

A CHRISTMAS EVE MURDER MYSTERY FOR 6 TO 14 GUESTS



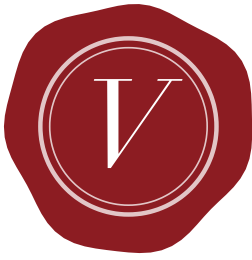
The Last Toast at Hollybrook Lodge

HOST GUIDE

*At midnight he was going to open the red box. Before
midnight, someone made sure he never would.*

MURDER BEFORE DESSERT

You can host and play. The solution stays in a sealed pack until
the reveal.



Victor Hale

Who you are

You are Victor Hale, finance director of Winterbourne Toys and Edmund's partner for 22 years. You are smooth, precise and a little too quick to change the subject.

What everyone knows

You and Edmund built the business together. You are not family, and you do not wear the red sweater.

Your evening begins

8:00. You stood beside Edmund for the toast.

8:20. You were called to the study first.

The rest of your evening is in your booklet. So is the thing you would rather nobody asked about.

An excerpt from the character introduction. Keep your private booklet to yourself and open each round only when the host says so.

THE LAST TOAST AT HOLLYBROOK LODGE

Christmas Eve at Hollybrook Lodge

Dear _____,

Every Christmas Eve since my father's day, a Winterbourne has filled this house with carols, port and people who ought to know better. This year I should like you to be one of them.

Come in good time. They promise snow, and the road up the mountain closes without asking anybody's permission.

There is a red box on my mantel. At midnight I shall open it. It holds the only secret I have ever managed to keep, and I would not have you miss it. Before then there will be dinner, and I may want a quiet word with one or two of you.

WHEN _____, _____
WHERE _____. For one night, Hollybrook Lodge.
YOU ARE INVITED AS Victor Hale
DRESS Festive

Until Christmas Eve,

Edmund Winterbourne

TIP This is a murder mystery dinner hosted by _____. You will play Victor Hale for the evening. Who that is, and what to wear, will reach you separately. You need no acting experience and nothing to prepare: on the night you get a booklet that tells you what to say. The game is about two hours of play, three with dinner.

Please reply to _____ within three days. Every guest plays a part, so the evening depends on knowing who is coming.

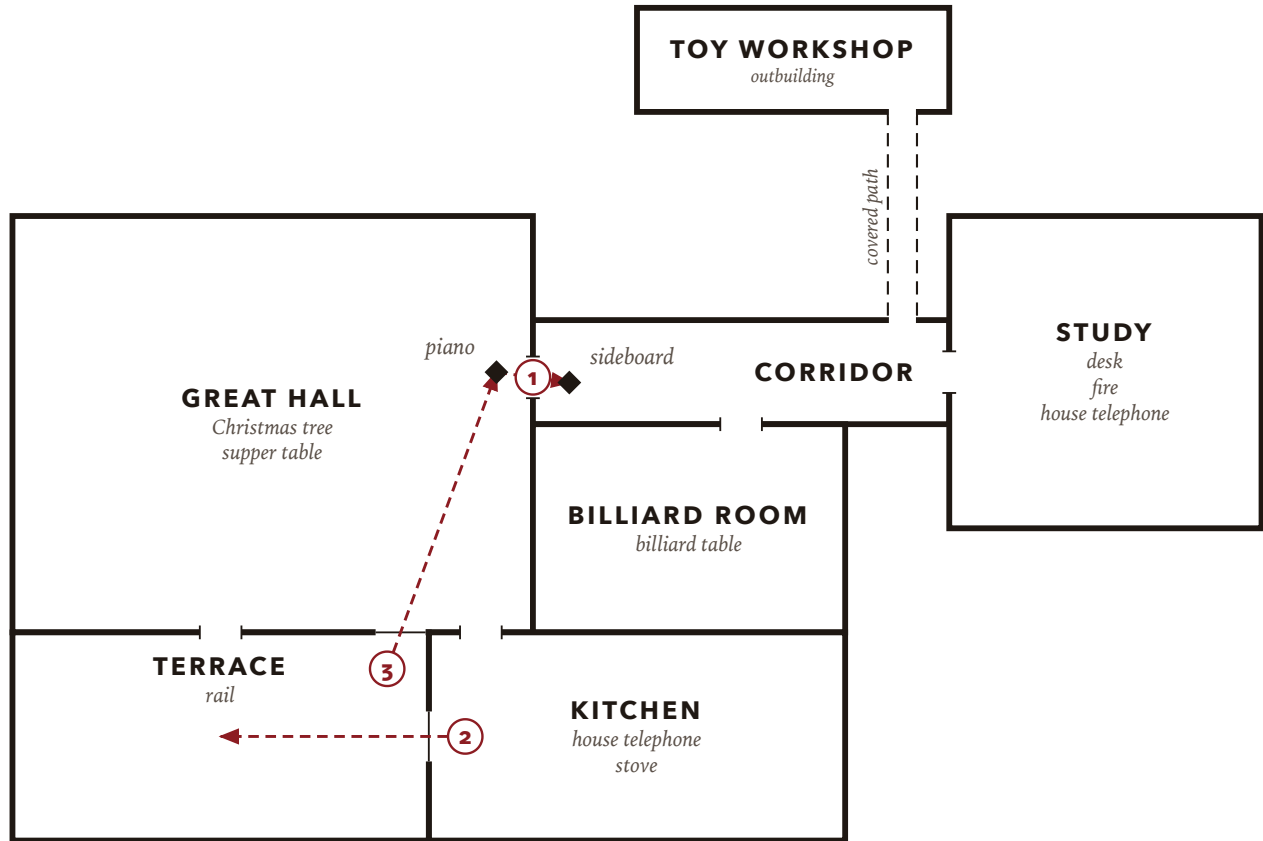
Case board

One sheet for the whole table. Write in what you learn: where each suspect says they were, who vouches for them, and their motive.

SUSPECT	WHERE WERE THEY?	WHO VOUCHES?	MOTIVE	NOTES
Victor Hale THE PARTNER				
Helena Winterbourne THE WIFE				
Dr. Ivy Frost THE DOCTOR				
Clara Winterbourne THE DAUGHTER				
Harriet Pym THE HOUSEKEEPER				
Noel Winterbourne THE NEPHEW				

HOLLYBROOK LODGE, CHRISTMAS EVE, SNOWED IN

Floor plan



- ① From the piano you can see down the corridor, past the sideboard at the hall end.
- ② From the kitchen window you can see the terrace.
- ③ From the terrace you can see the piano through the hall window.

TOY WORKSHOP workbench; toy chest.

GREAT HALL fireplace, with the red box on the mantel; clock that strikes the hour.

CORRIDOR back stairs to the bedrooms, just inside the side door (upstairs is not drawn); side door to the covered path, at the far end.

Thursday, December 24. Christmas Eve.

11:00 Wind the hall clock. Count the crackers.

8:20 Victor. The accounts.

8:40 Noel. Final warning.

9:00 H. Tell her before midnight.

TIP Desk diary, found open at this page on Mr. Winterbourne's desk in the study. The entries are in his own handwriting. Garland.