Death of a Volunteer (USA)
A Host-Party Game

Game Materials

Distribute to all Cast Members
Death of a Volunteer (USA)

Created By Host-Party.com and Nora Louise Syran

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ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

- Paul E Tischan's Ration Book
- Walter's Note
- Blackmail Letter
- Marguerite's Letter to George
- It's 1944! QUIZ
- Round One Script
- Round Two Script
- Round Four Script
- The Spectator
- Round Three Script

These materials are available for download on our site. Login at www.hostparty.com and go to Materials page.
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 support site: http://support.host-party.com
Host Preparation

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

Read the Guide on How to Host a Host-Party. 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 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

The "Death of a Volunteer" game is intended to be an entertaining murder mystery. This large group format involves a cast of 8 characters who will act out fully scripted scenes before you, the guest. As a member of the audience, you will try to solve the mystery.

Please show up in costume.

Please listen carefully; there will be moments (like during intervals and music clips) where you can discuss the clues with other guests.

Please have a great time.
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 - The Pre-Murder Round

Round Instructions

This opening round will give your guests a chance to get to know the principal characters as well as allow the cast to “warm up” for the scenes to follow.

This round should last as long as necessary ~50-60 minutes.

As the guests enter, the members of the cast are to be in character. Inspector Flic is to arrive later, if possible. He could be present throughout, but remain one of the crowd. Everyone is to mingle. The cast is to engage in conversations with the guests and improvise the following dialogue adding details as long as they fit the character/story. There is no need to memorize the dialogue, but they should reveal all of the information included at some point or another, before as many guests as possible. Move from group to group and repeat the information/clues. Be sure to follow the instructions carefully, what the cast does is just as important as what they say…

Optional: Guests could play "It's 1944." Either individually or in teams. Raise hands to answer or fill in secret ballots.

After the improvisation, there is a short scripted scene which must be played out for all guests to see/hear. The scene begins and ends with the Andrew’s Sisters singing “Bei Mir Bist Du Schon” or Vera Lynn or Marlene Dietrich singing “Lili Marlene.” Marlene De Trique could exclaim how much she likes either song. If the Andrews Sisters song is played, Walter might ask whose side the Andrews Sisters were on when they recorded this song!? 

Once the scripted scene is complete, allow a few minutes for the guests to finish talking, find their seats, eat one last dessert etc. before starting the ceremony.
Round 1 Script

Marlene De Trique (00:01): SAMPLE DIALOGUE FROM THE PRE-MURDER ROUND

(To announce the start of the scene, the Song “Lili Marlene” is to play for at least 30 seconds before they speak. Fade out…)

MARLENE Oh, I just adore this song. It’s so much better though, in German, don’t you think?

CHARLOTTE I wouldn’t know… I don’t speak German. But Walter does.

WALTER I don’t speak German.

SAMANTHA I thought you told me you did? Weren’t you in Germany during the war?

WALTER Yes.

CHARLOTTE (flippantly) Ah, but the question is which war?

SAMANTHA The war is still on, in case you’d forgotten.

CHARLOTTE Oh, I haven’t forgotten. There’s nothing wrong with my memory.

MARLENE Ah, Germany… such memories…

WALTER I’m afraid I don’t have fond memories of the place…

CHARLOTTE Didn’t you say your family came over before the war?

MARLENE After the war...
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.

Samantha Heriton (The Nurse ) played by Sharron Oakes

**Description:** Samantha, Sam for short, is a trained nurse who volunteers at the veteran's hospital. She's a mystery to the men she cares for; while she is patient and kind, everything that could be called good to come out this war, she is as stiff as the starch in her neat white cap.

**Motive:** Sam had two reasons to hate the loose-lipped journalist. Sam has seen too many young boys die because they were inspired to go to war by the posters Lotta created. Also, Sam was married to a soldier. He was sent on leave and Sam never saw him again. Someone somewhere talked about the location of his ship and it was blown out of the water. Could that someone have been Lotta Gaffe?

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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 Cereal Killer?
This simple to use non-murder mystery for 6-12 people is a great way to entertain your family and friends. Ideal for young teen or pre-teen girls, this game would be great fun at a birthday party or sleep-over.

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 Fatal Fairy Tale
Goldilocks has been murdered and Mr. Holmes has a new mystery to unravel. Which famous literary character is responsible? This game is dedicated to everyone who played "Deadly Ever After" and asked me to write another.

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.