

# Murder Most Green

Discover who did away with Patrick Flaherty before he could celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Preview



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## How to Organize "Murder Most Green"

Thanks for purchasing a special holiday murder mystery. You and your guests will enjoy the challenge of solving a crime that will test everyone's powers of deduction. Here is what you should do to coordinate your murder mystery evening:

### **STEP 1: Review the materials in this mystery packet.**

But ... please do it in a very specific way. Remember - you have ALL of the information, *including the solution to the mystery*. If you decide to participate in the mystery as a role player or an investigator, you'll want to keep yourself in the dark about WHO DONE IT.

All page numbers in this packet are in the upper left-hand corner of the pages as you look at them vertically. That way you can run off the material without having the page numbers interfere with the format.

The entire packet includes:

- **Instructions on how to organize the event.** They're on pages 2 through 5. (You're reading them right now)
- **Undercover Detective Instructions.** Information for the individual who will "facilitate" the event is on page 6
- **Role Player Information.** These pages serve as a "cover letter" for the information you'll send to the *seven individuals* who will be in character as the suspects. Run off seven copies of pages 7 and 8 back to back. You may want to use better quality stationery for this letter.
- **The Roles.** Pages 9 through 22 contain the information you'll send with the cover letters. Each role is designed as a two-sided three-fold document. Again, run off this information back to back. *Each role player gets only the information that applies to the role that he or she is playing. Your role players should know ONLY what's in their individual packets.*
- **The Invitation to the Reception.** The invitation on page 23 will be sent to each guest. It is designed to be run off as a two-fold. Or, if you decide to use heavier stock, the left side of the page can be run off back-to-back with the right side of the page.
- **Sleuthing Letter.** This letter on page 24 will be given to each guest by the undercover detective upon arrival. Run off enough copies so that each person receives one.
- **Clues about the Crime.** You'll find 16 clues about the mystery on pages 25 and 26. Cut them out. They will be used during the investigation.
- **The Map of Flaherty's True Green Plant Nursery.** Run off a copy of the map on page 27 for each investigative team.
- **The Answer Sheet.** Run off one answer sheet on page 28 for each investigative team.
- **The Denouement. *This is the solution to the crime. Run off pages 29 through 33 and put them in an envelope that is kept sealed until the crime is solved.***
- **The Last Will and Testament of Patrick Fergus Flaherty.** Run off one copy of the will on page 34 for each investigative team.
- **The Coroner's Report.** Run off one copy of the report on page 35 for each investigative team.

**STEP 2: Plan your party.** Pick a date on which to conduct the murder mystery event. *Murder Most Green* is designed to be an evening's entertainment. Remember: our mysteries are for serious sleuths. It will take two to two-and-a-half hours to solve the case using the recommended format. Because of this, a buffet meal is recommended for the mystery evening. If you have a sit-down meal, add the amount of time the meal will take to your planning time.

**STEP 3: Select seven people to play the suspects.** Review the scenario and the brief descriptions of the suspects on page 8. Select guests who would fit into these roles. Send the role players their information approximately 10 to 12 days before the mystery event. The role players should bring the information with them and use it as a reference when they are questioned by the investigators.

**STEP 4: Invite your guests.** Approximately three to four weeks in advance of the event, send invitations to the "reception" to the guests who will not be role players .

**STEP 5: Select an Undercover Detective.** You or one of your guests will serve as the undercover detective for the evening. He or she should read the *Undercover Detective Instructions* on page 6. The detective must review the information in the packet and keep the event moving so that the investigation is conducted effectively. Your detective should be a little theatrical and have a tongue-in-cheek attitude about the event.

Here's what to do on the night of the party.

**STEP 6: The person portraying Seamus Flaherty greets the guests.** Since Seamus is "hosting" the wake, he greets people as they arrive. As they leave Seamus, the detective gives each guest who is investigating the crime a *Sleuthing Letter with a Clue attached*. (You may want to put them in envelopes marked "Confidential.") Role players DO NOT receive letters. Tell the guests they can share clues with the other investigators at any time during the evening. They cannot question the suspects until the wake is over.

**STEP 7: Conduct the wake for Patrick Flaherty.** The role player portraying Seamus Flaherty asks everyone to sit down as family and friends remember the life of Patrick Flaherty. Seamus then asks the suspects to speak in the order indicated in his instructions. When the wake is over, Seamus thanks everyone for attending and proposes a toast to his father.

At that point, the detective loudly states "*No one may leave. We believe Patrick Flaherty was murdered and we won't leave here until we figure out who did it.*"

**STEP 8: The Undercover Detective takes charge of the investigation.**

- The detective briefly reviews the scenario, including such facts as:
  - Patrick Flaherty's body was found in the pond at the nursery this morning. Police received an anonymous phone call reporting the death about 5:30am and believe that he was murdered. The call is currently being traced.
  - *Only one person committed the murder* (Emphasize this!)
  - MOTIVE, MEANS and OPPORTUNITY must be considered to solve the case

- Distribute copies of the nursery map and review the layout of the buildings.

*The rest of the STEPS are coordinated by the Detective.*

**STEP 9: Form investigative teams.** Have the guests who are investigating the murder form investigative teams. Each team should have three to five people. The team members will work together to solve the case. (To add another dynamic, tell spouses or significant others that they cannot be on the same team.)

**STEP 10: Break for dinner or refreshments.** The teams may trade clues to obtain as much information as possible while they are eating, but they cannot question the suspects *yet*. If you choose to do so, you may save some of the clues for distribution during dinner. The detective can elect to award clues to the guests at his or her discretion until all 16 clues have been used.

**STEP 11: Continue the investigation.** At the end of the meal, have the investigative teams find a room, corner of a room, or private spot to use as an interrogation room. The suspects will rotate to the interrogation rooms.

**STEP 12: Coordinate the questioning.** Have the suspects rotate to a different interrogation room at six-minute intervals. If you have fewer than seven teams, work out a rotation that gives the suspects breaks between some of the rounds of questioning. The investigators may ask the suspects ANYTHING. The suspects should use the information provided in the *Role Player Information* to answer the questions. Suspects should *not* withhold any bits of information, but they should not offer information unless the investigators specifically ask for it. Good investigators must ask the right questions to get the correct information.

**STEP 13: Read the will.** After the 2nd round of questioning, loudly announce that you have obtained a copy of *Patrick Flaherty's will*. It was stored at the Blarney State Bank. Assemble the teams and read the will, then give a copy to each team. (The role players should react as each provision of the will is read.)

**STEP 14: Read the Coroner's Report.** After the 6th round of questioning, announce that a report has arrived from the City of Blarney coroner. Read the report and give a copy to each team. (Again, the role players should react as the report is read.)

Then, report that the police have traced the phone call made to report Patrick Flaherty's death. *It came from the cell phone of Megan Sheffield.* Conduct the 7th round of questioning.

**STEP 15: Conduct open questioning.** Place the suspects in different corners of the house or facility. For a 5-minute period, investigators from any team may go to the suspects and ask final questions. *WARNING: Some investigators will try to pull the suspects back to their teams. Don't permit this.* Several different teams *may* question a suspect at the same time.

**STEP 16: Distribute answer sheets.** Give teams 10 to 12 minutes to write out their solutions by answering the questions on the *answer sheet*.

**STEP 17: Teams give their solutions.** Gather the investigative teams to a central location. One

at a time, the detective read the questions to each team and each team reads the answers exactly as they were written on the answer sheet. *NOTE: Often, a team will want to change its mind after hearing the answers from another team. Don't let this happen.*

**STEP 18: Read the Denouement.** Open the envelope in which you've placed *The Denouement*. The detective reads it aloud to the guests. This will take 6 to 8 minutes. All loose ends of the crime will be resolved.

**STEP 19: Award prizes.** You may want to award prizes to the investigative team that did the best job of solving the crime. Let your creativity run wild in selecting the prizes.

### Special role player information ...

*(The detective may want to review these with the suspects prior to the start of the mystery.)*

- Because this mystery is crafted with intertwining facts, the role players are provided with an abundance of information that may or may not be used during the investigation. Since the suspects will undergo interrogation by the investigative teams, the extensive number of personal facts will enable them to answer most questions that are asked.
- Role players **MUST** read their speeches at the wake exactly as they are written. **THIS IS IMPORTANT.** It enables the investigation to begin with the correct preliminary data.
- If role players are asked questions not specifically addressed in this information, the role players should answer in character based upon the other facts available to them.
- The only relationships that the suspects know about are those written into the roles. If asked by investigators about relationships that are not mentioned in the roles, the suspects should say, "No, we're not related."
- All of the suspects are telling the truth with the exception of the murderer whose recollections and responses will contain lies – this is intentional and part of the murder investigation.
- Since a good investigator must ask good questions, suspects must only offer information that is asked for by the investigators. They should **NOT** offer information that has not been directly requested.
- The murderer **DOES NOT** know he or she committed the crime. This means the suspects don't have to be good liars. The solution is contained in *The Denouement*.

*The best of sleuthin' to you!*

## Instructions for the Undercover Detective

(The detective can be either a man or a woman.)

You, as the undercover detective, will act as facilitator for the evening. Since you are not a suspect (and did NOT commit the crime), you may select your own name. Popular names include: *Jack Thursday*, *Miss Marbles*, *Palumbo*, *Agatha Misty*, and *Sherlock Gnomes*. You may get creative in your costume and your persona, so long as you do the following.

1. Review all of the information in this packet so that you are familiar with the mystery. **REMEMBER: If you are attempting to solve the crime, do NOT read the “Denouement” in advance. It contains the solution to the case.**

2. Attend the “party-turned-wake” in the guise of a private security guard. As the invited guests arrive, hand them a copy of the letter on page 24. *Make sure you personally sign each letter using the name you have selected.* Attach one of the 16 clues on pages 25 and 26 to the letter.

NOTE: The 16 clues mean that a party of 24 people can easily be coordinated. (The total of 7 suspects, 16 investigators and 1 detective.) The number can easily be increased to as many as 40 people simply by doubling up on the clues. Each clue will then be given to two different guests.

3. The suspects have been told to arrive 15 minutes early. When they do, take them aside and review the *Special role player information* on page 5. Answer any questions they may have. Even though you are “facilitating” this event, the person playing Seamus Flaherty will be hosting the wake. It will be up to Seamus to get people seated so that the role players can each say a few words about Patrick Flaherty.

4. Keep the event moving by following the instructions on pages 2 through 5. Make sure the will, the coroner’s letter and the information about the phone call are given at the right time.

5. After you read the denouement, lead the guilty party away to jail. If you want to, you can use toy handcuffs to make the arrest. If you want to stage the arrest in this way, let the suspects know you will do this.

6. Take a bow for a job well done!

You awoke at **6:30am**, dressed and prepared breakfast. You served it at **7:30am**. **Patrick, Seamus, Molly** and **Sean** were all present.

**Patrick** began to go upstairs to take his heart medicine. You reminded him that he was confused and didn't need the medication today. He said "Well, I probably won't drink much tonight anyway."

At **10am**, **Megan Sheffield's** car pulled into the parking lot. She talked with you while the sprinklers were running in the main greenhouse. When they were turned off, she went inside, selected a pot of shamrocks, then returned to you and paid for them. This was about **11:15am**. You invited her to the anniversary party at the Blarney Inn. She accepted.

You served lunch to the family at **noon**. **Rory** joined the family for the meal. **Seamus** lingered with you in the kitchen after the meal. He needed someone to talk to. He was becoming more and more depressed about **Rory's** presence at the nursery. He asked you if you'd heard rumors that Patrick was drafting a new will. You knew nothing about it.

You and **Patrick** were the first to arrive last night. You had booked a suite for the evening as a special treat and would stay the night. You checked in at **6pm**. **You didn't bring the heart medicine**.

**Rory** arrived at **7:30pm**. **Seamus** and **Molly** arrived together at **7:45pm**. **Sean** wandered in about **7:50pm**. **Megan** arrived at **8pm**. Finally, **Kathleen** arrived at **8:20pm**. Dinner was at **8:30pm**.

**Seamus** confronted **Patrick** about **Rory** during the meal. He was still angry about the situation.

At **10:30pm**, **Molly** pulled you into the lobby. She showed you an engagement ring that she was carrying inside her clothes. She said it was from a lost love and she began to cry.

You saw **Kathleen** leave at **11pm**. **Megan** left about 15 minutes later. **Seamus** and **Molly** left at **midnight**.

You didn't see **Sean** leave. **Rory** lingered on until **1am**.

By **1:05am**, you were in the suite. **Patrick** looked flushed and nervous. He seemed a little out of breath. He told you he would go outside for some fresh air. You fell asleep shortly afterward.

The Inn's manager woke you at **6:30am** to tell you **Patrick's** body had been found in the pond at the nursery.

## Here's what you'll say when you're asked to speak!

Patrick, my dear love! I will miss you so much! The death of a spouse is a terrible thing. I know because I've been through this experience before.

Because of Patrick's heart condition, I thought that I might lose him unexpectedly, but I never dreamt that it would be such an unlikely demise. He was liked by everyone, so his death must have been a horrible accident. I don't know why he went back to the nursery last night.

Seamus has been a Rock of Gibraltar today, and I couldn't love him more if he were my own flesh and blood. I know that he'll carry on the family tradition of growing the finest plants in the Blarney area.

Patrick, you were a wonderful husband. What will I do now that you're gone?

# Murder Most Green

## Your Role: Fiona Reilly Flaherty

You, **Fiona Reilly**, are the second wife of **Patrick Flaherty**, having met him two years ago in a pub near Shannon Airport. You journeyed to the States for your wedding 18 months ago where you and Patrick exchanged your vows. You now live in the house that is located on the grounds of Patrick's business, *Flaherty's True Green Plant Nursery*.

This is the second marriage for both of you. You were widowed when your first husband, **Ryan Reilly**, died three years ago after 25 years of marriage. That union produced six children (five boys and one girl) who are now on their own and live in Ireland. Patrick's first wife, **Moirra**, was killed in a freak occurrence 35 years ago. She was struck by lightning during a thunderstorm and Patrick was left alone to raise his fraternal twins, **Seamus** and **Molly**.

Your marriage to a Flaherty is regarded by many as a complete surprise. For years, your first husband, Ryan, was a direct competitor with Patrick's cousin, Colum Flaherty, who is in the brewing industry. Ryan was the owner of *Reilly's Real Ale* in Limerick, whose number one market position was challenged by *Flaherty's Fine Old-Fashioned Ale*.

The Flaherty brewery used underhanded tactics and payoffs to increase its market share. The "beer wars" heated up and *Reilly's Real Ale* was the loser. As his business deteriorated, so did Ryan's health until a heart attack ended his life at the age of 46. You had held a grudge against the Flahertys for years - that is, until you met Patrick. Here's how you met.

Because of your contacts among the local publicans, you frequented establishments near Shannon Airport. It was interesting to meet the international clientele and you had no trouble hitting on the customers for free drinks. One fateful day, Patrick Flaherty walked into *The Gaggle of Geese*, an airport pub, and also into your heart.

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He had just landed on a flight from America and needed a little refreshment before beginning a tour of the "old sod" to visit relatives and do a little business. He bought you a drink and you began to talk. It wasn't until you asked for his surname, several hours later, that you realized he was a Flaherty. By that time, you were intrigued by Patrick, and were falling in love with him.

He asked you to spend time with him while he was in Ireland. You agreed and, as he traversed the island for two weeks, you joined him in remote places for romantic rendezvous. He told you that he must return to the States, but he wanted to maintain your relationship. He would call and write, he said, because he too was falling in love.

On the day of his departure, the two of you decided to say "goodbye" at the same place where you had met. You went to *The Gaggle* and had a bon voyage drink. You left while Patrick was still at the pub - you hate extended farewells.

For the next six months, the two of you maintained contact. Finally, you journeyed to the States and were married to Patrick. Your relatives are appalled that you are now wed to a Flaherty. Even your children have disowned you, but you are certain that this estrangement is only temporary.

At *Flaherty's True Green Plant Nursery*, you met **Seamus Flaherty** who gave you a rather cool

greeting. He never married, but has lived his entire life in his family's house. Seamus would inherit the nursery because **Molly**, his twin sister, left home many years before and had not been heard from since.

The nursery has been in the family for exactly 100 years on St. Patrick's Day. Patrick's grandfather, **Pader**, who immigrated to the United States from Ireland, founded the nursery. It was passed on to Patrick's father, **Fergus**, and finally - 10 years ago - to Patrick.

## Fiona Reilly Flaherty

You also met **Rory O'Casey**, the operations manager at the nursery. Rory, quite obviously, had very little experience with plants and was being trained by Seamus (to Seamus' chagrin). Rory is a native Irishman who had only arrived in Blarney four months before you. He looked vaguely familiar. Maybe you'd seen him in a pub somewhere.

Patrick gave permission for Rory to live in a small cottage which had been built many years before on a remote part of the grounds. Rory does pull his weight, though. Last year he designed and built the new shamrock planters which are positioned in the main greenhouse. Their durable construction incorporates a modern sprinkler and fertilization system.

The other person on the nursery's staff was **Kathleen Moriarty**. She was also Irish and had been at the nursery for four years. You could tell that she resented your presence. Later, you heard rumors in Blarney that she'd had an affair with Patrick and is still, so the story goes, in love with him. You, though, treat her well. What happened before you knew Patrick is all past. You are not the jealous type.

You've discovered that Patrick is not well. He takes a medication, *CardioneX*; three times a week for a heart condition. He isn't allowed to drink alcohol for 24 hours afterwards because of potential bad effects from mixing the two. The pills are kept in the medicine cabinet of your bathroom.

For the first six months of your marriage, you settled into a new life and a new country when, without warning, another Flaherty entered the picture. Last year, **Molly** returned home after a 17-year absence. She said nothing about her sojourn, but simply asked her father if she could stay. The house has many bedrooms, so

Patrick, of course said "yes." Although she does chores around the nursery, you can tell that her heart and her mind are somewhere else. What could have happened in her life that would make her act this way?

You also assist in the work at the nursery, in particular helping behind the counter as customers select the plants

## Fiona Reilly Flaherty

to buy and pay for them before leaving. It's because of this that you have come to know **Megan Sheffield**. She moved to the area nine months ago, living in a flat in Blarney.

She is quite obviously an aficionado of fresh-cut flowers and exotic plants. Because of this, she is in the nursery every week, selecting the flora that will decorate her flat. At times, she lingers at length in the greenhouses, closely examining every plant and planter.

Four weeks ago, another Flaherty showed up on the doorstep. It was Patrick's first cousin, **Sean Flaherty**, from County Cork. Patrick had told you about Sean. He is regarded as being a bit eccentric because he thinks he is a LEPRECHAUN - a tall one to be sure, but a leprechaun none the less. And, to your dismay, Sean is the brother of Colum Flaherty, the brewer who played a role in your first husband's death.

Sean gave no reason for the visit other than to say he must "complete a task." He would be staying until he accomplished it. Patrick reluctantly agreed (after all, he is a relative), and has allowed him to live in the bedroom located above the garage. You get along quite well with Sean. He's strange, but harmless - and he does help with some of the more menial chores around the nursery.

You suspect that Patrick and Rory's relationship goes beyond the nursery. Patrick has always been a supporter of the republican cause and Rory seems to share his feelings. Often, you see them talking, but they end their conversation when you get close. Could they be plotting something together?

You enjoy the nursery and are truly in love with Patrick. Yet, in the back of your mind you can't help but wonder how you ever found a life with the family of the man who had destroyed Ryan Reilly.

## Your recollections of yesterday

### Your Clue #1

Our sources in Colorado tell us that **Molly Flaherty** was once engaged to a man named Gunther Hauser who met with a tragic accident while mountain climbing. Though this happened many years ago, she still clings to his memory.

### Your Clue #2

Our contacts in Dublin tell us that **Rory O'Casey** is a known member of the Irish Freedom Army (the IFA). He is suspected of conducting clandestine operations for the organization in the United States.

### Your Clue #3

We've recently been informed that the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service is looking for **Kathleen Moriarty**. They believe she may be an illegal alien.

### Your Clue #4

While checking the background of **Megan Sheffield**, we've found that she has ties to MI5, the British Intelligence Service. She apparently has been on various assignments for the service over the past 25 years.

### Your Clue #5

Customers of *Flaherty's True Green Plant Nursery* insist that **Seamus Flaherty** has grown increasingly agitated by his father's decision to hire an outsider to run the business. Seamus feels he should be in charge because he will inherit the nursery.

### Your Clue #6

Our contacts in Ireland tell us that **Fiona Reilly Flaherty's** first husband, Ryan Reilly, was a brewer whose primary competition was a brewery owned and operated by a cousin of Patrick Flaherty. The Flaherty cousin used underhanded tactics and payoffs to win a "beer war."

### Your Clue #7

Several customers at *Flaherty's True Green Plant Nursery* have told you that they've heard **Sean Flaherty** talking to some "invisible" associates. He sounded as if he was responding to some sort of orders to "find something."

### Your Clue #8

Our experts on greenhouse design tell us that the new shamrock planters in *Flaherty's True Green Plant Nursery* main greenhouse are constructed much sturdier than necessary to serve their intended purpose.

