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THE SUSPECTS



Maria Stratford

Maria loves hosting parties, and especially loves the phone calls she receives the following day from her guests telling her what a fantastic time they had. She is a neat-freak with an unnatural attention to detail. Not surprisingly, she is a party planner by day, and after a decade in her vocation, she still loves her job. She is married to Victor Stratford, and they celebrate their 10th anniversary the day after Halloween.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 3



Goldie Mahoney

With brains, beauty and a fantastic personality, Goldie is a triple treat. She is tall, blond, has great cheek bones and is often mistaken for a model – which is far from her actual profession; Goldie is an astronaut. Her life is very high profile, and she is in demand for interviews from Scientific Weekly as well as Maxim.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 5





Gloria Reid

The wife of Jack Reid, Gloria is a housewife, and she spends her days running after four diabolical children and cleaning up toys, clothes and other random messes. The only time she finds refuge from her devilish children is on Wednesday afternoons, when her mother-in-law looks after the kids so Gloria can attend yoga class. Her favorite movie of all time is Fatal Attraction and she enjoys scrap booking in her spare time.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 5



Sarah Bamber

Sarah is a vivacious, bubbly exercise instructor whose energy never seems to cease. She gets a high off exercise, and loves all athletics. Sarah has been Maria's fitness instructor for four years, and is a bit fanatical about health and physical appearance.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 4





Linda Trail

Linda is a murder mystery writer and amateur sleuth. Most of the time though, her real life is more interesting than any fiction novel, as she has been in a number of situations where someone has turned up dead! With her astute eye and deep perception of others, she is a murderer's worst nightmare, and is often called upon by the police to help with the very murders that seem to occur wherever she goes.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 3



Jessica Stratford

Jessica is Victor Stratford's younger sister, and a total party girl. Despite the fact that she has technically been an adult for over a decade, she can't seem to move into adulthood. She spends every penny of her paycheck from working as a waitress on buying new clothes and shoes and drinks at the bar. She and her big brother Victor are very close, despite the fact they pretend to hate each other in public.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 4





Candi Costelle

The wife of Junior Costelle, Candi is soft-spoken and very cordial. Her husband's wealth allows her the finer things in life, and even in the summer months she is not seen without her fur coat and any number of large diamonds on her jewelery.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 3



Alanis Cardinal

Alanis has been a good friend of The Stratfords, as well as a number of others attending the party, for years. She loves shopping with her girlfriends, nights out with wine and a great pair of slingback heels. Alanis is always well-dressed and loves to have fun.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 4





Babs Russey

Babs is the Stratford's next door neighbour, and while she was not a shoe-in on the guest list, Maria and Victor felt obligated to invite her after last year's Halloween party, when she showed up uninvited under the premise that it's just poor manners to hold a party and not invite one's neighbours. Babs is older than her neighbours, and enjoys opera, cross stitch and painting.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 3



Victor Stratford

Husband of Maria Stratford, Victor is an entrepreneur who owns his own home-based accounting company. He has many clients, most of which are women, thanks to his devilish good looks. He wears suits and ties even when he's not meeting clients, and takes a great amount of pride in his appearance. Victor *always* smells incredible.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 5





Jack Reid

In any situation, Jack needs to be right. He is highly intelligent and usually is right, but on the rare occasion he is caught being wrong, he will never admit it. On a good day he is gruff and disagreeable, and on a bad day he's a down-right misery guts. Most times he crosses his arms and shrinks into himself. His wife is Gloria Reid.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 4



Logan Naracott

Logan is the most laid-back guy one could meet. He and Maria have been friends since college, and before Maria married Victor they hung out often. Logan is well-read, cares about the environment and enjoys making his friends laugh. Logan works as a photographer for a small free weekly newspaper.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 3





Samule Roxboro

Samule is a mystery on the guest list. Most people in this social circle tend to avoid Samule, who tries very hard to be dignified. Recently he changed his name from Samuel to Samule, and he corrects anyone who calls him "Samuel". He has short, spiky hair with yellow highlights, and wears pin-striped suits with runners – except tonight, when he dare not arrive without a costume. Previously he attended the Stratford Halloween Party without a costume and was not invited back for three years!

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 4



Russell O'Dell

Russell is a ski instructor, and loves the winter. He can't wait for the snow to fall so he can get out on the slopes. Russell is sarcastic, and likes meeting his friends for a pint at the corner bar. He's a very charismatic man, and people especially women, tend to gravitate toward him. On more than one occasion he has single-handedly revived a dying party. He has recently closed the doors on his business – a chain of local ski and snow wear shops.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 5





Billy Harvey

Billy is a shifty character to say the least. A failed con man, he was recently paroled from prison. While he insists he's been rehabilitated, most are leery about trusting him. He can't maintain eye contact and has a nervous habit of flipping change in his pocket, two things that don't help with his popularity. He is an old friend of Victor's, and was invited to the party to make new friends and start fresh.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 4



Junior Costelle

Junior is an infamous character around town. Not only is he gruff and intimidating, he's also a suspected member of the local mob. His association with his hosts is unknown, and he's attending tonight's party with his wife, Candi.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 5





Gregory Schmidt

Gregory is a mystery to the guests of the Stratford's Halloween party. In fact, no one is quite sure who he is or when he arrived! He is inquisitive and shifty-looking, but very well-spoken.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 3



Morgan Grimley

The Editor in Chief of the local paper, The Scribbler, Morgan is a man in a great position, enjoying invitations to the hottest parties, the coolest events and receiving freebies galore. Not only does Morgan run the newspaper, he also writes a weekly opinion column and personally takes care of the Sunday book reviews section. He and Maria are college friends, and he never misses her Halloween party.

CHARACTER COMPLEXITY RATING: 4

