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Dead Man on the Orient Express

For 1-4 players, ages 12 and up

CAUTION: Do not look at the game materials (cards, book, etc.) **yet!** **First, read this rulebook together out loud** and carefully follow all of its instructions.

What's the game about?

The year is 1905. You are on your way from Paris to Constantinople on the luxurious Orient Express. One morning, the body of the passenger Edgar Ratchington, who was traveling alone, is discovered.

There seem to be no clues whatsoever about who committed the deed. All the other passengers claim to have an alibi for the night. Nobody admits to even having known Mr. Ratchington. For the master detective Achilles Pussot, who happens to be traveling on the train, it would be an easy thing to solve the murder — except that he has disappeared without a trace.

You find his notebook and realize that he must have already been aware of the murder during the night and was about to solve the case. Now you are the final hope for exposing the culprit before the train reaches Constantinople. Hurry, the train is moving!

Work together to solve all the riddles surrounding this mysterious murder and deliver the culprit to the police before he or she can escape.



IMPORTANT: Do **not** look closely at any of the **game materials** before starting the game! Do **not** leaf through the book yet, and do **not** look at the front of the cards yet. Wait until “the game” tells you to.

Game materials

- 86 Cards
 - 24 Riddle Cards
 - 30 Answer Cards
 - 32 Help Cards
- 2 Strange items
- 3 Sealed sheets
- 1 Book
- 1 Decoder disk



In addition, you will need **something to write with** (ideally **ball-point pens, pencils, and an eraser**), one or more **sheets of paper**, and a **watch** (ideally a **stopwatch**), to keep track of time. A pair of **scissors** will make the game easier to play. If you don't have any available, you can still play and just rip the materials with your hands.

Game setup

Get the **book** and the **decoder disk** ready on the table. Leave the “**strange items**” and “**sealed sheets**” in the box for now. Sort the **cards** into three piles in accordance with what is written on their back sides:

- > Riddle Cards
- > Answer Cards
- > Help Cards

Be sure not to look at the front sides of any of the cards yet.

Check to be sure that the Riddle Cards and Answer Cards are arranged in ascending order according to their letters or numbers. Sort the Help Cards according to their symbols, and then place them on the side of the table. Place cards with the same symbol, one on top of another, such that the “1st CLUE” card is on top of the “2nd CLUE” card and the latter is on top of the “SOLUTION” card. Exception: There are five help cards with the **+** symbol.

Where is the game board?

This game has no game board! You will have to figure out for yourselves what you have to find in the game and what the setting looks like. At the beginning of the game, you will have **only the book and the decoder disk available to you**. As the game continues, you will add the **Riddle Cards** — either to be found in illustrations, or referred to in the text. Whenever this happens, you can pick the corresponding cards from the Riddle Card pile and look at them. Likewise, you can only use the **“strange items”** and the **“sealed sheets”** in the box when explicitly told that you have found them. Until then, leave them untouched in the box!



Example:

*If you find an illustration like this, you may **immediately** pull the corresponding Riddle Card out of the pile and look at it.*



Course of play

Your goal is to solve the murder case together in the shortest possible time.

That would definitely be easier if not for the fact that every lock in the train is secured with a riddle. As soon as the game starts, you may look at **all the pages** of the book. During the course of the game, you will keep finding objects that are locked with a **three-digit key code**. To open them, you will have to figure out the matching code and enter it into the **decoder disk**. At the edge of the disk, you will see **10 different symbols**. Each symbol stands for a code to be cracked. But you will have to figure out for yourselves which symbol belongs to which code. You will want to be sure to pay attention to every detail. If you think you can crack a code, enter it under the corresponding symbol on the disk. Then, look through the **viewing window** on the smallest wheel to see a number.

This number indicates the **number of the Answer Card** that you are then allowed to look at. If the code is incorrect, you will have to keep searching for a solution or switch to another riddle for the time being. If the code is correct, the Answer Card will tell you how to continue.

Example:

For the riddle with the **◆** symbol, you have come up with **3 1 8** as the code. You enter this combination under the **◆** symbol on the decoder disk. In the little window, you will see the **number of the Answer Card** that you are then allowed to pull out of the pile and look at.



➔ **Is the code incorrect?**

If so, the Answer Card will tell you. In that case, simply return the card to the pile and take another look at the riddle that you failed to solve. Maybe there's something that you overlooked. Or it may be that you simply don't yet have the hints that you need to solve it. Then you will just have to continue someplace else.



➔ **Is the code possibly correct?**

If so, the Answer Card will look like this:



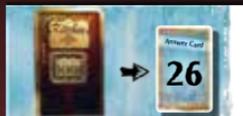
➔ **Where will you see the code symbol?**

Good question! To answer it, you will have to take a close look at the pictures in the book or on the Riddle Cards. **All possible locked objects** can be found in those places.

All of these objects are **marked with a symbol**. Our example involves the kitchen door with the **◆** symbol on it.



To continue with this example scenario: Next, you will take a look at the Answer Card next to the kitchen door and see that you should now retrieve Answer Card 26 from the pile.



NOTE: You have to see the **object with the symbol** on a **Riddle Card** or **in the book** in order to be able to open it. You cannot open something that you have not found — just like in an actual room.

➔ Is the code *really* correct?

If so, the Answer Card will tell you how to continue. You will find one or more new Riddle Cards which you will be allowed to **pull from the pile and look at immediately**.

➔ Is the code *actually* incorrect?

Well, in that case you must have made a mistake. You will just have to think about it some more and come up with a different code.

IMPORTANT:

- ➔ Whether wrong or right — return all Answer Cards to the Answer Card pile.
- ➔ All codes can be solved logically. You shouldn't just try all possible combinations on the disk.

Need some help?

Of course, the game can provide you assistance if you get stuck. For each code, there are three Help Cards that can be recognized by the symbol on their back sides.

In addition to giving you an initial useful clue, each “**1st CLUE**” Help Card also tells you which Riddle Cards you must have found in order to be able to solve the corresponding riddle.

The “**2nd CLUE**” Help Cards will give you somewhat more concrete assistance in finding a solution to the corresponding riddle.

The “**SOLUTION**” Help Cards provide the solution to the riddle.

IMPORTANT: Always take the Help Cards for a specific Riddle Card or riddle in the book. These riddles are usually identified with a symbol (matching a symbol on the decoder disk). It won't help you to use Help Cards if you have not found a riddle with the corresponding symbol.

So have a little patience — some of the riddles can only be solved with the help of several Riddle Cards. **You won't always have all of them available to you right away. Sometimes, you will first have to grapple with other riddles to get more cards.** But don't be shy about using Help Cards if you get stuck.

Once you have used a Help Card, place it on a discard pile.

Additional game materials

In addition to the materials contained in the box, you will need **a pencil and paper** for taking notes.

You will also need a **watch/stopwatch**.

IMPORTANT: You can **write on, fold, or tear the materials ...**

All of this is allowed, and sometimes even required. You can only play the game once — after which you will know all the riddles, and won't need the game materials any longer! If you like, you can also use **scissors** to cut the materials rather than tearing them.

When does the game end?

The game ends when you have solved the last riddle and solved the murder. A card will tell you that. Start a stopwatch at the beginning of the game so you know how long you needed.

You can look at the table on the next page to see how well you did.

When calculating the number of Help Cards used, only the ones that gave you new hints or solutions should be counted. If a Help Card

only had something that you knew anyway, do not include it in the calculation.

	No Help Cards	1-2 Help Cards	3-5 Help Cards	6-10 Help Cards	> 10 Help Cards
< 60 Min.	10 stars	8 stars	7 stars	5 stars	4 stars
< 90 Min.	9 stars	7 stars	6 stars	4 stars	3 stars
< 120 Min.	8 stars	6 stars	5 stars	3 stars	2 stars
> 120 Min.	7 stars	5 stars	4 stars	2 stars	1 star

One final tip

Any game materials that you successfully used to help solve a riddle should be set aside, but not put away. This way, you will be able to keep track of the materials more easily and won't get them mixed up. The only things that you will need for more than one riddle are the **illustrations of the rooms (e.g., train cars and compartments).**

The game begins

What are you waiting for? **Start the stopwatch** and solve the murder case before it's too late. **Now** you are allowed to look at **all the pages of the book** and begin solving riddles. If anything is unclear, don't be shy about **looking something up in the rulebook during the game.**

Inka & Markus Brand and Kosmos thank all the test players and rule readers.



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CERTIFICATE

The following players rode the Orient Express:

1 |

2 |

3 |

4 |

5 |

6 |

on

in

Did they succeed in solving the murder case correctly?

Yes (+2 stars)

No

To do it, it took

Minutes

and

Seconds

They used a total of

Help Cards.

This earned them

stars in the assessment!

The coolest riddle was

The trickiest riddle was

The player who solved this riddle was