A ZOOM MURDER MYSTERY

SUSPICIOUS Minds

a murder at

EL CAMINO ROYALE

LAS VEGAS · NEVADA

HOST GUIDE

Everything you need to run the night: the solution, casting, Zoom setup, scripts, clue drops and templates.

HOSTS ONLY · CONTAINS THE SOLUTION

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START HERE

Welcome, hosts

Suspicious Minds is a murder mystery for **8–16 players plus 2 hosts**, played on Zoom over about **2½ hours**. Guests play characters at El Camino Royale, a Las Vegas casino, on the night its Elvis impersonator, Rex Royale, is shot on stage. They move between Zoom breakout rooms, which stand for parts of the casino, to question each other, swap clues and work out **who** did it, **how** and **why**.

What's in the kit

- **1 · Host Guide** (this file): spoilers.
- **2 · Player Handbook**: send to every guest.
- **3 · Character Packs**: one file per character. Send each player only their own pack. There's also an all-in-one file for hosts.
- **4 · Screen-Share Slides**: put these on screen during the game.

The two hosts

Host 1: Dame Delilah Diamante, the casino owner. Narrates, runs Zoom and moves people between rooms.

Host 2: Rex Royale, the Elvis impersonator. Mingles before the show, gets shot, then haunts the breakout rooms as a ghost, keeping an eye on things and helping move people.

With only one host, the casino owner can also play Rex. Just "die" off-screen.

Why gender-neutral?

Every character uses they/them pronouns, and the solution doesn't depend on anyone's gender, so **you can cast anyone in any role**. Players can still give their character a gender if they want to. It won't break the mystery.

The night at a glance

	PART	WHAT HAPPENS
1	**Introductions** Casino Theatre · ~30 min	The hosts set the scene. When you're called, read the **"Read aloud" box** from your pack. Don't read anything else: no secrets, no clues, no missions.
2	**Pre-Show Drinks** Breakout rooms · ~30 min	Mingle with your fellow show-goers and complete **Mission 1**. You might hear something suspicious...
3	**Showtime** Casino Theatre · ~5 min	Time for the Elvis tribute show. Unfortunately, something goes terribly wrong...
4	**The Investigation** Breakout rooms · ~35 min	Complete **Mission 2** and dig for answers. Police bulletins will arrive along the way. **Reveal all your clues by the end of this part.**
5	**Accusations** Casino Theatre · ~30 min	Everyone comes back to the theatre. Submit your guess: **who** did it, **how** and **why**. Then we argue it out and the truth is revealed.

SPOILERS

What really happened

The murderer: Maestro Vincent Vibrato, the singing coach

Weapon: Dakota Calibre's pearl-handled .38 revolver, "Loretta", taken from the casino bar last Friday night.
Motive: Vincent was having a secret affair with Rex and promised to leave their spouse. Rex realised that would never happen and threatened to tell everyone.

Five months ago, Vincent started giving Rex private singing lessons, every Friday night at the casino. Lessons became an affair. Vincent promised Rex they'd leave their spouse. They never meant it.

Last Friday, around midnight, in a room in the casino hotel, Rex finally saw through it. They shouted, "Leave your spouse, or I'll tell everyone!" Peter Parker heard it from outside the window while swinging past the hotel tower.

Later that night, in the casino bar, Vincent spotted the revolver Dakota had absent-mindedly left on a table. They pocketed it and walked out.

Tonight, Vincent walked into the theatre with the gun. Tiny never pats down regulars, because the owner says it's bad for business. Before the show, Rex texted their secret lover: "After the show tonight I'm telling everyone about us." Rex also told Penny Slotz they couldn't do drinks later because they "had to tell someone something".

As the curtain rose, everyone was watching the stage. Vincent fired once from the back of the theatre, dropped Loretta in a bin by the back exit and slipped into the crowd. Since then, Vincent has been trying to pin it on Johnny Roundhouse, who had every reason to hate Rex.

Red herrings

- **Johnny Roundhouse** has motive (Rex got them fired), made a drunken threat to "stab Rex in the back", and has no alibi. But they were banned from the casino last Friday, they're single, and they've never fired a gun.
- **Dakota Calibre**: it's their gun. But they were in the front row, heckling.
- **Marina Flint** is an actual assassin, and **Sgt Bev Glazer** hates Elvis and carries a gun. But both have the wrong type of gun, and neither had been to the casino before tonight.
- **Constance** lost big to Rex, **Sebastian** was ridiculed by Rex, **Chase** was humiliated by Rex, and **Lou-Ann** was turned down by Rex. All of them have motives. None of them is the married regular without an alibi.
- **Charlie's "Phantom"** fluttering behind the curtain was just Penny Slotz's feather boa in the wings.

SPOILERS

How players crack it

The killer must have **(1)** been at the casino last Friday to take the gun, **(2)** been married, because they were Rex's secret lover, and **(3)** been at the back of the theatre with no alibi. Only Vincent fits all three.

WHO HAD THE GUN?

Dakota lost Loretta at the bar **last Friday**. **Bulletin 1** says a .38 revolver was used. **Bulletin 2** says Loretta was found by the back exit. So the killer was at the casino last Friday: a regular. **Tiny** confirms regulars aren't searched.

WHY?

Paige: Rex was seeing someone married. **Velvet**: Rex's heart belonged to someone they couldn't be seen with. **Peter**: "Leave your spouse, or I'll tell everyone!" **Penny**: Rex "had to tell someone something" tonight. So the killer is Rex's married lover.

WHO'S LEFT?

The married regulars are Vincent, Dakota, Starla and Sebastian. **Starla** was with Tiny, and **Sebastian** with Constance. **Dakota** was in the front row (Penny and Charlie saw them), and the shot came from the back. **That leaves Vincent.**

The full elimination table

SUSPECT	AT THE CASINO LAST FRIDAY?	MARRIED?	AT THE GUNSHOT	RULED OUT BECAUSE…
Maestro Vincent Vibrato The Singing Coach	**Yes · Friday-night lessons**	**Married**	**No alibi (actually at the back)**	**Nobody. This is the murderer.**
Dakota Calibre The Republican Gun Nut	Yes · it's their gun	Married	Front row, heckling	Seen in the front row by Penny and Charlie, and the shot came from the back
Starla Highkick The Dancer	Yes · works there	Married	With Tiny by the doors	Alibi from Tiny
Sebastian Gloom The Avant-Garde Angsty Show Director	Yes · works there	Married	With Constance	Alibi from Constance
"Tiny" Brickhouse The Bouncer	Yes · works there	Single	With Starla	Single, so not Rex's lover. Has an alibi
Dr Constance Losewell The Professor	Yes · Friday poker	Divorced	With Sebastian	Not married. Has an alibi
Velvet LaRue The High-Class Escort	Yes · works there	Single	Improvised	Single, so not Rex's married lover
Chemtrail Charlie The Conspiracy Nut	Yes · Friday deals	Single	Front row	Single, and in the front row
Johnny Roundhouse The Recently Fired Kung-Fu Actor	No · banned since being fired	Single	Alone at the back bar	Banned last Friday, single, has never fired a gun. *The big red herring.*
Paige Turner The Reporter	No · first visit	Single	Improvised	Never been to the casino
Chase Ambler, Esq. The Lawyer	No · flew in this morning	Single	With Marina	Wasn't in Vegas. Has an alibi
Lou-Ann Hashbrown The Diner Owner	No · flew in this morning	Single	Improvised	Wasn't in Vegas
Marina Flint The Scuba Diver (and Assassin)	No · first visit	Single	With Chase	Carries a 9mm, not a .38. Has an alibi
Sgt Bev Glazer (ret.) The Retired Cop	No · first visit	Widowed	Improvised	Never been inside. Carries a Glock, not a .38
Penny Slotz The Drag Queen (Support Act)	No · first booking	Single	In the wings (front)	First booking, and at the front

Peter Parker Your Friendly Neighbourhood Spider-Man	No · never been inside	Single	Improvised	Never been inside. Single

Players don't need every row. If a character isn't cast, their clue either isn't needed or is covered by someone else (see Casting). Who confirms Vincent is married: Vincent's own facts, plus Bev's and Chase's missions.

BEFORE THE NIGHT

Casting

There are 16 characters. To play with fewer people, cast from the top of the table down. Each row adds characters to the ones above it, so the clue chain still works at every size.

GROUP SIZE	CHARACTERS TO CAST
8 players	Maestro Vincent Vibrato, Paige Turner, Dakota Calibre, Johnny Roundhouse, Starla Highkick, "Tiny" Brickhouse, Penny Slotz, Peter Parker
10 players	Sebastian Gloom, Dr Constance Losewell
12 players	Marina Flint, Chase Ambler, Esq.
14 players	Velvet LaRue, Chemtrail Charlie
16 players	Lou-Ann Hashbrown, Sgt Bev Glazer (ret.)

Casting tips

- Give **Vincent** to a confident improviser who'll enjoy lying through their teeth.
- **Johnny** and **Dakota** are the biggest red herrings, so give them to people who'll lean into looking guilty.
- **Peter, Paige and Penny** hold key clues. Cast reliable people who'll actually share them.
- Shy players do well as **Tiny** (who barely talks) or **Lou-Ann**.
- Let people swap if they're uncomfortable with a role. It's meant to be fun for everyone.

If someone drops out

- Not cast? Then that character "isn't at the casino tonight". Players whose mission names them ask someone else.
- Lost **Peter** on the night? Read their clue out as an anonymous tip-off in Bulletin 1.
- Lost **Penny**? Charlie and Dakota can still vouch for each other being in the front row.
- Lost **Vincent**? Recast urgently or postpone. There's no murder without them!
- Lost **Paige**? Read their clue out as Bulletin 2's "anonymous letter".

Before-the-night checklist

- ☐ **2–3 weeks out:** set the date, make an event page (template at the back), invite guests and ask them to RSVP.
- ☐ **Optional:** run a poll for the Secret Santa dinner delivery (see Templates).
- ☐ **10 days out:** cast the characters.
- ☐ **One week out:** start "character reveal" posts on the event page, two or three a day. We photoshopped each player's face onto a photo that suited their character.
- ☐ **4–5 days out:** privately send each player their own character pack plus the Player Handbook (message template at the back).
- ☐ **2 days out:** make the guess form (questions at the back), and set up and test Zoom (next page).
- ☐ **On the day:** post a final reminder with the Zoom link. Have the slides open and this guide printed or on a second screen.

Setting up Zoom

Settings

- Use a Zoom account that allows **breakout rooms** and sessions over 40 minutes. Turn on *Breakout rooms* and *Broadcast message to all breakout rooms* in your Zoom web settings.
- Make Host 2 (Rex) a **co-host** so they can move between rooms and help move people.
- Allow participants to **rename themselves**.
- Create the five breakout rooms below in advance. Pre-assign them if you have people's Zoom emails. If not, assign them by hand once everyone has renamed themselves.
- Don't let participants choose their own room. Moves go through the hosts, which keeps it in character.

The casino and starting rooms

ROOM	WHO STARTS THERE
Casino Theatre The main Zoom room. Everyone starts and finishes here, and it's where the show happens.	Everyone
The Bar Cocktails, gossip and loose lips.	Paige Turner, Dr Constance Losewell, Lou-Ann Hashbrown, Penny Slotz, Chemtrail Charlie, Rex Royale (host)
Gambling Floor Poker, roulette and people with something to lose.	Dakota Calibre, Velvet LaRue, Johnny Roundhouse, Starla Highkick, "Tiny" Brickhouse, Marina Flint
Casino Lobby Where new arrivals are sized up.	Maestro Vincent Vibrato, Sebastian Gloom, Chase Ambler, Esq., Sgt Bev Glazer (ret.), Peter Parker
Back Alley Starts empty. Come here for private conversations.	Empty at the start
Security Room Where the hosts sit when they're not wandering. Message them or drop in for help.	Hosts

The starting rooms put a few mission targets together and keep others apart, so people have to travel. Leave out anyone who isn't cast.

Moving people

Guests send a private chat message to the hosts, such as "Back Alley please", and you move them. Every so often, move someone at random "for some spice". It's a great way to break up a cosy huddle or put two suspicious characters together.

ON THE NIGHT

Run sheet & scripts

Timings are a guide. Improvise and adjust the wording to suit you.

PART 1 Introductions 0:00–0:30 · Casino Theatre

Share **Slide 1**. Wait for stragglers. Make sure everyone has renamed themselves on Zoom.

> DAME DELILAH DIAMANTE
>
> *Howdy, high rollers! Welcome to El Camino Royale, Las Vegas' number-one high-stakes casino and Elvis tribute experience. I'm Dame Delilah Diamante, and I run this joint, so don't you forget it. Tonight you're here for our star attraction, Rex Royale. Before the show, let's meet our distinguished guests...*

Run through the rules quickly (Slide 2). Remind everyone to:

- stay in character
- not lie about their truths
- reveal all their clues by the end of Part 4
- message you privately to change rooms
- expect to be moved at random

Then call each guest to **read their "Read aloud" box**, and nothing else. A suggested order is: Maestro Vincent Vibrato → Sebastian Gloom → Chase Ambler, Esq. → Sgt Bev Glazer (ret.) → Peter Parker → Paige Turner → Dr Constance Losewell → Lou-Ann Hashbrown → Penny Slotz → Chemtrail Charlie → Dakota Calibre → Velvet LaRue → Johnny Roundhouse → Starla Highkick → "Tiny" Brickhouse → Marina Flint. Rex goes last.

> REX ROYALE
>
> *Thank you. Thank you very much. Rex Royale, the third-best Elvis in Las Vegas, and the first-best in this building. I'll see y'all at the show.*

PART 2 Pre-show drinks 0:30–1:00 · Breakout rooms

Open the breakout rooms with the starting rooms. Guests work on **Mission 1**. Hosts wait in the Security Room and move people when asked.

Rex's notes for Part 2 (Rex is alive and mingling)

- Start in **The Bar**. **Paige** will ask about your love life. Be coy, for example: "A King never tells... but my heart's spoken for, baby." Don't name anyone.
- **Lou-Ann** will ask you to do a residency at their diner. Turn them down, charmingly.
- Be rude about **Sebastian's** "pictures", gloat to **Constance** about your poker win, avoid **Johnny** awkwardly, and act extra nice to **Vincent**, with a little edge.
- Don't reveal the affair or the threat. Those clues belong to the players.

At 0:58, broadcast: "🎤 *The show is about to begin! Please make your way to the Casino Theatre.*" Then close the rooms.

PART 3 Showtime 1:00–1:05 · Casino Theatre

> DAME DELILAH DIAMANTE
>
> *Ladies, gentlemen and distinguished guests! Please give it up for our support act, the iconic Penny Slotz!* (*Penny can do a quick 20-second bit.*) *And now, the moment you've all been waiting for. Raise the curtain for…* REX ROYALE!

Share **Slide 3**. Rex launches into a song that is very much *not* Elvis. Keep the "distinct lack of Elvis Presley music" going. Then, without warning, a host plays a gunshot sound or yells **BANG!** and switches to **Slide 4**. Rex dies dramatically, turns their camera off and renames themselves **"👻 The Ghost of Rex"**.

> DAME DELILAH DIAMANTE
>
> *LOCK THE DOORS! Nobody leaves this theatre! Rex… Rex is dead. Shot as the curtain rose, right in front of all of you. Which means the killer is in this room. The police are on their way, but I don't trust them, and neither should you. Find out who did this.*

Switch to **Slide 5** (what we know). Then reopen the breakout rooms. Either send everyone back where they were, or shuffle them at random.

PART 4 The investigation 1:05–1:40 · Breakout rooms

Guests work on **Mission 2** and must reveal all their clues. Send the bulletins below with **Broadcast message to all breakout rooms**. They're also on Slides 6–8 to show at the end.

WHEN	BROADCAST THIS
+10 min **Required**	🚨 POLICE BULLETIN #1: Ballistics confirm Rex Royale was killed by a single shot from a **.38 calibre revolver**, fired from the **back of the theatre**.
+20 min **Required**	🚨 POLICE BULLETIN #2: The murder weapon has been found in a bin by the theatre's back exit: a **pearl-handled .38 revolver engraved "LORETTA"**. It's been wiped clean of prints.
+25 min Optional, if they're stuck	📱 EVIDENCE: Rex's phone was found on stage. Last text, sent 7:52pm to a contact saved as "My Secret Duet ♪": *"No more hiding. After the show tonight I'm telling everyone about us."* Reply, 7:53pm: *"Please. Not tonight."*
+30 min	⏰ FIVE MINUTES LEFT! Reveal ALL your clues now, then head back to the theatre.

The ghost of Rex

After dying, Rex keeps their camera off (or uses a ghostly background) and drifts between rooms. They keep an eye on who's stuck or quiet, help the owner move people, and can murmur a cryptic hint if a room has run out of steam. Start mild and only go stronger if needed.

- *Mild:* "Thank you... thank you very much... for finding out who I was seeing..." · "Who could carry a gun in here without being searched...?"
- *Medium:* "My lover wore a ring... and was here every Friday..." · "Ask who was at the casino last Friday night..."
- *Strong:* "I never could hit that high note... without my teacher..."

If players fixate on the wrong person

If a group spends too long trying to prove a gun owner did it, move a key clue-holder (Peter, Paige or Dakota) into their room. Or have the ghost ask: "Whose gun was it... and where did they lose it?"

PART 5 Accusations & the reveal 1:40–2:10 · Casino Theatre

1. Close the rooms. Share **Slide 9** and post the guess-form link in the chat. Give everyone 5 minutes to submit **who, how and why**.
2. **Lead the discussion.** If nobody takes charge, ask: *"What clues do we have, and who do they rule out?"* It's the best way to narrow down the suspects. Let people accuse each other and defend themselves.
3. Go round the room: each guest names their prime suspect in one sentence.
4. **The reveal.** Ask Vincent to stand up and confess dramatically. Or read the summary on **Slide 10**, with the full story from "What really happened" if people want it.
5. **Awards** (optional): Best Detective (first correct who + how + why on the form), Best Performance, Best Costume, Best Red Herring.
6. If you did the Secret Santa dinner, reveal who sent whose dinner.

YOUR CHARACTERS

The hosts

HOST 1 · NARRATOR

Dame Delilah Diamante

They run this joint, and don't you forget it.

You own El Camino Royale. You run the night: narrate, manage Zoom, move guests and send bulletins. You know everything, but you're "the owner", so you can be appalled, scandalised and insist the police are useless.

Who you know: Employs Tiny, Starla Highkick, Sebastian Gloom and Rex · Used to employ Johnny Roundhouse.

Costume: sequinned blazer, big rings, a cigar holder. A casino-office or penthouse background.

HOST 2 · THE VICTIM

Rex Royale

El Camino Royale's resident Elvis tribute act, and the reason you're all here tonight. Thank you. Thank you very much.

You're the casino's Elvis tribute act, and Vincent's secret lover. You mingle before the show (see Part 2 notes), die spectacularly in Part 3, then haunt the breakout rooms as a ghost.

Who you know: Performs at the casino for the owner · Works with Tiny and Starla Highkick · Used to work with Johnny Roundhouse · Coached by Maestro Vincent Vibrato · Has met Lou-Ann Hashbrown before · Has gambled with Dr Constance Losewell.

Costume: a white jumpsuit (or a white shirt with a giant collar), sideburns, sunglasses, a lot of hair gel. A Vegas-stage background.

Quick reference: who holds which key clue

CLUE	HELD BY	POINTS TO
Rex was seeing someone married	Paige Turner	The killer is married
"Leave your spouse, or I'll tell everyone!" (last Friday)	Peter Parker	Motive, and the timing of the gun theft
Rex's heart belongs to someone they can't be seen with	Velvet LaRue	A secret relationship
Loretta lost at the bar last Friday	Dakota Calibre	The killer was at the casino last Friday
Regulars and staff aren't searched	Tiny	How the gun got in
Rex "had to tell someone something" tonight	Penny Slotz	Rex was about to go public
Dakota and Charlie were in the front row	Penny, Charlie and Dakota	Rules out Dakota
Alibis: Starla & Tiny, Sebastian & Constance, Marina & Chase	Each pair	Rules out the other married regulars
Vincent coaches Rex every Friday and is married	Vincent (truths), Bev, Chase	Vincent fits every condition

COPY & PASTE

Templates

Event page description

ZOOM LINK: [paste link]

Howdy high rollers!! Welcome to El Camino Royale, Las Vegas' #1 high-stakes casino and Elvis tribute experience. Join us for a night of scandal, murder and a distinct lack of Elvis Presley music.

[Optional] If you'd like to join the Secret Santa dinner delivery during the event, reply to the poll by [day] and we'll send you more instructions.

The aim of the game is to work out who the murderer is, how they did it and why they killed our victim. Please read all the rules in the Player Handbook carefully, and message [Host 1] or [Host 2] if you have any questions.

Please click "Going" ASAP to confirm. We'll send your character pack by [day].

The night has five parts: 1. Introductions · 2. Pre-show drinks (breakout rooms) · 3. SHOWTIME (murder time)!!! · 4. The investigation (breakout rooms) · 5. Accusations and the big reveal.

Character pack message (send privately)

Hello! It's time for character reveals! 🎰 You'll be playing **[character name], [role]**. Your character pack and the Player Handbook are attached.

Don't tell anyone about your character until the night begins. If you have any questions, or you're not comfortable with your character, message [Host 1] or [Host 2] and we can swap things around. If you want to be really dedicated, come in costume, but definitely bring a character-inspired Zoom background. See you at the casino...

Character reveal posts (event page, 2–3 a day in the week before)

Post the character name, role and the teaser below, with the player's face photoshopped onto a matching photo. Keep it fun, and don't post anything that's in the secret half of the pack. Mix Vincent in partway through, so they don't stand out.

🎰 **NEW GUEST CHECKED IN:** [Character name], [role]. [Teaser]. Played by [player]. See you at El Camino Royale...

- **Paige Turner, The Reporter.** *They're the who, what, when and where of this town. Everyone knows they'll do whatever it takes to get the scoop, but they wouldn't kill someone. Right?*
- **Dakota Calibre, The Republican Gun Nut.** *Voted Trump in 2020, and that tells you everything you need to know about them.*
- **Velvet LaRue, The High-Class Escort.** *Only ever seen on the arm of the richest people in town. They'd never stoop so low as to kill for money... or would they?*
- **Johnny Roundhouse, The Recently Fired Kung-Fu Actor.** *Down on their luck, this kung-fu actor's drug problem might have finally caught up with them. Could they turn their kung-fu prowess to evil?*
- **Starla Highkick, The Dancer.** *They've got their sights set on Broadway, and no one's gonna stop them. No one.*
- **Sebastian Gloom, The Avant-Garde Angsty Show Director.** *"No one understands my art" is their catchphrase. Married to the dancer, they'll take any opportunity to be recognised.*
- **"Tiny" Brickhouse, The Bouncer.** *They don't say much, but they don't need to. They'll do anything for the boss. But would they kill???*
- **Dr Constance Losewell, The Professor.** *This professor rejects expected utility theory and is always seen gambling (and losing) big at the casino. Could one big loss push them over the edge?*
- **Marina Flint, The Scuba Diver (and Assassin).** *Just a regular scuba-diving instructor. Nothing more to see here. Promise.*
- **Chase Ambler, Esq., The Lawyer.** *Slick, smart and slimy, but what good lawyer isn't? They say Chase will do anything for a client. But would they really do anything...*
- **Lou-Ann Hashbrown, The Diner Owner.** *A small-business owner who needs to drum up trade at their diner or they'll be out on the street. What lengths will they go to?*
- **Penny Slotz, The Drag Queen (Support Act).** *Dramatic, sassy and iconic, but everyone knows about their pill-popping habit. Could this bad habit drive them to murder!?*

- **Sgt Bev Glazer (ret.), The Retired Cop.** *They may love donuts, but they hate Elvis. A passionate campaigner against "the devil's music", they're at the casino to protest. Could "Jailhouse Rock" send them over the edge?*
- **Chemtrail Charlie, The Conspiracy Nut.** *They think 5G spreads covid and they're definitely going to tell you about it. Everyone knows their head isn't screwed on quite right, but could they go off the rails enough to kill someone...*
- **Peter Parker, Your Friendly Neighbourhood Spider-Man.** *Your friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man. But saving the city doesn't pay the bills... Would they risk it all for some cash?*
- **Maestro Vincent Vibrato, The Singing Coach.** *They never made it big themselves, but now they coach the big names. Could jealousy drive them over the edge?*

Guess form (Google Forms or similar)

1. Your character's name
2. **Who** killed Rex Royale? (dropdown of all cast characters)
3. **How** did they do it? Which weapon, and how did they get it?
4. **Why** did they do it?
5. Which clue cracked it for you?
6. Vote: Best Performance · Best Costume

Turn on response timestamps so you can tell who got it right first.

Optional: Secret Santa dinner delivery

We ran the game over dinner. Each guest secretly ordered dinner for another guest through a food-delivery app, so everyone's meal turned up mid-game.

1. A week before, post a poll: "Want to join the Secret Santa dinner?"
2. Privately collect each participant's **delivery address, dietary needs and allergies**, and one food they love. Only share an address with the person who's been matched to order for them, and only with that participant's permission.
3. Agree a budget, for example $25–30 including delivery.
4. Randomly match participants in a loop, so A orders for B, B for C ... and the last person for A. Privately send each person their match's details.
5. Ask everyone to schedule their delivery for the start of **Part 2**, and to use a contact-free delivery note.
6. Reveal who fed whom at the end of the night.

About this game

Suspicious Minds: A Murder at El Camino Royale was written by **Lehan Zhang** and **Andrew Howes**. They first ran it on Zoom for friends during Australia's 2021 COVID-19 lockdowns, over dinner, with a Secret Santa food delivery on the side.

It's adapted from Nick Breen's *Free Murder Mystery Party Plan* (nickbreen.ca, 2011). The original premise of a casino Elvis impersonator shot on stage, and many of the character types, come from Nick's plan. The Zoom format, rules, character missions, alibis, gender-neutral solution, clue drops and new characters were written for this version. Thank you, Nick.

Free to download, print and host for your own non-commercial games. Please keep this credits page with the files.

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