



# HOMICIDE *for the* Holidays

Host Guide

Night of  
Mystery



# HOMICIDE for the Holidays

NOTHING is keeping Regina Baxter  
from throwing her annual

## Baxter Holiday Bash!

**And this year the event is guaranteed to be one to remember!**

With Bel Air's elite home for the holidays, a cold case becoming hot again, and the battle for the DA position heating up – the party will be nothing short of show-stopping.

As the clan of fanciful neighbors reunite there is excitement in the air until one fateful guest falls down DEAD!!!  
Leaving the remaining guests to solve the murder.

Will it be the power couple exercising one last move before they head to trial? The budding bourgeoisie on the brink of bankruptcy? Or possibly the social media socialite with so much to lose?

With scandals swirling, the guests must solve the murder in time to make their holidays holly and jolly once again.

## Join Us for a Night of Murder and Merriment!



Night of  
Mystery



# Host Guide

## Thank you for choosing a Homicide For The Holidays

We are confident that you will find this comprehensive packet to provide everything 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 among your guests and insures 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. A Deadly Vintage 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:

**20+ Guests:** 7+ Male, 7+ Female, 6+ Either

**15-20 Guests:** 5-7 Male, 7 Female, 3-6 Either

**10-15 Guests:** 3-5 Male, 3-5 Female, 4-5 Either

**8-12 Guests:** 2-3 Male, 3-4 Female, 3-5 Either

**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?

No. Our site offers “clean” versions of a few other mysteries on our site: [www.nightofmystery.com](http://www.nightofmystery.com). Please refer to those when hosting a party for a more conservative crowd.



# Host Guide

## 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](mailto: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.*** <sup>\*\*</sup>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.
- **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.
- **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”:** In this mystery, the victim will take on the role of investigator after death.
- **As host, who should I be?** Information in mystery purchase.
- **Ideas for assigning couples:** Information in mystery purchase.
- **Different versions for this mystery:** At this time, only an adult version. In the future, we are looking at making a clean version, and potentially non-binary version as well.



# Host Guide

## 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](mailto: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

**Regina Baxter – Tech Mogul.** This powerful, self-built millionaire knows a thing or two about risk assessment... and when to jump ship.

**Benjamin Baxter – Stockbroker.** Male. While investments and have made millions for this mogul, Benjamin's future may be in jeopardy due to the legitimacy of their practices.

**Lucinda Lewis – Doctor.** A leading oncologist, Lucinda's long hours at the hospital have caused problems for more than her husband.

**Gordon Lewis – Retired Golf Pro.** Living his best retired life, Gordon isn't sure if he attracts friends with drama or is the cause of it.

**Thomas Brown – District Attorney.** Self-righteous and unassuming, this D.A. will not hesitate to prosecute the rich and greedy. Or as some know them, Bel Air's finest.

**Lindsey Brown – Real Estate Guru.** A mother of two highly successful children, Lindsey has done more for her children than others give her credit for.

**Theo Morgan – Investment Broker.** Caught between his family and his friends, Theo is not sure who he can trust anymore.

**Patricia Morgan – Socialite.** With Miranda's body being uncovered, Patricia has some answers, but not the ones she had hoped for.

**Kelly Luccini – Actor.** The silver screen has missed their beauty while she awaits her trial on charges of bribery. With no intention of settling, it looks like Kelly will have her fate decided in court.

**Gorgio Luccini – Fashion Designer.** The brains behind the plan, this fashion guru is a master designer at more than just clothes.

**Shayne Williams – Actor.** This Hollywood star is known to take accountability for their crimes, and will make sure others do, too.

**Sandy Lloyd – Defense Attorney.** Gunning for the district attorney position, Sandy is ready to promote anyone who will help them win!

**Kris Perez – Agent.** After catapulting their child to celebrity status, Kris is always looking for ways to promote Avery's popularity. At any cost.

**Brent Brown – Lawyer.** Following his father's career path, Brent has chosen private practice over being a public servant – and hopes to make partner soon!

**Becky Brown – Housewife.** A bit of an outcast, marrying into the Brown family did not get Becky the acceptance she desired. The question is, how far will Becky go to gain it?

**Charlie Morgan. – Lawyer.** Still holding resentment from high school, both in competition and in love lost. Will Charlie ever get his retribution?

**Hayley Brown – Professional Basketball Player.** Not always the star of the team, Hayley's success comes from hard work and taking advantage of the opportunities she has been given in life.

**Avery Perez – Reality Star.** Bounded to stardom overnight, Avery has learned to exploit all opportunities to increase their popularity. And if they can make money at it, all the better.

**Billie Luccini – Influencer.** A silenced influencer, Billie is tired of sacrificing their own career to protect their parents' future.

**Hunter Luccini – College Hopeful.** Sidelined by their parent's actions, all Hunter wants to do is get admitted to college. Any. Way. Possible.



# Host Guide

## Hosting Tips

• Included in Mystery Purchase

## Making the Invitations

Each guest must receive: (1) the invitation, (2) The Bel Air Beat and (3) their character description.

*Instructions on how to do so included with the mystery.*

## Preparing 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.*
- Make name tags for the guests. You can print the name tags onto adhesive label paper or print on regular paper, trim them, and include a pin with the name tags so the guests can secure them to their outfits.
- Cut out and trim the wine labels included with the packet. Adhere the labels to seven separate wine bottles that will act as the “exclusive vintages” at the party.
- 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 and use fake/play money or coins.  
—It is helpful to bundle your money using a paper clip.
- Cut the “A Objectives” sheets in half on the dashed lines. **DO NOT cut the “B Objectives” 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. *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:** the full-sheet (B) objectives sheet for each character. **In addition, also place:**

- You will need to prepare Detective Chester’s “B” envelope. Insert Detective Chester’s name tag, evidence and “B” objectives 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 role of Detective Chester and will need this information.*
- In a separate envelope place the Investigation sheet. Label it as “Investigation.”
- In a separate envelope place 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.
- Print enough copies of the accusation sheets for the number of guests you have coming. Cut the pages along the dashed lines.
- Print additional copies of the Smoking Gun Award, as there may be multiple people who guess the murderer.



# Host Guide

- Most likely, the party will take 2-4 hours. The party length will depend on a number of factors, including the number of guests, if you are serving dinner, how well your guests mingle, etc.
- The party may be longer if you choose to serve dinner, although much of the mingling done during Stage 2 may be done at the dinner table.

## Stage One - The Guests Arrive

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

## Stage Two - Introduction

- After all of the guests have arrived, hand Regina Baxter the Introduction and have them 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 & Investigation

- When guests start to settle down and you are sure the victim has completed all of their objectives, arrange to have the lights go out. *\*\*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," you (as host) can outline the position of the body on the floor or ground.
- Announce to the crowd that Detective Chester will now be joining you to investigate. Have the victim rise and assume the role of Detective Chester.
- Hand Detective Chester the "investigation envelope" and have them read the instructions aloud to the guests.
- Hand the guests their (B) envelopes. *This 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, Detective Chester has collected all of their evidence, hand Detective Chester the evidence envelope so that they can present the findings of 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 Detective Chester read the solution aloud to the guests.
- Award the certificates to the winners!



# BEL AIR BEAT

No. XIV  
WINTER  
ISSUE

## BAXTER'S HOLIDAY BASH CONTINUES!

Regina Baxter is known to throw one EPIC Holiday Party party, and this year will be no different! While some would argue a low-profile might be the best approach for woman whose husband is facing charges of financial crime, this tech mogul thinks different and wants to celebrate the season with a BANG!

**Those planning on being in attendance are:**

**REGINA BAXTER** – *Tech Mogul*. This powerful, self-built millionaire knows a thing or two about risk assessment... and when to jump ship.

**BENJAMIN BAXTER** – *Stockbroker*. Male. While investments and have made millions for this mogul, Benjamin's future may be in jeopardy due to the legitimacy of his practices.

**LUCINDA LEWIS** – *Doctor*. A leading oncologist, Lucinda's long hours at the hospital have caused problems for more than her husband.

**GORDON LEWIS** – *Retired Golf Pro*. Living his best retired life, Gordon isn't sure if he attracts friends with drama or is the cause of it.

**THOMAS BROWN** – *District Attorney*. Self-righteous and

unassuming, this D.A. will not hesitate to prosecute the rich and greedy. Or as some know them, Bel Air's finest.

**LINDSEY BROWN** – *Real Estate Guru*. A mother of two highly successful children, Lindsey has done more for her children than others give her credit for.

**THEO MORGAN** – *Investment Broker*. Caught between his family and his friends, Theo is not sure who he can trust anymore.

**PATRICIA MORGAN** – *Socialite*. With Miranda's body being uncovered, Patricia has some answers, but not the ones she had hoped for.

**KELLY LUCCINI** – *Actor*. The silver screen has missed their beauty while Kelly awaits their trial. With no intention of settling,

Kelly is determined to have their fate decided in court.

**GORGIO LUCCINI** – *Fashion Designer*. The brains behind the plan, this fashion guru is a master designer at more than just clothes.

**SHAYNE WILLIAMS** – *Actor*. This Hollywood star is known to take accountability for their crimes, and will make sure others do, too.

**SANDY LLOYD** – *Lawyer*. Gunning for the district attorney position, Sandy is ready to promote anyone who will help them win!

**KRIS PEREZ** – *Agent*. After catapulting their child to celebrity status, Kris is always looking for ways to promote Avery's popularity. At any cost.

**BRENT BROWN** – *Lawyer*. Following his father's career path, Brent has chosen private practice over being a public servant – and hopes to make partner soon!

**BECKY BROWN** – *Housewife*. A bit of an outcast, marrying into the Brown family did not get Becky the acceptance she desired. The question is, how far will Becky go to gain it?

**CHARLIE MORGAN** – *Lawyer*. Still holding resentment from high school, both in competition and in love lost. Will Charlie ever get his retribution?

**HAYLEY BROWN** – *Professional Basketball Player*. Not always the star of the team, Hayley's success comes from hard work and taking advantage of the

### COUNTY CASES PENDING

Luccini – Bribery – Trial Date Set

Baxter – Insider Trading – Charges Filed

Morgan – Homicide – Under Investigation

Williams – Bribery – Settled

opportunities in life.

**AVERY PEREZ** – *Reality Star*. Launched to stardom overnight, Avery has learned to exploit all opportunities to increase their popularity. And if they can make money at it, all the better.

**BILLIE LUCCINI** – *Influencer*. A silenced influencer, Billie is tired of sacrificing their own career to protect their parents' future.

**HUNTER LUCCINI** – *College Hopeful*. Sidelined by their parent's actions, all Hunter wants to do is get admitted to college. Any. Way. Possible.

### COLD CASE HEATING UP

Last week, the body of 15-year-old Miranda Morgan was unearthed at the site of new real estate development on the east side. 10 years ago, Miranda was reported missing and, after investigation, ruled a runaway case. This new evidence supports the claim Miranda never made it out of Bel Air, prompting officials to take another look at the case.

### HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

With the holidays upon us, these Bel Air natives have traveled home to celebrate! Hayley Brown, Kris Perez, Avery Perez, and Billie Luccini.

**We can't wait to Ring in the New Year with them!**





# Host Guide

## 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.

©Night of Mystery, [www.nightofmystery.com](http://www.nightofmystery.com)



# Host Guide

## 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.

©Night of Mystery, [www.nightofmystery.com](http://www.nightofmystery.com)



### 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.

©Night of Mystery, [www.nightofmystery.com](http://www.nightofmystery.com)

Night of  
Mystery



# Host Guide

## Sample Objectives

From another mystery

### EXHIBIT F

Description: **Picture** turned over by XXXXXX.

Notes: **Picture** taken of XXXXX earlier tonight.



Night of  
Mystery



# Host Guide

## 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!!!**

### **aHomicideForTheHolidays.com**

Simply type in aHomicideForTheHolidays.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 as 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/homicide-for-the-holidays-mystery-party-ideas/>

### **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. You can view the album at: [www.nightofmystery.com/photos-HFH/](http://www.nightofmystery.com/photos-HFH/)

**Visit us on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/nightofmystery/>

### **Follow us on Instagram**

<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 [nompartyofthemonth@gmail.com](mailto:nompartyofthemonth@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!



# Host Guide

*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.*
- ☐ **Bel Air Beat Newsletter**— 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! *Coming soon!*

**Please log onto: [www.nightofmystery.com](http://www.nightofmystery.com)  
to purchase your package today.**