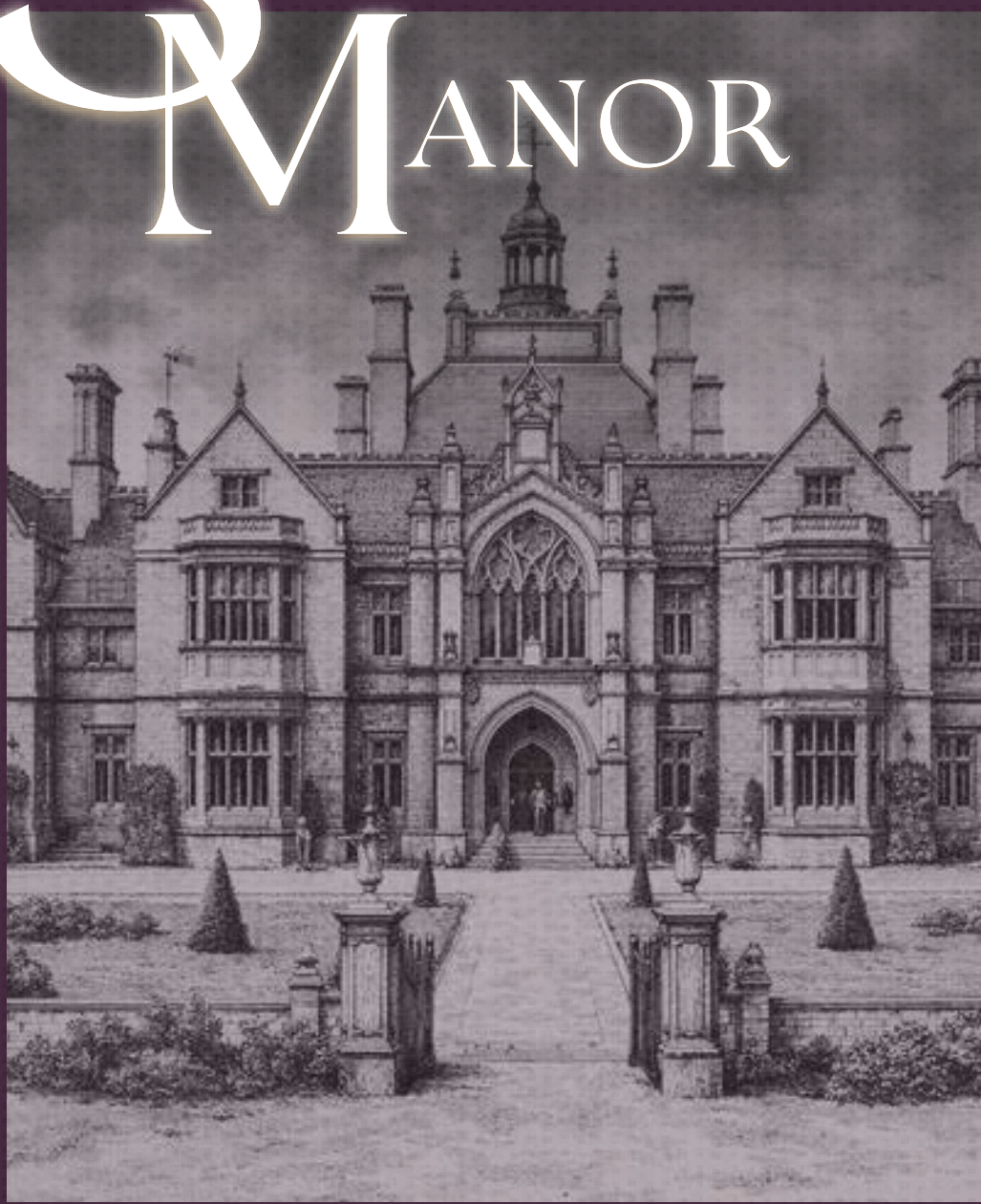


Issued by the Office of His Lordship, Lord Lucien MacArloch
For the Attention of All Incoming Household Staff

STRATHMUIR MANOR



STAFF INDUCTION &
HOUSEHOLD CONDUCT NOTICE

WELCOME TO STRATHMUIR MANOR

You have been selected for your discretion, your competence, and — above all else — your ability to go about your work as though you are not entirely certain you exist. This is not a metaphor. It is the first and most important qualification for service within these walls.

Basically, do not be seen or heard while performing your duties.

Strathmuir is not an ordinary house. You will notice this. As such, you are not to remark upon it.

What follows is a practical guide to the running of this household. Read it carefully. Commit it to memory. And should any of it cause you concern, we would respectfully suggest that concern is better directed toward finding alternative employment before you sign anything.

This document is issued upon engagement and constitutes part of your contractual obligations to Strathmuir Estates. Please read in full before signing the accompanying Non-Disclosure Agreement. Retain this copy for your personal reference.

01

GENERAL CONDUCT

Staff are to move through Strathmuir as though the house does not notice them. This is both a standard of professional excellence and, in this particular household, a matter of some personal safety.

You are here to maintain a jewel. Strathmuir Manor is one of the finest private residences on this continent, and it will be kept as such. Whatever else occurs within these walls — and things will occur — the silver will be polished, the floors will shine, and the atrium orchids will want for nothing.

His Lordship is rarely visible. He is, nonetheless, always present. Conduct yourself accordingly.

02

THE PORTRAIT GALLERY

The men in the portraits along the east hallway have eyes.

This is not a figure of speech.

Cleaning of the east gallery is conducted in pairs at all times. No exceptions. A rota will be posted each Monday. Should your name appear three weeks consecutively, you may raise the matter with Mr Kendall, who will listen with great patience and reassign you anyway.

Do not linger in the gallery. Dust the frames, do not meet the eyes, complete your work efficiently and leave. Historically, staff who have made a habit of pausing to study the portraits have not remained with us long. We make no claims as to why.

[Amendment — 1870: The addition of the MacArloch hunting scenes to the south corridor wall falls under the same protocol. The dogs in those paintings are also watching. We do not know why. We have stopped asking.]

03 THE CHANDELIERS

Strathmuir Manor is a very old house and is, consequently, subject to drafts.

When the chandeliers begin to swing — and they do swing — you are not to waste time attempting to locate the source of the draft. The draft cannot be found. Generations of staff before you have tried. It cannot be found because it is not, strictly speaking, a draft.

Step away from directly being found beneath the chandeliers. Allow the motion to cease of its own accord. Resume your work.

Should a chandelier swing in a room you did not enter, do not investigate.

Should a chandelier swing in a room you are currently alone in, please calmly collect your materials and move to an adjacent room. There is no cause for alarm. His Lordship is simply moving through the house.

04 THE BALLROOM

The ballroom is never locked.

It is also never — under any circumstances — to be entered after eight o'clock in the evening.

Miss Greta, who manages the daily operations of Strathmuir Estates on behalf of His Lordship, takes her private time in the ballroom at that hour. This time is hers. She is not to be disturbed, observed, or — and we cannot stress this with enough gravity — pitied.

Miss Greta was, in her younger years, a dancer of considerable and genuine talent. She remains a dancer of considerable and genuine talent. The walking stick is for the stairs. The ballroom is for something else entirely.

Should you accidentally witness anything, the NDA covers this. Re-read clause seven.

05 MR KENDALL

Mr Kendall is His Lordship's personal manservant, driver, household manager, and the authority to whom all staff report to, without exception.

When Mr Kendall asks something of you, it comes directly from His Lordship. You will not wonder how this communication occurs given that His Lordship is rarely seen.

You will simply do as Mr Kendall says.

Mr Kendall has served this household since a boy. He is possessed with undying loyalty to His Lordship.

What matters is that he knows every room, every habit, and every secret of this house — and he has chosen, every day, to stay.

Treat him accordingly.

And under no circumstances are you allowed to touch the coffee machine. Ever.

[Amendment — 1980: Following several incidents in which new staff attempted to conduct informal interviews with Mr Kendall regarding the nature of his long service, it is now formally stated: do not ask Mr Kendall his age. Do not ask how long he has worked here. He will not answer you. He will, however, remember that you asked.]



06 THE ATRIUM

The atrium — the glass-roofed garden room adjoining the east wing — is His Lordship's private sanctuary and the site of the family's breakfast hours.

Groundskeeping staff are reminded that mowing, trimming, and any mechanical garden work near the atrium walls is strictly prohibited between the hours of seven and ten in the morning. The atrium is to remain undisturbed.

You will not peer through the glass. You will not pause beside it. You will not attempt to glimpse His Lordship through the orchids.

Over the years, several staff members have attempted to catch sight of him. We have yet to receive a satisfactory description. But do know it is instant dismissal if caught.

Again, a reminder that our job is to never be seen or heard. Just His Lordship takes this literally as an outstanding example of such an exercise.

[Amendment — 2026: Following the arrival of the new library cataloguer and certain events thereafter, restrictions to the atrium have been temporarily expanded. Mr Kendall will advise individually. If you have been told nothing, you are fine. If Mr Kendall has spoken to you directly on this matter, please re-read your NDA in full and contact the estate solicitor if you have any other queries.]

07 THE NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

You have been, or will shortly be, asked to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement as a condition of your employment at Strathmuir Manor and the estate.

This agreement is comprehensive. It covers: the appearance and habits of His Lordship; the nature of the chandeliers; the contents of the east gallery; the hallways; the library; and anything you may observe in or near the ballroom; the matter of the drafts; and anything else you witness, hear, sense, or cannot quite explain but feel certain occurred.

You will be compensated generously. Your confidentiality is the price.

Strathmuir Manor employs the finest staff in the county, pays well above the market rate, and has not had a formal complaint lodged against it since 1893 — and that complainant later withdrew their statement voluntarily, which Mr Kendall assures us had nothing to do with him as it was well before his time in employ.

Strathmuir Estates are a good employer. We ask only that you do your work, keep your counsel, and remember that in a house this old, the walls have heard everything.

So, in all likelihood, has His Lordship.

***On behalf of Strathmuir Estates, Mr Kendall —
Household Manager, in service to Lord Lucien MacArloch***



YOUR EMPLOYER

Strathmuir Manor remains, as it has always been, a private residence. It is not open to the public - except for the Bi-Annual Open-Day event.

It is not haunted — this is the official position of Strathmuir Estates and we are committed to it. The MacArloch family thanks you for your service and your silence.

This document was first issued: 1756

Amended: 1870 — following the addition of the new portraits in the hallway and the establishment of the first formal NDA clause

Amended: 1980 — following the Kendall inquiry incident and the revision of guest wing protocols

Amended: 2026 — following recent events. Mr Kendall will know what this means. New staff need not concern themselves over the librarian.

YOU'VE MET THE CHARACTERS

You now know the house rules.

You know what happens to those who don't follow them.

What you don't know yet — is *her*.

FORGET FOREVER is where a small-town librarian stumbles through Strathmuir Manor's doors and changes everything...



Found Here >>