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Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Who Stole The Cookies?”

Meet and mingle version
for 17 to 30 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition

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The Suspects

Last night in the library, when many characters were out of their books enjoying a sojourn in the night air, a crime was committed, grim and grave, right in our own library. When Mrs Bookworm, the librarian, opened the fundraising cookie cupboard this morning she was shocked. The cupboard, where the fundraising cookies had been kept, was empty.

Gathered in the library are the characters who were present at the time of the nasty deed. Fortunately Master Sherlock Holmes is here to investigate, so the perpetrator of this heinous crime will no doubt be revealed as the party proceeds. The people present in the library are:

Book: *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

Alice – I don't like to be rude, but after being in Wonderland, I can't help thinking how very strange some people are. *Dress suggestion:* Dress as a little girl with pig tails in your hair and rosy cheeks.

Book: *Cinderella*

Cinderella – having been treated badly by my step sisters, I know what it's like to be a slave. So in the palace, I am kind to everyone – the servants included. *Dress suggestion:* Dress like a princess with tinsel/glitter or as a servant covered in cinders and carrying a broom or duster.

Book: *Snow White* by The Brothers Grimm

Snow White – I am a young lady with skin as white as snow, lips as red as blood and hair as black as ebony. I am friends with a bunch of dwarfs. *Dress suggestion:* Old-fashioned clothes such as a drawstring sash at the waist, puffy sleeves, flouncy skirt.

Book: *Peter and Wendy* by Sir James Matthew Barry

Peter Pan – I am the little boy who never grew up. I live in Never Never Land and I can fly. Sometimes I teach other children to fly with me. *Dress suggestion:* Dress with a green cap and a green outfit. You may wish to carry a toy sword.

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Book: *Little Red Riding Hood* by various authors

Little Red Riding Hood – I am a fearless, but kind young girl who goes for walks alone in the woods. I love to visit my Grandma sometimes. *Dress suggestions:* A red hooded cape with a dress beneath (possibly also in red). Carry a basket with some little cakes or cookies in it. You are taking these to your grandmother.

Book: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum

Dorothy – I am a very determined young lady from a farm in Kansas. I don't let anyone get in my way. My dog goes with everywhere with me. *Dress suggestions:* A blue dress with a white blouse underneath. Add white socks and magic red shoes. If you can, add long black hair tied in two bows. Carry a toy dog.

Book: *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by various authors

Goldilocks – I am a naughty and some say "spoiled" little girl. I always do exactly what I want. For example, I steal porridge and sleep in beds I don't own. *Dress suggestion:* Cute little-girl clothes. Maybe tie a ribbon in your golden hair and wear a blue dress, a frilly white apron, red shoes and yellow socks. You may like to bring a bowl of porridge with you.

Book: *The Adventures of Aladdin* by various authors

Aladdin – I changed from being a poor boy to a handsome prince and married a beautiful princess in a 'great splendid palace'. *Dress suggestion:* Wear middle eastern clothes (eg baggy trousers). Sequins and jewels are acceptable as you are dripping with wealth.

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4 Investigators (optional extra roles)

Master Sherlock Holmes (from *Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) I am a man with such superior detective skills that I have become world famous. I already know a lot about each of the suspects, just from looking at their appearance. For example, I can tell Alice is a little girl with a very fanciful imagination and Aladdin is from the Far East. But, I am not a great reader of fiction, I prefer to do chemical experiments and I also play the violin. This certainly does not seem like a normal case. It is more like the Mr Angel case. You may like to read about it in my diary, if you get time. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in old-fashioned clothes, carry a magnifying glass and a pipe.

Dr Watson (from *Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) I am a skilled doctor but I am also a bit of a cynic and a non-believer until something is proved true. I have great respect for Sherlock Holmes. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in old-fashioned clothes.

Mrs Bookworm (*The librarian responsible for the cookie cupboard*) Although I try to be helpful, a lot of the children are afraid of me. I think it is because I am always telling them to be quiet in the library. But my bark is worse than my bite. I really love children. *Dress suggestion:* Spectacles, a chain around your neck with a key attached but hidden inside your blouse. Wear a dress or skirt and blouse, but make sure whatever you wear has large pockets stuffed full of things.

Miss Marple (from *Agatha Christie novels*) I am just an ordinary woman with a penchant for finding out the truth. Nothing goes unnoticed by me. Things are not what they seem. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in old-fashioned clothes – very prim and proper. You may like to carry your knitting.

18 Witnesses (optional extra roles)

Queen of Hearts (from *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll) Oh there is so much to tell – all about the tea cups and my shouting “Off with his head! or “Off with her head” and all the other people Alice met in Wonderland, but it would take too long. Alice comes into the library and looks at the children’s books. *Dress suggestions:* Wear white and stick big red cardboard hearts on your clothes.

White Rabbit (from *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll) ‘Silence in the court!’ I am a very busy rabbit. “Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!” *Dress suggestions:* As a white rabbit. Wear a waistcoat and have a pocket-watch hanging out of it. Consult it often. Also wear spectacles. Add a white fluffy bottom and some rabbit ears.

The Fairy Godmother (from *Cinderella*) After working all day on her chores, Cinderella often wondered if she would ever be happy again. The ladies of her household were invited to the Duke’s ball. But Cinderella’s step-mother said she could not go unless her chores were done. Fortunately, I came to Cinderella’s aid and – well, you all know the rest of the story. *Dress suggestions:* Dress like a fairy complete with wings and a wand with which to grant wishes.

The Queen (from *Snow White* by The Brothers Grimm) I dressed as an ‘old pedlar woman’ and sold Snow White some lace for her waist. Then I laced her up so tight, she ‘lost ... (her) breath, and fell down as dead.’ Unfortunately, the seven dwarfs soon returned and cut the lace in two, so that she could draw breath. I knew she wasn’t dead because my mirror told me so, so I came again with a poisoned apple. The dwarfs thought Snow White was dead. A prince saw her and carried her away. Then the apple fell out of her mouth and she came back to life and they married. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a queen with a crown and a long gown. Add a nasty face mask.

Wendy (from *Peter and Wendy* by Sir James Matthew Barry) I am Wendy Darling. Peter started to visit us at night and then he took my brothers and me with him to Never Never Land. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in old-fashioned little-girl clothes. Have your hair tied in two pig-tails with pretty ribbon.

Tinkerbell (from *Peter and Wendy* by Sir James Matthew Barry) I used my magic fairy dust to help Peter Pan and Wendy and the others to fly. On the island there are lots of fairies. “When the first baby laughed for the very first time, the laugh broke into a thousand pieces and they all went skipping about and that was the beginning of the fairies.” *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a golden fairy with a little bell you always ring as you move about.

Wizard of Oz (from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum) To get to my place you follow the yellow brick road. People think that I can accomplish anything. Dorothy and her friends came to see me. The Scarecrow was in search of a brain. They all expected me to wave a magic wand and to solve their problems for them, but I didn't. *Dress suggestions:* A wizard's outfit with stars and the moon on it and with a long pointy hat.

Scarecrow (from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum) I was very upset because I didn't think I had the intelligence to be able to capture the Wicked Witch. But we did succeed and so we returned to see the Wizard, only to find he wasn't really able to do anything. But he did point out to us that we already possessed what we sought. I already had a brain. I just had to start using it. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a scarecrow with bits of straw coming out of your torn and tattered clothes (eg check flannel shirt and blue overalls).

The Grandmother (from *Little Red Riding Hood*) The Big Bad Wolf locked me in the cupboard. So Little Red Riding Hood, said to the Wolf who was sitting in bed dressed in my nightgown, ‘Why, Granny...what big eyes you have got.’ And the wolf said, ‘The better to see you with, my child,’ imitating my voice. I won't bore you with the rest as you have probably all heard the story. Most versions of the story end happily with Little Red Riding Hood being saved from the wolf's clutches by her father and the woodcutters. *Dress suggestions:* A long nightgown with a bed-jacket and a bonnet on your head.

Papa Bear (from *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*) Goldilocks tasted my porridge, sat in my chair and lay on my bed. But she found my porridge too hot and my chair and my bed too hard. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a large-sized father bear but with normal clothes on top.

The Genie (from *The Adventures of Aladdin*) I helped Aladdin to become a prince. I live in Aladdin's magic lamp. *Dress suggestions:* Wear middle Eastern clothes (eg baggy trousers) and a turban. Carry the lamp in which you live.

Characters from other books

Thumbeline (from *Thumbeline* by Hans Christian Andersen) I was born to be very, very tiny, no bigger than a lady's thumb and I slept in a lacquered walnut shell with a rose petal coverlet. I was stolen by an ugly toad that wanted me to marry her son. Yuk!! Some fish helped me escape and I had many adventures. I ended up spending the winter with a kind field mouse, but she wanted me to marry the neighboring boring old mole. After befriending a poor injured swallow because we were both great singers, he flew me off to his home. Poor Swallow had fallen in love with me, but when he put me on a beautiful white flower there was the King of the spirits of the flowers already there. Naturally we fell in love and lived happily ever after. *Dress suggestions:* Old fashioned, delicate long dress. Braid you hair and wear flowers in it. Speak with a tiny voice.

Cleopatra (from *Antony and Cleopatra* by William Shakespeare) I am queen of that fair country Egypt. O! my oblivion is very Antony (Marc Antony), and I am all forgotten. He married Octavia, Caesar's sister to please Caesar. My anger at hearing this was such that it would “melt Egypt into Nile!” *Dress suggestions:* Wear loosely draped material to form a toga. Make your face white with powder. You may like to draw Egyptian symbols or pyramids and the like on your clothes.

Pinocchio (*Pinocchio* by Carlo Lorenzini/Carlo Collodi) When I was a puppet I lied a lot, but the Good Fairy taught me not to and to be good. ‘How stupid I was as a puppet. And how glad I am to be a real live boy.’ When I lied my nose became so long I ‘could not move without banging it against the walls or door.’ Geppetto sold his coat to buy me a spelling book for school. I sold it to go to the puppet theatre. Then I saved a puppet from being burnt by the showman and the showman gave me coins for my father. *Dress suggestions:* A red jacket with a white frill-necked shirt. Make a pencil nose out of cardboard.

The Monster (*Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley) Even though Frankenstein had spent so much time and effort creating me, he found me so horrible, he ran in revolt. I reeked of the dead that had been used to create me. *Dress suggestions:* Wear clothes that look stitched together and draw some stitches on your brow.

Robin Hood (*Robin Hood* by various authors) I am a wealthy man who has been forced to become a thief. I steal from the rich and give to the poor. The poor of England were being asked for too many taxes. The taxes were required to fund various political battles overseas. I simply gave back to the poor the money that they had had unfairly taken away from them in the first place. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in period clothes, a cape and a mask.

Rapunzel (*Rapunzel* by The Brothers Grimm) I have magnificent long hair, fine as spun gold, and I unfastened my braided tresses, wound them round one of the hooks of the window above, and then my hair fell twenty ells down, and my rescuer climbed up by it. *Dress suggestion:* Old-fashioned clothes and a golden-haired wig braided.

Oliver Twist (from *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens) At the workhouse, I lived on “the smallest portion of the weakest food possible.” Later I went to London. The people I lodged with turned out to be none other than a gang of thieves, but I did not realize it till later. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a pauper with lots of holes in your clothes and grime. A bit of soot on your face would not go astray.

Name Tags

The Suspects

Alice
(suspect)

Cinderella
(suspect)

Snow
White
(suspect)

**Peter
Pan**
(suspect)

**Little Red
Riding Hood**
(suspect)

Dorothy
(suspect)

Goldilocks
(suspect)

Aladdin
(suspect)

**22 optional witnesses
and investigators**

Master Sherlock Holmes	Dr Watson
Mrs Bookworm	Miss Marple
Queen of Hearts	White Rabbit
Cinderella's Fairy Godmother	The Queen (in Snow White)

Wendy	Tinkerbell
Wizard of Oz	Scarecrow
Little Red Riding Hood's Grandmother	Papa Bear
The Genie	Thumbeline
Cleopatra	Pinocchio
Robin Hood	Rapunzel

Oliver Twist	The Monster
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Merri Mysteries presents...

'Who Stole The Cookies?'

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the:

Clues

Merri Mysteries presents...

‘Who Stole The Cookies?’

*Clue page for the witnesses
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. Tell people about anything interesting you find out.

Merri Mysteries presents...

‘Who Stole The Cookies?’

*Clue page for the investigators
Print as many copies as you need.
Staple a copy of their name tag here*

What I can reveal

*Staple their Investigator questions here
(and other clues if there are not many guests)*

What I need to do

- 1 Ask everyone lots of questions.
- 2 Talk to everyone, not just the suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know. Tell people about anything interesting you find out.

'Who Stole The Cookies?'

Alice

What I can reveal

Sherlock Holmes is wrong. I do not have a fanciful imagination. It was a wonderful dream – a dream filled with strange creatures. I saw a White Rabbit looking at its watch and I followed it down a rabbit hole. I fell down a deep well, but I fell slowly so I had plenty of time to look at the jars of 'Orange Marmalade' and such. Oh there is so much to tell – all about the tea cups and the March Hare and all the other people I met in Wonderland, but it will take too long. The Queen of Hearts and I often play hide and seek around the library. It's lots of fun.

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If an investigator asks you what you do at night in the library, say "At night I like to skip around the library singing tunes to amuse myself. That takes a lot of energy. That's why I needed the cookies. But whether I got them is a secret. My singing annoyed Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother. She was always telling me to keep quiet. But I found it awfully boring to be quiet. And after all, the library is the only place I get to play in besides Wonderland."

Alice Page 2

- 3 If an investigator asks you if you were planning to become small and go through the lock into the cupboard, say "All I will say is that I came out of my book while I was still holding the bottle labeled 'Drink Me' and I did drink it so I could have fitted through the lock to the cookie cupboard. At least I didn't go around shouting 'Off with her head' to the librarian or anything silly like the Queen of Hearts. I'm cleverer than that. I had to squeeze in through the lock so I couldn't carry anything with me."

‘Who Stole The Cookies?’

Cinderella

What I can reveal

I am a merchant’s daughter and my house overlooked the canals and gondolas. The Duke’s palace was across the canal from where I lived. When my mother died, my father married a widow with two grown daughters. Alas, when I met them, they treated me as a slave rather than as a step-sister. They were horrible to me. My step-sisters saw me covered in cinders after cleaning the fireplace and, my name being Ella, they gave me the nickname of ‘Cinder-ella’.

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If an investigator asks you about how you got to the library late because you had been out dancing, say “You are right. I was late. And by then I was a bit tired and very hungry. I asked my Fairy Godmother if she could turn my pumpkin into some cake, but she reminded me that her magic didn’t work after midnight.”
- 3 If an investigator asks you if you managed to pick your way into the lock, say “I am not going to say. However, I will admit that I am better at dancing than I am at picking locks. I did see some cookie crumbs in the back room of the library.”

‘Who Stole The Cookies?’

Snow White

What I can reveal

My step-mother was jealous of my beauty and asked a huntsman to do away with me. He took pity on me and let me run away into the forest and I came to the house of the dwarfs. I ate some of their porridge, cleaned the house and fell asleep on one of their beds. Later they found me asleep and asked me to stay and take care of them. My step-mother asked her looking-glass ‘Who is the fairest of us all?’ and it told her:

‘Snow-white living in the glen, With seven little men,
Is a thousand times more fair.’ My stepmother then plotted to get rid of me.

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If an investigator asks you if you stole the cookies like you stole porridge from the dwarfs, say “I am not a porridge thief like you Goldilocks. I only took a little from each bowl as I was fainting from hunger. And since then I have kept house for the dwarfs, so I have repaid my debt to them. I am not saying whether the cookies came into my possession or not. But one thing is for sure – I am not a thief. Even if I had eaten the cookies, I would have left sufficient money behind to pay for them.” (see next page)

Snow White Page 2

- 3 If an investigator asks you if you gave Mrs Bookworm a poisoned apple, say “I am very familiar with poison, having had some in my mouth for days on end. I know its effects and how fast it can take action. But I would never poison someone so they died. I would only poison them so they slept for a few days. I left Mrs Bookworm a basket of apples on her table. Later I counted the apples and there was one missing. But as I am not sure who ate that apple, I can’t say for sure that I poisoned Mrs Bookworm.”

Merri Mysteries presents...

‘Who Stole The Cookies?’

Peter Pan

What I can reveal

I come from Never Never Land. I am the boy who never grew up. I live on an island inhabited by pirates, mermaids, fairies and Indians. I taught the three children of the Darling family to fly so they could return with me to the island. We were trying to stop the evil pirate Captain Hook from going about his wicked ways. But then Captain Hook plotted to do away with me and he captured Wendy Darling.

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If an investigator asks you how you planned to steal the cookies, say “One time I was telling Mrs Bookworm about how when Captain Hook tried to capture me I had to fly while I was fighting in order to defeat him. You begged me to teach you to fly, didn’t you Mrs Bookworm? You said I could have all the cookies in the cookie cupboard in exchange for the lesson.”
- 3 If an investigator asks you how you got Mrs Bookworm to give you the cookies, say “Mrs Bookworm is a lovely, generous lady. But I will not say whether or not she gave me the cookies as I don’t want to jeopardise her role as a librarian. If only the cookies gave off a tick tock like the crocodile’s clock – then we would know for sure who ate the cookies.”

Questions for the investigators to ask

You should divide these 16 questions amongst the investigators. Staple the questions on the clue pages for the investigators. Please make sure they are all given out.

Alice – What were you up to in the early part of the evening when the cookies disappeared? What did you do in the library at night?

Cinderella – You didn't get to the library till late, did you Cinderella, as you had spent the night dancing at the ball?

Snow White – You stole porridge from the dwarfs before you met them. So you were a porridge thief like Goldilocks. How do we know you didn't steal the cookies as well?

Peter Pan – So how did you plan to steal the cookies Peter? Were you going to fly off with them?

Little Red Riding Hood – Before your incident with the wolf, I heard you were a very fearless little girl? Is that how you had the courage to steal the cookies?

Dorothy – I heard you arguing with Aladdin. He said that he had a right to the cookies whereas you didn't. What did he mean by that?

Goldilocks – You really must stop being such a nuisance child, Goldilocks. I heard you were annoying the librarian no end because you kept tossing all of the other books off your shelf.

Aladdin – Did you steal the cookies in the same way you stole that lamp from the cave? Or did you get your genie to help you?

Alice – Surely a sweet young girl like you wasn't involved in a crime like this? Is it really true you were planning to become small and go through the lock into the cupboard?

Cinderella – So did you manage to pick your way into that lock while I wasn't around Cinderella?

Group A Clues

You should divide these 32 clues amongst the witnesses. Staple the clues on the clue pages for the witnesses. Please make sure they are all given out.

In her book, Alice came to a very tiny passage leading to the 'loveliest garden' and a bottle saying 'Drink Me', but 'the bottle was not marked poison', so she drank it. She 'shut up like a telescope' till she was only 'ten inches high'. Then she found a cake marked 'Eat Me' and she ate it and grew very tall. Her feet were so far away. Maybe Alice used a potion like this to help her steal the cookies from the cupboard?

At the Mad Hatter's Tea Party Alice never got to eat anything as they kept moving to the next chair, so even after she had eaten the cake marked 'Eat Me', Alice was still hungry. That's why she wanted to steal the cookies from the cookie cupboard.

One time Alice was hiding and Little Red Riding Hood and her Grandmother came along. They were talking about how they planned to steal the key to the cupboard from Mrs Bookworm's pocket when she wasn't looking. But then Little Red Riding Hood noticed Alice listening to them.

When Little Red Riding Hood found Alice has been listening in to her conversation with her Grandmother, Alice had forgotten that she'd come out of her book when she was 'nine feet high' and hiding wasn't easy. Little Red Riding Hood called Alice a spy and while Alice was bending down, Little Red Riding hood grabbed Alice's pig tails and pulled them till she cried. Alice was still 'nine feet tall'. Thankfully I stopped her in time so that her tears didn't cause any flood damage.

After working all day on her chores, Cinderella often wondered if she would ever be happy again. The ladies of her household were invited to the Duke's ball. But Cinderella's step-mother said she could not go unless her chores were done. Of course, she gave her so many chores so that this could never be. Fortunately, Cinderella's Fairy Godmother came to her aid and – well, you all know the rest of the story. Maybe her Fairy Godmother helped her steal the cookies?
