

# MURDER *in* MANHATTAN

You have been invited to the anniversary bash of Mr. Francis Fisk, a noted businessman. The guest list includes a number of Fisk's high-society friends, family members, and business associates. Everyone is expecting an evening dinner, drinks, dancing and gossip—they aren't expecting a black out and a grisly murder in the darkness.

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**Murder in Manhattan**

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# *1. Introductory Materials*

Section I of this instruction manual contains all of the introductory materials necessary for planning and preparing your party. In this section you will find a basic overview of the plot; a description of each of the characters; tips on preparing your playing area, choosing a menu, and organizing your printouts; and detailed instructions on how to go about inviting players and assigning characters.

Please note: The majority of the contents of this book are intended for the eyes of the Host/Hostess only! The success of your party hinges on a strong element of intrigue and mystery, so be certain not to share this book with other players. The material that should be provided to your guests is clearly described in this book. Under no circumstances should you allow any of your players access to this book!



# Welcome!

Thank you for choosing *Murder in Manhattan*, another fine product by PWM Press; this package contains everything you need to host a spectacular Murder Mystery party that your guests will remember for many years to come. Included are materials for hosting a party for anywhere from ten to twenty-five participants (including yourself).

Murder Mystery Parties are essentially a combination of improvisational acting, storytelling, and creative problem solving. Your guests will each assume the role of a particular character and will play the part of that character throughout the course of the game. Each character has personality traits, goals, secrets, and information, all of which are included in the character sheet. A big part of the entertainment value of Mystery Parties is getting into character and trying to achieve your character's individual goals.

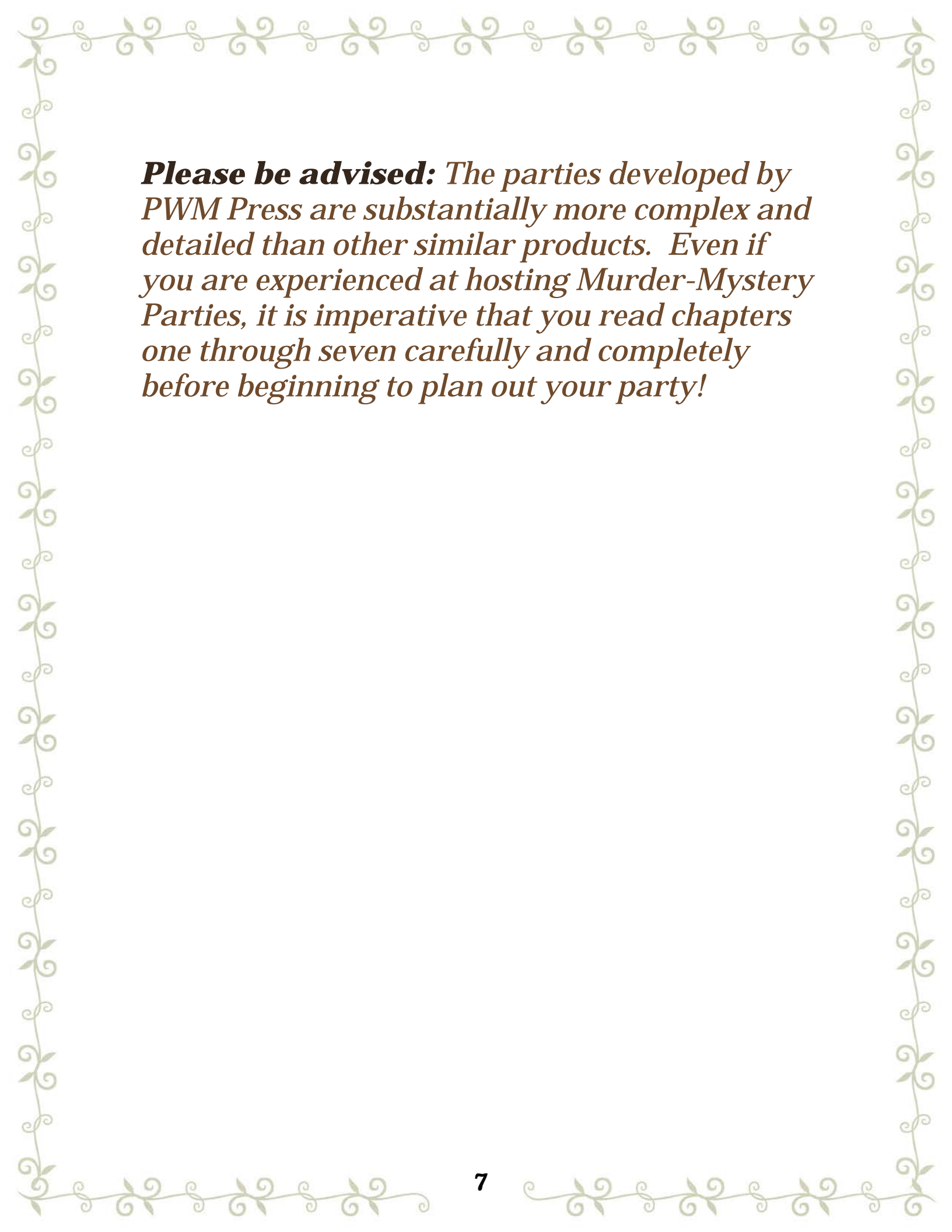
At some point during the party, an Event will occur that will force the players to come together in order to solve a problem or unravel a mystery. Traditionally, the Event in question will be the murder of one of the characters (as played by a guest), but the basic framework of a Mystery Party can accommodate numerous different types of Events.

The guests will need to use the information that their characters know (as well as additional clues that are provided during the game) to solve the mystery or overcome the problem posed by the Event. Typically this culminates in the guests voting on the identity of the murderer, but again, different parties will have different goals. The party may also have certain additional subgames built into the framework; for example, many Mystery Parties will have some form of scavenger hunt built into the story.

Once the mystery has been solved or the problem has been overcome, the party draws to a close. Guests are provided with an opportunity to vote on the best actor/actress, the best dressed player, and so forth and then are given certificates and awards for their participation in the game.

Throughout the course of the party, the Host/Hostess is responsible for ensuring that the event continues to run smoothly. He or she sets the scene, provides dinner and drinks, and moves the plot along at key points by reading scripted descriptions of what is happening. Frequently the Host/Hostess will also play one of the characters.

This particular Mystery Party, *Murder in Manhattan*, is a Murder Mystery wherein each party guest will be playing the role of a guest or employee of Irene den Waldern at an anniversary bash for Francis Fisk, and the Host/Hostess will be playing the part of Taylor Walker, a caterer.

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***Please be advised:*** *The parties developed by PWM Press are substantially more complex and detailed than other similar products. Even if you are experienced at hosting Murder-Mystery Parties, it is imperative that you read chapters one through seven carefully and completely before beginning to plan out your party!*

## *What Is My Role?*

As the Host or Hostess, your role in the party is that of a facilitator or a storyteller. It is your job to plan the event, prepare the playing area, and, once the game begins, move the story along and make certain that everyone is on task and enjoying themselves.

In many Mystery Parties the Host or Hostess is given the option to not learn the identity of the murderer before the end of the game, thereby allowing him or her to participate in the party the same way as the other guests. However, because *Murder in Manhattan* is a more complex party, it is necessary for the Host or Hostess to have a clear understanding of all key plot points in order to ensure that the game runs smoothly. This means that you will be aware of the killer and the victim's identity in advance.

You will be playing the role of Taylor Walker, a caterer hired for the event. As a caterer you will be able to watch over your event in character to make sure everything runs smoothly while still enjoying the opportunity to play someone with their own secrets, motivations, and goals.



## *Running the Party*

This portion of the instruction manual will walk you through all the steps you need to follow once your guests arrive. Read over this section carefully as it contains vital information to the success of the event.

### *Guest Arrival*

As each guest arrives, you should pass out their nametag and character sheet (if needed) from the first folder and then allow them to mingle until everyone arrives.

During this stage of the event, the Host/Hostess should:

- Make certain that everyone has a visible nametag.
- Make certain that everyone has a copy of their character sheet.

### *Introduction*

Once everyone has arrived, gather them together in the main room and read aloud the “Welcome to the Party” text, which will explain to them the basic framework of the event. This text is provided below and is also included in Section III of this handbook as a printout; if you are so inclined, you can print out a copy for each guest for easy reference.

During this stage of the event, the Host/Hostess should:

- Make certain that all the guests understand how the party is going to be run.
- Answer any questions regarding the introduction.

### *Welcome to the Party*

*Script 1: To be read by the Host or Hostess after all of the guests have arrived but before the event officially begins.*

Welcome, everyone, and thank you for attending *Murder in Manhattan*. As all of you know, this is a Murder Mystery Party. During the party, each of you will be playing the role of a guest or employee of Francis Fisk at his party celebrating his company's anniversary. Each of you has a character sheet that details special knowledge and goals that your character has, along with certain instructions for ways that your character should respond to specific situations. Aside from these instructions, and general role-playing tips on your character sheets, there is no particular script you need to follow; simply do your best to act as you believe your character would act.

During the course of the event I will be playing the part of Taylor Walker, one of the caterers. However, I will also be available to answer any questions about how the game works. Just let me know if you need to ask me something "out of character."

Before we begin, we'll give everyone a couple of minutes to read over your character sheets and make sure you understand everything. Remember not to show your character sheets to anyone else and to be careful with what information you end up sharing with other players. Most of you have secret information listed on your sheet your character wouldn't want to disclose to just anyone.

*[Once everyone has had a chance to read over their sheets, give them an opportunity to ask questions about how the game will work. Once all of their questions have been answered, continue this script.]*

Alright, if there are no further questions, let me describe the scene for you. You are in Francis Fisk's fabulous penthouse suite apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. You are here for an evening of dinner, dancing, and conversation in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Fisk Enterprises. Francis Fisk has a big announcement to make at midnight, but everyone is free to mingle and talk until then.

*[Point out each of the different rooms that are considered part of the game, and explain what part of the apartment they represent. You should have at least one large room for the dining hall and another that is Fisk's study. You can specify other areas as you wish, depending on the size of the playing area.]*

You are now free to mingle with each other and enjoy the party. Drinks and food will be available shortly. And now, if I could see the catering staff in the kitchen.

*[At this point you can take the catering staff into the kitchen and explain that part of their role tonight will be to assist with serving food, bringing around the appetizer trays and keeping drinks refilled.]*



*Irene den  
Waldern*  
Party Planner



*Richard den Waldern*  
Philanthropist



*Rose den Waldern*  
Queen



*Ashley LeBois*  
Editor



*Helen LeBois*  
Designer



*Sam Lily*  
Lawyer



*David Kreig*  
Author



*Gwen Kreig*  
Rising Star

*You are cordially invited to*

**MURDER**  
*in*  
**MANHATTAN**

**A Murder-Mystery Party**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location** \_\_\_\_\_

Details Enclosed.

**Please RSVP no later than**

\_\_\_\_\_



# What Is a Murder-Mystery Party?

**You have been invited** to a party hosted by Francis Fisk in celebration of the twenty-fifth year of Fisk Enterprises. The guest list includes a number of Fisk's friend, family members, and business associates, as well as a full catering staff. Everyone is expecting an elegant evening with drinks, hor d'oeuvres, drinks, and dancing—they aren't expecting power outages, a dastardly deed, and an unsavory scandal!

***Murder in Manhattan*** is a Murder Mystery Party wherein the guests will take the roles of Francis Fisk and his guests and staff and play those characters throughout the course of the event. At some point during the evening, one of the guests will be “killed” by one of the other participants, and the remainder of the evening will be spent piecing together clues in an attempt to determine who the murderer is. Food and drink will be provided.

**Included with this invitation** are an RSVP card and a brief description of the characters. Please return the RSVP card as soon as possible!



# The Guest List

Male roles are marked ♂, female roles are marked ♀, and characters that can be either gender are marked ♀♂.

♂ **Francis Fisk—Real Estate Tycoon**—This party is being thrown by Francis in celebration of his company's twenty-five years of success in real estate. He is very well known and always throws the most elegant parties.

♀ **Irene den Waldern—Party Planner**—Irene runs a very successful public relations firm that caters to the Upper East Side and numerous celebrities and socialites. She is throwing this party for Francis.

♂ **Richard den Waldern—Philanthropist**—A young but prominent philanthropist, he is known for giving generously to children's charities around the country. He was recently in Florida on vacation.

♀ **Rose den Waldern—Queen**—Queen bee of the older socialites, Rose rules the Upper East Side with an iron fist inside a silken glove.

♀ **Francine (Frank) Rose—Debutante**—A cousin of the den Walderns from Florida, Frank recently arrived in New York and is making her debut among the upper class.

♀ **Ashley LeBois—Editor**—Up-and-coming queen of the younger generation, Ashley is the editor of *Runway*, a popular fashion magazine. She rules the younger generation with well-timed rumors and vicious social takedowns.

♀ **Helen LeBois—Designer**—Helen owns and designs her own line of haute couture fashion, catering only to the rich and fabulous.

♂ **Sam Lily—Lawyer**—Sam is an entertainment lawyer known for his famous clients and sharp sense of humor.

♀ **Gwen Kreig—Rising Star**—New to the social scene, Gwen is a fashion designer with cutting-edge style and swift social-climbing ambitions.

♂ **David Kreig—Author**—David published a biting satire on Upper East Side personalities—recently at the top of the New York Times bestseller list—which everyone suspects is based on actual socialites.

♂ **Grayson Kreig—Rock Star**—A one-hit wonder, Grayson was once part of the band Eagle's Rose, which has long since broken up.

♀ **Jo Chase—Filmmaker**—New to the scene, Jo makes documentaries and is filming the party for a new documentary.

♂ **Jesse Corrington—Journalist**—Editor of a biting online gossip site, Jesse is known for only publishing verifiable rumors. He comes from one of the most powerful families on the Upper East Side.

♂ **Isaac Corrington—Retired Senator**—Although retired from government life, Isaac is the head of the politically active Corrington family. Easily the king of the Upper East Side socialites, Isaac has played the social and political scene for years.

♂ **Chester Fisk—Playboy**—The debauchery and indulgence of the life of the upper class run hand in hand with this well-known playboy, younger brother of Jonathon and Francis. He owns the Castle, a hotel known for ruining the reputations of many celebrities and socialites.

♀ **Mercy Neist—Scheming Socialite**—A well-known socialite, Mercy mysteriously left New York a few years ago and has only just returned from traveling abroad. She is a troublemaker and a schemer who used to give Ashley a run for her money.

♂ **Jonathon Fisk—Outcast**—Jonathon runs Fisk Enterprises in Australia and has been invited back to New York for his brother's big celebration. Rumor says he left due to some scandal that was covered up.

♂ **Zachary Wellington—Architect**—A board member of Fisk Enterprises from Chicago, he is attending the event with his daughter Candice.

♀ **Candice Wellington—New Girl**—Candice is both Zachary's daughter and his assistant. This is her first time in New York.

♂ **Alexei Siranov—Security**—Doorman at Fisk's building and security for the party, Alexei is in charge of making sure none of the lower classes get into the celebration.

♀ **Davana Gudriov—Housekeeper**—Ashley's maid and housekeeper, Davana has been looking out for Ashley since she was a little girl.

♀♂ **Taylor Walker—Head Caterer**—(Played by the Host/Hostess) Taylor was hired by Irene to be attentive and discreet, as well as to run the staff and make sure the party goes as planned.

♀♂ **Jamie Lavigne—Caterer**—Jamie was hired by Irene to be attentive and discreet and to make sure the party runs smoothly.

♀♂ **Sydney O'Connor—Caterer**—Sydney was hired by Irene to be attentive and discreet and to make sure the party runs smoothly.

♀♂ **Callaway Lee—Bartender**—Callaway was hired by Irene to be attentive and discreet as well as to keep the drinks flowing.

# Who Did It?

## Voting Sheet

Your character's name

---

Name of the guest or player who you  
believe was responsible for the murder

---

Name of the guest or player who you feel  
did the best job acting  
in character this evening

---

Name of the guest or player who you feel  
had the best costume this evening

---

# Outstanding Acting Award

For receiving the most votes for best acting,

---

is hereby awarded the Outstanding Acting Award.  
Great job, and thanks for playing *Murder in Manhattan*!

**Awarded on** \_\_\_\_\_



Murder in  
Manhattan