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Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Fame, Money and Murder”

Standard version
for 4 females
and 4 males

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition

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The Suspects

When Ed Dockafeller died, he left a will stating that each of his five children would only receive their share of his billions if they had married, contributed something significant to the world, and moved to a country town by midnight tonight. In their quest to achieve these stipulations, a lot has happened. Ed's eldest son Nathan Dockafeller (also known as "nasty Nathan") has been found dead.

As they tick away the hours before midnight, the children and their new partners have come together for a family meeting at their father's Arizona ranch.

Now they will find out which of them killed Nathan and which ones are going to get a share of the money. The people present are:

Duncan Dockafeller (*brother*) I'm a world famous boxer. My name's Duncan and so the media call me "Dunk-Them Dock – A – Fella" because of my mean left hook. *Dress suggestions:* Wear boxer shorts, a towel around your neck, body oil (so you look sweaty). Don a fancy cape and some boxing gloves. Add a few bandages and a black eye.

Polly Darton (*Duncan's fiancée*) I'm a famous country and western singer from Tennessee. I also write a lot of my own songs. My family call me "Jolly Polly" because I'm always laughin' and carrying on. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a long blonde wig, cowgirl boots, flannelette check shirt, leather jacket complete with tassels and a broad leather hat. And wear a large bra with lots of socks for extra padding.

Serina Dockafeller (*sister*) I teach belly dancing. I learnt it during a trip to Athens years ago. Belly dancing and smashing plates seemed great ways to de-stress. And the belly dancing has the side benefit of toning my tummy. *Dress suggestions:* Dress a bit like the lady in "I Dream of Genie" – baggy trousers and a top which shows your belly. Add some veils on your head and lots of jewellery.

Tommy Whip (*Serina's husband*) I'm a world-class jockey. I was recently accused of race-fixing but I was proved innocent. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a jockey's cap and check shirt. Carry a little whip. Paste a number on your shirt and cap. Wear boots that make you taller.

Magnus Dockafeller (*brother*) I'm a scientist. Recently I published evidence proving that I've discovered a cure for skin cancer. Before I started my research, I spent a lot of time cruising around the world on a friend's yacht. I started to think seriously about skin cancer while I was lounging around the deck. *Dress suggestions:* Wear the classic white laboratory coat of a scientist and maybe carry some test tubes.

Pebbles (*Magnus' wife*) I'm a comedian. I spend all my time in a Neolithic age. I like telling jokes about rocks, because you can accuse rocks of anything you like. It's politically correct, although a bit crushing for rock emotions. *Dress suggestions:* Dress a bit like Pebbles from the "Flintstones" or like a cave girl. To do this, wear lambswool seat covers or the sheepskin mat or any other hide you can find. Have your hair tied up high with a bone through it. Carry some rocks.

Cynthia Dockafeller (*sister*) I'm very shy. My therapist described me as a paranoid agoraphobic. Until recently I've spent all my time at home working as a proof reader for a legal publisher. But I have a secret talent. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in conservative 50's style clothes. Wear mirrored or dark sunglasses that you can hide behind. Maybe bring a beloved pet with you (eg a toy cat or dog). Chew a pencil.

Charles Concerto (*Cynthia's husband*) I'm the conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. I also have a passion for turtles and I have twenty of them as pets. I've converted the bath tub into a turtle tank. *Dress suggestions:* If possible, dress in a black tuxedo with tails or similar. Maybe carry a baton (or a white chopstick) and some sheet music.

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Name Tags

Duncan
Dockafeller

Polly
Darton

Serina
Dockafeller

Tommy
Whip

Magnus
Dockafeller

Pebbles

Cynthia
Dockafeller

**Charles
Concerto**

Merri Mysteries presents...

Fame, Money and Murder

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

*Duncan
Dockefeller*

Duncan Dockafeller - Act One

During this act, you must say:

- 1 *(say this early on)* I suppose seeing as some of you haven't met me before, I should talk a bit about my interests and so on. Maybe we should all do that so we get to know one another a bit better.
- 2 I have been a boxer for so many years and I have won the World Champion title so many times, I have forgotten how many times it's actually been. I am the greatest. I fly like a Concorde, but I don't crash like it does.
- 3 My father didn't approve of my boxing career. I think that's why he came up with this stupid set of regulations as to what we had to achieve. He was always rubrix-cubing my life.
- 4 My main interest is in helping young street kids to become good at boxing. It helps them to get some respect for themselves. A lot of them speak Spanish, but that's OK, because I can speak that lingo too.
- 5 My weekend hobby is hunting. At least I will be able to do more of that now that I have moved to a country town.
- 6 Growing up with my brother Nathan wasn't easy. He was older than me and he was always picking on me. One of his favorite tricks was squeezing my head into what he called "Nathan's Half Nelson". I had to give him all my pocket money to make him stop. So I had to learn boxing mainly as self-defense against Nathan.
- 7 You and I have always been close, haven't we Cynthia? I tried to guard you from Nathan. He hated you because you could play and read music and he couldn't. That was the one subject he wasn't any good at. And Nathan just had to be the best and be the one my parents praised the most. So he never let Cynthia play anything in front of our parents and they never knew she was so musical. Isn't that true Cynthia?

Duncan Dockafeller - Act Two

During this act, you must say:

- 1 As part of my helping the street kids to become boxers, I have set up a whole network of helpers. The main thing we tell them is that to succeed as athletes, and believe me, us boxers are the only true all-round athletes; anyway, to succeed you've got to stay fit and healthy.
- 2 Polly and I met about a year ago, but because of our commitments, we haven't spent as much time together as we would have liked. But all that's going to change, isn't it honey? Because we're getting married a couple of minutes before midnight tonight.
- 3 I haven't seen much of the family over the years. I suppose I scared you all off with my practice punches. I think the last time we all met was for Dad's funeral. Mom died when we were all young as you know.
- 4 Nathan was the executor for Dad's will. He planned this get-together. To be honest, I think he was planning to find a way to have us all fail Dad's stipulations so he would get all the money. Talk about wiping out your opponents!
- 5 Last week, I went around to Nathan's house to talk to him about the stipulations in the will. When I arrived, I saw you leaving his house, Serina. You were in tears. Why was that Serina?
- 6 While I was talking to Nathan, he mentioned that he had found out some facts about Pebbles that would create an earthquake that would "rock" the media. What "earth-shattering" facts had he found out about you Pebbles? Did you kill him to stop him from telling everyone?
- 7 I read about you and your passion for turtles, Charles. Do you like Cynthia because she hides in her shell?

Duncan Dockafeller - Act Three

During this act, you must say:

- 1 The Police found Nathan covered in gold paint like a reject from a James Bond movie. It wasn't the type of gold paint that breathes, but whoever did it, obviously didn't realize that every inch of his body would have had to have been covered for him to have died from it. He didn't have any paint under his boxers.
- 2 Nathan's wife cannot hear or speak. I think he chose a woman with such limited conversational abilities because he didn't want anyone to argue with him. His wife doesn't come to gatherings like this. She prefers Internet chat-rooms.
- 3 I did go and see Nathan this morning, but I left his house before 10 am. You can verify that with his neighbor, because she waved to me as I was leaving.
- 4 When I left Nathan, he said that most of the family had arranged private meetings with him today. But with Nathan, you could never be sure if he was telling the truth or not.
- 5 Just because I am the one with the muscles, and beautiful ones at that (*show everyone*), I know most of you will try and pin Nathan's death on me. But if you ask the Police, they will tell you that Nathan didn't have the honor of being hit with my left hook.
- 6 I always found it hard to believe that you were a brilliant scientist, Magnus. You'd never been anything but a sunburnt "yacht bum".
- 7 This afternoon I was preparing for a special boxing match.
- 8 (*after Polly says about goose bumps*) Polly, why are you getting so upset? It was just a little incident. You misheard what I was saying. I was just telling my assistant I needed some of that special new goose jelly. It works a lot better than oil does. Now honey, don't go ringing the preacher and telling him you want to cancel our wedding. Please don't do that to me honey. You're just getting emotional. Please calm down Polly. Please sweetie...lovie, dearie, goosie.

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Fame, Money and Murder

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

*Polly
Darton*

Polly Darton - Act One

During this act, you must say:

- 1 Now you all know about little ol' me. Why with me being so famous and all, you could hardly avoid it could you? How could you possibly think I could be a killer? Oh my goodness me! My lovely long eye-lashes just flutter at the thought.
- 2 Now I grew up in a large family. There were twelve of us. Five kids to a bed. So I know what family feuds can be like. But you all seem such a nice family. Why yo' all are so pleasant to one another, I can hardly believe that one of you nice people did away with your brother Nathan.
- 3 Now I know Nathan wasn't poor. He owned all of those oil wells and gas stations and coal fields and so on. But he was poor in the sense of his being helpless. And well, now he's dead, he's definitely helpless!
- 4 Duncan and I don't have a real lot in common. But I do love your muscles and your wash-board tummy, don't I honey? And that's all that matters.
- 5 I told Duncan that his family should have planned a really special party to celebrate the fact that they would be getting their father's money. I told him they should have fireworks and sculptures and lots of performers, not just me singing a few songs. Duncan said he didn't really care about the party, but Nathan agreed with me. He thought it was a humdinger of an idea.
- 6 Now that Nathan is dead it is more like a wake than a normal party. But I don't see anyone bursting into waves of tears – don't ya miss him even a little bit?

Polly Darton - Act Two

During this act, you must say:

- 1 Duncan introduced me to Nathan at his father's funeral. I noticed then that Nathan was the only one who didn't look like he had shed any tears and yet he was the one they all said was their father's pet.
- 2 Later on, Nathan phoned me up and asked if I would sign some of his CD covers. He said he was a big fan of mine. I agreed of course. I always like to look after my fans.
- 3 While I was at Nathan's house, I asked him where his wife was. He said she was away on holidays. I wondered why he had waited for her to be away before inviting me over. And he didn't ask Duncan to join us either.
- 4 While I was there, Nathan explained that the terms of his father's will didn't preclude the children from divorcing their current wives. That was a clanging cowbell to my ears.
- 5 I slapped him and told him that in America we have strong family values and those values don't include no sneaky little goings on with divorces and the like.
- 6 I spoke to one of those nice Policemen and he said Nathan was killed sometime between three and six this afternoon.
- 7 I asked Nathan why Serina and Tommy were doing the cooking for the party. He said they insisted on doing it even though he said he would prefer to have had it catered.
- 8 Should we eat this food? How do we know that Serina and Tommy haven't poisoned it so they get all the money? Perhaps we should feed some to the cat first. If it dies we'll know for sure they've put poison in the punch or poison in the pudding or whatever.

Polly Darton - Act Three

During this act, you must say:

- 1 Nathan later rang up and apologized for talking about divorces, but he didn't sound very genuine to me. He also asked me if I would sing at this party. I said I would, but now that he's dead, I don't think singing is appropriate. Not unless I sing "hallelujah".
- 2 Nathan wanted me to sing a sad blues song. I thought that a rather strange choice for a party. Did he think everyone would be singing the blues besides him?
- 3 While I was here at the ranch this afternoon rehearsing the blues song, Nathan turned up alone and told me if I went ahead and married Duncan, he would make sure I never got any radio airplay for my songs. I don't know how he was going to do that, but that's what he said.
- 4 I told him that my fans wouldn't put up with anything like that. He said he was far more powerful than any fan club.
- 5 The Police aren't sure yet what killed Nathan, but they did say that the paint would have taken a longer time to kill him. They suggested that maybe another poison had killed him.
- 6 I checked with your trainer Duncan and he said you weren't training this afternoon. Your alibi is a lie!
- 7 Duncan – I thought your love for me ran as deep as the rivers down south, but now I don't want to marry you. I heard you on your mobile just now saying to that other woman that she would still be able to give you goose bumps anytime she liked. You're as bad a philanderer as your brother was. Maybe even worse. As far as I'm concerned you can bury yourself and that boxing bag of yours with your brother Nathan.
- 8 *(in answer to Tommy's question)* I wasn't shakin' Tommy. I was just quiverin' with the joys of life.
- 9 *(in answer to Serina's question)* Nathan was helping me organize a few decorations for tonight's party – that's all.

Merri Mysteries presents...

Fame, Money and Murder

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These are the clues for:

*Serina
Dockefeller*

Serina Dockafeller - Act One

During this act, you must say:

- 1 When I was little, my father teased me by saying that I had a big belly. I think that was what led me to become interested in belly dancing when I went to Greece. I thought it might make my belly more muscled and smaller.
- 2 Although it hasn't led to a smaller belly, my belly is now something I am proud to display and that is the main thing. See how beautiful it is (*show everyone your belly*).
- 3 Nathan always criticized my interest in belly dancing. He thought it was dragging the family's reputation in the dirt. He equated it with bordellos and the like, but it is nothing like that at all – it's a cultural art form in itself.
- 4 I could feel how belly dancing was improving my own health and my coordination, so I wanted to find out why. That is when I started researching the Feldenkrais Method and I realized that it is all due to awareness and to the way it introduces your brain to new ways of movement.
- 5 I have since gone on to do a Physiology PhD on the effect of belly dancing on the body. My research has generated a lot of interest in the ancient art of belly dancing.
- 6 I was the youngest child. Nathan was the eldest. Nathan's favorite activity was poking holes in my rubber ducks so that they all sank whenever I had a bath. Lately, he has been worse still – trying to poke holes in our rights to our father's money.

Serina Dockafeller - Act Two

During this act, you must say:

- 1 When I told Nathan about how I had completed my PhD and now some respectable scientists were looking into belly dancing more seriously, he just laughed.
- 2 He said I had obviously bought some bogus PhD from a cereal packet. When I told him I had done my PhD at Harvard, he flatly refused to believe me even after I showed him my papers. He said anyone can forge documents these days.
- 3 I don't think Nathan wanted to accept my credentials because he wanted to get all the money from my father's will.
- 4 Tommy and I may seem an unlikely couple, but really we are both into using our bodies. It is just the way we use them is very different.
- 5 Tommy is such a little sweetie. You keep me galloping towards happiness, don't you dear? Unlike a lot of you who have only just met, we've been married for over a year and we keep getting closer and closer.
- 6 Nathan borrowed a lot of money from our father and invested it in oil projects and so on. He made a lot of money. You could tell just by looking at the size of his posh restaurant paunch.
- 7 Nathan's body was found in the stables of this ranch by the stable hand. Just in his boxer shorts. Not a pretty sight at all with his belly!
- 8 (*in answer to Duncan's question*) Last week when you saw me leaving Nathan's Duncan, I was crying for no real reason. I had been at Nathan's showing him my university papers. I was emotional. Maybe it's because I'm pregnant. Yes! I just found out that I am pregnant. It is wonderful, but it really does make you teary.

Serina Dockafeller - Act Three

During this act, you must say:

- 1 Oh Tommy. I'm sorry it just slipped out about the pregnancy. I was going to tell you. I thought you'd be happy about it. I knew about your vasectomy, but I desperately wanted a child, so I got the sperm from the sperm bank. I can show you all the official papers.
- 2 Earlier today I was running my usual belly-dancing class when Nathan stormed in and demanded I talk to him.
- 3 When I asked him to wait till after the class, he took me aside and said he had to talk to me now and that it would only take a few minutes.
- 4 I told everyone to take a short break. He then told me that he was afraid someone was planning to murder him, because he had found a death threat in Spanish on his answering machine.
- 5 At the time when Nathan was murdered, I was in the kitchen with Tommy cooking, wasn't I Tommy?
- 6 I was cooking Nathan's favorites – chocolate chip cookies.
- 7 I did notice that after afternoon tea, you and Nathan disappeared Polly. What were you up to with Nathan?
- 8 Later on Charles and Cynthia were also desperately trying to find Nathan. They said they wanted to play him some music. Maybe it contained subliminal messages in it that made Nathan want to kill himself? I read an article once that said in the early days before subliminal messages became illegal, you had been an expert in them Charles.
- 9 The Police haven't ruled out suicide yet, although there is no evidence that points in that direction.