



The Haunted Halloween Heist

AN EASY-TO-RUN MYSTERY AND SCAVENGER HUNT FOR 5-100 PLAYERS

The Shufflemore Woods are the haunted home of numerous monsters, ghouls, goblins and other things that go bump in the night. Every Halloween, the dark denizens of the forest gather at Gloomstone Glade in the center of the Woods to hold a fantastic Halloween festival, complete with song, dance, eerie decorations and – best of all – a great piñata, filled with candy!

But this year, something has gone terribly wrong; last night, while most everyone was planning the party, Gloomstone Glade was vandalized! The gravestones were dragged away, the pumpkins disappeared, the Gloomstone Guardians went missing, the bats and spiders have fled and, worst of all, the candy-filled piñata is gone! All that remains are some scattered pieces of candy!

It will take all the monsters, ghouls, and goblins in the forest to find out what happened last night and save the party!





The Haunted Halloween Heist

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I INTRODUCTORY MATERIALS

Section I of this instruction manual contains all of the introductory materials necessary for planning and preparing your party. In this section you will find a basic overview of the plot; a description of each of the characters; tips on preparing your playing area, choosing a menu, and organizing your printouts; and detailed instructions on how to go about inviting players and assigning characters.

Please note: The majority of the contents of this book are intended for the eyes of the Host/Hostess only! The success of your party hinges on a strong element of intrigue and mystery, so be certain not to share this book with the other players. The material that should be provided to your guests is clearly described in this book. Under no circumstances should you allow any of your players access to this book!





WELCOME

Thank you for choosing *The Haunted Halloween Heist*, another fine product by PWM Press. This package contains everything you need to host a spectacular mystery party and scavenger hunt that your guests will remember for many years to come.

Included are materials for hosting a party for anywhere from six to 100 guests! Note that the game is played the same way no matter how many guests you have. As long as you have people to play the five required characters, additional players just add to the fun!

Mystery parties are essentially a combination of improvisational acting, storytelling, and creative problem solving. Your guests will each assume the role of a particular character and will play the part of that character throughout the course of the game. At some point during the party, an Event will occur that will force the players to come together in order to solve a problem or unravel a mystery.

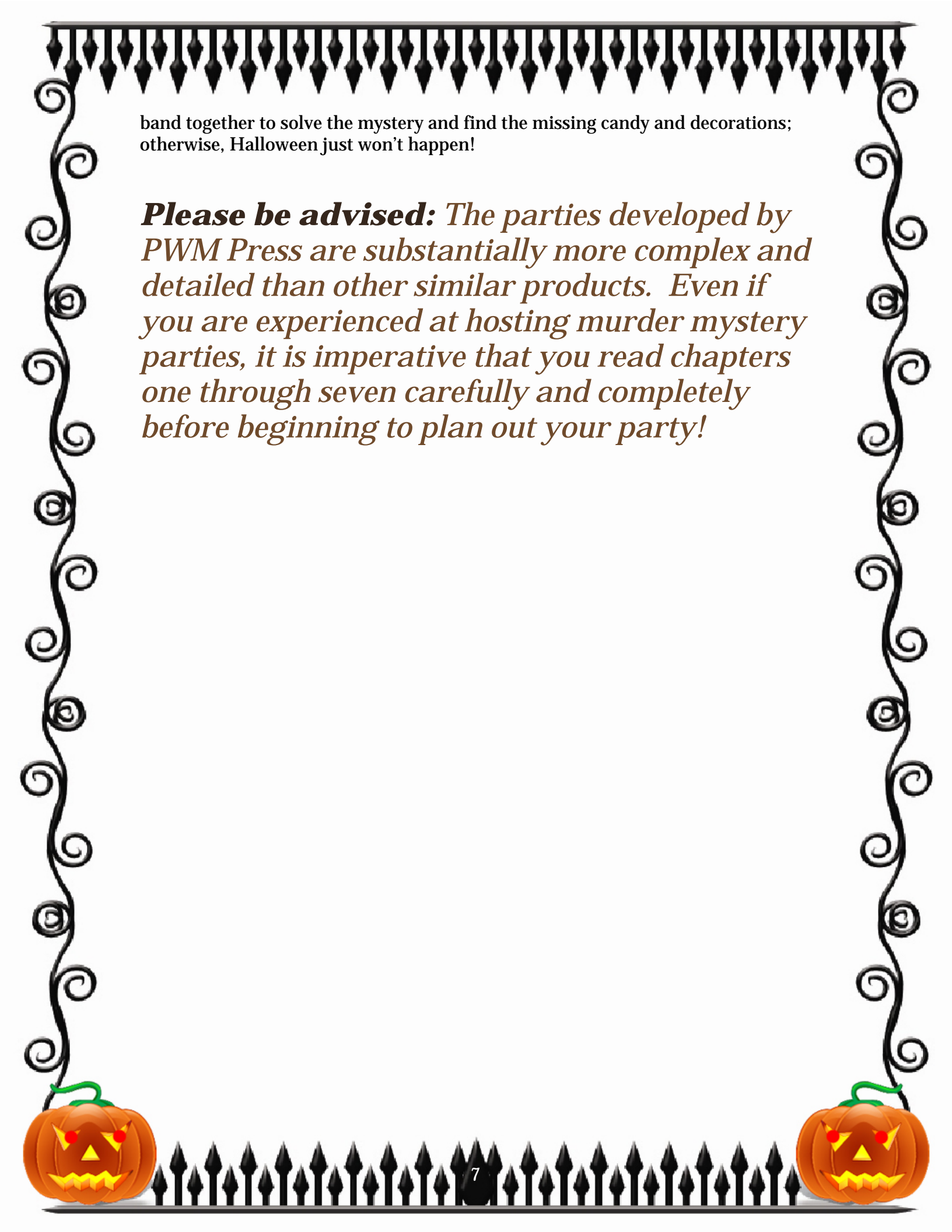
The guests will need to use the information that their characters know (as well as additional clues that are provided during the game) to solve the mystery or overcome the problem posed by the Event. The party may also have certain additional subgames built into the framework; for example, many mystery parties will have some form of scavenger hunt built into the story.

Once the mystery has been solved or the problem has been overcome, the party draws to a close. Guests are provided with an opportunity to vote for who they think committed the crime and are then given certificates and awards for their participation in the game.

Throughout the course of the party, the Host/Hostess is responsible for ensuring that the event continues to run smoothly. He or she sets the scene, provides dinner and drinks, and moves the plot along at key points by reading scripted descriptions of what is happening. Frequently the Host/Hostess will also play the part of one of the characters.

This particular mystery party, *The Haunted Halloween Heist*, is a Halloween-themed mystery and scavenger hunt wherein each party guest will be playing the role of one of the frightening denizens of Shufflemore Woods, home to any number of monsters, ghouls, goblins and things that go bump in the night.

The monsters of Shufflemore Woods are planning their huge Halloween shindig, but something has gone terribly wrong! The site of the party, Gloomstone Glade, has been vandalized, monsters are missing, and the centerpiece of the party – the great, candy-filled piñata – is gone! Now the ghouls, monsters and goblins must



band together to solve the mystery and find the missing candy and decorations; otherwise, Halloween just won't happen!

Please be advised: *The parties developed by PWM Press are substantially more complex and detailed than other similar products. Even if you are experienced at hosting murder mystery parties, it is imperative that you read chapters one through seven carefully and completely before beginning to plan out your party!*



WHAT IS MY ROLE?

As the Host or Hostess, your role in the party is that of a facilitator or storyteller. It is your job to plan the event, prepare the playing area, and, once the game begins, move the story along and make certain that everyone is on task and enjoying themselves.

In many mystery parties the Host or Hostess takes on the role of one of the guests and is given the option to not learn the identity of the culprit before the game, thereby allowing him or her to participate in the party in the same way as the other players. However, because *The Haunted Halloween Heist* is a more complex party, it is necessary for the Host or Hostess to have a clear understanding of all key plot points in order to ensure that the game runs smoothly. This means that you will be aware of the culprit's identity in advance. You will be playing the role of Earl or Erlene King, the Goblin Sheriff of Shufflemore, and your job will be to direct the other players as they collect clues and information.



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RUNNING THE PARTY

This portion of the instruction manual will walk you through all of the steps you need to follow once your guests arrive. Read over this section carefully as it contains information vital to the success of the event.

Before starting the party, make sure that the following have been completed:

- Hide the scavenger hunt clue tokens.
- Make sure all printed materials are prepared in their folders.
- Start any background audio that you want to use.

Once you have taken care of those things, you are ready for the party to begin!

I) GUEST ARRIVAL

As guests arrive, you've got a good chance to speak with them one-on-one and help orient them to the party; this may be their first murder mystery game! It's up to you if you'd like to ask them to get into character before the game officially starts. Either way, it's time to give them their starting materials.

Starts: When first guest arrives.

During this stage of the event:

- Make certain that everyone has a visible nametag.
- Make certain that everyone has a copy of their character sheet. Tell guests playing required characters to keep their character info secret.
- Allow them to mingle until everyone else has arrived.

II) INTRODUCTION TO THE GUESTS

Once everyone has arrived, it will be time to explain to them how the party will proceed.

Starts: When all guests have arrived.



During this stage of the event:

- Gather guests in the main room and read aloud the "Welcome to the Party" text (below) to explain basic framework of the event.

WELCOME TO THE PARTY

Welcome, everyone, and thank you for attending *The Haunted Halloween Heist*. As all of you know, this is a mystery party. During the party, each of you will be playing the role of a goblin, ghoul or monster from the haunted Shufflemoore Woods. You should each have a character sheet that details what your character knows and how you should act in specific situations. Aside from these instructions, there is no particular script that you need to follow; simply do your best to act as you believe your character would act.

During the course of the evening, I will be playing the part of Earl [or Erline] King, the Goblin Sheriff of Shufflemoore Woods. I will also be narrating the story and explaining what is happening as the night unfolds.

Let me describe the scene for you. *The Haunted Halloween Heist* takes place in the haunted forest of Shufflemoore Woods, where all the various monsters that reside there, played by you fine people, are planning their annual Halloween shindig. The Halloween party will be held in the center of Shufflemoore Woods, at Gloomstone Glade, and will feature frightening decorations, delicious candy and, of course, the giant Halloween piñata. Earl [or Erline] King, played by yours truly, has called all of you together at his/her shack in the woods and has told you that he/she has a dreadful announcement to make.

Before we begin, we'll give each of you a couple of minutes to read over your character sheet and handout and make sure you understand everything. Remember not to show your character sheet to anyone else and to be careful what information you end up sharing with other players. Some of you have secret information listed on your sheet that your character wouldn't want disclosed to just anyone. Please take a minute to read over these sheets now.

[Once everyone has had a chance to read over their sheets, give them an opportunity to ask questions about how the game will work.]

Once all of their questions have been answered:

- 1) **If you plan to serve dinner as part of the event, continue with this script.**
- 2) **If you aren't serving dinner, skip to Part III (The Stage Is Set) below.]**

You are now free to mingle with each other. We are currently in the dining room at Earl [or Erline] King's shack in the woods. Dinner will be served promptly at [time], after which I will announce the reason I called you all here.





EARL KING
GOBLIN
SHERIFF



ERLINE KING
GOBLIN
SHERIFF



CAMERON
VADUVA
VAMPIRE



BOBBY LUPESCU
WEREWOLF



LEE WALKER
ZOMBIE



SCARECROW
JACK/JACKIE
GLOOMSTONE
GUARDIAN



SCARECROW
SAM/SAMANTHA
GLOOMSTONE
GUARDIAN



MY NAME IS:

AND I AM A

- GOBLIN**
- GHOUL**
- MONSTER**



MY NAME IS:

AND I AM A

- GOBLIN
- GHOUL
- MONSTER



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MY NAME IS:

AND I AM A

- GOBLIN
- GHOUL
- MONSTER

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

The Haunted Halloween Heist

A HALLOWEEN MYSTERY PARTY

DATE _____

TIME _____

LOCATION _____

DETAILS ENCLOSED

PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN






WHAT IS A MYSTERY PARTY?

YOU ARE A MONSTER haunting the forest known as Shufflemoore Woods. You and your fellow monsters have been planning a huge Halloween party, but it looks like something has gone wrong...

THE HAUNTED HALLOWEEN HEIST is a mystery party and scavenger hunt wherein the guests will take on the roles of the ghouls, goblins and assorted monsters that lurk in Shufflemoore Woods. The Goblin Sheriff has called you all together because someone (or something) has spoiled the upcoming Halloween party, and your help is needed to solve the mystery!

INCLUDED WITH THIS INVITATION are an RSVP card and a brief description of the characters. Please return the RSVP card as soon as possible!



THE GUEST LIST

- **Earl/Erline King:** The Goblin Sheriff of Shufflemore Woods, Earl/Erline is a cunning monster with an eye for detail and the ability to ferret out the facts. This role will be played by the Host or Hostess.
- **Bobby Lupescu:** A towering werewolf with a mean streak, Bobby is one of the suspects.
- **Lee Walker:** A gaunt, cadaverous zombie, Lee is another suspect.
- **Cameron Vaduva:** A bewitchingly attractive vampire, Cameron is a newcomer to Shufflemore Woods and is the third suspect.
- **Scarecrow Jack/Jackie:** One of the two guardians of Gloomstone Glade in the center of Shufflemore Woods, Jack/Jackie has gone missing and must be found!
- **Scarecrow Sam/Samantha:** The second of the Gloomstone Glade guardians, Sam/Samantha has also gone missing.
- Any number of **Goblins, Ghouls** or **Monsters:** These creatures come in all manner of shapes, sizes and dispositions, and make up the majority of the population of Shufflemore Woods.





SPIDER TOKEN

Congratulations! You've found a Spider! Hold onto it, as there will be a contest at the end of the party to see who collects the most decorations!



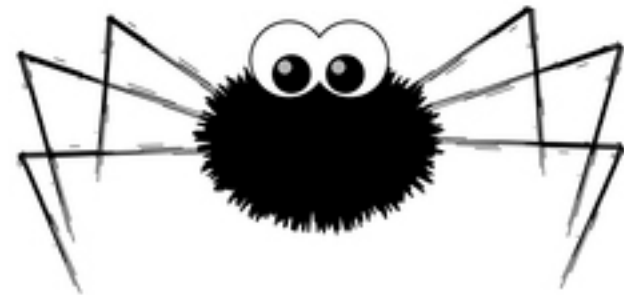
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OUTSTANDING HUNTER

FOR LOCATING THE GREATEST NUMBER OF SPIDERS, PUMPKINS,
BATS, GRAVESTONES AND CANDY DURING THE SCAVENGER HUNT,

IS HEREBY AWARDED THE OUTSTANDING HUNTER AWARD.

GREAT JOB, AND THANKS FOR PLAYING

THE HAUNTED HALLOWEEN HEIST!



The Haunted
Halloween
Heist



WHO DID IT?

VOTING SHEET

YOUR NAME:

NAME OF THE GUEST OR PLAYER WHOM YOU BELIEVE
WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRIME:

TOTAL NUMBER OF BATS, SPIDERS, PUMPKINS,
GRAVESTONES AND CANDY YOU COLLECTED:

