

WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF

INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1869, two stagecoaches set out from the small town of Dustville on a three-day trip across the American West to San Francisco. A new source of gold has been discovered 20 miles from San Francisco, attracting miners, prospectors and businesspeople.

After two days, the stagecoaches stop for a break at a ghost town called Buzzard Creek. It's a chance to water the horses and let everyone stretch their legs. Buzzard Creek is deserted save for a few old-timers, Sheriff Cassidy, Deputy Baxter, Good-For-Nothin' Ned, and the employees of the Gold Nugget Saloon.

Unfortunately, before the horses are ready, a dust storm approaches. Then, gunshots ring out. In the stables, the Bartender finds Sheriff Cassidy sprawled face-down with gunshot wounds in his back, his gun lying beside him. With the passengers and townsfolk gathered in the Gold Nugget Saloon, the full force of the ferocious dust storm arrives, confining everyone inside. Everyone, including Sheriff Cassidy's killer...

WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF?

WHAT IS INCLUDED WHEN YOU BUY WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF?

- A step-by-step guide on how to run the game.
- Character booklets for each guest, including background, goals and objectives, rules and special abilities.
- Items and money for each guest.
- Handouts and other essential items.
- The solution!

HOW DOES WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF WORK?

Who Shot the Sheriff has been written for 12 to 15 guests – plus the host or co-ordinator. The step-by-step guide explains which characters to omit should you have fewer than 15 guests (you do need at least 12, however). Here's how that works:

Number of guests	Male characters	Female characters	Characters that can be played by either sex
12	5	4	3
13	6	4	3
14	6	4	4
15	6	4	5

Who Shot the Sheriff runs over the course of three or four hours and is particularly suited to a buffet meal. One person is the Bartender, and acts as organizer and co-ordinator, responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly and that all the guests have the information they need.

The guests, travelers and townspeople, are all present in the Gold Nugget Saloon in Buzzard Creek as the body of Sheriff Cassidy is discovered. They have their own goals and agendas, and how they choose to achieve these goals is up to them. *Who Shot the Sheriff* is a bang-up evening of gold-hunting, investigating, six-shooting, double-dealing, and even murder!

WHERE CAN I GET WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF?

Who Shot the Sheriff is available from www.freeformgames.com. It costs £20 (UK pounds), or the equivalent in your own currency. We accept all major credit cards – and PayPal.

When you purchase the game, you'll be taken to a page where you can download it right away. We will also email you a download link and password, so you can come back to the site and collect your game later if that's more convenient.

WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF?

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 *Who Shot the Sheriff*, let us know within 30 days and we will refund you. You can read our full terms and conditions here: <http://www.freeformgames.com/terms.php>



"I'd been hearing about Freeform Games for a long time, so when I heard that my friends would be hosting **Who Shot the Sheriff** I knew I had to be there. Never mind that I currently live about 800 miles away, I needed a vacation anyhow. My epic trek across America landed me in the Old West, complete with horseshoes, wanted posters and plenty of ten-gallon hats (well, maybe only two-gallon). A murderer was on the loose, along with plenty of bank robbers, con men, Indians, proper (and improper) ladies, lawmen and layabouts. Leather boots on my feet and a fetching bonnet on my head, I tried my hand at a little thievery, jail-breaking and even occasionally assisted the forces of law and order. In the end, a grand time was had by all, though that murderer did prove remarkably difficult to corner!"

Cassia Giordano, United States



"**Who Shot the Sheriff** was great! You guys are so creative to have come up with all of the intricate plots. People were AMAZED how everything intertwined at the end. We're going to get another one in about 6 months!"

Erin Knowles, United States



"Playing **Who Shot the Sheriff** was easily one of my favorite of many murder mystery games I've taken part in. The game was so alive with dynamic characters that all came together under an awesome plot. Each character was so vividly portrayed and revealed as the story unfolded that I felt like I was really part of the story. The atmosphere of the evening, dressing the part, and getting into character were what made **Who Shot the Sheriff** one of the best games for fellowship with friends and family. We talked for days after about our experience, and even after months have passed, we still talk about how much fun it was!"

Kyle Clopton, United States

"**Who Shot the Sheriff** went really well, when I used it for a large childrens party – they were around 11 years old, so needed perhaps a bit more encouragement. I sorted this by writing bit-part characters for the parents / adult friends who were staying whose sole aim was to help their named characters.

It suited our needs, my daughter liked the theme and it seemed different. The kids really got into their parts (as did the parents!) and it flowed well."

Emily Barrell, United Kingdom



THE BUZZARD CREEK BUZZ

Editor: Sam Banks, who apologizes profusely that most of these stories are at least a few days old, but we all know that it takes a long time for news to reach Buzzard Creek.

BANK ROBBERY IN DUSTVILLE

A few days ago, a pair of thieving varmints in black masks robbed the Bank of Dustville (about two days' ride east of here). Despite the report that the thieves were clumsy, argumentative and did not really appear to know what they were doing, they have left many residents of that small town nearly penniless. The varmints were rumored to be heading West, so keep an eye out for them!

MINING OPERATION SABOTAGED

A gold mining operation was sabotaged in Sacramento several weeks ago, with tools and equipment being stolen and many bags of gold nuggets replaced entirely with fools' gold. This is rumored to be the work of the mysterious Gold Rush Ghost, who for the last year has perpetrated crimes of sabotage all over the American West. The Ghost has set tents on fire, robbed prospectors, set their dogs and horses free, and ruined so many mining operations that many wonder how just one person could accomplish these jobs alone.

WHO IS "THE STRANGER"?

The Stranger is a mysterious hero who appeared on the scene three years ago. He is known for defending the poor and innocent, and for bringing in wanted criminals before the law can. He can show up anywhere, and often adopts disguises to blend into his surroundings – once even dressing as a traveling priest to fool his enemies – but no one knows the true identity of that masked man. The Stranger was last seen riding west, toward San Francisco.

SMUGGLER STILL ON THE LOOSE

Infamous smuggler Handlebar Harry, identifiable only by his large, black, handlebar mustache, made another run of untaxed gold to the Mexico border just two weeks ago. Rumor has it that everyone's favorite hero, the Stranger, pursued Handlebar Harry on horseback but failed to capture him yet again.

Blaise Sadler Wins "Most Beautiful Girl in Town", Again

This year's beauty contest was won, for the third year in a row, by our own desert rose, Miss Blaise Sadler. Since she's the only eligible young woman in Buzzard Creek, we suspect she won't have much competition in the years to come. The contest was held at the Gold Nugget Saloon, which is rumored to be on the verge of bankruptcy – the Saloon may actually have to close this year if no new business comes in. Write and tell your friends to stop by the Saloon and spend some money as they travel past Buzzard Creek!

Mayoral Election Coming Soon!

Every good town needs a mayor: someone to keep the town running in tiptop shape. If Buzzard Creek is ever to boom again, you need someone you can trust in charge of the town's daily affairs! This year's mayoral election will be held by secret

ballot at the Gold Nugget Saloon, with a free drink going to anyone who votes for Sam Banks.

Don't Pay a Good-for-Nothin'

Our local ne'er-do-well, Good-for-Nothin' Ned, has messed up again; after being paid by one of our old-timers to pick up some groceries from the nearest town, Ned took the money, disappeared for a full day, and was next seen stumbling down Main Street, filthy as usual, with a bag full of all the wrong grocery items. He can usually be found sleeping off his last drink behind the Saloon. There's a reason they call him Good-for-Nothin': give this feller a job at your own risk.

Still No Gold in Buzzard Creek

Everyone knows that Buzzard Creek used to be an exciting boomtown, back when gold was discovered nearby and this was the nearest town for businesses and prospectors to make their home base. Well, Sheriff Cassidy has been known to keep his eye out for signs of gold in the hills

and gulches surrounding our fair town, and so far has found nothing. "It's all the fault of those blasted Indians!" Sheriff Cassidy has been quoted as saying. "Back when we was booming, they came in here suggestin' that over-mining the land would ruin it and cause the gold to run out – and just a few months later, the gold did run out! They did it, they must've stolen it all somehow – they stole it, I tell you!" Well, we all know how our dear Sheriff feels about Indians.

If you suspect there may be gold at a certain site, you claim the land in two steps (in any order):
1) Personally traveling there and marking it off with fences or signs (you must know the location of your claim in order to do this).

2) Obtaining claim papers for that land with your name and the Sheriff's signature on them. Good luck, and happy gold-hunting!

WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF – CAST LIST

STAGECOACH PASSENGERS

- **Willard Preston:** a rough and tough-looking traveler hoping to start a new life in San Francisco with his girl, Ruby-Mae.
- **Ruby-Mae Marshall:** a fun-loving traveler hoping to start a new life in San Francisco with her feller, Willard.
- **Runs Like a Deer:** a quiet, determined Indian woman.
- **Piper Lee:** a poor prospector following the Gold Rush.
- **Jessie Calhoun:** a sharp-eyed female adventurer traveling alone.
- **Fitzhugh Smith:** a wealthy, gentlemanly city slicker who owns a chain of banks and savings-and-loan companies.
- **Doctor Shiloh Merriwether:** an eccentric doctor notorious for working with the Indians.
- **Doctor Riley Bones:** a doctor famous for traveling the world and discovering exotic remedies.
- **Elijah Entwhistle:** a fiery traveling preacher.
- **Christy Martin:** an enterprising business owner.

BUZZARD CREEK LOCALS

- **Sam Banks:** owner of the Gold Nugget Saloon, and the editor of the local newspaper.
- **Blaise Sadler:** the saloon's only waitress, and the "most beautiful girl in town" winner for three years in a row.
- **Laughing Owl:** a mysterious local Indian.
- **Good-For-Nothin' Ned:** a scruffy local ne'er-do-well.
- **Deputy Beau Baxter:** the new Sheriff Deputy, who only arrived in Buzzard Creek last month.

