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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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*presents...*

# “Who Killed Santa?”

Meet and mingle version  
for 17 to 30 guests

*by Stephanie Chambers*

Second edition

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## The Suspects

The portly gent who dresses in red won't be going down any chimneys this year. He is dead – possibly murdered – yes, it's scandalous but true. It happened just before the company Christmas party being held at Chatties Restaurant. Did someone not want him to be there? Was it revenge for an unwanted present from Santa last year? Or was it just old age catching up with him?

We're here to find out the real juicy truth. The media are also here. But this time they aren't just reporting what happened. They are suspects too. The people present at the party are:

**Martina Finn** – My husband and I are directors of the company. I work very hard but I enjoy my job as long as everyone behaves themselves. I am careful about the way I look and work in a very professional manner. I can hold my head high in the business community. In my spare time, I like to do sign language. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a modern stylish suit and carry a mobile phone and an organizer. Add long colored nails.

**Nick Finn** – I'm also involved in the business. Martina really runs it. She has most of the control. I spend a lot of my time just making sure everyone is pulling their weight and everything is under control. I'm a bit edgy because I've just given up smoking. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a suit and a jazzy tie. Add some pillows to make yourself look plump, don a gray beard and act a little agitated.

**Winnie Bailey** – I'm the office manager at the company. I'm also a mother and a softball player. I've worked here ever since I left school. I'm very good at shorthand and can type 100 words a minute. I expect everyone else to be as efficient as me, but they never are. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a softball player's outfit. Carry a softball bat.

**Glenda Drake** – I'm a graphic artist. I'm one of the most creative people alive today. I'm also a mother. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a modern t-shirt and jeans. Carry a laptop computer (or a cut-out of one in cardboard) and a pen with which to doodle on your paper napkins.

**Ebony Sutherland** – I'm the production manager. I have an eye for detail. I love animals. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a t-shirt with an animal on the front and jeans.

**Josh Fraser** – I am an account executive and I'm a cool dude that the ladies love. I take care of the client liaison for the organization. My good looks and charm have won many hearts and attracted clients to the business. I am a great asset but they don't seem to realize that. *Dress suggestions:* Wear black clothes. Carry some weights. Add some extra padding to create fake muscles. And make sure you wear your sunglasses all the time.

**Barret Norcott** – I'm the "fix it" man who repairs the company's computers and backs up all the data. I spend most of my time indoors and could do with a bit more exercise. I'm in love with Mrs Claus. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a t-shirt and add some pillows to make you look plump. Carry tools or a screwdriver.

**Regina Wells** – I'm the President of Gas Plus More convenience stores and gas stations. I'm a great pilot and I love flying planes. I've been a friend of Martina and Nick for years and their company gets their gas from us. *Dress suggestions:* Wear some overalls as if you have dashed in from the gas station. Carry a mobile phone.

**Freya Walker** – I'm a sales rep for SDX TV station and a new mother. The company advertises on our TV station. As sales rep I try to dress well to give the image that our TV station is very successful, but I often find I have baby food somewhere on my clothes. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a modern suit. Carry some diapers.

**Rosemary Piper** – I'm into natural remedies but that doesn't mean I've got my head in the clouds. I'm a very effective and firm boss. I just believe everybody should eat healthy natural foods and drink lots of herbal teas. My children are teenagers now. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a stylish modern suit and carry a mobile phone. Carry a small portable TV (or a TV guide) and some herbal tablets.

**Grant Lowe** – I am a disc-jockey with Radio ZZZ. The company advertises on our radio station. I'm fit and healthy and mad about music and all sports. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a t-shirt for a new band. Wear headphones and carry a football.

**Jack Fielder** – I'm a sales manager for Radio ZZZ. I like going fishing when I have time off. I always carry a radio with me wherever I go because I need to know who is advertising on the other radio stations. *Dress suggestions:* Expensive jeans & a shirt. Carry a radio &/or a fishing line.

**Gibson Downs** – I am a journalist with the local newspaper. The company advertises with us and sometimes I write their advertorials. I love to play golf but more than that I love my wife. I just want all you women to know that I'm happily married to my beautiful wife. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a suit and carry a mobile phone and a golf club and/or golf balls.

**Lorenzo Giueni** – I am the owner of Chatties Restaurant and I am one of the world's finest chefs. *Dress suggestions:* Wear chefs check pants, a white shirt and a chef's hat.

**NOTE:** The people playing the suspect roles should try to be early or at least on time to the party.

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## 3 authorities (optional)

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**Ian Madden** – I am a police officer. I'm a tough no-nonsense cop. I love the power that comes with my position. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a mock police uniform. Carry some crime scene tape (make some out of paper with masking tape attached at the ends). Carry a notepad and pencil.

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**Dr Rebecca Reynolds** – I am a medical doctor. I have been the doctor for the Claus family for many years. I believe you can never have too many tests. I am a bit of a hypochondriac I suppose. *Dress suggestions:* Carry a black bag and any medical items you can obtain (eg thermometer).

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**Tania Trimble** – I am Santa's lawyer. I am very conservative and very well-respected in my profession. I have been Santa's lawyer for many years. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a suit and look very serious.

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## 10 Witnesses (optional)

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**Ingrid Evans** – I am Regina Well’s secretary at Gas Plus More convenience stores and gas stations. Sometimes I know more about her life than she does. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a business suit and carry pen and paper ready to take notes.

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**Bert McGill** – I am a partner and the manager of a store that sells motorcycles. We sell the latest motorcycles. Our shop is near Martina and Nick’s office so I’ve become friends with them over the years. *Dress suggestions:* Wear motorcycle gear (ie leathers and padded elbows, helmet etc).

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**Kirk Stevens** – I am the co-owner of Big Motors – a car and truck dealership. Martina and Nick buy their company cars from us. *Dress suggestions:* Wear overalls as if you just came out of the pit. Wear a cap.

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**Phoebe Watkins** – I am the general manager of SDX TV. Rosemary Piper and Freya Walker work for me. I like golf. *Dress suggestions:* Wear very stylish clothes and carry a golf club and/or some golf balls.

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**Reece McTavish** – I am a computer hacker. I am friends with Glenda Drake. *Dress suggestions:* Wear casual clothes and carry a laptop (or a cut-out of one in cardboard).

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**Gareth Sutherland** – I am Ebony’s husband. I am a police officer. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a police uniform (a fake one of course).

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**Carmen Carello** – I am politician. I am friends with Rosemary Piper. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a business suit. Talk about your policies, your connections with top leaders etc.

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**Peppi Downs** – I am Gibson’s wife. I am a hairdresser. *Dress suggestions:* Wear bright colored clothes and go mad with your hair (eg add hair mascara – bright colors in your hair, lots of gel etc).

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**Samantha Sinnott** – I am a private detective and I’ve been doing work for Gibson Downs. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a coat and hide things under your coat like your notebook, camera, tape recorder etc.

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**Shirley Murray** – I am Martina’s nail artist. The nails I create are the essence of material perfection. *Dress suggestions:* Wear tacky clothes and wear long fake nails. Carry spare nail polish with you.

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## 3 Christmas roles (optional)

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**Rudolph** – I am Santa’s main reindeer and I’m the famous red-nosed reindeer. The other reindeers used to be mean to me. They never let me join in any of their games. But then Santa gave me a job pulling his sleigh and after that they all thought I was special. *Dress suggestions:* Wear some antlers on your head and a shiny red nose.

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**Mrs Claus** – I am Santa’s wife. I am the real boss behind Christmas. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a conservative red dress with your white hair tied back in a bun. You may like to add a red bonnet or a red ribbon tied around your head.

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**Elfie (a male or female)** – I am one of Santa’s elves. I wrap up presents all day long. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a pointy cap.

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## Name tags

### *Suspects*

Martina  
Finn  
(suspect)

Nick  
Finn  
(suspect)

Winnie  
Bailey  
(suspect)

Glenda  
Drake  
(suspect)

Ebony  
Sutherland  
(suspect)

Josh  
Fraser  
(suspect)

Barret  
Norcott  
(suspect)

Regina  
Wells  
(suspect)

Freya  
Walker  
(suspect)

Rosemary  
Piper  
(suspect)

Grant  
Lowe  
(suspect)

Jack  
Fielder  
(suspect)

Gibson  
Downs  
(suspect)

Lorenzo  
Giueni  
(suspect)

**3 Authorities (optional)**

<b>Ian Madden</b>	<b>Dr Rebecca Reynolds</b>	<b>Tania Trimble</b>
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**10 Witnesses (optional)**

<b>Ingrid Evans</b>	<b>Bert McGill</b>	<b>Kirk Stevens</b>
<b>Phoebe Watkins</b>	<b>Reece McTavish</b>	<b>Gareth Sutherland</b>
<b>Carmen Carello</b>	<b>Peppi Downs</b>	<b>Samantha Sinnott</b>
<b>Shirley Murray</b>		

**3 Christmas roles (optional)**

<b>Rudolph</b>	<b>Mrs Claus</b>	<b>Elfie</b>
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*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **“Who Killed Santa?”**

*by Stephanie Chambers*

*These are the:*

# *Clues*

Merri Mysteries presents...

## “Who Killed Santa?”

*Clue page for the authority*  
*Print as many copies as you need.*  
*Staple a copy of their name tag here*

### What I can reveal

*Staple their clue(s) here*

### What I need to do

- 1 When you arrive, rush to the rescue and do what someone in your position would do.
- 2 Act very responsibly and calmly. Try and get other people to remain calm. Do whatever a person in your role would do (eg if you are with the police cordon off the crime scene and ask people questions, if you are a medical person, examine the body, look for evidence etc).
- 3 Talk to everyone, not just the suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know.
- 4 *When asked:* If you are a police officer, you should help read out the police report. If you are a doctor, help read out the medical report. If you are the lawyer, read out the will.
- 5 Ask suspects the following questions:
  - Why were you at the party so early?
  - What were you doing during the party preparation?
  - What were you doing at the time of Santa’s murder?
- 6 Ask witnesses and Santa’s helpers the following questions:
  - What have you seen or heard?
  - What do you know about the suspects?
  - Is there anything you would like the authorities to know?

Merri Mysteries presents...

## “Who Killed Santa?”

*Clue page for the people playing other optional roles*  
*Print as many copies as you need.*  
*Staple a copy of their name tag here*

### What I can reveal

*Staple their clue(s) here*

### What I need to do

- 1 When you arrive, listen to what the person in charge tells you to do.
- 2 Act normally like you would (eg if you are a reindeer, eat carrots). Act superior to everyone.
- 3 Talk to everyone, not just the suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know.



# Martina Finn

## What I can reveal

Running this business keeps us as busy as tinsel makers around Christmas. Why can't we have celebrations all year round instead of everyone wanting everything at the same time? It's crazy. By the time Santa comes to my house, I'm too tired to put out any milk and cookies for him. I've been learning sign language for some time & I can even sign complex words & expressions now. I have never liked Santa because he never listens to your prayers or reads the letters you send. When I was young, I asked Santa for a Barbie doll like this one (*show everyone your Barbie*) for years & years and did I get one? No. I had to buy this one myself. I admit that I had thought about bashing Santa with this Barbie. Nick has had some crazy ideas about taking over Santa's job, but I gave him the silent treatment for a few days and he got over it. I was just as surprised as everyone else when Santa died just before our party. I can reassure you that Nick and I didn't have anything at all to do with it.

## What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If anyone asks you about your fingernails say: "I have pretty fingernails – see. It is my one luxury. I get them done. It isn't a crime – is it?"
- 3 If someone asks where you were at the time of Santa's collapse say: "I was chatting to Rosemary Piper and Lorenzo Giueni about what we hoped Santa would bring us this Christmas."
- 4 If someone asks about the cookies say: "Those cookies I was buying were just ordinary cookies. They just fell off the back of a truck, so they were cheap, that's all. Trying to save the company some dollars – I should be given an award, not be treated like a serial killer."

# Nick Finn

## What I can reveal

Martina gets stressed out by Christmas. I just go grayer (*pointing to your beard*). Santa had such a great job – playing with toys all year and delivering them at Christmas. I want his job! Why not? The position's vacant now, isn't it?

I read a lot. That's my main hobby. I mainly read business books. I don't exercise a lot, but the good news is that I have given up smoking. So I won't be contributing to any smoke going up our chimney this year.

It would have been such an easy job, especially if I'd contracted out all the delivery side of the business. Then all I would have had to do is make the odd personal appearance at a shopping mall and sit for a few photos with kids. Talk about being paid to have a good time.

I had thought about taking over from Santa, but eventually I realized that you aren't allowed to trademark the name "Santa" and red isn't really my color, so I gave up on the whole idea.

## What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If anyone asks you about your travel plans say: "When someone overheard Martina and I talking at the travel agency, he must have misheard the dates. We are planning a trip to the Bahamas, but it is for February not December."
- 3 If anyone asks you where you were during the party preparation, say "To be honest I was goofing off out the back. I hate doing menial tasks. I am a thinker not a doer."

# Winnie Bailey

## What I can reveal

I run the office by day and at night I run my husband and two children. Sometimes I tie them all to the running machine and I just go and have a well-deserved lie down. Santa doesn't have any kids of his own, so he doesn't know what it's like to be a parent. He just dumps the toys for the kids to fight over and clears out before dawn.

Last year Santa gave the most ridiculous presents. I couldn't help but think that he was really buying them for himself. I mean who would ever give a two-year-old girl a full-sized boxing bag as a present? Santa, like all men, was totally incompetent.

This should be a real celebration now that Santa isn't around to bother us.

My main hobby is softball. It keeps me fit. Sometimes I also kick boxes. No – I mean I do kick-boxing. But the birth of my second child has slowed me down a bit.

## What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If someone asks where you were during the party preparation when Santa was killed: "I was busy writing out name tags. I offered Santa a name tag but he just played with his yo-yo. So I left him tag-less – useless man that he "is" or rather "was"."
- 3 If someone asks what you were talking to Grant Lowe about at the party, say "We were talking about all the usual office gossip. That was all."

## Authorities clues

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*You should divide up these 8 clues amongst the authorities (if you have any). You may like to staple the clues to the clue pages for the authorities. Please make sure they are all given out. If you don't have any authorities, divide these clues up amongst your other guests.*

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We have asked people about Santa's drinking habits and everyone so far has said he was a strict teetotaler. He didn't even drink champagne at weddings.

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Santa's problem with gout was a major concern for him as it was making it very difficult for him to walk and to move around the world delivering presents.

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We are yet to find out who pulled Santa's red hat down over his face.

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Santa had eaten some cookies just before he died. There were still some chocolate chips left in his beard.

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Rosemary Piper came in to visit Lorenzo in the kitchen just before the party started. She was hassling Lorenzo about genetically modified foods.

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Ebony Sutherland came in to the kitchen while Lorenzo was having his staff prepare Santa's hot dog. She seemed alarmed when she saw the hot dog. Lorenzo didn't know why. Maybe she thought it was really made from dogs or something. Lorenzo doesn't know.

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Just before he died, Santa clutched his belly and said "Oh no, not now. My reindeer just ate the new will I had written today and my old one is all wrong and I haven't had time to have my lawyer draft up the new one." I am trying to find out which reindeer ate the new will and what were the terms of the new will.

---

Gibson saw Regina give Santa a strange looking drink in a plastic bottle at the beginning of the party. He said she must have brought it from one of her Gas Plus More stores because they don't sell it at Chatties. It looked like one of those new fad drinks. It probably contained ginseng or something like that. When Regina gave Santa this drink, she noticed Gibson was looking and raised her glass to him.

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## Clues to divide up amongst people playing optional roles

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*You should divide up these 84 clues amongst the people playing optional roles including the authorities. You may like to staple the clues to the clue pages for the people playing optional roles. Please make sure they are all given out. If you don't have many people playing optional roles, divide these clues up amongst the suspects as well.*

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I overheard Martina and Nick on a joint phone call with a travel agency. They were booking a relaxing holiday on a yacht in the Bahamas leaving tomorrow, yet this is usually their busiest time.

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I saw Regina taking down all the Santa decorations at her convenience stores and gas stations, yet she used to like her stores to display lots of Christmas spirit. You seemed to feel real nasty towards Santa Claus. Why was that Regina?

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I saw Santa ditching his reindeer for a new motorcycle. He took his new motorcycle to a gas station to fill with gas. He should have taken it to a Gas Plus More but he didn't – the fool. I had to reassure Ebony that we would find a good home for Santa's reindeer, which Santa had traded in on the deal to buy a motorcycle. She seemed quite hysterical in her concern for those reindeer.

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Barret cornered Kirk last time he came in to the office. He wanted to know how you would go about cutting the brake cables on a sleigh. Ask Barret about this.

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Just before the party, Barret heard Josh saying to Santa something about how he had something to show him.

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Nick and Martina had a meeting to discuss Santa Claus and the direction of the business as a whole. Someone was listening in at the key-hole so this was overheard. Nick told Martina that if he became Santa, that they could use the business to do all the merchandising and promotion.

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