

Cross Your Heart and Hope to Die? A Host-Party Murder Mystery Game



Game Materials



Distribute to all Cast Members

Cross Your Heart and Hope to Die?

Created By Host-Party.com and Elspeth Antonelli

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Notes From Author

Thank you for downloading a sample of this game. This is an abbreviated sample of the full game kit available for purchase. This sample should give you a basic understanding of the game and how it is played. If you have any questions, check out our Frequently Asked Questions: http://www.host-party.com/murdermysterygame_faqs.asp.

Host Preparation

Here are a few tips to help you prepare yourself and your cast for the murder mystery.

Read the Guide on How to Host a Host-Party Murder Mystery. This guide will give you all the specifics on preparing for and hosting your party. This guide should have been emailed to you upon purchase. It is also available from the Materials menu on the Host-Party website.

Send Script. You will want to distribute this document to the cast at least one week in advance of the production. The easiest way to do this is to use the 'Send Materials to Cast' option in the Communications menu on the Host-Party website.

Schedule a time to get together with the cast members before the production. Use this time to talk through the script, discuss the sequence, rehearse some of the scenes, and get a feel for the character dynamics. This can be done just prior to the performance, but it is better if you meet a few days before so you have time for adjustments.

Create a Backstage area. It is a good idea to mark a room or area off limits to the Detectives as your backstage area. Use this area to store props and keep copies of the script on hand. The cast members can retreat there between rounds or whenever they feel the need to consult the script.

Cast Instructions

A Host-Party.com large group murder mystery is performed like a dinner theater production. There is a set of cast members who are the primary suspects. They will have full knowledge of the script, which means they'll know whodunit. The rest of the guests will take on the role of detective or as a team of detectives and it will be their job to solve the case. The performance usually lasts about 2 hours long but you can make it shorter by tightening up the sequence of events or longer by allowing more time between the rounds.

Cast members should review this script in advance. They are not required to memorize the dialogue word for word, but they should be familiar with the sequence of events and the gist of their lines. Each cast member will have to carry out certain actions (like arguments) and suspicious activities to set themselves up as primary suspects.

Here are a few suggestions for cast members:

Carry a Cheat sheet. Print a copy of the cheat sheet, at the end of this document and keep it with you during the production. That way, you can refer to it throughout the production to make sure you stay synchronized with the other cast members.

Don't memorize the lines in the script. The script is intended to give you a guide of the dialog. Improvisation is encouraged.

RELAX. You will likely be nervous and want to rush the sequence of events, but DON'T. Force yourself to slow down to let the scene unfold.

Synchronize your watches. Timing is an important element of our large group mysteries. Make sure the cast members are working off the same time. The script will denote timing throughout. 0:00 hour in the script is whatever time you start. You may wish to reset your watch to 12:00 at the start of the show. That way, you're literally at the zero hour and can easily figure out the time from there. For instance, if you begin the performance at 5:20, you may wish to reset your watch to 12:00 to align your watch with the script timing.

Guest Instructions

This murder mystery is played like a dinner theatre and you have two groups - the cast who will act out the mystery and the other guests who will watch the mystery and attempt to solve it. All the 'audience' needs to do is pay attention to the mystery as all the necessary clues are there.

Watch who talks to whom and who doesn't talk to whom. Does anyone leave the 'room' for a suspicious amount of time? Things like this will help you solve the mystery.

Although there is a mystery, the main thing is to just have fun. As the 'audience' it is up to you whether or not you dress in the theme, but it's more fun for everyone if you do. It's also up to each 'audience' guest whether or not they wish to create a character of their own who is watching the mystery. For instance, perhaps you are a member of the graduating class, or a member of the faculty of Fairfield High. It's really up to you! This mystery takes place in 1959 - the time of "Grease" or "Happy Days" - so here's your chance to wear a letter-sweater, or bobby-socks or grease your hair and wear a leather coat! Just listen and watch (any maybe write down some notes) the clues are all there - waiting to be discovered so you can unlock the mystery.

During the party, you will have the opportunity to ask questions about each character and about clues they have received in the dialogue. As the show progresses, you will gather more and more information and at the end of the allotted time you will need to sift through fact and fiction to decide who is the murderer.

How to Read the Script

The script is broken into rounds. The rounds will allow you to pace the sequence of clues to ensure that the overall length of the mystery is not too long or too short. It is a common practice to break between rounds and to return 'backstage' to prepare for the next round.

Timing is noted in parenthesis (0:00) as the hours and minutes that should have passed since the beginning of the performance.

Bolded Red Text indicates events critical to the progression of the mystery. These lines will often reveal key elements required to crack the case. Be sure that the detectives are paying attention when you act out these segments. Bolded items are included on the cheat sheet.

Round 1 - Introduction

Round Instructions

This mystery works like a dinner theatre. It is a good idea to have a central playing area which can be seen from all over the room. If you are serving cocktails or appetizers, serve them before the mystery begins. When everyone looks ready, talk to your guests from this central playing area right before the mystery begins and tell them that the mystery will be acted out in front of them. It is a good idea to supply guests with paper and pencils so that they can write down clues if they want to. Let them know also that there will be opportunities to ask the 'suspects' questions half way through the mystery and at the end. Decorating the whole room will add to the fun and the atmosphere of the evening.

The setting is the banquet room for the prom of 1959. A big banner is hanging saying "Good Luck Fairfield High Graduates of 1959". The theme of the prom is "Some Enchanted Evening" with appropriate decorations. Small white lights are hanging. White balloons are hung, some still on tables. On one side there is a long clothed table with a punch bowl with glasses and a few plates of cookies, chips and other munchies. There are a number of chairs scattered around the playing area. The prom has not yet begun. The scene begins as Karen and Connie enter.

General Clue (Share with all Guests)

TO BE READ OUT LOUD RIGHT BEFORE THE MYSTERY BEGINS:

Good evening, everyone and welcome to Fairfield High's prom night in 1959! Tonight you will see a mystery acted out in front of and around you. Take notes about each character and their relationships to each other! Watch who likes who. Find out who doesn't like who! You will have 2 opportunities to ask each suspect any questions you like...the only question you CAN'T ask is "Did you kill so and so?"

Think of yourselves as either other members of the graduating class, or members of the school's faculty. Have fun! Watch carefully! Someone you are about to meet will never make it to graduation.

Round 1 Script

Karen Carter (00:01): (looking around as she enters) Oh, look!

Connie Jefferson (00:02): Isn't it lovely? It's just Fat City!

Karen Carter (00:03): They've done a really good job, haven't they?

Connie Jefferson (00:04): Yes. (noticing the balloons) Oh, they haven't finished decorating it yet.

Karen Carter (00:05): I told everyone that it was supposed to be finished this afternoon.

Character Information

The information below will provide you with the basic information for each cast member. This will provide your cast with a good understanding of the characters and their motives. This sample kit will only show the first three characters.

Karen Carter (head cheerleader and prom queen) played by Hannah

Description: Everything in life has come easily for Karen. She's one of the most popular girls in school, she's head cheerleader and she has a dreamy boyfriend! But, what about after high school? She wants to be with Ken forever, but he's going off to university. Nobody leaves Karen!

Motive: Karen is extremely jealous of anyone else being the center of attention. She is also very possessive of Ken. She expects to marry him and refuses to pay attention when he tells her that he's not interested. Karen's motive is one of jealousy. If she can't have Ken then no one ever will.



Karen Carter (head cheerleader and prom queen)

Description: Everything in life has come easily for Karen. She's one of the most popular girls in school, she's head cheerleader and she has a dreamy boyfriend! But, what about after high school? She wants to be with Ken forever, but he's going off to university. Nobody leaves Karen!

Motive: Karen is extremely jealous of anyone else being the center of attention. She is also very possessive of Ken. She expects to marry him and refuses to pay attention when he tells her that he's not interested. Karen's motive is one of jealousy. If she can't have Ken then no one ever will.



Suggested Recipes

Recipes are provided in the purchased game kit.

Other Games From Host-Party.com

Below is a list of other games available from Host-Party.com.

A Rockin' Hot Tub Murder

A classic style murder mystery game for 8 to 12 players set in the present. Ideal for playing around a hot tub or pool or for a summer barbecue. It's electrifyin'.

A Broken Heart Murder on Valentine's Day

"A Broken Heart Murder" is a simple to use murder mystery for 8-14 people. It's a great way to move a party, have lots of fun and entertain your guests. How exciting to celebrate with the trivia and dancing that is included, and of course a murder! Everyone is a suspect, so come join the fun!

A Devilish Masquerade

A non-murder mystery game for at least 5 teens. A great choice as a Halloween party for teens, can be expanded to include an unlimited number of characters. A brief appearance by an adult hostess is built into the game to help set the scene.

A Holiday Murder

This holiday murder mystery game for 8-14 party guests is a great way to move a party, have lots of fun and entertain your guests! Set in the era of the 70s & 80s, it includes trivia, dancing and of course, a murder! Come join the fun!

A Knight's Quest

King Arthur is dying. The Knight's of the Round Table have been called together. They are to be sent on 4 quests with the final goal of finding the Holy Grail, a magic cup that will heal the King. However, Mordred and his band of evil knights will be doing everything they can to stop the Knights of the Round Table from helping the King.

A Lethal Luau

This simple to use adult murder mystery for 10-15+ people is a great way to have lots of fun with your guests! So don your colorful Island attire and prepare for an exciting evening that spikes up a murder!

A Licence To Murder

The party is being held at Funnymunny's Health Spa to celebrate the wedding of top secret agent James Bland, and you are invited to attend. A murder mystery game for 8 to 12 players set in the world of secret agents and mad megalomaniacs.

A License To Murder

A murder mystery game for 8 to 12 players set in the world of secret agents and mad megalomaniacs.

A Medieval Murder

This is a simple to use, entertaining and innuendo packed murder mystery appropriate for both first timers and regular players. The scripted dialogue enhances the rounds, and the mystery combines the fun of a medieval night with a murder most horrid!

A Mediterranean Murder

A Mediterranean Murder is a simple to use, entertaining Murder Mystery appropriate for both first timers and regular players. Ideal for Murder Mystery fanatics who want just that little bit more complexity in their game.