HOST GUIDE • 6–8 PLAYERS • ADULTS & TEENS • 2 HOURS

Murder at Mistletoe Lodge

A Christmas Eve murder mystery dinner party

Christmas Eve, Mistletoe Lodge. Wealthy host Uncle Rudy Pinecrest raised his reindeer mug of eggnog for the midnight toast… and collapsed. The snow has closed the mountain road. One of his eight guests is a murderer — and nobody leaves until the truth comes out.

How to play

1. Send the invitations (page 2) a week ahead with each guest's character card (pages 3–4). Unused characters? Skip Holly and Noelle for 6 players.
2. Round 1 (starters): everyone introduces their character. Read clues 1–4 aloud.
3. Round 2 (main course): guests question each other. Read clues 5–8.
4. Round 3 (dessert): read clues 9–12, then everyone fills in the Detective Notebook (page 6) and makes an accusation.
5. Reveal: read the sealed solution below. Prize for the best detective — and the best costume!

What you need

- A punch bowl of (safe!) eggnog and a mug for the 'victim'
- Place cards with each suspect's name
- Pens for the Detective Notebooks
- Candles, fairy lights and a little mistletoe

fold along the line — HOST ONLY: SEALED SOLUTION

The murderer is DR GABRIEL SNOW. He is no doctor at all — Rudy discovered the fake credentials and planned to expose him at the midnight toast. At 9:15 he slipped foxglove tincture from his bag into Rudy's personal reindeer mug (the punch bowl was clean), tearing his grey coat sleeve on the trolley. He invented a visit to Rosemary as his alibi and hid the empty bottle in his coat in the cloakroom.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Murder at Mistletoe Lodge

a Christmas murder mystery dinner

Your character: _____

Date & time: _____

Address: _____

Dress as: _____

RSVP: _____

Come in costume. Trust no one.

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Come in costume. Trust no one.

Character Cards — Suspects 1–4

Cut out and send one card with each invitation. Keep your secret… unless the clues force it out!



Ivy Pinecrest

Rudy's niece

Secret: Hopes to inherit Mistletoe Lodge — and owes the bank a fortune.

Costume idea: Wear red & a sparkly brooch

Your line: "I spent all evening by the piano… mostly."

SUSPECT 1



Carol Winters

The lodge chef

Secret: Made the famous eggnog. Heard Rudy planned to replace her after New Year.

Costume idea: Apron & a wooden spoon

Your line: "Everyone drank my eggnog — I'm no poisoner!"

SUSPECT 2



Jack Flurry

Ski instructor

Secret: Secretly engaged to Ivy. Rudy forbade the match.

Costume idea: Ski jumper & goggles

Your line: "I was waxing skis in the boot room at 9:15."

SUSPECT 3



Noelle Starling

Carol singer

Secret: Rudy's ex-fiancée. Still wears his ring on a chain.

Costume idea: Choir robe or velvet scarf

Your line: "Rudy broke my heart, not the other way round."

SUSPECT 4

Character Cards — Suspects 5–8

Cut out and send one card with each invitation. Keep your secret… unless the clues force it out!



Dr Gabriel Snow

The family doctor

Secret: Keeps a medical bag full of tinctures. Wears a long grey coat.

Costume idea: Grey coat & a doctor's bag

Your line: "I was called to check on Rosemary's headache."

SUSPECT 5



Holly Garland

Party planner

Secret: Has been quietly 'borrowing' from the party budget.

Costume idea: Clipboard & a festive headband

Your line: "I was counting the place cards in the dining room."

SUSPECT 6



Buddy Tinsel

Handyman in an elf suit

Secret: Fixes everything, notices everything. Saw a figure by the drinks at 9:15.

Costume idea: Elf hat & a toolbelt

Your line: "I saw someone in grey… or was it green?"

SUSPECT 7



Rosemary Pinecrest

Rudy's sister

Secret: Rudy changed his will last week — in her favour.

Costume idea: Pearls & a shawl

Your line: "I had a terrible headache and went to lie down."

SUSPECT 8

Clue Cards

Host: cut apart and read four clues per round

ROUND 1 • CLUE 1

The eggnog punch bowl tested clean — only Rudy's own reindeer mug held the poison.

ROUND 1 • CLUE 2

Rudy's diary, last entry: 'Tonight at the toast, I'll expose G.S. for the fraud he is.'

ROUND 1 • CLUE 3

Ivy's bank letter: 'Final notice — payment due 31 December.'

ROUND 1 • CLUE 4

A torn sleeve of grey wool caught on the drinks-trolley hinge.

ROUND 2 • CLUE 5

The doctor's bag is missing its small blue bottle of foxglove tincture.

ROUND 2 • CLUE 6

Holly's budget book shows $400 missing — but every receipt is dated last month.

ROUND 2 • CLUE 7

Jack's ski wax is still soft in the boot room: he really was there at 9:15.

ROUND 2 • CLUE 8

Rosemary's headache pills came from Dr Snow — but she says he never visited her room.

ROUND 3 • CLUE 9

A letter from the State Medical Board: 'No record of a Dr Gabriel Snow.'

ROUND 3 • CLUE 10

Buddy: 'The figure in grey turned left — toward the guest wing, not the piano.'

ROUND 3 • CLUE 11

Noelle returned Rudy's ring to his desk this morning, with a kind note.

ROUND 3 • CLUE 12

The blue bottle is found in the grey coat pocket in the cloakroom.

ONE PER PLAYER

Detective Notebook

Motive, means, opportunity — then name the killer

Suspect	Motive?	Means?	Opportunity?
Ivy Pinecrest			
Carol Winters			
Jack Flurry			
Noelle Starling			
Dr Gabriel Snow			
Holly Garland			
Buddy Tinsel			
Rosemary Pinecrest			

My accusation

The murderer is: _____

The motive was: _____

The poison was put in: _____

The clue that gave it away: _____