

A Murder Mystery Party

A Very Fatal Family Christmas

Pinecone Point · Christmas, today · For 8 to 20 guests · About 3 hours



Who's Who

Print characters 1 to the number of guests you have. Hand out the core first; give the add-ons to guests who like a smaller part, or to latecomers. * = can be played by a man or a woman.

#	Character	Role		Starts with
1	Evelyn Holloway	The Matriarch	Core	\$500
2	Gloria Pryce *	The Family Lawyer	Core	\$200
3	Trixie Bell	The Plus-One	Core	\$60
4	Darlene Kowalski *	The Neighbour	Core	\$60
5	Margo Holloway-Hale	The Eldest	Core	\$150
6	Kip Holloway *	The Grandchild	Core	\$20
7	Roger Holloway	The Son	Core	\$100
8	Chef Jean-Luc Moreau *	The Caterer	Core	\$40
9	Hal Hale	Margo's Husband	Add-on	\$80
10	Nick Frost *	Santa, for Hire	Add-on	\$20
11	Bunny Fairweather	The Cousin from Boca	Add-on	\$90
12	Brock Stone *	Evelyn's Personal Trainer	Add-on	\$70
13	Patrice Holloway	Roger's Ex-Wife	Add-on	\$120
14	Tommy Pike *	The True-Crime Podcaster	Add-on	\$30
15	Dash Rivera	The Tree Delivery Driver	Add-on	\$25
16	Dorothy Finch	The Choir Director	Add-on	\$35
17	Ingrid Solberg	The Au Pair	Add-on	\$30
18	Ronnie Holloway *	Roger's Twin	Add-on	\$110
19	Skye Larsen *	The Ski Patrol Rescuer	Add-on	\$45
20	Bradley Crandall *	The Rival	Add-on	\$250

Holloway Dollars

The cash pages print each character's starting money together, already counted, in character order. Print the pages up to your last character, cut out each bundle and drop it in that character's packet. The last cash page is the bank: spare \$1 bills for change.

Before the Party

HOW LONG

About an hour for 8 guests and about two hours for 20, most of it folding envelopes and cutting money. Twice as fast with a helper (and a drink).

Checklist

- ☐ **A week ahead:** send the invitations. Each one names the guest's character and what to wear.
- ☐ **Print** characters 1 to your headcount (four pages each: a card and three envelopes), the evidence, the extras you want, and the cash pages up to your last character. Plain paper is fine; card stock makes nicer money, name tags and awards.
- ☐ **Fold and seal the envelopes.** About a minute each: 24 envelopes for 8 guests (half an hour), 60 for 20 (an hour). A sticker or a dab of glue stick works instead of tape. No time? Fold each message in thirds and slip it into a real envelope marked with the name and number.
- ☐ **Cut out** the cash bundles, name tags, action cards and evidence. A paper cutter is much faster than scissors.
- ☐ **Make a packet for each guest:** the card, envelopes 1, 2 and 3, the name tag and the cash bundle. A paper clip or a zip bag each.
- ☐ **Tuck one action card into each Christmas cracker** (or keep them to hand out at the cracker pull), and sort the evidence into three folders: Murder 1, 2 and 3.
- ☐ **Read this guide once**, and the minute-by-minute pages twice. Then do the setting-up list on the next page.



The Eldest

Share freely

Your bigger secret

Your secret

Who you know

- **Evelyn Holloway:** Mother. Never satisfied.
- **Roger Holloway:** Your brother. Useless.
- **Kip Holloway:** Your nephew or niece. A liar.
- **Trixie Bell:** Roger's 'girlfriend'. Please.

Dress the part

Your goals tonight

- ☐ **Confront:** Roger: his girlfriend is a gold digger. Prove it. Kip: a liar; catch Kip in one. Trixie: keep her out of the family photo.
- ☐ **Find out:** Who is Mother naming at ten? It had better be you.
- ☐ **Side goal:** Get three guests to praise the gingerbread house out loud. Get Roger struck off.

- ☐ **Tonight:** From **7:30** until the crackers (just fifteen minutes), ice the gingerbread in the kitchen (another room or corner) while the chef works. At **7:40** send Kip to the kitchen to fetch the crackers. At **9:20**, stand at Mother's right for the carol, and lead it (unless the choir director is here).

You start with: \$150, a whistle and an oven mitt to point with.



You are invited to a murder mystery Christmas at

Pinecone Point

The Holloway lake house · December 23rd · snowed in

You will be

Evelyn Holloway

The Matriarch

Dress the part

Your best holiday outfit, pearls or a brooch, a cane or a walking stick, a regal stare.

When _____

Where _____

RSVP _____

Wear an ugly sweater. Trust no relative.



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You will be

Gloria Pryce

The Family Lawyer

Dress the part

A suit or a smart dress, reading glasses, a briefcase, a Christmas tie or brooch.

When _____

Where _____

RSVP _____

Wear an ugly sweater. Trust no relative.