

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE BAT

BY CHANDLER GROOVER

BEING A PRACTICAL GUIDE

TO THE

PECULIAR DUTIES AND BUSINESS

OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF

SERVICE

IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF

MR BRYCE WYATT

The experienced valet will **ATTEND TO** the master and his guests for every act of service. No other action shall distract the valet from his duties; no other action shall be permitted. If the valet wishes to **EXAMINE** objects or review his **INVENTORY**, however, he may peek. He may also **THINK** about his current tasks, **LOOK** around rooms, and request **HELP**.

To move about Wyatt Manor, the valet should proceed in an orderly fashion by walking **NORTH, SOUTH, WEST, or EAST**. He may also walk **UP** and **DOWN** stairs.

The Evening's Schedule

Prologue

ACT I

Interlude

ACT II.1

(scene change)

ACT II.2

Epilogue

For instructions on how a valet should comport himself during each period of the evening, refer to the corresponding section of this guide. Bear in mind that ***these instructions will reveal explicit solutions*** and should only be consulted as a last resort.

Prologue

- **Dressing the master.** The valet should dress the master in the master's harness before donning other apparel; the master's harness may be found in the cellar. His clothes may be found in the master's bedroom. His shoes may be found in the garden. His spectacles may be found *only* after Wyatt Manor is completely illuminated by candlelight.
- **Terminating the chef.** Chef Louis will no longer serve Wyatt Manor, alas. The valet should speak to the chef in the kitchen. Upon being asked for a severance check, the valet should attend to the paperwork on the desk in the study to locate such a check. The valet should then deliver the check to the chef in the kitchen.
- **Unlocking the garden.** Chef Louis holds the key to the garden. He will not relinquish it until he receives a severance check. After the valet has acquired the key, the valet may attend to the double-doors in the ballroom to unlock the garden.
- **Lighting the candles.** Illumination is a necessity for (almost) any household function. Every room (except the dining room) should be brightly lit. The valet should find a matchbox in the master's bedroom and proceed to light candles in the following locations: the study, the upstairs corridor, the mosaic hall, the foyer, the drawing room, the powder room, the lounge, the ballroom, and, of course, the master's bedroom itself.
- **Lowering the chandelier.** The candles on a ballroom chandelier are typically beyond reach. To light them, one might wish to lower the chandelier. The valet should proceed to the cellar, open the utility closet, and attend to the crank to lower the chandelier. He may then return to the ballroom to light the candles. Afterward, he should remember to *raise* the chandelier again. (If he should damage the crank in the process and wish to repair the mechanism, see **ACT II.1 • Repairing the crank** for guidance.)
- **Capturing the bat.** To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose; the time to capture bats is best deferred (see **ACT II.1 • Dr Malatesta** for guidance).
- **Sweeping the floor.** A broom and dustpan may be found in the utility closet in the cellar. In the event that anything like a cocktail glass (or a mechanical crank) breaks, the valet should attend to the broken pieces with the broom and dustpan, and then attend to the rubble in the dining room to empty the dustpan.
- **Mopping the floor.** Unfortunately, there is no mop on the premises, but a sufficiently thick edition of the *New Gothenburg Post* should serve in a pinch; one such edition is often kept in the lounge. The valet should attend to any puddles (or sticky substances) with the *Post*, and then attend to the pond in the garden to wring out the *Post*.

ACT I

- **Answering the doorbell.** A well-trained valet will promptly report to the foyer and attend to the front door whenever the doorbell rings. Guests will continue to arrive until **ACT I** concludes; they should *not* be left to linger outside.
- **Attending to the guests.** Upon entering Wyatt Manor through the front door in the foyer, guests will move into the mosaic hall; they may subsequently move into the drawing room or the lounge. The valet should attend to each guest—multiple times, if necessary.
- **Serving drinks.** Whenever a guest requests a drink, the valet should attend to the drinks cabinet in the drawing room to prepare the requested beverage. Drinks should always be served on a silver tray; the valet will automatically place them on a silver tray the first time he prepares a drink. When he prepares subsequent drinks, he will continue to place them on the tray automatically—as long as the tray remains in his inventory. If the tray is *not* in his inventory because he has set it aside elsewhere in Wyatt Manor, he will need to acquire the tray again before he can serve additional drinks.

Minor emergencies

- **Re-stocking the drinks cabinet.** Under normal circumstances, the drinks cabinet in the drawing room should hold enough alcohol to lubricate an entire evening. In the event that more alcohol must be acquired—and *only* in such an event—the valet may obtain additional bottles by attending to the racks in the cellar. He may carry the bottles in his inventory, return to the drawing room, and then attend to the drinks cabinet to re-stock it with the new bottles.
- **Attending to the master.** Master Bryce will require the valet’s attention throughout the entire evening. Periodically, the valet should attend to the master—when he is descending the grand staircase, for instance. Whether the master is in the mosaic hall, the drawing room, or the powder room, the valet should attend to him regularly.

Minor emergencies

- **Climbing the curtains.** If the master should (heaven forbid) climb the curtains in the drawing room, the valet should bring a chair from the ballroom, place it in the drawing room, and *then* attend to the master; with the chair in the drawing room, the valet will automatically stand atop the chair to reach the master.
- **Securing the spectacles.** Should the master attempt to remove his spectacles, the valet may need to fasten them with twine. Attend to the twine (to hold it in one hand), attend to the spectacles (to hold them in the other), and *then* attend to the master (to secure the spectacles to the master’s head with the twine). If the valet is unable to locate twine, see **ACT I • Retrieving the chicken** for guidance.

- **Serving a cricket.** Master Bryce may be tempted to eat the diamond dragonflies that one guest is wearing as jewelry. To placate the master's appetite and avoid a social *faux pas*, the valet should attend to the wicker cage in the kitchen (to carry it), attend to a cricket in the garden (to capture it with the wicker cage), and then attend to the master (to serve him the newly caged cricket).
- **Putting out fires.** Wyatt Manor is not equipped with fire extinguishers (a most regrettable safety hazard). In the event that any household furnishings (such as curtains) should catch fire, the valet must *immediately* attend to them, carry them to the garden, and then attend to the pond to douse the flames. (Thankfully, curtain-rods are not flammable; although the curtains themselves may not survive, the valet will gain the curtain-rod as a convenient tool after suppressing the conflagration.)
- **Retrieving the chicken.** If the chicken in the kitchen should be stolen by a cat, and the cat proceeds to perch atop the garden wall, the valet should acquire a broom from the utility closet in the cellar (a curtain-rod would also suffice), and then attend to the cat in the garden (with the broom in his inventory). Alternatively, he may bring a chair from the ballroom, place it in the garden, and *then* attend to the cat; with the chair in the garden, he will automatically stand atop the chair to reach the cat. Such a confrontation, although disagreeable, will yield butcher's twine (which is tied to the chicken).

Interlude

- **Disconnecting the telephone.** To prevent the master from receiving unpleasant calls, the valet should attend to the cord on the rotary phone to disconnect it.
- **Preparing the room-service cart.** The presentation on the room-service cart will not be complete without a night-blooming cereus and a pack of C&C Clove Cigarettes. The valet will find the cereus by attending to the flowers. The valet will find cigarettes by attending to the luggage. Attend to the room-service cart to place the cereus and the cigarettes onto the cart, and then walk west to present the room-service cart to the master.

ACT II.1

At this juncture of the evening, guests may disperse throughout Wyatt Manor. Some will have discreet requests; a competent valet will attend to them discreetly. Some will have requests that cannot be satisfied until *another* guest's request has been satisfied first. If the valet is unable to completely satisfy certain requests, he should focus on different tasks (such as sweeping the floor, mopping the floor, exploring the manor, or attending to other guests) until new solutions present themselves.

The valet may attend to The Guests in any order. He may also attend to his Other Tasks in any order. *Only after* these duties have been discharged may The Recital begin.

The Guests

- **Dina and Tito d'Latour.** Dina frequently speaks for Tito; by attending to Dina, therefore, the valet will often attend to Tito simultaneously. They will remain in the ballroom. They will request drinks. The valet should serve them promptly (and promptly sweep any cocktail glasses they happen to break). They will not perform at the piano until everyone else is present in the ballroom; when everyone else *is* present, the valet should inform Dina.
- **Dr Malatesta.** The doctor may be found in the mosaic hall. To conduct an experiment, he will require a few essential tools: 1) magneto-polonium, which may be found in the vault behind the portrait in the study (bring the *New Gothenburg Post* to safely wrap the chunk); 2) a wicker cage; and 3) a curtain-rod. The doctor may request the valet to attend to the compass in the mosaic hall, at which point the valet should follow the doctor's instructions *precisely*. After the doctor has completed his experiment, he may drop the cage; the valet should attend to both the doctor and the cage to restore order.
- **Baron Twombly.** If the baron requests a meeting with Master Bryce in the garden, the valet should arrange such a meeting. By attending to the compass in the mosaic hall—*only after* completing **Dr Malatesta's** experiment—the valet may move the master around Wyatt Manor. When the master is in the garden, the valet should provide him with grooming equipment to engage his attention. Scissors and a curling-iron may be found in the dining room—*only after* the valet has repeatedly emptied the dustpan onto the rubble (consult **Prologue • Sweeping the floor** to learn more about the broom and dustpan). A hairbrush may be found in the powder room—*only after* **Miss Constance** has vacated the powder room. Once the valet has given the scissors, the curling-iron, and the hairbrush to Master Bryce in the garden, the baron will conclude his meeting with the master.
- **Emilia Ives.** (See **ACT II.1 • Miss Constance and Miss Constance** for guidance.)
- **Bishop Buono.** A heavy sleeper, such as the bishop in the lounge, may be awoken by a heavy crash. By attending to the compass in the mosaic hall—*only after* completing **Dr Malatesta's** experiment—the valet may encourage Master Bryce to crash into the eastern and southern walls in the lounge. Should the moose head fall from the impact and lodge

itself anywhere unseemly, the valet may require oil as lubricant (see **ACT II.1 • Obtaining oil** for guidance). After the ordeal, the bishop may understandably desire refreshment, which the valet should obtain from the drinks cabinet in the drawing room.

- **Miss Constance and Miss Constance.** Exercise tact when delivering messages! Miss Constance will request paper to write a private message in the drawing room; the spare invitation from the study should prove adequate. This message, intended for Emilia Ives, may only be delivered to its recipient in the garden when the baron is distracted (see **ACT II.1 • Baron Twombly** for guidance). Upon reading the message, Emilia Ives may choose to withdraw with Miss Constance to the master’s bedroom. Should the ladies request drinks, the valet should obtain two from the drinks cabinet in the drawing room; should they request darkness, the valet should snuff the candle in the master’s bedroom. Should her twin sister wish to join Miss Constance in the master’s bedroom, the valet should discreetly follow her instructions—and any further instructions from Emilia Ives. The ladies may request a handbag (from the powder room), oil (see **ACT II.1 • Obtaining oil** for guidance), and “something pronged,” for which a moose head, unstuck from the lounge wall, will suffice (see **ACT II.1 • Bishop Buono** for guidance).

Minor emergencies

- **Missing jewelry.** In the unfortunate event that Emilia Ives misplaces her emeralds, she may scream. The valet should *immediately* report to the master’s bedroom to search for the jewels. He should attend to the candle in the master’s bedroom to light it again, and then attend to the mattress. Attend to anything unsanitary that falls to the floor (such as a clump of litter) with the *New Gothenburg Post*.
- **Célinea.** Certain guests have mercifully few requests. On the rare occasion that Célinea requires assistance, she will seek out the valet in the upstairs corridor. Afterwards, she may move to the garden. Should she request a light for her cigarette, the valet should attend to her cigarette itself (with the matchbook in his inventory) to light it.
- **Countess Orlofsky.** Certain guests may have ulterior motives. When the valet sweeps a broken cocktail glass in the ballroom and empties the dustpan in the dining room (consult **Prologue • Sweeping the floor** to learn more about the broom and dustpan), Countess Orlofsky may follow the valet into the dining room. If she asks the valet to gather “clues” throughout the evening, he should deliver the following five items to her:
 - **A dead rat.** Located in the foyer—*only after* the **Interlude**.
 - **A hairball.** Located in the lounge—*only after* the bishop has awoken and left the lounge. Attend to the hairball with the *New Gothenburg Post* to collect it.
 - **A collar.** Located in the garden—*only after* the valet has mopped every puddle in Wyatt Manor and repeatedly wrung the *New Gothenburg Post* into the pond (consult **Prologue • Mopping the floor** to learn more about the newspaper and the pond).

- **A cat's claw.** Located in the vault behind the portrait in the study—*only after* Céline has moved to the garden.
- **A clump of litter.** Located in the master's bedroom—*only after* the valet has aided Emilia Ives in her search for the missing emeralds (see **ACT II.1 • Miss Constance and Miss Constance, *Minor emergencies*** for guidance). Attend to the clump of litter with the *New Gothenburg Post* to collect it.

Other Tasks

- **Opening the automobile.** Drastic measures must be undertaken to access the steering wheel inside the automobile in the dining room. By attending to the compass in the mosaic hall—*only after* completing **Dr Malatesta's** experiment—the valet may encourage Master Bryce to break the windshield; the master should be prompted to move westward in the dining room, repeatedly, until sufficient force has been applied. Once the windshield is shattered, the valet may attend to the steering wheel to remove it.
- **Obtaining oil.** Wyatt Manor's supply of oil has been depleted, but a reserve may be acquired from the automobile in the dining room. In the process of removing the steering wheel, the valet will damage the automobile, thereby compelling the pipes to leak (see **ACT II.1 • Opening the automobile** for guidance). Attend to the inevitable puddle with the *New Gothenburg Post* to obtain oil.
- **Repairing the crank.** Before the chandelier in the ballroom may be raised or lowered again, the crank in the cellar must be repaired. Acquire a steering wheel (see **ACT II.1 • Opening the automobile** for guidance) and then attend to the broken rod in the utility closet to attach the steering wheel to the rod.
- **Locating an assortment of valuable items.** Guests may misplace certain personal belongings (emeralds, diamonds, a gold pocket-watch, etc.). Although the discovery of these lost items may not be effected immediately, a fastidious valet *will* uncover their whereabouts by the evening's end—**ACT II.2**—with enough perseverance.

The Recital

Guests will congregate in the ballroom after their requests have been satisfied. The valet should return any chairs, which may have been removed from the ballroom, to their original positions to provide sufficient seating. By attending to the compass in the mosaic hall—*only after* completing **Dr Malatesta's** experiment—the valet may encourage Master Bryce to join the others, after which Dina d'Latour will perform.

His heightened sensitivities, unfortunately, may prevent the master from fully appreciating Mrs d'Latour's vocal range. The valet should attend to Master Bryce continuously throughout the performance and address any complaints that might arise.

Should the master damage his spectacles, it may be necessary to lower the chandelier in the ballroom and snuff the candles (see **ACT II.1 • Repairing the crank** for guidance) to spare the master's eyes from excessive illumination.

An instrument with an extensive reach, such as a curtain-rod or a broom, may also be required to reach Master Bryce if he removes himself to an elevated position. Attend to the mattress in the master's bedroom to obtain sufficient 'cushioning,' if necessary.

(scene change)

- **Transporting the compass.** Attend to the compass in the mosaic hall to remove it from the pedestal. Attend to the window in the master's bedroom to reach the roof.

ACT II.2

- **Thwarting a burglary-in-progress.** By flicking the compass needle **NORTH, SOUTH, WEST,** or **EAST,** the valet may move Master Bryce across the rooftops of Wyatt Manor. Many architectural elements are unstable. With repeated impacts, the master may damage the architecture. The valet should slam Master Bryce willy-nilly in any direction, breaking as much architecture as possible, until the rooftops are littered with too many obstacles for a thief to navigate across the rubble. To the south, the rooftops terminate at the eaves, which should be avoided; but the west, east, and north are all viable directions to explore.

Epilogue

- **Attending to the compass.** As long as the valet still holds the compass, he should flick the needle in any direction. To finally set it aside, he should **QUIT**.