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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“The Balmy Bahamas Cruise”

Play version
for 10 to 16 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

Third edition

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

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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 madman 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.

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.

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. © Merri Mysteries Inc 2013

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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.

The following people shared cabins:

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

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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Optional investigators

Obie Garraway – 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 fishing. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a floral shirt, casual trousers and carry a 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.

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 bodyguard. I’m quite useful really because I have a life saving certificate and can keep a watch on those who go swimming. I hope someday I get to rescue a pretty woman. 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 crewmembers. *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.

Name Tags

Tilly
Song
(suspect)

Gerardo
Netman
(suspect)

Magnolia
Lollipop
(suspect)

Cosmo
LuvLuvLuv
(suspect)

Eduardo
Martini
(suspect)

Hertha
Haywire
(suspect)

Hercules
(suspect)

Angelica
(suspect)

Twinkle-
fingers
(suspect)

Shirley
Frosty
(suspect)

Investigators

Obie Garraway
(investigator)

Cynthia Bethel
(investigator)

Witnesses

Jodie Angel
(witness)

Jason Freestyle
(witness)

Sean Devine
(witness)

Kasie Kool
(witness)

The Balmy Bahamas Cruise - Act One

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“The Balmy Bahamas Cruise”

by Stephanie Chambers

The Play

Note: *Although this is in play format, you do not have to take to a stage and act it out. You can just sit around a dining table and read out your lines or sit in a circle on sofas etc.*

Note: *If it says the line may be said by “Anyone”, we recommend that one of the optional investigators or witnesses take a turn to say the line. If there are no optional witnesses or investigators, then everyone should take a turn saying one of these lines, however, the person to whom the line is addressed should not say it (generally this is the person who speaks next). You may like to work out beforehand who will say each of these “Anyone” clues and write their character’s name next to each one.*

Anyone: This ship appears to be full of performers.

Anyone (*ideally an investigator*):

I care about the idyllic reputation of the Bahamas and I intend to quickly get to the bottom of this incident. So we will ask you all to answer our questions honestly and precisely.

Anyone: Tilly Song – as the organizer of this cruise, I shall start with you. You’re some sort of singer I believe?

Tilly Song: I grew up in a small town on the northern prairies of Canada. Naturally, I started off singing country music.

Anyone: 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.

Gerardo Netman: 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*".

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

Twinkle-fingers: I have passed beyond to the world of eternal glitter. But sometimes I come back to add a bit of razzle/dazzle to people's lives back on earth. People say they hear beautiful piano melodies whenever I approach them. That's truly divine music, isn't it?

Anyone: 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?

Magnolia Lollipop: 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.

Hertha Haywire: The one thing that most of us have in common is that we are friends of Tilly. That's why we're here. You certainly are a special lady Tilly and we're not just here because you're paying for the trip.

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

Cosmo LuvLuvLuv: I was raised in Estonia. I became a tennis champion and then defected to America in 1980. I have always been a little different. Even left-handed I have won sixty-two Grand Slam championships, so I haven't done too badly.

Anyone: 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?

Eduardo Martini: I started young. I was raised in Argentina and at the age of eight I was already appearing in television commercials. Then I had acting and singing lessons and at the age of 13 I joined my first band.

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

Hertha Haywire: My mother died of cancer when I was young. I went to university but then I decided to try to become a journalist. I did some acting and I was in "*It's A Bright World*" with Tilly. She has since become a close friend.

Anyone: 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?

Hercules: Tilly hired Angelica and I to be the on-board entertainment for the cruise. That is why we are both in full costume. In my fight against evil, I am often attacked by warriors. But my chakra of light protects me, so I have no fear of them.

Anyone: 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?

Angelica: Although I have been taught to fight, I am a pacifist at heart. Whereas Hercules will fight first and think later, I think first and am reluctant to fight at all.

Anyone: Shirley Frosty – you’re very quiet. Tell me about your profession.

Shirley Frosty: I started acting young. When I was three I was filmed on the beach for a national ad for a suntan lotion. Since then I have appeared in many productions and recently received an Academy Award for "*The Villain*". Aside from acting, I have also directed two of my own films.

Anyone: I heard Karl Virgil wasn’t invited on this cruise. He’s so arrogant he just invited himself.

Tilly Song: I wanted to add that I have broadened my style. I don't just sing country music now. 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.

Gerardo Netman: And I’m a writer as well as a basketballer. My book is called "*Hitting Life Hard*". It’s selling well. I’m also a businessman with my own concreting company in Kansas.

Magnolia Lollipop: 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.

Eduardo Martini: After becoming a hit singing in Spanish, I started to also sing in English. It was all part of my plan. Winning some international singing contests also helped. I am also co-owner of the restaurant "*Tangos*" in Atlanta and I like to write poetry in my spare time.

Hertha Haywire: After I did some acting, I ended up becoming a talk show host which I love doing. I get paid to socialize all day long and I meet so many fascinating people. In fact they should call my show "The Weird and Wonderful".

Anyone: Karl just wanted a free holiday. His record sales have been really down lately.

Cosmo LuvLuvLuv: Although Tilly and I aren’t close friends, we do share a common love of gold and pizza. My watch is gold. But I had to give up pizzas otherwise I would have been too fat to play good tennis.

Anyone: Karl Virgil was a strange guy. When I asked him why he didn’t go swimming like the rest of us, he got mad and said it was none of my business.

Hercules: The prophets decreed that this voyage would be doomed. I knew that when we set off because I saw a seabird flying back to the shore when we were leaving. That is a sign from God of evil.

Angelica: If I had not decided to devote my life to assisting Hercules, I probably would have been a performing bard for I like to tell stories and inspire people to be good.

Twinkle-fingers: Don’t believe them when they say you can’t take it with you. Look at me, I am covered in jewels. Aren’t they stunning?

Shirley Frosty: It is strange being a celebrity. The characters I play can spend a “normal” day at Disneyland, but I can’t. That is why I aspire to be boring. I just want to be treated like everyone else. All my life people have stared at me because I’m a star and I’m sick of it.

Magnolia Lollipop: 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.

Anyone: Karl Virgil apparently heard about some buried treasure and was trying to get information out of you wasn’t he – Angelica?

Angelica: I have heard that in these islands there lies a chest containing a weapon of awesome power and jewels of every kind. When he cajoled me about it, I ignored him. He was a greedy man. I hate to think what the fate of the world would be if a man like him was in possession of such a weapon.

Tilly Song: 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.

Cosmo LuvLuvLuv: I thought it strange that when I met Karl Virgil, he challenged me to a game of tennis. The cruiser is only small, for a start. It isn’t an ocean liner with tennis courts and such. When I told Karl he must be joking, he got nasty and threw my favorite racquet overboard. I won my last championship with that racquet before I retired. I was upset and angry, but he didn’t even say sorry.

Twinkle-fingers: Karl Virgil told people I could only play a handful of numbers on the piano. He thought I’d been a fake. I was hurt. It just isn’t true (*sobbing*). Why I worked these fingers to the bone practicing. That’s why I wear all these rings – just to hide my damaged fingers.

Anyone: Gerardo was very angry with Karl because he was rude to him all the time. You said – didn’t you Gerardo – that you’re not used to being treated that way and that Karl needed to be taught a lesson?

Gerardo Netman: 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. 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.

Eduardo Martini: Karl was the king of sarcasm. He said, “I love your music, but some people are happy to dance to musak, aren’t they?” So you can see why when I heard he was on-board, that I didn’t want to talk to him.

Anyone: Magnolia thinks she is such a great comedian. Karl humiliated her at the Edinburgh festival by telling her she wasn’t funny at all. She was pretty upset. You weren’t laughing then were you Magnolia?

Magnolia Lollipop: No. I wasn't. 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.

Anyone: Hercules is used to fighting – it's second nature to him. So I wouldn't be surprised if he decided to make everyone's life easier by dealing with Karl Virgil himself.

Anyone: Karl Virgil was hell bent on achieving power, even if it meant walking all over everyone else. This upset Angelica because she tries to inspire people to be good.

Anyone: Karl Virgil said he didn't believe in ghosts, but eventually he had to agree he could see Twinkle-fingers. Everyone on board the cruiser could see Twinkle-fingers. Luxury cruisers deserve high-class ghosts like him.

Anyone: After Karl Virgil was discovered on board, he begged Tilly to be allowed to stay with us for a few days. Rather than disrupt the schedule, she reluctantly agreed. I think she felt sorry for him. He doesn't seem to have many friends, which is not surprising.

Tilly Song: 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 he 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.

Eduardo Martini: Karl Virgil publicly apologized to me for the ridiculing comments about my music he said he never made. But he still said, "I like the way you shake your lips!"

Hercules: Even though Karl Virgil knew we were the paid entertainers, because of his fragile male ego he needed to prove himself against us. He was constantly challenging me to do battle. I refused, because I felt it was beneath me to fight such a weakling as he.

Anyone: Tilly was getting really sick of Karl. He's upsetting everyone so much; she said if he didn't get off the ship soon she would not be responsible for what happens.

Hertha Haywire: As soon as I met Karl Virgil on board, I asked him if he would come on my talk show when we got back. I thought he would be an interesting person to have on the show – a famous musician who stows away on ships just to get attention. Karl declined to go on my show. He said there was no way he was going to go on my "crappy" show and have me try to rip shreds off him like I do to most of my guests.

Twinkle-fingers: Karl Virgil sees himself as a big-time mischief maker. The first time I saw him on board, he stole my toupee. I think it was all just a sign of his intense jealousy of me.

Shirley Frosty: Karl said he really admired my work and that he wanted to star in a movie with me. He reminded me a lot of the villains. There was no way I was ever going to appear on a film with him.