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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Famous Couple Fantasy”

Host Guide

For the play version

by Stephanie Chambers

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Host's guide

It is easy to prepare and run a mystery party. We recommend that as host you should also take a role and participate along with everyone else. With our mysteries, no one knows the solution to the mystery. But with a little intelligence and a careful ear for important clues, it is possible to solve the mystery.

Preparing for the party

- 1 Decide when you will be having the party, where and who will play each role. You should read the description of each character and try to select a role for each guest. Or you may like to give your guests a choice of the roles not yet taken and let them decide for themselves. **Note:** With the play version, you can have less than 16 people. But if you have less than 4 couples, it will be too easy to work out. You can ignore whichever couples you like except the couple that gets to stay in the future. But to know this, you will have to read the "Which couple is most likely to stay?" page, which is the last page of the kit. This is a huge secret; so don't let anyone know any of the details that you read on this page or you will wreck the party for everyone.
- 2 We recommend that you tell your guests to: "Please dress up as your character. Over dressing and going to extremes is highly recommended." We generally find that the more people put into the event, the more fun it is.
- 3 Decide how you want to do the invitations. You can print out the Word or Adobe Acrobat versions and handwrite the details, or you can type in your party details before you print it out. There are versions with four invitations per page or one invitation per page. You can print them in color or black and white or you may like to print them on colored paper.
- 4 Or you could paste the jpg version into an email and add your party details and send this to each guest.

- 5 The invitations refer your guests to read a web page to find out more details about their character (ie their character's description and their dress suggestions). They should try and read the descriptions of all of the suspects before they come to the party. We sometimes hide clues in these. However, they don't need to read the descriptions of the optional characters.
- 6 You may like to have a copy of the suspect pages available at the party in case some guests didn't get time to read them before the party.
- 7 Print out the play.
- 8 Cut each page in two using a guillotine/paper trimmer or scissors. Don't read the play beforehand as it will spoil your enjoyment of the party, and you may spoil everyone else's enjoyment by letting on that you know everything!
- 9 Staple the pages together into a booklet for each act.
- 10 If it says the line may be said by "Anyone", it can be said by any of the guests. However, they shouldn't say it if it is a question for their character or about their character. You may like to work out beforehand who will say each of these "Anyone" clues and write their character's name next to each one. Try and make sure everyone has a similar number of lines to say. If a couple isn't present at the party, you should cross out the lines they were supposed to say and any clues that relate to them. These clues don't need to be said.
- 11 The "What is the secret of a good relationship" page and the "Which couples were the most unified?" and the "Which couple is most likely to stay?" page are at the end of the clue file with a warning beforehand not to read the next section. Fold these unread, put them in an envelope and open it at the end of your party to find out the answers.
- 12 Print a name tag for each guest. You can print them in color or black and white or you may like to print them on thicker or colored paper. Cut these up and have some small safety pins handy.
- 13 Decorate the room just before the party (see *Décor suggestions*).
- 14 Prepare or arrange for food for the event (see *Menu suggestions*).

15 Decide whether you are going to have prizes for the party (see *Preparing prizes*). This is optional, but recommended.

Décor suggestions

These are suggestions you might like to follow to make your place look as if it is in the future:

- Drape shiny materials over your normal furniture.
- Gather as many pictures of spaceships etc as you can to place around the room and on the dinner table.
- Make some paper placemats with a stencil of spaceships etc.
- Play electronic space-age music.

If you prefer, you can have décor that will suit the characters themselves and make them feel at home.

Menu suggestions

Any sort of food will do for “future” food. Alternatively, you can provide food that some or all of the characters would be used to eating.

Search for recipes on the Internet (eg search for “unusual recipes” on www.google.com).

Preparing prizes (optional)

This is optional, but you may like to have some prizes available to give to the people:

- who work out what the secret is of a good relationship
- who work out which couples are the most unified
- who work out which couple will get to stay in the future
- with the best costume.

You can reduce the number of people you have to give a prize to by asking for details to back up their answer from things they have heard at the party.

If you do have prizes, you should let people know they exist just after you read out “*The Rules*”.

Tip: Don’t assume that only one person will guess who did it. It is best to have a prize you can divide up (eg a box of chocolates or a bag or box of Turkish Delights). If no one guesses correctly, divide the prize up amongst everyone.

If you have a color printer and some T-shirt transfers, you may like to download and print out some of our special T-shirt logos (ie “I Gussed Who Did It” and “I Had The Best Costume”). See <http://www.merrimysteries.com/tmm/prizes.htm> for details. These are free to download.

Running the party

We suggest that you run the party as follows:

- 1 Give each guest their name tag and a small safety pin to attach it with.
- 2 When everyone has arrived, read *The Rules* to everyone.
- 3 Have everyone introduce themselves to the group by saying their character’s name and a few words about themselves from their description.
- 4 Check that everyone has read the “*The Suspects*” pages. If they haven’t, give them a few minutes to read them quickly. There may be important clues in “*The Suspects*” pages.
- 5 Serve the First Course of your meal or have dips available. Generally we don’t recommend you continue with the play while people are eating unless you are pressed for time.
- 6 Start Act One of the play. Pass the play booklet around to each person mentioned. If it says “Anyone” can say the line, give it to someone who hasn’t had much to say as long as it isn’t about them. You may like to work out beforehand who will say each of the “Anyone” clues and write their character’s name next to each one. Make sure everyone reads out all their lines and that everyone participates.
- 7 Serve the Second Course of your meal (if applicable).
- 8 Do Act Two. Serve Dessert (if applicable).

- 9 Do Act Three.
- 10 Serve hot drinks and after dinner mints (if applicable).
- 11 Ask each person to think about what the secret is to a happy relationship, which couples are the most unified and which couple will get to stay in the future. Ask them to write down their final answers. When they are ready, go around the group and ask everyone what they wrote down and what they heard that backs up their answers.
- 12 After everyone has had a guess, take the answer pages out of their sealed envelope and read as specified.
- 13 Present the prizes (if you are providing these). If more than one person guesses correctly, give the prize to the person who has the correct answer. You may like to also give a prize for the person who has the best (or most creative) costume.

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These are to be read out by the host to the whole group at the beginning of the party:

Welcome to “Famous Couple Fantasy!”

It’s the year 2900. They’ve mastered time travel, but they still don’t know the secret to a good relationship. So they’ve gone back in time and have gathered some famous couples. They’ve brought them to the future to research and they have put them in a room behind one-way glass. They’ve given them some things to discuss and they are observing how they behave.

You must unravel the mystery of what makes a good relationship. The couples that are the most united will be allowed to stay here in the future. This could really be a benefit to some of them, because they could take advantage of the great medical advances that have taken place. But not all of the chosen couples will want to stay. So your job is to work out which will stay.

There are three acts in this play. Only read your lines as required and please don’t read the pages ahead of time. There are assigned lines and there are also some lines which can be said by “Anyone”. We will be taking turns to say these lines and making sure we all get to participate equally. If there is another character’s name written next to a line, then that person should say it. If a line is crossed out, please ignore it.

There is no need to hurry through this and you can adlib a little if you want. You do not have to read each line exactly as it is written – embellish it if you want, but just don’t change its meaning. You might like to speak in slang or with an accent. For example, if you are playing a snob, you might speak as if you have a plum in your mouth. If your character is distressed, you could reveal your clues in between sobs. Act it out to the fullest. This is your chance to be dramatic!

At the end of the party you will be asked to guess what the secret is to a happy relationship, which couples are the most united and which couple gets to stay in the future. If you work this out before the party ends please keep it to yourself.

Optional: There is a prize for the people who work out the correct answers. There is also a prize for the person with the best costume.