SUSPECT

Nick Finn



I run the business. In my spare time, I like to do sign language and play classical guitar. That's why my nails are long — see. I try and

avoid breaking them. I also like fishing and I think it's time we all did a bit of fishing, but this time fishing for clues rather than fins. I don't exercise a lot, but I have given up smoking. So I won't be contributing to any smoke going up our chimney this year. Dress suggestions: Wear a suit and a jazzy tie. Add some pillows to make you look plump. Wear a gray beard. Add some

© merrimysteries.com long nails (optional).

WITNESS

Gareth Sutherland



I am **Ebony's** husband. I am a police officer. She's always trying to get me to help with her animal rights causes.

Dress suggestions: Wear a police uniform costume.



SUSPECT

Nick Finn



Running this business keeps me as busy as a tinsel maker around Christmas. It makes me go grayer (point to your beard). Santa had 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?

RESPONSE: If someone says you were booking a trip to the Bahamas, say, "You must have misheard the dates. I am planning a trip to the Bahamas, but it is for February, not December."





RESPONSE:

If someone asks if reading mystery novels gave you inspiration and ideas as to how to kill Santa, say,

"I didn't kill Santa. I'm not that stupid. Just because I read murder mystery novels, doesn't mean I am a murderer."

Winnie Bailey



RESPONSE:

If someone asks you why you told Santa to go swing in the trees, say, "I confused him for a Red-Butt Baboon. When I told him to go swing in the trees, he gave me a really dirty look. But he deserved it if you ask me. I can't afford to buy presents. And I was afraid Santa would not come down my chimney and my kids would be disappointed. So I'm glad he's dead, as that solves that problem."



Josh Fraser

Herri Hysteries

Now that Mrs. Claus is a widow, I seriously hope that **Barret** doesn't go ahead and propose to her. Being best man at a wedding where the bride has elves instead of bridesmaids would really worry me.

SUSPECT

Glenda Drake



RESPONSE:

If someone asks why you didn't get the job of being Santa's little helper, say, "When I asked Santa why I didn't get the job, he couldn't give me a proper answer. I think it was female discrimination, but I couldn't afford to take him to court over it. Now as a wife and mother, I feel like I'm just an unpaid elf."

Barret Norcott



RESPONSE:

If someone accuses you of asking about how to cut brake cables, say,

"I didn't ask you about brake cables. You must have not heard me right. I asked you about break dancing."

SUSPECT

Ebony Sutherland



I think Santa was cruel for making those poor little reindeer pull him and all his presents all over the globe. I try to get my husband, who is a cop, to arrest people who abuse animals.



SUSPECT

Reg Wells



RESPONSE:

When someone asks you about how you took down Santa decorations, say,

"I saw Santa shopping across the street at one of our competitors. So now you know the real truth — Santa had bad taste. And as President of Gas — Plus More convenience stores and gas stations, I admit that yesterday I officially banned Santa from our stores."

SUSPECT

Rosemary Piper



As a boss of a TV station, I've been swapping persona's depending on which politician I've been dealing with. Everyone wanted Santa in their TV ad, but his agent charged a mint for his personal appearances. So after they've paid that much, advertisers didn't have much money to spend on the rest of their TV ad, so they ended up with tacky lists of products, and our ratings fell as a result. My producers made it very clear that if the ratings didn't improve, I'd be out of a job.

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···OR ANYONE

Rudolph



"I'm a reindeer. We pleaded with Santa that we didn't want to go to the hot countries, but he just ignored us. Santa was always receiving food and drink everywhere. But he never gave us anything to eat — only a bit of water now and then and a few measly carrots. I'm just glad that **Ebony** was kind enough to care about us. No one else did. Thanks Ebony. That reindeer retirement farm you have arranged for us sounds really great." [She doesn't respond to this.1 © merrimysteries.com

ANYONE





Say to Reg Wells,

"I saw you, **Reg**, taking down all the Santa decorations at all the Gas — Plus More convenience stores and gas stations, yet in the past you liked the stores to display lots of Christmas spirit.

You seemed to have become real nasty toward Santa Claus. Why was that, **Reg?**"

ANYONE

Except
Ebony or
Reg

Merri Misteries



They say that people who are obsessed about traveling constantly around the world are a bit psychologically unbalanced.

They are trying to run away from themselves and their problems, although of course it never works, as they take "themselves" with them on the trip. I think Santa was like that.

ANTONE



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

ANYONE



Santa came to my house and he broke the chimney. And he didn't have any public liability insurance!

ANYONE

Except Barret



I agree with **Barret** when he says that Santa wasn't a very healthy role model. It would have been good for Santa to pull that sleigh himself sometimes, and he could certainly have done with a better diet.

ANYONE



I'm so confused about politics and life in general — sometimes I think I'm Santa myself. Just don't poke me in the belly or I'll go "ho ho ho."

ANYONE



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.

I have always wondered at the mental stability of Santa. Grown men don't usually go about saying things that have no meaning like "ho, ho, ho."

···OR ANYONE

Rudolph



"Santa got really upset in some countries, because they left out better food and drinks for the man who collected their trash than they did for him. We reindeers were fed up with all the hard work we had to do and how Santa never paid us anything. So we formed a union. Judging by the large number of kids who received computer games from Santa last year, I think Santa was probably corrupt. He was probably doing a deal with one of the large games manufacturers."

ANYONE

Except Josh



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

ANYONE

Except Barret



Say to Barret,

"You cornered me when I came into the office, didn't you **Barret**. You wanted to know how you would go about cutting the brake cables on a sleigh."

ANYONE



Santa didn't have any kids of his own, so he didn't know what it was like to be a parent. He just dumped the toys for the kids to fight over and cleared out before dawn.

ANTONE

Except Nick



Say to Nick,

"I overheard you, **Nick**, on a phone call with a travel agency.

You were booking a relaxing holiday on a yacht in the Bahamas leaving tomorrow, yet this is usually your busiest time."

ANYONE

Except Winnie



It's obvious to me that some sort of cocktail party has gone on here today.

What with people like **Winnie** around, there has to have been some mixing of spirits and motives hasn't there?

[No one responds to this.]

ANTONE

Except Ebony



I saw Santa ditching his reindeer for a new motorcycle. He took it to a gas station to fill it. 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.