

A LOCKED ROOM MURDER

PHASE STEPS

BEGIN INVESTIGATION

TIE IT ALL TOGETHER

ADD CRIME SCENE CLUES

IDENTIFY THE VICTIM

- As a group, tie everything together to describe the impossible situation the victim is found in.
- Compare the playset's crime scene clue table to the number of cards of each rank in the tableau
- The character currently visited by the killer is the victim
- The character the killer would move to finds them

THE LEAD-UP

TURN STEPS

DECK

ADD CARD TO TABLEAU

- Full House: flip this card
- Otherwise, move the killer

DESCRIBE CHAPTER

- Involve the character visited by the killer
- Keep it brief

CREATE CLUE

- Physical evidence, a conversation, the weather, a motive

ADD CLUE TO JOURNAL

- Add the info to an empty clue card adjacent to a relevant suspect

A

2

3

4

5

NOI L A M M N S

RESOLVE THE FINAL CHAPTER

- Work like a writer's room to tie together all of the clues & answers and reveal all secrets

SET THE SCENE

- How does the detective reveal the truth?

DETERMINE CULPRIT

- The suspect currently visited by the killer is the culprit

THE INVESTIGATION

DECK

TURN STEPS

ADD CARD TO TABLEAU

- Full House: flip this board now
- Otherwise, move the killer

ADD PERIL

- If nowhere to add peril, resolve plot

MOVE SLEUTH

- Sleuth moves through a number of questions equal to the rank of the card drawn

ANSWER A QUESTION

- Write a chapter connecting clue and suspect adjacent to the sleuth
- Add new answer to clue

A

2

3

4

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MURDER ON A TRAIN

WRITTEN BY ADAM BELL

CRIME SCENE CLUES

THE PITCH:

All of our suspects are passengers on the same continental railway. Decide together before you begin where they're headed and what year it is. Once all the suspects are defined, draw a quick layout of the train and get a shared understanding of what cabins exist and where the suspects' personal quarters are in relation to each other.

How does the detective arrive?

When does the detective arrive?

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Hired by the victim ahead of time | | |
| 2 | Personally connected to a suspect | ♠ | Before the first chapter |
| 3 | Just riding the train | ♣ | |
| 4 | | ♥ | Right after the murder |
| 5 | | ♦ | |

How will our victim die?



Gun

Knife

	0 Cards	1 Card	2 Cards	3 Cards	4 Cards
A	The train is broken down, some unexpected mechanical failure	The train is stopped at a station	The train is stopped due to weather	The train is stopped due to an obstruction on the track	The train continues full speed ahead, even skipping stations
2	Something unsettling about the victim's luggage	An incredibly dark secret about the victim is exposed by the murder	The victim's watch, broken at a particular time	The victim's most recent meal, untouched	Evidence that there may have been multiple murderers
3	A letter from the victim begging for help, unsent	The victim's gun, unused	A threatening letter left in a conspicuously obvious place	A threatening letter, burned but for a few words	The victim tried to hire a fellow passenger for protection
4	A general disdain for the victim is felt by all passengers	Personal effects that can be tracked down to particular passengers, found by the victim's body	The victim was heard alive at a particular hour	The victim was seen alive at a particular hour	Nobody remembers seeing or hearing the victim at all before the crime
5	A commotion was heard in a different part of the train entirely around the presumed time of death	A mysterious figure was seen around the victim's compartment around the presumed time of death.	A person was seen or heard entering the neighboring compartment around the presumed time of death.	A person was seen or heard entering the neighboring compartment around the presumed time of death.	Nobody heard anything of interest around the presumed time of death

MURDER ON A TRAIN

	Description	Relationships	Trait	
♠	A	A Doctor	"Never Met"	Deathly afraid of trains
	2	An Administrator of the Train Company	"Just met"	Boarded with malicious intent
	3	A Train Conductor	One was close with the other's daughter	Has always wanted to participate in a murder mystery
	4	A Countess	One taught the other as a child	Smuggling something stolen
	5	A Count	Blissfully married	A fleeing political dissident

	Description	Relationships	Trait	
♣	A	A Princess's loyal servant	10+ years of devotion	Knows the other suspects' secrets
	2	An Army Colonel heading home	Both really believe in doing things the proper way	Got on the wrong train
	3	A Butler	Respect (unconditional).	Is a world-renowned criminal
	4	A Missionary	Lie to each other often	Conspiring with some of the other passengers
	5	A Widow	In love at the wrong time	Casing the joint for a train heist

MEET THE SUSPECTS

	Description	Relationships	Trait	
♥	A	A Governess between jobs	Helped raise their kid	Undercover private detective
	2	A Salesman of Something Niche	Hired for something	Following another passenger
	3	A Salesman of Something Common	Tried to hire for something	Nervous about an extremely minor crime
	4	A Nurse	In-laws	Cat in a suitcase
	5	A Princess	Friends in a past life	Wearing a full disguise

	Description	Relationships	Trait	
♦	A	A Wealthy Man With An Evil Vibe	Bad blood	Playing hooky
	2	A Wealthy Man's Secretary	Traveled together for over a year	A reporter hunting the scoop of a lifetime
	3	A Wealthy Man's Valet	Unlikely bedfellows	Serial blackmailer
	4	A Loud Woman	Talks the others ear off	Being blackmailed
	5	A Person, No Longer Present, Who Was Murdered in the Past	Murdered someone they love	Got Away With Murder Once

CLUE

CLUE

CLUE

CLUE

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SUSPECT

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CLUE

The Victim

The Murder

The Detective

Answers

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10.

11.

12.

The Culprit