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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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*presents...*

# “Fame, Money and Murder”

Meet and mingle version  
for 17 to 30 guests

*by Stephanie Chambers*

First edition

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## The Suspects

When Ed Dockafeller died, he left a will stating that each of his five children would only receive their share of his billions if they had married, contributed something significant to the world, and moved to a country town by midnight tonight. In their quest to achieve these stipulations, a lot has happened. Ed's eldest son Nathan Dockafeller (also known as "nasty Nathan") has been found dead. As they tick away the hours before midnight, the children and their new partners have come together for a family meeting at their father's Arizona ranch. Now they will find out which of them killed Nathan and which ones are going to get a share of the money. The people present are:

**Duncan Dockafeller** (*brother*) I'm a world famous boxer. My name's Duncan and so the media call me "Dunk-Them Dock – A – Fella" because of my mean left hook. Now I help teach young street kids like Latinos how to box. Hunting is also one of my hobbies. Nathan and I didn't get on when we were growing up because he always used to call me a dog and sometimes he even made me eat dog food. *Dress suggestions:* Wear boxer shorts, a towel around your neck, body oil (so you look sweaty). Don a fancy cape and some boxing gloves. Add a few bandages and a black eye.

**Polly Darton** (*Duncan's fiancée*) I'm a famous country and western singer from Tennessee. I also write a lot of my own songs. My family call me "Jolly Polly" because I'm always laughin' and carrying on. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a long blonde wig, cowgirl boots, flannelette check shirt, leather jacket complete with tassels and a broad leather hat. And wear a large bra with lots of socks for extra padding.

**Serina Dockafeller** (*sister*) I teach belly dancing. I learnt it during a trip to Athens years ago. Belly dancing and smashing plates seemed great ways to de-stress. And the belly dancing has the side benefit of toning my tummy. *Dress suggestions:* Dress a bit like the lady in "I Dream of Genie" – baggy trousers and a top which shows your belly. Add some veils on your head and lots of jewelry.

**Tommy Whip** (*Serina's husband*) I'm a world-class jockey. I was recently accused of race-fixing but I was proved innocent. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a jockey's cap and check shirt. Carry a little whip. Paste a number on your shirt and cap. Wear boots that make you taller.

**Magnus Dockafeller** (*brother*) I'm a scientist. Recently I published evidence proving that I've discovered a cure for skin cancer. Before I started my research, I spent a lot of time cruising around the world on a friend's yacht. I started to think seriously about skin cancer while I was lounging around the deck. *Dress suggestions:* Wear the classic white laboratory coat of a scientist and maybe carry some test tubes.

**Pebbles** (*Magnus' wife*) I'm a comedian. I spend all my time in a Neolithic age. I like telling jokes about rocks, because you can accuse rocks of anything you like. It's politically correct, although a bit crushing for rock emotions. *Dress suggestions:* Dress a bit like Pebbles from the "Flintstones" or like a cave girl. To do this, wear lambswool seat covers or the sheepskin mat or any other hide you can find. Have your hair tied up high with a bone through it. Carry some rocks.

**Cynthia Dockafeller** (*sister*) I'm very shy. My therapist described me as a paranoid agoraphobic. Until recently I've spent all my time at home working as a proof reader for a legal publisher. But I have a secret talent. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in conservative 50's style clothes. Wear mirrored or dark sunglasses that you can hide behind. Maybe bring a beloved pet with you (eg a toy cat or dog). Chew a pencil.

**Charles Concerto** (*Cynthia's husband*) I'm the conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. I also have a passion for turtles and I have twenty of them as pets. I've converted the bath tub into a turtle tank. *Dress suggestions:* If possible, dress in a black tuxedo with tails or similar. Maybe carry a baton (or a white chopstick) and some sheet music.

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## 16 Witnesses (optional)

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**Eddie Bruiser** (*boxing coach*) I'm a Duncan's coach and his best friend. I'm here to act as best man when they get wed later on this evening. *Dress suggestions:* Tracksuit. Wear a towel around your neck. Carry some bandages and a bottle with "smelling salts" written on it (maybe put a label on a perfume bottle).

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**Dulcie Darton** (*cookie baker*) I'm Polly's mother. I'm sort of acting as mother of the bride, matron of honor, bridesmaid and I'm also going to hand over the bride as my husband died a few year's back so I'm a widow. When I'm at home I back my own special cookies and sell them to restaurants. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in your good "mother of the bride" wedding clothes. Carry a small basket of your special cookies.

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**Rose Blossom** (*aroma-therapist*) I'm Serina's best friend. I'm here to give her moral support at this critical time in her family's history. When she is feeling stressed out, I give her a massage with my own delightful concoction of fragrant oils. *Dress suggestions:* Floral floating clothes with a new age or hippy style. Put on some essential oils or other fragrances. Maybe wear a scarf like a headband. Pin on a few real flowers.

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**Sid Stallion** (*horse trainer*) I'm Tommy's best friend. I'm a horse trainer and some people say I am also a bit of a horse whisperer too. Love those animals. *Dress suggestions:* Country clothes (eg check shirt) or a t-shirt with a horse on it. Wear a ten gallon hat and boots. Add anything to do with horses (eg a horse on a belt buckle).

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**Albert Dockafeller** (*uncle*) I suppose you'd say I'm the black sheep of the family. I blew my inheritance on a company making bow ties. Shame they went out of vogue so fast. I just never had my brother's skill of making my money grow. I'm mainly here because I wanted to meet Pebbles. I've heard her doing comedy on the radio. *Dress suggestions:* A suit and a bow tie. Slicked back hair. Carry a walking stick so you look like an old man.

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**Phillipa Dockafeller** (*aunt*) I wasn't a spinster. I just married a man I wanted to forget as soon as I divorced him, so that's why I use my maiden name. I was quite a socialite in my time. Now I just hold bridge parties rather than cocktail parties. Isn't Charles divine? I've been to lots of concerts he's conducted. *Dress suggestions:* Stylish elegant clothes. Maybe add a fake fur stole or a string of pearls (fake will do). Carry a walking stick so you look like an old lady.

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**Terry Dockafeller** (*cousin*) I'm Phillipa's son. I'm not sure if she's here or not. Magnus and I have always been best buddies. We used to go sailing a lot together, before he became a nerd. *Dress suggestions:* Yacht clothes such as white trousers and a blue shirt and the kind of shoes people wear on boats.

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**Yvonne Dockafeller** (*cousin*) I'm Albert's daughter. I'm not sure if he's here or not. I'm from the poor side of the family, so I have had to work as a seamstress since I left school at 16. Around here, people always confuse me with the hired staff except for Cynthia. She and I have always been close. *Dress suggestions:* Wear simple clothes and drape a measuring tape around your shoulders have some pins and stuck in your collar.

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**Willy Blunt** (*stablehand*) I'm a simple young lad but I'm good with horses, I am. I was born on the next property and been working here since old man Dockafeller died. There's too many little ones to feed in our family so my pa sent me out to work to earn my keep. *Dress suggestions:* Old shirt and trousers, dirty boots and a ten gallon hat.

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**Bessie Bettabake** (*cook*) I like to keep my kitchen to myself. That way I know just what goes where and where it is when I want it. I'm the best cook for miles around. Nobody ever complains about my cooking. *Dress suggestions:* Flowery dress and apron and flat shoes. You're a large lady so pad out a bit. Have flour on your face and hair. Wear your hair tied with a scarf (tied at the front on your forehead). Carry a bowl and a wooden spoon or whisk.

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**Millie Millstream** (*young maid*) I'm just the maid in this house. Made to do this and made to do that. Everyone is always telling me what to do, especially the housekeeper. And when the house is full of people like it is now, I'm just run off my poor feet, I am. *Dress suggestions:* Short black skirt, white shirt, flat shoes and maid's frilly apron.

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**Bert Bentback** (*gardener*) I've been the gardener here since I was just a young lad. I can make a garden out of any ol' patch of dirt. I grow all the vegetables needed for the house as well as keeping the lawns and the flower beds just beautiful. I love planting the daffodil bulbs and having them springing up all over the place. I live in a cottage down by the garden shed. *Dress suggestions:* Old soiled trousers, shirt, boots and hat. Carry a rake or other gardening tool.

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**Chad Canter** (*groom*) I'm the groom on this ranch. I love grooming horses and exercising them. I used to work as head groom at a big race course but I wanted a quieter life and so I came to work here. With everything that's happened today and all the arguing that goes on here, I think I was better off at the race course. *Dress suggestions:* Jockey clothes – jodhpurs, satin shirt, riding boots with spurs and a cap. Carry a whip.

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**Mrs Cleansweep** (*housekeeper*) I'm very particular about dust and dirt. This is a spotless house and I like to keep it that way. It's not easy to manage though. These days hired help just ain't what it used to be. Maybe if people would stop wearing their boots in the house and dropping food everywhere, it would make my job easier. *Dress suggestions:* Neat plain dress, flat shoes and apron. Carry a mop or duster.

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**Guy Grumbles** (*groundsman*) It's my responsibility to keep the grounds looking neat and tidy and to organize the gardener. But the way trees keep dropping leaves all over the grass all the time, not to mention branches, it's a never ending job. I don't like to grumble but would everybody please keep off the grass and stop your horses from doing droppings on the drive. *Dress suggestions:* Neat trousers, shirt, boots and hat.

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**Merry Grumbles** (*kitchen hand*) I'm a kitchen hand. My father is the groundsman here at the ranch and boy does he live up to his name. My mother named me Merry hoping I would not take after my father and grumble too much. I like being a kitchen hand even though I have to wash up all the time. The good thing about working in the kitchen is I get to eat a lot because I help the cook prepare the food. *Dress suggestions:* Untidy white shirt and skirt, an apron and flat shoes.

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## 6 Authorities (optional)

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**Ronnie Kilter** – I’m a better cop than the ones you see on TV. I care about the people I deal with. I don’t rough them up or bring out my guns blazing – unless they are the type I need to defend myself against. I’m a detective and I like to see crimes solved fairly and conclusively. If there’s one thing I like to do it’s to get to the bottom of a crime and find the culprit. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a uniform or plain trousers and shirt and tie. Carry a notebook and pen.

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**Hettie Haveshum** – I’m an investigator with a good nose for hunting out the truth. I don’t tolerate those who lie to protect themselves, or anyone else. In my time I have solved more murders than you’ve all had hot dinners. I’ve got a family myself, so I know all about the petty jealousy that goes on in a family, especially where there is money involved. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a plain skirt and shirt. Carry a notebook and pen.

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**Carla Cutter** – I’m a medical forensics expert. I love doing really complicated post mortems. They’re my specialty. Obviously, I am very at home with the sight of blood and with other gruesome things. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a white coat. Carry some plastic evidence bags and wear some plastic gloves.

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**Darrell McPhee** – I’m Nathan’s lawyer. Some people are afraid of the kind of fees that we lawyer’s charge, but I am sure if you did a cost benefit analysis of us, we would come up trumps. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a suit.

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**Roxanne Lustre** – I’m a TV reporter and I have to say I’m one of the best. Some people just “report the news”. In some cases, “I make the news” because without my sparkle it would just be so boring. *Dress suggestions:* Carry a notepad.

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**Ned Burrows** – I’m an investigative journalist. I dig in deep to find the ferret that’s hiding in the hole. Exposé’s, exposing cover-ups – that’s the kind of thing I do best. I’m sure this family has more than just skeletons in its closets. *Dress suggestions:* Carry a notepad.

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## Name Tags

Duncan  
Dockafeller  
(suspect)

Polly  
Darton  
(suspect)

Serina  
Dockafeller  
(suspect)

Tommy  
Whip  
(suspect)

Magnus  
Dockafeller  
(suspect)

Pebbles  
(suspect)

Cynthia  
Dockafeller  
(suspect)

Charles  
Concerto  
(suspect)

**Witnesses**

Eddie  
Bruiser  
(witness)

Dulcie  
Darton  
(witness)

Rose  
Blossom  
(witness)

Sid  
Stallion  
(witness)

Albert  
Dockefeller  
(witness)

Phillipa  
Dockefeller  
(witness)

Terry  
Dockefeller  
(witness)

Yvonne  
Dockefeller  
(witness)

Willy  
Blunt  
(witness)

Bessie  
Bettabake  
(witness)

Millie  
Millstream  
(witness)

Bert  
Bentback  
(witness)

Chad  
Canter  
(witness)

Mrs  
Cleansweep  
(witness)

Guy  
Grumbles  
(witness)

Merry  
Grumbles  
(witness)

*Investigators*

Ronnie  
Kilter  
(investigator)

Hettie  
Haveshum  
(investigator)

**Carla  
Cutter  
(forensics  
expert)**

**Darrell  
McPhee  
(Nathan's lawyer)**

**Roxanne  
Lustre  
(TV reporter)**

**Ned  
Burrows  
(journalist)**

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **Fame, Money and Murder**

*by Stephanie Chambers*

*These are the:*

*Clues*

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **Fame, Money and Murder**

*Duncan Dockafeller*

### **What I can reveal**

I have been a boxer for so many years and I have won the World Champion title so many times, I have forgotten how many times it's actually been. I am the greatest. I fly like a Concorde, but I don't crash like it does.

My father didn't approve of my boxing career. I think that's why he came up with this stupid set of regulations as to what we had to achieve. He was always rubrix-cubing my life.

My main interest is in helping young street kids to become good at boxing. It helps them to get some respect for themselves. A lot of them speak Spanish, but that's OK, because I can speak their lingo. As part of my helping the street kids to become boxers, I have set up a whole network of helpers. The main thing we tell them is that to succeed as athletes, and believe me, us boxers are the only true all-round athletes; anyway, to succeed you've got to stay fit and healthy.

Polly and I met about a year ago, but because of our commitments, we haven't spent as much time together as we would have liked. But all that's going to change, because we're getting married a couple of minutes before midnight tonight.

Just because I am the one with the muscles, and beautiful ones at that (*show everyone*), I know most of you will try and pin Nathan's death on me. But if you ask the Police, they will tell you that Nathan didn't have the honor of being hit with my left hook.

*(see the next page)*

## Duncan Dockafeller Page 2

*(if someone asks if you visited Nathan's house this morning)* I did go and see Nathan this morning, but I left his house before 10 am. You can verify that with his neighbor, because she waved to me as I was leaving. When I left Nathan, he said that most of the family had arranged private meetings with him today. But with Nathan, you could never be sure if he was telling the truth or not.

*(if Polly says about goose bumps)* Polly, why are you getting so upset? It was just a little incident. You misheard what I was saying. I was just telling my assistant that I needed some of that special new goose jelly. It works a lot better than oil does. Now honey, don't go ringing the preacher and telling him you want to cancel our wedding. Please don't do that to me honey. You're just getting emotional. Please calm down Polly. Please sweetie....lovie, dearie, goosie.

*(if someone asks you what you were doing this afternoon, say)* I was preparing for a special boxing match.

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## Fame, Money and Murder

### *Polly Darton*

#### What I can reveal

Now you all know about little ol' me. Why with me being so famous and all, you could hardly avoid it could you? How could you possibly think I could be a killer? Oh my goodness me! My lovely long eye-lashes just flutter at the thought. Now that Nathan is dead it is more like a wake than a normal party. But I don't see anyone bursting into waves of tears – don't ya miss him even a little bit?

Nathan phoned me up and asked if I would sign some of his CD covers. He said he was a big fan of mine. I agreed of course. I always like to look after my fans. While I was at his house, I asked him where his wife was. He said she was away on holidays. I wondered why he had waited for her to be away before inviting me over. And he didn't ask Duncan to join us either.

While I was there, Nathan explained that the terms of his father's will didn't preclude the children from divorcing their current wives. That was a clanging cowbell to my ears. I slapped him and told him that in America we have strong family values and those values don't include no sneaky little goings on with divorces and the like. Nathan later rang up and apologized, but he didn't sound very genuine to me. He also asked me if I would sing tonight at this party. I said I would sing, but now that he is dead, I don't think singing would be appropriate. Not unless I sing "hallelujah".

*(see the next page)*

## **Polly Darton Page 2**

*(if someone asks what you were doing this afternoon when the murder occurred, say)* I was here at the ranch rehearsing the blues song. Nathan turned up alone and told me if I went ahead and married Duncan, he would make sure I never got any radio airplay for my songs in the future. I don't know how he was going to do that, but that's what he said. I told him that my fans wouldn't put up with that. He said he was far more powerful than any fan club.

*(say to Duncan)* Duncan – I thought your love for me ran as deep as the rivers down south, but now I don't want to marry you. I heard you on your mobile just now saying to that other woman that she would still be able to give you goose bumps anytime she liked. You're as bad a philanderer as your brother was. Maybe even worse. As far as I'm concerned you can bury yourself and that boxing bag of yours with your brother Nathan.

*(if someone asks you why you were shaking this afternoon, say)* I wasn't shakin'. I was just quiverin' with the joys of life.

*(after someone asks what you were up to with Nathan this afternoon, say)* Nathan was helping me organize a few decorations for tonight's party – that's all.

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **Fame, Money and Murder**

### *Serina Dockefeller*

#### **What I can reveal**

When I was little, my father teased me by saying that I had a big belly. I think that was what led me to become interested in belly dancing when I went to Greece. I thought it might make my belly more muscled and smaller. Although it hasn't led to a smaller belly, my belly is now something I am proud to display and that is the main thing. See how beautiful it is *(show everyone your belly)*.

I could feel how belly dancing was improving my own health and my coordination, so I wanted to find out why. That is when I started researching the Feldenkrais Method and I realized that it is all due to awareness and to the way it introduces your brain to new ways of movement.

When I told Nathan about how I had completed my PhD and now some respectable scientists were looking into belly dancing more seriously, he just laughed. He said I had obviously bought some bogus PhD from a cereal packet. When I told him I had done my PhD at Harvard, he flatly refused to believe me even after I showed him my papers. He said anyone can forge documents these days. I don't think Nathan wanted to accept my credentials because he wanted to get all the money from my father's will.

Tommy and I may seem an unlikely couple, but really we are both into using our bodies. It is just the way we use them is very different. Tommy is such a little sweetie. He keeps me galloping towards happiness. Unlike a lot of you who have only just met, we've been married for over a year and we keep getting closer and closer.

*(see the next page)*

## Serina Dockafeller Page 2

*(if someone asks what you were doing this afternoon when the murder occurred, say)* I was cooking with Tommy. I noticed Charles and Cynthia were desperately trying to find Nathan. They said they wanted to play him some music.

*(if someone asks why you left Nathan's in tears)* Last week when Duncan saw me leaving Nathan's, I was crying for no real reason. I had been at Nathan's showing him my university papers. I was emotional. Maybe it's because I'm pregnant. Yes! I just found out that I am pregnant. It is wonderful, but it really does make you teary.

*(after Tommy asks why he wasn't told about your being pregnant)* Oh Tommy. I'm sorry it just slipped out about the pregnancy. I was going to tell you. I thought you'd be happy about it. I knew about your vasectomy, but I desperately wanted a child, so I got the sperm from the sperm bank. I can show you all the official papers.

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

# Fame, Money and Murder

***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 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.

- 2 Ask the suspects what they were doing this afternoon when the murder occurred.

## Extra Clues

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*You should put these 89 clues on the clue pages for the guests for this act. Please make sure they are all given out. If you don't have many witnesses, divide them up amongst the suspects and the investigator as well.*

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Duncan's hobby is hunting. I believe he is very good at it and he's looking forward to doing more of that now that he's moved to a country town.

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Duncan had a hard time growing up. Nathan was always picking on him. One of his favorite tricks was squeezing his head into what he called "Nathan's Half Nelson".

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When he was young Duncan had to give Nathan all his pocket money to make him stop hurting him. When he grew up Duncan learnt boxing mainly as self-defense against Nathan.

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Nathan had a lot of money. He owned a lot of oil wells and gas stations and coal fields.

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Polly thought the family should have planned a really special party to celebrate the fact that they would be getting their father's money. Duncan said he didn't really care about the party, but Nathan agreed with Polly. He thought it was a humdinger of an idea.

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Polly said they should have fireworks and sculptures and lots of performers, not just her singing a few songs.

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Serina has done a Physiology PhD on the effect of belly dancing on the body. Her research has generated a lot of interest in the ancient art of belly dancing. Nathan thought it was a lot of rubbish. Nathan told Serina he didn't believe she was smart enough to do university study.

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