

MURDER MYSTERY

PARTY®

The Champagne Murder

Party Planner

The Champagne Murder

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to THE CHAMPAGNE MURDER, a Murder Mystery Party® game, in which your guests become characters suspected of committing the crime in question. The murder must be solved before the evening is out, but the major objective of the party is for you and your guests to enjoy yourselves.

This Party Planner is intended to make the evening run smoothly. You will find it helpful to read through the booklet before the day of the party. **However, on no account should you read any of the Character Booklets or watch the Video in advance.**

All Murder Mystery Parties are carefully constructed around a three-course dinner. You can pick up takeout for the actual dinner, or you can cook it yourself; either way, some forethought is needed. See the menu suggestions below.

It is your duty as a party organizer to see that the rules are observed and to keep the players in order. Cast your guests according to the character profiles printed on the invitations, keeping a character for yourself, but remember that no one will prove to be quite what they seem.

There are ten characters in all – eight suspects and two extra guests (five men and five women). The eight suspects must be present at your mystery party for it to play properly. It is not essential for the Extra Guests to be present. These two roles should be filled only if you are inviting more than eight people to your party. See section on Extra Guests below.

THE GAME CONTENTS

- 1 Party Planner
- 10 Party Invitations
- 10 Name Tags
- 10 Character Booklets
- 8 Secret Clues
- Access to Video with an introduction, clues and the solution. Download or stream from:
www.universitygames.com/mmpaudio



The Champagne Murder

THE INVITATIONS & COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

Try to send your invitations out early. Encourage your guests to enter into the spirit of the evening by dressing in appropriate costumes, as suggested in the invitations. They can choose to arrive elaborately dressed or be simple and just bring along a single prop.

Improvisation is the key to the success of the evening. Although the characters are outlined and there are scripted sections in the course of the game, you will find that the more you and your guests add to the existing material, the more fun you will have.

If further guests also turn up, they can join in and question the suspects, too.

THE CHARACTERS

TERENCE SHRIMP

An East End boy who has become a top society photographer – slightly camp

MARY-JANE FAITHLESS

A pop star, sophisticated and mysterious

OLIVER STEED

A drunken, womanizing actor – loud and large

KITTY KILLER

A glamorous writer with some dubious contacts in the criminal underworld

BRIAN SEWER

A sneering, sometimes obnoxious wine critic

TAMARA FARA-BUCKTOOTH

The queen of London society – no gossip column is complete without her

“CHAMPAGNE” CHARLIE BUNSON

An East End gangster, somewhere between a businessman and a thug

BABS CRAYFISH

“Champagne” Charlie’s girlfriend – struggling to make it as an actress

WIGGY

The most famous model in the world – a suburban girl who made it big (EXTRA GUEST)

MARTIN X

A controversial American writer who seems slightly shady (EXTRA GUEST)



3

The Champagne Murder

The Extra Guests

This game can be played with eight, nine or ten guests. The characters indicated as Extra Guests are optional characters. These characters are not absolutely necessary for the story, but they do add enormously to the evening.

If one or both of these characters are used, it is important that **NO ONE SHOULD BE TOLD THAT THEY ARE EXTRA GUESTS**, since this might reduce their involvement and impair their enjoyment of the evening. Only you should know who they are. (You, of course, have to know in order to allocate the roles if there are fewer than eight players.)

References to these characters are made on the Video and in the Booklets. So, if the game is being played with one or both extra guests missing, you should mention this at the beginning. We suggest that at the end of the round of Introductions (see Game Schedule), you should make a short statement that Wiggy and/or Martin X have been unable to make it this evening, and that all references to them in the booklets should be ignored.

Players may need to be reminded of this during the course of the evening.



4

The Champagne Murder

PRE-GAME INSTRUCTIONS

Suggestions for décor are given below.

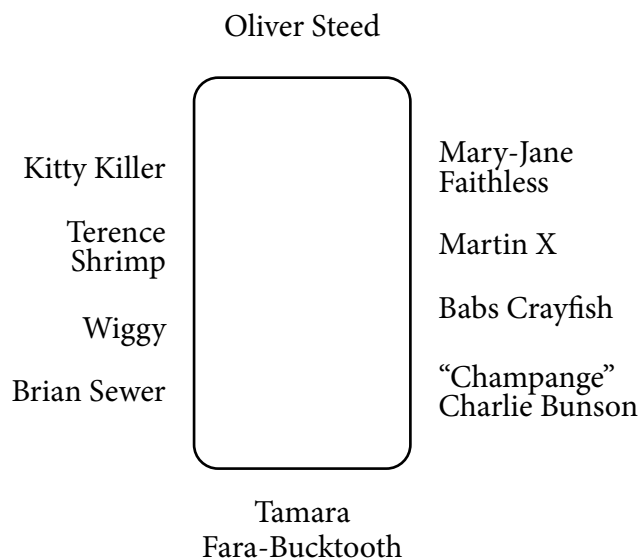
Character Booklets should be placed by each character's place at the table. There are eight Secret Clues labeled 1 through 8, with the name of the character who is to read each one; these should be retained by the host or hostess until they are required.

It may be helpful for you to provide each guest with a pad and pen for notes.

Note: Remember that you will need to be able to play Videos in the room.

Suggested Seating Arrangement

The interaction of characters is a crucial element of the game; it is best to avoid the development of small private arguments and to spread those guests you might expect to be more active in their portrayal of characters. The seating arrangement below is recommended, though of course, not obligatory:



The Champagne Murder

PRESENTATION

Be as inventive as you like with your choice of foods, beverages, music and décor. All suggestions are optional, but will help to create the ambience appropriate to the game scenario.

Allow approximately 2½ - 3 hours to play the game. Enjoy and have fun!

Setting the Mood

It is July 1967, and you are in the Chelsea home of Lord Michael Jagged. Try to include as many period pieces as you can in the decoration – posters of Op Art or Che Guevara would be good. Lighting should ideally include a lava lamp.

Music Suggestions

1. Soul (Motown, Stax)
2. Easy listening (John Schroeder, Bert Kaempfert, Martin Denny)
3. Film music (John Barry, Henry Mancini)
4. Latin ("Mongo" Santamaría, Perez Prado)

It is advisable to start the music before your guests arrive, to set the mood.



The Champagne Murder

PLAYING THE GAME

When your guests have all assembled, ask them to spend a few minutes reading the Rules of the Game and the Your Character pages in their Character Booklets. The paragraph entitled The Truth contains information for the guests' eyes only and should not be revealed at this point.

You must explain to your guests that they should not read beyond the STOP notices at the bottom of the pages until they are instructed.

When you are sure the guests have had time to absorb the information, start the game.

YOU SHOULD KEEP THIS PAGE OPEN NEXT TO YOU DURING THE GAME.

THE GAME SCHEDULE

Preliminary

1. When everyone has read the Rules and their Character pages, play the Introduction (Track 1) of the Video featuring Austin McClue, who will set the scene.
2. Introductions: The guests introduce themselves using the Introduction page of their Booklets. Tamara Fara-Bucktooth speaks first – the Booklets state who is to speak next. If one or both extra guests are missing, this is the time to explain that they have been unable to come, and that all references to them in the Booklets should be ignored.

Round One

3. First Dialogue: All characters now act out their parts.
4. Distribute Secret Clues #1 and #2 to Kitty Killer and Babs Crayfish, respectively.
5. Suspects review their individual bits of information first, then begin asking questions and revealing facts. Try to ensure that everyone has a chance to read and fully assimilate the information in their Booklets before the questioning starts.

This round's questioning begins with Kitty Killer revealing Clue #1.



7

The Champagne Murder

6. Video: When discussion has reached a natural end, play the First Course (Track 2) of the Video to wrap up Round One. Austin McClue will summarize the information that should have been revealed and will show you Clue #3.

Round Two

7. Second Dialogue: All characters now act out their parts.
8. Distribute Secret Clues #3, #4 and #5 to Oliver Steed, Mary-Jane Faithless and Terence Shrimp, respectively.
9. Suspects review their individual bits of information first, then begin asking questions and revealing facts. Try to ensure that everyone has had a chance to read and fully assimilate the information in their Booklets before the questioning starts.

This round's questioning begins with Oliver Steed revealing Clue #3.

10. Video: When discussion has reached a natural end, play the Second Course (Track 3) of the Video to wrap up Round Two. Austin McClue will summarize the information that should have been revealed.

Round Three

11. Third Dialogue: All characters now act out their parts.
12. Distribute Secret Clues #6, #7 and #8 to Brian Sewer, Tamara Fara-Bucktooth and "Champagne" Charlie Bunson, respectively.
13. Suspects first review their individual bits of information, then begin asking questions and revealing facts. Try to ensure that everyone has had a chance to read and fully assimilate the information in their Booklets before the questioning starts.

This round's questioning begins with Brian Sewer revealing Clue #6.



8

The Champagne Murder

Conclusion

14. Video: Play the Third Course (Track 4) of the Video for Austin McClue's summing up of the situation.
15. Final Statements: Each suspect now reads their version of events, summing up their declaration of innocence. Oliver Steed starts this round – the Booklets state who speaks next.
16. Accusations: Each guest now reveals his or her opinion of who the murderer is.
17. Video: Play the Solution (Track 5) on the Video for Austin McClue's revelation of the solution to THE CHAMPAGNE MURDER.

It is your duty as the party organizer to bring each round to an end by asking if your guests have revealed all the necessary information. This is also the appropriate moment to move onto the next course of your meal or to refresh the snacks and drinks.



The Champagne Murder

DINNER MENU

Lentil Soup

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Chicken Breasts in a
Wild Mushroom and White Wine Sauce
Served with New Potatoes

•

Jell-O® Banana Cream Pie with Caramel Drizzle

•

Beverages:
Wine – Red and sparkling white
Beer – Pale ale
Brandy

SHOPPING LIST

Dairy

- 5 oz light cream or half-and-half (plus any for coffee with dessert)
- 1 stick butter
- 2 cups cold milk
- 2 cups thawed Cool Whip® Whipped Topping

Produce

- 2 large onions
- 1 head garlic
- 1-2 lemons
- 1 lb wild mushrooms
- 1 banana
- 2 lbs new potatoes

Spices

- Paprika
- Coriander
- Cumin
- Turmeric
- Fresh mint
- Salt and pepper
- Tarragon
- Marjoram



The Champagne Murder

Dry Goods

1 cup dried lentils
Vegetable stock cubes
Olive oil
1 tbsp tomato puree
1 ready-to-use graham cracker crumb crust (6 oz.)
2 pkg (3.4 oz each) JELL-O® Banana Cream Flavor
and/or Vanilla Flavor Instant Pudding
Caramel ice cream topping

Bakery

1 baguette or other crusty bread loaf

Frozen

16 oz frozen green peas

Meat

1 or 2 chicken breasts for each guest
2 slices of bacon

Beverages

White wine (for cooking)
Wine – red and sparkling white
Beer – pale ale
Brandy
Coffee

RECIPES

Lentil Soup

Ingredients

1 cup dried lentils
1 large onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 slices of bacon, chopped into small pieces
Spices (paprika, coriander, cumin, turmeric)
Pepper
Salt
64 oz vegetable stock
Juice from 1 to 2 lemons
5 oz of light cream or half-and-half
Olive oil



11

The Champagne Murder

By serving this hippie classic in a fashionable London house, you are demonstrating your awareness of and solidarity with the counterculture.

The best lentils for soup-making are red lentils, but even better is a mixture of red and brown lentils in a ratio of approximately four parts red to one part brown. Prepare this early – it can be reheated when needed, and the flavor benefits from being left to stand.

Place the lentils in a large saucepan of cold water. (For additional flavor, place a whole, peeled onion in the water together with a couple of cloves of garlic and some pepper.) Bring to a boil for one minute. Remove from the heat and skim off any froth.

Let stand for one hour, adding more water if the level drops too low.

Remove the onion and garlic (if used) and drain.

Meanwhile, in a heavy-bottomed saucepan, fry the onions and pieces of bacon in the olive oil and stir. As the onion begins to soften, add the garlic and fry for another two to three minutes, continuing to stir. Add the lentils, spices, salt and pepper. After a few minutes, add the stock, bring to a boil and reduce the heat. Cover and simmer for an hour or so until the lentils have dissolved.

Before serving, stir in the cream (as desired) and add lemon juice.

Serve with crusty bread.



12

The Champagne Murder

Chicken Breasts in Wild Mushroom and White Wine Sauce

Ingredients:

1 or 2 skinless chicken breasts per person
1 lb wild mushrooms, washed
1 large onion, roughly chopped
1 lbs new potatoes
Garlic
1 tbsp tomato puree
Herbs (particularly tarragon and marjoram)
Salt and pepper
Vegetable stock cube
White wine

Again, this can be largely prepared in advance. Fry the chicken, prepare the sauce and assemble to put in the oven when needed.

Marinate the chicken in white wine with some herbs and seasoning for an hour or so, if possible. Heat the oil in a frying pan until it is sizzling and add the chicken. Fry on both sides to seal in the flavor until the color has changed. Remove from the pan and place in a casserole dish.

Add the onions and the garlic to the frying pan. Immediately turn the heat down. After a couple of minutes, add the mushrooms and stir to ensure even cooking. Add the herbs, seasoning, tomato puree and stock cube. Stir in some white wine – you'll need enough sauce to cover the chicken. About 1 cup should be sufficient, depending on how much juice the mushrooms release. Err on the side of caution.

When the wine is hot, pour the whole sauce over the chicken and cover the casserole dish.

Cook in the oven at 350° for about 40 minutes. Check halfway through to make sure there is sufficient sauce – add some more wine if needed.

Serve with boiled new potatoes, served with butter and fresh mint.



13

The Champagne Murder

Jell-O® Banana Cream Pie with Caramel Drizzle

Ingredients:

1 banana, sliced
1 ready-to-use graham cracker crumb crust (6 oz.)
2 pkg (3.4 oz each) JELL-O® Banana Cream and/or
Vanilla Flavor Instant Pudding
2 cups cold milk
2 cups thawed Cool Whip® Whipped Topping,
divided in two
¼ cup caramel ice cream topping

Makes 10 adequate servings. If you want to have extras for seconds or for larger portions, double the recipe.

Allow 15 minutes to prepare, then 4 hours to chill. Can be made the night before or the morning of the party, then quickly dressed to serve.

Arrange banana slices on bottom of crust.

Beat pudding mixes and milk in a medium bowl with a whisk for 2 minutes. Stir in 1 cup Cool Whip®. Pour into crust.

Refrigerate 4 hours or until firm. Top with remaining Cool Whip® just before serving. Drizzle with caramel topping.

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14

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the Grill



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Twist



A Taste for Wine
and Murder



Murder on
Misty Island

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MYSTERY**
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Champagne Murders

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