

A Will to Murder

Introduction

A Will to Murder is set in the 1930s in Albion House, a stately dwelling in the small English village of Highthorpe. Albion House belonged to Roy O'Leary – who was murdered yesterday afternoon.

Roy O'Leary was an elderly and wealthy man, and there are several family members who may benefit from his last will and testament. O'Leary's lawyer has asked the family to gather together at Albion House, the day after the murder, to hear the reading of the will. The police are also present – because the O'Leary family are the prime suspects in the murder case.

Everyone listens respectfully, as the Lawyer reads out the will. The main clause is very simple, as O'Leary must have had a premonition or warning of his dreadful end. The whole of Roy O'Leary's splendid fortune is left to whoever identifies his murderer!

Do you have *A Will to Murder*?

Note that, although *A Will to Murder* was written to take place in the 1930s – the Golden Age of British detective fiction – you can use a more modern setting if you like, without needing to make any changes to the game. Or even an older one: any time during the 20th century will work. Just tell your guests what period you're going to use.

What is included when you buy *A Will to Murder*?

- 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 for each guest.
- Handouts and other essential items.
- The solution!

How does *A Will to Murder* work?

A Will to Murder has been written for 6 to 9 guests – plus the host or co-ordinator. The step-by-step guide explains which characters to omit should you have fewer than 9 guests (you do need at least 6, however). Here's how that works:

Number of guests	Male characters	Female characters	Characters that can be played by either sex
6	2	3	1
7	2	3	2
8	2	3	3
9	2	3	4

A Will to Murder runs over the course of three or four hours and is particularly suited to a buffet meal. One person is the Lawyer, 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, family members and friends, are all present at Albion House as the Lawyer reads Roy O'Leary's will. They have their own goals and agendas, and how they choose to achieve these goals is up to them. *A Will to Murder* is an evening of mistrust, family feuding, betrayal, and murder!

Where can I get *A Will to Murder*?

A Will to Murder 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 *A Will to Murder*?

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 *A Will to Murder*, 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>



"A Will to Murder was my first time hosting and I liked the plot. I loved how new plots unfolded throughout the evening."

A Customer, United States



"A Will to Murder, like all the games I've hosted, was wonderfully put together and everyone vastly enjoyed the different plots and twists that occurred throughout the game."

Terence Smith, Australia



"A Will to Murder was really fun and I enjoyed it thoroughly!"
'Regina' (from the playtest)

A Will to Murder is a new game, so we haven't had much feedback about it yet. But it's been great so far!

The Highthorpe Herald

Murder Special!

Gruesome murder of Roy O'Leary, a village mourns!

Roy O'Leary, 76, who lived at Albion House, Highthorpe, was a very wealthy man, having inherited family money and made more through wise investments. He had three grown-up children: Gillian (a sculptor, married to motorcycle dealer Alan Trode), crime novelist Regina (married to Cornelius Khan, an accountant), and young Corey, who is a naturalist. Two years ago O'Leary married a much younger woman, Janis, a former model and actress. It is generally believed that there is some tension between Janis and her stepchildren.

Horror

O'Leary was found dead in his study at 6 pm yesterday, stabbed several times in the chest with his own paperknife (which was left on the scene, but had been wiped clean of fingerprints). There was a look of horror on his face. The body was found when the family servant Atkins, who also lived in the house, came in to the study with the tea that O'Leary had earlier requested to be made for him at that time.

Heated lunch

O'Leary had seen all the people named above at lunch, between 1 and 3 yesterday afternoon, after which he announced that he was going to his study to rewrite his will. (Rumour has it that the lunch was a rather heated affair.) All remained at the house throughout the afternoon. Atkins was stood on duty outside the main door to O'Leary's study all afternoon, and reports that no-one entered or left the room. It does, though, also have patio doors leading onto the garden, which were normally kept locked. They can be opened with a key (held by O'Leary) from the outside, or a handle from the inside. They are shut simply by being pulled or pushed.

Lack of will

Although O'Leary said that he was going to be rewriting his will, and he was found seated at his desk with writing materials out, no will has been found at the scene.

Lady Henrietta Crane – twenty years on

It's now two decades since the death, by poisoning, of beloved local landowner Lady Henrietta Crane. A suspect was arrested at the time, but the murder charges against them were dropped, for lack of evidence – and since then, the police investigation seems to have been completely moribund.

Will Lady Henrietta's shocking death ever be avenged? It seems unlikely, now that so much time has passed since the event.

Highthorpe Surgery – it's good for what ails you!

If you're a Highthorpe resident and haven't yet come down to our friendly medical practice, why not make today the day for a visit? Led by the highly qualified and experienced Dr Barker, our team will take first-class care of your and your family's medical needs. Our service is entirely confidential, so you need have no fear of your health concerns becoming public knowledge. We also operate an out-of-hours drug prescription service.

A Will to Murder – Cast List

- **Janis O’Leary:** Roy O’Leary’s widow, his second marriage – formerly a model and actress
- **Gillian Trode:** Roy’s oldest child, she is a professional sculptor
- **Alan Trode:** Gillian’s husband, who owns a motorcycle sales and repair business
- **Regina Khan:** Roy’s middle child, a well-known writer of detective novels
- **Cornelius Khan:** Regina’s husband, an accountant
- **Corey O’Leary:** Roy’s youngest child, an amateur naturalist, who still lives at home
- **Atkins:** the O’Leary family’s old retainer
- **Dr Barker:** the local physician and an old family friend
- **Inspector Harris:** the police detective investigating the case

