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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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*presents...*

# “One Of The Girls”

Standard version  
for 12 to 16 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 that other 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. © copyright Acture Pty Ltd 2006 **Page 1 of 5**

**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 primary 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 thirteen. 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 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  
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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 Angel 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, and 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 jewellery, 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 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.

**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 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.

**Police Sergeant Fiona** – I'm a tough inner-city police cop. I used to see Helen around the Cross. *Dress suggestions:* Blue shirt, dark blue skirt, cardboard badge. Toy gun in holster on your waistband.

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Page 5 of 5

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## Optional smaller roles

**Susie** – I'm Leonie's daughter. I'm only a little girl. *Dress suggestions:* Cute little girl clothes.

**Grace** – I'm another old schoolmate. I've only just turned up for the party. I run a restaurant so that keeps me pretty busy. *Dress suggestions:* Smart jazzy clothes.

**Eileen** – I was the girl no one really made friends with because I was so brainy. I've come from work at the hospital straight to the party. I'm an intern so I don't get much time off. *Dress suggestions:* Medical doctor in uniform and carrying a doctor's bag and thermometer.

**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.

## Name Tags

Wendy

Petunia

Madelle

Mary

Leonie

Angie

Myrna

Sonia

Leelawati

Diana

Jillaroo

Detective  
Sergeant Fiona

Susie

Grace

Eileen

Mrs  
Whiteknuckle

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **“One of the Girls”**

*by Stephanie Chambers*

*These are the clues for:*

# *Detective Sergeant Fiona Davies*

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 During this act, I want you to tell me about your contact with Helen over the past years.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

## Detective Davies - Act Two

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 I would now like you to tell me if you have had any contact with Helen in the previous months.
- 2 I've seen you on TV Sonia. I think you went a bit too far when you made that moray eel slither over you. I mean – that was a bit creepy if you ask me.
- 3 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.

## Detective Davies - Act Three

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 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?
- 2 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.
- 3 Mary – you bought air tickets to Bermuda. Your husband and kids caught the 6:00am plane, but you didn't because your Dad had a heart attack at 4:00am.

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

# “One of the Girls”

*by Stephanie Chambers*

*These are the clues for:*

# Wendy

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Helen went to university. She decided she wanted to be a political scientist, so she studied science and politics. A double major. She joined the National Skeptics Society.
- 2 I used to see Helen at university because I was there studying meteorology. She couldn't handle my ability to see into the future. It freaked her, so she denied it totally. Even though it was scientific in approach, Helen thought there must be some hocus pocus involved in it.
- 3 Gradually after university, I became well-known as a long range weather forecaster. I had so many people coming to see me I could earn a living from it.
- 4 It wasn't until I predicted that hurricane's devastation of the city, which was recorded by various independent sources, that I became a famous weather forecaster.
- 5 Now I write newspaper columns and do radio shows using what I have learned. But that didn't stop Helen and her skeptics with their vendetta to prove me a fraud.

## Wendy - Act Two

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Helen rang me a couple of months ago. She was one of the organizers for this reunion. She said she promised not to give me a hard time about being a weather forecaster at the reunion.
- 2 A month ago I had a visit from some other skeptics. I'm pretty sure Helen sent them. They bought TV cameras and were out to grill me. They made me predict the temperature of the city in the middle of summer. Everyone knows how variable weather is in the city. It can range anywhere from 75 degrees Fahrenheit to 100 degrees Fahrenheit in just one day. It just wasn't a fair test.
- 3 I'm really tired of all this pressure. I probably got stressed as a result, so I failed their silly test and they published a front page article in a newspaper about it. But – so what – my fans still know I'm better than most of the other forecasters in the country and that's all that really matters.
- 4 Unfortunately my boss at the magazine doesn't have the same attitude. She's given me another month to see what the reaction of the readers is. So basically my job is on the line thanks to Helen. I rang Helen to complain. She denied any involvement, but I knew she was lying.
- 5 Although I don't really believe in predictions and such, I did dream that Helen would die with a look of horror on her face. I never quite understood what that meant until now.

## Wendy - Act Three

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Last night a friend gave me a massage treatment because my liver is congested. After she left at around six, I made myself a miso soup, read for a while, had an aromatherapy bath and went to bed.
- 2 I only work in the daytime. I like to have the clouds around to be able to use them in my forecasting for local weather patterns. I also use computer analysis of weather charts and so on.
- 3 I live alone because my relationships with men haven't been that successful. I think they find me too successful and threatening as a result. Where I live is trendier than City Cross even though it isn't far away from it.
- 4 Lately I have been seeing dark hovering clouds whenever I've looked towards Helen's house. That's a bad sign I think.
- 5 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.

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **“One of the Girls”**

*by Stephanie Chambers*

*These are the clues for:*

# *Petunia*

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 At university, Helen became more and more involved in feminism. She rejected men completely. I guess it was partly because she'd been rejected by them because of her arrogant and aggressive attitude.
- 2 I saw her at a disco one night. She came up to me. I think she was lonely. Most women at discos want to find a man, but she didn't so she was left by herself a lot and she even danced on the dance floor alone.
- 3 Later I saw her at a restaurant where I was working as a waitress. Helen had started wearing all that tough leather gear.
- 4 My Dad got me a job working in the same restaurant as him. But later on, once I was trained, I moved to a more high-class restaurant in a top hotel.
- 5 I was a respectable waitress and I think Artie realized that when he met me. It was weeks before I let him even kiss me. Lucky he was in town on business for a few months.

## Petunia - Act Two

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 By some weird coincidence Artie recently became friends with Helen's Dad, Paul. As someone mentioned, he lives in LA too.
- 2 He said Helen had refused to talk to him ever since he divorced Helen's Mom thirteen years ago. They had married when they were very young.
- 3 Helen's Dad looked sad, like he really missed his little girl. Talking about it brought tears to his eyes. He's such a caring, gentle man. So kind.
- 4 I'm very close to my Dad. I thought I would try and get Helen to make it up with her Dad. I thought deep down she was probably missing him too.
- 5 When I rang Helen to talk about it, I couldn't believe her response. She was really nasty and bitter and angry and not just towards her Dad but towards me for interfering.

## Petunia - Act Three

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Artie and I are staying at a hotel in City Cross. Last night we had dinner at a steakhouse. Artie likes his steaks – he's become quite a pig the last few years. He's enormous.
- 2 Then we sang a few songs at a karaoke place and went back to the hotel and to bed at around eleven. Pretty typical night for us really.
- 3 I bumped into Helen on the street at the Cross. I asked her if she'd like to have a coffee with us later on. She said she knew I probably wanted to continue hassling her about her Dad and that she was on her way to meet another friend for dinner and that she'd see me at the reunion.
- 4 I found Helen to be very rude. She was a cold-hearted woman. As far as I'm concerned, I think her family is definitely better off without her.
- 5 You may as well know that I am going to leave Artie and marry Helen's Dad Paul once all this is over. He's a lovely man and now that I won't have Helen as a stepdaughter, it should work out fine. He's leaving his second wife and returning to live with me.

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **“One of the Girls”**

*by Stephanie Chambers*

*These are the clues for:*

# *Madelle*

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 As you all know, I went on to become a world famous model. But I had other aspirations so I started singing and acting lessons in my spare time.
- 2 I still dropped in to see Helen on my holidays. I couldn't believe how much she'd changed. She'd become so tough and bitter about men.
- 3 She got stuck into me and said that my modeling was an act of total degradation to women. But despite my modeling, I still had quite strong women's rights beliefs and I still had my dignity. Helen couldn't understand that.
- 4 When I became a singer, sure I had to flaunt my body, but it was all part of the act. For me it was the lyrics that mattered – they're what I put my soul into.
- 5 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 and I told her my male fans treated me with respect.

## Madelle - Act Two

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 I got a real shock when I was home and I was watching the women's rights march on TV and I saw Helen on a float.
- 2 They had a picture of me and they were portraying me as a stupid bimbo. I was really annoyed.
- 3 I rang my lawyer to see what I could do about it. He said I couldn't do anything.
- 4 I was furious. This certainly wasn't the image of me I wanted to portray. I rang Helen and gave her a piece of my mind. She just laughed.
- 5 I went to visit her. But nothing was resolved. All we did was yell at each other.

## Madelle - Act Three

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 We had dinner together, didn't we Sonia? – In town at that new trendy Turkish restaurant.
- 2 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.
- 3 The restaurant manager knows who we are, but because we are both celebs – we have to wear wigs and stuff. Otherwise, we'd spend all night signing autographs and being chased by men.
- 4 After dinner we went to see an art-house movie at the Cross. “Long Live The Dragon”. It was all about Asian martial art stuff. We'd highly recommend it, wouldn't we Sonia?
- 5 Then we had herbal tea and a chat about the movie. It was eleven-thirty by then so we both went our separate ways home to get our beauty sleep.