily wipe out your debts if she wanted to. If you can find some way to get some leverage, she could be your saviour – but it's tricky given that you've just backed her husband's main rival. You're sure that's the right call in the long run, but it does make your position precarious. It's worth spending time with her early to find out what she wants and see if you can help.
Camille Bonaparte	<p>Your long-time friend and mentee. A veteran party activist and left-wing firebrand, known to be the most ideologically uncompromising member of the Standing Committee. She's the swing vote in the leadership election, given your declaration for Marie and the fact that Emilie will vote for Andre.</p> <p>It would be very inconvenient if she swung the election in Andre's favour – you'd be left backing the wrong horse – so you'll want to try to influence her to back your party unity ticket. Her politics are closer to Andre's, but you may be able to persuade her that the party stands a better chance of election under Marie and that Andre is less personally trustworthy. She's a fierce party loyalist, so you can make common cause on uncovering the mole. And, of course, you can lean on your long friendship; she likes and trusts you.</p>

EMILIE ROBESPIERRE

Public briefing

As well as being a leading Liberal activist in her own right, Emilie is Andre's wealthy and gregarious wife. She funds his socialite lifestyle – and his leadership campaign. She is fiercely loyal to her husband and his greatest advocate in his bid to become leader.

Private briefing

Your membership of the party and your marriage to Andre are the foundations of your life. You think the party and the country don't understand how lucky they are to have Andre. As President, he would transform the country and build a truly modern, liberal nation. You were brought up in Paris in great wealth (your father, still alive, but elderly and ailing, is a leading industrialist), but from a young age developed a strong sense of social justice. You have devoted your life to the Liberal cause and the struggle against fascism, which seems to be worryingly on the rise again.

Your left-wing political beliefs haven't, of course, stopped you from using your wealth to your – and Andre's – advantage (or, indeed, from leading a glamorous and expensive lifestyle). Political campaigns are expensive and you've funded Andre's (he brought little wealth to the marriage, having been born to a solidly middle class doctor in Marseille and then been orphaned at a relatively young age). Part of you feels a little guilty, perhaps even a little uncouth, about having so much money, but you're pretty sure you're using it for the greater good.

This feels like a particularly precarious time for the party. On the one hand, it's on the brink of power with a superb potential leader. On the other, the rumours about a mole and Maurice Bourbon's death are deeply disturbing and have the potential to plunge the party into chaos at exactly the wrong time. You'd like to get to the bottom of it – as long as it can be handled discretely and without damaging the party, of course.

You are ruthless in achieving your goals, but within a strict moral code. You would certainly not kill lightly, though you might be pushed to it in truly extreme circumstances. You're willing to do what it takes to defend your ideals, which might sometimes mean doing things you're not altogether proud of...

Goals

1. Promote the party's interests by:
 - a. securing Andre's election as leader
 - b. discovering whether there is a mole in the party and, if so, their identity
 - c. finding out what happened to Maurice Bourbon

Your relationships

Andre Robespierre	Your husband of 10 years and, you hope, the future President. You're devoted to him and determined that he should be elected leader. You operate well as a unit, so make sure that you have a shared understanding of the biggest threats his candidacy faces and work together to eliminate them.
Marie Desmoulins	<p>Your husband's arch rival and therefore an obstacle in the party's path to greatness. You can't stand her: you find her spineless and lacking principles. You certainly won't be afraid to make your feelings clear – to her and others.</p> <p>That said, she's a dangerous opponent, so it will be worth investing time in finding anything you can to discredit her – or at least to give her supporters pause.</p>
Thomas Danton	A veteran party activist who has, unfortunately, thrown his weight behind Marie (albeit on the condition that she names Andre her Deputy, but that seems a poor consolation prize). If he could somehow be persuaded to change his mind, the leadership would be Andre's, but it's not obvious how to do that. Perhaps he has a pet cause you could fund? You'll have to be delicate in suggesting it, of course. You wouldn't want to insult him.
Camille Bonaparte	A veteran party activist and left-wing firebrand, known to be the most ideologically uncompromising member of the Standing Committee. She's the swing vote in the leadership election, given Tom's declaration for Marie. Ideally you would find some leverage to bring her on side – and at the very least you'll want to spend time courting her vote and emphasising how aligned your beliefs are. The fact that Marie is the more moderate candidate might give Andre an opening. She's also likely to share your concern for uncovering the mole; perhaps the basis of an alliance?

CAMILLE BONAPARTE

Public briefing

A veteran party activist, left-wing firebrand and famed anti-fascist campaigner. By some distance the most ideologically uncompromising member of the Standing Committee, Camille epitomises tribal loyalty. She's also the only member of the Committee who is yet to declare publicly for a leadership candidate, which means her vote is highly prized.

Private briefing

Your left-wing political beliefs and your loyalty to the party are the centrepieces of your life. You believe that the country – indeed, the entire world – is teetering on the brink of disaster and that nothing is more important than uncompromisingly fighting fascism in all its forms. This means struggling not only against open fascists, which you've done your whole life, but also fighting forces – even in your own party – who would accommodate or do business with them.

This is what led you to kill Maurice Bourbon. You had always been slightly suspicious of his moderation, but two weeks ago you discovered from an activist in your network that Maurice had been secretly meeting with Philippe D'Orleans, the leader of Forward, another left-wing party – but one that has flirted heavily with xenophobia and anti-Semitism. Appalled, you went to his apartment to confront him. You were horrified when Maurice not only admitted meeting D'Orleans but said that they'd been discussing a coalition to increase the left's chances at the next election. An angry argument broke out and you totally lost control – and pushed him from the balcony. You fled and, fortunately, there were no witnesses. Given Maurice's long history of heavy drinking, the police seem to have accepted that it was an accident. You feel some guilt – you hadn't gone to his apartment with the intention of killing him – but you can't help but feel that justice has been done and that the party has the opportunity for a clean break. It's obviously imperative that no one finds out...

At the same time, you're terrified by the rumours that there may be a fascist mole in the party leadership. You're determined to uncover them. You've put out feelers to your extensive network to try to find out more.

Anti-fascism for you is the single biggest issue in the leadership election – zero tolerance of fascists and total commitment to rooting them out of the party. You're paranoid that the next leader might sell the party out. At the moment, you're torn on whether Andre or Marie is the better bet. Andre's politics are closer to yours and Marie is dangerously moderate, but you've always distrusted Andre's marriage to the wealthy Emilie. Are they really going to take on the establishment if Andre wins? You did consider running yourself, but it seemed financially prohibitive and politically untenable.

You are passionate and volatile but – recent events notwithstanding – not given to violence. In your personal life you live by a strict moral code. You'd have to be pushed to your limits before you'd kill again. But, as we've seen, that can happen...

Goals

1. Prevent the murder of Maurice Bourbon from being uncovered
2. Discover whether there is a mole in the party and, if so, their identity
3. Promote the party's interests and fight fascism

Your relationships

Andre Robespierre	A long-time colleague in the party, though not a close friend – and now a leadership candidate. You admire his rhetoric and left-wing positions, but you're suspicious of his lifestyle and Emilie's wealth. As you're the swing vote, he's going to spend time courting your support, so you'll want to make sure you exact the highest political price possible if you do decide to vote for him. And you'll want to make sure you can really trust him, so look for a way to test whether he's willing to be completely honest with you.
Marie Desmoulins	<p>You've never been close to Marie, though you have known her for years. You worry that she's too moderate, but you think she's probably more personally trustworthy than Andre. Like Andre, she's going to want your vote, so it's worth playing them both and seeing who can give you the greatest assurances on the issues you care about.</p> <p>Of all the members of the Standing Committee, she was the closest to Maurice and is likely to be the most upset about his death, so be cautious.</p>
Emilie Robespierre	Andre's heiress wife. You're suspicious of her wealth and find it hard to imagine that she's really ready to take on the Establishment, despite her long years of service to the party. That said, she does seem to be a committed anti-fascist, so she may be a useful ally in uncovering the mole. You'll want to find out what she knows and see if there are any ways to work together.
Thomas Danton	Your long-time friend and mentor and the only other person on the Standing Committee who you really trust. It surprised you that he came out in favour of Marie so early in the leadership race, but you want to hear him out and understand his reasons.

Moderator – *before each round, give each player the documents from the following section that are labelled with their character name and the relevant round number.*

Important: Check carefully that you are distributing to the right character and for the right round. Do not distribute in advance of playing.

EXTRACT FROM THE LIBERAL PARTY CONSTITUTION (All players, ROUND 1)

1. Leadership

- a. The Party shall have a Leader, who shall be the Party's chief executive officer and its candidate for President in the event of a Presidential Election

2. Succession

- a. If the Party Leader resigns, dies or is otherwise incapacitated, if there is a Deputy Leader, he or she shall immediately become Leader.
- b. If there is no Deputy Leader and the Party Leader resigns, dies or is otherwise incapacitated, then a Leadership Election shall be held

3. Leadership Elections

- a. Any member of the Standing Committee is eligible to be elected Leader, provided that he or she is in good standing with the Party, has not been convicted of any criminal offence and is not bankrupt. A member may stand for election by nominating his or herself at any time before the votes are cast
- b. Each member of the Standing Committee who is in good standing with the Party, has not been convicted of any criminal offence and is not bankrupt is eligible to vote for in Leadership Election
- c. The candidate who receives the most votes from eligible members shall be elected Leader. In the event of two or more candidates receiving the same number of votes, lots shall be drawn by those candidates to determine who becomes Leader

4. Deputy Leader

- a. The Leader may at any time name a Deputy Leader if the office is vacant
- b. The Deputy Leader can only be removed by a majority vote of the Standing Committee

LETTER TO CAMILLE (ROUND 1)

Dear Camille,

I hope you are well. Interesting times for the Party... Maurice's death must have been a great shock; I trust you are recovering.

I cannot say I think much of the candidates, particularly that scoundrel Robespierre. He swans about town making pretty speeches and spending his wife's money, but I understand that he does not repay her investment with fidelity. I have it on good authority that he has been conducting an illicit affair behind Madame Emilie's back for at least six months.

I do not know the identity of the other party, but I do feel for Emilie. She is so devoted to him and so oblivious!

I could hardly vote for such a man. If he cannot keep his vows to his wife, why should he to his country?

Fortunately, though, that is your problem and not mine! Bon chance!

Love as ever,

M

LETTER TO TOM (ROUND 1)

Dear Tom,

As promised, I have made inquiries among my contacts in the underground to see what I could discover about your mole.

Good information is in short supply, but from the amount of chatter it does seem likely that the party has been infiltrated.

I have been unable – as yet – to learn much about their identity. The only good lead I have is from an ex-fascist who mentioned something about a senior undercover nationalist who was born in Marseille.

I will continue to make inquiries and will write immediately if I learn anything further.

I have the honour to remain your most humble and obedient servant,

C

LETTER TO CAMILLE (ROUND 1)

Dear Madame Bonaparte,

I write in my capacity as executor of the estate of Madame Jeanne de Pompadour, who died earlier this year. You may not be aware that Madame de Pompadour was a cousin of your mother's. I understand that you have had little if any contact since you left Marseille.

You are her last surviving relative and the sole beneficiary of her estate, which, after death duties and fees, will have a value of approximately one million francs.

Please be in touch with my office and we will make arrangements for you to receive funds.

I have the honour to remain, Madame, your most humble and obedient servant,

M. Necker, Attorney at Law

LETTER TO MARIE (ROUND 1)

This mail was addressed to a hotel from which you've just returned after a holiday. It was redirected to your Paris address and so has only just arrived, two weeks late

17 December 1928

My Dear Marie,

Hope all is well with you and you are enjoying your coastal respite. Here things are as chaotic as ever and I am dearly missing your counsel.

I hardly know what to think. Some days I believe we are on the brink of power; others I believe the whole party is coming apart at the seams.

I worry that our Standing Committee is hardly the best and the brightest. Andre is effective, but there's no doubt that he will always place his own interests above those of the party. And would Emilie even be there if we did not need her money?

But they are the least of our worries. Tom, I have recently discovered, has a serious gambling problem. It started with horses apparently, but it's now private card games. I dread to think of the debts he is racking up, but it is surely far more than he can afford. I don't know what I can do for him, but he risks ruining himself and us.

And Camille is a true fanatic – almost a monster! She makes Andre look like a centrist... She flew off the handle the other day when I suggested that we might want to moderate our immigration policy – practically called me a fascist. I can barely imagine how she'd react if she knew some of the things I've been contemplating to give us a better chance in the election. I do want your thoughts on these, but this is already too long and you are on holiday, so it can wait.

A bientot,

Maurice

LETTER TO EMILIE (ROUND 1)

Madame Robespierre,

I fear there is a plot underway to undermine your husband and block his path to power. You have heard the rumours of a fascist mole, no doubt. I have good reason to believe that they are true and your husband is the target.

I can say no more at this time and dare not reveal my identity. But stay safe!

In haste,

A friend

LETTER TO ANDRE (ROUND 1)

Dear Andre,

I know. Others know too. It will not be long until your wife knows. There can be no secrets with so much at stake.

Tread carefully and get out while you can.

A friend

LETTER TO EMILIE (ROUND 2)

Dear Madame Robespierre,

I am sorry to be the bearer of bad tidings, but I feel it is right that you know. So many others do and they gossip behind your back. Your husband spends your money, but he does not repay you with fidelity.

Apparent enmity disguises passion: Andre Robespierre is having an affair with Marie Desmoulins and has been for at least half a year.

It's tragic to see you sacrifice so much for him when he cannot even stay out of another woman's bed. I know it is painful, but it is better that you know.

With my condolences,

A friend

LETTER TO ANDRE (ROUND 2)

Dear M. Robespierre,

Please excuse my writing out of the blue. I did not know who else to tell. You do not know me, but I am a great admirer of your work and believe you will know what to do.

Two weeks ago I was walking down Rue de Moulin late at night, past the apartment of M. Maurice Bourbon. I saw a man lying in the street beneath his balcony (I know it well, as I have attended receptions there). I was about to approach when the front door of the building burst open and a woman came running, visibly flustered, out into the street. She looked frantically about her but did not see me (the street was otherwise empty). It was Camille Bonaparte.

When she had fled, I approached the man and saw that it was M. Bourbon, dead and lying in a pool of blood. I panicked, as I did not want to be found alone with a dead body at night and I do not trust the police.

I have been racked with worry and guilt ever since, but it is now clear to me that you will know what to do.

In trust and gratitude,

A friend

LETTER TO TOM (ROUND 2)

Dear Tom,

No news on your mole, but I did pick up a titbit that I thought might be of interest. I understand that the official story is that there were no witnesses to M. Bourbon's unfortunate fall, but one of my underground contacts begs to differ.

A friend of his saw Bourbon bleeding on the ground... and a woman racing from his front door. I have been unable to get a name, but my contact believes it was a senior member of your party. Interesting times.

More soon, God willing,

C

LETTER TO CAMILLE (ROUND 2)

Dear Camille,

As promised, I have made inquiries among my contacts in the underground to see what I could discover about your mole.

Good information is in short supply, but from the amount of chatter it does seem that the party has been infiltrated.

I have been unable – as yet – to learn much about their identity. The only good lead I have is from an ex-fascist who was certain that the mole is a man.

I will continue to make inquiries and will write immediately if I learn anything further.

I have the honour to remain your most humble and obedient servant,

C

LETTER TO MARIE (Round 2)

Dear Marie,

As promised, I have made inquiries among my contacts in the underground to see what I could discover about your mole.

Good information is in short supply, but from the amount of chatter it does seem that the party has been infiltrated.

I have been unable – as yet – to learn much about their identity. The only good lead I have is from an ex-fascist who mentioned something about the mole having a father who was a doctor.

I will continue to make inquiries and will write immediately if I learn anything further.

I have the honour to remain your most humble and obedient servant,

C

DECLARATION CARD

Your name:

Your declaration(s) (Optional):

Your Decisive Action (max ONE of Murder, Guard and Investigate only, followed by the name of a character – e.g. “Murder Tom”, “Guard Emilie”):

Your vote for Leader: