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Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“One Of The Girls”

Meet and mingle version
for 17 to 30 females

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition

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The Suspects

It's the City Girls High Class reunion. They all finished school together. But because they all grew up in a big city, this isn't a normal timid little "girls' school" reunion. They are all pretty streetwise. The reunion was to be held in City Cross (commonly known as 'The Cross') in the inner city near their old school. But evil has struck. Which of these ladies murdered the classmate who didn't make it to the party? Yes – who did murder that card carrying skeptic and determined winner of every argument – Helen? The people present at the meeting are:

Wendy – I'm a long-range weather forecaster. I read clouds and tell their future. I'm the nation's top weather forecaster. I'm even in the newspaper. I've known Helen since kindergarten. She used to always pull my braids. We were friends at elementary, but since high school we drifted apart. She hung out with the brainy kids. I hung out with the hip kids even though I was pretty brainy. Even at high school, everyone knew I had talent. I used to earn money predicting the weather for some farming friends even then. Once I remember, Helen came with some of her friends to find out my weather prediction for the next football match. Even then she was out to prove me wrong. I told her that it would rain so much the game would be postponed. She burst into tears. And it did rain. Of course, she never admitted I'd been right. *Dress suggestions:* Blue cloud colored clothes. Carry a barometer and/or thermometer and a weather map.

Petunia – I married a mega rich man and I just love my condominium by the beach. My parents were poor. My mother worked as a cleaner and my father worked as a barman. Sometimes when I'm lying back on the deck of my condo, I can't believe that someone like Helen and I would have been high school buddies but we were. She was much smarter than I was, but I think she hung around me because I made her laugh. That's what Artie, my husband says, I make him laugh too. But Helen and I had a dramatic bust up of our friendship when we were 16. I'd discovered boys and when Helen found out I had a boyfriend; she said she'd never talk to me again. I think she was jealous. Helen was a plain looker then and she still is. Sorry – was – until yesterday. Oh. I'm getting so mixed up. I'm not used to talking about the dead. *Dress suggestions:* Wealthy clothes, sequined and glittering or laid back and hip beach attire, maybe a kimono or a caftan.

Madelle – I'm the latest mega-bombshell – first I was a model, now I am a singer and soon I will be an actress – my fans love me. Helen and I met at elementary school. My parents had moved to the city from the country and we lived in an apartment two doors down from Helen. Helen and I spent a lot of time together trying to understand life. You know – we talked about our parents, our loves and so on. Of course we floated off into other circles at high school but we'd still pop around for a chat occasionally. When I turned 16, I won a beauty contest and my life changed. I got offered a modeling job after school and at weekends so I did it. I left school when I was 17, because they wanted me to go overseas modeling. I only saw Helen when I was home on holidays. *Dress suggestions:* Wild outrageous clothing like Madonna, maybe short shorts or short skirt. Think of a cross between Madonna and Elle and you'll get the picture.

Mary – I stutter. I'm so shy that I never speak first and I have just inherited heaps of money and I haven't a clue what to spend it on. H-H-Helen and I m-m-met at high school. I think she felt sorry for me because I was so shy. I was pretty bright, so we were in the same classes and so we talked a lot about our homework and stuff. Helen's home life wasn't too good because her parents had split up. Helen used to invite me to stay at her house a lot. Helen's Mom was an executive in a big company. I really admired her. My Mom was just a housewife. *Dress suggestions:* Subdued clothing, well buttoned to the top, pastels and maybe a little lace.

Leonie – I have just had my 15th child and if God gives me another one I will have it too. Helen and I were friends from the beginning of elementary school but we weren't as close at high school. My husband and I started dating when I was 13. I used to see him on my way home from school. I still love him – kook that he is. My husband and I were both from strong Catholic backgrounds. I wanted to marry Pete when I turned 15, but our parents wouldn't hear of it, so I had to wait till I was 16. Soon after I married I became pregnant. I bumped into Helen around this time and her eyes nearly popped out of her head when she saw my big tummy. *Dress suggestions:* The usual mother's attire of clothes with paint stains, dried up food, bits of old spaghetti stuck on, smiley faces drawn in lipstick, cross on a chain.

Angie – I'm a bikie chick who is so pushy I could sell lipstick to a nun. Now ya might ask how a dude like me came to mix with a square-head like Helen. Well, it was 'cos our mothers were best friends. My Mom worked as a psychiatric nurse and she met Helen's Mom at a writer's group. Our Moms had some stupid idea that we should be friends too. But I was already way too cool for someone like Helen. I was already friends with a whole bikie gang. I tried to talk Helen into meeting them, but she freaked

out and threatened to tell on me for spending time with them. I had to show her the more rough side of my nature to keep her trap shut. *Dress suggestions:* Bikie 'Angry Angels' leathers, torn jeans, motorbike helmet and bike rider padding, stick on some tattoos and you're away.

Myrna – I am the chief executive of one of the nation's largest corporations – oh and by the way – I am also married, when I get time to remember. Helen and I were both great at math and most subjects. Helen had gotten a bit into academic altruistic concepts. I think she was shocked when I said I planned to make it to the top and to make heaps of money. Both Helen and I weren't into boys so much early on. Mainly because we both weren't great lookers and the boys weren't interested in us. I've since spent a lot of my money improving my appearance. Poor Helen didn't. Even then, Helen had no concept of time. She was often late to class. I told her she wouldn't get anywhere if she wasn't punctual, but she ignored me. *Dress suggestions:* Someone who is very proper – you might consider a suit and accessories like a mobile phone, organizer, notebook computer, briefcase.

Sonia – I'm a true adventuress – my latest love is dancing with sharks and other sea creatures live on TV. I became friends with Helen at the squash courts, but even though she was into fitness, she was more into her books. She was such a wimp, such a chicken even then. I invited her to go rock-climbing with me one weekend. She agreed, but then she freaked out half way up a rock face. It took 2 hours to get her down. After that Helen declined all my invites. She wouldn't go scuba diving with me and my Dad, so I had to find another friend who would. Helen joined the Girl Guides and so did I, so we met up again. But she never finished all her duties on account of her being terrified of heights. One time at a Girl Guide camp, Helen told on me because I went off and explored a fenced-off dangerous area. *Dress suggestions:* Swimwear or gym wear or a wet suit, lots of lycra, a few ropes strung around, snorkels or scuba diving gear in tow, toy plastic sharks as jewelry, close fitting gear.

Leelawati – I am a good Hindu Indian mother and I always lower my eyes when speaking with strangers. I am married to a used car salesman, so it's just as well I lower my eyes. Helen and I met at high school. We were both good at science. I think Helen was interested in me because I was from such a different culture. Sometimes I invited Helen back to my family's house, but I wasn't allowed to visit hers. My parents were worried that Helen would corrupt me. I'll always remember the gifts she gave me. She knew I loved jewelry and trinkets. Helen told me about her parents splitting up. I had trouble relating to it, because my parents had been married for years. I had been promised in marriage since I was a child so I knew I
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wouldn't be allowed a career. But I studied anyway, because I enjoyed learning. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a sari (e.g. a long length of material or a sheet wrapped around you). You may add a red dot between your eyes. You may like to use tanning lotion to make your skin brown.

Diana – I'm a bouncy public relations officer for a football team – professionals, of course. Helen and I were elementary school friends, but not really high school buddies. I was too much of an extrovert and too much a social butterfly for Helen to catch in her net. But because I'd known Helen, I didn't let any of my new friends make fun of her and I think she appreciated that. Of course, because of my organizational skills and popularity, I ended up school captain. Helen's brother and I started dating. He was such a good looker, not like Helen. I think Helen couldn't handle it having an old friend going out with her brother. She was always trying to start arguments with me to make me look like a bimbo or something to her brother, but he couldn't care less. *Dress suggestions:* Football shirt, a football, face painted with the team's colors, matching scarves and a camera and notepad.

Jillaroo – I'm a farmer. I can't hack this city stuff. I'd prefer to hack into those thistles. I always wanted to study agriculture, but they didn't offer it at City High, so I had to content myself with biology. I was always a bit of a tomboy. I still am. My grandfather had been a farmer and I knew it was in my genes to get back on the land. I spent a lot of my holidays at my Grandpa's and one time I took Helen along. She liked it, but she couldn't get the hang of riding a horse for the life of her. When my Grandpa cut up an old cow for a feast we were having, Helen threw up. I'd already killed lots of animals so it didn't worry me. Death is a part of country life. *Dress suggestions:* Farmer gear, jeans, cowboy's hat, check flannel shirt, bits of straw hanging out here and there.

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Optional authority roles

Other people that may make an appearance at the party include:

Police Sergeant Fiona – I’m a tough inner-city police cop. I used to see Helen around the Cross. I’m a tough no-nonsense cop. I love the power that comes with the uniform. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a mock police uniform. Carry some crime scene tape (make some out of paper with masking tape attached at the ends). Carry a notepad and pencil. Blue shirt, dark blue skirt, cardboard badge. Toy gun in holster on your waistband.

Pam Persistent – I am a police officer. I love solving puzzles. That’s why I became a police officer. I’m also great at cryptic crosswords. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a mock police uniform. Carry some crime scene tape (make some out of paper with masking tape attached at the ends). Carry a notepad and pencil.

Dr Virginia Vitality – I am a police forensic specialist. I love the thrill of finding needles in haystacks. I won’t give up till I find what I want. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a lab coat and wear white gloves. Carry some clear plastic bags to collect evidence in.

Dr Elsie Eager – I am a police forensic specialist. I am a scientific whiz-kid. I know all the tricks of my trade. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a lab coat and wear white gloves. Carry some clear plastic bags to collect evidence in.

Lorrel Lutes – I am Helen’s lawyer. I am very up-to-date and very well-respected in my profession. I have been Helen’s lawyer for many years. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a suit and look very serious.

Katie Kissy – I work for the morgue. I do the makeup. This will probably be the first time Helen has ever worn makeup. I thought I’d ask a few of her friends what would suit her personality. *Dress suggestions:* Wear very conservative black clothes and carry some makeup samples.

Dr Maggie Mally – I am a medical doctor. I have been Helen’s doctor for many years. I believe you can never have too many tests. I am a bit of a hypochondriac I suppose. *Dress suggestions:* Carry a black bag and any medical items you can obtain (eg thermometer).

Cynthia Skite – I am a newspaper journalist. I am very ruthless and pushy. I’m also always harassing the police for tip-offs. *Dress suggestions:* Business clothes. Carry a notepad and pen.

Hattie Herdit – I am a radio journalist. I’m an extrovert and very friendly. I like to play the game fairly and I get my info through my many friends. *Dress suggestions:* Business clothes. Carry a notepad and pen.

Judy Numero – I am Helen’s accountant. Helen always paid her taxes but she looked for loopholes in the tax laws just like everyone else. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a conservative business suit. Possibly add glasses.

Optional witnesses roles

Mary-Sue – I’m mega rich. I’m Petunia’s husband’s sister and I have come with them on this trip to celebrate my recent divorce. *Dress suggestions:* Wealthy clothes and lots of jewelry.

Vicki – I shared a house with Helen. I am a window dresser. I dress dummies really well, but unfortunately I am hopeless at dressing myself with any color coordination at all. Helen was always telling me to just wear black like everyone else, but I don’t like dark colors. *Dress suggestions:* Wear brightly colored clothes that don’t match.

Mrs Whiteknuckle – I taught the girls how to play recorders and piano in music. I am sure those skills have served them well in life. *Dress suggestions:* Conservative school teacher clothes.

Mrs Dimples – I taught the girls home skills such as cooking. I can tell by looking at them that none of them have cooked any of the wonderful recipes I taught them. *Dress suggestions:* Conservative school teacher clothes. Wear an apron and a cooking hat and carry a rolling pin.

Mrs Dreary – I taught the girls needlework. What a waste of time that was! They are all wearing the output of Chinese sweatshops rather than sewing any of their own garments. *Dress suggestions:* Conservative school teacher clothes. Carry a tape measure and needle and thread and a pin cushion. Try and take up the hem of some of the girls.

Miss Shinyshoes – I was the school principal when the girls were at school. I am retired now, although I still try and give the girls a lecture whenever I see them. I think they still need it. In their day the cane was still legal. I would give them all a go now but they'd arrest me for attacking them. *Dress suggestions:* Very conservative school teacher clothes. Make sure your black shoes are shiny. Carry a ruler or a cane.

Zoe – I am Helen's little girl. I miss my Mommy although sometimes she was nasty to me and yelled at me. She wouldn't let me play with dolls so this is my toy truck called "Barby". *Dress suggestions:* Wear little girl clothes. Carry a little truck and hug it like a girl hugs a teddy bear.

Susie – I am Leonie's little girl. I have lots of brothers and sisters but everyone loves me best because I'm cute. *Dress suggestions:* Wear little girl clothes and tie your hair in bangs (pony tails or pig tails) and wear ribbons in your hair.

Tania – I'm a barmaid at the Cross. I served Helen her last drink and it was a good one too – a "Cosmopolitan". *Dress suggestions:* Wear a black skirt and a white blouse and an apron.

Name Tags

Wendy
(suspect)

Petunia
(suspect)

Madelle
(suspect)

Mary
(suspect)

Leonie
(suspect)

Angie
(suspect)

Myrna
(suspect)

Sonia
(suspect)

Leelawati
(suspect)

Diana
(suspect)

Jillaroo
(suspect)

Authorities

Police Sergeant
Fiona

Pam Persistent

Dr Virginnia
Vitality

Dr Elsie Eager

Lorrel Lutes

Katie Kissy

Dr Maggie
Mally

Cynthia Skite

Hattie Herdit

Judy Numero

Witnesses

Vicki

Mrs
Whiteknuckle

Mary-Sue

Mrs Dimples

Mrs Dreary

Miss
Shinyshoes

Zoe

Susie

Tania

Merri Mysteries presents...

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“One of the Girls”

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the:

Clues

“One of the Girls”

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

One Of The Girls

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Merri Mysteries presents...

“One of the Girls”

Wendy

What I can reveal

I'd see Helen at university when I was studying meteorology. She couldn't handle my ability to see into the future. It freaked her. Even though it was scientific in approach, Helen thought there must be some hocus pocus involved in it. After university, I became well-known as a long range weather forecaster. But it wasn't until it was proven that I predicted that hurricane's devastation of the city that I became famous. Now I write newspaper columns & do radio shows. That didn't stop Helen & her skeptics with their vendetta to prove me a fraud. But Helen was one of the organizers for this reunion & she promised not to give me a hard time at the reunion.

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone & tell them what you know.
- 2 If someone asks why your job is on the line say, “I'm pretty sure Helen sent them. They bought cameras & were out to grill me. They made me predict the temperature of the city in mid summer. Everyone knows how variable the city weather is. It can range anywhere from 75 to 100°F in just one day. It just wasn't fair. I'm tired of all these tests. I was stressed, so I failed their silly test & they published an article about it. But—so what—my fans still know I'm the best forecaster in the nation & that's all that really matters. I rang Helen to complain. She denied any involvement, but I knew she was lying.”
- 3 If asked what you were doing last night, say, “A friend gave me a massage treatment because my liver is congested. After she left at around 6, I made myself a miso soup, read for a while, had an aromatherapy bath & went to bed.”

One Of The Girls

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Merri Mysteries presents...

“One of the Girls”

Petunia

What I can reveal

When Helen became a women's rights activist, she rejected men completely. I guess it was partly because she'd been rejected by them first. I worked in a high class restaurant as a respectable waitress & Artie realized that. It was weeks until I let him even kiss me. Lucky he was in town on business for a few months. Artie recently became friends with Helen's Dad, Paul. He lives in LA too. He said Helen had refused to talk to him ever since he divorced Helen's Mom 13 years ago. He'd married when he was very young. Helen's Dad looked sad – like he really missed his little girl. There were tears in his eyes. He's such a caring, gentle man. So kind. I'm very close to my Dad. I thought I would try & get Helen to make it up with her Dad. When I rang Helen about it, she was really nasty & bitter & angry & not just towards her Dad but towards me as well. She was a rude, cold-hearted woman. Her family are definitely better off without her.

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone & tell them what you know.
- 2 If asked what you were doing last night, say “Artie & I are staying at a hotel in City Cross. Last night we had dinner at a steakhouse. Artie like's his steaks – he's become quite a pig the last few years. He's enormous. Then we sang a few songs at a karaoke place & went back to the hotel & to bed at around 11. Pretty typical night for us really.”
- 3 If anyone asks if you saw Helen last night, say “I bumped into Helen at the Cross last night. I asked her if she'd like to have a coffee with us. She said I probably wanted to hassle her about her Dad & that she was on her way to meet another friend & that she'd see me at the reunion.”

One Of The Girls

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“One of the Girls”

Madelle

What I can reveal

I became a world famous model. But I had other aspirations so I started singing & acting lessons & moved into that area. I still dropped in to see Helen on my holidays. I couldn't believe how much she'd changed. She'd become so tough & bitter about men. She got stuck into me & said that modeling denigrated women – that it was total slavery. But despite my modeling, I still had quite strong women's rights beliefs & I still had my dignity. Helen couldn't understand that. After I launched my first album, Helen came to see me. She said that I'd become a real gutter tramp. I got angry with her & I told her my male fans treated me with respect & it was the lyrics of my songs that mattered.

I got a real shock when I was home & I was watching the women's rights march on TV. I saw Helen on a float where they had a picture of me & they were portraying me as a stupid bimbo. I rang my lawyer to see what I could do about it. He said I couldn't do anything. This certainly wasn't the image I wanted. I rang Helen & gave her a piece of my mind. She just laughed.

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone & tell them what you know.
- 2 If asked what you were doing last night, say “Sonia & I had dinner together in town at that new trendy Turkish restaurant. I must admit it was a bit of a “let's run Helen down” kind of session, but can you blame us after what she'd done to us. But just because we had a bit of a whine doesn't mean we killed her. After dinner we went to see an art-house movie at the Cross. Then we had an herbal tea and a chat. It was 11:30 by then so we both went our separate ways home to get our beauty sleep.”

You should put these 10 clues on the pages for the authorities (ie not the suspects). Please make sure they are all given out.

I want you to tell me about your contact with Helen over the past years. Were you friends at school? How did you get on at school?

When I told the lady who shared a house with Helen, Vicki, about Helen's death, she took the news very badly – said she knew something had happened when Helen didn't come home last night.

Vicki said she and Helen hadn't been getting on that well lately and that she suspected Helen had been looking for a new housemate. Helen had written her a long letter complaining about the fact that Vicki had used not only Helen's toothpaste but her toothbrush as well.

Helen's mother has been notified. Her father apparently lives in LA. We're still trying to reach him. Helen's Mom sort of blamed herself – said if she had managed to hang on to her husband, maybe Helen would not have turned into such a strong women's rights activist.

I would now like you to tell me if you have had any contact with Helen in the previous months. How often did you see her? What did you talk to Helen about?

I've seen you on TV Sonia. I think you went a bit too far when you let that moray eel slither over you. That was a bit creepy if you ask me.

Even though I was on duty at the Station just across from the fountain, I didn't notice anything out of the ordinary till someone made me aware of Helen's body.

I want you to each tell me what were you doing last night? Do you have an alibi and anyone who can vouch for you?

Leelawati – you said you were home last night, but we have found out that your husband was away at a car salesmen’s conference and your children were at an Indian boy’s camp. So you can’t prove you were at home. And your car – that big old Chevy – was seen parked at the Cross.

Clues for the witnesses & authorities

You should put these 37 clues on the pages for the witnesses and authorities (ie not the suspects). Please make sure they are all given out. The authorities should receive less of these clues than the witnesses (eg if you have 10 authorities, give them each one of these clues and give the 8 witnesses 3 clues each).

Helen went to University. She’d decided she wanted to be a political scientist, so she studied science and politics; a double major. She joined the National Skeptics Society.

When I saw you a few days ago Leonie, I have never seen you look so dark. You said you didn’t want to talk about it, but you said that you would lighten up once you’d done what you planned to do. You said you were going to make the world a better place.

Ask Wendy why her boss at the magazine has given her a month to prove she has the readers on her side. Say that you know about her last visit from some skeptics.

I read in the paper that when Helen was found in the fountain she had a look of horror on her face.

I saw you in one of the places at the Cross, Angie. You were showing someone your muscles and your fists. I heard you say you were going to use them on a woman you didn’t like.

When I was up at the Cross I saw you Diana. You looked a bit strange and very angry. You were mumbling how you were going to teach the girl a lesson.

I heard on the radio that a woman had been seen leaving the park where the fountain is – dripping wet and keeping her head down as she walked.

I heard you on the radio this morning Wendy. You didn’t sound your usual chirpy self. You sounded as if you’d had a late night and couldn’t quite get your act together.

Your alibi is a load of trash Wendy – I saw you walking into a place at the Cross sometime after midnight. You didn't have on your usual blue gear.

Helen was found drowned in the fountain at the Cross. A man who sleeps in the park nearby found her around dawn and reported it to the police.
