

Murder at the North Pole

Character Descriptions

Instructions for Deep Dive Workshop August 7

Please study each of the characters below and decide which character(s) you are interested in playing. Plan to mingle with the group as the character(s) you have interest in. Ultimately, you'll be able to audition for as many parts as you'd like. Mingle is likely to be alone and possibly with one of the other characters. Please know your relationship to each of the other characters. You may use your notes/this document. Note: some characters can be male or female.

Setting: It is Christmas Eve at the North Pole, and snow gently blankets Santa's workshop. But a dark cloud hangs over the festive scene. Mrs. Claus, the ever-smiling heart of the operation, was found murdered in her gingerbread house this afternoon! A newspaper headline is posted at the entrance: "Mrs. Claus Murdered: Found in her gingerbread house on Slay Bells Lane." It is Christmas eve day in current era.

Dead person: Mrs. Claus – she was the usual, cheerful Mrs. Claus with some issues with various other characters. She does not actually exist as part of the show as she is already dead. Her body might be featured in a corner of the room, face down with an ice cycle in her back. Several clues are also behind the crime scene tape where all can view the physical clues or MC can reveal clues.

The Suspects

M Santa Claus: The jolly man in red had been acting strangely lately. He seems stressed and overworked, and there were rumors of financial difficulties at the workshop. Mrs. Claus vehemently denied the financial concerns which Santa kept trying to tell her about. Santa was extremely frustrated that she wouldn't listen. Santa felt that the elves were being grossly overpaid (due to minimum wage increases) and in particular, Jingle, the head elf, was horribly overpaid. Santa was increasingly angry with her as she wouldn't listen to talk of the finances. He threatened to kill her in a fit of rage several weeks ago (overheard by several). **Costume:** wears the classic Santa work clothes: flannel shirt, suspenders, jeans and boots. Wire rimmed glasses. May or may not have a Santa hat on. Hankerchief. **Motive:** he's tired of everything and wants to retire. Mrs. Claus has told him he can't and that she will continue to handle the finances as she always has. He is at his rope's end and wants to run the operation by himself or retire and give it all up to someone else. He must eliminate her in order to get control of things at the North Pole.

Relationship to:

- Jingle: working with Jingle as a partner to get Mrs. Claus to understand the dire financial needs of the workshop. They have worked together for centuries and are long time friends. Santa knows that Jingle is nasty but has no other partner-in-crime.
- Blitzen: Santa kikes the reindeer but Blitzen has gotten too big for his antlers. Santa suspects that there is bad blood between Blitz and the Mrs. but initially doesn't know about the \$10,000 he owes her.
- Sugar Plum: Santa thinks she's sweet enough when she's with strangers but it doesn't take long for her to show her true colors which Santa does not like at all. He keeps requesting another fairy be assigned to the workshop. She's not doing a good job keeping morale up.
- Jack Frost: Santa is frustrated with Jack/Jackie. Jack could do lots more to assure that Christmas is white but he is always complaining about how much it costs to seed clouds. Santa doesn't like that Jack is living in the Claus' attic: never did like it but Mrs. Claus had a weak moment a few years ago and let him stay. Santa doesn't know why he/she is living in the attic and is annoyed with both Jack and Mrs. Claus.

M/F Jingle, the Head Elf: Jingle is known for his efficiency and sharp tongue. He often clashed with Mrs. Claus over her "sentimentality." Jingle is really a nasty one to deal with. He's arrogant and always right about everything. He doesn't like the reindeer – they make such a mess outside the door of the shop and as a result, often reindeer poop gets tracked into the shop. Has been in his job for too long and needs to retire but likes the paycheck every few weeks. He often fought with Mrs. Claus because she refused to listen to Jingle's concerns about pay rates and setting up auto-deposit (Mrs. Claus handled all the payroll system and issued all checks by hand). Jingle thinks there have been errors in her system and she refused to look at them or make corrections. He feels he represents the elves and is getting desperate to get her to make the needed changes including raises for the elves and himself. He's also attempting to set up an elf union which Santa

and wife are opposed to. Jingle discovers that Mrs. Claus has been sabotaging his efforts to create a union.

Costume: Classic elf costume for either man or woman. Must have a goofy elf hat and preferably elf shoes as well. Green/red works best as head elf.

Motive: Felt his campaign is falling on deaf ears with the Mrs. Getting the union together isn't working because he finds out Mrs. Claus has been sabotaging and he knows no other way to get her to listen except to eliminate her. (cont. next page)

Relationship to:

- **Santa:** Jingle and Santa are sharing similar feelings about Mrs. Claus but for different reasons. Are they in cahoots to get rid of her? Jingle has been Santa's head elf for a long time so they have become friends over the centuries.
- **Blitzen:** Jingle likes Rudolf 'cause he's kinda goofy with the big, red nose and all but Blitzen is too full of himself with his physical prowess. Jingle would prefer that Blitz go north and hang out with a big reindeer herd where he might get his clock cleaned by some big buck.
- **Sugar Plum:** Jingle thinks she's kinda cute but otherwise doesn't put up with her complaining. Between the two of them, there's enough complaining to go around.
- **Jack Frost:** Jingle thinks Jack is a really cool person and secretly wants to be like him. Jealousy is obvious from Jingle. He also thinks Jack is holding out for more money. Everyone knows Jack lives in the attic and no one really understands how that happened including Jingle.

M Blitzen, the Reindeer: Blitzen, the fastest reindeer, is in his prime as far as his fitness level. Other reindeer don't trust him as he will run away anytime he pleases. He's arrogant and full of himself and can't stand Rudolf with that stupid nose. Rudolf is slow and should never be in the lead. Blitzen was Mrs. Claus's favorite until the past few years but she has grown very tired of his verbose manner and arrogance. She has actually cut his pay through some very sneaky accounting tricks by charging additional taxes on his check for other reindeer who are doing a better job resulting in other reindeer getting more money. Blitz is dumb and knows something is wrong with his checks but isn't smart enough to figure it out. Blitz has it out for Mrs. Claus because Blitzen has been pushed to the limit with owing her at least \$10,000. Initially, Santa doesn't know that Blitzen owes Mrs. C. money (until the lines). If she talks to Santa about it, which she has threatened, Blitzen will lose his job. Where else can he go that pays as well? Blitzen is very popular with the female reindeer and often runs off to their field to carouse with the girls, specifically Vixen, the tramp. He's been totally fed up with Mrs. Claus and her shenanigans with his paycheck and she's been really snotty to him. **Costume:** Some kind of reindeer jump suit with antlers on his head. For a male, the front of the reindeer suit should be open to show he very buff physique. Often seen with Vixen, the tramp.

Motive: If the debt to Mrs. Claus goes away, Blitz is free and clear on the \$10,000. She's been messing with his paychecks and started threatening him that he better pay back the debt.

Relationship to:

- **Santa:** Blitz is pretty disrespectful of Santa. He thinks he's just an old, fat guy. Blitz is worried that Mrs. Claus has confided in Santa about the gambling money. He can't be sure but she's not been very nice to Blitz lately.
- **Jingle:** Blitz hates Jingle. He's arrogant and condescending just like Blitz. They hate each other for all the same reasons as they are both jerks.
- **Sugar Plum:** Blitz can't stand any of the fairies and especially not Sugar. What is she doing here anyway? Why does the North Pole need a fairy – it's a production environment.
- **Jack Frost:** Hates Jack as Blitz performs best when it's a blizzard. That's when he can really show his stuff. Jack taunts Blitz about not giving him a blizzard.

F Sugar Plum Fairy: The ethereal fairy was known for her jealousy of Mrs. Claus's warmth and popularity. Sugar appears sweet and lovely for the beginning of the mingle but as time goes on, she gets crabbiest and lacks warmth and isn't particularly popular with anyone: reindeer, other fairies or the elves. She never works, is down-right lazy and always complains that she's so very tired/fatigued. She really hates Mrs. Claus because Mrs. C. is so good at being sweet all the time whereas Sugar is horribly depressed. Mrs. Claus constantly nags her about being more fairy-like and spreading good

news to everyone around her. Sugar went to the local tech college and did some accounting classes and now thinks she should be a CFO. **Costume:** classic (pink or purple) fairy costume with a magic wand and wings.

Motive: Perhaps if she gets rid of Mrs. Claus, she can take over the payroll and other business activities and make Santa happy again. Ultimately, she really wants to get her hands on the money and start embezzling. (cont. next page)

Relationship to:

- Santa: She is lukewarm with Santa. She's just so very tired and no one likes her; including Santa. She is empathetic to Santa. He isn't mean to her but he thinks she's not a very good fairy.
- Jingle: She hates Jingle because he's so incredibly arrogant. There is no love lost between them although Jingle thinks she's kinda cute. She constantly rebuffs his advances.
- Blitzen: Blitzen keeps hitting on Sugar so she hates him too.
- Jack: Sug and Jack get each other, they're not best friends but they just get each other. Both hate their jobs: they both want to be rich. She wants to embezzle and Jack is the only one who knows her capability to do so. She doesn't like that he can't predict the weather to save his life (like most weathermen). Sugar always wants a nice, gentle snow that starts the morning of Christmas eve which Jack rarely delivers.

M/F Jack (or Jackie) Frost: Hates being in charge of winter storms, thinks that he could have a way better job if he was in the movies. Instead of the fake snow, he could provide the real thing. He thinks he's a hot shot, definitely has a big ego, he is kind of cute though. Jack lives in Claus's attic but no one knows why or how that happened. He died in a blizzard in Victorian times and came back as Jack Frost (hence the Victorian costume). He/she has a long-standing feud with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Jack refuses to seed the clouds because it's so expensive so it might be a dry Christmas. He often tries to sabotage all the Christmas cheer by making it rain all December and ultimately on Christmas. He hates the snow because he drives an old Vega and never learned how to drive in the white stuff. He currently lives in the attic of Santa's house and has considered it his permanent home since he's been there over 2 years. Mrs. Claus told him/her this morning that if it doesn't start snowing today/immediately, he will be evicted. He/she totally lost it. He can't believe that she would even think to throw him out. He can't move anywhere else (lousy credit rating). When she threatened to throw him out, he/she threw things at her and swore he/she'd knock her off in order to stay in the attic. She already told him/her he's out on Christmas night: not even wait for the new year. Jack also hates Mrs. Claus as she was so blasted sweet yet can turn nasty in a New York minute

Costume: Victorian suit with vest and top hat. Looks like a Victorian caroler.

Motive: Mrs. Clause found out that Jack had a couple of auditions with the Hallmark production company, so he's been making the weather leading up to Christmas super yucky (rain most days, turning to ice overnight). She's fed up with him and has told him he's out of the attic as soon as Christmas is over. He threatened to knock her off in order to stay in the attic.

Relationship to:

- Santa: He/she likes Santa. Really admires him but was one of the people who heard the big fight last week. Relationship is not great especially since Santa never liked the idea that Jack was living in the attic.
- Jingle: They butt heads all the time because of their personality types. Jack Frost is a cool guy and Jingle thinks he's cool but is really a jerk.
- Blitzen: Jack hates Blitz because he's so puffed up about his physical prowess. Blitz is always begging for a blizzard on Christmas eve which drives Jack nuts. He does not like Blitzen. He can tell he's a fake, cool guy and he doesn't like the way he talks to the female reindeer.
- Sugar Plum: They get each other, they're not best friends but they just get each other. Both hate their jobs: he wants to be rich and so does she. She wants to embezzle. Thinks Sugar is kinda cute but she's so young and innocent (or so he thinks). He hits on her regularly but she pretty much ignores his passes. He is the only one who knows she took some accounting classes and has figured out how she can embezzle money.

Consider The Misfit Toys: All characters know that some of the toys are disgruntled as they were rejected by Santa. The toys recently staged a protest outside the workshop. This info can be shared during the mingle.