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# Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

## “The Luck Of The Irish”

Play version  
for 10 to 16 guests  
(mystery version)

by Stephanie Chambers

First edition

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Merri Mysteries” was formerly known as “Tailor Made Mysteries”.

Although some of the characters in this mystery are loosely based on real people, the events depicted in this mystery are totally fictional.

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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? (if appropriate) 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").

**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**

<b>Saint Patrick</b>	<b>Cassie Maguire</b>
<b>King Robbie Gilroy</b>	<b>Queen Mary Gilroy</b>
<b>Hurley Burke</b>	<b>Tully O'Byrne</b>

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**“The Luck Of The Irish”**

by Stephanie Chambers

*The Play*

# The Luck Of The Irish - Act One

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**Note:** *Although this is in play format, you do not have to take to a stage and act it out. You can just sit around a dining table and read out your lines or sit in a circle on sofas etc.*

**Note:** *If it says the line may be said by “Anyone”, we recommend that one of the optional detectives and witnesses take a turn to say the line. If there are no optional witnesses or detectives, then everyone should take a turn saying one of these lines, however, the person the clue is about should not say it. You may like to work out beforehand who will say each of these 18 “Anyone” clues and write their character’s name next to each one.*

Anyone: 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 Barrett: I’ve never met the King of the Leprechauns – Robbie Gilroy.

Maeve Barrett: 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.

Tara Fitzgerald: All this talk of a pot of gold is gibberish. No one has that much wealth, except Laoghaire – the High King. Robbie Gilroy is only King of the Leprechauns – he isn’t that wealthy. The little people pay him taxes but they are so poor themselves they haven’t much to give.

Rory O’Hara: I make the best shoes, belts and bags in the county. That’s my trade.

Aileen O’Hara: When our two darling daughters got married, Rory made them the most beautiful wedding slippers.

Anyone: 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.

Magee MacMahon: I’m a blacksmith and it’s hot work pounding metal in the forge with my anvil all day. Afterwards I need to cool down so I go to the river for a dip in the cool water.

Malone MacSweeney: I speak as fast as I fiddle and I fiddle as fast as a riddle. If you can keep up with me, then you’re a right diddle for there are toads in the river and moonbeams in the middle and nothing I say can make you wiggle!

Bridget O’Connor: My parents are poor. They have a small dairy farm but with so many children, they hardly make enough to feed us all. I help with the milking. I can squeeze their teats as fast as Malone can play his fiddle. It’s a shame that Malone never gets to dance with me because he’s always playing that fiddle of his.

King Desmond Laoghaire: I am the King of the people in Antrim – a high part of Ireland. But Robbie Gilroy is King of the Leprechauns in my region. I have no dispute with him about that.

Queen Mona Laoghaire: I don’t know why you have embroiled us in this investigation Laoghaire. We don’t normally mix with little people. They are beneath us.

Hendo Barrett: 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.

Rory O'Hara: 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 plain greedy.

Aileen O'Hara: Over the years we have made hundreds of shoes and belts and people say ours are the best in the county. Everybody wears them.

Magee MacMahon: Last week when I was having a dip in the river I saw a leprechaun looking behind each and every bush. Maybe he was searching for the King's bounty. I don't know who he was. They all look the same to me.

Maeve Barrett: There are a lot of people with secrets in these parts – not that I am pointing my finger in any particular direction.

Tara Fitzgerald: My parents were wealthy once, but they were tricked by a man who said he'd buy them a gold mine in Africa. So now I have to knit sweaters and sell them in the market. My hands are sore from knitting and when I sleep I dream about dropping stitches.

Malone MacSweeney:

There are frogs in the hollow but no snakes to speak of. Saint Patrick's scared them all out of Ireland and that's why King Gilroy wasn't scared when he hid his crock of gold in a big oak tree in the woods. He thought he had hidden it well but lots of people knew where it was.

Bridget O'Connor: That Hendo is a sneaky leprechaun. He's always spying and knows what everyone is doing. It's not surprising his wife Maeve never looks happy but she's a good woman, so what shall we make of that? Maybe it's a good buggy tied to a lazy mule. Who knows?

King Desmond Laoghaire:

I try to be a fair and just king and my friend Saint Patrick explained the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit to me, so now I realize that God is the real one who deals out justice. But my people expect leadership from me.

Queen Mona Laoghaire:

We have our own wealth – why would we go poking about in the woods seeking just a tiny pot of gold? We have far more important things to do with our time. Why there are banquets to plan and my son is seeking a bride and the Knights will soon be testing their skills at Dunluce Castle. Surely this is far more important than a silly little man who has lost a few gold coins.

Hendo Barrett:

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!

Maeve Barrett: 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.

Rory O'Hara: Yes. Hendo doesn't have a trade. He's a sneaky sort of person. He probably stole the King's pot of gold.

Malone MacSweeney: Magee would like to impress Tara and he thinks he needs money to do so.

Aileen O'Hara: Sometimes even the big people come and ask us to make shoes for them. But they have to bend over double to get through the doorway, and their feet are so big, we need lots and lots of leather.

Magee MacMahon: I sometimes speak with the little people. I make horseshoes for their ponies and they pay me in gold coins. King Gilroy is a client of mine but he's a bit slow to pay up.

Tara Fitzgerald: Bridget's parents have so many children they can't provide for them all and they may have to put Bridget's youngest sister Paula up for adoption unless they can get some money.

Bridget O'Connor: Tara says that having Queen Mona as a client and as a friend only makes her long for wealth all the more because she sees all the wonderful things she no longer has.

Queen Mona Laoghaire: Malone is a big supporter of King Laoghaire and he wants him to rule the leprechauns instead of King Robbie Gilroy.

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

Anyone: 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.

King Desmond Laoghaire: Tara recently said to someone that when she is rich again, she won't make the same mistakes her parents made. She said she will invest her money wisely. How could she ever be rich again unless she had plans to steal the pot of gold?

Anyone: 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.

Anyone: Tara told Magee that she wants to marry someone rich.

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

Anyone: 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.

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



- Anyone: 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.
- Anyone: Queen Mona recently had a new dress made by her dressmaker Cassie. Her dressmaker said the Queen was slow to pay her for it, but she did recently pay.
- Anyone: Bridget is a friend of Sheridan – an elf who works for the King of the Leprechauns Robbie Gilroy. Sheridan told Bridget all about the King’s hidden pot of gold.
- Anyone: Laoghaire – The High King likes to keep his wife Mona happy and he doesn’t like to spend his money. Perhaps he stole King Robbie Gilroy’s gold in order to please his wife.
- Anyone: Maeve says she was busy making hats yesterday and that she only saw Hendo at dinnertime. She had cooked him an Irish stew – his favorite and he always came home for that.
- Anyone: Queen Mona recently saw Queen Mary Gilroy and she was very jealous as she had a better dress than she did – albeit smaller in size.
- Anyone: Rory said yesterday he did go to buy some supplies in town, but that is in the opposite direction to Dealga woods.
- Anyone: I think Hendo believes that there is a pot of gold at the end of every rainbow. I always see him running off towards any rainbow that appears.
- Anyone: The farrier says he hasn’t had much to do since the big village horse race, although he was very busy in the weeks leading up to the race.