

CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIME

Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Kidnapped By Pirates”

Meet and mingle version
for 17 to 30 guests
(males and females)

by Stephanie Chambers

First edition
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"Merri Mysteries" was formerly known as "Tailor Made Mysteries".

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The Suspects

It's Columbus's third voyage. He'd already sailed the ocean blue and discovered America (although he still thinks he went to part of Asia) and he was being brought back to Spain for investigation when pirates overtook the ship he was on.

The rest of the crew was set off in rowboats for the nearby coast of Spain. Most thought Columbus was with them, but he has just been discovered missing. Your job is to work out which pirate kidnapped him and kept him on board and why they did this or why Columbus pretended to be kidnapped.

Christopher Columbus – I am an explorer, colonizer and navigator. The King and Queen of Spain funded my voyages and established me as governor of Hispaniola. But the colonists had complained about my rule, and they had sent an investigator to bring me back and now pirates have kidnapped me. **Dress suggestions:** Wear an auburn or blonde wig, a cap and old fashioned clothes. Carry a compass. Add some of the kidnapper's ropes and also carry the blindfold that had been used on you.

Captain Blood – I was orphaned as a child and thus had to learn how to fend for myself. When I'm not pirating, I'm usually stealing or robbing people. Because of the cold exterior I've had to build over the years, I've earned my nickname. **Dress suggestion:** Wear traditional pirate gear and don a plastic sword. Maybe smear tomato sauce on your clothes. Add a fake tattoo.

Quartermaster Jack – I am from Britain and I have spent my whole life on various pirate ships. Although I am a thief, I am a kind one and I try to divvy up the bounty as fairly as I can. I am also the one that assigns all the work. I'm the captain's right-hand man. **Dress suggestion:** Wear a patch over one eye and other traditional pirate gear and talk in a British accent, if possible. Carry gold coins or other plunder. Add a fake tattoo.

Pugwash – I got this nickname because I am a scaredy-cat. I jump at the dark, when I think I've seen a mouse, etc. Because I am so afraid, I do not wear a patch over my eye as other pirates do. I'm the boatswain, the one who orders all the supplies and I inspect rigging every morning. People don't know that I am actually a female (I snuck on board a year ago). **Dress suggestion:** Wear pirate gear and carry a magnifying glass to see any bugs or mice. Carry a fly squatter.

Powder Monkey – It's my job to bring up the gunpowder from below deck when the cannon crews need it. I do this and other roustabout chores. Sometimes I also help swab the deck. People don't know that I am female. Pugwash and I are sisters and we snuck on board together a year ago. **Dress suggestion:** Wear loose clothes so you can move easily. Act young. Don a pirate hat. Bring a mop.

Clegg – I am very good at mathematics. I'm in charge of all the maps and help navigate our course across the oceans. I also impress people with my large vocabulary. However, although I am good at mental calculations, I am not very good at practical things that involve my hands. I am a female, but no one knows this. **Dress suggestion:** Wear pirate gear & glasses. Carry a map & compass.

Surgeon Grinandbearit – I was originally kidnapped but I have settled into the pirate lifestyle. Sometimes I have to amputate which is how I got my nickname. **Dress suggestion:** Wear clothes that are more stylish than most pirates. Carry a thermometer or a bandage.

Minstrel Mike – I'm the musician on board so everyone loves me. I try to keep everyone's spirits up during the seemingly endless days on board. Sometimes I also dance around a bit while I play – after all we all like to party and that's why we became pirates. No one knows I am a female. **Dress suggestion:** Wear pirate gear & carry an instrument and old English folk tunes.

Cordon Cornbeef – I'm the cook. Sometimes rations run very low so I have to make a little stretch a long way. It isn't easy. But when we've got new supplies from boats we've plundered I get to make it a bit more fancy. **Dress suggestion:** Traditional pirate get-up. Add an apron but make it a messy looking one. Make yourself look plump.

José – I'm Spanish. I'm new to being a pirate, so “new to the ropes” as they say. It's more fun than growing corn and I really love learning all there is to learn about sailing and I love being at sea. No one knows I am a female. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate gear but make it a bit more colorful. © Merri Mysteries Inc. 2014

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20 Optional witnesses

Hammer Harry – I'm the carpenter on board. It's my job to repair damage to the masts, yards, hatches, and hull, and to keep the ship's leaky seams in check with wooden plugs and oakum fibers. People respect what I do because no one wants to swim home. **Dress suggestions:** Wear the usual pirate get up, but also carry a hammer and some wooden plugs and/or nails or other carpenter tools. Add a fake tattoo.

Ned The Needler – I'm the sail maker. I also repair the hammocks when they get busted. So I'm good with a needle and thread, but I am in no way a sissy if that's what you're thinking. I'm as tough as the rest of them. (But really I am a female, but don't tell anyone please). **Dress suggestions:** Wear simple pirate clothes and carry a tiny sailing ship or some fabric, thread and needles.

Clyde Cannonball – I'm the gunner. I'm in charge of the canons and other artillery on board. The recoil on some of these can kill you, so it takes a bit of skill to manage them correctly and not to let them overheat. **Dress suggestions:** Pirate uniform and carry a black fake cannonball. Add a fake tattoo.

Sammy – I'm the cabin boy. I take care of the needs of the captain and bring him his water and meals and so on. I'm pretty low on the hierarchy, which doesn't make it easy. I get ribbed a lot. I am actually a female, but no one knows this (I'm the daughter of the captain – he decided to stowe me on board after my mother died). **Dress suggestions:** Wear simple pirate clothes and carry a bottle of water (not a plastic bottle - a glass one).

Eagle Eyes – I'm the rigger so I have the most dangerous job on board, as I'm the one that goes up on the higher decks. I'm also the one with the best eyesight so I can spot things on the horizon. **Dress suggestions:** Wear simple pirate clothes and carry a telescope, which you can use to spot land and ships ahoy.

Siren – I'm a mermaid. I just happened to be nearby at the time all of this happened. My beauty and my enchanting songs lure sailors to their deaths. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a swimsuit and shiny fish-like tail.

Barry The Barrelmaker – I'm a cooper – a barrel maker. A lot of important things on board like the gunpowder and the food gets stored in barrels, but because they are always getting tossed about as we roll about on the ocean, they need constant upkeep. **Dress suggestions:** Wear simple pirate clothes and carry a tool or two.

Sadie The Goat – I got my nickname because I like to headbut my victims before taking their money. I spend my time cleaning the barnacles off the side of the ship. I'm actually a female, but no one knows this. **Dress suggestions:** Wear simple pirate clothes and carry a small tool and a bucket in which to put your barnacles.

Francois – I'm French. I hate the Spanish because of a raid they made on my hometown in which they almost killed me. So I have dedicated myself to bringing terror to Spanish ships. If I had gone aboard the Columbus's ship, I would have killed him not kidnapped him. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate clothes, a French beret and carry a French flag.

Pinyin – I'm Chinese. I am actually a woman, but because I don't speak much English and I keep to myself, no one has ever found this out. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate clothes and/or Asian clothes and an Asian style straw hat.

Hammocky – I like sleeping, hence my nickname. I was asleep at the time of the raid, so that's why I didn't take part in it. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate clothes and/or pajamas. If you want, bring your hammock with you and spend a lot of time laying in it.

Rusila – I'm Norwegian. I am a woman, but because I don't speak much English and I keep to myself, no one has ever found this out. I am actually of Royal blood and someday I will go back and depose my brother, become Queen and rein supreme. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate clothes and add a Viking-styled horned hat.

Hornigold – I was Blackbeard’s mentor. I started out with just a few canoes and then ended up with a 30-gun warship. I have all the money I could ever want, so now I like doing raids just for the fun of it. For example, one time I just stole their hats – that’s all. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate clothes and carry a few extra hats that you still have from your previous fun raid.

Stikla – I’m Norwegian. I am actually a woman, but because I don’t speak much English and I keep to myself, no one has ever found this out. I became a pirate to avoid having to marry a man I didn’t love. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate clothes and add a Viking-styled metal hat.

Legless – I still haven’t gotten my sea legs – that’s why they call me “legless”. I still feel seasick from time to time. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate clothes and carry a paper sick bag. Sway from side to side a lot.

Jeanne-Louise – I’m a French woman, but no one knows that I’m female. I became a pirate to avenge the death of my husband. That’s why I only attack French vessels. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate clothes, a French beret and carry a French flag.

Decatus – I’m actually a naval officer and I am here undercover as part of a raid on the pirates. But the time isn’t right yet for the raid. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate clothes and carry a telescope with which to spy with.

Gracie – I’m Irish. Someday I hope to become “The Sea Queen of Connaught”, but for now I am pretending to be a man and learning all I can about being a pirate. **Dress suggestions:** Wear green pirate clothes, and carry an Irish flag and a four-leafed clover for good luck.

Duffy – I’m good at selling the goods we steal when we get back to land. I’m good at getting a good price for it, so often the others get me to sell their stuff as well. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate clothes and carry a duffle bag full of things you’ve stolen like candlestick holders and so on.

Sayyida – I’m Moroccan. Someday I hope to control the whole of the Western Mediterranean, but for now I am pretending to be a man and learning the ropes. **Dress suggestions:** Wear pirate clothes with Moroccan touches, and carry a Moroccan flag. Wear a fez hat.

Name Tags

The Pirate Suspects

**CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS
(SUSPECT)**

**CAPTAIN BLOOD
(SUSPECT)**

**QUARTERMASTER JACK
(SUSPECT)**

**PUGWASH
(SUSPECT)**

**POWDER MONKEY
(SUSPECT)**

**CLEGG
(SUSPECT)**

**SURGEON GRINANDBEARIT
(SUSPECT)**

**MINSTREL MIKE
(SUSPECT)**

**CORDON CORNBEEF
(SUSPECT)**

JOSÉ
(SUSPECT)

The Pirate Witnesses (all are optional)

HAMMER HARRY
(WITNESS)

NED THE NEEDLER
(WITNESS)

CLYDE CANNONBALL
(WITNESS)

SAMMY
(WITNESS)

EAGLE EYES
(WITNESS)

SIREN
(WITNESS)

BARRY THE BARRELMAKER
(WITNESS)

SADIE THE GOAT
(WITNESS)

**FRANCOIS
(WITNESS)**

**PINYIN
(WITNESS)**

**HAMMOCKY
(WITNESS)**

**RUSILA
(WITNESS)**

**HORNIGOLD
(WITNESS)**

**STIKLA
(WITNESS)**

**LEGLESS
(WITNESS)**

**JEANNE-LOUISE
(WITNESS)**

**DECATUS
(WITNESS)**

**GRACIE
(WITNESS)**

DUFFY
(WITNESS)

SAYYIDA
(WITNESS)

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These are the:

Clues

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“Kidnapped By Pirates”

Clue page for the optional characters

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 suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“Kidnapped By Pirates”

*Christopher
Columbus*

What I can reveal

The King and Queen of Spain are my controllers and they planned to put me in chains and before a court of judges. You’ve got to save me from that. I don’t deserve it. All these stories about me are unfounded and un-true.

They were a good crew on this voyage. They were all good men. I’m sure they’ll send a rescue ship for me.

But I didn’t bury any treasure. I swear it. The colony hasn’t been as good a source of wealth as I hoped it would be. What you see is all I have.

What I need to do

- 1 *(if Minstrel Mike asks if you came back to hear him play, say this)* I was kidnapped and taken below deck. These ropes didn’t get here by magic.
- 2 *(if Captain Blood you which of his crew kidnapped you, say this)* I don’t know. They came at me from behind and blindfolded me. They then dragged me below and tied me up to a post.
(see next page)

Christopher Columbus Page 2

- 3 *(if someone asks you why your ship surrendered so easily, say this)*
I've been attacked by pirates before and I know how much damage they can do. I didn't want to end up swimming for shore again. I told the captain in charge of the vessel that surrendering was his best option and he agreed with me.
- 4 *(if someone asks you how you came to be kidnapped, say this)* I was a bit reluctant so I was at the end of the line then the next minute someone had blindfolded me and was dragging me downstairs. I didn't fight because I thought they could have had a knife.

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Captain Blood

What I can reveal

If I treated my crew the way I heard you treated your crew Columbus, I'd have a mutiny on my hands. Because of your reputation, they were shipwrecked for over a year because no one liked you enough to bother rescuing you or your crew.

Some of Columbus's crew did take me aside and they asked if they could join us as pirates. They said anything would be better than being under Columbus's command. But I told them we didn't need any more crew.

Once we got on board, as we were there to plunder, we checked below to see what riches we could find.

This is the first time we've taken a hostage. Kidnapping just isn't my style.

What I need to do

- 1 *Ask Columbus:* Well which of my crew kidnapped you? I didn't tell anyone to do this.
(see next page)

Captain Blood Page 2

- 2 *(if someone asks why you gave the command to attack, say this)* Well I thought it might also contain some of the riches I heard Columbus had made in the colonies. I'd heard he'd kept it all for himself. And as Pug says, we needed a new ship.
- 3 *(if someone asks you if there was any trouble, say this)* No. They were all chicken livered pansies. They had all laid down their arms and were lying belly down on the deck waiting for us.
- 4 *(if someone asks you why Columbus didn't end up in the rowboat and whether you were in charge, say this)* Aye. I was in charge and I was there making sure all the crew got in the rowboat. I'm sure Columbus was in the line at one point. I don't know how he got out of it.
- 5 *(if someone asks if it went smoothly getting all the crew into the rowboats, say this)* Yes and no. One of the crew fainted and it took a while to revive him. I suppose it was the heat and the excitement. He gave off a horrible odor as if he'd lost control of certain bodily functions so we were reluctant to touch him.

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Quartermaster Jack

What I can reveal

Columbus – you've made a pretty penny or two from setting up the colony and stealing gold and other things from the natives. Maybe you can tell us where you've got your gold stashed so we can steal it off you.

Columbus was only supposed to take a percentage of profits, not a percentage of nothing. It's like when you guys want a percentage of a gold goblet. It just can't be done.

Even when he could see the colonists were starving, he flaunted his own wealth and expected them to give him money in taxes. We pirates despise unfairness.

Once we got on board we had each of the crew empty their pockets and hand over their valuables. We netted quite a good load.

What I need to do

- 1 *(if someone says that got everyone involved in preparing for the attack, say this)* Aye. That's part of my job. And we pirates all love a good battle. It beats the boredom of being at sea.

(see next page)

Quartermaster Jack Page 2

- 2 *(if someone asks if you went aboard during the attack, say this)*
Aye. There were nine of us in the rowboat. We left the rest of the crew back on the vessel to keep the canons ready in case there was any trouble.
- 3 *(if someone asks you what you told everyone to do while they were onboard, say this)* I told Cordon Cornbeef to go below to check the food. I told Pugwash to check the rigging. Clegg helped me sort through the takings. Everyone else was supposed to be manning the line and making sure they all got in the rowboats.
- 4 *(if someone asks if you found much wealth on board, say this)*
There were a few nice things like gold candelabras and so on in the rooms reserved for Columbus. His crew didn't have much in their pockets.
- 5 *(if someone asks what you did while Clegg was down below, say this)* I locked the treasure in the vault. I only hand everyone their share at the end of the voyage and some of the men have me pay their rent for them because they're afraid they'll blow that too when they start celebrating on shore.
- 6 *(say to Cordon Cornbeef)* The galley was empty when I stopped in after locking away the valuables. But I admit I did steal a slice of bread and dripping.

Extra clues

You should divide these 60 extra clues up amongst the people playing optional roles and staple their clues on the clue pages for the witnesses. Please make sure they are all given out.

There wasn't much of any value found on board this vessel.

Apparently Columbus was on this ship as a prisoner and as he sets foot in Spain he will be put in chains and brought to trial for his mistreatment of the colonists.

I heard Columbus even auctioned Spaniards into slavery. That's what he did to a young boy caught stealing. This man thinks he is above the law and that he himself sets the laws. Well we have our own laws here, don't we me hearties?

From what I've heard Columbus didn't care about the colonists. He only cared about how much money he'd make from the whole venture. He's far worse than any penny pincher.

José was a colonist in Hispaniola under Columbus's control. It was so bad there that he escaped to become a pirate with us.

Powder Monkey's mother was an African slave until his father helped her escape. She made him swear he'd find a way to stop the slave trade.

Columbus encouraged the colonists to take the natives as slaves.

Minstrel Mike has some gypsy blood in him and he's heard talk among the gypsies that Columbus was one of them until he went to Spain and pretended to be a shipwrecked Italian. Minstrel Mike thinks Columbus should be proud of his gypsy blood, not hide it.

(ask Powder Monkey) Did you kidnap Columbus Powder Monkey?

You are a liar and a cheapskate Columbus. You promised a reward of gold to whoever saw land first. A sailor named Rodrigo saw it on October 12th 1492, but you then pretended you'd seen it yourself the night before and you didn't pay up. You're a stingy scoundrel.