

MURDER IS CARVED IN STONE

Preview



Find out
who killed
adventurer
Illinois
Smith
before he
could sail
the Inside
Passage

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MURDER IS CARVED IN STONE

HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR MURDER MYSTERY

Thanks for purchasing this unique murder mystery. You and your guests will enjoy the challenge of solving a crime that will test everyone's powers of deduction.

Murder is Carved in Stone was coordinated for a Murder Mystery Cruise on Alaska's Inside Passage. It was conducted over a six-day period aboard a luxury cruise ship. The format has been modified for an evening's entertainment, however it can easily be orchestrated over a longer period of time.

The "set" for your mystery event is a cruise ship that has just departed the port of Seattle for a week-long voyage to Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway and other ports of call along the Inside Passage (the Pacific Ocean channel between the North American continent and an offshore series of islands). *The case incorporates real facts and locations, but tweaks them to provide a thought-provoking plot.*

Here is what you should do to coordinate your murder mystery:

STEP 1: Review the materials in this kit. But . . . please do it in a very specific way. Remember - you have ALL of the information, *including the solution to the mystery*. If you decide to participate in the mystery as a role player or as an investigator, you'll want to keep yourself in the dark about WHO DONE IT.

The entire kit includes:

- **Instructions on how to organize the event.** You're reading them right now. The page numbers in this kit are subdued in the upper right hand corners so that you can reproduce the material effectively.
- **Instructions for the Special Agent who will facilitate the event.** Information for the person who will take charge of the murder investigation as a Special Agent is on **page 6**.
- **Invitation.** The invitation on **pages 7 and 8** serves as an introduction to the mystery and contains key information about the case. The two pages of the invitation are designed to be reproduced back to back, then folded with the bottom third of the invitation up and the top third down. You may want to use better quality stationery when you run off one copy for each guest, or you can take it to a professional print shop for reproduction. *Fill in the bottom flap with the details about your murder mystery.* You'll need to pick a name for your "ship," the venue for the event. Select something that is a bit whimsical, or that has a particular meaning for your group.
- **Suspect Roles.** The 24 roles on **pages 9 through 24** contain the information you'll send with the invitations. Each role is designed as a two-sided document that fits on one-third of a standard sheet of paper. Again, you may want to use heavier stock when reproducing the roles. *Each role player gets only the information that applies to the role that he or she is playing. Your role players should know ONLY about themselves.*
- **Passenger List.** The Passenger List and "What to do . . ." instructions on **pages 25 and 26** are laid out in the same format as the Suspect Roles. Run off one copy for each guest.
- **Nametags.** The nametags on **pages 27 through 29** can be reproduced on standard templates that are laid out with 10 nametags per page. They include animal symbols that identify investigative team assignments. *At your discretion, you can add information to the nametags, or not use them at all for your mystery event.*
- **Email from the Seattle Police Department.** The email on **page 30** will be read by the Special Agent to start the investigation. Run off a copy for each team.
- **Additional Information.** On **pages 31 through 50**, you'll find information for selected suspects that will be handed out during the investigation. They are laid out in a similar fashion to the Suspect Roles, and are numbered "1" through "5". Since they build the facts and the story of the murder, they must be handed out in the correct sequence.
- **Investigative Reports #1 and #2.** The Investigative Reports on pages **51 and 52** will be read in the proper sequence, then given to each team during the investigation.
- **The Answer Sheet.** Each team will complete the Answer Sheet on **page 53** to solve the case.
- **The Denouement.** *This is the solution to the crime.* The Special Agent will read **pages 54 through 57** at the end of the mystery. If you are trying to solve the case, run off the solution without looking at it and place it in a sealed envelope.

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STEP 2: Plan your event. Pick a date on which to conduct the murder mystery event. It will take two-and-a-half to three hours to solve the case using the recommended format. Because of this, a buffet meal is suggested for the mystery evening. If you have a sit-down meal, add the amount of time the meal will take to your planning time. *Remember: our mysteries are for serious sleuths.*

STEP 3: Match your guests with the suspect roles. Review the scenario and the brief descriptions of the on the Passenger List. Select individuals who would fit into these roles. *If you will be attempting to solve the case along with your guests, don't read everything in this kit. If you do, you'll know too much about the case.*

Each suspect role contains the following information:

1. *Who you are.*
2. *To whom you are related.*
3. *Why you are on the cruise.*
4. *What you know about Illinois Smith (the victim).*
5. *What you know about the other suspects.*

Run off the 24 suspect roles. They are laid out two-sided and three-up. The roles are color coded and divided into *six four-person teams* (each team has two women and two men) based on the symbols of Alaskan wildlife at the top of each role.

Assign the roles to create an interesting mix of personalities on each team. Avoid putting “significant others” on the same team. While you will be tempted to do so, you’ll find that some real life issues could carry into the dynamics of the mystery event.

If you have more than 24 guests, the additional people can be assigned to the teams as “investigators.” They can help solve the case even though they are not suspects.

STEP 4: Invite your guests. Approximately three to four weeks before the murder mystery, send out the invitations with the roles. Each suspect should receive a personal invitation. Your guests should bring their roles with them and use them as reference material when they are being questioned by the other guests. Some of your guests will forget to bring their roles, so be sure to make extra copies.

STEP 5: Select a Special Agent (an associate Agent or Agents is optional) to facilitate the investigation. The Special Agent should read the Instructions on page 6, and review the information in this kit in advance to keep the event moving and to ensure that the investigation is conducted effectively.

Here's what to do on the night of the mystery event.

STEP 6: The Special Agent greets the guests. The Special Agent gives each guest a copy of the Passenger List, tells them to find the correct nametag and to follow the instructions labeled “What to do . . .” on the back of Passenger List.

Give your guests 20 to 30 minutes to find their teammates and to share the information about their roles. You may adjust this timeframe based upon the logistics of your event and the arrival times of your guests.

STEP 7: Read the email from the Seattle Police Department. The Special Agent quiets the guests and reads the email from the Seattle Police reporting the death of Illinois Smith, and reviews the “What to do . . .” instructions on the back of the Passenger List.

The Special Agent then states that additional information about the case will be arriving throughout the event. Initially, EVERYONE will be considered a suspect. As the case is being investigated, it will become apparent that only five or six people are *Prime Suspects*.

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STEP 8: The investigation starts. After the email is read and a copy given to each team, your guests will continue to learn more about their teammates and begin to question the other teams. Allow this to go on until the momentum builds. At first, people will seem overwhelmed by the quantity of facts, but soon specific storylines will start to emerge.

STEP 9: Break for dinner or refreshments. The teams may exchange information to learn as much as they can about the case while they are eating.

STEP 10: Distribute Investigative Report #1. At the end of the break, the Special Agent reads aloud Investigative Report #1 and gives a copy to each team.

STEP 11: Distribute Additional Information #1. Roughly 10 minutes later (the Special Agent can adjust this), the “Additional Information” cards with the number “1” are given to the suspects whose names are at the tops of the cards.

Important: This information enables the case to continue at the proper pace. Not every team will receive additional information at the same time. Some teams might have two team members who receive information while others will have none. Everything will balance off.

*Occasionally, you’ll have guests who’ll send their “regrets” at the last minute. Two of the roles, **Ferris Boot** and **Inola Itsez**, have no Additional Information. This is intentional! Since, they are non-essential roles, they can be eliminated from the plot with no impact on the mystery. Roles can then be reassigned if necessary.*

STEP 12: Distribute Additional Information #2. Roughly 10 minutes later, the “Additional Information” cards with the number “2” are given to the correct suspects.

STEP 13: Distribute Additional Information #3. Roughly 10 minutes later, the “Additional Information” cards with the number “3” are given to the correct suspects.

STEP 14: Distribute Additional Information #4. Roughly 10 minutes later, the “Additional Information” cards with the number “4” are given to the correct suspects.

STEP 15: Distribute Investigative Report #2. Several minutes after Additional Information #4 is handed out, the Special Agent reads aloud Investigative Report #2 and gives a copy to each team.

STEP 16: Distribute Additional Information #5. Roughly 10 minutes later, the “Additional Information” cards with the number “5” are given to the correct suspects. The teams should now have enough information to solve the case.

STEP 17: Distribute the Answer Sheets. Give the teams 10 to 12 minutes to write out their solutions by answering the questions on the *Answer Sheet*.

STEP 18: Teams give their solutions. The Special Agent asks the questions on the Answer Sheet to each team, one at a time. The teams read the answers exactly as they were written on the answer sheet. *NOTE: Often, a team will want to change its mind after hearing the answers from another team. Don’t let this happen.*

STEP 19: Read “The Denouement.” The Special Agent opens the envelope in which the solution was placed, and reads it aloud to the guests. This will take around eight minutes.

STEP 20: Award prizes. At your discretion, award prizes to the investigative team that did the best job of solving the case.

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Optional Use of Avatars

To add an interesting dynamic, you can prepare your group for the murder mystery event by sending out preliminary information in the form of emails with website links to avatars. The avatars will speak directly to your guests and provide information about the case.

Here are sample emails you can use, or you can prepare your own:

EMAIL #1 (Send approximately three weeks before the murder mystery event.)

Subject: Illinois Smith would like to speak with you!

Our passenger list for the Alaska Inside Passage cruise includes adventurer Illinois Smith. He's heard that you have some concerns about traveling with him. Listen to his message at: www.murdermystery.xyz/smith.html.

EMAIL #2 (Send approximately two weeks before the murder mystery event.)

Subject: Agent Black of Interjust has a personal message for you!

Agent Black has asked to speak with you about Illinois Smith. He has important information that you need to know. Listen to his message at: www.murdermystery.xyz/black.html.

EMAIL #3 (Send approximately one week before the murder mystery event.)

Subject: Museum Curator Midge Green has a warning for you!

Because she believes Illinois Smith is plotting something illegal during the cruise, museum curator Midge Green feels it's vital that you hear her story. Listen to her at: www.murdermystery.xyz/green.html.

EMAIL #4 (Send approximately two days before the murder mystery event.)

Subject: Detective White of the Seattle Police has an update for you!

Before you embark for Alaska's Inside Passage with Illinois Smith, Detective Adam White of the Seattle Police Department would like to speak with you. Listen to him at: www.murdermystery.xyz/white.html.

Review the avatars right now and you'll better understand how they can add a touch of excitement that will carry over to your murder mystery.



Instructions for the person who will facilitate the event

If you are a role player, then you already have a formal part in the investigation. Your role as facilitator means you will have to stay in character while ensuring that the investigation is conducted effectively.

If you are not one of the role players, you can assume the role of a Special Agent assigned to the case.

Here's what you should do:

1. Review all of the information in this packet so that you are familiar with the mystery. **REMEMBER: If you are attempting to solve the crime, do NOT read "The Denouement" in advance. It contains the solution to the case.**
2. As the guests arrive, hand them a copy of The Passenger List and have them read the instructions headlined, "What to do . . ." Tell them to talk with as many people as they can to acquire information.
3. Keep the event moving by following the instructions on **pages 2 through 5**. Make sure all information is given and distributed at the right intervals.
4. **If you are not one of the role players,** after you read "The Denouement," lead the guilty party away to jail. If you want to, you can use toy handcuffs to make the arrest. If you want to stage the arrest in this way, let the suspects know you will do this.
5. Take a bow for a job well done!

Be sure to read the confidential memo from Agent Black inside!



Alaska's Inside Passage

through

Mysterious Cruise

Join us on a

MURDER MYSTERY PARTY



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MYSTERIES ON THE NET

PO Box 191, Cedarburg, WI 53012, www.mysteries-on-the-net.com, (262)377-7230



BOARDING PASS



Our luxury cruise ship, the _____

Departs for the Inside Passage on _____ at _____

Check in on the pier located at _____

_____ RSVP

INTERJUST



INTERNATIONAL
JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

Confidential Memo

Dear Traveler;

It has come to our attention that you will be cruising to Alaska via the Inside Passage. Be advised that someone with whom you are familiar, **Illinois Smith**, will also be on board your ship. As you know, Smith is an adventurer and self-proclaimed archaeologist who has a checkered record with law enforcement officials around the globe.

Likewise, be informed that Smith is under surveillance and could be planning some sort of illegal activity centered around the port of Seattle. Although Interjust is certain that Smith is involved with the smuggling of contraband, we have never been able to pin anything on him.

You should also be aware that Smith has been the subject of numerous death threats, but none have ever been carried out. Keep an eye on his movements and report any suspicious activity to the authorities.

Your cooperation in bringing him to justice would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Black

Agent Black

Interjust

YOUR ROLE

To remind you of your **true identity**, refer to the details in the enclosed information. *Study the facts carefully and bring the document with you.*

Some of the other passengers may want to know more about you, and we'd hate to think that you'd be at a loss for words. They might conclude that you look like you're guilty of something!



**In Box**

From: Detective Adam White
Homicide Unit, Seattle Police

To: Special Agent

Subject: Illinois Smith

Priority: Urgent



Be advised that the body of Illinois Smith has been discovered lying facedown on a rocky beach located on an island in Puget Sound. The body is currently with the coroner.

Our homicide unit has been assigned to the case and will keep you informed of the ongoing investigation into this case.

Smith had booked your cruise and was slated to be on your ship as it sailed the Inside Passage. We believe that one or more of the passengers aboard is involved in the circumstances surrounding Smith's death.

Use your discretion to conduct a thorough review of the facts and help us determine what happened.

You will be kept informed of our findings via special Investigative Reports that will be forwarded to you as our work progresses.

Regards,
Detective Adam White