

# THE MURDER OF OLIVER OXENBRIDGE



# BASIC STORY HISTORY FOR EVERYONE

**Oliver Oxenbridge** and **Toby Oxenbridge**'s father died immediately after coming off the boat to America, after a long and perilous journey, and gave both twin brothers one piece of advice for survival, at age 7 - "Steal Fruit". They took this not as a license to commit crimes, but held fast to what their father told them, and began their own journeys to become leaders in separate industries.

**Oliver Oxenbridge** started as a child laborer in the *Rightway Railroad Company*, filing down railroad spikes, where he had the pleasure of working under the **Doc**, a fringe scientist working on new railroad technology. Doc helped Oliver see the benefit of steel, and was able to rise his way up, through grit, determination, and a murky and scattered past, to become the creator and owner of Oxenbridge Steel. Oliver credits **Doc** as a lifetime mentor and influence.

His twin brother, **Toby Oxenbridge** took his father's second word to heart, and took a boat to Honduras in his youth, where he pioneered the papaya trade. He never did as well, and resents his father's advice, and his brother's success.

As a known part of Oliver's murky past, **General George G. Grubbs** was the head of Oliver's platoon in The War, where he taught Oliver the prime skills of efficiency and geology. Eventually, after his ascent to General and the war, the General settled into his own business, as the head of GrubbRails. **Doc** joined him recently, and is head of Grubb's secretive and experimental R & D division.

Oliver had an off-again-on-again relationship with **Frances Friday**, their buildings being right next to each other during the creation of Oxenbridge Steel, though their relationship ended in a big media scandal involving use of a Friday's department store for secret laundering of Oxenbridge's gambling habit, revealed by the hit publication - *Everyone's Magazine*.

The person who broke the story was **Rose Rowe**, a young and sharp writer and muckraker who has been going after Oxenbridge's steel works since the reveal of their unsavory conditions in the mines on the Isle of Wexley.

**Her Majesty, The Queen of the Isle of Wexley** has been a positive force in the business of Oxenbridge Steel, as her island is the primary source of iron ore for the steel trade. Her country is also the only true habitat of the White Wolverine, a major supply necessary for **Frances Friday**'s hit winter line. Her Majesty has severely limited the hunting and trapping however, leading to conflict between her and Frances.

A strong supporter of Frances, though, is **Big Ziggy Williams**, jazz musician, pulitzer prize winning author and beloved writer of *My Life As A Metaphor For Yesterday*, a work of true genius. His next book is being sold exclusively by the publishing arm of Frances' department store empire, *Friday's*.

Oliver met his good friend **Sam Stone** in the orphanage as childhood friends. They went their separate ways, Sam to the West Coast, the gold rush, and then a law firm in LA, but they maintain a close friendship in spite of the distance and years.

# TOBY OXENBRIDGE - FRUIT INDUSTRY TYCOON

## CHARACTER HISTORY:

You grew up in an orphanage with your brother, **Oliver**, in New York. You also were with Sam Stone there, but you were not friends with him. When your brother Oliver went to the *Rightway Railroad Company* at the age of 12, you hitched a ride on a steamship, and have steadily worked your way up the ranks of the papaya trade in Honduras. You run **Universal Fruit Company**, a low-tier fruit supplier in Central America. Your main office is in New Orleans, and you don't like the cold in this area too much.

You and your brother have kept in sparse contact, by means of letters. You have always been jealous of his success, thinking your father's advice was addressed to the wrong person, and have been looking for a way to quietly get back at him.

When one of his **letters** (probably written in a drunken sad stupor) revealed to you that his hidden gambling wins had been concealed with a money laundering scheme involving **Frances Friday's** main department store, you couldn't resist betraying his confidence.

You sent the letter to **Rose Rowe**, notable critic of your brother's mines in Wexley. You crossed out your name. Her investigative powers uncovered the truth with your tip, and to your knowledge, she doesn't know who sent it to her. This letter is your secret.

Your brother said in one of his recent letters about a **book** he had written, and was very excited about, and stashed in his office, which he said Frances knew about as well. You wonder about this.

You are not the murderer.

**You behave:** Lovable, but with a hint of menace. This whole thing is about your stupid successful brother, after all.

**You dress:** Elegant, for someone who's been in the jungles plucking papayas and running a fruit empire.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE DINNER:

- ask guests questions! introduce yourself!
- try to speak to the **General** about his thoughts on railroads in Honduras (he will blow you off) (-)
- ask **Frances** about her winter fur line, discuss cold(+)
- bow to the **Queen**, thank her for coming (+)
- ask **Rose** about any new stories she has coming out (+)
- discuss the **Doc's** thoughts on automatic fruit picking technology (+)
- listen to **Big Ziggy** talk about his artistic genius (-)
- reminisce with **Sam** about your time at the orphanage with Oliver (+)

## THINGS YOU SHOULD TELL DURING INTERVIEWS:

Your alibi - Out quail hunting on the property all day (in spite of the cold)

Your suspicions - Frances. You didn't see where she was today, but you tell them about Oliver's book he was working on, which Frances knows about. Tell the guests to not let her give one excuse. Tell them to mention Oliver's letters to her, which she certainly will know about.

## THINGS YOU DON'T WANT LEAKED DURING INTERVIEWS: (But if people are asking the right questions, it's okay to let it slip.)

Your jealousy of your brother.

You sent the letter to Rose that told her about the gambling scandal. But that doesn't mean you still have a grudge!

# GENERAL GEORGE G. GRUBBS - RAILROAD TYCOON

## CHARACTER HISTORY:

Your father was a military man, and from an early age, you were involved in preparing for The War. When it came, you were ready.

Your first platoon had **Oliver** in it, in which you thought he was weak and scattered. You never understood how he was able to run that business later on. You gave him the skills of efficiency, but he has never publicly acknowledged your help in his success. You hold this deep in your heart.

After the War, lost and without purpose, you began your trek around the world, studying the earth and geology, and realizing there must be a faster way to get around it. You have many tales from this time.

You then founded **GrubbRails** and began the task of making it an empire. You picked up **Doc** along the way, marveling at his ingenuity, and an early idea for something he called a Teleportator. You let his mind run wild. This project is top secret, and requires an enormous amount of steel.

Unfortunately, by this point **Oxenbridge Steel** ran all the mines in **Wexley**, and has made it exceedingly difficult for you to source the steel needed for your railroads, let alone your new project with the **Doc**. Also, the **Queen** seems to be letting **Oliver** run his monopoly, forcing your plans to fail.

You were excited when Oliver disappeared, hoping his company would collapse, but upon hearing of his return you became worried again.

You are not the murderer.

**You behave:** Decisive, disciplined, bombastic. Grizzled from the war, yet gregarious from the business of railroads. You love talking about your passions: efficiency and geology.

**You dress:** Military, with a touch of corporate czar.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE DINNER:

- ask guests questions! introduce yourself!
- blow off **Toby** when he tries to talk to you about his boring stuff (-)
- tell **Frances** how her fur trade could be more efficient (-)
- talk to the **Queen** about Oliver's monopoly on the iron mines in Wexley (-)
- commend **Rose** on her studious reporting career (+)
- discuss fringe science matters with **Doc** (+)
- sing one of your favorite **Big Ziggy** jazz songs with him (+)
- talk to **Sam** about his opinions on railroads out West (+)

## THINGS YOU SHOULD TELL DURING INTERVIEWS:

Your alibi - You were studying charts and tables for your new NW-SE rail line. You spoke with the Doc briefly in the morning.

Your suspicions - The Queen. You saw her break down in tears and look very worried when she first arrived to the estate.

Rose - why would Oliver invite her if she has been so opposed to his work? There must be a connection. Ask her.

## THINGS YOU DON'T WANT LEAKED DURING INTERVIEWS: (But if people are asking the right questions, it's okay to let it slip.)

Your plans with Doc for the Teleportators (as the Doc calls it). It requires a mass amount of steel, and to be far underground. Oxenbridge has been limiting your steel consumption with his monopoly. So your plans to make this happen might necessitate his removal. But that doesn't mean you did it!

Why is the Queen so adamant to have Oliver's company in her country? Ask her.

# FRANCES FRIDAY - FUR TYCOON

## CHARACTER HISTORY:

You grew up in a wealthy family, but after the Great City Fire, they lost everything, and you had to start from zero. You were always interested in fashion and fur, and got an education in the ways of textiles. Through grit and determination, you became the founder and owner of **Friday's**, your line of department stores and fur empire.

You met **Oliver** from having major office buildings in the city next to each other. You both became enraptured with one another early on, and had some late night dalliances over the years. One night, he came to you, looking ghastly pale, and told you about his illegal gambling habit and wins, and need to hide the funds. You agreed to help, using your main store as a cover.

Somehow, **Rose** was able to piece the information together through a source, and the truth came out. It severely hurt your business, much more than **Oliver's**.

Your sights became set on the **White Wolverine** of Wexley, for a new and inspired winter product line. This was very successful for many years, and the **Queen** even endorsed it heavily. Suddenly, though, she turned, and made it almost impossible to get their furs, while simultaneously upping **Oliver's** iron mine allowances.

Looking to spite **Oliver**, he made mention of a **book** he had written, right before his absence. You went into his office and read it, and were overwhelmed with its brilliance. You told **Big Ziggy** to steal it, and he did, and claimed it as his own. You have planned on making it surpass your winter wolverine line in terms of sales.

When you heard Oliver was returning, however, you became worried (for Ziggy, and yourself).

You are not the murder.

**You behave:** Confident, at ease. It's as if you're only there for the after-dinner conversation and wine.

**You dress:** The most fashionably of anyone. Furs preferable.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE DINNER:

- ask guests questions! introduce yourself!
- ask **Toby** about how his fruit supply is affected by the seasons (+)
- listen to the **General** lecture on how your fur trade could be more efficient (-)
- argue with the **Queen** about her limits on white wolverine trapping (-)
- obviously avoid talking to **Rose**, since she leaked the laundering scandal (-)
- discuss white wolverine mating habits with the **Doc** (+)
- congratulate **Big Ziggy** on his book being in your stores soon (+)
- ask **Sam** about Oliver and his time growing up (+)

## THINGS YOU SHOULD TELL DURING INTERVIEWS:

Your alibi - You were at the telegram and telephone machine all day, getting business set up for your white wolverine line.

Your suspicions - Doc. You saw him getting a huge briefcase from someone today and he dropped it, and a bunch of money fell out.

The Queen - she used to be into your furs. She wore them heavily for a whole **9 months** at one point, and then suddenly hated them and you. Ask her about the furs. Emphasize 9 months so people think pregnancy.

## THINGS YOU DON'T WANT LEAKED DURING INTERVIEWS: (But if people are asking the right questions, it's okay to let it slip.)

- The new book publishing, and that it's Oliver's manuscript. Throw blame back on Toby, IF they push you about the book. You wanted to get back at Oliver, for ruining your reputation, but you didn't kill him!
- Tell guests Toby also gets letters, maybe he had something to do with the gambling scandal leak.
- Tell them to ask Ziggy about the book. It's his fault.

# HER MAJESTY, QUEEN OF THE ISLE OF WEXLEY

## CHARACTER HISTORY:

You are a member of the royal family of the **Isle of Wexley**. Your given name is Patricia, but everybody has called you Her Majesty, or Queen. You became queen at an early age, and in doing so have run the country for a long time. You love it. Your knowledge and experience have made it very successful, and luckily your Isle is blessed with many resources.

A long time ago, when you both were young and ambitious, you met **Oliver**. He was scouting his steel empire, looking for mining locations, and you both became enamored with each other. It was one night. But you were going to have his child, scandal be damned.

Upon further thoughts, though much too late, you realized this could not happen.

You were able to hide it with **Frances Friday's white wolverine line**, which she had been pressing you to increase her exporting caps. When you had the baby, you gave it up for adoption. Oliver named her **Rose**. **You must not have anyone know.** This is your real heir.

The white wolverine fur makes you shudder now, remembering how much Oliver abandoned you, and your child, leaving you to fend for yourself and your empire. You halted Frances' production of it.

You let **Oliver** to continue his iron ore mining, but when he disappeared, you felt immense relief. He sent you a **letter**, telling you he was having tonight's event, and you realized everything was coming together, and you would be destroyed, humiliated, and replaced.

You went to his cabin right before dinner, and you left him there dead, terrified about what lay ahead.

**You are the murderer.** You must lie.

**You behave:** Like a queen who actually runs a country, and doesn't just wave. You've elbowed around with the biggest industry giants one too many times.

**You dress:** Beautifully, but somebody else picked the ensemble for you.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE DINNER:

- ask guests questions! introduce yourself
- see if **Toby** would be interested in discussing raising his import quotas (+)
- thank the **General** for his railroad quotes for Wexley (+)
- try to avoid talking to **Frances**, fail, listen to her white wolverine issues (-)
- tell **Rose** how much you like her articles (but you can't name one, yikes) (-)
- listen to the **Doc** ramble about fringe science (-)
- tell **Big Ziggy** how much you liked his last book (+)
- talk to **Sam** about what the West is like (+)

## THINGS YOU SHOULD TELL DURING INTERVIEWS:

Your alibi - You were with your handmaidens all day, getting ready for dinner.

Yes, you were sad when you arrived, but it was because...you were worried about seeing Oliver. You've only done business with him overseas. You were worried things might have changed with the iron mines in your country. (this is a lie)

Your suspicions - Rose. You saw her snooping around the grounds by herself, taking notes hurriedly. She also has not had any success in stopping Oxenbridge's mines.

## THINGS YOU DON'T WANT LEAKED DURING INTERVIEWS: (But if people are asking the right questions, it's okay to let it slip.)

If guests are pressing you on wearing the furs via Frances, just say you liked them, but feel bad for the wolverines now. If they press about the 9 months thing, give in, and explain pregnancy.

If guests are pressing you on the fur wearing, and inquiring about the father, admit to being pregnant with Oliver's kid. You don't know where it is, and you gave it up for a secret adoption.

DON'T say it's Rose, UNLESS they already know from Rose telling them.

# ROSE ROWE - REPORTER FOR *EVERYONE'S MAGAZINE*

## CHARACTER HISTORY:

You grew up an orphan in **Wexley**, and were adopted by a family in the US, and sent overseas. You have always had an inquisitive nature, and started out by selling newspapers on corners. You learned how to write and ask the right questions, and became a junior reporter for a variety of publications.

**Everyone's Magazine** gave you your first shot at feature articles, and your tenacity against **Oliver Oxenbridge's** mining conditions in Wexley struck a chord with readers. You have travelled back and forth from there many times.

You had worked for *Everyone's Magazine* for a while, when a letter appeared to you with no name. It was your big break. If this was true, you hoped it would put the nail in Oxenbridge's coffin. It detailed (in Oxenbridge's own words!) his gambling habit and laundering scheme with **Frances Friday**. You did your research, and the numbers all checked out. You went to print, but it did not do nearly what you had hoped. Oliver's business remained.

When you heard he was missing, it intrigued you. You received another **Oxenbridge letter**, though this was directly from him. It said that you are his real **daughter**, with the the **Queen of Wexley**, and he was going to have this event. You dare not tell anyone, for fear of threat on your life.

You want to see this event through, and investigate further. The news he has could be very bad, or very good.

You are not the murderer.

**You behave:** Assertive, though pensive when it's to your advantage. You take every interaction as a potential scoop.

**You dress:** Appropriate for the occasion, but ready to take notes.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE DINNER:

- ask guests questions! introduce yourself!
- ask **Toby** about whether he's going to branch out of papayas (+)
- thank the **General** for his compliment on your career, compliment his (+)
- obviously avoid talking to **Frances**, since she's obviously avoiding you (-)
- thank the **Queen** for her support, ask her what her favorite article is (she won't be able to think of one, yikes) (-)
- ask the **Doc** about his favorite recent science discovery (he'll ask your favorite reporting story)(+)
- talk to **Big Ziggy** on his latest live performance, take notes (+)
- ask **Sam** how he knows Oliver (+)

## THINGS YOU SHOULD TELL DURING INTERVIEWS:

Your alibi - You were taking notes on the estate for your piece on the event, obviously. You were doing your job, not snooping.

Your suspicions - Big Ziggy. You saw him talking to someone behind the farmhouse on the property. Quiet whispers and yelling.

You don't know who gave you the gambling scandal letter.

## THINGS YOU DON'T WANT LEAKED DURING INTERVIEWS: (But if people are asking the right questions, it's okay to let it slip.)

You are upset about the iron mines in Wexley. Yes, Oxenbridge hasn't done anything in spite of it. But you didn't kill him for it!

IF PEOPLE PUSH YOU ON THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU AND OXENBRIDGE: You are Oxenbridge's daughter. He told you in a letter, which is why he invited you. But that's all he said, and you were waiting to hear his news tonight.

# DOC - SCIENTIST

## CHARACTER HISTORY:

You have been doing science since as long as you can remember. Your mind is constantly a flurry of information, discovery, and energy. You are also very old, but it doesn't stop you.

Your first real scientist job was working for the **Rightway Railroad Co.** where you met a young **Oliver Oxenbridge**. You imparted your wisdom and love of learning to him, and when he left, you were sad to see him go.

You continued to work in a number of laboratories and industries, though nothing got your creative juices flowing. When **General Grubbs** gave you the opportunity to come work for him at **GrubbRails** and his railroad empire, you dove in headfirst. He was enamored by your new fringe idea, the **Teleportator**, and you have been working on it in secret.

Your one main vice is gambling. Maybe it's the chaos, the uncertainty, the correlation to the nature of reality, but it hooked you. You would meet **Oliver** frequently in underground gambling rings, and one night, he beat you horribly. This has stung ever since.

When the **laundering scandal with Frances Friday** came to fruition, you felt vindicated. But would it be traced to you as well? You still haven't lied low.

The **General** has become increasingly vicious in his attempts to source the steel for your secret project. You want to succeed in this as well, and **Oliver** has a monopoly on the sources you need.

You hoped your illegal gambling would rest with you, but when it was announced Oliver was coming back, you didn't want to be implicated.

You are not the murderer.

**You behave:** A bit unhinged, clearly a genius with limited consideration for social constructs. Rambling at times.

**You dress:** Like a scientist invited to his first big party.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE DINNER:

- ask guests questions! introduce yourself!
- let **Toby** know your thought on automatic fruit picking technology (+)
- discuss fringe science matters with the **General** (+)
- discuss white wolverine mating habits with **Frances** (+)
- ramble to the **Queen** about fringe science matters (-)
- ask **Rose** about her favorite reporting story (she'll ask your fav science discovery) (+)
- give **Big Ziggy** some advice on singing with science of the vocal chords (-)
- talk to **Sam** about your days with young Oliver at the *Rightway RR Co* (+)

## THINGS YOU SHOULD TELL DURING INTERVIEWS:

Your alibi - You were consulting with the caterers about cooking methods all day today. It was very interesting.

Your suspicions - Toby. Saw him with a gun today.

If they press more about the money briefcase - admit you are a compulsive gambler. That money was for a recent win. Yes, you have a history, but you're planning on stopping. Tell them not to tell anyone.

## THINGS YOU DON'T WANT LEAKED DURING INTERVIEWS: (But if people are asking the right questions, it's okay to let it slip.)

-the loss to Oliver gambling. If you do have to tell them, say you are over it, not angry. You wouldn't murder him to keep it secret! And Toby must've known about the gambling, too, Oliver always kept in touch with him. You didn't know about the money laundering. Did Toby?

-your work on the Teleportator with the General. Yes, you are. That's the General's thing, though. You just are helping. Ask the General about it.



# BIG ZIGGY WILLIAMS - JAZZ MUSICIAN & AUTHOR

## CHARACTER HISTORY:

You were an artist and a visionary even from before you were born (or so you think.) Growing up in **New Orleans**, the jazz scene called to you, and you got your chops wet on the trumpet, as well as crooning to smoke filled rooms.

Your talent is surpassed only by your ego, and your mind is a garden of artistic and visionary thoughts. You moved to the city, and tried your hand at writing, creating the great work which everyone knows you for, ***My Life As A Metaphor For Yesterday***. But recently, the limitless well of truth has run dry.

It worried you so, and you've tried many things, more songs, more performances, but the public has not been as kind as of late. It surprised you then, when **Frances Friday** came to you with an unpublished **book** she uncovered in **Oliver Oxenbridge's** care. She said you only had to steal it, but with his disappearance, the world would never know, and she would even publish it for you under your name.

You took it upon yourself to do so, and have built the hype for its release. When **Oliver's** return became apparent, you fear having to write an actual second book, or do something about the one you stole.

A reporter by the name of **Rose Rowe** on site of the event tonight does not bode well, but you are waiting before making your next move.

You are not the murderer.

**You behave:** Effervescent. Tormented, and yet free. You are the pinnacle of art and culture, and radiate your ego's delusion, though in a magnetic can't-look-away sort of way.

**You dress:** Beret. Or something that is a metaphor for something.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE DINNER:

- ask guests questions! introduce yourself
- tell **Toby** about your first book *My Life as a Metaphor for Yesterday* (he'll be apathetic) (-)
- sing your hit classic song with the **General** at his request (+)
- thank **Frances** for planning on publishing your next book (+)
- talk to the **Queen** about your first book (she'll be interested) (+)
- tell **Rose** about your latest live musical performance (she'll be interested) (+)
- listen to the **Doc's** bad advice on singing (-)
- tell **Sam** about the purpose of art (+)

## THINGS YOU SHOULD TELL DURING INTERVIEWS:

Your alibi - You were writing and preparing your one-man as two-men show on Broadway all day. The farmhouse seemed far enough away to get into character and be loud and quiet.

Your suspicions - Grubbs. You heard him speaking secretively about "the plan" with someone when you passed his cabin. Tell guests to pressure him on it. It wasn't just a railroad plan.

## THINGS YOU DON'T WANT LEAKED DURING INTERVIEWS: (But if people are asking the right questions, it's okay to let it slip.)

That Frances helped you steal the book from Oxenbridge's office to claim as your own. It was just too good! Were you jealous, and worried he might find out if he returned? Yeah, but you didn't kill him for it!

# SAM STONE - DETECTIVE

## CHARACTER HISTORY:

You grew up with **Oliver** and **Toby** in the orphanage. You went out on your own at a young age, and stayed West. You started in the Gold Rush, learning mining and panning, but went to settle even further.

You learned law, but detective work took your fancy more. It's a private practice that keeps a low profile, due to the sensitive nature of information out there. **Oliver** knows though.

You've kept in contact with Oliver through all his highs and lows, and encouraged him to take the trip.

When he sent you a letter on the trip, you were shocked, to be entrusted with such responsibility. He told you the envelope contained a contract for **Rose Rowe**, which gave 51% stake in the company to her. She is his daughter, with the Queen of Wexley, and that he had communicated to her beforehand. And he would tell more to all at the event. He wanted to shift the company from mining to **film production**, which he believes will become an industry of the future. Like the new magazine.

He expected perhaps some foul play leading up to the event, and wanted an outside source such as yourself whom he trusts to keep it safe.

You have kept this information and document secret, and are awaiting his announcement, keeping a watchful eye all the while.

You are not the murderer.

**You behave:** Kind, welcoming, and a very observant. You're always on the lookout.

**You dress:** In a proper suit.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE DINNER:

- ask guests questions! introduce yourself!
- reminisce with **Toby** about your time at the orphanage with Oliver (+)
- talk with the **General** about railroads out West (+)
- ask **Frances** about how her and Oliver are doing (since they broke it off) (+)
- talk the the **Queen** about what the West is like (+)
- tell **Rose** about your connection to Oliver (+)
- ask **Doc** about how Oliver was when he knew him at the *Righway RR Co* (+)
- ask **Big Ziggy** his thoughts on the purpose of art (+)

## THINGS YOU SHOULD TELL DURING INTERVIEWS:

Nothing. You are not being interviewed. Facilitate the clues amongst guests, help the characters who are stuck, get guests asking the right questions.

Your alibi (if anyone asks) - You have not had contact with Oliver like the other guests. You had just arrived on the train moments before the party.

## THINGS YOU DON'T WANT LEAKED DURING INTERVIEWS: (But if people are asking the right questions, it's okay to let it slip.)

None. You are not being interviewed.

# TIPS FOR EVERYONE

Ask guests questions during the opening mingling. How do they know Oliver? What do they think his announcement will be? What do they think of the events in Wexley? Have they spoken to **X** yet? How their trip here was, whether they represent any company they would know? Have they done business with Oliver before? Toby? General Grubbs? How do they feel about White Wolverine fur? Forcing them to “play along” will pay massive dividends in the interrogation round. It’s gonna be awkward for a lot of guests to “buy in” to what is happening and that they’ve been transported into a different world and time, but treating them like they belong here is key.

Only the murderer can outright lie, so if someone asks you a question you don’t know the answer to (a specific age you think might be important, a fact you forgot, something you’re not sure you should know) don’t outright lie because you’re worried about the right thing to say. You’re a character. Improvise!

Say “I think it is **X**, but I’m not sure. Or I can’t remember. You should talk to....” It’s a good way to introduce people to someone else, and deflect your lack of knowledge. Or play into your character. Maybe your character would be embarrassed, upset, gracious, or inquisitive as well. You are not a box of facts for the guests to dispense from. You are a person in this world. If you don’t know, don’t make something up. You wouldn’t do that in real life (I hope not!) Answer honestly.

The text in your profile and the history for all characters are what you should know. Everything else is improvised. Say what you feel! It’s written so that it won’t confuse guests or be conflicting, as long as you don’t make connections between characters or situations that aren’t written. So don’t say, “I was with **X** when I was traveling in Europe as a teenager” if it doesn’t say that in your bio. But feel free to make up whatever you did do in Europe, if it says you went there. Have fun with it, and if you do “mess up” it’s not a big deal. Real people mess up, give conflicting testimony, etc. You won’t ruin anything. There’s so much chaos in this story!

The (+) and (-) for the opening mingling are how the interaction should appear to go from your character’s perspective. You might have a different objective than your co-character, so let the interaction play out.

If you don’t get to all the interactions, that is fine, but certainly try to space it out as well. It’s also more about guests seeing these interactions, so don’t go off into a corner to talk to another character. There should be plenty for you to do before dinner, and enough diversity to keep you from standing there. At the very least, introduce yourself, and ask guests questions!

Have fun, have fun, have fun! It helps to imagine it like you’re in a really good Saturday morning cartoon series. It’s only a couple hours, most people will never get to be in something so cool and fun. Embrace your character, support your fellow improvisers, and have fun!

# SCHEDULE

## **6-630**

Guests arrive and mingle, character mingle, get seats.

## **630-7**

Dinner starts, characters sit together and eat as well.

## **7-7:15**

Eating ends. Announcement of murder, detective dismisses characters, explains interview to guests.

## **7:15-8:15**

Audience interview characters.

## **8:15-8:30**

Guest return, detective debriefs, reveal and arrest!

## **8:30-9**

Hurray, characters bows, final drinks, and exit.