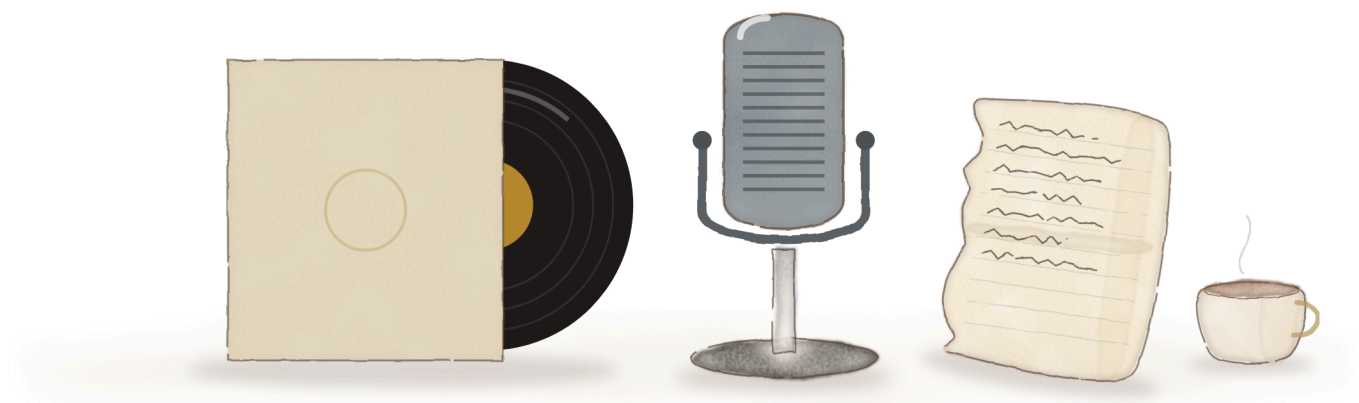




FREE PREVIEW • NOT THE GAME ITSELF

Dead Air at Meridian Radio

Meridian Radio is twenty-five years old tonight, and the whole town is listening. At 9:13 the star of the anniversary broadcast failed to come back to the microphone. The silence was the first clue.

USE THIS PREVIEW TO PLAN

- Page 2 shows all ten characters, with a dress idea for each, so you can start casting your guests.
- Page 3 tells you what the full game asks of a host, so you can decide whether it suits your party.

WHAT THIS PREVIEW IS NOT

It has no character booklets, no evidence and no solution — you cannot play the mystery with it. The full game is a separate download.

The guests

Six are always played; Ash, Shay, Emery and Lark join for 7 to 10 guests.

ALWAYS PLAYED

Lane Whitaker

Station manager

Built Meridian Radio from one transmitter and a borrowed piano.

Wear: A double-breasted suit and a station pin.

ALWAYS PLAYED

Billie Fairweather

Singer with the Meridian Five

The voice of the station's Saturday dances, and its sharpest tongue.

Wear: Something sparkly, or a smart dress or suit.

ALWAYS PLAYED

Marion Pike

Program director

Times every second the station spends on the air, and types the log that proves it.

Wear: A cardigan, spectacles and a stopwatch on a ribbon.

ALWAYS PLAYED

Arden Lowell

Sponsor, Lowell Soap

Pays for *The Meridian Hour*, and expects every word of the soap ads read with feeling.

Wear: A sharp suit and a Lowell Soap lapel pin.

ALWAYS PLAYED

Gale Prentiss

Host of the Kitchen Corner

The friendliest voice on WMRD, with a recipe for every trouble.

Wear: An apron over your best clothes, or a cardigan and pearls.

ALWAYS PLAYED

Hayden Cross

Newsreader

Reads the 9:28 news in a voice the whole town trusts.

Wear: A sober suit, a bow tie and reading glasses.

OPTIONAL

Ash Delaney

Sound-effects artist

Can make thunder with a sheet of tin and footsteps with two coconut shells.

Wear: Shirt sleeves and a tool belt of odd objects.

OPTIONAL

Shay Brennan

Studio usher

Seats the live audience and knows every regular by name.

Wear: A usher's jacket with brass buttons.

OPTIONAL

Emery Kwan

Columnist, Radio Daily

Writes the column every radio star reads first and hates most.

Wear: A trench coat, a press card in the hatband.

OPTIONAL

Lark Holloway

Sterling's former co-host

Shared a microphone with Sterling for ten years, until they didn't.

Wear: Evening clothes from ten years ago, worn with style.

Before you buy

What the full game asks of you and your guests.

IS IT RIGHT FOR YOUR PARTY?

Guests	6 to 10 adults or teens (14+). Six characters are always played; up to four more join.
Time	About an hour and three quarters with dinner: an opening, three acts, accusations and the reveal. Designed to this length; not yet timed with a real group.
The host	Reads a short script and opens three envelopes. The host can play a character too, if they print without reading.
Acting	None needed. Guests can stay seated and read their cards aloud. Every “broadcast” is printed as text.
Content	A fictional death that happens offstage and is never described; a prize fraud, a contract fight, doctored paperwork and a station on the edge of the television age. Nobody needs to drink, dress up, act or walk around to play.

WHAT THE FULL GAME INCLUDES

- A host guide with an exact print list for 6 to 10 guests, a read-aloud script, cue cards and what to do if someone cancels.
- Ten player booklets of three pages each: a dossier, and an Act 2 and an Act 3 page that stay folded shut until their act.
- Three sealed round envelopes of evidence — program and board logs, switchboard tickets, statements — a station map, detective notes, a timeline board and ballots.
- A sealed solution that proves the answer step by step, with why it was not anyone else.
- Party extras: invitations, place cards, name badges, a menu, awards, a teaser poster and invitation words to copy. Low-ink pages that print well in black and white.
- A large-print copy of every player booklet (about 17 pt), for any guest who prefers bigger type.