

The Night Before Christmas

It is December 24, 1948. The socialite Evington-Browne family (“E-B” to their friends) and their guests are preparing for their annual Christmas Eve party, held in the family’s hunting lodge in the White Mountains north of Boston. Snow has been falling for days and a blizzard has set in, cutting the party off from the rest of the world. This is unfortunate, as the valet of one of the guests has been found dead in the kitchen! It looks like a heart attack—but is it murder?

This year, the ‘Dazzling Diamonds’ (Aunt Priscilla’s fabulous necklace) will be handed to the eldest daughter, as is the family tradition. But an infamous society cat-burglar ‘The Puma’ is in the vicinity, and several family members are acting suspiciously...

Join the Evington-Browne family in their hunting lodge as the cocktail party begins and find out how the evening unfolds. Welcome to *The Night Before Christmas!*

Important note: *The Night Before Christmas* is a Christmas-themed version of *Dazzled to Death*. If your guests have previously played *Dazzled to Death*, they’ll know the secrets of *The Night Before Christmas* too.

You are invited to a cocktail party!

What do you get with *The Night Before Christmas*?

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

How many people are needed for *The Night Before Christmas*?

The Night Before Christmas is for 12 to 15 guests—plus one host (the game coordinator). The step-by-step guide explains which characters to omit if you have fewer than 12 guests (you do need at least 12, however).

Number of guests	Male characters	Female characters	Characters that can be played by either sex
12	4	6	2
13	5	6	2
14	5	6	3
15	5	6	4

If you have even more guests, we have a few free extra characters for *The Night Before Christmas* available on our website.

How does *The Night Before Christmas* work?

The Night Before Christmas runs for three or four hours and suits a buffet meal. The host acts as organizer, responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly. The host does not count towards the maximum or minimum number of players.

Your guests will all be attending a cocktail party at the Evington-Browne hunting lodge. They each have their own goals, and how they achieve these goals is up to them. *The Night Before Christmas* is an evening of intrigue, double-dealing and murder!

Where can I purchase *The Night Before Christmas*?

The Night Before Christmas is available from freeformgames.com. We accept all major payment methods.

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 collect your game later if that's more convenient.

What if I don't like *The Night Before Christmas*?

We offer a cast-iron, no quibble guarantee. If you're not completely satisfied with *The Night Before Christmas*, let us know within 30 days and we will refund you.

The Night before Christmas was a terrific party. The story line was sophisticated enough to engage everyone but not so complicated that we didn't all get into it. My family had a blast and wanted to do it again the very next day (not practical). I'm sure we will be doing other events of this type in the future when we can get everyone together. Good fun was had by all.
Nancy, USA



Many thanks for all your help, and for providing such an entertaining murder mystery in *The Night before Christmas!* The party was a huge success! Larry, USA



We loved it and will play again. Robin, USA

THE BOSTON TIMES

Excerpt from
The Boston Times
November 12, 1948

'Puma' preys on Boston Society

The Puma has struck again! This time the victim was Mrs. Sowersby Smalls. Despite the tightest security arrangements at the Springfield Ball, the notorious thief walked away with a beautiful ruby necklace and earrings given to Mr. Sowersby Smalls by the Maharajah of Bajput.

The burglary had all the trademarks of a Puma attack, including a feather carefully placed where the necklace had been and a note saying, "You've been plucked!"

"This guy can walk through walls!" exclaimed D.I. Sparfield of the Boston P.D. "This is the tenth robbery this year – but we'll catch him."

Excerpt from
The Boston Times
'Society Page'

December 20, 1948

No doubt the Evington-Browne family are looking forward to their traditional Christmas festivities at the family's hunting lodge in the White Mountains area. We are sure no one can be more excited than Miss Evie Evington-Browne, who achieved her 21st birthday this year.

According to family tradition, it is assumed that the beautiful and charming Miss E-B will inherit the fabulous 'Dazzling Diamonds' from her aunt, Miss Priscilla Evington-Browne. Although we are sure that she can shine no more brightly than she already does, this writer looks forward to seeing Miss E-B display the diamonds at the Harpinger Ball next month!

Excerpt from *The Boston Times* 'Business Page',
December 22, 1948

For some investors, this will be a far from happy Yuletide. The continuing instability in the market will see many of our men of business tightening their belts and looking anxiously at the predictions of an upturn next quarter.

Television – Explosion continues

The East Coast continues to lead the way in the media phenomena that is television – of the 350,000 television sets in operation in the USA, 75% of these are in our eastern network cities. It seems that the \$1,000,000 needed to construct and place a television station into operation may turn out to be a sound investment despite initial scepticism! Sports fans may be interested to know that television rights for baseball games in New York City have been sold for \$700,000.

Cast list

- **John Evington-Browne III:** Respected businessman and head of the family.
- **Rose Evington-Browne:** John's much-loved wife.
- **Patrick Evington-Browne:** John and Rose's studious 20-year-old son.
- **Evie Evington-Browne:** John and Rose's willful 21-year-old daughter.
- **Tracy Evington-Browne:** John and Rose's mischievous 16-year-old daughter.
- **Priscilla Evington-Browne:** John's elderly and often forgetful aunt.
- **Agatha 'Aggie' Marbles:** Priscilla's elderly English friend and allegedly famed detective.
- **James Pemberton:** Rose's brother. Art dealer and traveler.
- **Charles Pemberton:** James's son, currently a student at Harvard.
- **Dr. Bruisyard:** Retired family doctor and friend.
- **Miles Earnshaw:** Unexpected guest, friend from Rose's youth.
- **Reggie Haven:** Young socialite friend of Evie's.
- **Christy Crompton:** Student friend of Patrick's.
- **Soames:** Butler/Housekeeper.
- **Dinah Peters:** Cook (temporary stand-in for usual cook).

