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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“The Murder Of The Great Chef”

Standard version
for 6 females
and 6 males

by Stephanie Chambers

Third edition

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The Suspects

It's 1948. Tonight we have gathered together to honor the Great Chef Alan Davies of the Culinary Institute of America receiving the highest award in the culinary world – The Edmond World Class Culinary Award. Unfortunately we have just received news that he was murdered this afternoon. Some of the people who are gathered have been invited; the others have forced their way in.

Mary Homebud (*long-term fiancée*) I grew up in Cedar Rapids in Iowa. I worked at weekends at one of my parent's shoe shops. They own a chain of stores around America. I enrolled in secretarial school in New York. I promised my parents that I would still go to church and be a good girl. They didn't want the big city to corrupt me so they arranged for me to stay at my aunts. I met Alan. He was very handsome and rather suave and he'd trained in France for 6 months. He adopted the chicness of the French and used to say, "Excuse moi garçon" when we were at a restaurant. When Alan asked me out, I was amazed. I felt like such a country girl compared to him. But he said he liked my naiveté – whatever that meant!!! Unfortunately, after we were engaged, he didn't bother taking me to restaurants any more. *Dress suggestions: Dainty clothes with touches of lace. Nothing revealing at all. Smell of muffins (carry a few hot ones).*

General Sid Davies (*brother*) Alan and I were always fighting as boys. He was older than me. He used to steal my toast and squeeze my mashed potato through his fingers. And if I told on him, he would punch me later on. He was mother's pretty little pet. He spent a lot of time with her in the kitchen. I suppose that's where he got interested in cooking. One of his little rackets was stealing from our dad's coin collection. He used the money he stole to advertise his little business selling the cakes he made. When we were teenagers, whenever I met a pretty girl, he would always tell her I had incurable cold sores – a total lie. Because of the money from his cake business, he'd buy girls flowers and malted milks, so they fell for him. *Dress suggestions: A coat & tie – both adorned with war medals. Carry a pipe.*

Paula Tortula (*second fiancée*) I grew up in New York. I had a lot of brothers and sisters, so we didn't have much money to go around. My mother was always singing to herself as she did the laundry. At nighttime, the whole family gathered around the piano and my brother played and we all sang along. When I was 8, my mother entered me in a singing competition and I won. I was so thrilled. My mother used the money I won to pay for me to have singing lessons. When I was 18, I won another competition and one of the big name music scouts came back stage and asked me if I'd like to sing in a jazz band. He said I'd be the next Billie Holiday. It was my dreams come true to be able to sing for a living. *Dress suggestions: A glittering outfit – sequins or glitter – dazzling and glamorous. Add high heels.* © copyright Merri Mysteries Inc 2013 **Page 1 of 4**

Yves Larousse (*French chef*) I grew up in Paris. My father was a distributor of foodstuffs. As an only child, I spent a lot of time with my mother. She loved to cook. I knew I'd be a brilliant chef because I made honeycomb at the age of 4. By the age of 10, I was making soufflés and other extravagant dishes. I invented my own recipes like Spatch-cock and Spinach Swirl and Camembert Cream Croissants. I wrote them all down in a special book. I knew I wanted to be a chef, so I mastered the skills even before I went to culinary school. Even though I loved Paris, I knew I'd have to go overseas to obtain real fame and fortune. *Dress suggestions: A beret, neck scarf & chef's check trousers. White shirt. Carry a cook notebook with your name written on the cover.*

Helena Flan (*Institute administrator*) My parents moved all over the US, because my father was a traveling salesman. My dad was always selling the latest fad – here, there and everywhere. You know things like hula hoops, yo-yos and pogo sticks. I always liked to keep myself trim and fit (I still do) so I spent a lot of time with my dad's exercise equipment. My dad was a classic salesman visiting every town. Mom didn't seem to mind him being away a lot. My parents are very happy together. I think I inherited my Dad's cheeky smile. Someday I want to settle down, but I'm only young and I haven't met my honey bun yet. *Dress suggestions: Pretty, tight-fitting dress. Definitely heels & lots of make up. Fishnet stockings.*

Cath Scarlet (*bag lady*) My mother was a dancer at a nightclub over on the East Side of New York. We were poor. When I was growing up, mom used to let me play dress-ups and put on her make-up. When I turned 16, mom was getting a bit old and she'd done her back doing the Can-Can. So she had no choice but to send me to work as a dancer. I was always toppling over in my stilettos at first like a newborn giraffe, but I got used to them. During the war I got lots of tips entertaining the troops. But it didn't last. Just like my mother, I did my back but this time doing the jitterbug. Then a few bad things happened and I ended up as a bag lady. *Dress suggestions: Bring the bag or trolley which contains all your possessions. Wear a rag torn outfit & a dirty face. An odor of the sewer.*

Joe "Slasher" Tessarario (*gangster*) I grew up in Detroit. My dad was always in and out of the clink. He didn't know how to arrange things properly. My mom wanted me to be a good Catholic boy. I loved my mom, so I just didn't tell her my plans for raising capital. The real money, I discovered, you could make from investing your money – loaning it to people. If they used the money to make more money, we both got rich. Sure I charged a lot of interest, why do you think they call us loan-sharks, but I lent to people the banks considered risky. If they couldn't repay, you told them you'd stand them in something sticky and heavy and I'm not talking about toffee. Generally they wised up. Soon I had a strong network of people who owed me favors. My troops. *Dress suggestions: Clinging nylon shirt, gold chains, black leather coat or else double-breasted jacket or suit (very swish). Maybe a hat. A few knives through your belt (blunt).*

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Katie Pitman (*Chef's secretary*) I grew up in Washington DC. My father was an accountant. As the eldest girl of a family of 7, I had a lot of responsibility in the family. At school, I was good at my studies and I was the school captain. I don't smoke but I admit I chew too much gum. At secretarial school, I topped my class. I was able to type a hundred words a minute. I still can. My ancestors invented shorthand. Maybe that's why I was so good at it. I met my wonderful husband William when I was 22. He went to the war and joined the ground troops in Germany. Fortunately he survived. He is an engineer. After the war, his work took him to New York, so we moved here. I love it here because I can buy the swish-type of clothes that you just can't get in DC. *Dress suggestions: Business dress, nothing revealing, just smart and stylish. Low heels. Just a touch of makeup. Carry a work diary. Look capable.*

George Creuset (*pot-washer*) I was an only child. My mother died having me. My father raised me with his sister's help. We were as poor as caged hamsters, but my dad still knew how to have a good time. He could really make his mouth-organ sing. I think dad's attitude to life has rubbed off on me. I'm always whistling while I wash my pots. And I love singing. I wish I could sing like Paula. I've been washing pots at the Institute for 5 years. I didn't go to the war because I have flat feet. I don't want to be a pot-washer forever. I've got plans. Big plans. I dabble in electronics and I've invented a machine which will wash pots. I call it Creuset's Cleaning Contraption – well that's the working title – it's actually a 'dishwasher' without arms or legs. I haven't married yet. I want to wait until I stopped being a pot-washer and have launched my invention. *Dress suggestions: Poor check flannel shirt, old, but clean. Carry a pot and a scrubbing brush. Whistle a merry tune.*

Mrs Dulcie Dickens (*widow of the previous Great Chef*) I grew up in Boston. My parents were extremely wealthy. I was sent to finishing school in Paris. While I was in Paris, I met Arnold. He was there studying to be a chef. We fell madly in love – oh how I remember those nights under the Eiffel Tower. Of course my parents were horrified to hear I'd fallen for a chef. But Arnold and I were very determined. We eloped at the end of our studies. For a long time, my parents refused to meet Arnold, but after our first child Jimmy was born, they were dying to see their grandchild. I told them they could only see him if they came to our house and met Arnold. After my parents met Arnold, they could see why I'd married him. He was such a dignified man and so caring about other people. Now I am a patron of the Institute. *Dress suggestions: Hair touched up with talc to make it look gray, powdered make-up, dignified dress, a few jewels. Not gaudy.*

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Fred Cleaver (*butcher*) I was born in New York. I'd always loved all those gory war stories and the sight of blood had never worried me, so I decided to be a butcher. Meat has always been my favorite food – feed the boy beef and make a butcher of him I suppose. Vegetables are a waste of time except for French-Fries. They go well with steak. After my apprenticeship I worked in a few butcher shops then I went and did my time at the war, WW1 that is. I was in the navy. When I got back from the war an old bachelor uncle of mine died and left me some money, so I set up my own shop. My shop was near the Institute and pretty soon I had them as a customer. My prices are competitive and my parsley and pork sausages are the best in town. I met Bessie after I'd got the shop. She's a great wife and our kids are good kids. *Dress suggestions: An apron with a few tomato sauce (ketchup) stains (pretend they are blood). Carry a large (blunt) knife.*

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Investigator

Detective Ronald Padget – 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 American police uniform. Carry a notepad and pencil.

Name Tags

Mary
Homebud

General Sid
Davies

Paula
Tortula

Yves
Larousse

Helena
Flan

Cath
Scarlet

Joe "Slasher"
Tessarario

Katie
Pitman

George
Creuset

Mrs Dulcie
Dickens

Fred
Cleaver

Detective
Ronald Padget

Merri Mysteries
presents...

**“The Murder Of
The Great Chef”**

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the questions
for:

*Detective
Ronald
Padget*

Detective Ronald Padget – Act One

During this act, you must ask each suspect the following questions:

- Mary** What was Alan Davies like as a fiancée, Miss Homebud?
- Sid** What did you think about your brother proposing to Miss Homebud, General Davies?
- Paula** What did you do during the war, Miss Tortula? Did you sing for the troops?
- Yves** What was it like being in occupied France during the war Mr Larousse?
- Helena** Did you have a fling with Alan Davies, Miss Flan?
- Cath** How did you fair during the war, Miss Scarlet?
- Joe** What sort of people do you deal with Mr Tessarario?
- Katie** How did you find Mr Davies as a boss, Mrs Pitman, compared to Mr Dickens?
- George** How did you find Mr Davies to work for Mr Creuset?
- Dulcie** Tell us more about your life, Mrs Dickens.
- Fred** How did you find Mr Davies as a customer Mr Cleaver, compared to Mr Dickens?

Detective Ronald Padget – Act Two

During this act, you must ask each suspect the following questions:

- Mary** Miss Homebud, what did you think about Alan leaving the Waldorf Hotel and becoming the Institute's Great Chef?
- Sid** And what did you think of your brother General Davies? Did he talk to you?
- Paula** Was Alan very discreet about his romance with you Miss Tortula?
- Yves** How did you find out what Alan Davies was up to Mr Larousse?
- Helena** What did you hear on the grapevine, Miss Flan, when Alan Davies was selected as the Great Chef?
- Cath** Did Mr Davies drop coins in your hat, Miss Scarlet?
- Joe** What was your arrangement with Mr Davies, Mr Tessarario?
- Katie** Did you notice anything peculiar when Mr Dickens died, Mrs Pitman?
- George** Did you tell anyone about the French recipes you saw, Mr Creuset?
- Dulcie** Did you like Mr Davies, Mrs Dickens?
- Fred** Tell us more about your profession as a butcher, Mr Cleaver.

Detective Ronald Padget – Act Three

During this act, you must ask each suspect the following questions:

- Mary** How had Alan been lately Miss Homebud?
- Sid** You were seen lurking around outside the Institute this afternoon General Davies. What were you doing there?
- Paula** What did you and General Davies talk about when he came to your house this morning Miss Tortula?
- Yves** When were you sure that Alan Davies had stolen your recipes, Mr Larousse?
- Helena** What happened after Mr Davies rejected your advances, Miss Flan?
- Cath** Miss Scarlet – you often go to the tip and pick up old relics. Did you ever pick up a bayonet?
- Joe** Did Mr Davies keep his part of the deal, Mr Tessarario?
- Katie** What did you do while you were at the Institute this afternoon Mrs Pitman?
- George** You were seen at the Institute this afternoon, Mr Creuset. You said you weren't working this weekend, so what were you doing there?
- Dulcie** Mrs Dickens – you don't look like a killer, but I suppose looks can be deceiving. Did you do it?
- Fred** Were you working today Mr Cleaver?

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These are the clues for:

*Mary
Homebud*

Mary Homebud - Act One

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 I don't know that I ever got to really know Alan. He never shared his private thoughts with me. But I don't know, maybe all men are like that.
- 2 Alan asked me to marry him after we'd been going out for six months. He kept delaying the wedding date. Initially he delayed it to go and serve in the war, but when he got back from the war, he said he was too busy in his new position and it would have to wait.
- 3 Alan liked the idea of marrying someone who would make a house that was nice and cozy for him to come home to, but I don't think he was really proud of me. He never took me out and he never introduced me to anyone.
- 4 Because Alan never involved me in his work and never invited me to the public dinners, I can't say I really know many of the people he mixed with.
- 5 I have never tasted Alan's cooking. He ate my aunt's cooking or my cooking whenever he visited. He never brought me any of his dishes and he never invited me to the Institute.
- 6 Ever since Alan came back from the war, he's been staying back late at work almost every night and even going in at weekends. He said he was devising some new recipes. But now I know that wasn't true at all.
- 7 Now that Alan is dead, I plan to make a lot of changes in my life. I'm sick of staying at home. I want some spice in my life.

Mary Homebud - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Alan kept saying the Waldorf Hotel wasn't big enough and that he wanted to be a Great Chef at the Institute.
- 2 It did surprise me that Alan got the position at the Institute. At the Waldorf he hadn't been involved in training apprentice chefs.
- 3 One time, just after the Great Chef Mr Dickens died, a strange man knocked on my aunt's door and asked for Alan. He was a very thickset, strong man with lots of cuts on his face. I told him Alan didn't live here and he just shrugged and left.
- 4 When I told Alan of his visitor, he said it must have been a mistake. His behavior was very strange.
- 5 Alan didn't want to have children. He was too selfish for that. To me they were everything. I didn't want to end up a lonely old lady.
- 6 After he came back from the war I saw even less of him.
- 7 I knew that Alan was earning good money being the Great Chef, but he was so selfish.

Mary Homebud - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 When Alan came back from the war, I noticed strange perfumes on his clothes. I didn't ask him about them. I knew he would have only lied.
- 2 Someone told me about Paula. Men sometimes have doubts before they marry and flirt with other women. I accept that. But it was all those years I waited for him that hurt. To hear that he'd given another lady flowers when he'd never given me a single rose on Valentines Day, well it hurt.
- 3 I don't hate you Paula. I know it's not your fault. He lied to you as much as he lied to me. But when I found out what he'd been up to, I hated him. Despicable, cheating, lying man that he was.
- 4 I saw you this afternoon Paula. I saw you meet Alan for lunch and go back to the Institute with him. I suppose everyone thought you were his fiancée – well why wouldn't they as they had never met me. I didn't see you leave the Institute Paula. How long did you stay there?
- 5 I just couldn't face the thought of that man any longer. His selfishness sickened me. I had to get rid of him.
- 6 Now that Alan is gone, I intend to work for charities and start living my life. And I'm going to eat Crème Brûlée and sip iced tea at the restaurants and places Alan would never take me.

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by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

*General
Sid Davies*

General Sid Davies - Act One

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 When Alan proposed to you Mary, I knew he would be marrying a fine woman. But he treated you so badly. He often ate your meals but yet he never bought you flowers and never took you out to dinner. You were treated like a galley slave, weren't you Mary? My wife Susie and I sometimes asked Alan to bring you around for dinner Mary, but he always said you preferred to stay at home. I should have known he was lying.
- 2 Alan went to Paris to study cooking. He said he was very impressed by the way the French approached cooking. He thought they had far more flair than Americans.
- 3 The Institute is locked on Saturday afternoons, so whoever murdered the Great Chef must have had a key.
- 4 I joined the army during World War 1 and I've been with it ever since. Alan didn't go to the first war.
- 5 During the war someone had to save us from the likes of Hitler. I tried to get Alan to join the front line troops, but all he cared about was getting back, making money and becoming a famous chef.
- 6 I told him that all his efforts would be meaningless if he ended up having to be the cook for some foreign rulers. Alan eventually agreed to cook for the troops in Europe.

General Sid Davies - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Alan and I weren't close. He didn't reveal any of his thoughts to me. All we did was argue.
- 2 I used to see him once a month because our aunt used to like us to visit her in the nursing home. I think Alan only came because he hoped she'd leave him something in her will.
- 3 He'd always bring her little French tarts and say he'd made them for her. But I used to see him outside the nursing home taking them out of the paper bags from the shop and putting them in his own little containers.
- 4 One time I saw him meeting you Paula. Even though he whisked you away when he saw me approaching, I could tell he was having a romance with you.
- 5 Because of my respect for you Mary, I decided to confront him about it. When I did, he became furious and told me to mind my own business. I said I would tell you about it Mary. Then he threatened to kill me if I did.
- 6 But Alan didn't scare me. He made me feel such anger I can't describe.

General Sid Davies - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Yes I was hanging around the Institute this afternoon. I was hoping to have a word to Alan on his way to work, but when I saw he was with Paula I left him alone.
- 2 Earlier this morning, I visited you didn't I Paula? I wanted to make sure you knew about Mary and I decided to warn you about him as he had started making violent threats.
- 3 While I was at war, I killed lots of men. When you see a man as an enemy it is easy to kill him. It's all a matter of perspective.
- 4 The Police said that the person who murdered Alan vomited after they did it. They used a tea towel to wipe their mouth.
- 5 It's true I have a collection of bayonets, but lots of people brought them back from the wars.
- 6 Alan hurt too many people. He was the kind of husband women hoped wouldn't come home from the war, like a present you receive which you wish had been damaged in transit. I saw it as a community service to kill him. The fact that he was my brother wasn't going to stop me. But I'm not saying I did kill him.

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presents...

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by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

*Paula
Tortula*

Paula Tortula - Act One

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 During the war, I worked in the entertainment corps.
- 2 I met Alan at a dance in Berlin a week after they declared the end of the war in Europe.
- 3 Alan was much older than me, but he was so charming and I loved him in his chef's hat and check trousers. He kept saying sweet things to me in French and feeding me truffles. He didn't tell me he had a fiancée back home.
- 4 When we came back to New York, he said he would visit me as often as he could. I just thought he was busy getting his career back in order after the war.
- 5 The war really launched me into stardom and I have had lots of work. There have been many admirers too, but I stayed loyal to Alan because he had promised me so much.

Paula Tortula - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 I didn't go out for dinner much with Alan. He said restaurants had no appeal for him because of his work. I believed him. Of course, it was probably because he didn't want us to be seen together. I would sing to him when he came to my place. I never went to his place. He said it was not the kind of place to take a lady.
- 2 Alan promised me a grand wedding with all the trimmings in a couple of year's time. He seemed so genuine and sincere about our future. But he said, because of his new position at the Institute, he wanted to keep our engagement a secret for a while yet.
- 3 He said he would buy me lots of dresses and pretty things once we were wed. I often told him how I really wanted to have lots of children. He was always quiet when I said this.
- 4 Now that Alan is gone, I am going to focus on my career. Maybe someday I'll meet a nice, kind, honest man and settle down.

Paula Tortula - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 This morning I was told that Alan had another fiancée. It was a shock. I realized then how many lies he'd told me. I knew that he probably had no intention of marrying me as Mary was a much richer pudding. My love for Alan quickly turned to hatred. My heart turned from melted chocolate to very bitter unsweetened cocoa.
- 2 Alan had never met any of my family. My mother could tell I was upset and she dragged the truth out of me. When my father heard about it he was almost uncontrollable with anger.
- 3 Today I had lunch with Alan. He was so proud of his award, he took me back to the Institute to show it to me. Later when I confronted him with the bitter truth, he said he didn't really care about me. He said I'd just been a bit of sugar in his tea.
- 4 After I left Alan this afternoon, I didn't leave the Institute straight away. I slipped into one of the other offices and I rang you, didn't I Dad? I was very upset and I needed to talk to you.