

The Marquis Crossing Ladies Society's First Attempt At Murder

Story of the Play

You think it's easy to write a murder? Just ask the Marquis Crossing Ladies Society for the Arts. They decided to do just that, especially when they found out they had to pay royalties to do someone else's play. "Anybody can write a murder," Emma tells the others, and Opaline immediately begins to try to strangle the other members "just to figure out how to do it."

The ladies soon find themselves writing an "operatic murder mystery dinner theater with possible audience participation, providing no one sells fruit to the audience." When two actual convicts arrive on the lam, they decide the best place to lay low is with the ladies, who then drag them into the play.

What is part of the play and what is really happening? Find out for yourselves in this wise-cracking farce where no one can tell the loaded guns from the unloaded ones. "All we really want to do is throttle a congressman," Audrey tells the others. Well, you can't blame them. After all, this is the Marquis Crossing Ladies Society's First Attempt at Murder.

Cast of Characters

(3 m, 6 w)

EMMA THORTON: A slightly daffy older lady with a warm heart.

AUDREY KESSELERING: Emma's best friend, a sarcastic lady, middle-aged.

MIDGE DODGE: A small but energetic woman also middle-aged.

BERYL OVERTON: A rather dim woman, also middle-aged.

OPALINE JONES: A pushy, suspicious woman, also middle-aged.

JOAN PARNELL: A young and pretty neighbor of Emma's.

MAD JACK PARKER: A rather crude convict, a bit homicidal.

TERRY HOPKINS: Emma's young, handsome nephew.

OFFICER KERNS: The epitome of the dumb, clumsy cop.

TIME: The present.

PLACE: Emma's living room.