

A FAMILY MYSTERY PARTY FOR 6 TO 14 GUESTS, AGES 10 AND UP



The Vanishing of the Midnight Star

HOST GUIDE

*Ten minutes of darkness on a mountaintop. The alarm
never rang. The bluest gem in the world is gone, and
nobody can leave.*

MURDER BEFORE DESSERT

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



Felix Fontaine

Who you are

You are Felix Fontaine, the Fabulous Fontaine, a magician hired for the night. You are grand, a little worn at the elbows, and kind to children.

What everyone knows

Your poster promises that at 9:30 tonight you will make a star vanish.

Your evening begins

8:10. You did your magic show in the great hall. The card trick went well. The dove did not: Duchess flew off and is still loose.

9:00. The lights went out. The guests were already out on the deck. You stayed on the stage with your trunk.

The rest of your evening is in your booklet. So is the thing in your trunk.

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

THE VANISHING OF THE MIDNIGHT STAR

The Fifty Years Sleepover at Larkspur Peak

Dear _____,

Fifty years ago, Professor Ada Larkspur opened an observatory on top of a mountain. We are celebrating with a sleepover under the shooting stars, and you are invited.

Ride the cable car up to Larkspur Peak. Look at the sky through our telescopes. See the famous Midnight Star, the bluest gem in the world, in its glass case. There will be hot cocoa, a magic show and, at midnight, the end of a treasure trail that has waited fifty years.

Bring a flashlight. The last cable car goes up on time, so please do not be late.

WHEN _____,

WHERE _____. For one night, Larkspur Peak Observatory.

YOU ARE INVITED AS Dr. Vera Castellan

DRESS Stargazer style: something dark blue or sparkly, and a warm scarf

BRING A flashlight

Clear skies,

Dr. Vera Castellan, Director

TIP This is a mystery party hosted by _____, for ages 10 and up. Nothing in it is scary. You will play Dr. Vera Castellan for the evening. You need no acting experience and nothing to prepare: on the night you get a booklet that tells you what to say. A costume tip comes with your character. Allow about three hours, dinner included.

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

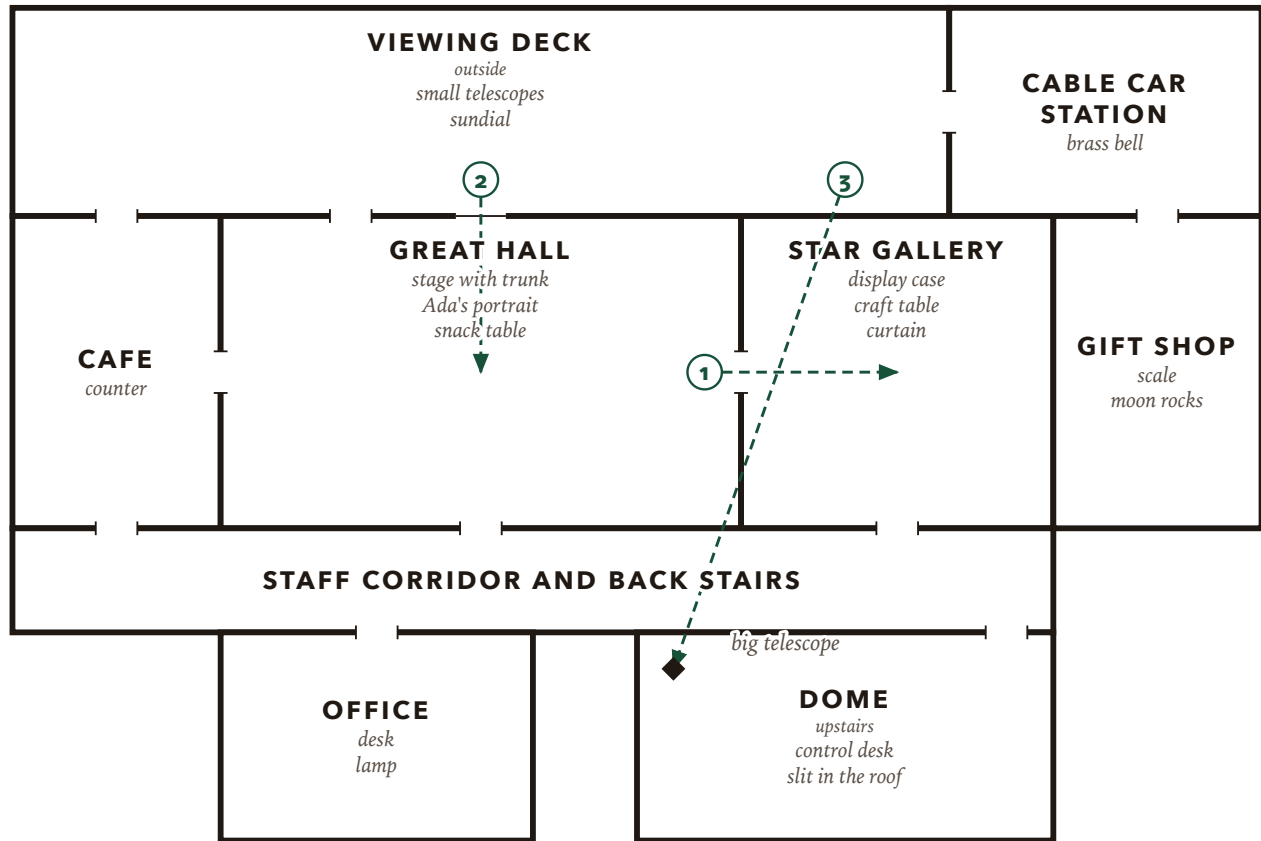
Case board

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
Dr. Vera Castellan THE DIRECTOR				
Gus Tolliver THE TELESCOPE KEEPER				
Felix Fontaine THE MAGICIAN				
Dale Brock THE NIGHT GUARD				
Nova Reyes THE YOUNG ASTRONOMER				
Pip Finley THE JUNIOR STARGAZER				

LARKSPUR PEAK OBSERVATORY, A CLEAR AUGUST NIGHT, THE CABLE CAR STOPPED BY THE WIND UNTIL MORNING

Floor plan



- ① Through the glass doors.
- ② Through the big windows.
- ③ The dome slit and the tip of the big telescope, from below.

VIEWING DECK rail; big doors to the great hall.

CAFE kitchen behind the counter.

GREAT HALL spiral stairs up to the dome; big windows onto the deck; small door behind the stage, to the staff corridor.

STAR GALLERY glass doors to the great hall; staff door to the staff corridor.

STAFF CORRIDOR AND BACK STAIRS no locks on any door; back stairs up to the dome, at the east end, a few steps from the gallery's staff door.

DOMES observing chair, high up a ladder; floor hatch of the spiral stairs; back door at the east end, to the back stairs.

Larkspur Peak Observatory. The Fifty Years Sleepover.

Tonight's program. Saturday. Bring your sleeping bag!

TIME	WHAT HAPPENS
6:30	Cable car up the mountain.
7:30	Last cable car. After this, nobody goes up or down.
8:00	Welcome, and the Junior Stargazer prize.
8:10	Magic show with the Fabulous Fontaine.
9:00	Lights out for ten minutes. Shooting stars on the deck.
9:30	The Fabulous Fontaine makes a star vanish!
10:00	A special announcement from the Director.
12:00	The end of Ada's Stargazer Trail.

TIP Pinned up in the great hall.