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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents . . .

“The Crazy Clown Car Caper”

Play version
for 10 to 16 guests

by Erika E. Boisvert
Corbin M. Griest
Nicholas A. Heafield
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Megan E. Kehr
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with help from their teacher
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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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Detective (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.

5 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.

Name Tags

Suspects

Sammy
Center
(suspect)

Danny
Center
(suspect)

Tammy
Center
(suspect)

Barbara
Shoppe
(suspect)

Bubbles
(suspect)

Corbin
Cubs
(suspect)

Igor
Denisovich
(suspect)

Svetlana
Denisovich
(suspect)

Double Cross
Lou
(suspect)

Jimbo
Jones
(suspect)

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“Crazy Clown Car Caper”

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

Optional witnesses and investigators

Detective Donald O’Dunkin	Sparkles
Chubby	Tanya
Shu	Radek

The Play

Crazy Clown Car Caper - Act One

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.

Danny: Listen up everyone, we’re gonna run this from the top. My brother Sammy wants this show to be perfect, just like everything else.

Anyone: Hey! Don’t be hard on your brother. He turned this thing around. Without him we would still be in Henniker.

Danny: Places everyone.

Anyone: Wait, where’s the clown car?

Jimbo runs. He is in a frantic state. He is followed by NYPD detective Donald O’Dunkin.

Jimbo: The clown car is gone! It’s not in the garage! And we all know we aren’t supposed to drive it anywhere so it has to have been stolen. What are we going to do? I went to the police station because I know we have to find the car before the show tonight and this detective has come back with me.

O’Dunkin: I am here to investigate the disappearance of this vehicle.

Anyone: Gasp! What?

Anyone: What are we going to do without it?

Anyone: We’ve made fifty thousand dollars because of that car alone!

Anyone: We never would have gotten this far without it!

Sammy: Calm down guys. Let’s move on with our rehearsal.

O’Dunkin: I am sorry sir but your rehearsal just isn’t going to happen. I’ve got to investigate the missing car.

Igor: How are we going to...

Svetlana: perform tonight? The clown car is the foundation of the circus.

Barbara: *(upset and removing your fake beard)* Who shaved my beard? I can’t do my act! No one will want to see a beardless lady!

Jimbo: *(laughing)* You could always become a clown like us. It isn’t that hard. I can loan you a nose.

Anyone: I’m sorry Barbara.

Anyone: You don’t have a big part in the circus anyway.

Svetlana: But Darling, you look so much better.

Corbin: Bubbles, didn’t you clean the car last night?

Bubbles: I was cleaning the car last night, just like every Thursday night. Why would I take it now?

Double Cross Lou: Everyone knows that you've wanted to be a clown, but you didn't make it.

Tammy: That isn't very nice; he's a hard working boy.

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

Anyone: Why? I'm not a suspect. It's not as if I took the clown car.

Anyone: Sammy said it will all be okay, just listen to him.

Tammy: Sammy you're such a smart boy. Sometimes I think your dad was right to leave you the circus.

Anyone: Why do you have to play favorites with your children?

Danny: Yeah, that's right, Mom! Just because he went to college, doesn't mean that he's smarter.

Bubbles: Yeah, it doesn't matter. Going to college doesn't make you smarter. I went to college, and I didn't make it to be a clown. *(Look sad when you say this.)*

Corbin: It's okay, Bubbles. My brother didn't go to college either and now he owns his own chain of movie theaters.

Igor: Well, why don't we skip the clown car...

Svetlana: We came up with new acts so we can fill the extra space.

Double Cross Lou: Hold up there! I can fill the space. Motorcycles are more exciting than gymnastics.

Jimbo: No one will take the clown's spot in the show! That's our time!

Bubbles: I got an A in juggling in Clown College. Maybe I could do that?

Sammy: But Bubbles, then who would clean up after the elephants?

O'Dunkin: Relax! Stop your bickering! Let's just try to find the car first.

Tammy: If your father had left the circus to me, you can bet no one would have been able to steal such a valuable part of the show!

Jimbo: If both brothers are so smart, how come they both don't own a circus?

O'Dunkin: Corbin, the lions are kept next to the garage. Did you see anyone take the car?

Corbin: I was doing what I always do, grooming the lions. In fact I broke my comb last night when I was brushing Tanya the Lioness. I heard the sound of a motor, but I just thought it was Double Cross Lou practicing.

Double Cross Lou: I wasn't practicing. I was polishing my bike.

Anyone: Then what was the motor sound?

Double Cross Lou: *(say this to Corbin)* Yes I remember you saying your comb broke when you were brushing the lions. How did you get a new one?

Barbara: Mine was missing this morning, along with my beard.

Corbin: Why would I take your comb? It's disgusting!

Anyone: It's just a comb. What does it matter?

Sammy: Speaking of that, there is no use for a beardless lady in my circus!

Barbara: Are you suggesting that you're going to fire me? I've been in the business longer than you have!

Danny: *(say this 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.

Tammy: Now Danny, just because Sammy inherited the circus from dad, doesn't mean that he would do such a terrible thing.

Bubbles: Sammy wouldn't do a thing like that. He gave me a chance even though I failed to become a clown.

Igor: Don't worry....

Svetlana: We can just fill in for both acts if you need us to, Sammy.

Igor: Honey, that's a great idea!

Barbara: I hope the detective can help me solve the mystery of who shaved my beard as well!

O'Dunkin: This will take some time. Stay here for questioning please. If you're hungry, you can grab a bite to eat, but I will need you all back here shortly.