

Snow Business

Each winter, the Harrisons and the Perrys ski in the French Alps and always rent the Chalet Flaubert. They hire the whole chalet and bring both families and friends. The holidays are usually an opportunity to relax and unwind away from the pressures of normal life, but this year has been different. Jacqui and Mariella have been arguing, Lucy has sprained her wrist and tonight, real tragedy has struck.

It has snowed heavily all day and the chalet is now snowed in. Nobody can now leave the chalet until the snow plough clears a way through, which won't be until tomorrow at the earliest. Just before the chalet was totally snowed in, two skiers became stranded and took shelter at Chalet Flaubert. So as night draws in, the snow continues to fall and the chalet is cut off from the rest of the world...

The full list of everyone staying at Chalet Flaubert tonight is as follows:

The Harrisons

- **Harold Harrison:** Harold is an accountant and also does the accounts for Bank Farm Stables.
- **Mariella Harrison:** Mariella is an expert horsewoman and jointly runs the Bank Farm Stables riding school with her sister Jacqueline. Mariella and Harold are married and have one daughter, Lucy.
- **Lucy Harrison:** Lucy is 18 and is taking a year out before going to university in September. She has sprained her wrist skiing.

The Perrys

- **Daniel Perry:** Daniel is a celebrated musician and is married to Jacqueline.
- **Jacqueline Perry:** Jacqueline is Mariella's younger sister and business partner at Bank Farm Stables. She is also an expert horsewoman.
- **Jonathon Perry:** Jonathon is Daniel and Jacqueline's son and is currently in his first year at university studying medicine.
- **Travis Perry:** Travis is Daniel's brother and a city lawyer.

Friends, Family and Strangers

- **Amy Morgan:** Amy is Harold's sister. She is a librarian and author of several children's books.
- **John Morgan:** John is Amy's husband and a software designer.
- **Alex Harvey:** Alex is Jacqui and Mariella's cousin, and Mariella's best friend. Alex is an ex-show jumper who now does radio commentary for horse events.
- **Robin Fay:** Robin is a family friend of the Perry's. Robin is a pianist, composer and conductor.
- **Jo Robertson and Max Parker:** Jo and Max are two skiers stranded at the chalet.
- **Chris Harper:** Chris is the chalet host.

Tonight, however, tragedy has struck. A few minutes ago, John Morgan was found dead at the foot of the attic steps, his neck broken at an unfortunate angle. Nobody can leave the chalet; and there is no phone or radio in here...

Did John fall or was he pushed? Is there a murderer in Chalet Flaubert?

Find out in Snow Business!

Welcome to *Snow Business*

Thank you for taking the time to download this document. Most of the information you need to hold *Snow Business* is contained within another set of files, for which you will have to pay. Before you do that, please check that your software is compatible by printing this section out.

What is included when you buy *Snow Business*?

- Character sheets for each guest, including background, goals and objectives, special abilities, items and money.
- A rule sheet for your guests.
- A step-by-step guide on how to run the game.
- Handouts and other essential items.

How does *Snow Business* work?

Snow Business has been written for 10 to 12 guests – plus the host or co-ordinator. The step-by-step guide explains which characters to omit should you have fewer than 12 guests (you do need at least 10, however). Here's how that works:

| Number of guests | Male characters | Female characters | Characters that can be played by either sex |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

Snow Business runs over the course of three or four hours and is particularly suited to a buffet meal. One person is the Host, and acts as organiser and co-ordinator, responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly and that all the guests have the information they need. They also act as referee should an impartial decision be required.

The guests are all present at a family skiing holiday. They all have their own goals and agendas, and how they choose to achieve those goals is entirely up to them. *Snow Business* is an evening of double-dealing, intrigue, secrets and even murder!

Who has taken part in *Snow Business* before?

Snow Business has been run on numerous occasions, usually by people with no previous knowledge of murder mystery parties or events. It contains everything you need to run the game, but please don't think that you can download the game and let it run itself. The host will obviously have to put some work in to make it a real success.

An Introduction to *Snow Business*

Forget who, when and where you are – and join us for a family skiing holiday in the Alps!

In *Snow Business* you and the other guests will take on the roles of the Harrison and Perry families and their friends. You might be a famous musician, an expert horsewoman or a city lawyer. You will be provided with background details for your character explaining who they are and why they are at the party. You will also be given information on other players and goals for you to achieve.

How do I play?

Playing *Snow Business* is a little like starring in your own movie – although how your movie ends depends on you and the other guests. There is no predetermined script – how you decide to tackle your goals is entirely up to you.

The most important skill in *Snow Business* is the ability to hold a conversation. You will need to talk to the other players to find out who they are and whether they will help or oppose you with your goals. Some of the characters you may know a little about already, but some will be unknown to you.

Information is the key to achieving your objectives in *Snow Business* so you should aim to talk to everyone. Of course, you may need to reveal information known only to you in order to get information from another player.

You will also have a number of abilities that give you an advantage against other characters in certain situations. The other players also have abilities that they may use against you!

Rules and the Host

Snow Business has a few simple rules, but the host (playing the Chalet Host) usually oversees these. The host is neutral, and is there to ensure that *Snow Business* runs smoothly and that everyone has a good time. If you have any questions about *Snow Business*, you should first consult the host.

And finally...

Have fun!

Playing *Snow Business*

If you've not played a Freeform Games murder mystery game before, you might not be familiar with how they are played. Our murder mystery games are different from other murder mystery games – so you might want to review these guidelines first.

Snow Business is completely interactive. You decide who to talk to and when. You also decide what you will tell them, and whether you tell them the truth or not. Of course, that goes for everyone else in the game as well...

In *Snow Business* you will pretend to be someone else (your character) in a fictional setting (Chalet Flaubert in the French Alps). You will meet and interact with other characters and everyone will be trying to achieve their own goals. We don't provide a script – it's all up to you.

Here are several tips to help you enjoy *Snow Business*:

- **Three basic attributes:** Playing *Snow Business* requires just three basic skills - a sense of fun, an ability to strike up a conversation with another person, and the willingness to pretend to be someone else for an evening. If you can do that, you should have no trouble!
- **Dress the part:** You will receive information, including costume tips, about your character beforehand. A good costume can help you get into the spirit of the game, and also means that you will be in lots of photographs.
- **Read your character sheet:** Your character sheet explains who you are, who you know and what your objectives are. However, your character sheet describes what your character *believes*, but that might not necessarily be true! Keep your character sheet handy as you may need to refer to it during the evening.
- **Your Goals:** Your goals describe the objectives that your character is trying to achieve during *Snow Business*. You should attempt every goal – although it is unlikely you will achieve them all (as other characters may be trying to oppose you).
- **Read your character sheet again:** This time, think about your goals. You should also take note of other characters - you will probably need to speak to them sooner rather than later.
- **Introduce yourself:** Once *Snow Business* starts, you will need to talk to people whilst pretending to be your character. The easiest way is to introduce yourself to someone as your character. You can ask who they are and why they are here. If you already know something about them (you may have information on your character sheet, or someone else has already told you something about them) then you can ask them about that.
- **Tips for beginners:** We provide tips for people who haven't played our games before. These give you a couple of ideas of things you should do at the start of the game. The tips are optional, but they may help you get started.
- **Find your friends and enemies:** In *Snow Business* there are those who will help you, and those who will oppose you. It's important to find both – although to get your friends to help you, you may have to help them in return.
- **Ability cards:** You will have special ability cards that you can use to help achieve your goals. The cards are self-explanatory and generally have a limited number of uses. You may need to think carefully about who you want to play them on.
- **The Host:** Ideally, you shouldn't need the Host (Chris, the Chalet Host) to achieve your goals – most can be achieved by talking and negotiating with the other characters. You should consult the Host if you have a question about the rules, but you certainly shouldn't ask for help in solving your goals as they are up to you!
- **Act the part:** Don't start talking about football or movies or anything else that isn't part of *Snow Business*. It's more fun if everyone tries to maintain the illusion that you're all stranded in the French Alps.
- **Read your character sheet yet again:** If you find yourself at a loose end, find a quiet place and re-read your character sheet. You may find that there's someone you haven't spoken to yet, or something you need to do.
- **John Morgan's Death:** Was John Morgan murdered? Finding out is a matter of talking to people and picking up the clues.
- **Finally:** Remember that the most important thing is to have a good time!

Snow Business

*You are warmly invited to a murder mystery evening,
set at the Chalet Flaubert in the French Alps.*

Held at:

on starting at

The character you will be playing is:

Setting

Welcome to the Chalet Flaubert. My name is Chris Harper and I am your Chalet Host for the duration of your stay at Chalet Flaubert. The chalet is situated near Val Misere in the French Alps, not far from the Swiss border. Val Misere has some of the best skiing in the whole of the Alps and caters for all skiing abilities from the novice to the expert.

I hope you enjoy your stay at Chalet Flaubert and have a fantastic time skiing.

Chris Harper

Costuming tips

Snow Business is set in a chalet – so costuming can be very simple as casual clothes (ie, jeans and fleeces) are perfectly acceptable. However, ski jackets, hats, and goggles are equally good.

THANK YOU for getting this far. Now please buy the game!

Snow Business is available from anywhere in the world for £20.00 (UK pounds). As soon as we receive notice of your payment, we will notify you of the passwords and location of the main pdf files, which will enable you to download the game.

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Our Guarantee: No product is perfect for everyone. We know that and you know that – and that's why we offer a cast-iron, no quibble guarantee. If you're not completely satisfied with *Snow Business* within 30 days, let us know and we will refund you.

Disclaimer: The game comes "as is". We are unable to enter into any conversations regarding the best way to make it work. Any disputes arising from the sale of *Snow Business* are subject to the laws of England and Wales, regardless of the location of the customer. This game is for adults and more mature teenagers. Plot lines are not suitable for younger children. Common sense is required to play this game.

We sell **games** - they're meant to be fun. Our games sometimes include rules allowing characters to stab, poison or shoot each other. We provide safe rules covering such acts and do not suggest or condone the use of real implements when the games are played. You are responsible for running the game - if you, or any of your players, choose not to use the rules we provide, you have sole responsibility for the consequences that may follow.