

A Trifling Affair



Notes for the Host:

Have your guests bring their own real pictures from trips (prints, slides, or on a computer), and bring magazines and travel brochures and catalogs for the characters to claim the pictures as theirs in publication. Maybe borrow a projector and show some of everyone's real pictures on a wall or sheet as part of the characters' photo-sharing. Another fun twist is to bake one (or more) little porcelain figurines into a desert or two. Whoever gets one dies, and must play by the “Dead People” rules thereafter!

Sample Characters

Stacey: You are a painter, a rising star currently in love with the qualities of light, and an interesting “marriage” of realism and impressionism. You currently have a show called “Women and Water” at The Gallery (*very* respectable and artsy-but-highbrow), which features many of the works from your recent Riviera trip. Some—but not all—of these women friends came to your champagne reception last week. Alexis didn't come, but you knew she might not yet be back in the country from her trip, so you weren't surprised not to see her, even if she is (was?) one of your closest friends.

Mimi: You and Alexis have had a photography business for 4 years now. You both hate the administrative aspect, so you take turns, switching off every three months. It was your turn to “mind the store” and Alexis was off shooting for a story on cafes in old cities that prepare coffee in traditional styles for National Geographic, and some pictures for “stock”. Last you heard, she had emailed that she was cooking up something fun and new with a friend, and was “super excited”.

Amanda: You have loved your life as a model, and never lost your charm and kindness to become an evil diva. Yay! Everyone appreciates it, especially your new business partners, Nightlife Skin Products. You have a new lipstick and perfume line, a growing favorite with young women, spurred on by your work as a make-up artist. You and Alexis were college roommates and then shared an apartment in NYC when you were just starting out. You are worried about her...she has been out of touch lately, and that isn't like her!

Lola: You are a travel writer specializing in food! You love your job, and have worked very hard to be able to spend your life doing it. You enjoyed your amazing trip so much, you took a little vacation time, snapped some candid shots as the spirit moved you. You also looked into what it would cost to have a small apartment somewhere near the Mediterranean and the incredible food cultures it harbors. Speaking of harbors, you crossed paths with Alexis completely accidentally in Alexandria! She thought it would be fun to get some “money shots” in a city sharing her own name, and you happened to be there doing a story on foods made popular by Alexander the Great. She said she had something new she was thinking about, and she would tell you when you all got together.

Kimberly: You are a fabulous and established actress. You had just finished the National Tour of the Tony-award-winning revival of “Anything Goes” when you were offered *fantastic* money to be the talent for a cruise, a cruise which included Greece, Rome, and the Riviera. How could you turn it down? Before you went, you made sure to get some advice for “cruise lighting” make-up from Amanda, some “must visit” locations from Lola and Mimi, and checked in with your best friend in the group, **Alecia**, who works in green, culturally sustainable urban development and renovation, to see if you could do anything for her while you were out and about.