

Unhappily Ever After

A Murder Mystery Party
At the Pre-Production Party of a Broadway Musical



After months of rehearsals, it is almost opening night for "Happily Ever After," a new Broadway Musical that is about to make its debut. To celebrate, the cast and crew are gathering for a grand pre-production party and you are invited.

Unfortunately not everyone is happy about their part and someone may take extreme measures to insure they get what they want. Will this killer performance happen even before the curtain lifts?

Thank you for choosing Unhappily Ever After a murder mystery party game. When you purchase the game, you will be given a comprehensive packet that will provide everything you will want and need to run your very own murder mystery party—one that will have your guests talking about for weeks, if not longer.

This murder mystery experience is designed to be easy to run and fun to play for all the guests involved. The game is played with all of your guests having active roles in the game and each guest having objectives to complete. These objectives keep the party from being pre-scripted and allow your guests to draw their own conclusions as to the motives and the identity of the murderer. This format also allows for great mingling amongst your guests and insures that all of your guests feel included. To add to the experience and suspense of the night, the murder happens during the party not before, as in some other murder mystery games. After they “die” the victim is given the role of detective and will try to discover who killed them using a new set of objectives.

All products come in the form of professionally designed pdf files that will contain all of your instructions and materials for running your party. Once purchased, you will receive an email that will give you a link to a secured part of our site and a password to enable you to download your party package pdfs.

What does your purchase include?

- A Host Guide— A complete how-to of throwing your party which includes directions on preparing the invitations, assigning characters and preparing for the party.
- A Schedule of the Night— A step-by-step breakdown of how the night will go.
- An Introduction— to be read to the guests upon arrival.
- Designed Invitations— that you can customize with the details of your party as well as the Broadway Review to be sent with the invitations and the guest list.
- Character Descriptions— full descriptions of the characters, including costuming and acting tips.
- Character Objective Sheets— this includes objectives for each character to try to achieve at each stage of the game in order to uncover evidence and find the murderer.
- Name Tags— for your guests.
- Evidence— This evidence will help your guests solve the mystery.
- The Solution— revealing the murderer and all the clues that could have led you there.
- "Whodunit" Cards—to allow your guests to guess the murderer as well as give everyone a chance to vote for the guest who was the most convincing in their assigned character role and the guest with the best outfit.
- Award Certificates— to be awarded to the guests that solve the mystery, the guest that is voted best actor, best costume, and the player with the most money at the end of the night.

As the Host, what do you need to do?

Your job as host will be to assign each guest a character and provide them with an invitation, character description and Broadway Review before the party. You will also need to print up and organize all of the material needed at the party including the instructions to the guests, objectives, evidence, solution, name tags, money and awards. The objectives, money and name tags will need to be placed in envelopes to be given to each guest as they arrive. To add to the experience you may want to decorate in a theatrical theme and serve dinner or refreshments.

Party Schedule

- Most likely, the length of the party will take 1 ½ to 3 hours. The party length will depend on a number of factors, including how well your guests know each other and how well they mingle.
- The party may be longer if you choose to serve dinner, although much of the mingling done during Stage 2 may be done at the dinner table as well.
- Because the party is not pre-scripted, but set up in stages, as host it is important to observe the guests' behavior and move onto the next stage when you feel it is most appropriate. This will give everyone enough time to enjoy all aspects of the party and enable it to move along at an enjoyable pace.

Stage One: The Guests Arrive

- Have the guests (A) and (B) envelopes available for them.

Stage Two: Introduction

- After all of the guests have arrived, have the host read the Introduction aloud to everyone.
- Have time for guests to mingle and complete their objectives
- This may require 30-60 minutes depending on how well your guests know each other.
- If serving dinner, this may be a good time for dinner to be served.

Stage Three: Murder & Investigation

- When guests start to settle down and you are sure the victim has completed all of their objectives arrange for the lights to go off.
- When the lights come back on, the victim will be dead.
- Outline the position of the body on the floor using masking tape.
- Have the host read the Initial Directions to the Guests After the Murder sheet
- The guests will open their (B) envelopes which will have new information and objectives for the guests to complete now that the murder has occurred. Give the Victim the name tag for Inspector Klooles.

Stage Four: Evidence Presentation

- When he/she asks, hand Inspector Klooles the evidence envelope so that they can present the findings of the evidence at the crime scene to the guests.
- It is best if the evidence is then laid on a table so that everyone may see it.
- Give your guests time to review the evidence and complete all of their objectives.
- Hand out the 'Whodunit' Card sheets and ask everyone to complete them and hand them back to you during this time.

Stage Five: The Solution

- When all the 'Whodunit' Card sheets are handed in, ask Inspector Klooles to read the solution aloud to the guests.
- Using the Whodunit Worksheet included, calculate who the winners are and award the certificates.

Unhappily Ever After Brief Character List

Necessary Characters 5 Female, 5 Gender Neutral:

Autumn Star, Lead Actor, Female—Autumn is no stranger to the theatre and she has appeared in many big Broadway productions. She is confident in her abilities but she has to be careful that nobody else steals her spotlight. *Confident, outgoing and determined.*

Felicity Rae, Understudy for the Lead Actor, Female—Many of the cast and crew feel that Felicity would do a better job in the lead than Autumn. *Confident, talented and friendly.*

Buffy Bronson, Actor, Female—While it is true that Buffy is very dramatic, her part in the musical is due more to her daddy, Mr. Edward Bronson, the millionaire behind the financing of this production, than to any talent she may possess. *Rich and spoiled.*

Emily Jade, Actor, Female—Emily is often cast as the nice girl, a role that seems to come quite naturally, but someone in the cast would argue that this is all just an act. Is Emily hiding something? *Friendly but cunning and secretive.*

Missy Blush, Costume/makeup, Female—Missy is very artistic and a bit eccentric. Her outlandish fashion sense works well on stage even if it is a bit over the top in the real world. *Eccentric and individualistic, likes to stand out.*

Jordan Speaks, Theatre advertising and promo, Gender Neutral—Some of the cast and crew feel like Jordan is more concerned about promoting their own play than this one. *Smooth talker, very persuasive.*

CJ Penn, Journalist, Gender Neutral—As the entertainment editor of one of the top newspapers in the Big Apple, CJ Penn has the power to make or break a career. No doubt CJ's presence at the party will keep many on their toes. *Inquisitive and clever.*

Drew Cummings, Writer/director, Gender Neutral—This is Drew's first production to make it past the garbage bin, let alone to Broadway. Drew is in a bit of a difficult financial situation and will do anything to insure they succeed. *Eager and full of energy.*

Tyler James, Stage Crew, Gender Neutral—Tyler is confident behind the stage but is a bit self conscious in social situations because of the thick glasses Tyler has to wear. If only laser surgery wasn't so expensive. *Insecure and clumsy.*

Marty Melody, Musician, Gender Neutral—Marty is a gambler and a gifted musician who likes to improvise once in a while. Some of the cast are betting that Kelsey won't keep Marty around for the entire production. *Indifferent to rules, a bit of a rebel.*

Optional Characters 1 Female, 3 Male, 6 Gender Neutral:

Monica Monroe, Actor, Female—This is Monica's first role on Broadway but she is hoping it won't be her last. Jordan has promised her the lead in a play they have written that should be getting under way as soon as this one is over. *Eager and jealous.*

Brandon Stewart, Actor, Male—Brandon is Prince Charming both on the stage and in real life. His current princess is the understudy, Felicity, but could this latest musical ruin his happily ever after? *Confident and charismatic, able to smooth talk anyone.*

Kelsey Tune, Conductor, Gender Neutral—Music is Kelsey's forte and Kelsey takes the job of conducting a little more seriously than some of the cast would like. *Perfectionist who is impatient, uptight and a bit bossy.*

Bailey Strum, Musician, Gender Neutral—The theatre is a pretty classy gig for a musician but Bailey is not very comfortable with some of the attitudes on Broadway and prefers playing in nightclubs. *Laid back and relaxed. Private and guarded.*

Darren Art, Set Designer, Male—Darren knows everything about the set and how to make it work with all of the actors and he doesn't appreciate anyone interfering with his ideas. *Determined and confident in his work, a nice guy who is underappreciated by women.*

Jesse Bright, Lighting Technician, Gender Neutral—Jesse is a wiz at lighting but a bit in the dark when it comes to working with others. *Quiet yet capable.*

Chris Scott, Sound Manager, Gender Neutral—Chris's job is to make sure everything sounds good but the musical isn't the only thing Chris has been hearing. *Curious and sneaky.*

Mr Edward Bronson, Financier, Male—Mr Bronson is a powerful man who usually gets his way. His rags to riches story is due to hard work and a will to win at all cost. *Powerful and overbearing.*

Riley Hunter, Talent Agent, Gender Neutral—Riley hasn't discovered any notable stars yet and is out to prove that they know talent when they see it. *Superficial and self absorbed.*

Charlie Dean, Theatre Owner, Gender Neutral—Charlie is putting on this musical as a family favour but that doesn't mean Charlie doesn't want to make a profit. *A leader who takes control of the situation when needed. A good role for the host.*

BROADWAY REVIEW

Party Time on The Eve of Opening Night

The cast and crew of Happily Ever After, a new musical that makes its debut tomorrow night are gathering after tonight's dress rehearsal for a grand pre-production party. Everyone who has been involved is invited to attend. Those expected to make an appearance include:

Autumn Star, Lead Actor–Autumn is no stranger to the theatre and she has appeared in many big Broadway productions. She is confident in her abilities but she has to be careful that nobody else steals her spotlight.

Felicity Rae, Understudy Actor–Many of the cast and crew feel that Felicity would do a better job in the lead than Autumn. This is the closest she has ever come to a big part and she will do anything to get her chance on stage.

Buffy Bronson, Actor–While it is true that Buffy is very dramatic, her part in the musical is due more to her daddy, Mr. Edward Bronson, the millionaire behind the financing of this production, than to any talent she may possess.

Monica Monroe, Actor–This is Monica's first role on Broadway but she is hoping it won't be her last. Jordan has promised her the lead in a play they have written that should be getting under way as soon as this one is over.

Emily Jade, Actor–Emily is often cast as the nice girl, a role that seems to come quite naturally, but someone in the cast would argue that this is all just an act. Is Emily hiding something?

Brandon Stewart, Actor–Brandon is Prince Charming both on the stage and in real life. His current princess is the understudy, Felicity, but could this latest musical ruin his happily ever after?

Riley Hunter, Talent Agent–Riley hasn't discovered any notable stars yet and is out to prove that they know talent when they see it. Currently Riley represents Felicity and Bailey and will do anything to help all of them make it big.

CJ Penn, Journalist–As the entertainment editor of one of the top newspapers in the Big Apple, CJ Penn has the power to make or break a career. No doubt CJ's presence at the party will keep many on their toes.

Drew Cummings, Writer/director–This is Drew's first production to make it past the garbage bin, let alone to Broadway. Drew is in a bit of a difficult financial situation and will do anything to insure he succeeds.

Kelsey Tune, Conductor–Music is Kelsey's forte and Kelsey takes the job of conducting a little more seriously than some of the cast would like.

Marty Melody, Musician–Marty is a gambler and a gifted musician who likes to improvise once in a while. Some of the cast are betting that Kelsey won't keep Marty around for the entire production.

Bailey Strum, Musician–The theatre is a pretty classy gig for a musician but Bailey is not very comfortable with some of the attitudes on Broadway and prefers playing in nightclubs.

Missy Blush, Costume/makeup–Missy is very artistic and a bit eccentric. Her outlandish fashion sense works well on stage even if it is a bit over the top in the real world.

Darren Art, Set Designer–Darren knows everything about the set and how to make it work with all of the actors and he doesn't appreciate anyone interfering with his ideas.

Tyler James, Stage Crew–Extremely near sighted, Tyler is a bit self conscious and clumsy and is happy to hide back stage. If only laser surgery wasn't so expensive.

Jordan Seller, Advertising and Promo–Some people feel like Jordan is more concerned about promoting their own play than this one.

Chris Scott, Sound Manager–Chris's job is to make sure everything sounds good but the musical isn't the only thing Chris has been hearing.

Jesse Bright, Lighting Technician–Jesse is a wiz at lighting but a bit in the dark when it comes to investments and now several members of the cast and crew are mad at Jesse

Mr Edward Bronson, Financier–Mr Bronson is a powerful man who usually gets his way. His rags to riches story is due to hard work and a will to win at any cost.

Charlie Dean, Theatre Owner–Charlie is putting on this musical as a family favour but that doesn't mean Charlie doesn't want to make a profit.

Coming Soon:

Monica Monroe

In
4TH STREET Musical

Written By
Jordan Seller

Fred Hollister George Que Quinn Jones Rebecca Hues Rich Goodman Robert Troy Elizabeth Roberts Susan Stien Donny Lost Mac Tendermier Josh Johnson Jerome Law Jennifer Hicks	Vince Lawrence Micheal Farcause Daniel Barfus Stew Douglas Mandy Giffeman Robin Turner Ronald Tulman Yorksin Cougherman Taluik Posiuna Richard Backs Simon Huchunson Jimmy Farquwa Donovan Colts
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Underestimating a Star

Felicity Rae is a favourite and one to watch as a bright up and coming star on Broadway. Many think that she deserves the lead in newcomer Drew Cummings recent musical, Happily Ever After. Though she hasn't had very many leading roles, Felicity is no stranger to show business. As a child she was featured in several commercials as well as minor roles in television sitcoms and movies but she says that she loves the theatre and finds it much more challenging than television or movies.

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HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO HELP MAKE SURE THE NIGHT IS UNFORGETTABLE

READ YOUR CHARACTER SHEET – This contains your identity and all the information you will need to play your part. Do not discuss your character's information with anyone else before the game starts. If you do so, you are likely to give away secrets and spoil the game—mainly for yourself and the person you told.

EXAMINE THE BROADWAY REVIEW – Included with your character sheet will be a copy of the Broadway Review. Read over this newsletter, it includes background information on the other characters attending the party. This information may be useful on the night of the party.

DRESS THE PART – The more into your character you are the easier it will be to enjoy all aspects of the night. In addition, it adds to the excitement, the photo opportunities, and your chances of being voted best dressed.

DON'T REVEAL EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER – While there are many things that everyone needs to know about you, there are some things that should remain secret. Use your discretion as to not give too much away.

USE YOUR CREATIVITY– Upon arrival, you will receive some money to spend any way you choose. Bribery and blackmail are encouraged. The wealthiest player at the end of the night will receive an award for their ability to turn a profit.

After months of rehearsals, it is almost opening night for "Happily Ever After," a new Broadway Musical that is about to make its debut. To celebrate, the cast and crew are gathering for a grand pre-production party and you are invited.

Unfortunately not everyone is happy about their part and someone may take extreme measures to insure they get what they want. Will this killer performance happen even before the curtain lifts?

Get ready for an evening of deceit and backstabbing fun!

Please join us on: _____

at: _____

from: _____

RSVP: _____



At the Pre-production Party of a Broadway Musical

A Murder Mystery Party

Happily Ever After

You're Invited to Join us for

Sample Character Description

DO NOT discuss this information with anyone else before the game starts! If you do so, you are likely to give away secrets and spoil the game—mainly for yourself and the person you told.

Charlie Dean, Theatre Owner

You are a confident person and you tell people what you think. You are also quite wealthy and you enjoy going to the theatre so much that you bought one. Drew Cummings, the writer and director is your relative. You offered to help them out in their career by letting them use your theatre free of charge on the condition that you got to pick some of the actors and stage help and that you get a cut in the profits if the musical runs more than 4 weeks. Tyler James, Chris Scott, Jesse Bright and Darren Art are all employees of the theatre. You had a pre-existing contract with them through the theatre union. You don't really like unions because you can't do much about the employees when they mess up like last week when Tyler opened the trap door on the stage and almost killed one of the actors.

Another stipulation you made is that Autumn Star be in the lead because you know that her name will sell tickets. You have always enjoyed the work that Autumn has done on stage and think that she is perfect for the main part of the play.

Missy Blush, the makeup and costume lady avoids you because you are friends with another designer who claims that Missy stole some of her designs. She totally denies this and seems to avoid you whenever she can.

What you didn't cover in the cost of this production, Mr. Edward Bronson did. You and he don't get along as he is trying to take some of your profits. Because you aren't getting paid for the use of the theatre, you insisted on getting a percentage of every ticket sale. Mr Bronson isn't happy about this arrangement.

Marty likes to gamble and organizes an informal game of cards every week that you like to sit in on. You have been known to play a pretty mean game of Poker and have won your share of the stash. Riley Hunter is a regular at the weekly poker parties as well. Riley is a pretty poor loser and often storms off in a huff after losing only \$20. Riley always says you guys will have to get someone else from the crew to fill in for them but you never need to because Riley always comes back the next week vowing to win it all back. Bailey Strum is the other card playing partner and Bailey knows when to quit.

You are not happy with the way Jordan Seller has been promoting this musical. Jordan seems to have a lot more advertisements for the musical that they have written than for this one.

ACTING AND DRESSING YOUR PART: As this is a formal party you want to dress up. Remember that you are the owner of the theatre and therefore must look your best. Make sure to greet everyone, after all, it is your place so that kind of makes you the host.

Sample Objectives

Charlie Dean, Theatre Owner

Objectives at the start of the party:

These are things that are in your best interest to do before the evening goes much further. Be aware of what others around you are doing as well!

- Ask Autumn Star how she is feeling and how she thinks the show will go
- Ask Monica what she thinks of Tyler after that horrible accident with the trap door
- Ask Darren what they think about Felicity
- Ask Bailey if they have made any good investments lately
- Ask Buffy what she thinks of the lighting technician, Jesse