

A Midnight Masquerade

Murder in Black & White

New York · New Year's Eve, 1966 · 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	Julian Ashcombe *	The Novelist	Core	\$150
2	Babs Van Dusen	The Swan of Fifth Avenue	Core	\$100
3	Vivienne Starr	The Broadway Star	Core	\$40
4	Zero *	The Pop Artist	Core	\$120
5	Mitzi Kane	The Gossip Columnist	Core	\$90
6	Arthur Pendleton	The Night Concierge	Core	\$40
7	Senator Hollis Grant *	The Senator	Core	\$200
8	Cal Bishop *	The Bandleader	Core	\$60
9	Teddy Van Dusen	Husband Number Five	Add-on	\$20
10	Ward Pruitt *	The Senator's Chief of Staff	Add-on	\$50
11	Prince Dmitri Orlov	A Prince of Somewhere	Add-on	\$30
12	Penny Lark	The Editor	Add-on	\$40
13	Dolly Malone	The Elevator Girl	Add-on	\$15
14	Sy Mandel *	The Hollywood Producer	Add-on	\$120
15	Ned 'Flash' Fennimore	The Society Photographer	Add-on	\$40
16	Gigi Laurent	The Understudy	Add-on	\$25
17	Pixie Velvet	The Superstar	Add-on	\$10
18	Lulu Bell Crockett	The Oil Heiress	Add-on	\$150
19	Mick Nolan	The House Detective	Add-on	\$30
20	Lionel Pratt *	The Rival Novelist	Add-on	\$40

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.
- ☐ **Put one action card in each guest's packet** (face down), 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.



CHARACTER 2 · CORE

Babs Van Dusen

The Swan of Fifth Avenue

You are Babs Van Dusen, the reigning swan of Fifth Avenue: pearls, an icy smile, five husbands (three of them still breathing).

Share freely

Ten years ago tonight, at Julian's first ball, your diamond necklace, the Ice Swan, vanished from the pocket of your mink at the coat check during the countdown. (It pinched, so you'd taken it off.) The insurance paid \$250,000. You checked your famous swan hat, diamond hatpin and all, with Arthur when you arrived tonight.

Your secret

Hidden in this preview

[REDACTED]

Your bigger secret

Hidden in this preview

[REDACTED]

Who you know

- **Julian Ashcombe:** The host. Your oldest frenemy.
- **Mitzi Kane:** The columnist. A snoop.
- **Vivienne Starr:** Wants your money.
- **Senator Hollis Grant:** The senator. Owes you.

Dress the part

A white gown or white suit, pearls, a white feathered mask on a stick, a lorgnette.

Your goals tonight

- ☐ **Confront:** Mitzi Kane: she's sniffing round your finances. Vivienne Starr: she wants you to back her show. With what? The senator: owes you a favor from 1958.
- ☐ **Find out:** What does Chapter Thirteen say about your necklace?
- ☐ **Side goal:** Win Julian's pen at the auction. Raise \$50 in 'loans' without anyone guessing why.
- ☐ **Tonight:** Hold your swan mask on its stick all night. Before the portrait, pop back to the coat check for the compact in your mink's pocket. For the portrait you'll stand in the back row. At the champagne tower you pour the magnum with Julian.

You start with: \$100 (all that's left) and a lorgnette for looking down on people.

Suspicious & notes



You are invited to a masked ball and a murder on

The Starlight Roof

The Hotel Belvedere, Park Avenue · New Year's Eve, 1966

You will be

Julian Ashcombe

The Novelist

Dress the part

Black tie or a black gown, a plain black mask, a gold pen to point with.

When _____

Where _____

RSVP _____

Black or white only. Wear a mask. Keep it on until midnight.



You are invited to a masked ball and a murder on

The Starlight Roof

The Hotel Belvedere, Park Avenue · New Year's Eve, 1966

You will be

Babs Van Dusen

The Swan of Fifth Avenue

Dress the part

A white gown or white suit, pearls, a white feathered mask on a stick, a lorgnette.

When _____

Where _____

RSVP _____

Black or white only. Wear a mask. Keep it on until midnight.