

MURDER MYSTERY

A collage of items related to a murder mystery party. At the top left is a wine glass filled with red wine. In the center is a black banner with the word 'PARTY' in white. Below the banner is a folding knife with a silver handle and a sharp blade. To the right of the knife is a black glove. At the bottom is a dark, quilted jacket. The background is a wooden surface with some white powder scattered on it.

PARTY

The Icicle Twist
Party Planner



PARTY INSTRUCTIONS

Are you ready to solve a murder? A murder which you or one of your guests committed? A murder which the local police could not solve? NO. You are not ready yet. Murder Mystery Parties are designed to provide an evening of entertainment, but some preparations must be made before the guests arrive.

What are Murder Mystery Parties?

Murder Mystery Parties remove people from the toils and troubles of everyday life and immerse them in a new world of suspense and intrigue. Each player is a suspect in a fictitious murder, and each player is a detective trying to solve the murder. As host, you must make the murder and the subsequent investigation as lifelike as possible.

PLANNING THE PARTY

Invitations

Each game includes invitations for each participant. Call your guests and confirm that they will be attending. Assign a role to each participant including yourself. Then mail or deliver the invitations at least five days before the scheduled party. It is important that guests have sufficient time to get to know their character.

Extra Guests

Don't worry if extra guests drop by the party. Although they will not have a Character Booklet or a defined role, they can still be included and help the group solve the murder by questioning the suspects throughout the evening.

Game Contents

Each party includes the following materials:

- Invitations and Envelopes
- Place Cards for each player
- Evidence/Police Report
- Character Booklet for each player
- Compact Disc (optional)
- Authors' Solution



Party Preparation

The Character Booklets provide all of the basic information for your guests to play their characters and solve the murder. It is your job as host or hostess to create an atmosphere of spontaneity. Costumes can help encourage people to improvise and develop their roles. A good Australian Ale, a fine European wine or a bottle of Henry Weinhard's Private Reserve may help guests relax and enrich the "party" atmosphere.

Beginning the Party

The party begins by handing a Character Booklet to each guest. Be sure to hand each guest the Booklet with the appropriate character name. Instruct each guest to keep the Booklet closed until instructed to open. Complete the following steps:

- 1) Instruct each guest to read the inside cover marked **Background**. (This is the only clue which should be read at this time.)
- 2) Play the enclosed **Recording**. The recording is intended as a means of setting the scene for the murder. It does not include any additional clues or facts. If you do not have a CD player available, simply proceed to the next step.
- 3) Rules: At this time, read the rules.
- 4) Evidence: Read the **Police Report** to all guests. This should then be placed in a central location where everyone can refer to it as needed.
- 5) Introductions: Starting with yourself, have each guest introduce him/herself to the group. Remind everyone that his/her background sheet includes public information and private information. Each player should only reveal the information which he/she is required to reveal at this time.
- 6) Chapter One: The party is divided into several different chapters. Each chapter has information about other guests that must be revealed to the group during the chapter round. Instruct guests to read Chapter One from their Character Booklets following the introductions.
- 7) Ending Chapter One: Once everyone has revealed his/her information from Chapter One, it is time to move on to Chapter Two.
- 8) Chapter Two: Instruct guests to return to their Character Booklets and read Chapter Two.

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Chapter Two information should be read and revealed in the same manner as Chapter One. If some guests are getting squeamish as the evidence mounts against them, you may want to have a short break for nose powdering and drink refreshing. As host or hostess, you must use your judgment.

9) Solving the Murder: Following the final chapter, all evidence and clues will have been revealed. Each guest then makes his/her accusation. Accusations should include who committed the murder, why they committed the murder and how they committed the murder.

10) Authors' Solution: The authors' solution can now be read aloud.

11) The party is over.

MURDER MYSTERY PARTY

RULES OF PLAY

General: Murder Mystery Parties date back to the parlour games of medieval Europe. Guests assume their roles and stay in character through the party in an attempt to solve the murder. All guests have motives and all guests have hidden pasts. Work with those present to solve the murder. Protect each other if necessary, but remember at all times that one of you is a murderer. It may even be your host.

1. Players are to maintain their roles throughout the evening.
2. All players must answer questions truthfully. However, in answering, you are not required to provide any more information than asked.
3. The murderer is also a liar and is not required to give truthful answers.
4. You are not required to reveal the "secret information" in your background information unless asked by another player.
5. Chapters end when all guests have revealed their clue information for that chapter.
6. Never reveal the information for a new clue until instructed by the host or hostess.
7. Accusations are made at the conclusion of the final chapter.
8. Pens and paper can be provided by the host if needed.

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PARTY SUGGESTIONS

You can recreate the feeling of a ski condo by setting out ski and winter apparel. Skis, boots, poles, mittens, winter jackets and scarves will help enhance the mood. A fire in the fireplace would be ideal (wood incense will do the trick in the summertime!).

Prepare shaved ice before your guests arrive; when they come in, sprinkle some ice (snow flakes) on their head. You can make ski lift tickets with paper clips and mailing labels -- clip them to your guests as they arrive. Also, have an area where guests can put their wet boots and shoes when they enter.

Menu Suggestions

Michael Maitland ended up hosting more than just a dinner party at his Cottonwood condominium. The buffet table served a variety of courses to warm up the winter evening, but no dish was as hot as the main course of murder! To help you re-create that chilly night in Cottonwood, we've collected some cold weather recipes for your buffet. As always, we recommend a menu that you can prepare ahead of time so that you can enjoy the party and help solve the murder!

Hors d'oeuvres

Snow Capped Stuffed Mushrooms

- 1 lb fresh mushrooms
- 4 slices bacon, diced
- 3/4 cup chopped onion
- 2 Tbsp minced green bell pepper
- 1 tsp salt
- Dash freshly ground pepper
- 3 oz cream cheese, softened

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Remove stems from mushrooms and chop stems. Sauté bacon until partially cooked. Add onions, bell pepper, salt, pepper and stems. Cook until tender; cool. Remove to bowl; add cream cheese and mix well. Press into mushroom caps, mounding slightly. Place in jellyroll pan; add 1/4 cup hot water to bottom of pan and bake 20 minutes.

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Main Course

Spicy Colorado Chili

- 2 Tbsp salad oil
- 1 1/2 lbs lean ground beef
- 3/4 cup chopped onion
- 1-2 large garlic cloves
- 1 8-oz can tomatoes
- 1 can tomato paste
- 2-3 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 Tbsp flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- Dash of pepper
- 1 16-oz can red kidney beans

Accompaniments: Shredded cheddar cheese, minced shredded iceberg lettuce, diced avocados, minced onions, chopped green pepper.

Heat oil in skillet. Mince onions and garlic cook until yellow. Add ground beef and dry ingredients. Cook until meat is browned. Drain kidney beans. Add beans, tomatoes and paste to skillet. Cover and simmer for 1 hour. Serve in soup bowls with accompaniments.

Cottonwood Cornbread

- 1 cup cornmeal
- 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 Tbsp shortening, melted
- 7 1/2 oz canned creamed corn

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

In medium bowl, combine dry ingredients. Add egg, buttermilk, creamed corn and 1 tablespoon shortening to mixed dry ingredients. Heat rest of shortening in 10" iron skillet over high heat. Pour batter into skillet and bake in oven for 18 to 20 minutes. Check after 15 minutes. If corn bread is not brown on top, turn it over in pan for the last 3 minutes of baking time.

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Desserts

Roasted Marshmallows

Popcorn

S'mores (Melted chocolate and marshmallows on graham crackers)

Drinks

Hot Spiked Cider

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 gallon apple cider
- 1 1/2 tsp whole allspice
- 1 1/2 tsp whole cloves
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 1/8 tsp nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1/2 cup apple brandy (optional)
- Orange or lemon slices

In large pot, combine brown sugar and cider. Tie spices in cheese cloth and add to cider. Slowly bring to boil. Lower heat; cover and simmer 20 minutes. Add brandy; pour into cups and garnish with orange or lemon slices.

Irish Mocha Coffee

- 1 Tbsp unsweetened cocoa
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 3 Tbsp whipping cream
- 5 cups brewed coffee
- 1/4 cup Kahlua (optional)
- 1 cup Bailey's Irish Cream (optional)

Combine cocoa, sugar and cream in saucepan over medium heat. Add coffee and heat through. Stir in Kahlua and Irish Cream; heat until hot (do not boil). Pour into cups and serve immediately.

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DISCLAIMER

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Chili recipe courtesy of Nancy Lees.

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