

## CONTENTS

This kit is for 8 to 30 guests.

There are 3 different endings, each with a different person who did it.

Most of the cards support Version A, but there are additions to the report and Who Did It cards for Versions B and C.

*See both sides of all cards, including this one...*

**5 Host Guide Cards:** Invitations, Décor suggestions, Preparing props (optional), Menu suggestions, Preparing prizes (optional), Running the party, “The Rules” (4 sides).

**30 Nametags / Descriptions and Dress Suggestions**

**94 Clue Cards:** A1, A2, and A3

**5 Special Investigator’s Report Cards**

**7 Who Did It Cards:** Don’t let anyone read these before the end of the party.

# HOST GUIDE

## *Invitations*

Send this email link to your guests with their invitation:

**[merrimysteries.com/XXXXXX](http://merrimysteries.com/XXXXXX)**

Tell your guests to read the suspect descriptions before the party as sometimes clues are hidden in them. Include the date, time, and place where your party is to be held and the name of the character you want them to play.

## ***Décor suggestions***

These are suggestions you might like to follow to make your place look “Christmassy”:

- Kitsch, over-the-top Christmas decorations
- Some crime-scene tape around an area where Santa collapsed near the fireplace
- A sleigh heaped with presents
- A chair where Santa was to have sat in the corner of the restaurant surrounded by presents
- Play Christmas carols.

## ***Preparing props (optional)***

**Nick** — a plate of chocolate chip cookies.

**Winnie** — a softball bat.

**Josh** — a small briefcase full of Monopoly money.

**Reg** — a dark “health” drink in a plastic bottle.

**Glenda** — a Barbie doll and a laptop.

Create a body by stuffing red clothes or mark where it was with tape (near the fireplace if there is one). Put up crime scene tape and a chair in a corner and surround it with boxes. Put a sign for “Chatties” on your door.

## ***Menu suggestions***

Serve the kinds of foods that are traditional in your area for Christmas or serve an international selection of Christmas-type foods. Search for recipes on the Internet. For example, King George Christmas pudding, mince pies or a French Christmas chocolate, Norwegian Christmas cookies called "Sand Kager." For small parties, you may like to serve a course between each act.

## *Preparing prizes (optional)*

You may like to have some prizes available to give to the people:

- who guess who did it (can be more than one)
- with the best costume.

Ask for details as to who, how, and why the person did it. Have a prize you can divide up or lots of small gift cards. See **[merrimysteries.com/murder-mystery-prizes](http://merrimysteries.com/murder-mystery-prizes)** for suggestions.

## ***Running the party***

Decide if you are using Version A, B, or C. Put each nametag card (with description on the back) in a lanyard badge holder and give it to each person as they arrive. Read out the **Rules Cards** (then leave them on the table for late arrivals) and have the suspects read out their descriptions to the group (but not dress suggestions). Then hand out the clue cards. Note who it is to be said by (i.e., either a character or anyone **except** the suspects it mentions).



## ***The Rules — 1 of 4*** (host to read out)

“Welcome to Who Killed Santa? 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? We’re here to find out the real juicy truth. The media are also here. Some are suspects, too. I will introduce you to all the suspects shortly.”

## ***The Rules — 2 of 4***

“Most clues are statements. If you have a question for a suspect, they will have a response on one of their cards. You can say the clue in your own words as long as you don't change the meaning. You might like to speak in slang or with an accent or reveal your clues in between sobs. Act it out to the fullest. This is your chance to be dramatic! Later, a report will be read out. If you work out who did it, please keep it to yourself. [There are prizes for the people who guess who did it and for the best costume.]”

## ***The Rules — 3 of 4***

**[For small parties of 8 to 16 guests say:]**

“There are 3 acts (A1, A2, A3). I will divide up the clues as equally as I can. Anyone can go first as long as it is a card that isn't a response to someone else's question. We will keep going around the group and each saying a clue until all the clues for an act are read. Responding to a question will count as your turn for that round. We will take a break between each act.”

## ***The Rules — 4 of 4***

**[For larger parties of 17 to 30 guests say:]**  
“Ignore the fact that your clue cards are marked A1, A2, or A3. You must mingle and tell as many people as you can what you know from your clue cards. If you find out new information, pass that on to the people you meet. Word will spread about anything that sounds important. Don't panic if you don't get to talk to everyone. You will still receive enough information so you can work out who did it.”