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Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Death On The Mound”

Meet and mingle version
for 17 to 30 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition

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The Suspects

Sometimes embarrassing things are deliberately left out of the history books. They are covered over and forgotten. The truth is that the 1919 World Series wasn't the only black mark in baseball history – there was a far worse event in 1944.

At the tail end of the war, good baseball players were in short supply as they were all overseas doing their duty for their country as part of the war effort. So, as some of you may know, women baseball players were enlisted to fill the gap. What you might not know is that there was still one male baseball team and they played against the women's teams. They were the Boston Odd Sox. The team was comprised of baseball players who couldn't do their military service for various (mainly physical) reasons.

The Odd Sox were competing against the Chicago Cheeky Chicks. The Odd Sox needed to win this game in order to reach the finals. The Chicago Cheeky Chicks were the worst team in the League having not won a single game.

But there were rumors afloat that the Odd Sox were under control of some powerful gambling entities and that they were going to throw this game. A lot of money was resting on it. Most, but not all of the players were in on it as they stood to make an extra year's wages in just one game.

In the first two innings the Cheeky Chicks had performed as admirably bad as usual and the Odd Sox, despite their efforts not to win, were in a slight lead. The problem was that the girls all kept hitting the ball so that it landed on the bases and, thus, it couldn't be easily ignored by the person manning the base.

And the girls – all flat-footed and overweight – didn't run very fast so despite ball fumbles and other tactics, the Odd Sox couldn't get them out without totally revealing to their fans that they were trying to lose the game. Things were getting desperate for the Odd Sox and it was time for them to bat.

Although they tried to miss hitting the ball, the pitcher Petticoat Peterson kept pitching so that her ball hit their bat no matter where they moved it to.

Then in the last and final innings, Petticoat Peterson collapsed on the mound – dead. The game was called off and the police were called in to investigate.

Now you might assume the Odd Sox were responsible, but apparently there was some pretty strong in-fighting going on amongst the players in the Cheeky Chicks. And with fans, managers, gamblers and others involved, no one knew for sure who did it. So now let's relive this moment in history and find out who really did it.

The Boston Odd Sox

Righty Mathews (*right fielder*) He is called "Righty" because he bats with his right hand whereas everyone else on the team is left-handed. He carries the team emblem (a skunk) wherever he goes. He couldn't go into the army because he had a knee injury from falling off a roof as a child. He is currently unemployed. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Bat. Carry a stuffed toy marked to look like a skunk (or a picture of one). Wear odd socks.

Shoey Jacobs (*left fielder*) He is called "Shoey" because he wears a different pair of shoes to every match. He has more shoes in his cupboard than Imelda Marcos. He couldn't go into the army because he was flat-footed. He works as a waiter at a high-class restaurant. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Make each of your shoes look different to each other in some way. Carry a spare pair of shoes for the game. Wear odd socks.

Double-Take Edwards (*pitcher*) He is cross-eyed. He couldn't go into the army because of this. He can do fantastic, sneaky curve balls and is a great pitcher as long as you point him in the right direction and as long as he chases after the correct one of the balls he sees. He is the sound man for a radio station. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Carry a ball. Wear odd socks.

Sleepy Joe (*catcher*) He has very big hands and when he's awake, he's a great catcher. He couldn't go into the army because he suffers from a rare disease which makes him fall asleep at odd times. He works as a legal clerk for the county office. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Wear a catcher's mitt and carry a pillow. Wear odd socks.

Doorbell Dunstan (*first base*) He is quick on the mark if he knows what's going on. The problem is that he often doesn't hear the bat hitting the ball so he doesn't know a player is heading his way. He wasn't accepted by the army because he is deaf. He is a university microbiology student. He is a close friend of Sleepy Joe. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Carry a hearing funnel. Wear odd socks.

Go Go Grimblat (*center fielder*) He doesn't miss much and he's one of the stars of the team. Unfortunately his skills come in equal weight with his arrogance and he is a bit of a pain. He wasn't in on the scam because he is too much of a big mouth. He has a slight hearing impediment and that he is why he wasn't accepted for military service. He is a car salesman. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Wear odd socks.

The Chicago Cheeky Chicks

Peachy Cream (*left fielder*) She is a reluctant player and not a particularly good one as a result. She is very proud of her long beautiful nails. Her father is very rich so she doesn't have to work. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Carry nail polish. Wear pink socks and false fingernails.

Moldy Cheese (*right fielder*) She works for her parent's cheese factory and that accounts for her smell. She is very keen on the game and a reasonable player. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Wear pink socks. Carry cheese.

Lippy Lovell (*short stop*) She wears really brightly colored lipstick which she hopes will distract the opposite team and make everyone not notice how bad she is at baseball. She sells makeup at parties but she doesn't have to work as her family are wealthy. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Wear bright lipstick. Wear pink socks.

Bouncy Betty (*first base*) She is called "Bouncy Betty" because whenever she hits the ball it bounces a lot. She works at a Diner. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Wear pink socks.

Clumsy Carol (*second base*) She always wears shoes which are a size or two too big for her. These add to her already innate clumsiness. She works in an antique shop. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Wear shoes which are too much big. Wear pink socks.

Slammit Suzie (*catcher*) She loves hearing the ball slamming into her mitt when the batters miss the ball. Unfortunately this rarely happens because the pitcher is so bad. Her father owns the candy store she works in. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Carry a catcher's mitt. Wear pink socks.

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Authorities (optional)

Arnie Ezekiel (*police officer*) He is a tough no-nonsense cop. He loves the power that comes with his position. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a mock police uniform. Carry some crime scene tape (make some out of paper with masking tape attached at the ends). Carry a notepad and pencil.

Mabel Finn (*police officer*) She loves solving puzzles. That's why she became a police officer. She's also great at cryptic crosswords. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a mock police uniform. Carry some crime scene tape (make some out of paper with masking tape attached at the ends). Carry a notepad and pencil.

Dr Peter Pepin (*police forensic specialist*) He loves the thrill of finding needles in haystacks. He won't give up till he finds what he wants. He is a scientific whiz-kid. He knows all the tricks of his trade. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a lab coat and wear white gloves. Carry some clear plastic bags to collect evidence in.

Dr Aphra Ardath (*medical doctor*) She has been the family doctor for the Petersons for many years. She believes you can never have too many tests. She is a bit of a hypochondriac. *Dress suggestions:* Carry a black bag and any medical items you can obtain (eg thermometer, stethoscope).

Witnesses (optional)

Other Boston Odd Sox Players (optional)

King Kordon (*third base*) He is one of the fastest men alive and a great batter and as well. He is very popular and a hero to many. He didn't know about the plan to drop the game. He had been in the army but was returned home after he received a bullet in his shoulder. His fans love seeing his bullet and scar and he loves showing them. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes and a hero's medal. Wear odd socks.

Shorty Williams (*second base*) He often catches runners by surprise because he is so tiny they often don't see him. He wasn't accepted by the army because he is flat-footed and too short. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Wear platform shoes. Wear odd socks.

Other Chicago Cheeky Chicks Players (optional)

Sunshine Sarah (*third base*) She is the star of the team, but unfortunately her valiant attempts aren't enough to save the team. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Wear a big sun on a chain or stuck on your uniform. Wear pink socks.

Christine Cowpat (*reserve player*) She is from a farm and has spent a lot of time running across the paddocks. As a result she is very good at running, but unfortunately she isn't very good at hitting or catching. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Carry a small cow ornament. Wear pink socks.

Other 10 witnesses (optional)

Lora Lonnagen (*umpire*) She was an umpire for the game and she definitely wasn't in on the scam. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Wear odd socks.

Reardon Jones (*Boston Odd Sox Manager*) He used to play with Babe Ruth and he has high hopes for the team. He definitely wasn't in on the scam. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Wear odd socks.

Mrs Paula Dingle (*Chicago Cheeky Chicks Manager*) She loves to eat jam tarts now and has a very strong sweet tooth although she was a good player in her day. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball clothes. Wear pink socks. Carry some sweet food.

Dario Dalpozzo (*Chicago Cheeky Chicks Fan*) He has been to every game they have ever played and he is madly in love with Lippy. *Dress suggestions:* Baseball fan clothes. Wear pink socks.

Ruth Babe (*Boston Odd Sox Fan*) She is a big fan of baseball. That's why she changed her name to honor the baseball hero. She loves watching the male players especially. *Dress suggestions:* Wear odds socks and carry banners in support of The Boston Odd Sox.

Bert Gifford (*Slammit's boyfriend*) He is Slammit's new boyfriend. She is madly in love with him. *Dress suggestions:* Wear conservative 1940s clothes (eg check trousers).

Mrs Una Camembert (*Moldy Cheese's mother*) She is very proud of Moldy as she thinks she is such a dedicated player. She just wishes she was as devoted to cheese-making. *Dress suggestions:* Wear conservative clothes. Carry some cheese.

Don Cream (*Peachy Cream's father*) He loves baseball. When he was young, he played with "Iron Horse" Lou Gehrig and "Battling Bambino" Babe Ruth. He was very sorry that they could only have one child and it was a girl. *Dress suggestions:* Wear conservative clothes and a tie.

Cazzie Egan (*Bouncy Betty's little sister*) Bouncy is her big sister and she likes watching her play baseball. *Dress suggestions:* Wear children's clothes and ribbons in your hair. Wear pink socks.

Edgar Doyle (*Slammit Suzie's father*) He owns and runs a candy store. He loves giving lollipops to the kids. *Dress suggestions:* Wear colorful clothes and a tie. Carry lollipops.

Name tags

12 Suspects

Righty
Mathews
(suspect)

Shoey
Jacobs
(suspect)

Double-Take
Edwards
(suspect)

Peachy
Cream
(suspect)

Moldy
Cheese
(suspect)

Lippy
Lovell
(suspect)

Sleepy
Joe Peterson
(suspect)

Doorbell
Dunstan
(suspect)

Bouncy
Betty
(suspect)

Clumsy
Carol
(suspect)

Go Go
Grimblat
(suspect)

Slammit
Suzie
(suspect)

14 witnesses

King Kordon

Shorty Williams

Sunshine Sarah

Christine Cowpat

Lora Lonnagen

Reardon Jones

Mrs Paula Dingle

Dario Dalpozzo

Ruth Babe

Bert Gifford

Mrs Una Camembert

Don Cream

Cazzie Egan

Edgar Doyle

4 authorities

**Detective
Sergeant Arnie
Ezekiel**

**Detective
Sergeant Mabel
Finn**

**Dr Peter Pepin
(Police Forensics)**

**Dr Aphra Ardath
(Doctor)**

Merri Mysteries presents...

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“Death On The Mound”

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the:

Clues

“Death On The Mound”

Clue page for the witnesses or authority

Print as many copies as you need.

Staple a copy of their name tag here

What I can reveal

Staple their “why” clues here

Staple their “how” clues here

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just the suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* pages.

Death On The Mound

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Merri Mysteries presents...

“Death On The Mound”

Righty Mathews

What I can reveal

Everyone thinks that because I carry the team emblem around with me that I am a great supporter of the team, but that isn't true. I carry it because I think the team stinks and “The Skunk” emblem represents that. I mean – look at us – what a bunch!

No wonder the army wouldn't have us. And it's embarrassing playing the girls and losing a lot of the time. I thought we may as well lose with some money in our pockets for our troubles. It is just a shame that our last game before the finals was against such a terrible team. No one had ever taught Petticoat how to do anything tricky. It was slow ball for her – that's for sure. All she cared about was her starched petticoats and how she looked.

She kept pitching the ball so it hit our bat so we had no option but to run. I'm glad the scam is out in the open and my baseball career is over. At least I won't have to play the Cheeky Chicks ever again.

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* pages.
- 2 If anyone asks you why you had five minutes time out towards the end of the game to speak to your manager, say: I wanted to talk to him about how I should bat today”.

Merri Mysteries presents...

“Death On The Mound”

Peachy Cream

What I can reveal

To be honest I was just looking forward to the end of the game which would be the end of the series for us. I don't really like playing baseball. I only do it because my Dad's one of the league's big sponsors and my sponsor too.

It's really dangerous. It's so easy to break your nails. Petticoat was always telling me to stop doing my nails while the Manager was revving us up before the game. I won't miss her really. I think she was just jealous because she had bitten her own nails so much they barely existed.

I admit that when Daddy was looking the other way during the game, I didn't bother chasing after that silly little ball. There were so many much more interesting things such as men to look at. Daddy thought Petticoat was fantastic just because she could pitch and she could hit the ball. He had been insisting that Petticoat spend the summer break with us. What a bore that would have been!

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* pages.
- 2 If anyone asks you if you poisoned Petticoat's peach, say: “How could you say such a thing? Are you calling me a murderess? Wait till my father hears about this. I'm not answering any questions without my Daddy's lawyer present. And in any case, we all chose the peach we wanted to eat. I didn't hand them around. I'm not the maid.”

“Death On The Mound”

Shoey Jacobs

What I can reveal

I’m sorry about the scam. I didn’t want to be part of it at first, but I kept thinking about all the shoes I’d be able to buy with the money and I need new shoes for every game. They give me luck – without them I’d just be a flat-footed no-hoper. My shoes make me feel special.

They are talking about banning us for life from baseball so I suppose that’s an end to my baseball shoes collection. Maybe I’ll take up basketball instead or golf. Golf shoes are pretty neat.

I didn’t really like Petticoat. She was too bubbly and enthusiastic. She’d come up and hug me and stand on my shoes – that’s not on in my book. I wanted to hit her when she did that, but I couldn’t because she was a woman.

Once this investigation is over, I’m going to take Clumsy Carol shoe shopping. I might take her to meet my podiatrist too. Once she learns how to wear shoes properly, she’ll have to change her name – maybe to Cute Carol.

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* pages.
- 2 If anyone asks you whether you poisoned Petticoat when you were kissing her, say “I was only kissing her for professional reasons. I didn’t like her or anything. I just thought that if I kissed her she would be so excited about it that it would put her off her pitching. I certainly didn’t poison her and anyway I never pass gum while kissing.”

You should put these 38 clues in the envelopes for the witnesses (ie not the suspects). Please make sure they are all given out.

Righty had recently been retrenched by the brick-making company he works for and he needed the money from the scam to start his own driveway construction business.

Righty is in love with Petticoat’s cousin Wilma but Petticoat kept telling Wilma she could do better than go out with him.

During the game, when Petticoat was batting she hit the ball towards Righty, but he missed it and he fumbled and she made it to first base. His team-mates jeered him and Petticoat laughed.

When Peachy and Petticoat were young and at school, Petticoat stole Peachy’s Barbie doll and wrecked its nails.

Peachy’s father had told her that if she didn’t improve her game, she would have to have private baseball lessons from Petticoat every afternoon.

During the game, Doorbell hit a ball in the direction of Peachy. She tried to duck but it hit her on the head. This really hurt as she didn’t stop it with her hands for fear of breaking her precious nails. Petticoat told her in front of everyone that she had let the team down as it should have been an easy catch.

Petticoat and Bouncy work at the same Diner. Petticoat gets to be a waitress whereas Bouncy spends her time cooking eggs mostly. So Petticoat gets tips and Bouncy doesn’t. The boss said he’d let Bouncy be a waitress next time one of the waitresses leaves. But none of them want to leave.

Petticoat always teased Bouncy about the way she made the ball bounce when she hit it. Often at a practice session, Bouncy ended up in tears because of Petticoat’s endless taunts.

Clues relating to “how” they might have done it

You should put these 38 clues in the envelopes for the witnesses (ie not the suspects). Please make sure they are all given out.

Last week Righty put a deposit on a large engagement ring for Wilma. He said he'd be back after the weekend to pay for it for certain. The salesman joked that if he wasn't, he'd sell it to someone else to which Righty replied – “over my dead body”.

A man was seen coming out of the kitchen used by The Chicago Cheeky Chicks at about eleven thirty. The girls were busy going for a warm up run.

When in the last part of the game the Odd Sox were winning, Righty was sweating and pacing around and throwing angry comments to his team members.

Righty asked for some time out and left the field for five minutes to speak with his manager about a quarter of an hour before Petticoat was found dead. Ask Righty why he did that.

Peachy bought the peaches for the pre-game snack as her father owns a large peach orchard. Ask Peachy if she poisoned the peach she gave Petticoat.

After Petticoat was discovered dead, it was also discovered that one of Peachy's precious nails was broken. She says she doesn't know how it happened. She cried more tears about that than she did about Petticoat's death.

Peachy and Lippy were seen huddled together before the game. Peachy was overheard to say “Petticoat will no doubt be buried in those starched petticoats of hers”.

Bouncy and Moldy were seen chatting to the green keeper before the game.
