

Murder At Midnight



CAST-

DETECTIVE Gray- bad cop

DETECTIVE SMITH- good cop

DARCY - jet-setter

ANNIE- sad wife

DIANA- failing disco entertainer

STEVEN- cool guy nephew

CHARLIE- writer

WILFRED- old, rich kind guy

MRS WATSON- housekeeper

OFFICER PAUL ICE - Ushers people in through the door

SCENE 1

**Split stage, door center stage, lights come up on stage right*

**Chatter*

**Wilfred goes to the center*

**Ms/Mr Watson starts passing out the drinks to all the guests*

Wilfred: Here's to another great year folks! I really hope everyone has an outstanding year. Who's excited for 1973?

All: Woohoo!!

**Cheers*

Wilfred: I know I am! We just have to wait a couple more minutes then we will be in the future, a brand new year! New experiences, new friends, but also old friends because we can't overl-

Annie: Alright Wilfred, that's enough, I'm sure that none of our wonderful guests want to hear you babble on about nonsense, and the countdown is about to begin.

Charlie: Wilfred your words are so inspiring but there's just a couple more seconds till midnight.

Everyone : 3.. 2..1 Happy New Year!

**Cheers*

**Wilfred starts falling, lights fade*

**Lights off*

**Screams*

SCENE 2

**Lights up stage left*

Gray: Send in the first one.

Police: *Okay Annie, You're up.*

**Annie walks in crying in a handkerchief*

Smith: How are you doing?

Annie: Well, my husband did just *DIE!*

Smith: I'm so sorry for your-

Gray: So, what happened?

Annie: **takes a deep breath** Well, me and Wilfred were having our annual New Years Eve party earlier.

Flashback 1

**Annie and Wilfred are welcoming everyone to their party*

Annie: Thanks to everyone for coming! There is tons of food, so, help yourself and have a good time! Oh my goodness Darcy, I haven't seen you in so long!

**walks over to her (private conversation)*

Darcy: Hi Annie! How have you been?

Annie: Very well, me and Wilfred just came back from our Christmas holiday in Peru!

Darcy: Oh right, what a wonderful place, beautiful scenery. How's Wilfred?

Annie: He's well. He's waiting for a chance to go on another trip, maybe you should join us next time.

Darcy: I miss going on trips with you guys so much! I'm not sure when we'll get to do that again. I've got such a busy schedule lately.

Annie: What a bummer, they were always so magical.

**Hears clatter*

Darcy: Weren't they! Let's go join the others.

**Walks over to the group*

**Wilfred storms out and Steven follows him*

Annie: What happened?

Diana: Steven wouldn't stop complaining about some money issue and Wilfred got quite upset.

Annie: About the charity? Oh my goodness that was my idea! I figured it would be so helpful and we really don't need that much money. It's unnecessary!

**They all go mingle*

**Wilfred and Steven return*

**Wilfred goes to the center and is about to start his speech*

**Back to present time*

Gray: So you know something about this money issue?

Annie: Well, Wilfred and I were writing his will a couple days before the party. We figured that donating part of his wealth to a charity would be a better idea than giving it all to his nephew. He hasn't spoken to him in a few years so, they aren't very close.

Smith: I see, and he knew he was inheriting the money before this?

Annie: He did know, but we didn't think he would still expect the money after all these years of not being around. Him showing up and his anger was very unexpected.

Smith: And do you know anything about the argument between Wilfred and Steven?

Annie: Not really, I had just walked in from talking with Darcy, so I didn't really hear anything.

Gray: Well, we tested Wilfred's glass and found out he was poisoned

Annie: What?! He was poisoned?! Who would do such a thing?

Smith: Do you think Steven could've had anything to do with this?

Annie: I know he was mad at Wilfred, but to poison him?? He couldn't have done that!

Smith: Alright then, thank you.

**Annie gets up and leaves the room*

SCENE 2

Gray: **sighs* Okay, send in the next one.

Smith: Yup, on it.

Smith tells Paul

Police: Darcy, it's your turn.

**Darcy walks in through the door*

Darcy: What do you need?

Gray: Oh, just a few questions.

Darcy: Well alright then, where do you want me to start?

Smith: So what happened before Wilfre-

Gray: Was poisoned.

Darcy: Well I believe he just died of old age, he certainly wasn't the youngest.

**Gray Writes Something on the notebook*

Smith: Doesn't matter, what happened?

Darcy: Well I remember getting there and having a conversation with Annie.

***Flashback**

**Walks Over With Annie*

Annie: So yeah have you donated to my char-

**everyone in flashback freezes except Darcy*

Gray: Yes, we heard that from Annie. What happened after that?

**Everyone in the flashback unfreezes*

Darcy: Okay.

**Annie and Darcy Walk Over with the Others*

**Steven Pushes Wilfred*

Wilfred: I'm done!

**Wilfred Walks off stage*

Steven: We are not done talking about this!

**Steven follows Wilfred*

Darcy: What happened here?

Diana: They were just talking to each other, then all this broke out!

**Steven & Wilfred enter*

Wilfred: Here's to another amazing year folks!

**Flashback Ends*

Gray: Well that was no help.

Smith: You can go back to the others.

Darcy: Oh okay.

**Darcy heads back to the other side of the stage*

SCENE 3

Gray: Three left?

Police: There's 4...

Smith: The list says Diana, Steven and Charlie?

Police: I'm not sure what their name is but they've been waiting a long time.

Gray: **groans* Send them in.

Police: You, no not you, yes you, your turn.

**Watson walks in and takes a seat*

Gray: Okay first, What is your name?

Watson: Oh right, Agatha Watson.

Smith: Beauti-

Gray: Not what we're here for. What were you doing at the party?

Watson: I'm one of Wilfred and Annie's housekeepers. I was passing out their drinks.

Smith: Their drinks!!! **shocked*

Watson: Yes? Is something wrong?

**Smith scribbles*

Smith: Well...

Gray: He was poisoned.

Watson: He was!? Who would do such a thing?!

Gray: You.

Watson: No, no, no, I would never do that! He was a very kind man, a very great boss, and such a good person. That's terrible!

Gray: You were the one who was in charge of the drinks. So you're saying it's a coincidence that the exact cup YOU gave him had poison in it.

Smith: Alright, alright let's not get too heated here. I believe her 🥰

Watson: *stares at Smith. Thank you. *glares at Gray At least someone does. I promise the cups were just laying there on a tray and I passed them out randomly.

Gray: We're done with you. Get out.

Smith: Bye, talk to you later ;)

SCENE 4

Smith: So, what do we think?

Gray: Ms Watson could very well be the murderer. She was the closest to the drinks, at least from what we know so far.

Smith: Yeah, but I just have a feeling it's not her.

Gray: Your feelings mean nothing, let's send in ummm...*scans paper* Diana!

Police: Alright.

**opens door, Diana struts in*

Diana: Hey cool cats!

Gray: Excuse me??

Smith: Sit down please.

**grooves over to seat*

Diana: What's hangin'!

Smith: There was a murder?

Gray: What do you remember?

Diana: I was just hangin with this groovy writer I met.

Gray: Who were you “hangin” with? **sarcasm*

Diana: I think his name was Charles Lee.

Smith: Do you mean Charlie?

Diana: Sure, you could say that.

***Flashback**

Charlie: So, how do you know Wilfred?

Diana: Ummm well, I’m an entertainer and he is my agent.

Charlie: So he gives you money? **scribbles in notebook*

Diana: No, well, technically yes but when I become ✨FAMOUS✨ **circular hand motion* I’ll be paying him back. I don’t get how he is ✨FAMOUS✨ **circular hand motion* for just having a lot of money. When I have ✨TALENT✨ **hands up*

Charlie: What kind of ✨TALENT✨? **hands up *Confused*

Diana: I do everything! I sing 🎤 **pose*, I dance 🕺 **disco*, and I hula hoop
**hula hoop appears from side and she hula hoops*

Charlie: That’s... great.

Diana: Do you want to do a dance number together, right now?!

Charlie: No.

Diana: 5.6.7.8

**Diana and Charlie (reluctantly) starts dancing*

Out of flashback for a second

**Everyone freezes except for Diana*

Gray: No. Stop.

Diana: What?!

Gray: You’re obviously lying.

Diana: But this is how I remember it.

Smith: Just let her finish.

Diana: Thank you!

Back to flashback

**Gray has his head on the table*

**Lights turn off*

**Lights on with Diana and Charlie finish in a dance pose*

Diana: That was fun!

**They look over to see Steven and Wilfred fighting*

Charlie: What is happening in here?

**Fight between Steven and Wilfred*

**Wilfred takes his cane and attempts to hit Steven but Steven ducks. Wilfred throws the cane*

**Steven and Wilfred go off stage*

Flashback ends

Smith: **leans towards Gray* Yeah, I don't think it was her

Gray: Just, Just go.

Diana: Peace, Love and **Granola.**

SCENE 5

**Steven walks in*

Steven: Why have I been waiting here so long?!

Smith: Calm down. Just tell us what happened earlier.

Steven: I arrived late cause I couldn't get a ride.

Smith: Oh, so you arrived late.

Steven: Well, yeah, I just said that.

**Smith and Gray look at each other*

Steven: I walked in through the door and I yelled.

***Flashback**

Steven: Uncle Wilfred!

Wilfred: Ummm, what are you doing here?

Steven: I just needed to talk to you.

Wilfred: Well, what.

Steven: I got a letter this morning saying that I am not getting my inheritance any more.

Wilfred: None of it's going to you, it's all going to charity.

Steven: But you said that I am getting all the money!

Wilfred: We changed our minds.

Steven: WE?? OUR??

Wilfred: Me and Annie.

Steven: You seriously let your ... wife make that decision for you. I really thought you were smarter than that.

Wilfred: We both made this decision.

Steven: Well change it. I need that money.

Wilfred: No you don't, other people do.

Steven: But I am your only nephew.

**argues*

**Wilfred starts to walk off*

Wilfred: We're done!

Steven: We are not done talking about this!

Wilfred: This is nonsense! I've made up my mind, you're so greedy!

**They walk over to the bridge*

Steven: You really think that some random charity needs that money over me, your nephew, who has no job.

Wilfred: Blah blah blah

Steven: Or you could just give me the money!

Wilfred: Blah blah blah blah blah

Steven: Are you joshin' me?!

Wilfred: No.

Steven: You make me mad enough to kill you!

Wilfred: I'll take my chances and MY money!

**Returns to stage*

Wilfred: We're not talking about this right now.

**Steven is very upset*

SCENE 6

Steven: Man, me and Uncle Wilfred used to be so close, too bad it had to end like this.

Smith: You threatened him?!

Steven: Yeah, but I didn't actually mean it.

**Gray and Smith raise their eyebrows*

Steven: I didn't kill him!

Gray: Are you sure about that? Things didn't get out of hand?

Steven: No, I didn't touch him!

Smith: You are making it very difficult for us to believe you.

Steven: Trust me, he was my Uncle. I would never do that.

Smith: Do you have this letter telling you about the will?

Steven: Yeah here you go. I'm not sure how much you'll get from it.

Gray: You can go now, we'll be in touch.

Steven: Sounds good bud.

SCENE 7

Paul: Just one left.

Gray: Thank God.

Smith: Send him in please.

**officer opens door*

**Charlie storms in with a notebook in hand*

Charlie: It's about time. I've been waiting to show you this for 3 hours. Hear that? THREE HOURS!

Gray: Alright, alright take a seat.

Smith: What was it you wanted to show us?

Charlie: I have the notes of what actually happened.

Gray: Why didn't you say anything? We could've known this ages ago!

Charlie: Well, you all were taking your sweet old time so, I don't think it would've mattered.

Gray: Hand them over.

Smith: We'll read them and call you back if there's any issues, you can go.

**Charlie gets up and leaves*

**Gray & Smith Read it a Bit*

**Pause while they read the paper*

Gray: Okay call them back in.

Police: Charlie, they need you again.

Charlie: Oh, coming.

**Charlie walks in confused expression on their face*

Charlie: Hello again, what do you need?

**Charlie goes back to the cops and sits down*

Gray: We need to know what happened at the party! We don't have that much time.

Charlie: But it's all there in the notes.

Gray: No. Talk.

Charlie: May I see the notes to jog my memory.

Smith: Just say what you remember.

Charlie: Well, first I spoke to Annie

Charlie: I went over to see Annie and said "Hi, how are you doing?" she then said "Not well" then I said "I'm very sorry for your loss this must be so hard"

Gray: Stop! This isn't even close to what you wrote before!

Charlie: Oh wait, sorry. That's what happened just now.

Gray: Just tell us what happened earlier. **annoyed*

Charlie: Ah well, ok then.

Charlie: I was talking to Diana, she was reading a book.

**Gray and Smith looks at each other strangely*

Flashback

**Diana was reading a book by herself*

Charlie: **walking towards her* Are you enjoying the party?

Diana: Most definitely! I definitely love this music!

Charlie: Oh yeah, it's nice but it's just not my style of course.

Diana: What's your style then?

Charlie: I like Rock & Roll like The Rolling Stones.

Diana: Yeah, I heard they were artist of the year this year

**Steven pushes Wilfred and Wilfred walks off stage*

Charlie: What happened?

**Diana goes back to reading a book*

Darcy: They were just going to get something.

**Charlie shrugs his shoulders*

Annie: Seemed a bit more than just grabbing something.

END OF FLASHBACK

Charlie: That is exactly what happened. I wrote everything down.

Smith: Ummm, Charlie could you please go wait with the others.

Gray: Wait, name 3 Rolling Stones songs?

Charlie: Uhhhhhhh, I don't quite remember right now. I can't say any off the top of my head.

Smith: Ok.

**Charlie walks away*

Charlie: Oh, wait I got one “American Pie”.

**leaves*

Gray: That isn't even a Rolling Stones song.

Smith: That is quite different then what the others said.

Gray: Oh, definitely and one of them is obviously lying about Diana. Why on Earth did they say she was reading? Did they meet her? It does not at all seem like her.

Smith: Or was Diana faking her whole shtick.

Gray: Well, then she is a pretty good actress.

Smith: Diana also seemed pretty calm when she said that to Darcy.

Gray: We can't forget that Steven has been pretty aggressive in all their stories.

Smith: And Steven also threatened him. Which is kind of also a big deal.

Gray: Watson was also the one handing out all the Drinks, which had the poison in it.

Smith: And don't forget that Annie is the one that made the decision with Wilfred to change his will.

**Gray looks at something left on the ground*

Gray: Wait, I figured it out! Send back in.

Police: **out the door* The detectives are ready to see you all.

SCENE 8

**Gray & Smith enter with the others*

Smith: Thanks for waiting patiently.

Gray: But we've figured it out.

Smith: That's right! We know who the killer is and they are in the room
**everyone is looking around at each other .*

Annie: **Shocked.* Well who is it!?

Gray: Let's start from the beginning.

Smith: Okay so first, before the party Annie and Wilfred took Steven's name out of the will and replaced it with a **charity**.

Gray: Then someone sent a letter to Steven saying that he was no longer receiving any money from Wilfred.

Annie: But who sent the letter?

Steven: I don't know. The address was not on the envelope.

Gray: We'll get to that after.

Smith: Then at the party, someone sets out the drinks before Agatha hands them out.

Darcy: Wait, who's Agatha?

Watson: That's me. **said hidden behind everyone else*

**everyone jumps*

Darcy: Oh, Ms. Waston.

Diana: It has to be her! It's always the Butler!

Annie: She isn't a butler, she's our housekeeper!

Gray: Everyone shows up except Steven, he came late and he wasn't even invited in the first place.

Steven: What? There was traffic!

Smith: When Steven arrived he had a fight with Wilfred, they stormed off where no one else could hear their conversation.

Gray: But he did admit to us that he threatened to kill him.

Darcy: You can just say the killer is Steven so we can all go home.

**Everyone nod*

Gray: Shut it Elizabeth Taylor!

Smith: We can't forget it was Annie's idea to change the will, donating a portion to charity and the rest to herself, when in the beginning she was getting nothing.

Annie: I thought that giving the money to charity would be a good thing to do to help the community, and well my part just made sense because we're married

Smith: It does make sense for you to get some inheritance because you are married I guess.

Gray: But the mishap with the will happening so close to his death...

Smith: And you had to have known Steven would be livid about this decision.

Annie: You really think I would kill my husband!

Diana: Like, for sure.

Annie: Says who?

Diana: Says ME!

Gray: Okay moving on.

Diana: Wrap it up, I've got a chicken in the oven.

Darcy: **sympathetic* Oh sweetie, (pat on shoulder) that chicken is long gone.

**Awkward silence*

**Sirens*

Charlie: And so is your house.

Diana: Ah man **snaps* I REALLY do need to get home then.

Gray: I'll finish, if you would stop interrupting me!

Smith: So next we chatted with Charlie.

Gray: It says in his notes, Charlie arrived early to the party, alone.

Smith: The whole time Charlie was at the party he took very detailed notes.

Gray: Both these notes and what Charlie said he remembered did not match up with the rest of the suspects.

Smith: Which seriously could have been an honest mistake because we didn't get every single detail of the party from every person.

**everyone stares at Charlie*

Gray: But then Steven gave us the letter that told him he was written out of the will.

Smith: And the notes and the letter had the same handwriting, you even used the same pen and everything.

Gray: you, Charlie are the killer

**Looks at Police*

Paul: Charlie Thompson you are under arrest for the murder of Wilfred Windsor in his home at 12:00 am on January 1st 1973. You have the right to remain silent; anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law.

Diana: Jinkies! I never would have guessed it was them!

Charlie: I had no choice, I had to do it. I never even knew the man. I just needed a headlining story to make me famous.

Gray: That's enough, nothing you say can defend this.

**Police leads Charlie through the door*

Smith: You all are free to go.

**Everyone starts to walk away*

**Lights go off*

**We hear someone (Darcy) fall*

**Someone screams*