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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“The Crazy Clown Car Caper”

Meet and mingle version
for 17 to 30 guests

by Erika E. Boisvert

Corbin M. Griest

Nicholas A. Heafield

Kendra L. Hotchkiss

Megan E. Kehr

Daniel J. Serard

Brittany M. Turcotte

Jonathan R.R. Whitney

with help from their teacher

Michele Kirschbaum

Optional characters by Laurel Long

First edition

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The Suspects

Welcome to the Center Brothers' Circus!

Just five years ago, Edgar Center, the owner of the Center Circus died. The circus had been performing in small towns on the Eastern seaboard of the United States for over twenty years. Edgar Center was content to keep the circus small and live with his family in the small town of Henniker, New Hampshire when they were not on the road.

After Edgar's death, the will was read, and he left his circus to his college educated and ambitious son, Sammy. This was a surprise to Edgar's wife, Tammy, as well as to his other son, Danny. They were disappointed that Sammy would be totally in charge of the circus.

Five years have passed since Sammy took over the circus and he has brought the circus to the big time – New York City! Sammy improved the popularity of the circus by changing its name to The Center Brothers' Circus and by adding a new, crowd-pleasing act – the clown car, a small, two-door electric vehicle which can only fit two clowns at a time. However, it has a trap door which opens to allow over 30 clowns to enter it, one by one, from a trap door on the floor of the performing area. Children love to see so many clowns coming out of the tiny car!

So tonight's the Center Brothers' big night and the Edison Garden in New York! We begin with an afternoon rehearsal before mayhem begins...

Sammy Center – I'm Sammy, the owner of the circus. It was my life's dream to become the owner of my own circus. I was so happy when my father passed it on to me. I love what I do and I wouldn't give it up for the world. *Dress suggestions: Dress in a nice collared shirt and tie with nice pants and a fedora.*

Danny Center – I am the ringmaster of the Center Brothers' Circus. I run the show and everybody knows it. I am the elder son. Nobody tries to take the show from me, not even my brother! *Dress suggestions: Dress in a top hat, bow tie, black jacket, black pants, white undershirt and carry a cane.*

Tammy Center – I am Sammy and Danny's mother. After I married their father, I gave up my own college education and potential career to dedicate myself to my family. I always had good suggestions as to help run the circus, but my husband would never listen to me. In fact, I was surprised that he didn't leave the circus to me. Although I am proud of Sammy for finishing college and for bringing the circus from a small New England town, to its debut in New York City. Of course, I'm proud of Danny too, but for what, I'm not sure. *Dress suggestions: Wear a slightly below the knee one piece dress and wear reading glasses and a wig and carry a purse.*

Barbara Shoppe – I'm the bearded lady. I've been in the circus ever since I started growing my beard at age 18. I started shaving before any of the boys did and my parents didn't know what to make of me. I don't really like my job because people always stare and laugh at me, but I've gotten use to it since the circus is always moving from place to place. This is the only job for me. I don't think I would be able to get another one. I don't know what I will do without my missing beard! *Dress suggestions: Wear a dress, high heels and a blonde wig. Wear a fake beard.*

Bubbles – I'm the janitor. I tried out to be one of the clowns to fit into the small car. I did not get the part, and they gave me the job as the janitor. I was mad because my dream was to be a clown and be in the circus. When I was little everyone has always laughed and made fun of me. I always go to Banana Bee's for dinner every night because I do not know how to cook. *Dress suggestions: Wear a hat, old ripped jeans, a flannel shirt and old sneakers. Carry a rag and a mop or a broom. Make your face look scruffy.*

Corbin Cubs – Everyone knows the lion tamer has the hardest job. I have to care for the lions 24/7! I groom, feed and even stay overnight to make sure the lions behave. My act in the show is very important. Not only do I risk my life by sticking my head into the lion's mouth, but I have also trained the lions to jump through hoops. Since I am a main star of the show, I have no reason to be jealous. As for the clowns they're always getting laughed at. *Dress suggestions: Wear khaki pants and shirt, whip, chair and safari hat.*

Igor Denisovich – My wife and I have been in the circus industry our entire lives. We are trapeze artists. As I was a child growing up in Russia, my parents taught me all the tricks of the circus trade. I met my wife ten years ago when she joined the circus in Odessa, Russia. We love to be what everyone looks forward to so we train extra hard and plan a great show. We have become the most successful act in the Center Brothers' Circus. Although many people think the clowns are the most successful act, they are sadly mistaken. *Dress suggestions: Wear spandex, pins or balls to juggle.*

Svetlana Denisovich – I am from Russia. I was a former gymnast and trained all the time. My goal was to compete in international competitions. I agreed to join the circus because I was sick of gymnastics and wanted a change. Being a gymnast I am used to all the attention being on me while I perform. I was immediately smitten with Igor and we were soon married. As time went on the clowns began to steal the show. Igor and I were very upset because we loved to be the center of attention. We were then motivated to create a new and better routine. Many of the other people in the circus don't really like us because we are so talented, beautiful and exotic. *Dress suggestions: Wear a dance leotard, ballet shoes and spand.??*

Double-Cross Lou – I am well-known for my double motorcycle act, which is driving one motorcycle and then jumping on another. This act has given me the nickname of DXL. Everyone in the circus calls me that. I have been in the circus for about 13 years, and I love every second of it.

Dress suggestions: Wear a jumpsuit, cape and a helmet. If you want you can bring a real or cardboard motor bike (full-sized or a tiny model).

Jimbo Jones – I am the lead clown in the Center Brothers' Circus and I deserve to be because I studied clowning at Oxford. The clown car has really made the clowns the stars of the show! Since the car was added to the act, our attendance tripled! It's all because of the clowns and the car that the Center Brothers' Circus has made it to the big time – New York City! No one can steal the show from us! **Dress suggestions:** Wear colorful eccentric clown clothes, big oversized shoes, and different colored socks. Wear a red clown nose.

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Authorities (optional but recommended)

Detective Donald O'Dunkin – I have been on the New York City police force for a long time. I'm near retirement and can't wait. I've done my time on the force and I'm basically going through the motions of doing my job.

Dress suggestions: Wear a trench coat and carry a cup of coffee in one hand and a doughnut in the other. Carry a cell phone and a notepad.

Nadine Ludiker – I'm a hard hitting New York newspaper reporter. When I smell a story like this I get excited. It's the kind of story that would be a fun inclusion in our otherwise drab news section. **Dress suggestions:** Wear office clothes. Carry a notepad and pen. You might also like to carry a recorder.

18 witnesses (optional extra roles)

Sparkles – I am a clown that likes to shine. I razzle and dazzle everyone I meet. I have a wand and I sprinkle everyone with glitter. I am not a suspect because I have only just gotten back this minute from a week's holiday.

Dress suggestions: Wear colorful eccentric sparkly, glittery clown clothes, big oversized shoes, and different colored socks. Wear a red clown nose. Carry a wand and some glitter to dip it in.

Chubby – I am the circus' elephant. I am not big by elephant standards, but everyone calls me "Chubby". Watch out because if I step on your toe you will be sorry. I am not a suspect, because I could not have opened the lock to the garage for a start. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a trunk and big ears (made from material or cardboard). Pad yourself with some extra pillows and wear dark brown, grey, pink or white clothes. Or hold up a mask made from a printout of an elephant face and trunk, cut to size and stuck on cardboard.

Tanya – I am the lioness that Corbin thinks he can control. I just do things to please him, but he certainly isn't really in control. I just let him think he is. I am not a suspect, because I am never allowed out of my cage except when I am on stage. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a lioness outfit or hold up mask made from a printout of a lioness face cut to size and stuck on cardboard and wear light brown clothes.

Shu – I am a Chinese acrobat and I can perform all sorts of difficult feats. My body is like rubber. My name means “good, pure and virtuous”. I am not a suspect because last night I was staying with some other Chinese friends and they can vouch for me. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a black wig and an acrobat outfit such as a nylon leotard.

Radek – I am a stunt rider from Czechoslovakia. My horse and I work extremely well together. We understand each other. I am not a suspect because last night I was away on a course about how to massage your horse. *Dress suggestions:* Wear horse-riding trousers, a fancy shirt and carry a small whip.

Munchie – I have been selling food at the circus for the last 25 years. I am in my late fifties and easy going, but I don’t care much about my appearance. I sweet-talk the people I sell snacks to in the hopes they will give me big tips. *Dress suggestions:* Wear red and white striped pants, or overalls and/or a red apron. Carry some popcorn bags or other snacks with you on a small tray.

Shannon – I am a fire-juggler, though I am still learning and make a lot of mistakes. I am kinda snobbish and try to show off my juggling, even though I’m not so great at it. *Dress suggestions:* Wear black pants and a black shirt, but wear a colorful ribbon in your hair. Cover toilet paper rolls with black paper and use red or yellow tissue paper to represent the fire coming out each end.

George – I’m a monkey. I do tricks and then hold out a cup for people to put money into. I’m smart, very playful, and love to dance. Humans adore me, and I know it. *Dress suggestions:* Find a photo of a monkey’s face, blow it up to the size of your face, print it and stick it to cardboard and cut the face out. Then either put it on a stick and hold it in front of your face or add some elastic and wear it as a mask. Wear all brown. Carry a plastic cup for coins and carry a small music player if you have one.

Becky – I’m a circus pony. Children ride me before the show as I walk slowly. I’m old and lonely. I like to spend time stopping and gazing at nature. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a headband that has ears. Find a photo of a pony’s face, blow it up to the size of your face, print it and stick it to cardboard and cut the face out. Then either put it on a stick and hold it in front of your face or add some elastic and wear it as a mask. Dress in light brown or grey with dark shoes. Wear dark gloves on your hands for hooves.

Nifty – I am a unicorn. Just seeing me run through a hoop is enough to get the audience whoopin’ and hollerin’. I am shy, but I get all warm inside when I hear humans cheer for me. I am always looking for new green grass to eat. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a headband with a horn. Dress in white with colorful bracelets, necklaces, and dangly earrings. Maybe carry some grass to chew on.

Garbage – I am a mutt who eats from the trash at the circus. I have been following around the circus crowd for so long now that I have become one of the family. I am quick witted as well as quick on my feet. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a headband with dog ears and use brown rope to make yourself a dog’s tail. Wear clothes that are a mixture of dark brown/grey/black. If you have clothes with spots, even better. Paint your face brown with black freckles and/or find a photo of a dog’s face, blow it up to the size of your face, print it and stick it to cardboard and cut the face out. Then either put it on a stick and hold it in front of your face or add some elastic and wear it as a mask.

Pumpkin – I am a parrot that sometimes comes out and talks to the crowd or to audience members before the show. My name is Pumpkin both because I have a lot of orange on my feathers and also because I love to munch on pumpkin seeds. I am outgoing and opinionated. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a long sleeved orange shirt and a short-sleeved red shirt over it. Wear green or brown slacks. Dye your hair orange or red and/or wear some orange feathers in your hair. Carry around some pumpkin seeds.

Markus – I train the circus parrots and other birds. I am from Great Britain and thus have a British accent. I have been obsessed with wild birds ever since I was a teenager and love to spend time in nature. I am very knowledgeable about birds and insects and can talk on and on in a monotone voice about them. *Dress suggestions:* Wear mismatching clothes or if you can find a shirt or tie with birds on it, even better. Also wear binoculars and carry a bird book if you can find one.

Squeaky – I am a mime for the circus. I am so used to miming that I sometimes forget to talk during normal non-performing hours and just use hand gestures. When I do talk, I use a high-pitched, squeaky and speedy voice because it is so out of practice. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a mask or paint your face white. Wear white slacks and casual dress shoes.

Celia – I am the circus’s cat. I like the circus crew, but we travel too much, and they never give me as much attention as I would like. I am very curious and always moving my head looking each way. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a headband with fake ears. Paint your face yellow with brown freckles and/or find a photo of a cat’s face, blow it up to the size of your face, print it and stick it to cardboard and cut the face out. Then either put it on a stick and hold it in front of your face or add some elastic and wear it as a mask. Wear a yellow and black striped outfit, or else dress in black pants and a yellowish shirt.

Connie – I am a boa constrictor that performs in the circus. I sometimes get annoyed at being told to do so many tricks and want to *really* strangle those humans who make me perform! I consider myself very sneaky and always find myself winking at audience members so they will catch on to how devious I am. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in green with a yellow shirt for your belly. Wear green or yellow shoes. Find a photo of a snake’s face, blow it up to the size of your face, print it and stick it to cardboard and cut the face out. Then either put it on a stick and hold it in front of your face or add some elastic and wear it as a mask.

Sanjeev – I am the snake charmer. I do not have a lot of experience, so I only hope the circus snake does not strangle me one day. I am rather klutzy and always dropping things. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a loose, colorful shirt. Tie an old clothing item around your waist. Wear a big puffy hat or a turban.

Frida – I am the usher for the circus. I am from Mexico and like to dress in the latest Latina trends. I have a thick Spanish accent and love humor/laughing. *Dress suggestions:* Wear black boots and a colorful shirt or dress with a straw sun-hat or sombrero.

Suspects

<p>Sammy Center (suspect)</p>
<p>Danny Center (suspect)</p>
<p>Tammy Center (suspect)</p>

Barbara
Shoppe
(suspect)

Bubbles
(suspect)

Corbin
Cubs
(suspect)

Igor
Denisovich
(suspect)

Svetlana
Denisovich
(suspect)

Double-Cross
Lou
(suspect)

Jimbo
Jones
(suspect)

Garbage	Pumpkin
Markus	Squeaky
Celia	Connie
Sanjeev	Frida

Optional authorities and witnesses

Detective Donald O'Dunkin	Reporter Nadine Ludiker
Sparkles	Chubby
Tanya	Shu
Radek	Munchie
Shannon	George
Becky	Nifty

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“Crazy Clown Car Caper”

by students at John Stark
Regional High School,
New Hampshire, USA

These are the:

Clues

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“Crazy Clown Car Caper”

Clue page for the witnesses and authorities

Print as many copies as you need.

Staple a copy of their name tag here

What I can reveal

Staple their clues here

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just the VIP guests & tell them what you know & find out what they know.

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“Crazy Clown Car Caper”

Sammy Center

What I can reveal

Calm down guys. It's a shame this has interrupted our rehearsal.

Don't worry folks. Let the detective do his job.

Bubbles has offered to take over the clowns act by juggling as he says he got an A in it at Clown College, but Bubbles, if you did that then who would clean up after the elephants?

Barbara has lost her beard. There is no use for a beardless lady in my circus!

During the investigation one of my staff commented, “*I bet who ever saw it last probably took it*”. (*sarcastically*) Wow, I have hired a bunch of geniuses!

Mom and I went to Banana Bee's last night too. But we didn't see Danny there.

What I need to do

- 1 (*say to your mother Tammy whenever you see her*) Mom! Let the detective do his work!
- 2 (*if someone asks you “Where were you between the hours of 10pm and 5am last night?” say*) My Mom and I ate a late dinner at Banana Bee's and then I took a taxi with her back to the Plaza Hotel, dropped her off and then I came back to the Garden.
- 3 (*if someone asks you “What time did you return back here to the Garden?” , say*) At about 12:30.

Sammy Center Page 2

- 4 (*if someone asks, “So Sammy, what did the detective want?” , say*) Nothing much. He just wanted to know where I was last night. I told him I was with my mother having dinner.
- 5 (*if Barbara complains that she still needs to find out who shaved her beard” , say*) For goodness sake, I shaved your beard!
- 6 (*if someone asks you why you shaved Barbara's beard, say*) Because she wouldn't go out with me.
- 7 (*after Barbara tells you she won't go out with you and she quits, say*) Not only is my circus going down hill but so is my love life!
- 8 (*after Double-Cross Lou and Corbin quit, say*) So all I have left are clowns and a janitor?
- 9 (*after the Clowns quit, say*) Now all I have is a janitor! Who would do this to me?

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“Crazy Clown Car Caper”

Danny Center

What I can reveal

At the beginning of today’s rehearsal, I told everyone to listen up and that we’re gonna run this from the top – my brother Sammy wants this show to be perfect, just like everything else. But then the rehearsal was interrupted by the discovery that the clown car had disappeared.

Someone accused my mother Tammy of playing favorites with her children today and I said, “Yeah, that’s right, Mom! Just because he went to college, doesn’t mean that he’s smarter.”

I was appalled when Sammy threatened to fire Barbara just because she doesn’t have a beard anymore. I said to Sammy “Why do you always have to think about the money? Think about other people’s welfare for once. It wouldn’t surprise me if you shaved the beard yourself.”

What I need to do

- 1 (if someone asks you “Where were you last night between the hours of 10pm and 5am?”, say) I was eating dinner with my mom.
- 2 (if someone asks you “Did you eat dinner with anyone else besides your mother?”, say) No, it was just me and my mom. I’m her favorite son, after all.
- 3 (if Igor and Svetlana ask you “How did you not notice Sammy at Banana Bees last night?”, say) Maybe it was Butter Bee’s?
- 4 (if someone asks “What new circus?”, say) I don’t know what you’re talking about.
- 5 (if Svetlana says, “We saw the contract for The Big Orange Circus on your desk”, say) Why were you in my office?

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Danny Center Page 2

- 6 (after your mother Tammy asks you “Danny, what’s going on here? What is this new circus that Svetlana mentioned?” say) It’s not fair. I’m sick of Sammy getting everything including mom’s love and dad’s circus!
- 7 (after your mother replies, say) Exactly! It all revolves around him!
- 8 (after Bubbles says, “Why are you joining another circus Danny?” say) What’s it to you? You’re just a janitor!

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Extra clues

You should put these 48 clues on the clue pages for the witnesses and investigators. Please make sure they are all given out.

(say to Danny) Hey! Don't be hard on your brother. He turned this circus around. Without him we would still be in Henniker.

(say to Jimbo) Where's the clown car?

What are we going to do without the clown car? We've made fifty thousand dollars because of that car alone! We never would have gotten this far without it!

I don't know why Barbara is making such a big deal about her beard. She doesn't have a big part in the circus anyway.

(after Double-Cross Lou, says "I wasn't practicing. I was polishing my bike", say) Then what was the motor sound?

Corbin broke his comb and Barbara lost her comb. But it's just a comb. What does it matter?

I bet who ever saw the clown car last probably took it.

Sammy is the owner of the circus and yet his mother Tammy doesn't always give him the respect he deserves in that position.

Maybe Tammy would have been more competent as the owner of the circus.

(say to Bubbles) By the way, you forgot to take my trash out last night.

(say to Double-Cross Lou) Apparently you said you heard a low hum around 11:50 and that it was like the sound of an electric car leaving the area. How do you know what an electric car sounds like?

It is interesting that the lock to the garage was not broken. It was just unlocked. So whoever stole the clown car must have had a copy of the key to the garage. Or known where it was kept.
