

You are invited to come out to the Annual Hickleberry County Fair! Several of the county's most hilarious and notorious people are getting together for a memorable and suspenseful evening of home-cookin', good music, and a mystery to solve that is sure to knock your socks off! Memories will be made, but not all will be so sweet as Mrs. Witherspoon's prize-winning cherry pies. You see, the rumor is there's been a murder...

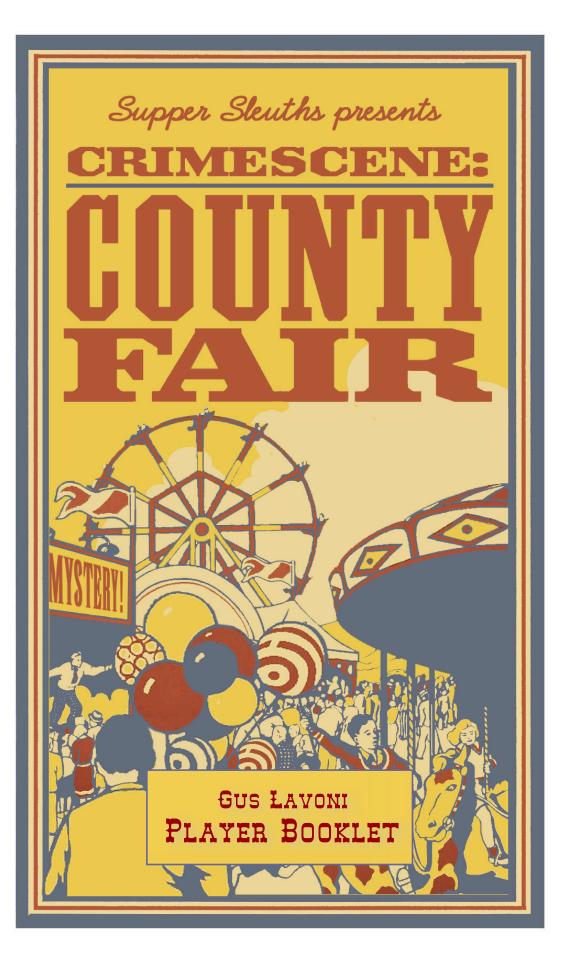
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R.S.V.P. to		

You will play the role of Gus Lavoni.

You are the janitor of the whole Hickleberry County Fairgrounds. You are a temperamental man, priding yourself on knowing the ins and especially outs (outhouses, that is!) of the county fair grounds. Act very angry about the trouble some folks are causing around these here parts. You are a man who means well, but often gets his facts mixed up, since after all, overhearing people in the restrooms isn't exactly the best way to get the facts straight. You have a special gossip relationship with Ida Witherspoon so make sure you try to meander over to share some of the latest news with her sometime in the evening. You are also best friends with the ranch hand Pat Barnhart.

Costume Suggestion: Wear something that looks crumpled, dirty, and worn out. Leave your hair unkempt and don't shave. You are a county fair janitor, and there are very few expectations of you puttin' on the ritz tonight. If you want some added mysterious effect and/or to look like you might be a true carnie, wear an eye patch. If you can't bear the dirty clothes look, a men's basic t-shirt tucked into a pair of jeans and a backwards baseball cap with some work boots will also do the job well. Your character has several temper tantrums, so if you want to bring a rag or something to wave around for effect, be our guest but be careful!

Be sure to visit <u>www.suppersleuths.com</u> to learn about the other characters who will attend, and for more helpful resources to prepare for the occasion!



OPTIONAL CHARACTER: GUS LAVONI PLAYER BOOKLET

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

This room is full of murder suspects – and you are one of them! You must try to figure out who the murderer is tonight, by both accusing your fellow players and also trying to convince everyone else that you are innocent.

This game has four rounds, each round revealing new pieces of information about each character. Do not turn the page in your player's booklet until the host tells you to do so.

On the top of each page is information you are to share with the whole group. You can either ad lib or read directly from the page, but make sure that before moving on to the next round, you share all information on the top of each page with the whole group.

On the bottom of the page, you will see hidden information about your character. Do not reveal this information until you think it is the appropriate time. You may not lie if someone asks you about this information, but you do not need to offer incriminating evidence about yourself without a direct question. However, if you find out that you are the murderer, DO NOT TELL! If asked about it, you should say, "I am not aware of that information at this time," or just lie if you have to. Likewise, if someone asks you a question you do not know the answer to, just say, "I am not aware of that information at this time." The murderer is the only one permitted to lie at any time in this game.

There are also 8 secret clues that different players will reveal throughout the night. Make sure you do not look at your clue until your player's booklet tells you to look at it and pass it around to the group. When that time comes, just detach it and pass it around. You may also use the next page to take notes throughout the evening.

At the start of the game, the killer is not aware of his or her identity – it could even be you! Be suspicious of everyone's motives, and remain in character throughout the evening. After dessert, you will be given a chance to make your accusation. You may accuse any player of being the killer, including yourself. However, you must give evidence from the clues, and again, DO NOT TELL if the booklet says you are the killer! Have fun!

LIST OF CHARACTERS

Chester Finkowski – An Elvis impersonator who absolutely obsesses over his belief that "the King" is still alive, well and returning soon. Mr. Presley here may be in disguise for a reason deeper than rock and roll!

Madame Mona Soothini - A gypsy who makes her fortune selling yours, Mme Soothini is sure to attend the fair every year, but she can't be found as the fairgrounds close. Why she rushes off and where she goes is not clear, even when viewed through her crystal.

Travis Buckland - This handsome stud rides like he's got nothing to lose. He seems like a good ol' boy, just lookin' for thrills, but can a guy this reckless be trusted? Is he just talking bull?

Tiffany Ann Canterway - This sophisticated, attractive and arrogant horsewoman is a 4H snob and owner of Canterway Stables, the largest equestrian site in the whole county. She has participated in fundraising for the fair for years, but when she doesn't get her way, how long will her short fuse...and funding last?

J.L. Mackabee – This trucker loves a good county fair and has been to this one for the past 14 years. J.L. may look like any wide-eyed country kin of yours, but when he's on the road and on the radio, he's mixin' with all kinds. Some say he used to be in jail.

Ida Witherspoon - As a farmer's wife and notorious town gossip, Ida is the reigning quilting and cherry-berry pie champ in the county. Mrs. Witherspoon seems to have no real competition for the blue ribbon this year...so why has she been such an "old bitty" lately?

William B. Lackhart – Local mayor, Lackhart, feels the pressure to please all and to have a good fair each year. But whether he also plays fair to get votes is still out at the polls.

Cindy Sue Sweetly – Last year's "Berry-Beauty" queen, this year Cindy reluctantly passed her crown onto another young girl. She wears that flashy smile wherever she goes but some say that she never smiles when she doesn't know who's there.

##UTES		

APPETIZERS

SHARE THIS INFORMATION AFTER ALL SUSPECTS HAVE SHARED.

Howdy folks. I'm a simple man with a simple name, Gus. But simple as I am, I am often underestimated. I am the eyes and the ears of these fairgrounds, being the groundskeeper for the place, and I am mighty suspicious of this crew, minus Ida over here. I am recovering from a back injury that I got when I was cleaning the bathrooms last night, and somebody knocked me out. I saw Roy headed that way before me. Just as I was about to reach the port-a-jon, someone took a slam at my back with a baseball bat or somethin'. I was out cold, and woke up to the grim sounds of the police station. I'm not one of the suspects, like all of you but the police want me here since I'm so closely involved. When I find out which one of you jerks hurt my leg and back, you're gonna pay. (Raise your voice). You are gonna pay!

HIDDEN INFORMATION: (Do not share until you feel it's necessary.)

You have no new information at this time. Feel free to question others and focus on the food!

GUS ŁAVONI



DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL YOUR HOST ALLOWS.

SOUP/SALAD

SHARE AFTER NEWSPAPER ARTICLE CLUE IS SHARED/READ:

Man, I got two quotes in that paper. And she was word for word, that was word for word! Unbelievable. And, that reporter really cared about my bad back, too. What a sweetheart. Yeah, but I don't know about Ms. Tiffany. She's never treated me good. Last I heard from Roy was that he'd sold Canterway.

HIDDEN INFORMATION: (Do not share until you feel it's necessary.)

If J.L. offers to arm-wrestle anyone, take him on. If you lose, blame it on your recent injuries.

GUS ŁAVONI



Do NOT turn the page until your host allows.

MAIN COURSE

SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE GROUP AFTER ALL SUSPECTS HAVE SHARED.

Wow! I just can't help sittin' here thinking about how the next manager here might not hire me, might have their own crew for the fair next year. This isn't right! I manage my money so frickin' well that I can live in my trailer for a whole dern winter with that money I make here. I've got this place swept and clean for 2 year solid before some folks could go and ruin it for me. This thievin', lyin', no good, murderin' crowd's getting me mad, and when Gussie's mad, his temper flares!!!!!!!! Gussie mad, Gussie very mad!! Shake your fists at the group menacingly, and show your teeth.

HIDDEN INFORMATION: (Do not share until you feel it's necessary.)

You keep going on and on about your leg and back like they are battle scars. In actuality, on your way to the restroom you tripped on a broom. You are too proud to 'fess up to this and "don't hardly believe it anyway." Plus, you like the attention from Ida, a woman you'd like to pin a ribbon on yourself.

GUS ŁAVONI



DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL YOUR HOST ALLOWS.

DESSERT

SHARE THIS INFORMATION AFTER ALL SUSPECTS HAVE SHARED.

Ida, I am so sorry you had to be part of watching me lose my temper tonight, you are a dem fine woman, a dem fine woman. I am much obliged to know you and if it weren't for your husband, I'd like to take you out for a piece of pie sometime, though it wouldn't be half so good as your own. (If Pat Barnhart is there: Pat, you'll always be my right hand woman and nothing more).

Ahem!...(let your voice crescendo as you speak) I need a word or two with the rest of you. I expect we're gonna be soon hearing who the murderer is soon, and I am just cracking my knuckles waiting on him or her, so I can let 'er rip! I am sick and tired of being treated like a nobody and a shadow just because I clean floors and toilets...well port-a-jons at any rate! I am angry at all of you because you don't flush and you don't wash hands and you litter. I am angry, I said, angry. And I am not going to take it anymore! I am not going to take it anymore!

HIDDEN INFORMATION: (Do not share until you feel it's necessary.)

You have no new information at this time. Feel free to guestion others and focus on the food!

GUS ŁAVONI



DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL YOUR HOST ALLOWS.

SOLVE THE MYSTERY

Take a few moments to think through the following questions, look over your notes, and decide for yourself who committed the murder. There are a lot of crooked guests here, but only one is the murderer!

