

Once Upon a Murder

Introduction File



Night of
Mystery



Once Upon a Murder

A Timeless Tale of Treachery and Treason in a Kingdom Far, Far Away

After the mysterious disappearance of Cinderella, Prince Charming is throwing a ball to find a new wife. Some of the Kingdom residents question how the prince could move on so quickly, while others are jumping at the chance to earn their spot as the new princess in the castle.

As the evening escalates, a killing occurs in the palace ... leaving you to write the final chapter.

Will you finger the fairy godmother whose magic cannot give her the outcome she desires?
The prince who has used his riches to alienate others?
A devious dwarf who may know too much?
Or perhaps a pouting princess who is plotting to win the heart of Prince Charming.

In a kingdom where jealousy, betrayal and deception are common story lines, it will be up to you to find the felon so that everyone can live happily ever after.



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Thank you for choosing Once Upon A Murder

We are confident that you will find this comprehensive packet to provide everything that you will want and need to run your very own murder mystery party—one that will have your guests talking about it for weeks, if not longer.

This murder mystery experience is designed to be easy to run and fun to play for all the guests involved. The game is played with all of your guests having active roles in the game and each guest having objectives to complete. These objectives keep the party from being pre-scripted and allow your guests to draw their own conclusions as to the motives and the identity of the murderer. This format also allows for great mingling amongst your guests and insures that all of your guests feel included. Before the night is through, each guest will have discovered that they have a motive for killing the victim and be inclined to protect their innocence as well as seek out the murderer. To add to the experience and suspense of the night, the murder happens during the party, not before, as in some other murder mystery games. The victim is also allowed to play along after they 'die', since they have no clue who murdered them. Once Upon A Murder is certain to be a hit with all of your guests.

The following pages contain a simple list of things you need to do as host in order to have the party run smoothly. Once the party is going, it is up to the guests to make the most of it—something you will be surprised at how well they do.

Choosing the Right Version

Versions available: 8-12 guests, 10-15 guests, 15-20 guests, 20+ guests.

Gender Counts:

With 20+ guests: At least 6 male, 8 female, 1 gender-neutral

With 15-20 guests: 6-7 male, 8-9 female, 1-4 gender-neutral

With 10-15 guests: 4-6 male, 6-7 female, 0-2 gender-neutral

With 8-12 guests: 3-5 male, 5-6 female, 0-1 gender-neutral

Can I upgrade or downgrade between versions after purchase? Unfortunately, you cannot. With the exception of moving from the 15-20 guest version to the 20+ version, upgrading between mysteries is not an option, which is why we encourage getting an accurate guest count before purchasing.

How do I get an accurate guest count? It is recommended that you send out the general invite with an RSVP date of two weeks before the party. After your guests RSVP positive, you can send them their character sheet and other party information.

You can download an invite at: <http://www.nightofmystery.com/invitations>

Is this mystery suitable for youths and/or church groups? Yes. Our site offers "clean" versions of a few other mysteries on our site: www.nightofmystery.com. Please refer to those when hosting a party for a more conservative crowd.

Assigning Characters

- **As host, you will need to decide upon a character for each of your guests.** The easiest way to assign the characters is to read the character descriptions and match each character with the guest you feel suits that particular character the best. They will be listed in this host's guide, along with a sheet that will help you assign the characters best to your guests.
- **Is there a set character list?** Yes. You will not be able to pick and choose which characters are included with your mystery. This intro file has the guests listed for the 15-20 guest version. If you are curious about specifically which characters will be included with your purchase, you can email support@nightofmystery.com to inquire about that information ahead of purchase.
- **WHO CAN I ELIMINATE WITHOUT RUINING THE MYSTERY?** Information in mystery purchase.
- **Because this party is dependent on a minimum number of people showing up,** you need to determine ahead of time which guests are attending before assigning characters.
- **An accurate guest count is important.** It is recommended that you send out the general invite with an RSVP date of two weeks before the party. After your guests RSVP positive, you can send them their character sheet and other party information.
- **You can download an invite at:** <http://www.nightofmystery.com/invitations>
- **After purchase, you will not be able to “upgrade” or “downgrade” your party to the next level, *so an accurate guest count is imperative.*** **There is an upgrade when moving from the 15-20 guests version to the 20+ guest version for purchase on the site, but the 15-20 guest version is the only version where the upgrade works.
- **The killer will not know they are the murderer until they open their second envelope at the party.**
- **The victim will not know they are the victim until they get to the party.** The victim will not have a list of objectives for after the murder. Also listed in their first set of objectives is to, “fall down dead when the lights go off.”
- **The victim after “death”:** If the victim wishes to play along after the murder, they can do so without an identity. If you have an extra identity (that is, a role that is not being played), they can also assume that identity if they so choose. *If Nosy is not assigned, the victim will assume this role after they have “died.”
- **As host, who should I be?** Information in mystery purchase.
- **Ideas for assigning couples:** Information in mystery purchase.
- **Different versions for this mystery:** Adult & Clean versions.

Some Frequently Asked Questions:

Can I run this as a first-time host? First-time hosts need not be wary. Night of Mystery parties have everything you need to throw a successful party and are designed to be easy-to-run.

CAN I PLAY ALONG WITHOUT KNOWING WHO THE VICTIM AND/OR MURDERER ARE? OF COURSE! Unlike some other mystery parties, we have designed our materials so that the hosts can play along! As host, you will read the host's guide in full to ensure that you are setting the game up correctly WITHOUT letting you know who the murderer is! If you wish to know the murderer, you can simply read the solution.

Will a murder happen AT the party? *YES again!* We found this adds to the excitement, intrigue, and fun of the party! It's another reason why we are a stickler for "no spoilers on social media" – we can't have pictures of the victims for fear of ruining the intrigue for others!

How can I pick the "right" party theme? We always recommend you pick the theme that you are most passionate about hosting and/or you believe your guests will be most excited about coming to! We do our best to accommodate multiple sizes within each party theme to accommodate that.

- If having specific gendered roles is important to you, please see the gender counts for the version you plan on ordering.
- Additionally, if you are worried about a mystery being too racy, please see our clean versions.
- If specific characters within a mystery are important to you, reach out to support@nightofmystery.com and we can let you know (specifically) which characters are included with the version you are considering.

Can I run this with my business and/or group organization? With a business license, you can run these mystery parties with your organized group and/or business. Please see our FAQ for more information on business licenses.

Do you come and run the party? We do not. Our services are in providing YOU with everything you need to throw your party in your own home or venue. IF you have a desire for someone else to run your party, please see our resources page for party planners who have purchased our business license and are licensed to run our parties in your area.

A Note about Social Media: While we LOVE to see your fun parties – and often highlight and cross-promote those who tag us – we can't have anyone posting pictures of spoilers! This includes, but is not limited to, pictures, videos, or mentions of the victim, murderer, and/or pertinent clues in the game. Since spoiler posts create a calculated loss of business, you can be liable to pay the calculated loss of sales upon discovery of the violation. So keep it fun, crazy, and show us your best spoiler-free content!!! **And don't forget to tag us after! #nightofmystery**

How does this work? All of our parties come as a professionally designed 50-125 page pdf. Immediately after completing your order, you will be able to re-login to your account using the username and password you established in the purchasing process. Once in your account, you can download your party (including optional emailable invitations for your guests) for 120 days.

Host Guide

PRINCE CHARMING • Prince. The leader of the kingdom and heartthrob to many, this dashing young man will have numerous decisions to make - all of which will affect the outcome of the night.

FELICITY • Cinderella's Fairy Godmother. Still doting over the disappearance of her goddaughter, Felicity continues to hope that Cinderella will reappear and everyone will live happily ever after.

GRISELDA • Cinderella's Stepsister. After years of animosity, Griselda has earned Cinderella's trust and her place in castle. Now that Cinderella is gone, will Griselda be next to disappear mysteriously?

RAPUNZEL • Princess. Desperate to get out of her tower, this trapped temptress may have more than one offer on the table... the question is which one will she pick?

SNOW • Snow White. With hopes of moving out of the forest, this princess hopes to soon be known not as the daughter of a queen that is evil, but as the wife of prince that is charming.

HERB • Dwarf. Like a brother to Snow, Snow's dependence on Herb is endearing to some and annoying to others.

NOSY • Dwarf. Ambitious and inquisitive, this dwarf can't keep their nose out of anyone's business. Be hopeful you are not the murderer, because Nosy will be out to expose you!

ALADDIN • Prince. Royalty by marriage, Aladdin continues to use his power to grow his palace collection of possessions. At what point will his princess say enough is enough?

JASMOOR • Princess. Feeling left out by all of the excitement around the search for a new princess, Jasmine is left to herself and her palace.

JINN • Genie. Put in this world to grant Aladdin's wishes, Jinn can't solve Aladdin's problems single-handedly, but they will try...

BELLE • Beast's wife. Suspicious of her husband's actions, Belle is not the only one who is questioning what Beast is doing in the woods.

BEAST • Belle's husband. Once feared for his appearance, Beast has taken on a new identity as prince. While his physique may have changed, that doesn't mean his temperament has.

HANSEL • Orphan. In love with a princess, the only way Hansel can gain her affection is to prove he will adequately provide for her.

GRETEL • Orphan. Left behind as a child, Gretel will not allow for her beau to do the same.

RED • Little Red Riding Hood. This is one girl who is certainly not distracted or lost. Red will use her will and wit to make sure she and her grandmother are taken care of.

GRAM • Red's Grandmother. Aging and helpless, this grandmother once fought off a wolf with the help of the woodcutter - will history be able to repeat itself?

AXE • Woodcutter. Protector of Gram and Red, Axe refuses to seek his own happiness until he insures Gram and Red are provided for.

TEETH • Big, Bad Wolf. After earlier wishing to devour Red, now he hopes to marry her. Red has other plans for her future, but it is unclear what her beholders intend.

RUMPELSTILTZKIN • Imp. Known for trickery, scheming and deception, Rumpelstilzkin's tactics may be just what this kingdom needs to find out who really is behind Cinderella's disappearance...

HAMLET • Little Pig. This seasoned realtor knows a thing or two about building and selling houses.

Host Guide

Hosting Tips

- Included With Mystery Purchase.

Making the Invitations

Before the party, each guest must receive three things: (1) the invitation, (2) the scrolled guest list, (3) The Royal Times, and (4) their character description. *Instructions on how to do so included with the mystery.*

Preparing the Materials for the Party

- It is best to view and print all of your materials from Adobe Reader, a free application. Be sure you do not use a Preview Application to print or view materials.
- For the name tag and label pages (optional), they are best printed on adhesive label paper. *Name tag and label pages are compatible with Avery labels 15163, 18163, 5163, 5263, 5523, 5663, 5963, 8163, 8253, 8463, 8663 and 8763.*
- Cut out and make name tags for the guests. You can print the name tags onto on adhesive label paper or print on regular paper and include a pin with the name tags so that the guests can secure them to their outfits.
- Photocopy the printout of the money onto green paper. You will need as many copies as there are guests attending. Trim the money and bundle them in packages of \$500.
—To skip this step, you can purchase fake/play money.
- Cut the objective sheets in half.
- Label two envelopes with each character's name. Label one envelope with an (A) and one with a (B) for each character. On the (B) envelope, also put "DO NOT OPEN until AFTER the murder."
OPTIONAL: We have formatted some labels that you can adhere to your envelopes, so that you will not need to label them yourself. Please see the label pages in the Mystery Materials pdf.

In the (A) envelopes place: a name tag, safety pin(s) to adhere the name tag, a bundle of money and the half-sheet of the character's objective sheet that has objectives for the beginning of the party.

In the (B) envelopes place: thy right-side of the objective sheet for each character which has objectives for after the murder happens. **In addition, place the following:**

- If you have eliminated Nosy's character, you will need to prepare Nosy's "B" envelope. Also insert Nosy's character description and name tag into their envelope. (You do not need to add money, as the guest will have money from the first half of the party.) After "death," the victim will assume the role of Nosy and will need this information.
- In a separate envelope place the Investigation sheet and Exhibit A. Label it as "Investigation."
- In a separate envelope place Exhibit A and the Evidence Presentation. Label it as "Evidence."
- Place the solution in a sealed envelope and label it "Solution."
- Keep the "introduction," the "investigation envelope," the "evidence envelope," and the "solution envelope" in a convenient location so you can hand them out throughout the night as guests need them.
- Make enough copies of the accusation sheets for the number of guests you have coming. Cut the pages along the dashed lines.



Stage One - The Guests Arrive

- Have the guests' name tags, bundle of money and their (A) envelopes available for them.

Stage Two - Introduction

- Once everyone has arrived, hand Prince Charming the Introduction and have him read it aloud.
- Have time for guests to mingle and complete their objectives.
 - This may require 30-60 minutes depending on how well your guests know each other.
 - If serving dinner, this may be a good time for dinner to be served.

Stage Three - Murder and Investigation

- When guests start to settle down and you are sure the victim has completed all of their objectives, arrange for the lights to go off. **The victim is instructed in their starting objectives to "discreetly let the host know when they have completed their objectives."*
- When the lights come back on, the victim will have fallen down "dead."
- After the victim has "died," hand Nosy masking tape or chalk, so that they can outline the position of the body on the floor or ground. **If Nosy is not assigned to anyone, then you can outline the body. The victim will then play the role of Nosy for the second half of the party.*
- Hand Nosy the "investigation envelope" and have them read the instructions aloud to the guests.
- Hand the guests their (B) envelopes which will have new information and objectives for the guests to complete now that the murder has occurred.

Stage Four - Evidence Presentation

- When guests have settled down again, and Nosy finishes their investigation, hand Nosy the evidence envelope and have them present the evidence to the guests.
- It is best if the evidence is then laid on a table so that everyone may see it.
- Give your guests additional time to review the evidence. You may want to make multiple copies of the evidence so that it can be seen by everyone.
- Hand out the accusation sheets and ask everyone to complete them and hand them back to you during this time.

Stage Five - The Solution

- After all of the accusation sheets are handed in, use the tally sheet to calculate the winners.
- Have Nosy read the solution aloud to the guests.
- Award the certificates to the winners!

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

You are formally invited to attend the annual Grand Ball being thrown at the castle in the kingdom of Happily Ever After. Those expected to be in attendance include:

PRINCE CHARMING • Prince. The leader of the kingdom and heartthrob to many, this dashing young man will have numerous decisions to make - all of which will affect the outcome of the night.

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HAMLET • Little Pig. This seasoned realtor knows a thing or two about building and selling houses.

**I look forward to seeing you
all at the ball!**

-Prince Charming

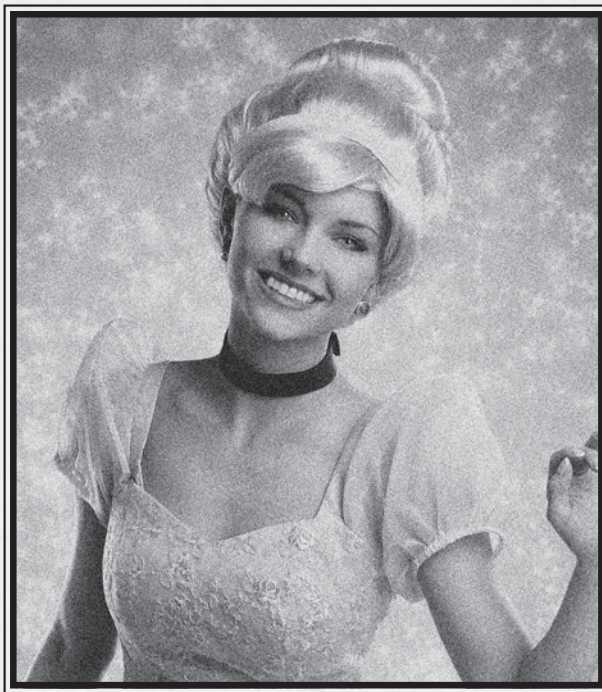
Royal Times

Keeping You Current

hGA

On Kingdom News

MISSING



Since last spotted asleep in her bed over a month ago, the kingdom has not slept while trying to uncover the whereabouts of Cinderella who mysteriously disappeared! Upon completing a comprehensive investigation throughout the kingdom, Prince Charming has ruled the disappearance a kidnapping and believes that such a crime could not be committed without seasoned expertise. Additionally, the prince has warned anyone who may be spending ample time in the forest to be on the lookout. Before her abduction, Cinderella had devoted much of her time to frolicking in the woods and the prince believes the culprit may be linked to the forest.

Grand Ball Excitement!!!

This year's annual Grand Ball has something that no one ever anticipated – a proposal from Prince Charming! Among those who are said to be in the running for the hand of the prince are: Snow, Red and Rapunzel. The Prince must have a thing for single-named maidens!

Housing Market Updates:

Have a woodland cottage or a secluded tower you need help selling? A candy cottage you want to list on the market? We're your company. Please see us for all your housing needs! **Brought to you by OINK! Realty, your number one housing specialists in the kingdom.**

WANTED: Seeking women who are devoted to making their masters happy. Greatly compensated. Please see Aladdin for more details.

REWARD

Prince Charming is offering 500 gold pieces to anyone who has information on the disappearance of Cinderella. Please see the Prince with your information and be sure not to share it with others, if you truly expect to be rewarded.



Sample Character

From Another Mystery

Banker Bob

As the banker in the town of Deadwood, you do business with many of the people in the town and also some of the participants of the Deadwood Poker Tournament. One of your foremost clients is Harry High-Stakes, the owner of The Deadwood Saloon. In order to get the saloon established and operating in its first year, you have loaned Harry a substantial amount of money. Although the saloon appears to be doing very well, you are uncertain why Harry is continually delinquent and sometimes misses his payments on his loan. Just last month, Harry was late again on his payment and you warned him that you will have to put his saloon into foreclosure if he cannot repay the money he owes on the loan by next month. You suspect that Harry is throwing the Deadwood Poker Tournament in order to get enough money so that his saloon will not go into foreclosure. This will be an important week to see if you will gain your money back from Harry's loan or if you will gain control over the saloon.

Because Harry is such a difficult and delinquent client, you hope that you will gain control over the saloon. If the saloon becomes the bank's property, you speculate that you may have a very wealthy buyer in Montgomery Money, an investor from the East. Because of Montgomery's wealth, you are certain that you will make a healthy profit off of selling the saloon to Montgomery. In addition, Montgomery will be consistent and reliable when making his loan payments.

Along with all the excitement of the tournament this week there has also been excitement in your bank. Earlier in the week, your bank was held up at gun point while your wife was watching the bank over the noon hour. Ordinarily, Bonnie does not watch the bank, but you were meeting with Harry about his payments. Because of the high ante for the poker tournament, you are convinced that the robber must have been a gambler who was trying to accumulate enough money to enter to the poker tournament. Since you view Sheriff Sam, the sheriff of Deadwood, as a very lazy individual, you plan on taking matters into your own hands when it comes to finding the culprit of the bank robbery and bringing them to justice!

As the Deadwood Poker Tournament Party quickly approaches, you are looking forward to attending for a few reasons. The party will be a perfect place for you to talk business with Montgomery Money about his intentions on investing in the saloon if your bank gains control of it. In addition to your dealings with Montgomery, you plan to figure out which one of the poker players may have robbed your bank and you plan to bring them to justice!

Acting and Dressing Your Part: As the banker of Deadwood, you are a businessman first. Your bank and your money come before everything, including your wife, Bonnie. Since you will be using the party to for business matters, you will want to dress dignified for the night. *For more ideas on how to dress and a glossary of wild western words and phrases to use at the party, please see www.nightofmystery.com*



Night of
Mystery



Sample Objectives

From another mystery



OBJECTIVES

Banker Bob

Objectives At The Start Of The Party

- Tell Harry High-Stakes (the saloon owner) that you need the money he owes to the bank by tomorrow or the bank will have to retake the saloon.
- If asked, insist that you may have to foreclose on the saloon if Harry High-Stakes doesn't make enough money by hosting the tournament.
- Tell XXXX that you may have a business proposition for him depending on how the evening turns out.
- Ask Sheriff Sam (the sheriff) if he has any leads on who robbed your bank earlier this week.
- Question some of the gamblers to see what they were doing during the noon hour earlier this week when the bank was robbed.
- Ask Jesse Wales and Black Barbara (two outlaws) why they are in town this week.
- When asked about your wife's actions, insist she can do as she pleases! (But be secretly concerned.)
- If Banker Bonnie questions your relationship, insist that you are only trying to provide a better life for her.
- If anyone approaches you with information about your bank robbery, question their sources and motives.

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Sample Objectives

From another mystery



OBJECTIVES

Banker Bob

Things You Know:

- You are about to foreclose on the Deadwood Saloon if Harry High-Stakes (the saloon owner) cannot repay his debt to you.
- Earlier this week, you XXXX handing XXXXX money. For what reason, you are not sure.
- Earlier tonight, you witnessed XXXXX, talking to XXXXXXX.

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OBJECTIVES

Banker Bob

Objectives After The Murder:

- Find the murderer while maintaining your innocence.
- Ask XXXX how much money the killer is paying him to keep his mouth shut. (XXXXX is known to take bribes.)
- Accuse XXXXX of bribing XXXXXXX so he will not be found guilty of murder. If XXXXX denies it, find out the real reason he is bribing XXXXX.
- If asked, admit the saloon will go to XXXXXXX if XXXXX is found guilty of murder and put in jail.
- If anyone has information on XXXXX, find out what they know. You may have to pay them to get their information.
- Defend XXXX publicly, but question her privately on her ties to XXXXXXX.
- If XXXX threatens to XXXXXXX, question where she will get the XXXXXXX.

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Sample Evidence

From another mystery

EXHIBIT F

Description: Picture turned over by XXXXXX.

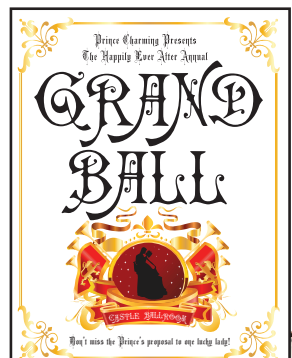
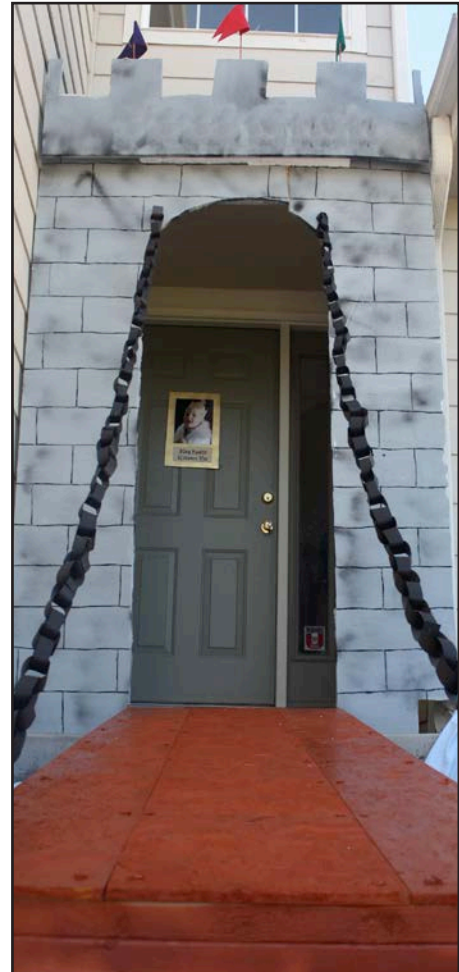
Notes: Picture taken of XXXXX earlier tonight.



Host Guide

All The Extras

Included in the **Extras PDF** are ideas and designs to help you decorate your castle with fun and authentic materials that are easy to make.



Night of Mystery

More Party Planning Resources

Night of Mystery does our best to provide you with everything you need to create a unique and creative mystery party - including giving you plenty of party planning resources and ideas for each mystery theme we offer! **Check out any/all of the resources below!!!**

Once Upon A Murder.com

Simply type in OnceUponAMurder.com and it will take you to the "Party Tips" section of Night of Mystery dedicated to giving you the best ideas for decoration, costumes, hosting tips, etc. for THIS MYSTERY!!! Be sure to explore the "Hosting Tips" section of this was well!

All The Extras supplement

Check out the supplement that is filled with designs, posters, ideas, etc.

Our Pinterest page

Get ideas and how-tos on theme-centric decorations, food, etc. Be sure to "Follow Us" to get the latest and greatest pins that we add to the boards! <http://www.pinterest.com/nightofmystery/once-upon-a-murder/>

Flickr Albums

Check out pictures from other host and hostesses from your mystery theme! See how much fun others had throwing this theme and get ideas for your own mystery party. <http://www.nightofmystery.com/photos-OUM>

Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/nightofmystery/>

Follow us on Instagram! See loads of party pics!

<https://www.instagram.com/nightofmystery/>

Get a coupon and a chance to win a FREE Party!

Once your party is thrown, please let us know how your party went by emailing the details and pictures to nompartyofthemoonth@gmail.com! We will email you a \$5 coupon for submitting your comments and/or pictures about your party. In addition to the coupon, party pictures and comments may be highlighted on social media and/or the blog. Each month we will select one posting to be featured in our "Party of the Month" blog and that customer will receive a \$65 gift certificate towards the purchase of a future party!

This has been just a sampling

The complete package includes:

- ☐ **Host Guide**— A complete how-to of throwing your party which includes directions on preparing the invitations, assigning characters and preparing for the party.
- ☐ **Schedule of the Night**— A step-by-step breakdown of how the night will go.
- ☐ **Introduction**— to be read to the guests upon arrival.
- ☐ **Designed Invitations**— that you can customize with the details of your party.
- ☐ **Digital Invitations**— that you can customize with the details of your party. *Available on site.*
- ☐ **Scrolled Character List & Royal Times**— to be sent with the invitations, it includes background information on the happenings surrounding the party and the guests coming to the party.
- ☐ **Character Sheets**— full descriptions of the characters, including costuming and acting tips.
- ☐ **Character Objective Sheets**—this includes objectives for each character to try to achieve at each stage of the game in order to uncover evidence and find the murderer.
- ☐ **Name Tags**
- ☐ **Fake Money**— to be distributed to guests and used in the party for scheming and bribery.
- ☐ **Evidence** — more clues to be distributed and presented during the second half of the night.
- ☐ **Solution**— a detailed description of who the murderer is, why the murder happened, and the clues that led to the outcome.
- ☐ **“Who Dunit” Cards**— for guests to guess the murderer, and vote for best costume and best actor.
- ☐ **Award Certificates**— for best costume, best actor, most money, and super sleuths.
- ☐ **Party Extras!!!**— Printable designs to help you make authentic and original decorations to enhance your party! (See previous pages for more information.) Coming soon!

Please log onto: www.nightofmystery.com
to purchase your mystery today.

