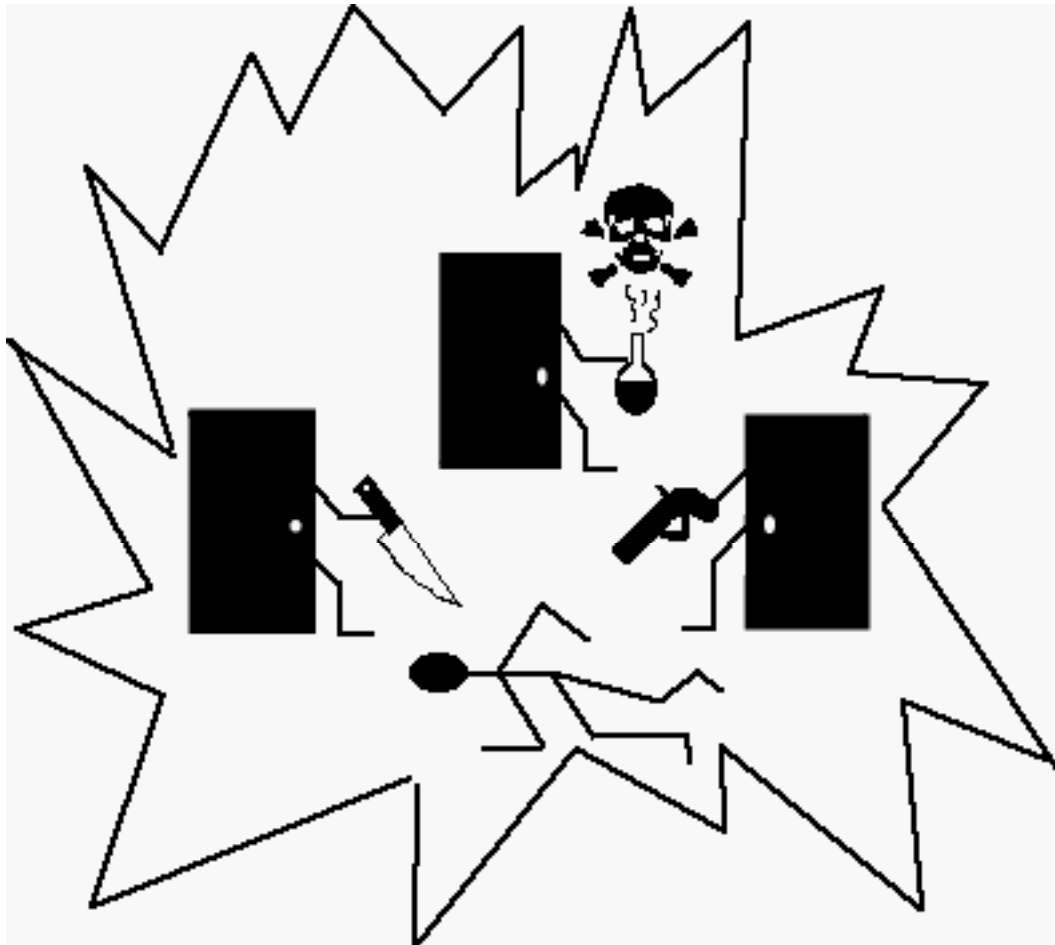


PEACE, LOVE... AND MURDER!

An Interactive Murder Mystery for Dinner Theater



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

PEACE, LOVE... AND MURDER!

- ROCK STEADY** Rock is calm, cool and above all, steady. Nothing gets him down, not even spending 6 months in a Mexican jail for jaywalking! He wasn't always this mellow, however. Before spending time in jail he was VERY upset about MOONGLOW LUVINLEAVE breaking up with him.
- KELLY KARMA** Married to ROCK, very jealous, and very pregnant. Has extreme mood swings, and tends to fall into a trance-like state while rubbing her belly.
- BEN EVOLENCE** Not really into this meditative stuff. Fakes it to stay close to MOONGLOW. Tries to quote from songs but usually gets the lyrics or the message wrong. Comes across like a game show host.
- AUNT TISH FISHAL** Loves her nephew, ROCK, and is still angry with MOONGLOW for breaking up with him. She believes the breakup is what landed ROCK in jail.
- ARTY FISHAL** Dated MOONGLOW first, and feels ROCK stole her away from him. You never know if he means what he says, due to his extremely sarcastic nature.
- STEW UNDWURI** The classic hypochondriac. Worries about everything under the sun, plus some. He dated MOONGLOW at one time, and blames her for a serious bout with Hepatitis.
- MOONGLOW LUVINLEAVE** A drop-dead beauty that no man can resist. She uses them, then loses them. She doesn't mince words and is an outrageous flirt.

PRE-SALAD (1)

PEACE, LOVE... AND MURDER!

(Stew begins the show. All actors are off. During Stew's opening dialog, add in any needed announcements by the restaurant, and have everyone at their tables introduce themselves to one another.)

STEW: Ladies and Gentlemen, could I please have your attention? Thank you for attending our "Tranquility" workshop tonight. I know you'll be pleased with the results. It's certainly changed my life! Not only do I have peace of mind, but also less headaches, flu, stomach disorders, prickly heat...

(Rock enters)

STEW: ... Ah, there you are! I think we can get started now. I'd like to introduce our tranquility group leader, Rock Steady!

ROCK: Peace! It is SO groovy to share this space with you tonight. I sense some very strong vibrations coming from all of you! Let's give ourselves a hand for those vibrations!!

(Rock leads applause)

I am so psyched! To help me out tonight, I'd like to bring out the other members of the group, starting with MOONGLOW LUVINLEAVE!

(Kelly storms on)

KELLY: ROCK! Why did you introduce Moonglow first instead of me?

ROCK: I'm sorry, Kelly, I forgot the new lineup.

KELLY: I think you just wanted to say her name.

ROCK: Kelly, be cool. I did not want to say Moonglow's name.

KELLY: There, see? You just said her name again.

ROCK: Relax, Kelly. Think about the baby's karma.

KELLY: Oh, right, the baby's karma *(begins rubbing belly fanatically)*.

PRE-SALAD (2)

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ROCK: Sorry for that bumper scene. Please send out your most tranquil thoughts to KELLY KARMA!

KELLY: Thank you, and please dig the newest member of our group, BEN EVELENCE!

(Ben bounds on.)

BEN: Thank you! I could feel those warm thoughts all the way into the dressing room. Makes me feel like “Dancing in the Floodlight.”

KELLY: Don't you mean “Dancing in the Moonlight.”

BEN: What?

KELLY: The name of the song. It's “Dancing in the MOONLIGHT,” not “Floodlight.”

BEN: Then that leads me to my MOONY introduction of the last, but certainly not the least, member of our tranquility group, my fiancée, MOONGLOW LUVINLEAVE!

(Moonglow strolls on. Everyone applauds except Kelly and Stew.)

KELLY: ROCK!

ROCK: What?

KELLY: I thought we agreed we weren't going to applaud for each other. It's not professional.

ROCK: Oh, wow, you're right. My mistake Kelly.

MOONGLOW: You can applaud for me anytime you'd like, Rock. You too, Kelly.

KELLY: I wouldn't applaud for you if you did a tap dance on the moon.

PRE-SALAD (3)

PEACE, LOVE... AND MURDER!

MOONGLOW: How about a pirouette on a ROCK?

KELLY: What do you mean by that?

(Aunt Tish and Arty Fishal enter)

AUNT TISH: YOO, HOO, ROCK!! It's me, your Aunt Tish Fishal!

ROCK: AUNTY TISHY FISHY!!!

(They embrace warmly)

ROCK: Hey Arty, good to see you man.

ARTY: Uh huh.

ROCK: What's it been, about 2 years now?

AUNT TISH: It's been too, too long, Rock dear.

ROCK: Everyone, this is my Aunt Tish Fishal, and my cousin Arty!

ARTY: So pleased to be here.

STEW: Nice to see you both again.

ARTY: You're looking a little punier than I recall. Are you ill?

STEW: Not at this moment. I'm not sleeping well, but I'm as healthy as can be expected.

ARTY: You have more hair! Hair Club? And you were wearing glasses the last time we met.

STEW: This is my own hair. And they were reading glasses.

ROCK: We're just about to start our Tranquility Workshop. Why don't you stick around? Something cool may come out of it!

PRE-SALAD (4)

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ARTY: I don't know about cool, but I'm sure something will come out of it, Rock.

(Aunt Tish and Arty seat themselves at our prop table. At some point, Tish takes off her glasses and leaves them on the table.)

ROCK: Kelly, how 'bout a chair, babe?

MOONGLOW: I could use a chair, Rock.

ROCK: What's wrong, Moonglow?

MOONGLOW: Just a little under the weather tonight. My biorhythms are probably at the low end of the cycle.

STEW: You aren't coming down with something are you? Because every time you get sick, I get sick.

MOONGLOW: It's just a biorhythm thing, Stew.

STEW: How do you know? What are your symptoms?

MOONGLOW: No symptoms. Just a little down.

STEW: Could be a flu. Any pain anywhere?

MOONGLOW: NO. I just feel a little down.

STEW: Depression? PMS? Carpal Tunnel?

ARTY: Carpal tunnel? Oh please.

ROCK: Moonglow, I'll get you a chair.

(Rock exits)

KELLY: Why don't you leave him alone? He's happy now. He has me. Why don't you get your own chair, or get your puppy-dog over there to get you a chair.

PRE-SALAD (5)

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BEN: Kelly, Moony-Sweetie, don't fight. Let's just take a few deep breaths. Like the song said, "Wear a Smile."

KELLY: Now you're trying to quote Hall and Oates?! Ben, it's not "Wear a Smile," it's "Sara Smile." And taking a few deep breaths isn't going to solve anything. I'm sick and tired of Moonglow manipulating every man in sight. Especially when it's my man she's manipulating.

MOONGLOW: Like putty in my hands.

KELLY: He isn't! He just feels sorry for you.

MOONGLOW: Sure he does. You just keep thinking that, babe. Now why don't you drift off into that little Mama-land of yours and chill.

KELLY: I'll chill all right. But only after you're out of the picture. You've hurt Rock enough! You're the reason he went to jail. You're the reason he's broke! You're the reason he can't...

MOONGLOW: Can't what? Love you the way he loved me?

KELLY: NO! That's not true. You're going to be sorry you said that, Moonglow. Very, very sorry.

(Kelly storms off)

BEN: Moon-Boon, don't you think you could ease up on Kelly? She needs to stay calm. We don't want her giving birth in the middle of one of these workshops, now do we?

MOONGLOW: Whatever you say.

BEN: Oh? Then I say "You Might Up My Life." Today and everyday. Let's talk about our future, Sweetie-Moony-Pie.

MOONGLOW: Sure. Now is as good a time as any. With all of these perfect strangers sitting around listening. Makes sense to me. But it's Light.

PRE-SALAD (6)

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BEN: Light?

MOONGLOW: The song. It's "You Light Up My Life."

BEN: Might, Light, Moony-Swoony, when can we get married?

MOONGLOW: What's the hurry?

BEN: No hurry, Moopy-Poopy. But when two people love each other, they get married. Like the song goes...

MOONGLOW: I doubt if you even know the song, Ben. What I'm saying is I'm not sure we do love each other.

BEN: I love you. You told me you loved me. You agreed to marry me. And you let me call you pet names.

MOONGLOW: I'm having second thoughts. Especially about the pet names. And I'm not sure if I'm really cut out for this marriage thing.

BEN: Of course you are, Moon-Goon, everyone is!

MOONGLOW: What planet are you from?

BEN: Moonglow, our love will stand the test of time.

MOONGLOW: Time? I need time to think about this.

BEN: Time is running out, Moonglow.

MOONGLOW: Time doesn't run out, Ben. Time is a constant. WE may run out of time, but time will still be there.

BEN: Like that song, "Time in a Can."

MOONGLOW: "Time in a Bottle." Now beat it.

BEN: I wish you wouldn't talk to me like that in front of all of these people.

PRE-SALAD (7)

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MOONGLOW: Ben, you're the one who insisted we talk in front of all these people. Now you're really starting to bug me.

BEN: Are you saying you want to break up?

MOONGLOW: Yes. I think that's exactly what I am saying.

BEN: But Moopy-Boopy!

MOONGLOW: I've tried to be nice to you, but you and your pet names are just too much. I'm calling the whole thing off, right now!

BEN: If we break up, I'm leaving the group, Moonglow. These boots were made for boxing!

MOONGLOW: Whatever.

BEN: But not without my business contract. I'm not giving you my shares if I leave. I plan to keep my financial holdings intact.

MOONGLOW: Gee Ben, it's too bad you feel that way. Because you signed over your shares... to me.

BEN: I'll get a lawyer. And we will, we will, sock you.

MOONGLOW: Give it your best shot, Ben. But what's done is done. Now, at the risk of repeating myself, beat it!

BEN: We'll see about that!

(Ben leaves, Rock returns.)

ROCK: Where's Ben going?

AUNT TISH: He said he needed a can, or a bottle, or something. It looks like you're not ready to start yet. It's so good to see you! I've missed you Rock.

ROCK: I've missed you too, Tishy.

PRE-SALAD (8)

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AUNT TISH: If he hadn't spent all that time in jail...

MOONGLOW: Why do you keep blaming me for that?

AUNT TISH: Rock was a successful musician who traveled all over the world. Then he met you.

MOONGLOW: The best thing that ever came along, right Rock?

AUNT TISH: You spent every cent he'd saved. You talked him into joining this tranquility group. Then you dumped him.

MOONGLOW: I just called it like it was. We weren't right for each other.

AUNT TISH: But his money was right for you, wasn't it Moonglow? And when he was thrown into jail in Mexico for jaywalking, did you bail him out?

MOONGLOW: I didn't know he was in jail. Stew sent him to Mexico on some business thing. That's all I knew.

AUNT TISH: I wired you. You knew. You were just too busy spinning your next web.

MOONGLOW: Whatever.

AUNT TISH: Did you ever ask him why he was jaywalking?

MOONGLOW: I was just getting to that. Rock, why were you jaywalking?

ROCK: It's no big deal.

MOONGLOW: No, really, Rock. Tell me. Let's get this settled so this old bat will get off my case.

ROCK: I was...

(Kelly enters in time to hear the rest of Rock's speech.)

... thinking about you, Moonglow. I wasn't paying attention. I walked out in front of a truck and there was a big pile-up. No one was killed, but one of the cars had some political dude inside, so...

AUNT TISH: So they threw him in jail.

MOONGLOW: How was I supposed to know?

AUNT TISH: Now you do know, and you know why I won't rest until you are completely out of his life.

(TISH exits.)

ROCK: *(ROCK calls off to her as she exits.)* It's OK, Tishy. *(To KELLY)* I'm cool now. I needed some time to get my head on straight. I'm over her now. Come on babe, let's take a break.

ARTY: Rock may be over you, but I'm not.

MOONGLOW: Oh please.

ARTY: Maybe I didn't go to jail when you dumped me, Moonglow. But that doesn't make my pain any less.

STEW: What kind of pain? Where is it located?

ARTY: Pain in my heart.

STEW: That could be serious... but probably not contagious.

ARTY: You hurt me.

MOONGLOW: I'm surrounded by wimps. Get over it.

STEW: Sure, like I did. She dumped me too. You don't see me whining about it, even though it also caused me great pain. And remember, I lost more than all of you put together! I OWNED this company before she came along. Now she's got

PRE-SALAD (10)

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her pretty fingers in the pie and all I'm left with is an empty pan.

MOONGLOW: Very nice, Stew. You're making me hungry.

STEW: You should all use me as an example. I bounced back. And now I love being a bachelor. I don't have to depend on anyone for anything. I even enjoy cooking, cleaning, administering first aid to myself – I do my own mending. Look at these buttons. I sewed them on myself!

MOONGLOW: Boy do I feel like I'm missing out!

STEW: Look, Moonglow. It's important we appear tranquil tonight. Calm. Together. This is a workshop on peace and love.

MOONGLOW: What's your point?

STEW: My point is, you are causing trouble in the group.

MOONGLOW: Trouble in the group? "The group" is in trouble because "the group" can't handle change. I'm not causing anything.

STEW: You're the one behind the trouble. A pathogen. Worse, a pathological pathogen. You're the reason for all the bad blood.

MOONGLOW: You're still blaming me for your so-called "bad blood"?

STEW: You did have hepatitis.

MOONGLOW: Long before I met you.

STEW: Then how do you explain the fact that I came down with hepatitis after I met you.

MOONGLOW: Could it have something to do with the tattoo you just had to have?

STEW: The tattoo wasn't my idea.

PRE-SALAD (11)

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MOONGLOW: Did I tell you to get a tattoo? Did I say, "Stew, please, please, go down to the tattoo parlor and have my name tattooed in hot pink across your ...

STEW: No, but you dropped the hint and it metastasized.

MOONGLOW: Metastasized? Stew, you decided you had to have a tattoo. Don't blame me for your bad decision.

STEW: A bad decision that's led to many sleepless nights.

MOONGLOW: Then maybe you should take a sedative.

STEW: Neither of us can take sedatives, thanks to the hepatitis. You know that.

MOONGLOW: Is there anything else? Because I'd like to freshen up before the workshop.

STEW: This "workshop" is my life, and I'd like it to be successful. I can't believe I signed over most of my share in this business to you. A business I worked years to build.

MOONGLOW: I didn't hold a gun to your head.

STEW: No. But I'd sure like to hold one to yours.

MOONGLOW: Oh, you scare me! The big, bad hypochondriac can make meaningless threats. Quit bugging me and get on with it.

STEW: I think I'll do just that. Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel a migraine coming on, so we'll have to delay our workshop for just a few minutes. In the meantime, we have another article we thought you might enjoy reading. Thank you!

(STEW and MOONGLOW exit.)