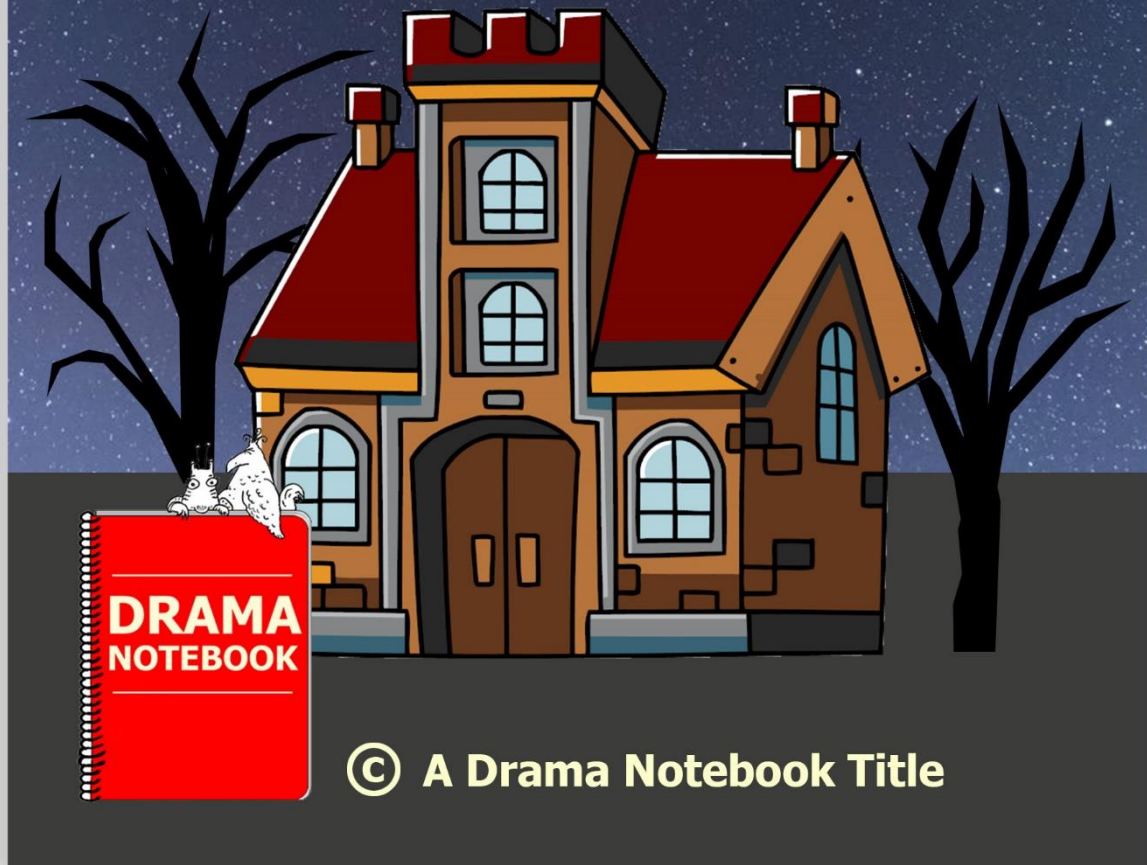


# A WEEKEND MYSTERY

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By Sara Feinberg



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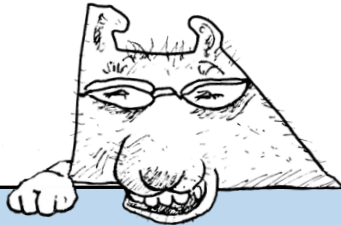
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## About the Author...

**Sara Feinberg** has taught theatre for more than 20 years both in schools and in local and nationally known theatres, such as The Children's Theatre in Minneapolis. She has written countless plays for hundreds of groups of children and teens over her tenure as a teaching artist. She has also designed, produced, and directed productions for children and adults. Sara graduated from Ithaca College with a major in music (voice), and a minor in theatre, and has a master's in teaching from Hamline University. Currently, Sara works full-time as a theatre teacher to students in grades K-8.



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## About the play...

What begins a casual weekend in the country quickly becomes mysterious. The host drops hints that this will be an event unlike any other. Once the guests are seated for dinner, the lights go out and something is stolen! The group splits up to search the house for the missing object and missing guests. The play ends with a twist to the mystery, and the detective becomes more central to the story than previously thought.





## A Weekend Mystery

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### CHARACTERS:

**Jamal:** Someone who doesn't care about anything or anyone.

**Queenie:** Rich and flaunts it. She wants everyone to see her all the time. Likes to make everything about her.

**Donna:** World traveler. She has money but doesn't talk about it. May have corruptly received her fortune.

**Host:** Loves giving parties and gathering unusual people together. Can be played by any gender.

**Cook:** Sinister looking and doesn't like to talk about their past. Doesn't really like to talk at all. Can be played by any gender.

**Helper (Her name is Janet):** Very smart and professional. Right-hand person to the host. Can be played by any gender but is female in the play.

**Rosa:** A bit shy but likes to help others. Likes to keep her things close to her.

**Will:** Mad at the world. An ex-basketball star who stopped getting picked due to an injury. Wants revenge on anything and anyone.

**Terra:** A bit detached from the real world. Many times, she says things that don't have anything to do with the rest of the conversation.

**Detective:** Shrewd and lightning-fast with words. Doesn't miss a thing. Can be played by any gender.

**Rick:** Book smart. Likes to learn as much as possible about everything. Is also a bit nosey.

**Vincent:** Likes to joke around and have fun. Might be hiding a secret but uses jokes to keep it hidden.

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## Scene One: The Guests Arrive

*(Host, Cook, and Helper enter. Helper has a notebook and is furiously taking notes.)*

**Host:**

So, I think that's everything. This weekend has to be perfect! Make sure it is.

**Helper:**

Absolutely.

**Host:**

Cook, how is the menu coming?

**Cook:**

Fantastic, as usual.

**Host:**

Of course... of course... yes, it would be. Janet?

**Helper:**

Yes?

**Host:**

See to it that everyone has what they need in their rooms.

**Helper:**

Right away!

*(Helper and Cook exit.)*

**Host:**

This must be my best party ever.

*(Doorbell rings.)*

**Host:**

Ahh, the first victim... I mean, guest.

*(Host opens the door and Queenie enters with her dog in her arms.)*

**Queenie:**

Oh hello! Hello! Wonderful to see you! Simply charming! So glad to be invited to your party AGAIN. You can never have too much of me, can you?

**Host:**

Let me take your coat, and your, umm...

**Queenie:**

Oh! I forgot. I got a dog. Isn't she just a sweetie? Her name is Kibbles. Here girl!

*(The dog doesn't move. It is a stuffed animal.)*

**Queenie:**

Oh well, she is a bit tired, but aren't we all?

**Host:**

I'll have Janet see you to your room. Janet!

**Helper:**

Here!

**Host:**

Make sure Queenie here gets the best room in the house.

**Helper:**

Of course. Right away!

**Queenie:**

You always take care of me so well! By the way, who else is coming?

**Host:**

You'll see. It's a very special party this time.

**Queenie:**

Oh, I am so excited. I love surprises!

*(Queenie exits with her dog.)*

**Host:**

Maybe not this one, however.

*(Doorbell rings. Host opens the door and Will and Vincent enter.)*

**Host:**

Hello there. Oh, you both came at the same...

**Will:**

Why did you lure me into this godforsaken place? I mean, really?

**Host:**

Whatever do you mean?

**Will:**

I didn't think I would be here with HIM, for instance!

**Vincent:**

What? Scared of a pretty face, are you?

**Host:**

Oh, you know him?

**Will:**

Never seen him before in my life.

**Host:**

Hmm...

**Vincent:**

Great place you've got here. Anytime I go to the country it makes me sneeze. I must be allergic to nature! Ha! Get it?

**Will:**

I am going to kill you before the weekend is over.

**Host:**

Not so fast... someone else might take care of that for you.

**Will:**

What did you say?

**Host:**

Nothing! Head right that way to find your rooms. *(Ushering them toward their exit)*

**Vincent:**

Should we tell ghost stories tonight? This place is so creepy. I have some incredible ghost stories if you want me to share them. Once upon a time...

*(Vincent keeps talking as he leaves the room. Will follows him in angry silence.)*

**Helper:**

I'm back.

**Host:**

Great. I think someone is at the door. Do your thing and play the part.

**Helper:**

Got it.

*(Host exits. Doorbell rings. Donna enters.)*

**Helper:**

Hello!

**Donna:**

Hello. I just got back from a trip to Columbia. I hope I'm not too late.

**Helper:**

No, we knew you would be a bit late.

**Donna:**

Wait, how did you know that?

**Helper:**

We have our ways...please come in. Your room is upstairs.

*(Donna looks at her long and hard, then turns and walks off stage.)*

*(Doorbell rings. Helper opens the door. Rick and Rosa enter.)*

**Helper:**

Come in. We were expecting you.

**Rick:**

You were, were you? You go first, Rosa.

**Rosa:**

Thank you. Nice house.

**Helper:**

Oh, it's not my house. I just work for the owner. Still, yes it is quite nice.

**Rick:**

I read about this house once. Is it some sort of historical property?

**Helper:**

Yes, that's right. I can take your coats.

**Rosa:**

I prefer to keep mine, thanks.

**Helper:**

Can I take your bags?

**Rosa:**

I like to keep a hold of my own things.

**Rick:**

Well, well. You seem to be nervous all of a sudden.

**Helper:**

I'll show you to your rooms.

*(Helper shows Rick and Rosa off stage. The host enters.)*



**Host:**

Let's see... *(picks up a piece of paper.)* We should be expecting two more people-

*(Doorbell rings, cutting off the Host.)*

**Host:**

Ahh. Here they are!

*(Host opens the door. Jamal and Terra enter.)*

**Jamal:**

I can't believe I decided to come here this weekend.

**Host:**

I'm very glad you did. Come in.

**Terra:**

I was just saying how quiet it is in the country.

**Jamal:**

We weren't talking. Like, at all. But whatever.

**Terra:**

Oh! Is that fruit fresh?

**Host:**

What? No, it's wax. Just decoration. I'll show you both to your rooms.

**Jamal:**

Okay, whatever.

*(The Host takes Jamal and Terra's bags, but Terra has noticed something and wandered off.)*

**Host:**

Where did she go?

**Jamal:**

I don't know, and I don't care.

**Host:**

Well, she'll find her room...eventually. Come with me. Time to start the party.

*(They exit.)*



## Scene Two: The Living Room

*(All guests are standing or sitting around. Some hold glasses. Perhaps small plates of hors d'oeuvres)*

**Will:**

Why on earth are we all stuck in this room? This is ridiculous.

**Rosa:**

It's been almost an hour and I haven't seen the host or the helper, have you?

**Vincent:**

Come to think of it, you're right, I haven't seen them either.

**Jamal:**

We can't even go outside.

**Rick:**

Well, obviously not, it's raining.

**Terra:**

The drinks are really good though, wouldn't you say?

**Will:**

No, I would NOT say! Where is our host anyway?

*(Host and Helper enter with pitchers for drinks.)*

**Host:**

Right here.

**Helper:**

Sorry, our afternoon walk got canceled because of the rain.

**Queenie:**

Oh yes, Kibbles and I were so disappointed. Kibbles must have her walk you know. But at my mansion, we can give her a good walk inside on the tennis courts.

**Donna:**

Your tennis courts, huh? Whom did you say you were?

**Queenie:**

Queenie. Have you heard of me?

**Donna:**

Oh, I've heard of you all right.

**Queenie:**

What do you mean by that?

**Donna:**

Nothing.

*(Cook enters holding a long knife.)*

**Cook:**

Time to eat. Come now before it gets cold.

*(Everyone files out while the Cook looks at them menacingly, still holding the knife.)*

**Host:**

Nice touch.

**Cook:**

What do you mean?

**Host:**

Nothing.





### Scene Three: The Dinner

*(The guests are seated at a table after dinner, waiting for dessert. Cook stands behind them, arms crossed, still holding the knife.)*

**Rick:**

I'm getting a little freaked out by the way the cook is looking at us.

**Rosa:**

Me too.

**Terra:**

*(Wandering in)* Oh, hello there everyone! What have I missed?

**Donna:**

Oh, nothing, just dinner!

**Terra:**

Oh, look at all of you here. Is it dinner time already?

**Jamal:**

That girl is a head case.

**Vincent:**

Why can't we all just get along?

**Host:**

I hope you enjoyed your meal. Cook made it especially for you all, with all your individual tastes in mind.

**Helper:**

So, are we ready to have dessert, or...?

**Will:**

All right, I'm sick of all this game-playing. What is going on here?

*(Helper whispers something to Host, who gets up suddenly.)*

**Host:**

Sorry, but I must go. Something has come up.

**Guests:**

What do you mean? Aren't you going to tell us? I'm getting pretty sick of this too... etc.

**Cook:**

Silence!

*(All guests are silent.)*

**Host:**

Thank you, Cook. It should only be a minute. Cook, if you'll be so kind as to serve dessert...

*(Lights go off, and someone screams. Lights go back on. All guests are standing. Will is trying to choke Vincent. He lets go when the lights turn on and then backs away.)*

**Will:**

You didn't see anything.

**Rick:**

Wait, where is everyone?

**Queenie:**

What do you mean? We're all here.

**Donna:**

He's right, the Host, the Cook, and the Helper are missing!

**Terra:**

*(Entering)* Hey, the lights are on! I'm hungry. When do we eat?

**Vincent:**

Dinner was an hour ago. Look everyone, I'm sure the staff will return soon. What's the big deal anyway?

**Queenie:**

*(screams)* My necklace is missing!

**Jamal:**

Of course, it is.

**Queenie:**

Why do you say that? Do YOU have the necklace?

**Jamal:**

What? No! Why would you say that?

**Queenie:**

Well, you are sitting right next to me...

**Jamal:**

So, what does that have to do with anything?

**Will:**

Maybe you did take the necklace!

**Rosa:**

Calm down, children. We can find the necklace. And the other people too.

*(Detective enters unnoticed and sits in one of the empty chairs.)*

**Detective:**

Yes, we can.

*(Everyone jumps out of their chairs.)*

**All:**

Who are you?!?

**Detective:**

I've been hired to solve the mystery.

**Vincent:**

Which one?

**Detective:**

Both of them. Until I do, no one is leaving this house.

**Donna:**

Seriously? I have to be in Dubai in two days.

**Queenie:**

I can't stay here! It's too small!

**Jamal:**

Whatever.

**Rick:**

Sounds fascinating. Can I help?

**Rosa:**

I just need to go upstairs and check on my things...

**Terra:**

We're going to have a thunderstorm tonight. I can feel it...

**Detective:**

Everyone is staying right here!

*(All others freeze, then sit.)*

**Detective:**

First, we must find the host and the staff. Then, we must find the necklace.

**Rick:**

I vote we split up. It will be faster that way.

**Jamal:**

Splitting up is never a good idea. Don't you read mystery novels?

**Rick:**

I read all of the classics.

**Jamal:**

So that'd be a no then.

**Queenie:**

I can't take this anymore! I am claustrophobic. It's hot in here! I feel faint...

**Will:**

Just what we need. A drama queen.

**Terra:**

A drama queen named Queenie...who would have thought?

**Jamal:**

Just kill me now.

**Donna:**

Well, I'm in. I'll take Jamal here and go to the attic.

**Detective:**

Great. I'll take Rick and go to the kitchen.

**Will:**

I'll check the bedrooms with Vincent, I guess.

**Vincent:**

I'm ready when you are!

**Will:**

Don't make me regret my choice.

**Queenie:**

Oooh! Does that mean I am going with Terra?

**Rosa:**

And me too!

**Terra:**

Going where?

**Queenie:**

We'll take the basement.

**Detective:**

Meet back here in half an hour. Good luck!

*(Everyone exits)*



### Scene Four: The Kitchen

*(Detective and Rick enter)*

**Rick:**

So, how did you know there was going to be a mystery?

**Detective:**

I didn't. All I heard was to arrive here at a certain time. I arrived and the door was unlocked. I came into the dining room when I heard the scream.

**Rick:**

Fascinating!

**Detective:**

Wait, what is that?

**Rick:**

Not sure. Looks like...

**Detective:**

A knife!

**Rick:**

The cook was holding that knife.

**Detective:**

And now it's on the floor, huh? Well, let's keep looking. *(Rick opens some cupboards, looking around. He opens a door, and the cook falls out.)* Rick! Ahh! What is that?

**Detective:**

The cook!

**Rick:**

Is the cook dead?

**Detective:**

No, just sleeping. They must have been drugged.

**Rick:**

So now what?

**Detective:**

Let's alert the others. Don't touch anything!

*(They exit.)*





### Scene Five: The Bedrooms

*(Will and Vincent enter. Vincent walks very close to Will.)*

**Will:**

Vincent! What are you doing?

**Vincent:**

What do you mean?

**Will:**

You are practically on top of me! Get away from me. Go check out another bedroom.

**Vincent:**

I'm totally fine. I'm not scared at all. Actually, this is kind of fun!

**Will:**

I'm having less fun by the minute. Just remember, no one can know we work together.

**Vincent:**

I know, I know. I won't tell a soul.

*(Vincent trips over the Helper.)*

**Vincent:**

What is that?

**Will:**

It's the Helper.

**Vincent:**

Is she dead?

**Will:**

No, but she doesn't look good.

**Vincent:**

What should we do?

**Will:**

Let's find the Detective. I don't want to get involved in this. I have enough on my plate.

**Vincent:**

I'm already on my way. This place gives me the creeps.

*(They exit.)*



### Scene Six: The Attic

*(Donna and Jamal enter, looking around.)*

**Jamal:**

Why did you have to say we would search the attic?

**Donna:**

It's the least likely place anyone would have gone.

**Jamal:**

Okay, we've seen it. Now, let's get out of here.

**Donna:**

Wait, I see something shiny.

*(Donna goes to the other side of the attic and pulls out a necklace.)*

**Jamal:**

The necklace. Weird it's so far away.

**Donna:**

That's the first time I have seen you interested in anything. Are you sure you don't know anything about it?

**Jamal:**

What are you trying to say?

**Donna:**

Nothing. Let's get back to the detective.

**Jamal:**

I can't leave this room fast enough.

*(They exit.)*



### Scene Seven: The Basement

*(Queenie, Rosa, and Terra enter.)*

**Terra:**

Basements are always so dark and so low. I always hit my head.

**Queenie:**

I hate this already! I want to get out of here!

**Terra:**

Wait a minute though. Something is interesting about that shape.

**Queenie:**

I don't care about any shapes, especially interesting ones.

**Rose:**

But this one looks familiar.

**Queenie:**

Ahh! It's the host!

**Rosa:**

The host is alive, or so it seems.

**Queenie:**

I am so out of here!

**Terra:**

I wonder where this door leads to...

**Rosa:**

*(grabs Terra)* Let's NOT find out, shall we? C'mon!

**Queenie:**

I'm already ahead of you!

*(They exit.)*



## Scene Eight: The Verdict

*(Characters run into the dining room from opposite areas of the stage.)*

**Jamal and Donna:**

We found the necklace!

**Detective:**

I'll take that for evidence.

**Terra, Rosa, and Queenie:**

We found the host!

**Vincent and Will:**

The helper was upstairs!

**Rick:**

The cook was in a kitchen cupboard!

**Detective:**

I'm glad you are all back so soon. We have a lot to talk about.

**Queenie:**

But who did this?

**Detective:**

I have some theories. Let me explain...

**Host:**

No, I think we need to do the explaining.

**Helper:**

Yes, we brought you here on purpose.

**Cook:**

I was just dragged into this. I don't know what they are talking about.

**Detective:**

Didn't you hire me though?

**Host:**

Oh yes, but not to solve the mystery.

**Detective:**

Well, then, what did you need me here for?

**Helper:**

We needed you here so we could catch you!

**Detective:**

Catch me doing what?

**Host:**

I'm actually the police chief in town. I've been hearing about a run of thefts in the area, and I just had a hunch.

**Helper:**

Yes, in every theft you were the head detective on the case.

**Host:**

And in every theft, the items were never found.

**Donna:**

We had a hunch that your growing fortune and the unsolved cases were linked.

**Detective:**

Wait, so you were in on this too?

*(Donna nods.)*

**Will:**

We worked with the host and the helper to get you over here.

**Vincent:**

By luring you with a theft, just like your other unsolved mysteries.

**Queenie:**

Since I had the jewels...

**Jamal:**

We thought this would be the perfect crime for you to commit.

**Detective:**

But, but...I don't know what you mean!

**Host:**

How about opening your jacket then?

**Detective:**

But it's evidence!

**Helper:**

With your fingerprints on it.

**Donna:**

I never touched it.

**Detective:**

This is madness!

**Terra:**

How did I do?

**Queenie:**

You were super, my friend.

**Terra:**

Thanks!

**Cook:**

I still had no idea about any of this. I was just hired to make a meal.

**Rick:**

And to put sleeping potions in all their drinks!

**Cook:**

What? I would never.

**Rosa:**

But you did. You were in on it with the Detective!

**Cook:**

Why would I give myself the potion then?

**Host:**

How else would you look innocent?

**Cook:**

Fine! The detective gives me a cut of the money made from the sales. Happy?

**Helper:**

Very.

**Detective:**

Why, you! *(Goes after the cook and tries to choke them. The others hold the detective back.)*

**Host:**

Nice work everyone.

**Helper:**

Dessert?

**Others:**

No thanks.

**CURTAIN**

Need another script?



Have a play to share?

