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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“The Luck Of The Irish”

Small standard version
for 8 females and 8 males
(mystery version)
(flexible version for 10 to 16 guests)

by Stephanie Chambers

Third edition

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The Suspects

The King of the Leprechauns Robbie Gilroy has had his pot of gold stolen. Who was the devious thief? Was it one of the little people or one of the local Irish lads or lasses? Or was it Laoghaire – the High King? Saint Patrick himself is here to investigate.

Hendo Barrett (*leprechaun*) I'm not a grotesque goblin – I'm more of a mischievous elf. People see me sneaking around but I'm no peeping Tom, I just like to keep an eye on what's going on. I pop up here, I pop up there – from behind a bush and so on, but I'm harmless. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes such as a green hat and pants with a large brass belt buckle.

Maeve Barrett (*Hendo's wife*) I never quite know how Hendo comes up with the housekeeping money he gives me as I never sees him doing any work. When I ask he mumbles something about finding a four-leafed clover. I supplement our income by sewing pointy hats for other elves. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes such as a green pointy hat and a skirt with a large brass belt buckle. You can make the pointy hat out of felt or other material or cardboard if these aren't available.

Rory O'Hara (*leprechaun*) I'm a traditional cobbler. I mainly make shoes and boots for other little people. I am very hardworking and the shoes I make are very hard-wearing and tough. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes. Add a large brass belt buckle to your shoes or boots.

Aileen O'Hara (*Rory's wife*) I help Rory by polishing the boots he makes. Rory is the best cobbler in all of Ireland and I am very proud of the shoes we make together. When I polish them, they shine so much you can see your face in them. I'm a jolly person and I laugh a lot in spite of my worries. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes. Add a large brass belt buckle to your shoes or boots.

Magee MacMahon (*Irish lad*) I am a blacksmith. My father was a blacksmith and his father before him. I make horseshoes for the little people as well as the normal folk. I am strong and very industrious. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes and a large green apron. Carry a horseshoe and some billows for the fire.

Tara Fitzgerald (*Irish lass*) I knit sweaters and I sell them at the market. Some people think I always have my nose in the air and that I act as if I am above everyone. Maybe I am. Or maybe I am just avoiding the bad smells in the gutters around here. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes and a green sweater (also known as a "jumper").

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Malone MacSweeney (*Irish lad*) I love to play the fiddle fast and furiously. I am a shepherd by day and a musician by night. When I play, feet start dancing and the sheep if they hear, they start moving too. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes. Carry a fiddle and/or a shepherd's hook.

Bridget O'Connor (*Irish lass*) I'm a traditional dairy maid. I helps milk my parent's cows. There's nothing nicer I think than to rest your head against a warm jersey cow while squirting milk into a pail. *Dress suggestions:* Wear green clothes. Carry a metal milk bucket and a little stool to sit on when milking. Or just carry a jug of milk.

Desmond Laoghaire (*High King*) I'm a powerful leader. Saint Patrick lit a fire just before I was about to light the official fire in order to get my attention. I was impressed with Saint Patrick. *Dress suggestions:* Wear expensive-looking green clothes such as a velvet cape. Wear a crown on your head.

Mona Laoghaire (*High Queen*) I am Laoghaire's wife. I live the luxurious life of a lady of the royal court. I am always admired for my elegance, my beauty and my fine dresses and dainty shoes. *Dress suggestions:* Wear expensive-looking green clothes such as a velvet dress. Wear a crown on your head.

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The Witnesses (optional)

6 Witnesses (optional extra roles)

Saint Patrick (*chief investigator*) I was born in England but I was taken as a slave to Ireland as a youth. Later I escaped back to Scotland and became a priest. One day I heard Ireland calling to me and so I traveled over and spent more than 30 years converting the Irish pagans to Christianity. It was I that explained the Holy Trinity (ie the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost) to King Laoghaire. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes & monk's gown or a white collar or cross.

Cassie Maguire (*dressmaker*) I am Queen Mona's dressmaker. She's always wanting new dresses which keeps me busy. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Have a measuring tape around your neck and carry some pins and sewing thread.

Robbie Gilroy (*King of the Leprechauns*) I rule over all the little people and after years of collecting their taxes I have managed to amass quite a big crock of gold. I hid this in the crook of an oak tree in the forest and now someone has stolen it. *Dress suggestions:* Wear expensive-looking green clothes such as a velvet cape. Wear a crown on your head.

Mary Gilroy (*Queen of the Leprechauns*) I am Robbie Gilroy's wife. I enjoy being wealthy and I love lying around listening to harp music. I think I was born to be a queen. I'm sure Robbie will find his gold. He's probably just forgotten where he hid it. *Dress suggestions:* Wear expensive-looking green clothes such as a long dress. Wear a crown on your head.

Hurley Burke (*Irish lad*) I work as a servant for King Laoghaire. I like my job but the wages are poor so I don't have enough money to get a girlfriend. In my spare time I gather wood and peat moss for a bit of extra money. I spend a lot of time in the woods with the birds for company. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Carry firewood you have collected.

Tully O'Byrne (*Irish lass*) I work as a maid for Queen Mona. She is so fussy about her clothes. Never wants to wear a dress twice in one month. *Dress suggestions:* Green clothes. Wear an apron and bonnet.

Suspects

Hendo
Barrett
(suspect)

Maeve
Barrett
(suspect)

Rory
O'Hara
(suspect)

Aileen
O'Hara
(suspect)

Magee
MacMahon
(suspect)

Tara
Fitzgerald
(suspect)

Malone
MacSweeney
(suspect)

Bridget
O'Connor
(suspect)

King Desmond
Laoghaire
(suspect)

Queen Mona
Laoghaire
(suspect)

Witnesses

Saint Patrick	Cassie Maguire
King Robbie Gilroy	Queen Mary Gilroy
Hurley Burke	Tully O'Byrne

Merri Mysteries presents...

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by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

*Hendo
Barrett*

Hendo Barrett - Act One

During this act, you must say:

- 1 I've never met the King of the Leprechauns – Robbie Gilroy.
- 2 I'm just a simple leprechaun who likes to wander around the woods. The fact that I was seen in the same area where the King hid his pot of gold is a pure coincidence.
- 3 I move about here and there. Now you see me, now you don't. I'm like a firecracker – I pop up here and there. Sometimes I give people a bit of a fright too because I'm so unexpected. I like watching them jump. Hee Hee!

Hendo Barrett - Act Two

During this act, you must say:

- 1 I don't have a proper, ordinary job but my wife Maeve understands. I find things here and there – not pots of gold mind you, just smaller things – and I give them a rub and a dub and I sell them to people I meet in the village or wherever.
- 2 Maeve and I aren't rich but we get by. Lucky we don't have kids to feed. We never found any in our cabbage patch – we don't know why.
- 3 The King of the Leprechauns Robbie Gilroy told Malone he wasn't playing his fiddle in time with the rest of the band. This made Malone pretty mad. Perhaps stealing the King's gold was his way of getting revenge.

Hendo Barrett - Act Three

During this act, you must say:

- 1 The King of the Leprechauns Robbie Gilroy is a bit mischievous. One day when Queen Mona was walking by he deliberately jumped into a puddle so she would be splashed by its muddy waters. He thought she was acting too high and mighty. She was very angry about getting mud on her dress. Maybe she stole his gold in retribution for this.
- 2 *(if anyone asks you about the brass pot you were selling, say)* It was only an old brass pot that I bought cheap from someone and gave it a good clean up. It has never come within a league of gold of any kind – only coke for the fire.
- 3 *(if anyone asks you if you were in the woods today, say)* I'm here, I'm there, I'm everywhere!

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These are the clues for:

*Maeve
Barrett*

Maeve Barrett - Act One

During this act, you must say:

- 1 I never see any rainbows let alone pots of gold. The idea that every leprechaun has a pot of gold is baloney. For a little extra money I sew hats for people to hide under.
- 2 There are a lot of people with secrets in these parts – not that I am pointing my finger in any particular direction.
- 3 Hendo's a bit sneaky but he does put coins on the table each week – where he gets them from, I'm not really sure. It doesn't pay to ask too many questions I always say.

Maeve Barrett - Act Two

During this act, you must say:

- 1 Our little house is tucked in the hollow of a glen. There is grass growing on the roof and sometimes Malone's sheep go up there to graze. And we blow our candle out early at night as we don't want to encourage the night goblins to visit.
- 2 King Robbie Gilroy is King of the Leprechauns. He looks at his hidden pot of gold every other day. He last looked at it early yesterday morning, so we have to ascertain where the suspects were today and yesterday. The pot of gold contained around 250 gold coins.
- 3 *(if anyone asks you why you were asking for forgiveness in Church, say)* I swore when I pricked my finger with a needle when sewing and I felt bad about saying such words.

Maeve Barrett - Act Three

During this act, you must say:

- 1 The Dealga woods are bordered on all sides by a river. There are two toll bridges that lead to the woods – one for leprechauns and one for normal people. There is also a toll on the Leprechaun bridge and this is collected by King Gilroy.
- 2 Laoghaire felt that there should be only one king – himself – and that he should also collect taxes from the little people. He thought if he removed King Gilroy's wealth, he would be removing his power to rule as well.
- 3 *(if anyone asks what you meant when you said you and Hendo had had some luck, say)* Oh it is silly really. Hendo found a four-leafed clover in the woods. I didn't want my friends to realize that I believe in such things. That's why I didn't say where our luck came from.

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These are the clues for:

*Rory
O'Hara*

Rory O'Hara - Act One

During this act, you must say:

- 1 I make the best shoes, belts and bags in the county. That's my trade.
- 2 Sometimes I add shiny buckles to the shoes and the belts I make. Little people like a bit of brass, because although we're small in stature, we're big in pride. But the King of the Leprechauns, Robbie Gilroy, takes his pride too far. He doesn't care if his high taxes make us poor folk starve. He already has a fancy house and servants – while we folk live in hovels. He is just greedy.
- 3 Hendo doesn't have a trade. He's a sneaky sort of person. He probably stole the King's pot of gold.

Rory O'Hara - Act Two

During this act, you must say:

- 1 I'm a hard-working man and every penny has come from my own toil. Sometimes my wife Aileen helps me too. Our children are all grown up and left home.
- 2 We like living on the edge of the woods. The birds whistle. They don't even seem to mind the sound of my hammer pounding the leather. They still keep chirping.
- 3 Maeve's pointy hats haven't been selling so well at the market lately. The fashion has changed and some people think they make them look silly. So she needs money to branch into another style of hat, especially as Hendo hasn't been contributing much.

Rory O'Hara - Act Three

During this act, you must say:

- 1 Laoghaire – The High King – has given Saint Patrick his support. But the King of the Leprechauns Robbie Gilroy hasn't. Apparently Laoghaire has been very annoyed with him because of this.
- 2 *(if anyone asks you why your children say you have been secretive, say)* My wife and I have been discussing what to do for money once my eyesight fails and I can't work anymore. I don't want my daughters to worry about me and my wife.
- 3 *(if anyone asks you about swimming in the river, say)* I never go near the water because I am afraid of the water nymphs who pull you down and drown you.

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These are the clues for:

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

Act One

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

Staple their clues here.

Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

Staple their clues here.

Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:
Staple their clues here.

Extra Clues - Act One

Staple these 18 clues on the clue pages for the witnesses (ie not the suspects). Please make sure they are all given out.

Hendo has a vast array of friends across Ireland, but it is nothing compared to the number of people that King Robbie Gilroy has befriended. So anyone using gold coins with Robbie Gilroy's insignia would soon be reported back to him.

Hendo would like to set up his own store selling second-hand wares, but he doesn't have the money to do so.

Although Rory has worked hard all his life, he hasn't got much to show for it. He has his house, but he is worried about what they will live on when his eyesight goes.

Rory's eyesight has started to go. Soon he won't be able to see well enough to work. Without his eyes, he will have to give up his work as a cobbler – then he and his wife won't have an income.

Aileen's daughters have lots of children and they all expect gifts from their grandparents. Aileen and Rory need money to keep their grandchildren in food and clothing.

Magee would like to buy Tara an engagement ring so he can propose to her. He doesn't have enough money to do this.

Tara told Magee that she wants to marry someone rich.

Tara hates being poor and she is always complaining how knitting hurts her hands. She really wants to be wealthy again. She would do anything to regain her former wealthy status.

Gold is a very soft metal that is easy to work with.

Malone dreams of traveling. He doesn't like being stuck in a tiny village. He would love to see the world. He will never earn enough money to do so as a shepherd. He could only do this if he stole the gold.
