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

Given the current state of affairs in Gravestone, Arizona, the mayor feared for his life and hadn't seen the sun in months. With the last three sheriffs mysteriously shot in the back, Gravestone had become a lawless town run by a bunch of outlaws known as The Ranchers.

Wylie Arp, the sheriff of Duck City, Kansas, left his career as a lawman and traveled west to Gravestone with his brothers and friends. He planned to sink his life savings into a business and live the rest of his days free from the stress of law enforcement. Little did he know what was waiting for him in Gravestone.

Soon after Wylie and his group arrived in town, the mayor asked Bella Starry to invite everyone in town for a celebration. The mayor had high hopes that Wylie and his brothers would consider taking over as the law enforcement in town and getting The Ranchers under control or better yet...running them out of town.

Everyone in town gathered at the Gravestone Saloon - even some of the Ranchers and other outlaws. A reward poster surfaced, and rumors of codes hidden around town leading to a hidden treasure in the Gravestone Cave flew around the room. In order to avoid conflict at the celebration, the townspeople enjoyed cocktails and appetizers and Bella got the celebration going with some fun party games.

A delectable Wild West dinner was served, followed by more fun challenges enjoyed by the guests until someone was found to be murdered in cold blood! The townsfolk rallied together to figure out whodunit, and a grueling investigation
ensued. Over coffee and dessert, the suspects came clean with their involvement with the crime and to everyone’s shock - the murderer confessed! Overall, it was a night to be remembered by all.

**LIST OF CHARACTERS - FOR THE HOST’S EYES ONLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUSPECT</th>
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<th>COSTUME SUGGESTIONS</th>
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</table>
| **BELLA STARRY**  
*Waitress at the Gravestone Saloon*  
*REQUIRED* | A recent widow, Bella Starry grew up on a Pug Valley farm in West Virginia. She was a member of the infamous Hatplain family who were in the midst of a lethal feud over property lines with their Kentucky neighbors, the McToys. On one side, Bella is an educated lady and accomplished piano player. On her other side, she’s a notorious outlaw who has served time in federal prison for horse thievery and stagecoach robberies. | A mock corset western saloon dress with a hair feather piece and Amelia Black boots. An alternative option: a western style dress & cowboy hat/boots. A fake gun as an optional prop. |
| **WYLIE ARP**  
*Co-Owner of the Gravestone Saloon*  
*REQUIRED* | An ex-lawman from Duck City, Wylie Arp recently moved to Gravestone with his brothers and long-time flame, Josephine Marco. Wylie is a Civil War veteran who desperately needs a change of pace and more relaxing way of life. He recently became the co-owner of the Gravestone Saloon. Wylie has made it clear that he doesn’t intend on being a lawman again. | Black duster coat with a vest, a holster and a cowboy hat/boots. A (gunslinger) handlebar moustache as an optional accessory. |
| **JOSEPHINE MARCO**  
*Entrepreneur & Girlfriend of Wylie Arp*  
*REQUIRED* | Josephine Marco made a fortune as an entrepreneur in the California Gold Rush when she was only fifteen. She later traveled in her stagecoach through the Wild West in search of the next booming town. She eventually met her true love, Wylie Arp. Ever since these two met, they’ve been inseparable. She’s the main reason Wylie left his career as the Duck City Sheriff. They moved to Gravestone to settle down, get married, and raise a family. | Rhinestone western shirt, blue jeans, cowboy hat/boots. Gun holsters with fake guns as optional props. |
| **ABBY OAKLEY**  
*Exhibition Sharpshooter*  
*REQUIRED* | Abby Oakley is a feisty exhibition sharpshooter in Bronco Bill’s Traveling Wild Western Show. Known by the fans of her show as Abby Sure Shot, she is rumored to be able to shoot the ashes off a cigar from across the room! However, Abby has recently become quite intolerable with her egocentricities. | Lace up faux buckskin cowgirl dress, cowboy hat, fake rifle and cowboy boots. |
| **DOC GALADAY**  
*Doctor*  
*REQUIRED* | Doc Galaday is Wylie Arp’s right hand man. Doc rides the fence on both sides of the law. His reputation has made him a terror in the hearts of the lawless. Doc is a physician by trade, but his tuberculosis has drastically reduced his number of patients. He often supplements his income with gambling. | Black duster coat with a vest, a holster and a cowboy hat/boots. A (gunslinger) handlebar moustache as an optional accessory. |
| **KATIE FISHMAN**  
*Waitress at the Gravestone Saloon*  
*REQUIRED* | Katie Fishman helped put the wild in the phrase the Wild West! As Doc Galaday’s longtime girlfriend, she’s also struggled to stay on the right side of the law. Doc’s solid friendship with the ex-lawman Wylie Arp has proven to be a positive force with this pair. | A mock corset western saloon dress with a hair feather piece and Amelia Black boots. Another option is to wear a western style dress & cowboy hat/boots. |
| **WAVY WILL BRONCHUS**  
*Leader of the Rancher Outlaws*  
**REQUIRED** | Wavy Will Bronchus is the leader of the loosely organized criminal faction called *The Ranchers*. A sorted group of cattle rustlers, thieves, and even murderers, this group has invaded the now lawless town of Gravestone. The townsfolk have high hopes that Wylie Arp can reinstate law and order on the streets, but Wavy Will has vowed never to let that happen. | **Stetson hat, leather vest, bandanas, spurs and buckskins with a fake revolver as an optional prop.**  
(Gunslinger) handlebar moustache as an optional accessory. |
|---|---|---|
| **JAMES JESSE**  
*American Outlaw*  
**OPTIONAL** | The poetic James Jesse has always veered on the wrong side of the law since he could walk! He’s a member of the Jesse-Young gang made up of a band of brothers. During the Civil War, he engaged in guerilla warfare. Today, there’s a huge reward out for his capture by the U.S. government for his many crimes of bank robbing, horse thievery, and even murder. | **Stetson hat, leather vest, bandanas, spurs and buckskins with a fake revolver as an optional prop.**  
(Gunslinger) handlebar moustache as an optional accessory. |
| **CALAMITY JANIE**  
*U.S. Army Scout*  
**OPTIONAL** | The tall-tale telling Calamity Janie is a force to be reckoned with! Former Great Plains cattle herder turned U.S. scout, this rugged lady used to be a trick shooter in *Bronco Bill’s Traveling Wild Western Show*. This is a gal you should never double cross, as she’s not called *Calamity Janie* for nothing. | **Brown duster coat with a vest, a holster and a cowboy hat/boots. Fake guns as optional props.** |
| **BRONCO BILL**  
*Traveling Entertainer*  
**OPTIONAL** | Bronco Bill always had a knack for the arts. He’s a cool, self-contained individual with a great sense of humor. He’s assembled a nomadic brigade of entertainers called *Bronco Bill’s Traveling Wild Western Show*. His troupe travels around the U.S. to perform their eclectic show of bronco riding, roping, trick shooting, and even Civil War reenactments. | **Brown duster coat with a vest, a holster and a cowboy hat/boots. A (gunslinger) handlebar moustache as an optional accessory.** |

**FULL INSTRUCTIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASED GAME**
NAMETAGS

The player nametags are below. We suggest that you either print and place into plastic name badges (optional), laminate and punch a hole and use a lanyard to wear around the neck (optional) – or the most economical and trouble-free way is to adhere fabric-safe adhesive (i.e. double-sided Scotch tape) to the back once they are printed.

Bella Starry
WAITRESS AT THE GRAVESTONE SALON

Each player will have a name tag in the purchased game.
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE HOST

Get ready for a smashing party with your purchase of the Gravestone - A Wild West Murder Mystery game from mymysteryparty.com! This party is an entertaining and comical mystery where the players act the roles of hilarious Wild West personalities while sleuthing the intriguing storyline. This is an excellent choice for your next get together!

The party pack (this document) needs to be printed in advance of the party. Cut out the clues, slip them into envelopes labeled with the appropriate round, and character for each round of the party. It is optimal to choose different colored envelopes for each round.

Please note - the host instructions for each round do not disclose who the murderer is, but do not read nor even look at (because you may read by accident) the Round Three cards if you want to keep the murderer a surprise. (The victim is disclosed in the Round Two clue cards, so don’t look at those, either.)

FULL INSTRUCTIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASED GAME

UPGRADE YOUR KIT TO A PARTY READY PACK (BOXED VERSION) If you do not want to know the solution, do not view the final round of clues. For a complete surprise, you can elect the pre-printed ‘party ready pack’ option from the http://mymysteryparty.com/upgrade-your-download/ site and we will prepare a boxed set for your game. You can find the upgrade under the ‘upgrade your download’ section of our site – this removes the price of the download from the party ready pack price and you will receive all the materials you need to play. For example, if a download cost 50$, and the party ready pack cost $100 – the upgrade would cost $50 – which is the difference in price.

THE GAME IS ORGANIZED INTO FOUR ROUNDS AND IS STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:

OPTIONAL PRE-GAME STARTERS: these optional pre-game starters are to be delivered to each guest before the party or give them to the guests as they arrive. All pre-game materials are optional, do not alter the mystery, and are intended to enhance the pre-game build up for the event. These announcements are not vital to solving the mystery and omission of them does not alter the mystery in any way. You will need to input your guests’ contact information on the pre-game task cards before sending them.

ROUND ONE: Deliver these clues as your guests arrive. You can serve appetizers and cocktails for adults.

ROUND TWO: Deliver these clues while you serve dinner (optional) to your guests.

SOLUTION ROUND THREE: Deliver these clues with coffee/hot cocoa and dessert (again, it’s optional to serve dessert)

Note: you do NOT have to serve dinner/dessert, this is only suggested and the instructions tell you ‘when’ to serve it and what to do around the time you serve it. You can simply skip both without a problem and just serve snacks/appetizers the entire time. However, please don’t have a party without offering some type of food— even if it’s just snacks.

OPTIONAL PRE-GAME ROUND

INVITING GUESTS: Before the party, encourage your guests to view the Your Mystery Party — YourMysteryParty.com/gravestone website & use the free printable My Mystery Party invitations as they have the character descriptions included. This way, before the party, they can get familiar with the other characters that will be at the party, watch the game trailer, and more! There are also hidden/subtle hints about characters throughout the page so those guests who choose to be ‘super sleuths’ can spend some time studying the Your
Mystery Party site prior to the party. There are some printable items that you can print off and have at your party, as well – such as wanted signs.

**FULL INSTRUCTIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASED GAME**
Round one – cocktail hour begins as the guests arrive. **DÉCOR:** Create a Wild West ambiance with an old west mix CD playing softly, Wild West decor, and any old western movie - preferably black and white - playing on a television in the room without the sound. **FULL INSTRUCTIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASED GAME**
ROUND TWO – DINNER HOUR
FULL INSTRUCTIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASED GAME
ROUND THREE– ‘THE BIG REVEAL’
FULL INSTRUCTIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASED GAME
MENU SUGGESTIONS

SAHDE UP STUFFED MUSHROOMS

SNAKE BITES

HONEY, I'VE BARBEQUED UP SOME CHICK'N

RANCH HAND CASSEROLE

BAKED MUSICAL FRUITS

THE BELLY WASH

COWLICIOUS CAKE

THE FULL WESTERN MOON

SWEET ENDER

RECIPES ARE INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASED GAME
Bonus Game Activities

For 100 more party games and more party advice, recipes, themes, etiquette and more, purchase *The Official Party Host Handbook* by Dr. Bonnie.

Now available at My Mystery Party’s Prop Emporium, Amazon.Com, Barnes & Noble, as well as other online book retailers.

**ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE GAME:**

TEXAS KINDA HOLD’EM POKER GAME

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE CONTEST

PERFECT PEACEMAKER CHALLENGE

WILD WEST RAP CHALLENGE

WILD WESTERN MOVIE CHALLENGE

**FULL INSTRUCTIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

GAMES MAY VARY BETWEEN THE DOWNLOAD AND BOXED SET VERSION
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So you’ve been assigned a character and you’ve come to the party dressed in the most fabulous Wild West costume and have been told to play your role. So now what?

The mystery 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 for all players provide everything you 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 everyone’s clues to be able to get the whole picture of what has happened.

**FULL INSTRUCTIONS ARE INCLUDED 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. Some characters are designed to be played more reserved than other characters that should be played more boisterous. Feel free to play your role in any way that you feel comfortable. 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.
PRE GAME STARTERS: (The following optional pre-game tasks need to be cut out and put into sealed envelopes and sent to each character in one of the methods described above.) You’ll need to write your guests contact info in the blanks next to the tasks. Any character not being played in your game, write ‘disregard this task’ in the contact info blank. Also, don’t forget to use the pregame guest site at http://yourmysteryparty.com/gravestone

EACH PLAYER WILL HAVE A PREGAME TASK CARD IN THE PURCHASED GAME

CHARACTER S
PRE-GAME TASKS
Note: since the story is set in the Wild West, all contact was made via hand written letters. Therefore consider any mode of contact to be a letter.

Respond to the guest playing Character Y and say that is why you two left Duck City. You don’t want Wylie to be a lawman anymore. You want a normal life, with children, and don’t want to worry about your man being shot every day. (If Character Y doesn’t contact you, disregard this task.)

Contact the guest playing Character L and say you do not want him to take the job as sheriff of Gravestone. You have a feeling that the townsfolk are going to try to force him into taking the job, but you two came to Gravestone to get away from that life.

Contact info: __________________

Contact the guest playing Character N and say since she is so good with a gun, she should be sheriff of Gravestone. Why can’t a woman be a lawmaker?

Contact info: __________________
ROUND ONE CLUES – ✗ cut out, slip into labeled envelopes with the appropriate character and round. to begin round two, pass out these envelopes to the guests.

EACH PLAYER WILL HAVE A ROUND ONE CARD IN THE PURCHASED GAME

CHARACTER U - ROUND ONE
CLUES TO REVEAL DURING THIS ROUND
• Tell everyone about your show - Bronco Bill’s Traveling Wild Western Show. It’s a variety show where your troupe performs Civil War reenactments, roping tricks, bronco riding, lasso tricks, and trick shooting. You'll have two shows in Gravestone starting tomorrow night and then you'll move on to the next town via your wagon train. You wished you would have known Gravestone was lawless and controlled by The Ranchers. You wouldn’t have come here!
• Tell Character H the story about how during one of your first shows in Colorado many years ago, Character C started shooting above the audience to scare everyone off. Then, they raided your wagons. You haven’t seen him since that night!
• The last three sheriffs were murdered by The Ranchers - a gang of outlaws that controls Gravestone.

PERSONAL CLUES TO CONCEAL
• You might need to take precautions before your show tomorrow night if Character K is going to be in town. You can’t afford for him to raid your wagons again! You have a lot of props, guns, money, supplies. He could put an end to your show, your livelihood and even your life!
WANTED
ALIVE

WAVY WILL BRONCHUS - $1000 REWARD

WANTED FOR CATTLE RUSTLING
BRING HIM TO THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IN
DUCK CITY, KANSAS
ROUND TWO CLUES – cut out, slip into labeled envelopes with the appropriate character and round. to begin round two, pass out these envelopes to the guests.

CHARACTER K – ROUND TWO

PRE-MURDER CLUES:

- There won’t be any hidden codes or map inside of the jailhouse. There’s just nowhere to hide anything there.
- Talk about being a U.S. Army Scout. You’ve been to battle just as the men - so you should be feared in a gunfight. You’ve got skills with weapons.
- Ask Character B if Character O knows that you both dated Character S when you two were teens?
- You don’t think that anybody who is involved in traveling shows would be any good in a gunfight. They don’t have real life experience – they only shoot guns for ‘practice.’

POST-MURDER CLUES:

- You carry a .44 caliber Colt single action Army revolver and a Colt model 1855 revolving .56 caliber cylinder percussion rifle.
- You exited the saloon right after Character V.
- Character T was still in the saloon when you went outside.
- Whoever shot the victim has very good aim.
- Whoever has the biggest motive is most likely the killer.
- Someone who is used to gun fighting would not shoot the victim multiple times. This crime screams amateur.
- At least five people were still in the saloon while everybody was outside investigating the noise.

Each player will have a round two card in the purchased game

← Names removed to minimize spoilers, but do not read if you wish to keep the story line a secret.
# MURDER MYSTERY INVESTIGATION SHEET

**INVESTIGATOR** __________________

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<tr>
<th>SUSPECT</th>
<th>MOTIVE</th>
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**EACH PLAYER WILL HAVE A**

**MYSTERY**

**INVESTIGATION SHEET IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

**WHODUNIT** ___________________________________________________

**MOTIVE** ___________________________________________________

**HOW DID THEY DO IT** _________________________________________

**NOTES ON THE 4 HIDDEN CODES:**
SOLUTION ROUND - cut out these clues and slip into labeled envelopes and seal them. Hand these out to the guests to begin round three.

**EACH PLAYER WILL HAVE A SOLUTION CARD IN THE PURCHASED GAME**

Names & gender removed to minimize spoilers, but do not read if you wish to keep the story line a secret →

**CHARACTER R**

**FINAL SOLUTION ROUND THREE**

READ WHEN YOU ARE TOLD IT IS YOUR TURN

Say the following to the group:

Whew! I'm glad someone murdered him/her so my show can go on! See, long ago, s/he shot up one of my first shows back in Colorado, and I hadn't seen him/her since. I definitely hadn't seen him/her since s/he started ***spoiler removed***. I was afraid of him/her ruining our show and possibly stealing all of our props and supplies. I am so relieved that someone murdered this horrible person, but I'm not the one who did it. I'm such a poor shot, I'm not sure if I could have done it, to be honest!

CHARACTER A IS NEXT TO READ HER/ HIS SOLUTION
RIGHTS TO THE GOLD CHALLENGE

IS INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASED GAME
EXAMPLE TIME LINE

The game can be shortened by excluding the optional activities, or lengthened by adding more bonus games.

7:00 PM: **Guests arrive**, have their pictures made (optional) and receive a refreshment / cocktail for adults. The guests will view the guest instructions and character list while they wait for everybody to arrive. The host should build in at least a 10 minute cushion for guests to arrive late. Hey, it happens.

7:10 PM: The **host reads the guest instructions** to the group. It is optional to have each guest introduce their character in front of the group. Play the video game trailer on Your Mystery Party for your game &/or read the game synopsis from Your Mystery Party to the group to give the premise.

7:20 PM: The **Round One envelopes are handed out** and the game begins. The guests mingle and reveal the clues on their clue cards. It’s just like a normal party, but the guests remain in character and gossip about each other’s characters. The motives & story lines will start to unveil.

7:50 PM: An **optional bonus game is played**. Bonus activities keep the energy flowing and the guests have a blast. They are optional, but highly suggested. The players must remain in character.

8:05 PM: **Optional to serve dinner.** Dinner can be sit down or buffet – or even as simple as a pizza that’s delivered! You can also just serve appetizers/snacks during the party.

8:35 PM: The **Round Two envelopes are handed out** to the guests and pre-murder clues are discussed.

8:55 PM: The victim becomes the victim and the host passes out the investigation sheets to the players. The guests interrogate each other to determine whodunit. The full story is in the player clue cards, but the guests will have to be skilled at asking the right questions of each other, etc.

9:15 PM: **Everybody submits their formal guess of whodunit.**

9:20 PM: **Optional accusation round** – the guests can take turns formally accusing who they think did it, and why. You’ll be surprised at how everybody’s inner actor will surface during this activity.

9:30 PM: Dessert and coffee (optional) are served and the **Round Three envelopes are handed out** to the guests. The guests sit in a circle and one-by-one, the solutions are revealed by each of the guests and the murderer will confess at the conclusion of the round. The murderer is notified in their round three solution card that they are the murderer. They will not know or have any advantage over anybody of knowing whodunit before this round. *If you do not opt to have the optional players read their final solutions in front of the group, give them a few minutes to mingle and share their solutions after the Rights to the Gold Challenge (see below).*

9:50 PM: The **Rights to the Gold challenge** is played.

10:10 PM: An **optional bonus game** is played.

10:25 PM: An **optional award ceremony.** My Mystery Party has award certificates of all kinds that you can choose from in the Prop Emporium. The host can determine who receives the awards while the bonus game is being played. Some awards are traditional and some are snarky but hilarious!

10:30 PM: **Game over!**

Please don’t forget to share your pics on our Facebook page (My Mystery Party) to receive a discount on your next party!
Answer key – do not view if you want to keep the mystery a surprise.

IS INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASED GAME
Additional Information – no need to print this page

For more information about your game:

- Pinterest Site: [https://www.pinterest.com/mymysteryparty/gravestone-a-wild-west-murder-mystery-party/](https://www.pinterest.com/mymysteryparty/gravestone-a-wild-west-murder-mystery-party/)
- Social Media: #GravestoneMurder #MyMysteryParty (Please do not post spoilers and ruin it for others – no mention of victim or murderer, please!)

THIS GAME WAS CREATED BY: DR. BON BLOSSMAN – AUTHOR OF THE AWARD-WINNING FIONA FROST YOUNG ADULT MYSTERY SERIES

LOVE THE GAME? TRY OUT THE YOUNG ADULT MURDER FIONA FROST MYSTERY SERIES BY THE AUTHOR – DR. BON BLOSSMAN! ALL BOOKS AVAILABLE AT ONLINE RETAILERS, HOWEVER, IF YOU PURCHASE FROM OUR WEBSITE, USE COUPON CODE FF15BB FOR A 15% DISCOUNT ON COPIES!

[Images of five books]

[http://mymysteryparty.com/fiona](http://mymysteryparty.com/fiona)

We hope you have a fabulous time at your party. If you have a fun time, please share your success story and pics on our Facebook Page (My Mystery Party) and we will be glad to show you our appreciation with a loyalty coupon code for your next party!

For more party games, themes, etiquette, and more - check out the Official Party Host Handbook and the Official Halloween Party Host Handbook:

[Images of two books]

*Books available on the My Mystery Party site as well as any online book retailers*