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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Who Stole The Cookies?”

Play version
for 8 to 16 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

First edition

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The Suspects

Last night in the library, when many characters were out of their books, a crime was committed, grim and grave, right in our own library. When Mrs Bookworm, the librarian, opened the fundraising cookie cupboard this morning she was shocked. The cupboard, where the fundraising cookies had been kept, was empty.

Gathered in the library are the characters that were present at the time of the nasty deed. Fortunately Master Sherlock Holmes is here to investigate, so the person who committed this terrible crime will no doubt be revealed as the party proceeds. The people present in the library are:

Book: *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

Alice – I don't like to be rude, but after being in Wonderland, I can't help thinking how very strange some people are. *Dress suggestion:* Dress as a little girl with pig tails in your hair and rosy cheeks.

Book: *Cinderella*

Cinderella – having been treated badly by my step-sisters, I know what it's like to be a slave. So in the palace, I am kind to everyone – the servants included. *Dress suggestion:* Dress like a princess with tinsel/glitter or as a servant covered in cinders and carrying a broom or duster.

Book: *Snow White* by The Brothers Grimm

Snow White – I am a young lady with skin as white as snow, lips as red as blood and hair as black as ebony. I am friends with a bunch of dwarfs. *Dress suggestion:* Old-fashioned clothes such as a drawstring sash at the waist, puffy sleeves, flouncy skirt.

Book: *Peter and Wendy* by Sir James Matthew Barry

Peter Pan – I am the little boy who never grew up. I live in Never Never Land and I can fly. Sometimes I teach other children to fly with me. *Dress suggestion:* Dress with a green cap and a green outfit. You may wish to carry a toy sword.

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Book: *Little Red Riding Hood* by various authors

Little Red Riding Hood – I am a fearless, but kind young girl who goes for walks alone in the woods. I love to visit my Grandma sometimes. *Dress suggestions:* A red hooded cape with a dress beneath (possibly also in red). Carry a basket with some little cakes or cookies in it. You are taking these to your grandmother.

Book: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum

Dorothy – I am a very determined young lady from a farm in Kansas. I don't let anyone get in my way. My dog goes everywhere with me. *Dress suggestions:* A blue dress with a white blouse underneath. Add white socks and magic red shoes. If you can, add long black hair tied in two bows. Carry a toy dog.

Book: *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by various authors

Goldilocks – I am a naughty and some say "spoiled" little girl. I always do exactly what I want. For example, I steal porridge and sleep in beds I don't own. *Dress suggestion:* Cute little-girl clothes. Maybe tie a ribbon in your golden hair and wear a blue dress, a frilly white apron, red shoes and yellow socks. You may like to bring a bowl of porridge (oatmeal) with you.

Book: *The Adventures of Aladdin* by various authors

Aladdin – I changed from being a poor boy to a handsome prince and married a beautiful princess in a 'great splendid palace'. *Dress suggestion:* Wear middle eastern clothes (eg baggy trousers). Sequins and jewels are acceptable as you are dripping with wealth.

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2 Investigators (optional extra roles but recommended)

Master Sherlock Holmes (from *Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) I am a man with such superior detective skills that I have become world famous. I already know a lot about each of the suspects, just from looking at their appearance. For example, I can tell Alice is a little girl with a very fanciful imagination and Aladdin is from the Far East. But, I am not a great reader of fiction, I prefer to do chemical experiments and I also play the violin. This certainly does not seem like a normal case. It is more like the Mr Angel case. You may like to read about it in my diary, if you get time. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in old-fashioned clothes, carry a magnifying glass and a pipe.

Mrs Bookworm (*The librarian responsible for the cookie cupboard*) – although I try to be helpful, a lot of the children are afraid of me. I think it is because I am always telling them to be quiet in the library. But my bark is worse than my bite. I really love children. *Dress suggestion:* Spectacles, a chain around your neck with a key attached but hidden inside your blouse. Wear a dress or skirt and blouse, but make sure whatever you wear has large pockets stuffed full of things.

6 Witnesses (optional extra roles) (but 18 to choose from)

Queen of Hearts (from *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll) Oh there is so much to tell – all about the tea cups and my shouting “Off with his head! or “Off with her head” and all the other people Alice met in Wonderland, but it would take too long. Alice comes into the library and looks at the children’s books. *Dress suggestions:* Wear white and stick big red cardboard hearts on your clothes.

White Rabbit (from *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll) ‘Silence in the court!’ I am a very busy rabbit. “Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!” *Dress suggestions:* As a white rabbit. Wear a waistcoat and have a pocket-watch hanging out of it. Consult it often. Also wear spectacles. Add a white fluffy bottom and some rabbit ears.

The Fairy Godmother (from *Cinderella*) After working all day on her chores, Cinderella often wondered if she would ever be happy again. The ladies of her household were invited to the ball. But Cinderella’s step-mother said she could not go unless her chores were done. Fortunately, I came to Cinderella’s aid and – well, you all know the rest of the story. *Dress suggestions:* Dress like a fairy complete with wings and a wand with which to grant wishes.

The Queen (from *Snow White* by The Brothers Grimm) I dressed as an ‘old pedlar woman’ and sold Snow White some lace for her waist. Then I laced her up so tight, she ‘lost ... (her) breath, and fell down as dead.’ Unfortunately, the seven dwarfs soon returned and cut the lace in two, so that she could draw breath. I knew she wasn’t dead because my mirror told me so, so I came again with a poisoned apple. The dwarfs thought Snow White was dead. A prince saw her and carried her away. Then the apple fell out of her mouth and she came back to life and they married. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a queen with a crown and a long gown. Add a nasty face mask.

Wendy (from *Peter and Wendy* by Sir James Matthew Barry) I am Wendy Darling. Peter started to visit us at night and then he took my brothers and me with him to Never Never Land. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in old-fashioned little-girl clothes. Have your hair tied in two pig-tails with pretty ribbon.

Tinkerbell (from *Peter and Wendy* by Sir James Matthew Barry) I used my magic fairy dust to help Peter Pan and Wendy and the others to fly. On the island there are lots of fairies. “When the first baby laughed for the very first time, the laugh broke into a thousand pieces and they all went skipping about and that was the beginning of the fairies.” *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a golden fairy with a little bell you always ring as you move about.

Wizard of Oz (from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum) To get to my place you follow the yellow brick road. People think that I can accomplish anything. Dorothy and her friends came to see me. The Scarecrow was in search of a brain. They all expected me to wave a magic wand and to solve their problems for them, but I didn't. *Dress suggestions:* A wizard's outfit with stars and the moon on it and with a long pointy hat.

Scarecrow (from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum) I was very upset because I didn't think I had the intelligence to be able to capture the Wicked Witch. But we did succeed and so we returned to see the Wizard, only to find he wasn't really able to do anything. But he did point out to us that we already possessed what we sought. I already had a brain. I just had to start using it. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a scarecrow with bits of straw coming out of your torn and tattered clothes (eg check flannel shirt and blue overalls).

The Grandmother (from *Little Red Riding Hood*) The Big Bad Wolf locked me in the cupboard. So Little Red Riding Hood, said to the Wolf who was sitting in bed dressed in my nightgown, ‘Why, Granny...what big eyes you have got.’ And the wolf said, ‘The better to see you with, my child,’ imitating my voice. I won't bore you with the rest as you have probably all heard the story. Most versions of the story end happily with Little Red Riding Hood being saved from the wolf by her father and the woodcutters. *Dress suggestions:* A long nightgown with a bed-jacket and a bonnet on your head.

Papa Bear (from *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*) Goldilocks tasted my porridge, sat in my chair and lay on my bed. But she found my porridge too hot and my chair and my bed too hard. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a large-sized father bear but with normal clothes on top.

The Genie (from *The Adventures of Aladdin*) I helped Aladdin to become a prince. I live in Aladdin's magic lamp. *Dress suggestions:* Wear middle Eastern clothes (eg baggy trousers) and a turban. Carry the lamp in which you live.

Characters from other books

Thumbeline (from *Thumbeline* by Hans Christian Andersen) I was born to be very, very tiny, no bigger than a lady's thumb and I slept in a lacquered walnut shell with a rose petal coverlet. I was stolen by an ugly toad that wanted me to marry her son. Yuk!! Some fish helped me escape and I had many adventures. I ended up spending the winter with a kind field mouse, but she wanted me to marry the neighboring boring old mole. After befriending a poor injured swallow because we were both great singers, he flew me off to his home. Poor Swallow had fallen in love with me, but when he put me on a beautiful white flower there was the King of the spirits of the flowers already there. Naturally we fell in love and lived happily ever after. *Dress suggestions:* Old fashioned, delicate long dress. Braid your hair and wear flowers in it. Speak with a tiny voice.

Cleopatra (from *Antony and Cleopatra* by William Shakespeare) I am queen of that fair country Egypt. O! my oblivion is very Antony (Marc Antony), and I am all forgotten. He married Octavia, Caesar's sister to please Caesar. My anger at hearing this was such that it would “melt Egypt into Nile!” *Dress suggestions:* Wear loosely draped material to form a toga. Make your face white with powder. You may like to draw Egyptian symbols or pyramids and the like on your clothes.

Pinocchio (*Pinocchio* by Carlo Lorenzini/Carlo Collodi) When I was a puppet I lied a lot, but the Good Fairy taught me not to and to be good. ‘How stupid I was as a puppet. And how glad I am to be a real live boy.’ When I lied my nose became so long I ‘could not move without banging it against the walls or door.’ Geppetto sold his coat to buy me a spelling book for school. I sold it to go to the puppet theatre. Then I saved a puppet from being burnt by the showman and the showman gave me coins for my father. *Dress suggestions:* A red jacket with a white frill-necked shirt. Make a pencil nose out of cardboard.

The Monster (*Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley) Even though Frankenstein had spent so much time and effort creating me, he found me so horrible, he ran in revolt. I reeked of the dead that had been used to create me. *Dress suggestions:* Wear clothes that look stitched together and draw some stitches on your brow.

Robin Hood (*Robin Hood* by various authors) I am a wealthy man who has been forced to become a thief. I steal from the rich and give to the poor. The poor of England were being asked for too many taxes. The taxes were required to fund various political battles overseas. I simply gave back to the poor the money that they had had unfairly taken away from them in the first place. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in period clothes, a cape and a mask.

Rapunzel (*Rapunzel* by The Brothers Grimm) I have magnificent long hair, fine as spun gold, and I unfastened my braided tresses, wound them round one of the hooks of the window above, and then my hair fell twenty ells down, and my rescuer climbed up by it. *Dress suggestion:* Old-fashioned clothes and a golden-haired wig braided.

Oliver Twist (from *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens) At the workhouse, I lived on “the smallest portion of the weakest food possible.” Later I went to London. The people I lodged with turned out to be none other than a gang of thieves, but I did not realize it till later. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a pauper with lots of holes in your clothes and grime. A bit of soot on your face would not go astray.

Name Tags

The Suspects

Alice
(suspect)

Cinderella
(suspect)

Snow
White
(suspect)

**Peter
Pan**
(suspect)

**Little Red
Riding Hood**
(suspect)

Dorothy
(suspect)

Goldilocks
(suspect)

Aladdin
(suspect)

**20 optional witnesses
and investigators**

Master Sherlock Holmes	Mrs Bookworm
Queen of Hearts	White Rabbit
Cinderella's Fairy Godmother	The Queen (in Snow White)
Wendy	Tinkerbell
Wizard of Oz	Scarecrow

Little Red Riding Hood's Grandmother	Papa Bear
The Genie	Thumbeline
Cleopatra	Pinocchio
Robin Hood	Rapunzel
Oliver Twist	The Monster

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by Stephanie Chambers

The Play

Note: *Although this is in play format, you do not have to take to a stage and act it out. You can just sit around a dining table and read out your lines or sit in a circle on sofas etc.*

Note: *If it says the line may be said by “Anyone”, we recommend that one of the optional witnesses take a turn to say the line. If there are no optional witnesses, then everyone should take a turn saying one of these lines, however, the person to whom the line is addressed should not say it (generally this is the person who speaks next). You may like to work out beforehand who will say each of these “Anyone” clues and write their character’s name next to each one.*

Sherlock Holmes: *(or anyone if he isn’t present, say I heard Sherlock Holmes say)*

This certainly does not seem like a normal case. Things are not what they seem. I already know a lot about each of you, just from your appearance. For example, I can tell Alice is a little girl with a very fanciful imagination. But, as I am not a great reader of fiction, I would like each of you to tell me something about the book you are from. Tell us about your adventures and let us be the judge of them. I am particularly good at finding out the truth as you will soon see. Firstly, I will tell you a little about myself. I like to do chemical experiments and I also play the violin. At the moment I have a bit of a stomach ache. It must be something I’ve eaten. And no – I haven’t eaten the cookies if that’s what you’re thinking. But I will carry on with my questioning regardless. Let’s start by having each of you tell us your story.

Alice: Some people think I have a fanciful imagination. But it was a wonderful dream – a dream filled with strange creatures. I saw a White Rabbit looking at its watch and I followed it down a rabbit hole. I fell down a deep hole, but I fell slowly so I had plenty of time to look at the jars of ‘Orange Marmalade’ and such. Oh there is so much to tell – all about the tea cups and the March Hare and all the other people I met in Wonderland, but it will take too long. The Queen of Hearts and I often play hide and seek around the library. It’s lots of fun.

Investigator: *(or anyone if there aren’t any investigators present)*

Alice – surely a sweet young girl like you wasn’t involved in a crime like this? Is it really true you were planning to become small and go through the lock into the cupboard?

Alice: All I will say is that I came out of my book while I was still holding the bottle labeled ‘Drink Me’ and I did drink it so I could have fitted through the lock to the cookie cupboard. At least I didn’t go around shouting ‘Off with her head’ to the librarian or anything silly like the Queen of Hearts. I’m cleverer than that. I had to squeeze in through the lock so I couldn’t carry anything with me.

Cinderella: I am a shopkeeper’s daughter and my house overlooked the canals and gondolas. The palace was across the canal from where I lived. When my mother died, my father married a widow with two grown daughters. Alas, when I met them, they treated me as a slave rather than as a step-sister. They were horrible to me. My step-sisters saw me covered in cinders after cleaning the fireplace and, my name being Ella, they gave me the nickname of ‘Cinder-ella’.

Snow White: My step-mother was jealous of my beauty and asked a hunter to do away with me. He took pity on me and let me run away into the forest and I came to the house of the dwarfs. I ate some of their porridge, cleaned the house and fell asleep on one of their beds. Later they found me asleep and asked me to stay and take care of them. My step-mother asked her looking-glass ‘Who is the fairest of us all?’ and it told her: ‘Snow-white living in the glen, With seven little men, Is a thousand times more fair.’ My step-mother then plotted to get rid of me.

Peter Pan: I come from Never Never Land. I am the boy who never grew up. I live on an island where there are pirates, mermaids, fairies and Indians. I taught the three children of the Darling family to fly so they could return with me to the island. We were trying to stop the evil pirate Captain Hook from going about his wicked ways. But then Captain Hook plotted to do away with me and he captured Wendy Darling.

- Dorothy: After I defeated the Wicked Witch of the West, I came back to the Wizard of Oz only to find out he had no powers at all. The Wizard offered to take me back to Kansas in his balloon, but then he took off without me. Fortunately, Gilda told me to use my magic ruby slippers to take me back to my farm. After I returned home, I told my family and friends how there's no place like home.
- Goldilocks: I ate porridge at the bears' house. The bears hadn't locked their front door, so that's permission to eat their porridge, isn't it? Then I tried to find a comfortable chair to sit on, but Great Big Bear's chair was too hard, Middle-sized Bear's chair was too soft and Tiny Little Bear's chair broke on me. I was getting tired after all this, so I went upstairs to find a bed to rest on.
- Aladdin: I am from an 'ancient palace'. When I was a boy, we were very poor. I met a 'mysterious stranger who said he would pay me a silver penny if I went down a manhole for him'. I went in a 'large chamber... (filled with) trees dripping with glittering jewels, pots of gold and caskets full of priceless gems.' 'Put out the flame and bring me the lamp!' he said. When I hesitated, he slid over the cover and left me in there, dropping his ring in the chamber as he did so. Terrified, I put the ring on my finger and 'twisted it round and round'. 'Suddenly the room was flooded with a rosy light and a great genie with clasped hands appeared on a cloud', and said he was at my command.