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Murder Mystery Game Sample

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Partial script; some explanations and details are omitted but will be included with your game purchase (such as when to take optional breaks for dinner courses, costuming ideas and samples, how to stage a fight, etc.)

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NUMBER OF PLAYERS: Due to the interactive nature of the mysteries we feel they are best suited for groups of 20 to 125 guests. *Why?* Read more here: <http://www.murder-mystery-game.com/mysterytips.html#125>.

THE COST: \$21.95US/Team building versions are \$49.95. To compare please go to: <http://www.mystery-hunt.com/compare.html>

ORDERING IS EASY! You download your kit immediately upon placing your order on our secure shopping cart. There are **no shipping and handling charges, no tax and no waiting.**

HOW TO ORDER:

1. You can order and download your game immediately here: <http://www.mystery-hunt.com> (RECOMMENDED).
2. Order on our toll-free line: 800/293.3302. *Our local phone number in California is 510/235.0118 if you're located outside of the US and Canada. We'll email you your game.*

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HOW THIS MYSTERY GAME WORKS:

- You'll need to cast your prime suspects (see character descriptions below). They'll have full knowledge of the script, which means they'll know whodunit.
- The rest of your guests will take on the role of detective and it will be their job to actively solve the case by examining evidence, finding clues, following and questioning suspects - whatever it takes for them to solve the mystery.

Essentially, everyone will have a crucial, interactive part in the mystery.

- The whodunit will be about 1 1/2 to 2 hours long but you can make it shorter by tightening up the sequence of events (*warning: this means LESS audience participation*) or longer by allowing more time between the scenes/action.
- Your guest actors won't have to memorize a lot of dialogue but they will have to be familiar with a sequence of events (see sample below) or timeline (see <http://www.murder-mystery-game.com/timeline.html>) that will move the mystery through the clues, the murder(s) and the solving

- of the crime. They'll have to carry out certain actions (like arguments) and suspicious activities to set themselves up as suspects.
- All are mystery games are challenging to solve but they're also comedies - a great combination for an unforgettable event.
 - This will not be a stationary mystery - it will be action-packed; we get people active and involved unlike those mysteries-in-a-box where everyone just sits around reading their part and asking questions they get from a booklet.
 - **NOTE: You can modify any of our mystery games to best suit your needs so long as each suspect maintains a motive to commit the crime(s).**

THE DEMISE OF THE DOWNHOME DEALERS

YEAR: Current or the early 1940's (*think of the movie "O Brother Where Art Thou?" starring George Clooney*).

PLACE: The Pig and Poke Bar, Mossy Bottom, Texas.

STORY: Major Country & Western (*or Bluegrass if you put this in the 1940's*) stars *Dixie Diver and the Downhome Dealers* (*whose home base, if you will, is now Nashville*) have come back to their hometown of Mossy Bottom, Texas for a special concert and to allegedly announce the signing of their new contract with Belle Buford and Good Ole Boys Records.

EVENT: A post-concert press conference and party at The Pig and Poke, where it all started for the band. (YOUR AUDIENCE IS THE PRESS, FANS, AND V.I.P.S.)

HISTORY: The band has been playing together for the last 7 years although the four of them have known each other all their lives. They've produced 2 albums: *The Downhome Dealers* and *I Wish I Was In Dixie*.

THEIR TOP-SELLING SONGS WERE, IN ORDER OF RELEASE (see full script for words to songs and details).

1. *KICKIN' SATAN IN THE KNEE*
2. *LAUNDERLAND*
3. *DOES GOD WEAR A ROLEX?*
4. *I'VE NEVER SEEN JESUS BUT I'VE BEEN TO HIS APARTMENT*

COSTUMES: Easy stuff: cowboy, cowgirl, country and western at it's best. Sue Ellen should be very "nerdy" in her attire.

If you decide to do this in the 40's, check out the movie trailers for "O Brother" at <http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/OBrotherWhereArtThou-1102021/trailers.php>.

Primary Suspects

These are the folks who will have full knowledge of the mystery; you'll give them this complete script as well as their prime suspect guidelines ASAP.

DIXIE DIVER: Lead Singer. She and **Dan**, the bad boy band member (lead guitar), were secretly married last night and plan to leave the Downhome Dealers to cut an album with just the two of them. **Dixie** is deeply influenced by and attracted to **Dan's** bad boy ways. He's convinced her that her brother, **Dave**, is riding on her coattails of talent because he has none of his own and that fellow band member **Dick** is bringing the band down with his image - he comes across as Southern Boy Stupid and it doesn't look good with the press.

DAN DAWSON: **Dan** plays the guitar and sings. He is a moody, arrogant (and sometimes cruel) bad boy, through and through. Even though he married **Dixie**, he still treats her badly. She makes excuses for him all the time: "he's in pain, can't you see that? He's under so much pressure. The press is so awful to him." Blah, blah, blah. He was once engaged to **Magnolia Randall**, **Dixie's** cousin, but he broke off their engagement a week before the wedding (2 months ago), whereupon **Magnolia** fled to Los Angeles to try to mend her broken heart. **Dan** told **Dixie** **Magnolia** was cheating on him and that's why he broke up with her. He insists **Magnolia** was the one that broke his heart, not the other way around. **Dixie** believes this lie and has refused to speak to **Magnolia** since she fled to LA.

DAVE DIVER: **Dixie's** brother. He plays the drums in the band. Despite what **Dan** believes, **Dave's** not riding on **Dixie's** coattails; he's just loyal to her. In fact, he's been pressing her to be the "Donny and Marie" of the new millennium with him, much to her embarrassment. And while he loves and reveres Donny and Marie, he hates **Dan** with a passion because **Dan** is always making fun of him and shooting down his ideas. He'll hate **Dan** even more when he finds out **Dan** has become his brother-in-law and that **Dan** has convinced **Dixie** to drop the band, drop **Dave** (and his D&M idea) and move on to recording as a duo.

DICK DELANEY: Another band member (the bass player). Not the smartest man. Okay, he's slow and stupid. He's also madly in love with **Dixie** but it's entirely unrequited. He doesn't care so much about the band as he does **Dixie**. The band just provides him with an opportunity to be with her everyday. Once she finally agrees to marry him then he doesn't care what happens to the band. Imagine his reaction when he finds out she done married **Dan!**

BELLE BUFORD: She works for Good Ole Boys Records. The Downhome Dealers gave **Belle** her career and money in the bank. She'd still be selling vacuum cleaners (and turning tricks on the side), door to door, if it weren't for the band. Of course, **Belle** remembers it differently: The Dealers would be nowhere without her, despite their musical talent. The Dealers used to play at a grubby cowboy bar **Belle** frequented called The Pig And Poke - yes, the very same bar you're in tonight. One night after selling a deluxe model vacuum cleaner (and other things) to Charlie Daniels, the president of Good Ole Boys Records, she got an idea. She convinced him to join her for a drink at the Pig and Poke, promising him the next big thing in C&W. The deal: she becomes Charlie's newest employee if he signs the band to a record deal. He signed the Dealers all right and she became an agent for Good Ole Boys Records. The Dealers cut their first album, *The Downhome Dealers*, with Good Ole Boys 2 years ago. They cut their second album, *I Wish I Was In Dixie* with Good Ole Boys this year. Now their contract with Good Ole Boys is up for renewal. **Belle's** sure The Dealers will sign

their new contract but she's oh so wrong.

MAGNOLIA RANDALL: Magnolia, since being dumped by Dan, has become a Hollywood agent. She works for the famous Peter Dragon and Dragon Films. Since Dan left her, she has had it in her head to destroy him and his fame but she hasn't wanted to hurt her cousin, Dixie in the process. They were like sisters growing up so she only wants the best for her cousin and she sure doesn't understand why Dixie hasn't returned her phone calls for the past 2 months. Now she has a way to end The Dealers, put Dan out of the limelight and keep Dixie happy. She wants to sign Dixie to a 3-picture movie deal. She is not a happy woman when she finds out what Dixie has done and with Dan no less.

SUE ELLEN FRUPP: Dixie's personal assistant. Nerdish, eager to please, much abused by Dixie and the band. She is also feeling very ill this evening.

**THE BAND NEEDS TO CONSTANTLY DEMAND THINGS FROM HER ALL EVENING.
USE HER!**

BUBBA McCOY: The Roadie/Security. Very tough except when it comes to Sue Ellen for whom he has a protective soft spot. He despises the way everyone treats her. He is under control and very good at his job but he'll lose his temper in a heartbeat when it comes to the abuse Sue Ellen suffers by the band.

SECONDARY SUSPECTS (optional).

Remember, EVERYONE will be actively involved in this mystery because it will be their job to solve the case and because you'll be encouraging them to come in costume and in character. Use any or all of these secondary suspects if you have "extra" cast members you want to use or if you have some guests who want to take on a character but not take on the full responsibility of a primary suspect. You will NOT give them a script but you will give them a description of their character and let them run with it. ***FOR LARGE GROUP MYSTERIES (75 OR MORE): I'd definitely suggest you cast your secondary suspects and give them a script - just like you'll do with your primary suspects. During the mystery it will be the secondary suspects' "job" to act as general support for the primary suspects. They'll roam the room "gossiping" about the goings-in, quiet the audience down during a main action, answer questions, bring primary suspects to tables for questioning and make sure your guests have seen the physical clues that have been revealed.

There's a separate document included with this kit that contains instructions for these guests.

1. **Charlie Daniels:** Owner of Good Ole Boys Records. He just wants the band to re-sign with Good Ole Boys and expects Belle to do her job. He has one goal for Belle: Get Dixie and the band re-signed or she is fired.
2. **Lola Jennings:** A tabloid magazine writer or TV reporter, writing an expose on the Dealers.
3. **Otis Otter:** The Dealers' lawyer: He can run interference between the band and Belle.
4. **Peter Dragon:** Magnolia's boss. He's here to make sure Magnolia gets the deal signed. He has one goal for Magnolia: Get Dixie signed or she is fired.
5. **Dan's female groupie(s):** They can hang all over him to further prove he's a

louse.

6. **The other band members' groupies:** It'd be fun to have them fight over who's the cutest, etc.

Here are your motives as prime suspects - INCLUDED IN FULL SCRIPT.

THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

0:00

FACILITATOR NOTES - There are notes to the facilitator preceding any scene that requires props or some sort of prep work (like making up the victim)

Belle acts as host, welcoming guests to the party and raving about the concert they all just witnessed. **Sue Ellen** and **Magnolia** mingle, introduce themselves.

0:05

Belle gives a dramatic, rather conceited intro to The Downhome Dealers, focusing on herself more than them, playing herself as the heroine that made the band.

Note: you can write up a speech on cue cards if you want.

Finally, she introduces the Band and encourages applause.

Sue Ellen is most enthusiastic with her applause. If someone ain't applauding **Sue Ellen**, get on 'em to do so. She's also at the ready with pens for the band to use to sign autographs. She encourages guests to ask for the bands' autographs.

NOTE: you need to give pens to your guests for them to fill out their evidence records. Instead of placing them on tables have **Sue Ellen** enthusiastically hand a pen to each guest now.

0:10

Bubba enters before the band, doing his tough guy security thing. He immediately sees a suspicious guest and frisks him (*this is a GREAT crowd pleaser*). He then clears the way for the band and during their entrance keeps the enthusiastic fans at bay (*make 'em enthusiastic, even if they're not, Bubba, so you can show 'em who's boss!*)

Dixie and the band enter, waving, shaking hands, signing autographs as they head to the front of the room.

OPTIONAL BUT I'D RECOMMEND IT: They sing an impromptu acappella version their latest release, "I've Never Seen Jesus But I've Been To His Apartment" (audio included with this script; It's meant to be sung acappella. It's also REALLY easy to sing. How do I know? Because the voice you hear on the audio is mine and I can't sing worth a dang! Credit for this fabulously funny song goes to Patrick Preston, one of the funniest men I know.)

Sue Ellen is hovering in the background by **Dixie**. She clutches several pens which the

band demands from her because their fans are asking for autographs (*even if they aren't this will inspire them to do so.*)

REMEMBER, BAND MEMBERS BE VERY DEMANDING OF SUE ELLEN; CONSIDER HER YOUR PERSONAL ASSISTANT, DEMAND THAT SHE BE AT YOUR BECK AND CALL EVERY SECOND. DIXIE THIS SHOULD OF COURSE IRRITATE YOU BECAUSE YOU HIRED HER TO YOUR PERSONAL ASSISTANT AND NO ONE ELSE!

After the song or in place of it, Belle announces that the group will be signing a new contract with Good Ole Boys Records this evening.

Dixie interrupts.

DIXIE: Ladies and Gentlemen of the press, Belle, with all due respect, I have decided I am not going to sign a new contract at this time. . .

Dick, Belle and Dave react vociferously to this announcement.

Dan is silently smirking as he watches the scene unfold. It's clear he's in on Dixie's announcement.

Magnolia (*who has been keeping a low profile in the audience since the band's entrance*) dramatically stands up, introduces herself and announces that she is here representing Dragon Films in Hollywood and is prepared to offer Dixie a 3-picture movie deal.

Dixie is shocked and angrily starts to ask Magnolia what she's doing here?

Dan also angrily asks her the same thing.

Before this goes any further, Dick interrupts.

DICK: Dixie and me are in love and are planning on taking a break and traveling around the world together.

DIXIE: Wait, Dick, I never said that...

DICK: Yes, you did. You done tole me you loved me. I remember, it was last Tuesday.

She denies it.

DAVE: So then you're finally going to go along with my idea of pairing up as the brother and sister team of the millennium, the new Donny and Marie. Dixie, I'm so excited. This world needs us! Remember how everyone loved Donny and Marie? They'll love us too!

Dixie grabs him by the shoulders and tells him that she is not going to be the Marie to his Donny.

0:15 PRACTICE

Now pandemonium breaks out as everyone is trying to speak but no one is listening to each other. Somehow, Sue Ellen, in her attempts to see if Dixie needs anything, is pushed and shoved around as tempers flare - she's the perfect punching bag.

This of course makes Bubba mad and he pulls the band members and Magnolia apart

and sends them to different corners of the room. He sees to **Sue Ellen** who is looking more frazzled than ever. She is suddenly overcome with nausea and rushes from the room, holding her hand over her mouth with her other hand on her belly.

Finally, **Dan** makes his move. He tells everyone to quiet down and listen up.

DAN: **Dixie** has an announcement. If you'd give her the floor so she can finish telling everyone what she has to tell y'all, I'm sure she'd be grateful!

He then sweeps her into his arms and passionately kisses her and keeps on kissing her until everyone quiets down. He breaks the kiss and possessively pats her on her behind.

DAN: Come on **Dixie**, girl, I know you know how to do more with that mouth 'a yours than just kiss me so tell 'em...

DIXIE: **Dan** and I were married last night and we plan to record an album together. Barista Records wants to sign us and we've decided to do it.

Dave dramatically rushes from the room in tears, muttering loudly that it's all **Dan's** fault that his dream is dead!

Magnolia crosses the room and angrily throws a drink in **Dan's** face (*have a small amount of water at the ready Magnolia*).

Dan just laughs and says, "What, did I ruin your plans to ruin me, lover girl?"

This leaves **Magnolia** not only infuriated but also speechless. She storms away from him.

After which, **Dick** then asks **Dixie** if this means she don't love him no more?

DIXIE: When I said I loved you, I meant it in a platonic way. You know, like a brother.

She begins to walk away but he grabs one of her legs and pleads with her to love him. She drags him as she walks. She finally disentangles herself.

Dan gives **Dick** a bottle of booze.

DAN: Meet your new lover because it sure ain't gonna be **Dixie**. **Dixie's** mine, cowboy!

Dick starts guzzling the booze, clearly miserable.

Dixie tries to get him to slow it down but he gets angry and just pushes her.

DICK: You're ruining my life by not marrying me--and I'll kill myself if you break up the Dealers, **Dixie**, I swear I will.

DAN: It's a done deal, the dealers are done. (*He laughs at his pun.*) And so are you Dickie Boy!

Dixie tries to be nice to **Dick** as **Dan** walks away but **Dick** wants nothing to do with nice--he's hell-bent on getting drunk.

Swill it **Dick** because you have to get drunk real fast for an upcoming scene.

By now **Sue Ellen** has returned to the room, still looking peaked. **Bubba** immediately sees to her.

She brushes him off to approach **Dan** to "talk" to him but she can't get his attention. He blatantly ignores her.