

Character: The Reigning Champ



A Killer Wave!

Written by Jared Mensinger
Copyright © 2017, 2021 Whodunnit Games

whodunnitgames.com

The Scene

Killer Wave Surfing Federation is a professional surfing organization that is about to culminate a wild season of competitions with its championship event in beautiful Maui! The season has had plenty of surprises, and a new favorite has emerged, threatening the three-time defending champion. However, the contest features many world-class surfers with their eyes on the prize. Winning the title means \$350,000 in cash, top promotional opportunities, and recognition as the face of the Killer Wave Surfing Federation. Performers, sponsors, coaches, and judges are all excited for the competition to begin, as the best of the best will have their finely-honed talents on full display on this incredible day of huge waves, amazing stunts, and—murder!

How to play

You are a character in a murder mystery game. Below you will see a detailed description of your character, followed by a brief description of the other characters in the game. Read through this information before the event so you have a basic concept of the different characters. Do not discuss any of your character's information or secrets with others who will be playing the game! You are encouraged to dress up in surfer or beach attire, and your individual character may give you particular ideas about how to dress. Upon arrival at the event, the host will give you a sheet that you will use during Act 1. He or she will also provide additional instruction at certain points and will be able to answer questions about the game. The sheet the host provides will contain one or more announcements that your character will make during Act 1, as well as indications of how to respond to other characters. While parts of the game follow an exact script, others do not, and you will have the freedom to interpret your character however you choose. Everyone has secrets and knowledge as well as objectives of their own, so the more you talk to the other guests, the more you will learn, and the more fun you will have.

Your Background

You are Loren, three-time defending champion of the Killer Wave Surfing Federation. Surfing is your life, and being the champion and promotional face of the Federation is a dream come true! It took years of intense effort and crushing defeats before you could call yourself a champion. At the end of each season, the Federation takes the top 48 competitors and divides them by ranking into four qualifying tournaments, of which the top three in each compete in the championship event in Maui. During your first two seasons, you didn't even qualify for the finale. You then spent several more seasons falling to the top athletes in the sport before finally breaking through. Your three consecutive championships have many calling you the greatest surfer in the Federation's long, illustrious history.

It hasn't been easy to stay on top. While you cruised to victory two years in a row, your record-setting third victory was difficult and controversial. Lee, the most seasoned competitor in the tournament, gave a career defining performance and had a tight grasp on first place. You went last and knew that surpassing Lee's score would be a challenge. Your performance was strong, though not your best. However, it was good enough that when you walked onto the beach to await your scores, you knew it would be very close. The announcing judge said that your score was ready but stopped before making the announcement, stating that another moment would

be needed. This was unusual, as you had never heard of the judges needing additional time after saying a score was ready. However, when the judge's voice came over the PA system several moments later, you were elated to discover you had bested Lee's score by half a point and were the first three-time champion in your sport! Lee and several of the commentators voiced their surprise at the result and wondered if your greater star power had influenced the judges. This was all sour grapes in your mind, and you reveled in the victory!

Throughout your time in the Federation, Cameron, your agent and coach, has been by your side, pushing you to be your very best. Cameron was a very successful surfer back in the day and has passed a wealth of knowledge onto you while the two of you have formed a strong friendship rooted in mutual respect.

The newest season hasn't been what you'd hoped for. Days before the season started, your fiancé of four years broke up with you. You took it very hard and have spent the season distracted. You've also frequently skipped practices, much to Cameron's dismay. To make matters worse, Quinn, a virtually unknown rookie last season, has shot up in the rankings to overtake you as the Federation's #1 seed. Quinn is considered the heavy favorite to win the upcoming championship tournament in Maui, and Lee, who you narrowly defeated in last year's championship, has outperformed you this season as well, leaving you with the current #3 ranking.

Seeing these two above you in the standings so close to the final tournament has helped you break out of the season-long stupor and intensify your training over the last few weeks. Quinn or Lee defeating you in the upcoming championship would be unimaginable! Not only would you lose the prestige and sponsors that come with being the reigning champion, but you would also no longer represent the Federation at numerous events. To make matters worse, Quinn is a hothead who has always been a poor sport, win or lose. After winning a recent championship qualifying tournament, Quinn made an offensive gesture toward Adrian, the owner and president of the Federation. This was presumably due to negative comments Adrian had made regarding Quinn's temper tantrum after last year's championship. Quinn was fined by the Federation for the gesture, and you know that Adrian strongly hopes Quinn does not become the new champion. You are intent on beating Quinn at all costs and retaining your title.

Days ago, Cameron, who always does a great job of scouting the competition, told you something very interesting. The surfer from this season's rookie class that has shown the most promise is Mason. Mason has tremendous ability and is currently ranked fourth going into the championship. Mason is also the only surfer outside of Quinn and Lee you believe stands a chance to beat you. Cameron did some checking into Mason's past competitive experience and learned that Mason is actually only 17. Federation regulations stipulate that all surfers must be at least 18 years of age. Mason clearly lied to enter the Federation a year early! You are conflicted about what to do with this information. You have never considered yourself to be a snitch, but on the other hand, the competition is already very stiff, and you are determined to come out on top!

The Federation

Loren – Three-time defending champion and the most marketable athlete in the history of Killer Wave Surfing Federation. Has had a down year and enters the Maui championship ranked third.

Cameron – Ex-professional surfer. Loren’s agent and coach.

Quinn – Emerged from relative obscurity to become this year’s heavy favorite entering the championship tournament. Has a reputation for being a poor sport and holding grudges.

Sam – Ex-professional surfer. Quinn’s older sibling and coach. Long-time friend of Cameron, though the relationship has suffered in recent times.

Lee – The most seasoned of the championship qualifiers. Was the runner-up last year despite having the best performance according to most analysts. Enters this year’s championship ranked second.

Adrian – Owner and president of Killer Wave Surfing Federation. Was critical of Quinn at last season’s championship after Quinn’s display of poor sportsmanship following a subpar performance.

Mason – The cream of the crop of this year’s rookie class. Enters the championship ranked fourth.

Reese – The lead judge. Decided in Loren’s favor during last year’s championship tournament even though most fans and analysts felt that Lee had the top performance.

Sydney – Vice-president of Killer Wave Surfing Federation. A Federation legend, having won two championships during a long, illustrious career.

Taylor – Tournament judge and amateur surfer. Longtime friend of Reese.

The Media

Alex – Reporter and commentator with Surf Sports Network. Has a good reputation with most administration members, a fact that comes in handy in getting interviews.

Chance – Sports journalist with Surf Hawaii Magazine. Not afraid to ask difficult questions even if doing so might rub some the wrong way.

Dakota – Correspondent for Ocean Sports News. Generally well-liked and affable.

Glen – Hard-nosed columnist with Hawaii Sports Unlimited. Firm believer that the people deserve to know. Frequently known to push interviewees if they are being evasive.

Jade – Interviewer with Surf Sports Network. Always on the lookout for drama.

Lennox – Killer Wave Surfing Federation color commentator. Possesses an energetic style along with multiple catchphrases that consistently delight the Killer Wave loyal fan base.

Payton – Reporter with Aqua Sports International. Cordial and amiable but quick to ask hard questions when warranted.

Ray – Hawaii Sun Times. One of the most respected people in professional surfing journalism.

Skye – Extreme Sports radio. Known more for radio broadcasts than in-field work but consistently covers the Maui championship in person.

Teagan – Killer Wave commentator. A fan of the limelight who can always be seen at the Federation's biggest events.