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Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“The Balmy Bahamas Cruise”

Meet and mingle version
for 17 to 30 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition

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The Suspects

Tilly Song (a megastar singer) has hired a luxury-plus cruiser to see the Bahamas and have a holiday. She has invited a variety of other famous people along to share the lobster. But just as the party was about to start, Karl Virgil, musician and mad-man troublemaker, has been found overboard as full of water as he was of his own self-importance.

Was it one of the singers, actors, the tennis or basketball star, or one of the others? Although we have more comedians on-board than we do detectives, this is no laughing matter. We have to find out who did it. The people present on-board are:

Tilly Song – I'm a soulful singer/songwriter with a voice as pure as the Canadian air I breathed when young. My voice has brought me wealth and fame and I like to share my good fortune with my friends. *Dress suggestions:* Wear your hair flat, maybe slicked back. Dress in simple, but well-styled clothes. Carry a guitar (or guitar case).

Gerardo Netman – don't let my orange hair and tattoos confuse you or I will have the ball in the basket before you've have time to say my name. *Dress suggestions:* Wear orange hair, fake tattoos and basketball clothes. Carry a basketball.

Magnolia Lollipop – I'm a stand-up comedian. As my name indicates, I'm a cross between a perfume and a candy store. Don't sniff too hard or you'll eat me. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a little girl complete with ribbons in your hair and a lollipop in your mouth.

Gilbert Trueheart – I'm a comedy writer. I write very funny books. Some say I'm crass, outspoken, brutally honest and controversial – a loving force to be reckoned. And I have to agree. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a dark haired wig. Dress in avant-garde clothes. Add a heart on your sleeve.

Cosmo LuvLuvLuv – when I play tennis with you, don't try and hit back. Just watch the ball zoom past – if you can see it! Some say I'm brilliant, honest and bold. I say – watch that ball! *Dress suggestions:* Wear tennis clothes. Carry a racquet. Also add some flashy jewelry.

Eduardo Martini – I'm from Argentina. In the past I sang duets with Tilly, but now I don't need her help. My dark swarthy looks and show-shipie charms have won me my own fame. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a clingy shirt with some open buttons to show off your chest.

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Hertha Haywire – with my own TV talk show, what more could I want besides maybe a bit of peace and quiet? But I like to challenge people so I only have myself to blame for stirring up hornet's nests. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a suit (eg a pink one) with a black T-shirt underneath. You are definitely not slim, so you may need to add some padding.

Hercules – as a child in Bolivia I saved my village from raiders. With my newfound sense of power, I went on to become a TV hero. Now I devote myself to fighting for the greater good. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a warrior. Carry a sword.

Angelica – after Hercules saved me from being slain when I was a child, I pledged my life to roaming the world with him. I learned to fight and now I am his co-star on TV as a princess and we are happily married. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a princess, but carry a sword.

Twinkle-fingers – like Elvis I'm back for a visit from the other side complete with my flamboyant outfits, glitter, gold and magic piano playing hands. I wasn't invited. I am just ghosting around. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a flamboyant outfit with lots of glitter and add gold chains and lots of rings. Add white powder as you are a ghost.

Shirley Frosty – I'm a serious actor/director/producer with a capital S. I'm also a classy lady. I have had lots of practice, having started in this career aged 3. I prefer to lead a very private life. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a straight blonde/brown wig. Dress in stylish clothes. Carry a video camera.

Claudine Shifty – I'm a world famous model. Men swoon at my feet and are in total adoration of my fabulous looks. When it comes to work, I can name my own price. *Dress suggestions:* Dress like a beauty queen with a blonde wig, tight fitting dress, extra padding around your breasts (add some socks). Add lots of lipstick.

The following people shared cabins:

- Hercules and Angelica
- Cosmo and Gerardo
- Hertha and Magnolia
- Gilbert and Eduardo
- Twinkle-fingers and Karl Virgil
- Shirley and Claudine
- Tilly.

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The Captain had a cabin near the spa and the chef had a cabin near the gym. There were no other crew or staff on board.

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5 Optional authorities

Quincy Spadelow – I'm an inspector working with the Royal Bahamas Police Force. We may have a casual lifestyle here in the Bahamas but we take crime very seriously. I have spent a good many years helping to put criminals behind bars, and the only thing I like better than chasing criminals, is gardening. *Dress suggestions:* Wear tropical gardening clothes with a sun hat and wear gardening gloves when checking out the evidence, etc. Carry a plastic flower with your notebook and pen.

Cynthia Bethel – I'm a private detective employed by the Royal Bahamas Police Force to get to the bottom of mysteries. I have uncovered more crimes than you've had fish dinners, and I'm a better investigator than any you might see on TV. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a floral shirt, a plain skirt and carry a notebook and pen.

Joan Lowenfelt – I'm a happy doctor with a cozy little practice here in the tropics. Some people think that I eat too many boiled candies. I can't help it. I'm addicted to them! *Dress suggestions:* Wear a lab coat with lots of empty candy bags poking out of the pockets. Carry a bag of candies and a medical kit.

Ruben Sewerdock – I'm a disgraced corporate lawyer hiding out in the Bahamas. I like to fudge my way into the lives of the rich and famous by offering my services when needed. Karl needs my services all the time. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a business suit and carry a mobile phone. Slick your hair back. Pretend that you're always talking on the phone to some corporate bigwig back on the mainland.

Jo Randolph – I'm a local reporter and this is the biggest news I've covered in my entire career. It's so exciting! I can't stop and talk. I have to go and interview everyone. *Dress suggestions:* Wear casual clothes and a (fake) pair of dark-rimmed glasses. Have lots of pencils on you and carry a notepad on which you will write lots of information that the guests tell you.

13 Optional witnesses

Jodie Angel – I'm Hertha's 18 year old daughter and I'm a swimwear model. I'm glad to be on this cruise with my mother because I get to show off all my beautiful swimsuits, but I never get them wet. I don't actually like going in the water. When the murder happened I was taking part in a 'Girl in a Swimsuit' competition on shore and I'm happy to say I won. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a sarong over a swimsuit or with a colorful midriff top. Add sandals and a flower in your hair.

Jason Freestyle – I'm Tilly's body guard. I'm quite useful really because I have a life saving certificate and can keep a watch on those who go swimming. It's a shame Jodie won't go in the water, I'd like to rescue her. If I had been here when Karl Virgil fell in the sea I could have rescued him, but I was busy on shore taking photographs of a swimsuit competition. *Dress suggestions:* Wear casual tropical clothes and a baseball cap and sunshades.

Sean Devine – I might be young but I'm the best DJ around. Tilly invited me along on this cruise to entertain everyone when they're not singing their own songs. I work under the name of DJ Devine and my sound is mighty fine. At the time of the murder was snorkelling on the other side of the island with one of the crew members. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a tropical shirt and shorts and carry a CD case.

Kasie Kool – I'm a young waitress. I might look like a dizzy blond but I'm no fool. I love being on a luxury cruise ship even if I do have to work, because I get to eat lots of delicious food. On my days off I go swimming and have fun. Today I was checking out all the tropical fish on the other side of the island. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a blond wig, a short black skirt, white shirt and flat shoes.

Lord Motley – I'm the local aristocrat (well the Bahamas were part of the British Commonwealth, you know). I always get an invitation to important cruises, by jove. I was drinking tea onshore when this terrible business happened. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a safari suit and a safari hat. Stick on a mustache. Carry a riding whip under your arm. Say 'by jove' a lot.

Widow Donohue – I was once married to a local aristocrat. Oh dear, I miss the good old days, before all this independence rubbish. I was quite a dish in my younger years. I was having my beauty sleep when all this was happening. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a long dress with lots of jewelry. Long gloves. And lots of makeup. Carry a champagne glass. Say 'Oh dear' a lot.

Miriam Dottage – I'm the cleaning lady. Mind you, I'm more like a slave. 'Come here. Do this. Do that. Get me a drink.' Who do they think they are, anyway? The captain! I get off this tub whenever I can. Today was my day off. *Dress suggestions:* Wear an apron and a hairnet. Carry a feather duster.

Clyde Bounty – I'm an old barnacle living in this 'ere area. Don't let this eye patch fool yer. I can see wot's goin' on alright. Wot's yer name again? I left me eye glass back on board me ship. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a beachcomber's clothes and an eye patch. Look unshaven. Say 'Ahoy there, matey!' a lot.

Captain Donald Boyd – I'm the captain of this cruise. I see all sorts on this boat. Most of them are crazy, if you ask me. I was asleep when Karl was murdered. I always have a nap in the afternoon. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a blue jacket, a captain's cap, and deck shoes. Call everyone a 'scallywag'.

Gavin Bacon – I'm a famous football player. The women love me. That's why I'm here. I was watching the swimsuit contest at the time of the incident. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a pair of white shorts, clip on earrings, a necklace, and a spiky (blond) hairstyle. Carry a football.

Bella McFirstwun – I'm a top model. Wouldn't you just love to have a body like mine? I was surrounded by men on the island today. They just can't help it. *Dress suggestions:* Wear the most beautiful dress you can find. Ask everyone, 'Am I beautiful?'

Bob Clots – I'm the ship's chef. I'm off to the beach again. It's too hot in the kitchen. I was lying on the beach in the shade of a coconut palm at the time of the murder. *Dress suggestions:* Wear very casual tropical clothing, a chef's hat, and carry a soda can everywhere.

Kelly Weights – I'm a movie actor. I've worked with some of these people in various movies. I always end up in scary movies. Some people think it's because I look like a psychopathic maniac. I can't help it if I'm big and ugly. I feel seasick. I've been in bed seasick all day.
Dress suggestions: Wear a dark, simple dress with lots of padding. Wear short hair, or tie your hair back. Dark makeup.

Name Tags

**Tilly
Song
(suspect)**

**Gerardo
Netman
(suspect)**

**Magnolia
Lollipop
(suspect)**

**Gilbert
Trueheart
(suspect)**

**Cosmo
LuvLuvLuv
(suspect)**

**Eduardo
Martini
(suspect)**

**Hertha
Haywire
(suspect)**

**Hercules
(suspect)**

**Angelica
(suspect)**

**Twinkle-
fingers
(suspect)**

**Shirley
Frosty
(suspect)**

**Claudine
Shifty
(suspect)**

Optional authorities

**Quincy
Spadelow
(investigator)**

**Cynthia
Bethel
(investigator)**

**Dr Joan
Lowenfelt
(doctor)**

**Ruben
Sewerdock
(lawyer)**

**Jo
Randolph
(reporter)**

Optional witnesses

**Jodie Angel
(witness)**

**Jason Freestyle
(witness)**

**Sean Devine
(witness)**

Kasie Kool
(witness)

Lord Motley
(witness)

Widow Donohue
(witness)

Miriam Dottage
(witness)

Clyde Bounty
(witness)

Captain Donald
Boyd
(witness)

Gavin Bacon
(witness)

Bella
McFirstwun
(witness)

Bob Clots
(witness)

Kelly Weights
(witness)

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These are the:

Clues

*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 the people you meet, 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 at the time of the murder.

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Tilly Song

What I can reveal

I grew up in a small town on the northern prairies of Canada. Naturally, I started off singing country music. I have broadened my style. I'm sort of moving towards an unstructured song type. I'm also toying with the idea of maybe doing a musical. I think that would be fun, as long as I'm the star. Sometimes I do things that confuse people like writing a CD called “Hill-billy Hero” yet I can't stand Hill-billy music and you won't find any on my CD. I want to get people thinking – that's all.

I didn't meet Karl Virgil till I was on board. I certainly hadn't invited him to be a guest on the cruise. At first Karl Virgil seemed sweet. He wanted to tune my guitar for me. I don't usually let anyone touch my guitar but he's a musician so I thought it would be alright. Then he proceeded, deliberately I think, to break all of my guitar strings.

While we were on board, Karl Virgil sang a few of his new numbers. That's when I realized that he had stolen some of my lyrics. He'd reversed them a bit and sang them differently, but they were definitely my lyrics. I sang the songs that he'd stolen the lyrics from. But Karl Virgil didn't bat an eyelid. I was fuming on the inside. But I pretended to be cool on the outside. We stars are used to this dichotomy of emotions. We can't let the paparazzi, or other stars for that matter, see our real feelings. *(see next page)*

Tilly Song Page 2

When Karl Virgil went to sit next to me at dinner last night, I exploded. I was just sick of the sight of him. I told him to find another table and bother someone else for a change. I am normally a very polite person, so I found this very hard to do. I was amazed when he just stood there. He stood there for a full five minutes without saying anything.

Karl has a song called “*Do You Want Me To Go?*” I often think of answering it with a loud “YES”. But much as I would have liked to kill him – that lyric thief – I didn't.

(if someone asks you why you were coming out of the galley when you were supposed to be in the spa, say) I was getting myself a cold drink.

(if someone asks what you were doing at the time of the murder, say) I was having a spa at the time. Hercules was also enjoying the bubbles with me. Shirley was there part of the time. The spa is diagonally across from Hercules and Angelica's room. I saw Karl knock on their cabin door and he was admitted.

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Gerardo Netman

What I can reveal

I am tall, so I play basketball. It is as simple as that. But beside my basketball skills, which are fantastic, I am also an actor. I starred in the movie "Action Traction". I'm a writer as well. My book is called "Hitting Life Hard". It's selling well. I'm also a businessman with my own concreting company in Kansas.

I met Karl Virgil going up the gangway. He got on board first and then tried to keep me from coming on board by pushing me back. But I am a pretty strong guy so he was no match for me. I wouldn't have missed this cruise for anything.

Later when Karl emerged from hiding on board, he said he'd only been fooling around with me. But I could see in his eyes that he really didn't want me on board. Maybe he didn't like the color of my hair. As the days went by, things got worse between Karl Virgil and me. He stopped bothering to be civil most of the time.

My niece back home loves Karl Virgil. She listens to all his music and has his poster above her bed. She will be jealous that I traveled with him.

When Karl Virgil heard I'd acted in a movie, he suddenly changed his attitude towards me and was very nice. He asked me to get him a role in a movie. When I refused, he said he'd arrange for me to be left at the next island. (*see next page*)

Gerardo Netman Page 2

In the morning I overheard Karl Virgil having a mobile phone conversation with what sounded like a hired thug. He said he wanted a guy with orange hair removed from the ship at Nassau. For me, that was the last straw. What right did he have to make me go home, when he was the person who wasn't even invited on the trip?

I told Tilly what I had heard. She was very upset about it and she said she would tell Karl Virgil that his uninvited stay was over and that he would have to leave the ship tomorrow morning when we docked at Nassau. When Tilly told Karl she was putting him off the ship tomorrow, he said that was fine because he had friends in Nassau.

(if someone asks what you were doing at the time of the murder, say) I was up on the deck playing basketball with Cosmo all afternoon. While I was playing I did notice Shirley climbing the communication tower. I thought she was pretty game to do that. When Cosmo and I went to look at the captain's pet monkey, to our horror, we found it was dead.

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Magnolia Lollipop

What I can reveal

I started a university degree, but I didn't finish it. I decided to work instead. Eventually I stumbled into comedy. Believe me it's a lot better than some of the other jobs I tried. The reason I am dressed as a little girl on this cruise is because Tilly insisted. As she is paying for the cruise, I agreed.

This little girl is only one of my characters. In the past I have been a sassy hairdresser and a street performer among others. And I've also acted in quite a few movies. As you can see, I like variety.

I am like reality TV before it became a reality. I live life like I know I'm being watched 24 hours a day. It's the only way to live – really.

When Tilly invited me on this cruise, I asked her for the names of the other guests. She didn't mention Karl Virgil because she hadn't invited him. Tilly only found out he had come on board after we were half way to the Bahamas. He had been hiding in the men's bathroom.

As I'm dressed as a child, I thought it fair that I should get up to some mischief. So I put a banana skin in front of Karl Virgil so he slid across the “*Pink Guava Restaurant*”. He certainly wasn't his elegant self. Everyone laughed except him.

Karl vowed he'd find out who was responsible for his accident with the banana skin. He'd spilled a glass of carrot juice all down his white shirt and he was not pleased at all. In fact he was furious. (*see next page*)

Magnolia Lollipop Page 2

Hertha and I are sharing a cabin. We've been having lots of fun chatting about everyone on board. Haven't we Hertha?

At lunch Karl Virgil cornered me in the “*Pink Guava*” and gave me a banana shake. He said he wanted me to taste his special recipe. He even colored it my favorite color – pink.

I thought it very strange indeed when Karl Virgil gave me the banana shake because he had never shown any friendliness towards me before.

I just realized the connection. He had slipped on a banana and here he was offering me a banana drink. At first I thought it might have been his subtle way of letting me know that he knew it was me who had humiliated him in public. But when I sniffed the drink, it smelt very strange. I smiled and told him I would drink it when I got back to my cabin and I would report back to him later as to how it tasted.

I gave the drink to the monkey we have on board. The monkey clasped his throat and died right in front of my eyes. I was mortified, so I went back to my cabin. Fortunately Hertha was there to console me. I'm so lucky that I didn't drink it! I feel bad about the poor monkey though.

Extra clues

Give these 78 clues to the authorities and witnesses – all of these clues must be read out. If you don't have any (or many) authorities or witnesses, you should also divide these clues amongst the suspects.

Tilly Song – As the organizer of this cruise, I shall start with you. You're some sort of singer I believe?

Gerardo Netman – Tell me – just what is your profession? A man as tall as you could perhaps be employed here in the Bahamas as a coconut picker.

Twinkle-fingers – I'm not quite sure just who or what you are ... or why you're here. Perhaps you can enlighten me?

Magnolia Lollipop – You seem to be a little out of place on this cruise. Is your style of dress something to do with your occupation?

Gilbert Trueheart – You're a writer, I believe. What type of writing do you do?

Cosmo LuvLuvLuv – Your accent suggests to me that you are not American born. What is your history?

Eduardo Martini – Judging by your dress, you are a performer of some sort. What is it you do? And have you been involved in that profession for some time?

Hertha Haywire – I believe, like Ms Lollipop, you are involved in the comedy business. Tell me a little about your history.

Hercules – In that costume you would find it hard to disappear in the crowd. Why would you wear such an outfit on a cruise in the Bahamas when you would perhaps be more comfortable in a shirt and shorts?

Angelica – By the look of you, you're a strong woman. And as Hercules' partner I assume you have been involved in a good many fights. Are you a good fighter?

Shirley Frosty – You're very quiet. Tell me about your profession.
