

Personality Profile

FRANK BELLOWS

You are 45 years old, live in Bristol and have been running the wholesale business 'Fair Space' for two years, which is marketed with its own seal.

As a businessman, you have a good feel for what is currently trendy on the market. When the Fair Trade industry was becoming increasingly popular, you decided to specialise in this field. A good choice, as more and more retailers ask for your products. Previously, you worked in a delicatessen wholesale company.

Personally, you do not care much about all that Fair Trade stuff, Basically, you couldn't care less if some cocoa picker in Africa gets a decent wage. As long as you make a buck yourself. However, you cannot make big profits with the Fair Trade products and there is a host of requirements to be met. But you have found a way to make big money alongside the Fair Trade business: 20% of your goods meet the standards, the rest are cheap imports provided with fake labels and information. With your connections and appropriate greasing, (almost) anything goes. For controls, you present products and suppliers that have been officially sealed and certified. You can easily cover up the fact that a number of your products have a different origin, altogether.

Some months ago, there was a request from a young entrepreneur who wanted to open a pure Fair Trade store in Chocville. But then he seems to have opted for another supplier. You cannot understand this to this day, because you offer the products cheaper than anyone else. He was even on-site and during your conversation you made a great effort, guiding him through the facility and allowing him to sample all sorts of products.

Now you have even been invited to the big reception of the town of Chocville, which is to be named a 'Fairtrade Town'. Chocville is located about 30 kilometres from Bristol. Although it is a small place, you already have business contacts here. There is a very good catering company that buys products from you. The boss Natalia is a real cutie. She has earned a reputation for offering catering with regional and Fair Trade products, among others. Good thing she does not know that your products are not as fairly traded as she thinks.

She told you that Kevin had tried to win her custom and convince her to buy her goods only from him. So far without success, because he is of course much more expensive. You also have an ace up your sleeve, because on a business visit you noticed that she employs quite a few kitchen aids, which cannot possibly be profitable. Through a contact you have found out that most of them are clandestine workers. Thanks to this knowledge, she will certainly remain your customer for a long time...

At the gala evening you will certainly meet Kevin, because in the agenda you read that he was invited as a keynote speaker.

Just in time for the start of the reception at 6.30 pm you are there. The guests flock into the hall and enjoy the delicacies of the flying buffet. There is still plenty of time until the official part starts with its speeches at 8 pm.

When you have to go to the toilet at around 7 pm, you find a few sheets of paper with text next to the sink. You take a quick look and realize that this is the script for a speech. More specifically, the script for the speech of Kevin Doogood, the guy who decided to use another supplier. Lots of boring keywords with some handwritten additions. But when you suddenly see the name of your company, you look more closely. While you are still reading, you have to hold on to the sink, because you are suddenly feeling quite sick. You do not know how, but Kevin has figured out what's going on in your business and how un-Fair your products really are. That's exactly what he wants to reveal this evening. That'll be your downfall! What a stroke of luck that this moron should have left his speech here and you, of all people, should have found it. Now you have to act fast.

It is 7.10 pm. In the next 50 minutes, the script must be destroyed and Doogood got rid of. You can barely think straight, but you'll come up with something. For now, you leave the venue, rip up the speech and throw it in the dumpster behind the building. That's where you have the brainwave: You remember that Kevin had refused to taste

the nut chocolate while tasting 'Fair Space's' Fair products. And with every product, he checked to make sure it does not contain any nuts as he suffers from a severe allergy. He even said jokingly: 'I'll drop dead if I eat that'.

You don't know what else to do and just hope there's no one else in the know and that you can act fast enough. You run into the ShopHere supermarket on the corner and buy a packet of ground hazelnuts and an envelope. In so doing, you use disposable gloves so no one can find your fingerprints afterwards. This is not all that easy, because the cashier of course should not notice any of it. But you are sure you weren't noticed because of the rush just before closing time.

At 7.35 pm you are back at the reception. You quickly write a short note, a few hints about clandestine workers, and that you'll disclose everything if the hazelnuts are not mixed into the topping of the cupcakes. You hang around inconspicuously for a moment, and when Natalia quickly shoots out of the kitchen you deposit your ransom note with the hazelnuts. Now you can only hope that Natalia takes your threat seriously and will follow your instructions.

You stay in the bar area and watch as, just before 8 pm, she herself makes her way through the crowd with a tray of cupcakes. You hold your breath as she offers one to Kevin. He accepts it and takes a bite straight away.

Shortly after, he is gasping for air and collapses. The surrounding people gather around him, someone reaches for the phone. As an emergency doctor arrives, Kevin is screened off from the gawking crowd.

At some point, finally, the message gets around that Kevin Doogood could not be saved. Now all you have to do is to divert any suspicion away from yourself. After all, everyone has some secret...

Don't forget: you are the murderer, you are allowed to lie.

The Suspects

John Rock, 58 years

Farmer and president of the Chocville Heritage Society, father of Jane Doogood, divorced for 10 years. Probably an important person in the village.

Andrew Mason, 52 years

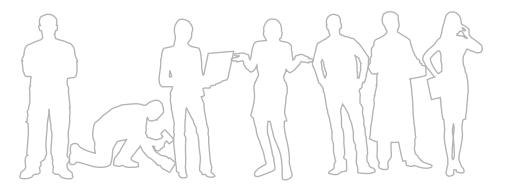
Entrepreneur and manager of a natural stone distribution company, lives in Chocville and works in Bristol. You've seen him at a reception before.

Jane Doogood, 25 years

Private investigator, widow of the victim Kevin Doogood. A plain person, Kevin was raving about her.

Natalia Petroviczka, 34 years

Owner of the catering business 'Delibites', partner of Yusuf. You do business with her. She is yours, because you know that she employs clandestine workers.



Nikos Zanidis, 23 years

Self-employed with an organic food truck, Kevin's best friend. He might wear a decent stitch, for a change.

Yusuf Karaca, 40 years

Owner of the ShopHere supermarket, partner of Natalia. Buys from the competition. Seems to be jealous of you.

Rebecca Roller, 27 years

Town manager of Chocville, you negotiated with her over the Fair Trade coffee for the town hall.



Fair Trade: Background Information

Even though the plot and characters of the crime dinner are fictitious, the backdrop is in many places inspired by reality. Fair Trade and Fairtrade Towns really exist. To shed some light on the subject, we would like to clarify some terms and background aspects. Of course, many topics can only be touched upon. Therefore, you will find even more detailed information in the Host's Manual.

What is Fair Trade?

Fair Trade aims to improve the situation of small producers. For this purpose, direct and long-term trade relations are sought. To enable producers to make a living, minimum prices are paid that are above world market prices. In addition, there are premiums for organic farming. Also, exploitative child labour is prohibited, as is discrimination against women, migrant workers and trade unions.

For further information on Fair Trade go to: wfto-europe.org.

What is a Fairtrade Town?

Towns can apply to the 'Fairtrade Towns Campaign' to be certified as a Fairtrade Town. To qualify, they have to fulfil certain conditions. For example, only Fair Trade coffee may be served in the town hall and a certain number of shops (depending on the size of the municipality) must offer Fair Trade products. After certification, these criteria are regularly checked so that Fair Trade is upheld.

For further information on the 'Fairtrade Towns Campaign' go to: www.fairtradetowns.org.

What about seals and labels?

Nearly all products come with colourful seals and labels. Fair Trade also uses such seals and labels. For consumers, it is not always easy to see which of the many seals are verified and trustworthy. This is why we have compiled a list of trustworthy Fair Trade seals for food. We present these in the Host's Manual in the chapter 'Shopping Tips'.

What about child labour in the quarries?

All over the world children work for money – to support their family or, as in Germany, to supplement their pocket money. This work becomes problematic when it is physically exhausting or dangerous, but also when it makes it impossible for the children to go to school, or just be a child. ILO Convention 182 bans this exploitative kind of child labour worldwide.

Nevertheless, especially in India and other Asian countries, children work in quarries under such conditions. However, some quarries do not use child labour and also pay attention to labour rights generally. You can have your products independently certified by Xertifix.

For further information on exploitative child labour – not only in guarries – and measures against it go to www.aktiv-gegen-kinderarbeit.de (in German). Information in English can be found at www.un.org/en/events/childlabourday.