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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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*presents...*

# “Storm Survivors”

## Host Guide

For standard versions

*by Stephanie Chambers*

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## Host's guide

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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, not even the murderer knows who did it. But with a little intelligence and a careful ear for important clues, it is possible to solve the mystery.

### Preparing for the party

- 1 Open the version of the kit to suit the number of guests you *think* you will be having. The name of each version shows the number of female and the number of male roles.
- 2 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.

**Very important host secret:** During Act Two the person playing Vicki will pretend to die. After the attention moves away from her, go up and help her sneak away and give her the disguise which you have for her. You should give her a costume for Chris Walsh the forensics expert (described in the authorities section). Don't give anyone else this role. You may like to give her a wig etc so people won't recognize her. You must not tell anyone that Vicki is going to be killed as it will wreck the surprise. If you can't keep a secret, then you will have to play the role of Vicki.

- 3 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.

- 4 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 four invitations per page. You can print them in color or black and white or you may like to print them on colored paper.
- 5 **For versions with optional roles:** For the guests playing optional roles, cut out and attach their character description or copy and paste it into their invitation.
- 6 Or you could paste the jpg version into an email and add your party details and send this to each guest.
- 7 Move to the page(s) which show the character descriptions for the main characters (suspects). You need to send each guest a copy of these pages along with their invitation. Print as many copies of these pages as you need using Print Current page and specify the number of copies required.
- 8 If you are emailing the invitations, copy and paste the text from the suspect pages into your email message. You can select the text (page by page) from the Adobe Acrobat file.
- 9 When you know *exactly* how many guests will be attending, print the version of the kit for that number of guests.
- 10 Cut each page in two using a guillotine/paper trimmer or scissors. Don't read the clues 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!
- 11 Staple the pages for each person together into a booklet so that there is a page with their character's name at the front followed by clues for each act.
- 12 The "Who Did It" pages are at the end 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 who did it.
- 13 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.

- 14 **For versions with optional roles:** Create a clue booklet for each person playing an optional role. Divide up the extra clues for each act and staple them to their clue booklet for the appropriate act. You may like to print them an extra name tag each that you staple on to the front of their clue booklet. If you don't have many people playing optional roles, divide the extra clues up amongst the suspects also. All the clues should be given out.
- 15 Decorate the room just before the party (see *Décor suggestions*).
- 16 Prepare or arrange for food for the event (see *Menu suggestions*).
- 17 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 like a tropical island inhabited by athletes:

- place some gym and sports equipment around (eg table tennis bats, weights)
- scatter ornaments and clothes with butterflies and tropical flowers on them
- tropical furniture (eg dark heavy Indonesian furniture or light cane furniture)
- tropical music such as Reggae music.

### **Menu suggestions**

You can serve food you would find in Australia such as damper and pavlova. Search for recipes on the Internet (eg search for “Australian recipes” on [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)).

Modern Australian food combines elements of Mediterranean, (Greek, Italian, French) and Middle Eastern cuisine with Asian (Japanese, Thai, Indonesian and Indian) influences.

Alternatively, serve the kind of food you would find at a five-star resort. Seafood is also very popular in the tropics. In this area, the normal seafoods are served as well as special items such as Moreton Bay Bugs, scallops.

You may like to serve the food on banana leaves or in pineapple shells. Also serve pinacoladas (pineapple and coconut drinks).

Don't forget that the athletes will probably have requested odd meals to complement their constant training. So you may like to have a few jars of things like protein powder on the table.

### **Preparing props**

There are a few props you may like to provide:

- bottle of soy sauce for Mutsumi Yoshita to carry in his bag
- spare change of clothes for Yuko Yoshita to carry in her bag
- heat rub for Vicki Omonnanu to carry in her bag.

These props are mentioned as part of the dress suggestions for these characters in the “*The Suspects*”, but you should check if they can provide them. You may need to help provide these items.

You should also have a disguise for someone to wear later in this party after they die. See *Running the party* for details.

If you want you can just have everyone imagine these props.

### **Preparing prizes (optional)**

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

- who guess who did it
- with the best costume.

You can reduce the number of people you have to give a prize to by asking for details as to who, how and why the person did it.

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 clues while people are eating unless you are pressed for time.
- 6 Hand out the clue booklets. You should give each person their clues for all acts. As you give it to each person, tell them not to open it until you say so. When you are ready, tell everyone to turn to Act One. Do Act One. Make sure everyone reads out all their clues and that everyone participates. You may like to encourage people who are shy by asking them a question or two.
- 7 Serve the Second Course of your meal (if applicable).

- 8 Do Act Two. Serve Dessert (if applicable).

**Very important host secret:** During Act Two the person playing Vicki will pretend to die. After the attention moves away from her, go up and help her sneak away and give her the disguise which you have for her. You should give her a costume for Chris Walsh the forensics expert (described in the authorities section). Don't give anyone else this role. You may like to give her a wig etc so people won't recognize her. You must not tell anyone that Vicki is going to be killed as it will wreck the surprise. If you can't keep a secret, then you will have to play the role of Vicki.

- 9 Do Act Three.
- 10 Serve hot drinks and after dinner mints (if applicable).
- 11 Ask each person to think about who did it and why and how they did it. Ask them to write down their final choice. When they are ready, go around the group and ask everyone who they think did it and why and how they did it.
- 12 After everyone has had a guess, take the *Who Did It* 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 most correct answers as to how and why the person did it. You may like to also give a prize for the person who has the best (or most creative) costume.

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If you wish to use our kits on a commercial basis (eg as a venue for mystery party events or as an event organizer or an actor or theater group), you may only use the purchased kit once. If you wish to use it for further events, you must purchase it again. This also means you will always be using an up-to-date version of the kit. We are constantly changing and improving our kits.

## The Rules

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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 “Storm Survivors”! Make sure you have collected your clue page and put on your name tag. Read everything on your clue page.

It is October 2000. A number of athletes are relaxing on a tropical island in the Great Barrier Reef after an international competition. But, alas, a cyclone has arrived two months earlier than usual. Although everyone has survived it, there are pythons and other hazards to deal with and to make matters worse, someone has been found murdered.

So now everyone is trapped together on the island with a murderer who may strike again. Sounds like fun, doesn't it!

Soon I will introduce you to the people who were present when the murder took place.

I will ask you to turn the page just before each act begins. There is a page of clues you have to reveal for each act. Only read the page for each act as required and please don't read the pages ahead of time. During each act you must reveal all of your clues for that particular act.

You should go around the circle and let everyone say a clue. If someone has “speak first” on their first clue, then they should begin. If no one has this, then anyone can begin.

Keep going around the circle until everyone has said all their clues. If your next clue is a reply to a question, then skip your turn and wait until that question is asked. If you have been around the circle and no one has asked you a question, ask if anyone has a question for you on their page in case the question is in a different position on their page. When you are asked the question, say the response from your clue sheet. After everyone has said their clues, if you have any remaining clues, let the group know and then say your remaining clues. *(see next page)*

There is no need to hurry through this and you can adlib a little if you want. You do not have to read each clue exactly as it is written – embellish it if you want. 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 who performed the crime and how and why they did it. If you work out who did it before the party ends please keep it to yourself. *Optional:* There is a prize for the people who guess who did it. There is also a prize for the person with the best costume.