

# CHARLIE AND THE MURDER AT THE CHESTNUT FACTORY

7-14 guests, ages 14 to adult

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## SYNOPSIS (THIS OUTLINES THE FLOW OF THE PARTY EVENTS).

Charlie's Chestnut Factory was voted one of the ten best places to work in the world by *Forbes Business Magazine*! Unfortunately, you can only find this rating in older magazines. The Claus family founded the company in 1901 and after going public two years ago, things have deteriorated in every way imaginable. The once happy and almost magical factory has turned into a gloomy cave of complaining drones. Profits seem to be high on the surface but the financial status of the company is crashing at a fast pace!




Charlie Claus, IV is the CEO and the only other living heir of the Claus family is Chris Claus who works as Charlie's assistant. These two are doing their best to figure out what is going wrong with their factory but the Board of Directors, the External Auditors from Earnest & Olde and some of the implants they have hired to work in the factory all seem to be against each point of the original company mission created by the founder, Charlie Claus, Sr., in 1901 which was: **Provide the best quality chestnuts at the most affordable prices while maintaining the happiest employees on Earth.**

With departmental budgets slashed to pennies and without warning - the annual holiday bonus checks turned into a mere fruitcake, the employees of the factory have reached an all-time low. Resumes are flying out the door to other companies and now the employees have given up on the company's mission. Charlie Claus, known in the past as Mr. Christmas, is trying to salvage the holiday party for the employees but given his company's financial situation, his own salary has been cut drastically. Out of his own pocket, he is hosting this party but can only afford the bare minimum.

The holiday party is scheduled for the *Budget Motor Inn Ballroom* and the employees are asked to pull together and make the party work. They have come together as a team and donated holiday décor and Charlie and Chris are catering the event themselves! Given the circumstances, the holiday spirits of most employees seem to be rekindling! It's almost time for the party kickoff and this is where your story begins...

# LIST OF CHARACTERS

CHARACTER NAME AND OCCUPATION	CHARACTER DESCRIPTION	COSTUME SUGGESTIONS
 <p><b>EBENEZER CRUDE</b> Financial Director</p> <p><b>REQUIRED</b> Male</p>	<p>Everyone knows that it is Ebenezer Crude that truly runs <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i>! This neurotic Financial Director keeps everyone's department under an ultra-strict budget. Not one penny is spent without Ebenezer Crude's approval and he's growing increasingly difficult to get along with lately! Maybe it's the stress of his job or simply old age but something's definitely taking its toll on his spirits! Especially his <i>holiday</i> spirits!</p>	<p>Designer &amp;/or expensive looking business casual attire. Fake money, company checks coming out of various pockets.</p>
 <p><b>HOLLY NOEL</b> Human Resources Director</p> <p><b>REQUIRED</b> Female</p>	<p>Holly Noel is the gossiping Human Resources Director for <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i>. There's not a secret to be told nor heard that Holly hasn't been a part of! She does have her good side, however, as she constantly fights to make the factory an ideal working environment for the employees - <i>minus the rumor spreading, that is!</i></p>	<p>Business casual attire.</p>
 <p><b>CHARLIE CLAUS</b> Chief Executive Officer</p> <p><b>REQUIRED</b> Male</p>	<p>Charlie Claus is the elusive yet friendly Chief Executive Officer of <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i>. A tad mysterious, this leader is infamous for creeping down the office suite hallways and throughout the factory lines as if in <i>stealth mode</i>! Charlie has always had a glowing and contagious Christmas spirit but something is definitely giving this CEO the blues this year!</p>	<p>Formal attire (i.e. tux, etc.). Large top hat and cane (optional).</p>
 <p><b>CHRIS CLAUS</b> Executive Assistant to Charlie Claus</p> <p><b>REQUIRED</b> Female</p>	<p>Chris Claus is the spunky sibling of Charlie Claus and a dedicated and loyal Executive Assistant. A once family-owned business, <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i> was one of the happiest places to work on Earth! A lot has happened in the past few years and now, the factory has grown cold and lifeless with unhappy workers on the factory lines. Chris's mission is to find out the underlying cause and fix it before the factory is doomed!</p>	<p>Business casual attire. A Santa Claus hat as you love to spread 'Christmas Cheer!'</p>
 <p><b>BOBBY TAILMAN</b> Factory Floor Supervisor</p> <p><b>REQUIRED</b> Male</p>	<p>Bobby Tailman is the uber-energetic Factory Floor Supervisor of <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i>. A long-time employee of the factory, Bobby has seen the factory employee's spirits declining over the two years since the company went public. He has recently proclaimed that the 'factory morale has hit rock bottom.' Rumor has it that Bobby's resume has hit a lot of competitor's desks lately.</p>	<p>Business casual attire. An optional hard hat or caution vest with your suit. As an alternative, you can wear a factory worker costume.</p>
 <p><b>VIXEN DASHER</b> General Manager</p> <p><b>REQUIRED</b> Female</p>	<p>Originally hailing from southern Mississippi, Vixen Dasher is the detail-oriented General Manager of <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i>. A strict abider of the factory rules, Vixen will be the first one to let you know if you've done something wrong. Vixen is the last person at the factory that you'd ever think about double crossing...if you value your paycheck!</p>	<p>Business casual attire. An optional stop watch or clock and a note pad so you can take notes of the employee's wrongdoings during the party.</p>
 <p><b>SILVEN BELLS</b> Factory Inventory Manager</p> <p><b>REQUIRED</b> Male</p>	<p>One of the most quiet and reserved employees at <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i>, Silven Bells holds the vital position of Factory Inventory Manager. It seems that lately that Silven's been a target of Ebenezer Crude's harsh financial policies as Silven has been spending most of the day taking a daily inventory of the entire factory! Nobody knows what Silven did to make Ebenezer mad but it must have been something quite drastic!</p>	<p>Business casual attire. An optional clipboard or file with the company's fake inventory on it (optional).</p>
 <p><b>PONY SETIA</b> Chestnut Factory Worker <i>Optional Either</i></p>	<p>Pony Setia is the carefree Chestnut Picker at <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i>. Pony lives to be in the open air of the Chestnut Tree Farm behind the factory as it makes Pony feel <i>one with nature</i>. Pony also cares for a large flower garden and greenhouse full of fresh herbs at home and plans to open a nursery one day in the <i>somewhat</i> near future. Some say that the antisocial Pony makes a better friend to plants than people.</p>	<p>Gardener attire. Optional to bring any type of flowers, chestnuts, herbs, etc. with you to show / try to sell to the other guests.</p>

	<p><b>COMET LOOMPA</b> Chestnut Factory Worker <i>Optional Either</i></p>	<p>Everyone in the factory knows that the eccentric Comet Loompa is a force to be reckoned with! Comet Loompa is known for sporting a white over-sized factory coverall and a fuzzy green wig while roasting the chestnuts every day on the factory line. Most of the factory workers find this to be a disturbing habit and have tried to prevent Comet from expressing her/himself in this manner. However, it's probably best to just leave this one alone.</p>	<p><i>White coveralls and a green wig. Some fake pill bottles (empty) as optional props as you have run out of your prescribed medication.</i></p>
	<p><b>GRINCHY MISTLETOE</b> Technology Director <i>Optional Either</i></p>	<p>If you care about productivity and deadlines, you better hope that you never have a major problem related to technology at <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory!</i> This lazy, slow-acting IT Director has the words <i>hurry, fast and rush</i> missing from their vocabulary! Grinchy defines the phrase '<i>slow as Christmas</i>' and has unfortunately been the downfall of many employees lately!</p>	<p><i>Sloppy, wrinkled business casual attire. If you have extra computer accessories, have them as optional props coming out of your pockets.</i></p>
	<p><b>PAUL NORTH</b> Sales Manager <i>Optional Male - Expandable</i> <i>(Can have multiple players in this role to play additional members of the Chestnut Sales Team.)</i></p>	<p>Paul North is the fun-loving Chestnut Sales Manager at <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i>. He is quick to tell a joke to cheer you up and lightning-fast at pulling a prank the moment you turn your back! You never know what you'll get with Paul and his team of sales personnel!</p>	<p><i>Trendy business casual attire. Optional to bring practical jokes, jokes, magic tricks with you of any kind.</i></p>
	<p><b>JACKIE FROST</b> Chestnut Factory Worker <i>Optional Female - Expandable</i> <i>(Can have multiple players in this role to play additional Chestnut Factory Workers in the Chestnut Packing Department.)</i></p>	<p>Jackie Frost is the wild and crazy Roasted Chestnut Packer at <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i>. As a designated Team Leader, she runs her team of packers in a chaotic manner but <i>hey...</i> whatever she is doing is working as her productivity is at an all-time high! Even in light of the current dreary working conditions, her team seems to <i>make it work</i> for them. Chris Claus is dying to know what her secret is!</p>	<p><i>Work coveralls or other factory style uniform. Optional to bring packages of roasted chestnuts to show how your department is packing them nowadays.</i></p>
	<p><b>JAY BELLROCK</b> Service Department Manager <i>Optional Male- Expandable</i> <i>(Can have multiple players in this role to play additional members of the Chestnut Factory Floor Service Team.)</i></p>	<p><i>Intellectual charisma</i> is the perfect phrase to sum up Jay Bellrock! Jay is the super smart Service Department Manager of <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i>. If anything needs a fixin' – just call Jay - he is a truly gifted handyman! From painting the highest outdoor light fixtures to troubleshooting machinery – there's absolutely nothing that Jay can't do! You'd never guess it, but Jay is a secret Ivy-Leaguer with multiple degrees, licenses and certifications but prefers 'Blue Collar' employment.</p>	<p><i>Work coveralls or other factory style uniform.</i></p>
	<p><b>DEKEN Z. HALZ</b> Chestnut Factory Worker <i>Optional Female</i></p>	<p>Deken Z. Halz hails all the way from Belgium and moved to the United States for a job at <i>Charlie's Chestnut Factory</i> as a Chestnut Sorter because she got her hands on an old edition of <i>Fordes Business Magazine</i> and saw it was rated one of the top ten places to work in the world! With her thick French-Belgian accent and tattoos covering a large portion of her body, she tends to stand out in the crowd!</p>	<p><i>Work coveralls or other factory style uniform. Temporary tattoos all over your exposed skin (if you don't already have them!)</i></p>

# HOW TO PLAY A MURDER MYSTERY GUEST INSTRUCTIONS

Professional actors are great for mysteries but do not worry because you do not have to be a good actor – or an actor at all – to play a murder mystery! The only quality that you need to possess is the ability to have a blast!

The mystery party is separated into three rounds. During the party, you will be handed an envelope that contains the clues necessary for your character for the round. The clues will provide everything that you will need to solve the mystery. However, during the investigation segment of the game, you will need to ask the right questions and pay close attention to other guests' clues to be able to get the whole picture of what has happened.

## **FULL INSTRUCTIONS IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

From this point forward, you are to remain in character until the mystery is solved. If you are playing a 'green alien from Mars', then that is who you are until the end! Undoubtedly, your host has cast you into a character that you are comfortable playing. There are some characters that are designed to be played more reserved than other characters that should be played more boisterous. Feel free to play your role however you feel comfortable. Feel free to embellish your character's personality if you would like. However, if you are feeling more reserved tonight, you can opt to allow the other characters to approach you or you can simply listen in on others' conversations to get your information. Not everyone needs to or should have the spotlight!



# GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE HOST

Thank you for purchasing 'Charlie and the Murder at the Chestnut Factory' game from [mymysteryparty.com](http://mymysteryparty.com)! This mystery is a light-hearted and moderate sleuthing mystery that allows you and your guests to step into a different character while trying to solve the entertaining and slightly challenging mystery. The party can be a huge success as long as you and your guests relax and let the mystery unravel during each round.

## **FULL INSTRUCTIONS IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

This mystery comes with 14 written characters. Only 7 of these characters are required with the other 7 being optional characters. If you do not have guests for these 7 characters, simply omit the clue cards of these guests. Additional duplicate characters (5+) can be added as factory workers and / or salesman and additional copies of this character (Jackie Frost, Jay Bellrock or Paul North) need to be made for all added characters. For each round, give these duplicate players the same clues – but give them a different name if you would like – or put them all on the same team and give them one set of clues to share and they can work as a unit during the mystery. If you need to have unique characters added, go to <http://www.mymysteryparty.com/adhcuno.html> to order them at an additional fee per character. This process takes up to 5 business days and possible up to 7 business days during the busier times of the year.

**YOU WILL NEED TO GATHER AND PREPARE THE FOLLOWING  
ITEMS IN ADVANCE OF THE GAME:**

## **FULL INSTRUCTIONS IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

## PRE GAME STARTERS:



### Employees of Charlie's Chestnut Factory

The Holiday Season is upon us and it's time for the Annual Holiday Party. I hate to be the bearer of bad news but this year, the budget was cut drastically and we will have to all come together and make this party possible. But that's great because we'll work as the team that we are and start this holiday season right!

Another change from previous years is that the party will be held at the *Best Motor Inn Ballroom*.

Let's all keep our heads up and focus on the negative things! Happy Holidays!

*Holly Nod,*

*Human Resources Director*

[www.MyMysteryParty.com](http://www.MyMysteryParty.com)

**EACH CHARACTER HAS A PREGAME CARD IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

## PRE GAME STARTER TASKS:

### PRE GAME STARTER TASKS

**CHARACTER NAME:** Here is the character name

Your character is the wild and crazy Roasted Chestnut Pastry Chef. He has the highest morale in the factory because you are good to him. However, you have your issues with the 'higher-ups' since they normally would have been paid back on...but were denied.

**OPTIONAL** - for some pre-party fun, you can contact (email, phone) the guest playing Charlie Claus and tell him that it is in your issues on the factory line. You heard that you all have to purchase computers that are always off line and non-functional. You absolutely cannot purchase new equipment! (Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Contact** the guest playing Charlie Claus and tell him that it is in your issues on the factory line. You heard that you all have to purchase computers that are always off line and non-functional. You absolutely cannot purchase new equipment! (Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Contact** the guest playing Grinchy Mistletoe and tell Grinchy that you don't have a working computer on the factory line. You are required to purchase computers and put into boxes to be shipped out but your reports are always late due to the computer and this is definitely hindering your performance! (Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Please note: either contacting the guests above or deciding to skip these tasks will not alter the mystery or anyone's ability to solve the mystery in anyway. However, contacting other guests will lead to excitement about the party and will encourage other guests to read about the other characters and be prepared for an exciting mystery party!**

**EACH CHARACTER HAS A PREGAME TASK CARD IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

## CHARACTER NAME- ROUND ONE.

### USE THE FOLLOWING TRIVIA QUESTIONS AS AN ICE BREAKER

**Question:** What is the last ghost called in the Classic movie 'A Christmas Carol?' **Answer:** XXXXX

**Question:** Who was nestled snug in their beds? **Answer:** XXXXXX

### CLUES TO REVEAL DURING THIS ROUND

During this round, mingle with the other guests to discuss the following with whomever you choose:

- 👉 Talk about how you actually get along with plants better than a chestnut tree farm! Your family has always taken care of the plants. Say that you don't understand why you are not allowed to bring them to be able to sell your herbs and flowers from your home garden. Now there's a policy that they are not even allowed to be in the house. Would you make such a strict and senseless policy?
- 👉 Ask Chris Claus what Ebenezer Crude said to her in the hall during whatever it was but she didn't say a word in response. You find it strange.
- 👉 Tell a few people that you might need to borrow some money. You're not able to sell your herbs and flowers to supplement your salary. You need your own nursery...that's not going to happen now!

### PERSONAL INFORMATION (You can conceal what you want)

- ✂ You don't really like working at the factory any more. You'd much rather work for yourself. However, since this policy forbidding you to bring in fresh herbs and plants, you're unable to save any money! You were saving up to start your own business, but you've nearly spent all of your savings because you do not make enough to cover your financial hot water and it seems as though your dreams of owning your own business are ruined!

**EACH CHARACTER HAS A ROUND ONE CARD IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

During the mystery, your character must be honest and not make up any potentially mystery-altering clues in addition to those provided to you. You do not, however, have to share any clues that you collect with the other guests.

## CHARACTER NAME IS HERE - ROUND TWO.

### PRE!MURDER

- 👉 Talk to everybody about how angry you are that your boss told you that you'd be paid back for purchasing hard hats for the employees that report to you but then when you submitted the paperwork to be reimbursed, it was denied! You should probably also confront your boss about the situation and find out why this happened. Maybe it wasn't his fault?
- 👉 Talk to others about how Character X was hired nearly ten years ago. How the work environment as well as financial situation have deteriorated since then.
- 👉 Ask Character Y about her pear tree at her home. You know she has a lot of squirrels that live there for a few years now. You can't get them out.
- 👉 Ask Character B what she was thinking when she took away the holiday bonus checks and replaced it with a nasty fruitcake. You can't stand fruitcake! You would have loved to have a warning that you were not going to receive your annual bonus check!
- 👉 Find out if the rumors are true that there are spies who go to the employee's homes to see if they have more money than their salaries would allow. You were eavesdropping on some people in the employee break room so you have sketchy details.

### POST!MURDER

- 👉 These are the clues for this character to the murder.
- 👉 There will be anywhere from 3 to 7 clues given. The players will mingle and collect the clues from each other to get the entire picture of what has happened.

THE FORENSIC ANALYSIS REPORT FOR ROUND TWO IS IN THE PURCHASED GAME:

THE VICTIM SIGN FOR ROUND TWO IS IN THE PURCHASED GAME:

Sample game

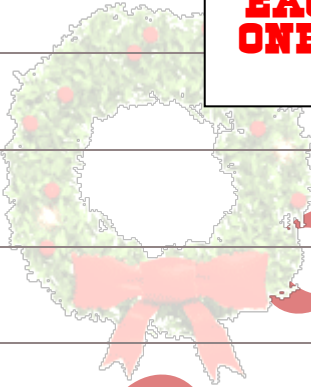


# MYSTERY INVESTIGATION SHEET

**DETECTIVE NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPECT	MOTIVE, CLUES AND OTHER COMMENTS

**EACH CHARACTER HAS ONE IN THE PURCHASED GAME**



Sample game

**FINAL GUESS:**

**WHODUNIT** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTIVE** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHARACTER NAME IS HERE** FINAL SOLUTION ROUND THREE. READ WHEN YOU ARE TOLD IT IS YOUR TURN.

This is the final solution round. Every guest at this party will now tell their story to the group - in a specific order dictated by this final solution clue card - and the murderer will now confess.

**Before you read your final solution, read the following music lyrics to the other guests and ask them to give you the name of the Christmas song:**

*Music Lyrics are here*

Answer: The song is "Here is the answer"

**Read the following solution to the group:**

"The final solution for the character is here."

**THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERS ARE NEXT IN THIS ORDER.**

1. Here is a list of who reads their solution card next...



**EACH CHARACTER HAS ONE IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

**NAME TAGS:**

**SILVEN BELLS**

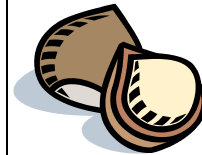
*played by:*



**EACH CHARACTER HAS ONE IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

**PONY SETIA**

*played by:*



**MENU SUGGESTIONS**

*\*The following items are for a more formal type of dinner – teens might prefer more 'teen' style food (fish & chips, hot dogs, hamburgers, etc.) – therefore, the following items are only suggestions.*

- CHARLIE CLAUS, IIP'S STUFFED MUSHROOMS
- 'THE OTHER NUT' SALAD
- CHRIS CLAUS'S FAMOUS STUFFED CHICKEN
- CHRISTMAS CASSEROLE
- CHESTNUT FACTORY CAKE
- SWEET ENDING
- JINGLE BELL JUICE
- SANTA'S SHAKE

**RECIPES ARE IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

# BONUS GAMES



**INSTRUCTIONS AND GAME  
DOCUMENTS (WHEN APPLICABLE)  
THE PURCHASED GAME**



Sample

# **WARNING!**

The final solution summary is on the following page. This explains the breakdown of how to solve the mystery. **DO NOT READ** unless you want to know everything prior to your party!



**Solution and key to solving the mystery is  
included in the purchased game:**

*Sample game*