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Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Who Stole The Cookies?”

Standard version
for 8 females

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition

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The Suspects

Last night in the library, when many characters were out of their books enjoying a sojourn in the night air, 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 who were present at the time of the nasty deed. Mrs Bookworm is leading the investigation, so the perpetrator of this heinous crime will no doubt be revealed as the party proceeds. The people present in the library are:

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.

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. My Fairy Godmother is always by my side. She can turn things into other things (eg pumpkins into carriages) and grant wishes. *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

Tinkerbell – I am a fairy and I am always around to help Peter Pan. Sometimes I use my magic fairy dust to help people to fly. I live in Never Never Land. *Dress suggestion:* Dress as a golden fairy with a little bell you always ring as you move about.

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 with 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 with you.

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Name Tags

Mrs
Bookworm

Alice

Cinderella

Snow
White

Tinkerbell

Little Red
Riding Hood

Dorothy

Goldilocks

Merri Mysteries presents...

'Who Stole The Cookies?'

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

Mrs Bookworm

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 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.
- 2 I am responsible for taking care of the cookie cupboard. I keep the key to it around my neck. It was full of cookies that had been donated as part of the fundraiser for the library.
- 3 There were chocolate chip cookies, macadamia nut cookies – all kinds of cookies. But I shouldn't keep talking about them as I am on a diet. It isn't good for my diet to talk about cookies.
- 4 Because I am on a diet I am only eating the small meals I bring with me to the library. That is all and nothing passes my lips between meal times.
- 5 I would also like you all to tell me why you wanted to steal the cookies.

Mrs Bookworm - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Goldilocks may have been a porridge thief in the past, but now she has reformed and she is a good little girl. Why she even donated some cookies to the cookie cupboard. It is just a shame that shortly afterwards someone took all of the cookies.
- 2 (*in answer to Goldilocks' question*) I am as most children would say – a forbidding woman. I scare people myself rather than have them scare me. The library doesn't allow animals to enter so the Wicked Witch's threat to blow her whistle to call her wolves didn't scare me in the slightest as I knew they wouldn't be able to come into the library.

During this act you must ask each character a question:

Alice	Alice – what were you up to in the early part of the evening when the cookies disappeared? What did you do in the library at night?
Cinderella	You didn't get to the library till late, did you Cinderella, as you had spent the night dancing at the ball?
Snow White	You stole porridge from the dwarfs before you met them. So you were a porridge thief like Goldilocks. How do we know you didn't steal the cookies as well?
Tinkerbell	So how did you plan to steal the cookies Tinkerbell? Were you going to fly off with them?
Little Red Riding Hood	Before your incident with the wolf, I heard you were a very fearless little girl? Is that how you had the courage to steal the cookies?
Dorothy	I heard you arguing with Goldilocks. She said that she had a right to the cookies whereas you didn't. What did she mean by that?
Goldilocks	You really must stop being such a nuisance child, Goldilocks. You were annoying me no end because you kept tossing all of the other books off your shelf.

Mrs Bookworm - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 I admit that I did offer to give Tinkerbell the cookies in exchange for a lesson in how to fly. Can you blame me? Haven't we all dreamt of being able to fly like Tinkerbell?
- 2 The apple core Little Red Riding Hood found in my pocket was one I had picked up in the library. Someone had left it behind. I keep the monster in my pocket as a reminder to me not to eat cookies.
- 3 Tinkerbell is a well-behaved young lady. But I had to explain to her why she shouldn't test out the fire extinguisher last night. Fire extinguishers are only meant to be used in an emergency as they themselves create a great deal of mess. It took a few minutes to explain all this to Tinkerbell and to convince her that she shouldn't try out the fire extinguisher. You are used to doing whatever you want, aren't you Tinkerbell, so you are a bit wilful.

During this act you must ask each character a question:

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?
Cinderella	So did you manage to pick your way into that lock while I wasn't around Cinderella? (<i>after she replies, ask this</i>) Later you hid in the cupboard so that Little Red Riding Hood's father wouldn't see you. When did you come out of it? Why didn't you just get your Fairy Godmother to protect you?
Snow White	So did you give me a poisoned apple Snow White?
Tinkerbell	So as you couldn't teach me to fly because I'm not pure of heart, how else did you plan to get me to give you the cookies?
Little Red Riding Hood	Did you manage to steal the key to the cupboard from my pocket?
Dorothy	Why were you and the Wicked Witch of the West trying to scare me? Did you think that if I was scared, I would give you the cookies?
Goldilocks	What did you do when the Wicked Witch of the West refused to steal the cookies for you?

Merri Mysteries presents...

‘Who Stole The Cookies?’

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These are the clues for:

Alice

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Mrs Bookworm asks you about your book:

- 1 Mrs Bookworm, I do not have a fanciful imagination. It was a wonderful dream – a dream filled with strange creatures.
- 2 I saw a White Rabbit looking at its watch and I followed it down a rabbit hole. I fell down a deep well, but I fell slowly so I had plenty of time to look at the jars of ‘Orange Marmalade’ and such.
- 3 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.
- 4 Sometimes I leave Wonderland and come into the library and look at the children’s books.
- 5 In my book, I came to a very tiny passage leading to the ‘loveliest garden’ and a bottle saying ‘Drink Me’, but ‘the bottle was not marked poison’, so I drank it. I ‘shut up like a telescope’ till I was only ‘ten inches high’. Then I found a cake marked ‘Eat Me’ and I ate it and grew very tall. My feet were so far away.
- 6 *(after Mrs Bookworm asks why you wanted to steal the cookies)* At the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party I never got to eat anything as we kept moving to the next chair, so even after I had eaten the cake marked ‘Eat Me’, I was still hungry. That’s why I wanted to steal the cookies from the cookie cupboard.

Alice - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Mrs Bookworm asks you a question:

- 1 At night I like to skip around the library singing tunes to amuse myself. That takes a lot of energy. That's why I needed the cookies. But whether I got them is a secret.
- 2 My singing annoyed Little Red Riding Hood. You were always telling me to keep quiet, weren't you? But I found it awfully boring to be quiet. And after all, the library is the only place I get to play in besides Wonderland.
- 3 Goldilocks and I often play hide and seek around the library. It's lots of fun.
- 4 One time I was hiding and Little Red Riding Hood and her Grandmother came along. They were talking about how they planned to steal the key to the cupboard from Mrs Bookworm's pocket when she wasn't looking.
- 5 But then Little Red Riding Hood noticed I was listening to them. I had forgotten that I'd come out of our book when I was 'nine feet high' and hiding wasn't easy.
- 6 Little Red Riding Hood called me a spy and while I was bending down, Little Red Riding hood grabbed my pig tails and pulled them till I cried. I was still 'nine feet tall'. Thankfully Goldilocks stopped me in time so that my tears didn't cause any flood damage.

Alice - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Mrs Bookworm asks you a question:

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 But when I was about to squeeze through the lock, the Wicked Witch of the West came along with Dorothy and she told me to go or she would blow her whistle to summons her wolves.
- 4 I went then, but I came back later and I had to squeeze in through the lock so I couldn't carry anything with me.
- 5 I cried out for help. I asked for someone to give me some of the cake marked "Eat Me", but, alas, no one heard my cries for help.

Merri Mysteries presents...

'Who Stole The Cookies?'

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These are the clues for:

Cinderella

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Mrs Bookworm asks you about your book:

- 1 I am a merchant's daughter and my house overlooked the canals and gondolas. The Duke's palace was across the canal from where I lived.
- 2 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.
- 3 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'.
- 4 After working all day on my chores, I often wondered if I would ever be happy again.
- 5 The ladies of her household were invited to the Duke's ball. But my step-mother said I could not go unless my chores were done. Of course, she gave me so many chores so that this could never be. Fortunately, my Fairy Godmother came to my aid and – well, you all know the rest of the story.
- 6 *(after Mrs Bookworm asks why you wanted to steal the cookies)* I was so busy dancing with the Prince at the ball that I forgot to eat anything. So when I returned home I desperately wanted a midnight snack, so that's why I wanted to steal the cookies from the cookie cupboard. It was after midnight, so none of my wishes were granted.

Cinderella - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Mrs Bookworm asks you a question:

- 1 You were right. I was late. And by then I was a bit tired and very hungry. I asked my Fairy Godmother if she could turn my pumpkin into some cake, but she reminded me that her magic didn't work after midnight.
- 2 I tried to pick the lock of the cookie cupboard with my hairpin, but you saw me, didn't you Mrs Bookworm, and you were really angry.
- 3 You said that if you saw me trying to pick my way into the lock again, that you would see to it that I would be made to clean and scrub the library floors.
- 4 With the memories of toiling endlessly for my step-mothers and step-sisters, this threat of yours made me weep.
- 5 You left me so distraught that when I returned to my book, the other characters kept asking me if we were ill.
- 6 *(after Little Red Riding Hood says you hassled her for some cakes)* I did ask Little Red Riding Hood for a few cakes. But I meant no harm by it.

Cinderella - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Mrs Bookworm asks you a question:

- 1 I am not going to say. However, I will admit that I am better at dancing than I am at picking locks.
- 2 I did see some cookie crumbs in the back room of the library.
- 3 I decided to try visiting the library during the daytime instead of at night. But it wasn't very good as you have to keep avoiding being seen by the real people as well. While I was in the library during the daytime I saw Goldilocks close the cookie cupboard and give the key back to Mrs Bookworm.
- 4 *(after Mrs Bookworm asks about your hiding in the cupboard)* I did not want to meet Little Red Riding Hood's father. Woodcutters are of no interest to me. So, yes, I did spend some time in a cupboard. My Fairy Godmother was having her day off so I couldn't get her to take me away in a magic pumpkin. While I was in the cupboard, I did hear the sound of some packages being moved from the cookie cupboard which was next to my cupboard. Perhaps it was the cookies being stolen? But the sound did not last for very long, so they must have been moved very quickly.
- 5 It was boring in the cupboard. I did think about boring a hole from my cupboard into the cookie cupboard, so that I could munch on some cookies while I waited.
- 6 While I was in the cupboard, I did hear Mrs Bookworm give a short scream. But then she seemed to regain her usual composure and I heard her yelling at someone and telling them to get out of the library.

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These are the clues for:

Tinkerbell

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Mrs Bookworm asks you about your book:

- 1 I come from Never Never Land. I live on an island inhabited by pirates, mermaids, fairies and Indians.
- 2 Peter Pan taught the three children of the Darling family to fly so they could return with me to the island.
- 3 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 Peter Pan and he captured Wendy Darling.
- 4 There is also a crocodile that follows us about that has a clock inside his belly going tick, tock, tick, tock. I used my magic fairy dust to help Peter Pan and Wendy and the others to fly.
- 5 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.'
- 6 *(after Mrs Bookworm asks why you wanted to steal the cookies)* I am a fairy and we fairies don't have to eat. But Peter Pan is a real boy and he (like all boys) loves cookies and he needs a lot of energy to fight Captain Hook. I wanted to get Peter some cookies. So that's why I wanted to steal the cookies from the cookie cupboard.

Tinkerbell - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Mrs Bookworm asks you a question:

- 1 I decided that the best way to get to eat the cookies would be to befriend the librarian Mrs Bookworm who has the key to the cupboard.
- 2 One time I was telling you, wasn't I Mrs Bookworm, about how when Captain Hook tried to capture me, I had to fly in order to escape him.
- 3 You begged me to teach you to fly, didn't you Mrs Bookworm? You said I could have all the cookies in the cookie cupboard in exchange for the lesson.
- 4 I wanted the cookies, so I asked Mrs Bookworm if she had ever done anything wrong as these skills are only for the pure of heart.
- 5 She admitted that when she was a child one time she had not returned a particular book to the library. She had kept it because she loved it.
- 6 That's why she now works in a library. She is trying to make amends for the bad thing she did when she was a child.

Tinkerbell - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Mrs Bookworm asks you a question:

- 1 Mrs Bookworm is a lovely, generous lady. But I will not say whether or not she gave me the cookies as I don't want to jeopardise her role as a librarian.
- 2 If only the cookies gave off a tick tock like the crocodile's clock. Then we would know for sure who ate the cookies.
- 3 We book characters are almost immortal. We come alive again whenever someone reads our story. So we can take any risks we like and always know that we will be alive tomorrow.
- 4 While I was visiting the library yesterday I called something out to Mrs Bookworm just as she was opening the cookie cupboard. But I can't remember what I said exactly. It must not have been important.
- 5 I wanted to test out the fire equipment in the library so that we would all feel safe at night.
- 6 Mrs Bookworm discovered the cookie cupboard was empty when she came to the library this morning. You were so upset, weren't you Mrs Bookworm, that you burst into tears? You were worried that you would get the blame because everyone you work with knows how much you love cookies.