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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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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).**

SPIES LIKE US

The place: The laboratory compound and research center of Dr. E.T. Mars, a scientist and an expert in the field of alien research.

The event: Dr. Mars is about to unveil his secret and very evil plan for world domination and control - disguised as "the latest breakthrough in flu eradication technology" namely *Tetracyclonine (tetra sigh clo neen)*, an inoculation that will eliminate the flu virus from the human race.

Mars is actually conspiring with certain extraterrestrials in their quest to take over our world which is scheduled to occur on the 31st of this year (OPTION: NAME A DIFFERENT DATE IF YOU WANT). Mars figures it's better to sleep with this particular enemy than not...

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.

NOTE: There are lover relationships in this script (Ana/E.T. and Wanda/Harry). If you're uncomfortable with these relationships, just tone them down - some of the dialogue may be too "racy" for your company event for example. Questions? Just ask. susan@haleyproductions.com.

Dr. Ernest Terrence Mars (but you can call him E.T.): Mad and evil scientist set on world domination and control--only very few people know he's a mad and evil scientist because he's much respected in the world of science.

While he was working at Area 51 the super secret air force test site in Nevada back in the early 90's, the aliens provided him with a greenish, jelly-like bio-fluid he's simply named Formula X. It contains mind control properties when used on humans. Unfortunately, it also kills some test subjects (as it did in Phase 1 of the testing. The true results were covered up of course.) E.T. is unable to figure out why (thus the need for the Phase 2 test subjects). A minor glitch really....His job is to market this as a cure for the flu as the first step in the alien's quest for world domination.

E.T. thinks he's kept his little alien secret under wraps. He hasn't. Word is out that he has some sort of mind control formula and certain nefarious underground black market operatives (*some of your prime suspects*) want it. It will make them very, very wealthy and very, very powerful if they play their cards right when they sell it to the highest bidder. The first plan of action of course is to infiltrate E.T.'s lab and steal the formula - tonight.

Costume: Prime suspect costume suggestions provided in full script.

Ana Graham: E.T.'s sexy, confident, strong-willed assistant; actually a black market covert op who used her feminine wiles to infiltrate E.T.'s lab and his bed 2 months ago. Ana always gets what she wants. She LOVES flirting with and teasing the men in

the audience because she knows she does it so very well. That's her power. When she succeeds in stealing this Formula X with its mind control properties to sell to the highest and most disreputable bidder, she will be a very rich woman indeed and she'll be in high demand for other such "extractions". Nothing like job security, is there?

Wanda Frohicky: An alleged test subject. She's the President and perhaps the only truly dedicated member of The Roswell Raiders, a group made up of individuals who've been abducted and/or probed by aliens one or more times. She knows E.T.'s up to no good, she desperately wants to shut him down and she's picked tonight to try and stop him.

In her quest to save the world, she will be your pseudo-detective.

Wanda and Harry Truman were once engaged (*see his character description below*) - which is how she knows or thinks she knows so much about E.T. Mars - **Harry** works on E.T.'s security team. **Harry** broke **Wanda's** heart when he ended their relationship 2 weeks ago. She's always trying to prove she's over him when he's around so she brazenly if awkwardly and annoyingly flirts with any male in her radar zone. She should, in her flirting, be the extreme opposite of **Ana**.

Harry Truman: E.T.'s security guard (on the job for 2 years). He's also a former member of The Roswell Raiders, having been abducted and probed once. A real geek with big ideas and big plans (read: fantasies) who loves action movies and romance novels. He lives by them and, as a result, has convinced himself that he's a stud muffin and fearless hero of the free world.

Harry and Wanda used to be engaged but he ended the relationship 2 weeks ago when he was recruited by - well we can't tell you but you will find out in the full script.

Rocco Rosetti: An alleged test subject who is actually a first rate thief. Because he comes across as a rather stupid and classless oaf (think Sylvester Stallone's "Rocky" character), no one would ever think him capable of the thefts he and his wife **Lila** have pulled off (*read more in Lila's character description below*).

Lila Rosetti: **Rocco Rosetti's** wife of 6 months. **Lila** is one street smart cookie (from New York?) who likes to be loud, who likes to snap her gum and who could probably beat the pants off and drink under the table anyone in the room - including her husband (which is one of the reasons he loves her so much). Her cover is **Lila Jones**, the new cleaning woman for the compound (*she doesn't reveal she's married to Rocco until their covers are blown*). **Rocco** and **Lila** are not only newlyweds, they're two notorious, elusive, first-rate thieves - they met casing the same jewelry store in Paris and it was love at first sight.

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. Be sure to change the names if you need to - all these roles are interchangeable.

1. **"Ringo" Langley (male or female):** Works with **Harry Truman** in security. Think of **Harry and Ringo** as the **Abbott and Costello** or **Dumb and Dumber** of security.
2. **Joey Pants (male or female):** The Vice President of The Roswell Raiders who is just as fanatical as **Wanda** is. **Wanda** is **Joey's** mentor so **Joey** enthusiastically agrees with everything **Wanda** says.
3. **Melvin and Mervin Myers (Female alternatives: Melvina and Mervina):** Twin test subjects who've undergone too many tests. Think of them as **E.T.'s "Renfields"** (remember **Renfield** from the **Dracula** lore?) - devoted yet not-all-there assistants or go-fers who are inseparable. Their sole purpose is to please **E.T.** so they constantly ask him what they can do for him or they bring him gifts they steal from tables (like a cat brings her master a mouse).
4. **Jerry (Jerri for a female) Rivera:** An undercover reporter for the **National Probe** newspaper who has volunteered himself as a test subject. His experiences will be chronicled in a series of articles for them. **Jerry** is as self-centered as they come. His ego drives everyone nuts in short order. He also has a tendency to narrate the goings-on into a small cassette recorder which also drives everyone nuts. If anyone asks if he's a reporter he'll loudly deny then take them into his confidence and boastfully admit that he is but he's undercover.

THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

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)

0:00

All suspects mingle with your guests and establish who you are for now. If you're "undercover" you naturally don't reveal it at this time.

Ana and **E.T.** are clearly an item. He obviously lusts after her. As much as he tries to maintain a neutral, professional demeanor, it just doesn't work when he's around her.

0:10

E.T. gets everyone's attention to give a welcoming speech.

Note: He can refer to notes he's made as many speakers do - your facilitator will provide you with a copy for the mystery night.

WELCOME REMARKS BY DR. E. T. MARS

"Welcome everyone to the unveiling of my new drug, *Tetracyclonine*, and to Phase 2 of the testing of this miraculous drug which will eliminate the flu virus from the human race."

"The FDA will give the drug fast track approval and it will be on the market within the year providing the tests we begin running tonight are successful - and I know they will be."

OPTIONAL: Acknowledge a few specific guests as Phase 2 test subjects who will be the first to forever eliminate the flu from their lives.

"My research lab has spared no expense in making sure everyone is comfortable - thus the reason for the social gathering and dinner before the Phase 2 testing begins. It's our way of thanking you for volunteering."

Introduce invaluable and very talented assistant, Ana Graham.

Gesture to covered box containing the flu presentation. "The next frontier in health and science is in that box. We will all be making history tonight and over the next few days."

Wanda now makes her presence known by asking him if he thinks we're all idiots.

E.T. looks uncomfortable and asks her to sit down or his security will remove her.

Wanda refuses.

WANDA (with fanatical exuberance): I'm not going anywhere. My name is **Wanda** Frohickey, I'm an alien multiple abductee and president of The Roswell Raiders. Do you all know who Dr. E.T. Mars really is? Well, I'll tell you. He's a mad and evil scientist who's working the extraterrestrials on their plan to take over the world. I, **Wanda** Frohicky, will not let that happen!!! My fellow alien abductees (*point to some other abductees or better still, hug them to really break down those barriers and get a laugh*) and I know the truth and we laugh in the face of our tormentors (*get those abductees to laugh with you*), E.T. included! We will destroy the aliens and those earthlings that work with them, before they destroy us! We rule our world!

E.T. insists **Wanda** is a crazy woman and urges **Harry** to subdue her.

Wanda turns on **Harry** and orders him to stop as she holds out her hand in front of her.

Harry hesitates.

She informs everyone that **Harry** is her boyfriend and he won't do anything to her!

Harry, clearly exasperated, claims he's no longer her boyfriend.

Wanda insists he still loves her.

Harry denies this.

Harry approaches **Wanda** as he pulls out his handcuffs

Any joke or novelty shop will carry these for very little money - also check toy stores; as an alternative, use rope or a binding of some sort.

WANDA (furious): You think you're a tough guy, using the very same handcuffs we used as lovers? You think you can just break up with me and not suffer the same pain I suffer now?

Harry's had enough. He rushes her, grabs her and handcuffs* her to a guest (*or his fellow security guard. If you use a guest Harry, be sure to find someone ahead of time that's ready to play along*).

He orders said guest to keep **Wanda** quiet and under control or he'll get Dr. Mars to sedate her.

Wanda is shocked! She yells after **Harry's** retreating back that no one betrays **Wanda** Frohicky and lives to tell about it!

Harry ignores her.

Now of course (*and without disrupting the next scene*) **Wanda** tries to get away from her captor.

PRACTICE THE HANDCUFFING!

*Not using handcuffs? Then **Harry** needs simply put this guest in charge of **Wanda**. **Harry** should announce that it will be this person's responsibility to make sure **Wanda** does not leave the room or get into trouble. Should this person fail, he will have to answer to **Harry** and it won't be pleasant.

0:15 PRACTICE

E.T. thanks **Harry** and continues with his presentation. He announces that his lovely assistant will unveil his new masterpiece in flu elimination, *Tetracyclone!*

Ana dramatically raises the material off the box allegedly containing the drug. The box is empty. E.T. literally screams in horror.

Ana grabs him by the lapels and demands to know where Formula X is. (*This is the first time your guests will hear the term "Formula X"*).

Rocco and **Lila**, still in the audience, pull their guns and hold them on E.T. and demand to know what kind of trick he's pulling on them.

E.T. pushes **Ana** behind him, pulls his own gun and orders them to back off.

Ana pulls her gun and holds it on E.T. demanding again to know where Formula X is?

This takes E.T. by total surprise. His **Ana** with a gun?

Wanda is very busy trying to escape the danger, guest in tow.

Harry has been in the corner of the room with his back to the guests talking on his cell phone - this conversation is so intense (*yet cryptic - think spy talk Harry just in case anyone from the audience is listening in*) it takes him a minute to realize something is going down. He turns and sees everyone with a gun drawn and screams in sheer terror (so much for the hero in **Harry**).

Upon hearing **Harry's** loud scream, everyone then turns his or her gun on **Harry**.

He, for a brief moment, looks like a deer in headlights. He then, for a brief moment, looks like he's a kid about to wet his pants before he gives into his fear and faints dead away.