

SAMPLE GAME MATERIALS

HOLIDAY MYSTERY GAME FOR AGES 13 AND UP. 8-12 PLAYERS WITH AN OPTIONAL EXPANDABLE TEAM

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SYNOPSIS

Attention, citizens of Holly Hills! Save the date, mark your calendars, and jingle those bells—the annual Snowflake Manor Tacky Sweater Party is almost here! This festive bash honors our reigning Christmas Queen, Martha May Bells, who's jingled her way to the crown for the eighth year in a row! She's the shining star of Holly Hills, and her home on Jolly Street in Sugarplum Point is lit up like Rudolph's nose with decorations from around the world! This year's celebration will deck the halls of the stunning Silver Bells Ballroom at Snowflake Manor. The famous Holly Hills silver bells will be displayed for all to admire. Guests will be dashing through the halls in their tacky sweater best, enjoying delightful company, delicious festive treats, and entertainment that'll have you rockin' around the Christmas tree! So, pull out your merriest, most over-the-top sweater and get ready to share some jing-jangling Christmas cheer.

HOST CHARACTER LIST

12 characters total – 8 required and 4 optional (5 F, 3 FLEX, 4 M)

All optional players are optional to gameplay but have the same type of materials and are suspects in the mystery.

One character (🌟Clark Griswall) may be played solo or with an optional team of up to 25+ non-suspect players (the Griswall family). There is an additional file to download on your account for this optional team.

ASSIGNED TO:	CHARACTER	BRIEF BIO	COSTUME SUGGESTIONS
	MARTHA MAY BELLS <i>Heiress</i> REQUIRED - female	Martha May is an heiress who is used to getting what she wants—except for her secret childhood crush. A master of eavesdropping, Martha May is best avoided if you have skeletons in your closet. She often annoys the neighbors during the holiday season with her ultra-competitive Christmas décor.	<i>Tacky but elegant Christmas sweater. Hair in an outrageous Christmas-inspired updo.</i>
	CAROL KNIGHT <i>Manicurist</i> REQUIRED - female	Carol is one of the friendliest people in town. She knows nearly everyone in Holly Hills through her client list as a manicurist. However, the holiday season can be stressful, especially when her eccentric brother comes to visit.	<i>Tacky sweater. Even tackier Christmas accessories to go with your sweater.</i>
	SAM MANGER <i>Dog Groomer</i> REQUIRED - flex	Sam is an enthusiastic and obnoxious dog groomer at <i>Manger Mutt Cuts</i> . Sam, an animal lover, takes excellent care of pets, but the grooming ideas have become less popular. The latest creation, the box cut, has left Holly Hills' poodles hiding until their hair grows back.	<i>Tacky sweater. Print off pictures of ridiculous dog grooming cuts to bring with you as your portfolio (optional).</i>
	EDDIE EVERGREEN <i>Baker</i> REQUIRED - flex	Eddie is a brash baker at <i>Cousin Eddie's Cookies</i> , living unapologetically and without concern for judgments. Known as 3C (Crass, Cluttered, and Chaotic), this baking artisan's unique personality is infamous in Holly Hills.	<i>Tacky sweater. Spatula or whisk and chef's hat are optional accessories.</i>
	GINGER STARRY <i>Display Design Manager</i> REQUIRED - female	Ginger is a spirited display designer at <i>Nogstrum's Department Store</i> . She's renowned for her outlandish tree designs and stunning holiday décor, which lights up the store every season.	<i>Tacky sweater. Very over-the-top Christmas accessories.</i>
	FARRAH FROST <i>Ballerina</i> REQUIRED - female	Farah plays the role of The Sugarplum Fairy at <i>Decking Halls Playhouse</i> . A beautiful ballerina, she also teaches private lessons to children in the offseason. Farrah is always on her toes during the holidays, balancing rehearsals and performances.	<i>Tacky sweater. Ballet shoes & fairy wings are optional accessories.</i>
	ROXY RUDOLPH <i>Olympic Ice Dancer</i> REQUIRED - female	Roxy is a mysterious figure in Holly Hills. She's a retired Olympic and U.S. National Champion ice dancer who wishes to take on life at a much slower pace. She plans to open an eggnog shop on Winter Street next to <i>Cousin Eddie's Cookies</i> .	<i>Tacky sweater. Silver medal as an optional prop.</i>

	<p>SCUT FURKUS Candy Store Owner</p> <p>REQUIRED - flex</p>	<p>Once the infamous bully of the Sugarplum Point subdivision, Scut changed course after inheriting a grandfather's candy store and facing protests from the townspeople. Scut's transformation has surprised many, now known as one of the kindest figures in Holly Hills.</p>	<p><i>Tacky sweater. Coonskin cap as an optional accessory.</i></p>
	<p>RALPHIE CHESTNUT Train Conductor</p> <p>Optional male</p>	<p>Ralphie, a North Pole Express train conductor, is a natural comedian known for entertaining passengers with jokes and stories. His locally famous tale involves a Christmas BB gun mishap where he nearly shot himself in the eye on his first pull of the trigger!</p>	<p><i>Tacky sweater. Glasses as an accessory.</i></p>
	<p>KEVIN MCALLISTER Unemployed</p> <p>Optional male</p>	<p>Kevin is thirty-something and still living at home due to a childhood incident. Accidentally left alone on Christmas Day, he was forced to defend the house against burglars. The holiday season makes him anxious, and he is unsure if he can ever get into the true spirit of Christmas again.</p>	<p><i>Tacky sweater.</i></p>
	<p>HOWIE LANGSTON Mattress Salesman</p> <p>Optional male</p>	<p>Howie, a devoted father and busy mattress salesman, will go to great lengths to find the perfect Christmas present for his son. Howie is at his wit's end this year, searching for the elusive Supersonic Man doll.</p>	<p><i>Tacky sweater.</i></p>
	<p>* CLARK GRISWALL Inventor</p> <p>Optional male</p>	<p>Clark is a traditional family man and struggling inventor, willing to do anything to make his family happy. Unfortunately, Clark is known for getting into trouble and making questionable choices.</p> <p>* This player can lead an optional team of up to 25+ members of the Griswall family – these are duplicate, non-suspect roles but have the same type of materials as everyone else. Make a copy of the Griswall Family file (another download on your account) for each member of the team.</p>	<p><i>Tacky sweater.</i></p>

HOW TO HOST A LARGE PARTY:

- Main game (purchased separately) - 12 suspects
 - Griswall fam – up to 25+ duplicated, non-suspect team players
- Expansion pack #1 (purchased separately) – 12 suspects
 - Hermey's department store elves – up to 25+ duplicated, non-suspect team players

24 SUSPECT ROLES AND 2 TEAMS OF 25+ ARE AVAILABLE. YOU CAN COVER A GROUP OF 74+ PLAYERS

DOWNLOAD VERSION:

TABLE OF CONTENTS – PRINTABLE FILE FOR THE MAIN GAME

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MYSTERY INVESTIGATION WORKSHEETS Note: print only the number of sheets you need.	24-35

The table of contents for the printable file above shows how many pages the download version requires to print.

The example materials in this file show you the download version's format. With your purchase, you will have a host instruction file, a printable file, and a solution file to download. The optional invitation will also be available for you to download, but it's available on the game page before purchase, as well. You also will have a Griswall expandable team file as a download.

Host instruction file's table of contents (this doesn't need to be printed, and there are no spoilers in the host instruction file):

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOST CHARACTER LIST	2
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ROUND TWO ANNOUNCEMENT #1 <i>(Announces the crime.)</i>	10
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BOXED (PARTY PACK) VERSION:

If you purchase the party pack, the clue cards will be prepared on double-sided, foldable, traditional, detective-themed parchment-style paper.

You will have 4 envelope colors for each round (most likely they will be ivory, tan, green, red) labeled with the character's name for that round. The rounds are bundled together with a card insert noting the round.

The name tags are printed on adhesive, peelable tags.

You'll receive a guest list, a host instruction booklet, the forensic report in a labeled envelope, the Snowflake Manor's layout diagram, a printable pair of Silver Bells with a sign, an answer key in an envelope, investigation cards for each player, and the guest list worksheet.



This chart will describe the differences between the two versions:

<https://www.mymysteryparty.com/content/INSTANT%20DOWNLOADS%20VS%202019.pdf>

And this video will show you an example of a party pack:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7cXFXc18R8>

PROPOSED TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Put your time(s) in the blanks so you can use this during your party.

- ____ **0:00 hrs. Guests arrive.** Take photos and serve refreshments. Have the guest list (suspect list) available for the players to view as they trickle into the party. Once everybody has arrived, snap a group photo!
- ____ **0:10 hrs.** Go over the **players' instructions** for the mystery game (or play the video: [link is provided here](#)) It's **optional** for each character to introduce themselves (it adds ~1 minute per player). Playing the game trailer video is optional – the link is on the game page and the Your Mystery Party pre-game site.
- ____ **0:20 hrs.** Pass out the **round one clue cards**. The players mingle and discuss the clues to be revealed. They can withhold or share their concealable clues – it doesn't matter – it's there to give them ownership of their characters and allow them to know how to react to others. If it's important, they'll decide to tell in round two, or others will tell through their clues.
- ____ **0:50 hrs.** An **optional bonus game** is played.
- ____ **1:10 hrs.** An **optional dinner** is served. Snacks can be served throughout the party instead.
- ____ **1:40 hrs. Round two cards** are presented, and the **pre-crime** section is discussed by mingling and speaking to every player.
- ____ **2:00 hrs.** The host will hide the silver bells on display (if you had the optional display) and make **announcement #1:**

There is a brief script for the host – or anyone in the game – that announces the crime and launches the investigation.

- ____ **2:05 hrs.** The host passes each player a mystery investigation sheet and a pen. The Snowflake Manor's layout diagram is available for reference, and the **post-crime clues are discussed** by mingling in private chats, as they did before. All round two clues must be shared and discussed, and players should speak to everyone at least once.
- ____ **2:30 hrs.** An **optional bonus game** is played.
- ____ **2:45 hrs.** Present **announcement #2**, which explains the **forensic report**. Then, **read the forensic report** to the group and make it available.

There is a brief script for the host – or anyone in the game – that gives the details and presents the forensic report to the group.

- ____ **2:55 hrs.** Announce for players to **turn in their investigation sheets** with their guesses of whodunit. ***Keep in order.**
- ____ **2:55 hrs. Optional:** after collecting the guesses of whodunit, the **players may take turns accusing** who they believe did it.
- ____ **03:05 hrs.** Dessert and coffee are served (**optional**), and the **round three solution cards** are handed out. Each player presents their solution, starting with the player who has the card that says, 'read first.' Eventually, the thief will confess.
- ____ **03:30 hrs. Optional but highly suggested:** allow the expansion pack players (purchased separately) to mingle and share their solutions. *This is a great time for you to arrange an awards ceremony.
- ____ **03:40 hrs.** Another **optional** bonus game may be played, and/or an **optional** awards ceremony may be hosted! (~ 15-20 minutes for each.) And/or, **optional** - hide the silver bells on display and allow the group to hunt for them for a prize.

To shorten the mystery party, omit all **optional** activities. You can also shorten the game further by having only the required players read their solutions (or even the thief). Finally, if you wish to extend the party's length, add more bonus games, and do all optional activities!

NAME TAGS – EACH PLAYER WILL HAVE A NAME TAG



PRE-GAME TASK CARDS – EACH PLAYER WILL RECEIVE A PRE-GAME TASK CARD. CHARACTER NAMES HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO MINIMIZE SPOILERS.

CHARACTER D PRE-GAME TASKS

Contact Character W and ask her to *please* tell you if her brother will come home this year. You would love to see him – you haven't seen him since graduation!

CONTACT INFO:

Contact Character P and say you heard he created edible toothpaste that doubles as a breakfast treat but that his company's focus group turned it down. That is a shame! You never have time for breakfast. *(You were on the focus group and turned it down.)*

CONTACT INFO:

Contact Character F and say your poodle, Max, looks ridiculous. Character F shaped his head like a cube and shaved his body! Max can't ride in the royal *Holly Hills Christmas Parade* float beside you looking like that!

CONTACT INFO:

Contact Character Y and say it's your duty as the Holly Hills Christmas Spirit Award winner, and, therefore, as the town's reigning Christmas Queen, to tell her to decorate her business with festive décor. The townsfolk expect it this time of year.

CONTACT INFO:

If anyone contacts you about the Christmas Spirit Award, your home's décor, or Name Removed, tell them you can discuss it at the tacky sweater party.

ROUND ONE CLUE CARDS - EACH PLAYER WILL RECEIVE A ROUND ONE CARD. CHARACTER NAMES HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO MINIMIZE SPOILERS.

CHARACTER T ① ROUND ONE

CLUES TO REVEAL:

- 📍 You were promoted to display design manager at *Nogstrum's Department Store*. You create all the Christmas decorations, windows, and displays. Since you decorate the town's biggest store, you should have been declared the *automatic* Christmas Queen. See if others agree!
- 📍 While at *Cousin Eddie's Cookies*, you saw a massive roach near the counter. You told a reporter friend, and now it's all over the *Holly Hills Daily* as 'Roach-Gate.' It was gross!
- 📍 Encourage Character N to get into the holiday spirit. The town has forgiven Character N for being a bully! Character N's business isn't decorated this year like it used to be.
- 📍 You heard Character W wants to quit skating to open an eggnog shop—risky move! Not everyone loves eggnog, and it's quite a seasonal beverage.
- 📍 You thought Character A, Character B, or Character X would have won this year's Christmas Spirit Award. But Character T was given the crown – AGAIN! You heard Character B came in second place – but second place wins nothing.

CLUES YOU MAY CONCEAL:

- 📍 There will be some clues that give each player personal information, thoughts, and backstories here. They can keep these a secret or share them. If the information needs to come out later – it will.





ROUND TWO CLUE CARDS

REVEALS POST-CRIME EVIDENCE.


EACH PLAYER WILL RECEIVE A ROUND TWO CARD.
CHARACTER NAMES HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO MINIMIZE SPOILERS.

CHARACTER E 2 ROUND TWO

PRE-CRIME

-  You're desperate to make Christmas memorable for your son but can't afford the \$6000 Supersonic Man doll you just found on eBay. You didn't want to bring it up, but Character U bought the last three Supersonic Man dolls in town and shipped them to Texas instead of helping local parents. This was AFTER you told her your son had asked for one & you needed to go Christmas shopping. You thought she was your friend—guess not!
-  Ask Character T what's up with the *box cuts* on pets—seriously, why? They look silly!
-  Confront Character K about her childhood crush. Why mention it now?
-  Ask Character Q why her brother, who thinks he's a Christmas elf, isn't at the party. You know he always comes home for the holidays and must be in Holly Hills by now. As the CEO of the world's biggest toy company, he might be your only shot at finding a Supersonic Man doll

POST-CRIME

-  Players will have up to 5 clues here involving the timeline, motives, location during the crime, eyewitness accounts, and more.

ROUND THREE SOLUTION CARDS **REVEALS THE THIEF IN THE PURCHASED VERSION**

CHARACTER D  **3**  **ROUND THREE**

READ AFTER CHARACTER Z

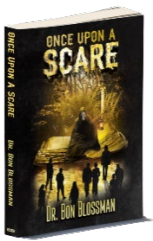
Here, each player will get a solution or some form of story-ender. The thief will be told in the final round that they are guilty and they will, at the conclusion of this round, confess to the crime. A couple of players will have quick story-enders that are interactive.

CHARACTER C IS NEXT

MORE INFORMATION:

- Head over to the Your Mystery Party player pre-game site: www.yourmysteryparty.com/silverbells *The expansion pack (purchased separately), 24-player game's pre-game site is www.yourmysteryparty.com/silverbellsmystery
- Pinterest page: <https://www.pinterest.com/mymysteryparty/who-stole-the-silver-bells-christmas-mystery-party/>
- Social media posts: #SilverbellsMystery, #MyMysteryParty – no spoilers, please!
- YouTube Game Trailer is located on the game page and Your Mystery Party page.

THIS GAME WAS CREATED BY DR. BON BLOSSMAN – AWARD-WINNING YA/TEEN FICTION AUTHOR

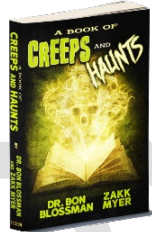


ONCE UPON A SCARE – YA HORROR SHORT STORIES

10 grim tales by Dr. Bon Blossman will ignite your goosebumps and keep the lights on.

Great gift for your favorite teen!

Silver medal winner for Best Juvenile/ Young Adult Fiction – IPPY Awards, among others.



A BOOK OF CREEPS & HAUNTS – YA HORROR SHORT STORIES

13 haunting tales come together to form this anthology by Dr. Bon Blossman and Zakk Myer.

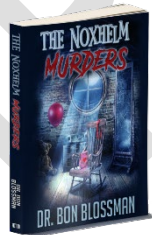
Winner of the Distinguished Favorite for Short Stories, NYC Book Awards and an Indie B.R.A.G. Medallion.



DREGS ISLAND – YA THRILLER

In a post-Prison Reform Act world, seventeen-year-old Alex must survive on a remote, escape-proof prison island ruled by a legendary serial killer.

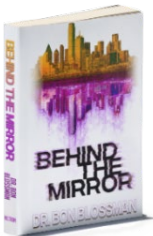
Winner of the silver medal at Reader's Favorite, Gold medal with Beverly Hills Book Awards, and Solo Medalist for New Apple Book Awards.



THE NOXHELM MURDERS – YA MYSTERY HORROR

Shana Murphy, a mob child in Witness Protection, must clear her name when a local teen is found dead in the cursed Ripper House, a haunted estate where her family relocated.

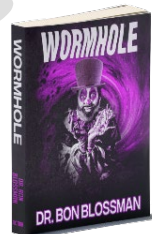
Indie Brag Medallion winner, and 2 gold medals with Literary Classics Book Awards.



BEHIND THE MIRROR (BOOK 1) – YA DARK FANTASY

An ordinary teen discovers a grim world through an enchanted mirror, where she must embrace her newfound powers and fulfill a prophecy to save parallel realms from an impending apocalypse.

Gold and silver medals, Literary Classics, Finalist, Manhattan Book Awards.



WORMHOLE (BEHIND THE MIRROR TRILOGY, BOOK 2) – YA DARK FANTASY

Ella faces a deadly battle in the haunted realm of The Parallel as she questions whether to trust her foes or risk igniting the impending apocalypse.

Gold & Silver medals, Literary Classics along with Literary Seal of Approval.

Also, check out the Fiona Frost mystery series.



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SAMPLE