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Merri Mysteries

www.merrimysteries.com



Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Who Killed Santa?”

Large standard version
for 14 to 30 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition

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Although some of the characters in this mystery are loosely based on real people, the events depicted in this mystery are totally fictional.

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See the host’s guide for further details on the copyright requirements for this kit.

The Suspects

The portly gent who dresses in red won't be going down any chimneys this year. He is dead – possibly murdered – yes, it's scandalous but true. It happened just before the company Christmas party being held at Chatties Restaurant. Did someone not want him to be there? Was it revenge for an unwanted present from Santa last year? Or was it just old age catching up with him?

We're here to find out the real juicy truth. The media are also here. But this time they aren't just reporting what happened. They are suspects too. The people present at the party are:

Martina Finn – My husband and I are directors of the company. I work very hard but I enjoy my job as long as everyone behaves themselves. I am careful about the way I look and work in a very professional manner. I can hold my head high in the business community. In my spare time, I like to do sign language. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a modern stylish suit and carry a mobile phone and an organizer. Add long colored nails.

Nick Finn – I'm also involved in the business. Martina really runs it. She has most of the control. I spend a lot of my time just making sure everyone is pulling their weight and everything is under control. I'm a bit edgy because I've just given up smoking. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a suit and a jazzy tie. Add some pillows to make yourself look plump, don a gray beard and act a little agitated.

Winnie Bailey – I'm the office manager at the company. I'm also a mother and a softball player. I've worked here ever since I left school. I'm very good at shorthand and can type 100 words a minute. I expect everyone else to be as efficient as me, but they never are. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a softball player's outfit. Carry a softball bat.

Glenda Drake – I'm a graphic artist. I'm one of the most creative people alive today. I'm also a mother. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a modern t-shirt and jeans. Carry a laptop computer (or a cut-out of one in cardboard) and a pen with which to doodle on your paper napkins.

Ebony Sutherland – I'm the production manager. I have an eye for detail. I love animals. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a t-shirt with an animal on the front and jeans.

Josh Fraser – I am an account executive and I'm a cool dude that the ladies love. I take care of the client liaison for the organization. My good looks and charm have won many hearts and attracted clients to the business. I am a great asset but they don't seem to realize that. *Dress suggestions:* Wear black clothes. Carry some weights. Add some extra padding to create fake muscles. And make sure you wear your sunglasses all the time. © copyright Acture Pty Ltd 2004

Barret Norcott – I'm the "fix it" man who repairs the company's computers and backs up all the data. I spend most of my time indoors and could do with a bit more exercise. I'm in love with Mrs Claus. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a t-shirt and add some pillows to make you look plump. Carry tools or a screwdriver.

Regina Wells – I'm the President of Gas Plus More convenience stores and gas stations. I'm a great pilot and I love flying planes. I've been a friend of Martina and Nick for years and their company gets their gas from us. *Dress suggestions:* Wear some overalls as if you have dashed in from the gas station. Carry a mobile phone.

Freya Walker – I'm a sales rep for SDX TV station and a new mother. The company advertises on our TV station. As sales rep I try to dress well to give the image that our TV station is very successful, but I often find I have baby food somewhere on my clothes. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a modern suit. Carry some diapers.

Rosemary Piper – I'm Freya's boss at SDX TV. I'm into natural remedies but that doesn't mean I've got my head in the clouds. I'm a very effective and firm boss. I just believe everybody should eat healthy natural foods and drink lots of herbal teas. My children are teenagers now. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a stylish modern suit and carry a mobile phone. Carry a small portable TV (or a TV guide) and some herbal tablets.

Grant Lowe – I am a disc-jockey with Radio ZZZ. The company advertises on our radio station. I'm fit and healthy and mad about music and all sports. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a t-shirt for a new band. Wear headphones and carry a football.

Jack Fielder – I'm a sales manager for Radio ZZZ. I like going fishing when I have time off. I always carry a radio with me wherever I go because I need to know who is advertising on the other radio stations. *Dress suggestions:* Expensive jeans & a shirt. Carry a radio &/or a fishing line.

Gibson Downs – I am a journalist with the local newspaper. The company advertises with us and sometimes I write their advertorials. I love to play golf but more than that I love my wife. I just want all you women to know that I'm happily married to my beautiful wife. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a suit and carry a mobile phone and a golf club and/or golf balls.

Lorenzo Giueni – I am the owner of Chatties Restaurant and I am one of the world's finest chefs. *Dress suggestions:* Wear chefs check pants, a white shirt and a chef's hat.

NOTE: The people playing the suspects roles should try to be early or at least on time to the party.

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5 Witnesses (optional)

Jim Lawrence – I am a partner in business and I also own some other businesses. But I can assure you that I'm not part of the Santa slave market or anything like that. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a suit and carry a mobile phone.

Ingrid Evans – I am Regina Well's secretary at Gas Plus More convenience stores and gas stations. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a business suit and carry pen and paper ready to take notes.

Bert McGill – I am a partner and the manager of Motor Bike World. We sell ATVs, motor cycles and Seadoos. Our shop is near Martina and Nick's office so I've become friends with them over the years. *Dress suggestions:* Wear motor bike gear (ie leathers and padded elbows, helmet etc).

Kirk Stevens – I am the co-owner of Big Motors – a car and truck dealership. Martina and Nick buy their company cars from us. *Dress suggestions:* Wear overalls as if you just came out of the pit. Wear a cap.

Phoebe Watkins – I am the general manager of SDX TV. Rosemary Piper and Freya Walker work for me. I like golf. *Dress suggestions:* Wear very stylish clothes and carry a golf club and/or some golf balls.

11 Santa's helpers roles (optional)

Dasher – I am one of Santa's reindeer team. I am a very fast reindeer – watch me go! *Dress suggestions:* Wear some antlers on your head.

Dancer – I am one of Santa's reindeer team. I am a dancing reindeer. *Dress suggestions:* Wear some antlers on your head.

Prancer – I am one of Santa's reindeer team. I prance around, thinking I'm great. *Dress suggestions:* Wear some antlers on your head.

Vixen – I am one of Santa's reindeer team. I am a bit of a vixen by nature. *Dress suggestions:* Wear some antlers on your head.

Comet – I am one of Santa's reindeer team. I am a bit of a space case. I am always up there in the clouds with the comets and so on. *Dress suggestions:* Wear antlers.

Cupid – I am one of Santa’s reindeer team. I am a romantic reindeer. *Dress suggestions:* Wear some antlers. You may also like to carry a cupid’s bow and arrow.

Donner – I am one of Santa’s reindeer team. *Dress suggestions:* Wear antlers.

Blitzen – I am one of Santa’s reindeer team. *Dress suggestions:* Wear antlers.

Rudolph – I am Santa’s main reindeer and I’m the famous red-nosed reindeer. The other reindeers used to be mean to me. They never let me join in any of their games. But then Santa gave me a job pulling his sleigh and then they all thought I was special. *Dress suggestions:* Wear some antlers on your head and a shiny red nose.

Mrs Claus – I am Santa’s wife. I am the real boss behind Christmas. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a conservative red dress with your white hair tied back in a bun. You may like to add a red bonnet.

Elfie (a male or female) – I am one of Santa’s elves. I wrap up presents all day long. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a pointy cap.

Name tags

Suspects

Martina
Finn
(suspect)

Nick
Finn
(suspect)

Winnie
Bailey
(suspect)

Glenda
Drake
(suspect)

Ebony
Sutherland
(suspect)

Josh
Fraser
(suspect)

Barret
Norcott
(suspect)

Regina
Wells
(suspect)

Freya
Walker
(suspect)

Rosemary
Piper
(suspect)

Grant
Lowe
(suspect)

Jack
Fielder
(suspect)

Gibson
Downs
(suspect)

Lorenzo
Giueni
(suspect)

Witnesses

Jim Lawrence
Ingrid Evans
Bert McGill
Kirk Stevens
Phoebe Watkins

Santa's helpers

Dasher
Dancer
Prancer
Vixen
Comet
Cupid
Donner

Blitzen
Rudolph
Mrs Claus
Elfie

Merri Mysteries presents...

Who Killed Santa?

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

Clue page for the witnesses or Santa's helper

*Print as many copies as you need
of these four pages.*

Staple a copy of their name tag here

Act One

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

Staple their clues here.

Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

Staple their clues here.

Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

Staple their clues here.

Merri Mysteries presents...

Who Killed Santa?

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

*Martina
Finn*

Martina Finn - Act One

During this act, you must say:

- 1 My husband Nick and I run this business and believe me it keeps us as busy as tinsel makers around Christmas.
- 2 Why can't we have celebrations all year round instead of everyone wanting everything at the same time? It's crazy. By the time Santa comes to my house, I'm too tired to put out any milk and cookies for him.
- 3 The police said we should tell you all about our hobbies so that you get to know us a bit more. My hobbies are learning sign language and Spanish.
- 4 I have pretty finger nails – see. It is my one luxury. I get them done.

Martina Finn - Act Two

During this act, you must say:

- 1 Another reason I have never liked Santa is that he never listens to your prayers or reads the letters you send. I asked Santa for a Barbie doll like this one (*show everyone your Barbie*) for years & years and did I get one? No. I had to buy this one myself.
- 2 Nick and I had a meeting to discuss Santa Claus and the direction of the business as a whole.
- 3 Nick said that if he became Santa, that we could use the business to do all the merchandising and promotion.
- 4 He said that we would become so rich from the spin-offs that we would be able to spend most of the year sailing and playing games.
- 5 I saw Glenda Drake writing an email. It looked like she was paying a computer hacker to take some funds from a bank account in the name of S Claus. She was also sending Jack Fielder a copy of the letter.
- 6 Rosemary Piper told me at the party how a friend of hers had recently come back from India with some really powerful herbs.
- 7 I admit that I had thought about bashing Santa with this Barbie. But as the police said, Santa had a few bruises but he certainly hadn't been beaten up.

Martina Finn - Act Three

During this act, you must say:

- 1 Of course, I told Nick that his idea of becoming Santa was ridiculous.
- 2 There was no way I was going to spend time wrapping endless presents.
- 3 Nick gave me the silent treatment for a few days and then he got over it. I was just as surprised as everyone else when Santa died just before our party.
- 4 I can reassure you that Nick and I didn't have anything at all to do with it.
- 5 At the time of Santa's collapse, I was chatting to Rosemary Piper and Lorenzo Giueni about what we hoped Santa would bring us this Christmas.
- 6 Those cookies I was buying were just ordinary cookies. They just fell off the back of a truck, so they were cheap, that's all. Trying to save the company a few dollars – I should be given an award, not be treated like a serial killer.

Merri Mysteries presents...

Who Killed Santa?

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

*Nick
Finn*

Nick Finn - Act One

During this act, you must say:

- 1 Martina gets stressed out by Christmas. I just go grayer (*pointing to your beard*).
- 2 Santa had such a great job – playing with toys all year and delivering them at Christmas. I want his job! Why not? The position's vacant now, isn't it?
- 3 I read a lot. That's my main hobby.
- 4 I don't exercise a lot, but the good news is that I have given up smoking. So I won't be contributing to any smoke going up our chimney this year.

Nick Finn - Act Two

During this act, you must say:

- 1 I have been eating a lot more cake in preparation for my new job as Santa. Better than boring old sandwiches any day. I'm starting to develop a taste for it.
- 2 I told Martina that there had to be a way to make money out of Santa's job.
- 3 Santa's presents may have been free, but because something is free for a while doesn't mean it will be forever – like browsers and search engines – we all know that you will have to pay for them some day either directly or via advertising. If I become Santa, then I will certainly charge something.
- 4 Martina is very hardworking and creative, but she isn't a visionary like me. She just can't see the possibilities of a true Santa business.
- 5 It would have been such an easy job, especially if I'd contracted out all the delivery side of the business. Then all I would have had to do is make the odd personal appearance at a shopping mall and sit for a few photos with kids. Talk about being paid to have a good time.

Nick Finn - Act Three

During this act, you must say:

- 1 Eventually I realized that you aren't allowed to trademark the name "Santa" and red isn't really my color, so I gave up on the whole idea of taking over Santa's job.
- 2 The fact that Santa was killed shortly after I put together a detailed business plan for a "Santa company" is purely coincidence.
- 3 Whoever overheard Martina and I talking to the travel agency must have misheard the dates. We are planning a trip to the Bahamas, but it is for February not December.
- 4 I saw Glenda Drake and Jack Fielder talking to Santa. I heard Jack saying that because they couldn't go to court, they had taken the matter into their own hands. Santa looked very pale when he heard this.
- 5 I also saw the email message that Glenda Drake was sending the computer hacker. She had also asked the hacker to scramble Santa's clock and electronic diary so that he wouldn't deliver presents on Christmas Eve. She had said everyone would just blame it on a computer virus.
- 6 During the party preparation, to be honest I was goofing off out the back. I hate doing menial tasks. I am a thinker not a doer.

Merri Mysteries presents...

Who Killed Santa?

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

*Winnie
Bailey*

Winnie Bailey - Act One

During this act, you must say:

- 1 I run the office by day and at night I run my husband and two children. Sometimes I tie them all to the running machine and I just go and have a well-deserved lie down.
- 2 Santa doesn't have any kids of his own, so he doesn't know what it's like to be a parent. He just dumps the toys for the kids to fight over and clears out before dawn.
- 3 This should be a real celebration now that Santa isn't around to bother us.
- 4 My main hobby is softball. It keeps me fit. Sometimes I also kick boxes. No – I mean I do kick-boxing. But the birth of my second-child has slowed me down a bit.

Winnie Bailey - Act Two

During this act, you must say:

- 1 Now my name is Winnie Bailey, not “nosy parker”, but even so, I couldn't help but notice that Ebony has gone around cutting Santa out of all of the Christmas cards the company received.
- 2 I don't mean to harp on it, but when Ebony Sutherland joined the company, in the psychological profile she completed she scored very highly in the “risk taking” category.
- 3 That's why she likes to travel. Traveling is a very risky business.
- 4 Surely murdering someone is also one of those risky things that high risk people do, eh Ebony?
- 5 Last year Santa gave the most ridiculous presents. I couldn't help but think that he was really buying them for himself. I mean who would ever give a two year old girl a full-sized boxing bag as a present? Santa, like all men, was totally incompetent.

Winnie Bailey - Act Three

During this act, you must say:

- 1 When we arrived earlier on to help set up for this party, I saw that Santa was in his usual spot amongst the presents.
- 2 When I was busy writing out name tags. I offered Santa one but he just kept playing with his yo-yo. So I left him tag-less – useless man that he “is”, or rather “was”.
- 3 I had a name tag to give to Barret, but he wasn’t anywhere to be seen.
- 4 When I was walking by the kitchen earlier, I heard Lorenzo saying that he hoped Santa got mad cow disease.
- 5 At the party, Grant Lowe and I were talking about all the usual office gossip. That was all.

Merri Mysteries presents...

Who Killed Santa?

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

*Extra
clues*

Witnesses extra clues - Act One

I overheard Martina and Nick on a joint phone call with a travel agency. They were booking a relaxing holiday on a yacht in the Bahamas leaving tomorrow, yet this is usually their busiest time.

I saw Regina taking down all the Santa decorations at her convenience stores and gas stations, yet she used to like her stores to display lots of Christmas spirit. You seemed to feel real nasty towards Santa Claus. Why was that Regina?

I saw Santa ditching his reindeer for a motor cycle at Motor Bike World. He took his new motor cycle to a gas station to fill with gas. He should have taken it to a Gas Plus More but he didn't – the fool. I had to reassure Ebony that we would find a good home for Santa's reindeer which Santa had traded in on the deal to buy a motor cycle. She seemed quite hysterical in her concern for those reindeer.

Barret cornered me last time I came in to the office. He wanted to know how you would go about cutting the brake cables on a sleigh.

Just before the party, I heard Josh saying to Santa something about how he had something to show him.
