

CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIME



www.merrimysteries.com



Party games for 8 to 100 guests

CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIMESCENE CRIME

presents...

## “Phony”

Meet and mingle version  
for 17 to 30 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition  
© Merri Mysteries Inc. 2018

For further details on **Merri Mysteries** or to order another mystery dinner party kit, see [www.merrimysteries.com](http://www.merrimysteries.com).

See the host's guide for further details on the copyright requirements for this kit.

## The Suspects

A bunch of friends have gotten together and decided to hold a group graduation party. But as people arrived at the party, they found some anonymous typed notes saying that one of the new graduates is a fraud. Someone managed to get a master's degree without ever having obtained an undergraduate degree.

Which of their graduating friends had found out the truth? Why didn't they tell the university? What will happen once the truth is revealed? Will the imposter take revenge? All of these questions will be answered at the party. The suspects are:

**Raven Mayo** (medical graduate) I've been extremely one-pointed in my studies. This is the first party I've been to in years and I feel like I really deserve to celebrate. I P tennis to unwind and I can speak Spanish. **Dress suggestions:** Carry a piece of doctor's equipment such as bandages and a thermometer and carry a black bag to keep them in. **Theme song:** "Bad Case of Loving You" by Robert Palmer.

**Darnell Lincoln** (law graduate) Law seemed a natural progression from literature. It's like words put into action. I hope to become a famous barrister. I'm born for the legal stage. I do improv theater for fun. **Dress suggestions:** A slick suit jacket over the top of a comedy t-shirt. But wear very punk-like jeans. Maybe add some graffiti to some old jeans. If possible, don't wear glasses, but you will still need to be able to read. **Theme song:** "The Law" by Leonard Cohen.

**Zora Bronte** (creative writing graduate) A world devoid of emotional complexity is a world lacking in depth and in life itself. Great literature gives us perspective. I'm not writing for the masses. I'm writing for minds. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a black lace blouse and long black skirt or similar and put on lots of black eyeliner. Carry a notebook with some poems you've written in it. Put a temporary tattoo on your shoulder and be ready to reveal it if necessary. Also put a few other tattoos in visible places. **Theme song:** "Wuthering Heights" by Kate Bush.

**Fenton Herodotus** (history graduate) We historians are the ones who yell when you're about to go over the same cliff that others have been over before. They should make history compulsory. I like wrestling bodies when I'm not wrestling minds. **Dress suggestions:** Greek toga or a wrestling outfit. Speak with a posh accent. **Theme song:** "History Repeating" by Alex Gifford.

**Jada Curie** (biochemist graduate) I like explosions and I like creating them. Science can be exciting if you know how. I hope to find a way to use micro-explosions more often to replace surgery. I like doing my own mechanics and racing cars in my spare time. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a racing helmet or dress like a mechanic or carry science tools. **Theme song:** "T.N.T." by ACDC.

**Xavier Gates** (game programming graduate) My passion is making games more realistic. I'm going to use GPS to free gamers from our pokey little rooms and to make life itself become a game. I love sci-fi. **Dress suggestions:** Carry a computer game or a joystick or similar or wear a sci-fi outfit. **Theme song:** "The Game" by Motorhead.

**Tara Logue** (speech therapist graduate) I used to be an actor obsessed with accents and how we speak. Now I use these and other skills I have learned to help children find their voice and their role in life. I wear my sunflower hat and they love that. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a big hat with a real or fake sunflower on top. Wear an auburn-haired wig or die your hair red. **Theme song:** "Rain In Spain" from the My Fair Lady musical.

**Beau Maslow** (counseling graduate) My aim is to help people cope with all the challenges of life and to increase their happiness quotient. I remind people that they need to exercise, eat well and meditate. It's all about balance. I love biking. **Dress suggestions:** Wear biking clothes and carry a bike helmet. Bring a fake engagement ring and keep it hidden until you need it. **Theme song:** "Mind Games" by John Lennon.

**Effie Carnegie** (MBA entrepreneur graduate) I want to start my own business, become incredibly rich and then become a philanthropist. Having an MBA should help me convince the venture capitalists to back my idea. My party plan days will soon be over. **Dress suggestions:** Carry some products sold by party plan and a t-shirt that you've written a motivational "success" aphorism on. Make yourself look plump by putting some pillows under your clothes. Wear a dark wig or color your hair dark. Add some wrinkles and/or a few gray hairs. **Theme song:** "Money" by Pink Floyd.

**Monroe Nightingale** (male nurse graduate) My specialty is pediatric nursing. Sick boys especially need males around because they often won't express their emotions to females. I've years of experience as a nurse plus I'm a single dad and that's taught me a lot. I love Ping basketball. **Dress suggestions:** Basketball uniform. Wear a big fake beard. **Theme song:** "Lady of the Lamp" by Donovan.

## 20 optional characters

These people are at the party but are not suspects because they didn't have access to the party room before the party.

**Detective Terry Haywood** – I'm a police officer. I have just been called here to investigate what appears to be a case of fraud. When I was a child I drove my mother mad with questions. Now I do the same with clients. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a uniform or just add a badge to your clothes.

**Faye Paige** – I am an administrator at the university. I find the students interesting. They all have such different aspirations and dreams. I run a belly-dancing class in my spare time. *Dress suggestions:* Wear belly dancing clothes and lots of scarves and beads.

**Derry Culley** – I'm a gaming buddy of Xaviers. Unlike a lot of gamers, I keep really fit. I study Chi Gung and I'm also in the Army Reserve. So I'm a warrior on all fronts. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a Chi Gung outfit or an Army Reserve uniform.

**Rosamond Orlando** – I'm a professor in the creative writing department and Zora is one of my celestial students. I'm a published poet and also a performance poet and Shakespearean actor. *Dress suggestions:* Wear outlandish, eccentric, flamboyant clothes.

**Santo Nightingale** – My Daddy is one of the people graduating. He says I'm his superhero because I help him cook dinner and do laundry. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a super-hero outfit.

**Veronique Golding** – I'm one of the chief nurses at the hospital. Monroe works under me. We don't always see eye to eye. Raven, however, is a delight to work with. I will miss her. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a nurse uniform.

**Bill Saunders** – I'm the janitor in the building Raven lives in. Raven and I like talking about politics and what laws and legislation we wish we could change. She's like the daughter I never had. We both also love pop music. *Dress suggestions:* Wear overalls and/or carry a mop.



**Ciara Hertz** – (electrical engineering student) I’m the bright spark in my class. I love puns, hope you do too. Someday thanks to me, everything we see in cities will be a symphony of lights coordinated to music. *Dress suggestions:* Wear clothes with little battery lights attached.

**Norton Femur** – (physical therapist student) Without our bodies, we’re nothing. I have a gentle but firm touch and I’m a whiz at all the machines we use. *Dress suggestions:* Draw some hand shapes on some old clothes and wear them.

**Alda Phonetic** – (linguistics student) I love the way words evolve and develop. They’re like honey to our tongues – the sweeter, the richer, the better. *Dress suggestions:* Print out a really interesting word, it’s origin and it’s meaning and pin it to your clothes and wear it. Maybe wear another word on your back as well.

**Stowe Useby** – (food technology student) As a child, I was fascinated by how long it would take the old food in my spare lunchbox to go moldy. Now I get paid to make sure it never rots. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a t-shirt that has some food item on it or that relates to food.

**Prue Recession** – (economics student) The way we move from boom to recession and back again, reminds me of the tides. I’m trying to find a way to predict the king tides. *Dress suggestions:* Draw a bell curve on an old t-shirt and write “Rich” at the top and “Poor” at the bottom.

**Tiziano Detention** – (education student) My aim is to create a variety of giant interdisciplinary real-life projects that are interesting and fun for high school students to participate in. So each year they would do a project rather than a set of subjects. *Dress suggestions:* Write “The Project Project” on an old t-shirt and wear it.

**Fabiola Row** – (database student) Now that filing cabinets have all gone virtual, I’m the one with keys to lock and un-lock them. It’s a power hackers love to defy. *Dress suggestions:* Write “Hackable = Loveable” on an old t-shirt and wear it.

**Rex Bones** – (chiropractic student) Some people love seeing things fall into place. I love hearing that happen. *Dress suggestions:* Draw a skeleton on an old t-shirt and wear it.

**Lisette Party** – (political science student) I’m trying to find a way for participatory democracy to replace party politics as we know it. Parties don’t stand for much anymore these days anyway. Why don’t we get rid of them altogether and just vote issue by issue. *Dress suggestions:* Write “Vote ‘NO’ to all parties” on an old t-shirt and wear it.

**Oliver Ozone** – (environmental science student) My main area of focus is trying to find a dual purpose for everything in our lives. So our house tiles generate solar power, so does our treadmill and so on. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a hat with a wind turbine on top of it.

**Myrtle Cornerstone** – (architecture student) I want to make our houses as fluid and fashionable as our clothes. Thickness doesn’t bring any more security really. It’s all an illusion. And glass isn’t the only thing that can let light in. There are new materials that can also let air in when we want it as well as light. *Dress suggestions:* Write “Build it like you wear it” on an old t-shirt and wear it.

**Vaughan Molar** – (dental student) I have a patentable passion for making dental work more affordable especially for the really poor. We have to find a new way to approach dentistry for the poor. *Dress suggestions:* Draw teeth shapes on an old t-shirt and wear it.

**Portia Paw** – (veterinary science student) I want to revolutionize the veterinary world by finding ways to use generic brand human medicines for common cat and dog illnesses. *Dress suggestions:* Write “People med for pets” on an old t-shirt and wear it.

## Name tags

### *Suspects*

Raven  
Mayo

Darnell  
Lincoln

Zora  
Bronte

Fenton  
Herodotus

Jada  
Curie

Xavier  
Gates

Tara  
Logue

Beau  
Maslow

Effie  
Carnegie

Monroe  
Nightingale

Faye  
Paige

Derry  
Culley

Rosamond  
Orlando

***Optional witnesses and authorities***

Detective  
Terry Haywood

Santo  
Nightingale

Veronique  
Golding

Bill  
Saunders

Ciara  
Hertz

Norton  
Femur

Alda  
Phonetica

Stowe  
Useby

Prue  
Recession

Tiziano  
Detention

Fabiola  
Row

Rex  
Bones

Lisette  
Party

Oliver  
Ozone

Myrtle  
Cornerstone

Vaughan  
Molar

Portia  
Paw



Merri Mysteries  
presents...

Merri Mysteries  
presents...

## “Phony”

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the:

# *Clues*

## “Phony”

*Clue page for the optional characters*

*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.

Merri Mysteries  
presents...

**“Phony”**

# Raven Mayo

## What I can reveal

As a doctor, I take ethics very seriously. I can't believe that anyone would suspect me of doing anything.

## What I need to do

- 1 *(if someone says they suspect you skipped pre-med because you are so young, say this)* I was a gifted child. I finished high school at 15, undergraduate at 18 and now medicine. But I am very mature for my age, both emotionally and mentally. My friends would confirm this, except I don't really have any.
- 2 *(if someone says that maybe the reason why you don't have many friends is because you have a new identity, say this)* It's hard to maintain friendships when you study medicine. You don't have any spare time. And the people with whom you're studying act like competitors rather than friends.

## Raven Mayo Page 2

- 3 *(if someone asks why your relatives didn't come to your graduation and why you only invited the janitor, say this)* Unfortunately my parents live on the other side of the country and they are poor and so they couldn't afford to come to my graduation. As I don't have any friends, I invited the one person that I do talk to regularly – Bill – the janitor in my building.
- 4 *(if someone accuses you of telling your family not to mail you something so they wouldn't send it to your old name, say this)* That's nonsense. My family are really poor and I just didn't want them wasting money on postage. If I were really being secretive, I wouldn't take calls in public. But I do because I have nothing to hide.
- 5 *(say to anyone you meet)* People often lie to their doctor especially when you ask them about their diet. So I'm used to telling when people lie. And I've always felt that Xavier is a phony.
- 6 *(if Jada says you look nervous when she asks you organic chemistry questions, say this)* I passed organic chemistry but I am not great at it, so that's why I'm nervous when you ask me questions about it.
- 7 *(if someone asks why you only owe money for your second degree, say this)* I got a scholarship for my undergrad.
- 8 *(say to anyone you meet)* I saw Monroe at the hospital. He was looking up the personal records of some of the staff, so he was probably looking up about me too. I thought about reporting him for it.

Merri Mysteries  
presents...

## “Phony”

*Darnell  
Lincoln*

### What I can reveal

Just because I like comedy and improv, some people don't think I'm the lawyer type. But lots of great comedians like John Cleese started out as lawyers.

### What I need to do

- 1 *(if someone says they suspect you didn't do an undergraduate degree just like they don't in other countries before they study law, say this)* But everyone knows that to practice law you have to have had an unblemished criminal record. Surely I wouldn't take a shortcut and risk not being able to practice what I have spent years learning.
- 2 *(if someone says to you that because you were interested in law you probably knew all the fraud loopholes, say this)* Just because a thorn can be used to remove a thorn, doesn't mean lawyers commit crimes.

### Darnell Lincoln Page 2

- 3 *(if someone asks why you don't tell stories about your past, say this)* I believe in living in the present, not dwelling in the past. It's not that I'm hiding anything in my past; it's just that my past is irrelevant.
- 4 *(if someone asks why you don't wear glasses when you are driving even though you are supposed to, say this)* I wear contact lenses now. I just haven't told them about it at the registry office yet. Glasses made me look like a dork.
- 5 *(if someone says you didn't want to discuss Shakespeare because you hadn't studied literature, say this)* I think Shakespeare is overrated. But ask me about modern classics like “Under Milk Wood” by Dylan Thomas or “Ulysses” by James Joyce and then we can have a real discussion.
- 6 *(say to anyone you meet)* People often don't say the truth in court. You have to probe them and question them a lot and if they're lying, they generally slip up somewhere. I think we should all focus on questioning Effie in depth.
- 7 *(if someone says you dress like a punk rocker rather than a law student, say this)* Sure, I'm not your usual law student and I used to be a bit of a punk and my clothes show that, but that doesn't mean I didn't get an undergraduate degree.

Merri Mysteries  
presents...

“Phony”

Zora  
Bronte

#### What I can reveal

Just because I look dark and mysterious doesn't mean I am. I'm an open book really. All my thoughts and emotions go on the page literally.

#### What I need to do

- 1 *(if someone says it would have been easy for you to get into the MA program because all that was needed were a few writing samples, say this)* Ask any of my professors and they'll confirm that my writing is deep, really deep and it makes a lot of references to other great literary and historical themes. You can't fake that by reading a few books. You have to have studied them at depth.
- 2 *(if someone asks if truth and justice are psychological problems you face yourself, say this)* As I said, the complexities of life are interesting. I think I am more rebelling against the strict religious education my parents forced me into and I'm sorting out my own feelings about guilt. But I'm not a con artist, just an intellectual.

#### Zora Bronte Page 2

- 3 *(if someone says Zora has a tattoo on her left shoulder, say this)* And I still do *(reveal your tattoo)*. Will everyone start treating me like a real human being again now?
- 4 *(if someone asks why you're no longer allergic to strawberries, say this)* I had some intensive Ayurvedic treatment in India and ever since then I haven't been allergic to strawberries any more.
- 5 *(say to anyone you meet)* Beau and I have been going out for a while. I really like him but I always feel like he's keeping something hidden and that there's more to him. But maybe he's just guarding his heart?
- 6 *(if someone says about you printing off lists of names, say this)* I was printing off lists of names, because when I am writing a story, I find it useful when I have to come up with character's names to have a list handy.
- 7 *(if someone says about your rhinoplasty, say this)* Well it's not a crime to not want to be ugly is it?
- 8 *(say to Jada)* I think you might be plotting to kill one of us Jada. As you know we share an apartment and just before this party, I walked past your room and I saw you putting explosives into small capsules that look like vitamin capsules.
- 9 *(after Beau asks you an important question, say this)* Oh my ... you're more psychologically deranged than I thought .... only joking. Whether you're the imposter or not, I really want to marry you because I love you Beau Beau.

## Extra clues

---

*You should put these 86 clues on the clue pages for the witnesses and investigators. Please make sure they are all given out.*

-----  
*(say to Raven)* You're very young for someone who has just finished medicine. Maybe it's because you skipped pre-med?  
-----

*(say to Darnell)* In other countries you don't need an undergraduate degree before you can study law. Maybe you decided to skip it and to just sit the law entrance exam?  
-----

*(say to Zora)* There aren't many pre-requisites to get into an MA program. You just have to have a few writing samples. So it would have been pretty easy for you to skip your undergrad?  
-----

*(say to Fenton)* Your parents are rich but everyone knows how stingy the rich often are. Maybe they wouldn't pay for your studies and because of them you couldn't get scholarships. So you decided to cut costs and skip the first degree?  
-----

*(say to Jada)* You must have studied some science because it's hard to fake knowledge of chemistry. But you are from overseas so it's not as easy to check your credentials. Maybe you studied but didn't actually finish your degree in Poland?  
-----

*(say to Xavier)* A lot of great programmers are self-taught. Maybe you thought it would be boring to have to sit through all the undergraduate basics, so you decided to skip them?  
-----

*(say to Tara)* As you have an acting background, it would have been easy for you to assume a new identity, wouldn't it?  
-----

*(say to Beau)* Males are in the minority in counseling. Did you think it would be less suspicious to be in a minority?  
-----

*(say to Effie)* Most MBA types come from the corporate world and they don't hold parties to sell multi-level marketing stuff at weekends. And your journalism degree would have been easy to fake and you struggled in finance.  
-----