

THE MERRYMURDER MANSION TRICK

EFFECT

The Performer asks a spectator if they have ever committed a murder. Hopefully receiving the answer "no", the performer offers the spectator a chance to kill someone by the most gruesome method possible. By cutting them in half.

He places two lengths of card on the table. Both are identical. Headed "The Merrymurder Mansion", each shows 6 rooms. Namely "Lounge", "Dining Room", "Hall", "Ballroom", "Library" and "Study". Each room has a dotted line running up the middle. Explaining that one will be used as a practice and one for the real crime, the performer has the spectator select one.

The performer turns the card over. On the other side, directly behind each room, is the victim from a merrymurder game. Producing a pair of scissors the performer points out that if the spectator deliberately cuts up the dotted line of a room, he will automatically be cutting one of the victims in half. That victim will therefore have been killed. He gets the spectator to cut two of the rooms in half, then reverses the card so that they can see that two victims have been neatly bisected.

Producing a card labelled "Prediction", the performer states that he has had a premonition as to which victim will be killed. He holds out the other "Merrymurder Mansion". Explaining that the victims all lie behind different rooms on this card, he begs the spectator to think long and hard before deciding which room to cut in two. Eventually the spectator cuts the card, slicing a room in two and thereby killing the character located in that room.

Dropping the cut card onto the prediction card, the performer turns them over. The back of the prediction card declares. "You will murder Randy Butt." Pulling out the cut card from beneath the prediction, all the victims are seen to be in perfect condition – except for Randy Butt who has been neatly cut in two!

PREPARATION

Print off the "Merrymurder Mansion" page onto thin card twice. On the back of one of these print the first page of victims. On the back of the other print the second page of victims. Print of the Prediction page onto thin card, then on the back print the actual predictions. Cut everything out. Pick a prediction card, e.g. Randy Butt. Take the merrymurder mansion card that already has Randy cut in half and take one of the unfaked merrymurder mansion strips. Have the prediction card and these two strips on the table. The victims and the actual prediction are all face down. Have a pair of scissors near by.

METHOD

Select a helper and explain that they are going to commit a murder. But before committing the actual crime they are going to have a practice. Ask

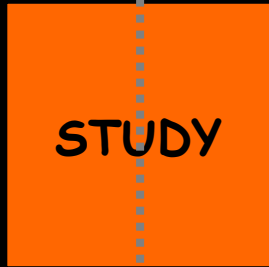
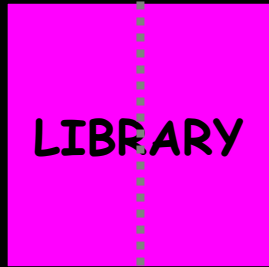
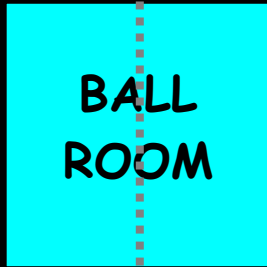
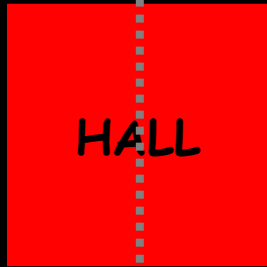
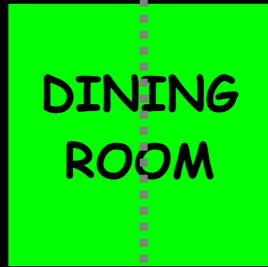
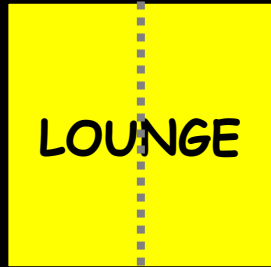
them to point to a merrymurder mansion strip. If they select the faked one, explain you will use their choice for the actual murder. If they select the unfaked one, pick it up and use for the demonstration.

Show how the merrymurder victims are all on the back, and that each one is located squarely behind the rooms in front. By slicing through the room they will also cut a victim in half. Turn the card so the rooms are face up and ask the spectator to slice through a room. Whichever room he selects, also ask him to slice through the room in the same position counting from the other side of the card. E.g. if he cuts through the Dining room also ask him, for extra practice, to cut through the Library. However do not draw attention to the fact that it is in the mirror position of the first room he chose. Holding the three pieces of card as one, turn them over and reveal that two victims have been neatly chopped in half and are now dead. Stress that if he had chosen different rooms, different victims would have been killed.¹

Pick up the second merrymurder mansion card. Get your helper to carefully consider the rooms before cutting one in half. When he has done so, drop the piece of card in your left hand on the prediction. Drop the piece of card in your right hand on top of it. Pick up all three pieces of card and turn them over as one. The prediction will now be uppermost saying "You will murder Randy Butt". While they are reading this, bring out the bottommost piece of card and lay it on the table to your right. Then bring out the other piece of card, and lay it down alongside the first piece, showing that Randy Butt has been neatly despatched!

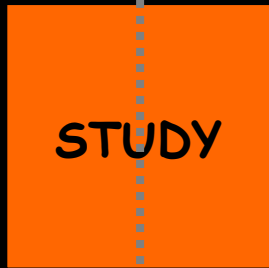
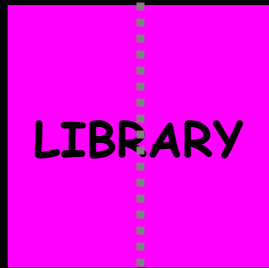
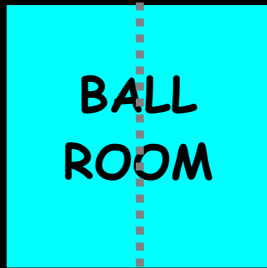
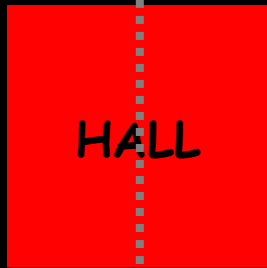
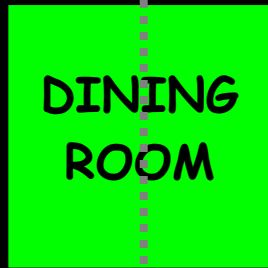
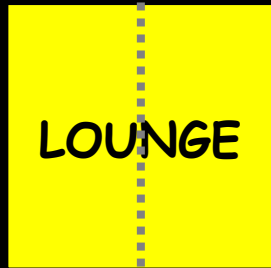
¹ If you only cut one room (say the hall) and your helper also chose the hall the second time to, they would notice that when you display the victim the first time, he is on the left of the card. When you display the victim the second time, he appears on the right of the card, By cutting two rooms that are mirror images, this is prevented.

THE MERRYMURDER MANSION - THE MERRYMURDER MANSION



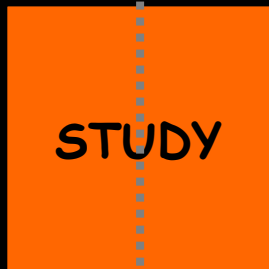
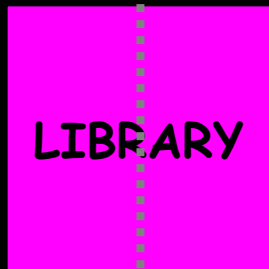
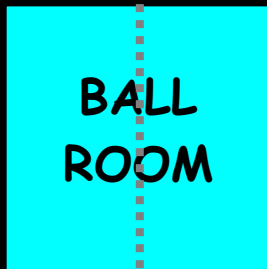
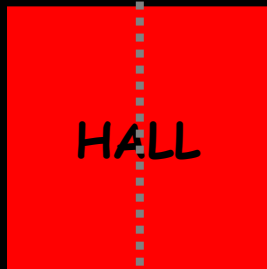
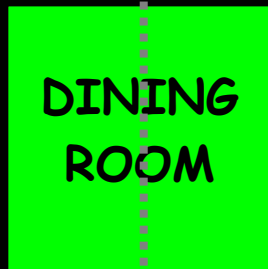
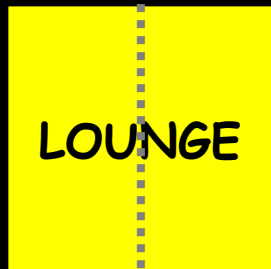
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VICTIM

ZIG
ZIGINI
from
THE CUTTING
IT KILLER

merrymurder.com

VICTIM

JACQUES
(knife thrower)
from
SLAUGHTER
AT THE CIRCUS

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VICTIM

HILDA
WHYTE
from
THE MURDER
OF MRS WHYTE

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VICTIM

RANDY
BUTT
from
RANDY BUTT
R.I.P.

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VICTIM

PRINCE
CHARMLESS
from
THE
MERRYMURDER
PANTOCRIME

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DUMPTY
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THE WAKE FOR
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RANDY BUTT

YOU WILL MURDER

PRINCE CHARMLESS

YOU WILL MURDER

HUMPTY DUMPTY