

Arsenic & Lies

safety cards

Books, films and TV shows set in the same period as Arsenic & Lies sometimes include themes which might be disturbing for some people. In a larp, such themes might be even more affecting – in a way, you would be experiencing them more directly – so it is very important to steer clear of subjects that might upset the players.

The next page contains cards with a list of potentially triggering topics. You can print and cut them out and use to calibrate the tone of the game before playing so that everyone is comfortable playing it. This is just one option of doing that – if you know your group very well, you may choose to simply have an open discussion, but for most groups anonymising the process using these cards proved to be a good idea.

Distribute the cards to the players before the workshop, give everyone a minute to cross out the topics they would like to avoid, then collect them without looking and shuffle. You can then create a list of topics which have been crossed out and ask all the players to avoid these subjects in the game. Also, remove from the game any cards which reference any crossed-out topic.

Remember that the setting of the game is yours to change and tweak in whatever way would be more fun for your group. E.g. crossing out “sexism in society” (and analogously racism, homophobia or transphobia) from the card would mean playing in a world which is similar to 1920s in everything except for the contemporary attitude to women. You would then play in a world where it is perfectly normal for women to be politicians, professors, doctors, inherit titles etc. On the other hand, crossing out “roleplayed sexism”, but not “sexism in society” would mean keeping the setting closer to the historical one in that aspect, but deciding that none of the characters will be sexist or make any sexist remarks during the game.

Please cross out the themes you want absent from the game:

- ❖ ~~Sexual abuse~~
- ❖ Abortion
- ❖ Pregnancy
- ❖ Miscarriage
- ❖ Infertility
- ❖ Mental illness
- ❖ Addiction
- ❖ Infidelity
- ❖ PTSD
- ❖ Other:
- ❖ Domestic violence
- ❖ Roleplayed sexism
- ❖ Sexism in society
- ❖ Roleplayed homophobia
- ❖ Homophobia in society
- ❖ Roleplayed racism
- ❖ Racism in society
- ❖ Roleplayed transphobia
- ❖ Transphobia in society
- ❖ Terminal illness

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- ❖ Sexism in society
- ❖ Roleplayed homophobia
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