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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“The Love Letter”

Meet and mingle version
for 17 to 30 females
and 1 optional male

by Stephanie Chambers

First edition
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The Special Guests

It is 1807 and Lady Mazing has invited eight young ladies to her mansion for high tea, as she would like their advice about the next Ball she is planning to hold. Her one and only son Lord Edward Mazing will briefly greet the guests, but he will not be joining them for long as he has other work commitments. Since his father's death two years ago, the young Lord has taken over the responsibility of managing their large estate.

Secretly Lady Mazing views this social event as an opportunity to acquaint herself with young ladies who may be suitable marriage partners for her son. Some other ladies are in attendance but they aren't considered special guests.

Miss Prunella Braithwaite – I am a refined and gentle young lady of somewhat delicate disposition but when the weather is fine I love to sit outside and capture the beauty of flowers with my watercolors. I spend a lot of time doing good works for the poor and people say I am a very kind hearted person. My father has extensive business investments in Virginia. *Dress suggestions: A long dress adorned in flowers. White gloves and a bonnet.*

Miss Bethany Chesterfield – I am fond of riding sidesaddle and love the outdoors. My parents worry that I am somewhat more forthright than a lady should be and that I am apt to be quarrelsome in nature. My parents own a gunpowder factory. I like to ignore the constraints of civilized society. *Dress suggestions: A long-sleeved shirt and a long skirt and gloves. Wear riding boots. Strap one ankle and pretend as if you have twisted it.*

Miss Wilma Winterflood – I am a lady skilled in all the social graces and excel at tapestry and singing. My parents are very well respected and we are an influential family in the community. Although I appear to be gentle and quiet, my brothers say I am rather headstrong and stubborn. I often take the buggy for a ride by myself much to my parents' dismay. *Dress suggestions: A long dress and gloves. Carry some tapestry to work on.*

Miss Hyacinth Huntington – I am an only child and I am of a somewhat shy disposition. I am very skilled at lacework and I love Shakespeare, especially the tragedies. Sadly my father recently made some unfortunate investments and my family is facing economic ruin. I am terribly embarrassed by my situation as I am used to wealth and all the luxuries it affords. *Dress suggestions: A long dress with lace on it and gloves. Carry some Shakespeare to read.*

Miss Charmaine Chamberlain – people say I am very gracious and I love to read poetry. My favorites are Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth. I am also a skilled pianist. My father owns numerous cotton plantations. I traveled abroad with my family when I was younger and I yearn to travel again especially to London. I miss the operas and plays dreadfully.

Dress suggestions: A long dress and gloves. Carry a book of Coleridge or Wordsworth's poetry.

Miss Emily Stratford – people say I am rather intelligent. I must say, I do love puzzles and am very fond of writing. There are some false rumors going about that I have been secretly writing mystery novels under the nom de plume of James Ridley. I am very polite, but prefer to observe rather than talk. My father is a highly respected surgeon. My mother is afraid that my mental abilities will frighten men away so she tries to make me appear a silly little girl in public. She insists I wear pink and lots of frills and bows in my hair to make me look more feminine. *Dress suggestions: A long pink dress with lots of frills and gloves. Add a bow to your hair. Carry a puzzle.*

Miss Elizabeth Montgomery – I am just back from finishing school in Paris where I was greatly admired by all. I have a definite flair for fashion and am terribly fond of dancing. At the Paris Balls all the men wanted to dance with me. I also have a beautiful singing voice. At the moment, I am passionate about the color mauve and I wear it a lot. It's so fashionable. My father runs a merchant shipping company. *Dress suggestions: A long mauve dress and gloves. Talk about yourself all the time in a conceited way.*

Miss Clorinda Rosemonde – my father is a Duke and loves me so much he had one of his gardeners plant a rose garden for me, which I treasure. My mother died when I was young and my brother is a General in the army. I am fond of entertaining and my father encourages me to hold tea parties and the like. I play the flute admirably. Although I have no particular interest in getting married myself, I like to play matchmaker whenever I can. *Dress suggestions: A long dress and gloves. Carry a flute (if available).*

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Other recommended (but optional) roles

The man playing the Lord doesn't have to stay for the last part of the party unless he wants to.

Lord Edward Mazzing – people say I am a very charming, handsome man, but I do have the reputation of trifling with women's feelings. The fact is some women bore me so terrifically I have to move on to another one. I am very wealthy and somewhat arrogant. My mother loves me very much and is my greatest admirer. *Dress suggestions: Very conservative clothes. Add a cummerbund.*

Lady Marion Mazzing – I am a dignified lady of very particular tastes. Since my poor dear husband died two years ago from a goose bone stuck in his throat, I have never been able to bring myself to serve goose at the table. I am a handsome woman who knows what it is like to be born into wealth and opulence. I have no close friends and nor do I want any. Since my husband died, my only real interest is my son. *Dress suggestions: A long dress and gloves.*

20 optional witness roles

Miss Mary Petticoat – I am young and not a very experienced maid but I do my job as well as I can. Her ladyship is very strict and I had to practice my curtsy a lot before I got this job. My mother was in service and so was her mother so I guess it runs in the family. *Dress suggestions: A long dress and a white apron.*

Mrs Gertrude Grimshaw – I am an excellent cook. However, I do think it is important to taste everything before I serve it just to make sure. I am especially fond of plum duff and treacle pudding. I love to cook for Lord Mazzing because he always says nice things to me about my food. I've known him since he was a baby. I used to bounce him on my knee. *Dress suggestions: A long dress and an apron. Wear a bonnet and carry a bowl of batter or something you've baked. Add some pillows to make you plump.*

Miss Juliette Mazzing – I'm one of Edward's sisters. Edward and I used to play together when we were children, but he's too busy to be bothered with me now. I spend my time doing needlework and planning what to wear to the next ball. I love to dance and I hope to find a partner to marry as soon as Edward is married. *Dress suggestions: A very pretty long dress and gloves.*

Miss Charlotte Mazzing – I'm one of Edward's sisters. I wish he would bring home some rich eligible men so I can get married. I'm so bored just reading and playing the piano, though everyone says I play it very well. I'm sure if someone suitable heard me they would propose in a minute. *Dress suggestions: A very expensive-looking long dress and gloves. Wear flowers in your hair.*

Miss Wanda Westwind – I'm the local minister's daughter. I don't get invited to the Mazzing's very often and when I do I feel a bit out of place. Everyone's dresses are so fine and mine are so plain and simple. However, I enjoy the company and love to sit and listen to everyone. *Dress suggestions: A plain but neat long frock, with hat and gloves. The frock should be buttoned high at the neck if possible.*

Miss Maud Mason – I'm a governess and I have taught Lord Mazzing and his sisters. They're nice girls. I just wish Lord Mazzing could find a nice girl to marry. I've never been married and I guess it's a bit late now. I would like to be governess to Lord Mazzing's children. *Dress suggestions: A plain dark colored long frock, with hat and gloves. Carry a book you are reading.*

Miss Constance Cromwell – I'm Edward's cousin. I'm also friends with one of his sisters, so I come to stay with them quite often. I live in another town about five hours by coach from here. I love tea parties. *Dress suggestions: A pretty long frock, with a hair ornament and gloves.*

Miss Emma Woodhouse – I was busy wandering around Lady Mazzing's beautiful house while the others were talking to her about the ball. She has such a divine parlor, a sweet drawing room and a handsome summer-house in the garden. Someday I hope to marry a man and to have a house such as this. *Dress suggestions: An elegant frock, with hat and gloves. Carry a flower you picked in the garden.*

Miss Harriet Smith – I’m certainly not clever enough to be one of the ladies that Lady Mazing consulted with about the ball, but I try to have a pious, sweet, docile, grateful disposition, that is totally free from conceit. I am a friend of some of the young ladies. *Dress suggestions: A pretty frock, with hat and gloves. Carry a copy of the Bible.*

Lady Bernice Bertram – I’m a close friend of Lady Mazing’s. She wanted my opinion on which of the young ladies would be a suitable future wife for her son. As I have been through the process recently of helping my son select a lovely lady to be his wife, she thought I was the right one to ask. *Dress suggestions: A long dress and gloves. Carry a fan.*

Miss Fanny Price – I was Lord Mazing’s nursemaid and he has always treated me with a lot of kindness. I am now getting on in years, but they have let me stay in the cottage behind the summer-house. He still drops by to chat from time to time. *Dress suggestions: A simple frock, with bonnet and gloves. Wear a gray wig. Carry one of the toy soldiers the Lord used to play with when he was young.*

Miss Lydia Bingley – I’m excellent at geography and I like to discuss the cultures of various countries. I’m fluent in languages. My family travels abroad often. I am friend of one of the other girls, but Lady Mazing doesn’t know me very well as I have only recently moved to this area. *Dress suggestions: A fancy frock, with hat and gloves. Carry a book written in another language.*

Miss Eliza Beaucamp – I’m not very coordinated, so dancing at balls isn’t something I like to do. My singing voice is my main skill. I love to entertain guests after dinner and if I can find a handsome man to sing a duet with, then I am in heaven. *Dress suggestions: A pretty frock, with hat and gloves. Carry some sheet music.*

Miss Sophia Esperance – I adore perfumes and my father brings me a new one back whenever he travels. I have quite a collection. *Dress suggestions: A pretty frock, with hat and gloves. Carry a small bottle of perfume that you may like to allow others to smell.*

Miss Vivienne Claridge – I love playing croquet and other lawn games. I’m quite competitive. Silly, isn’t it? *Dress suggestions: A sweet frock, with hat and gloves. Carry a racquet or some other outdoor game.*

Miss Abigail Hamilton – I love to play the piano. My fingers dance upon the keys far better than my feet dance across the floor at a ball. Sometimes I accompany a friend while they sing. It gives me great pleasure. *Dress suggestions: A lovely frock, with hat and gloves. Carry some piano music.*

Miss Mildred Sunnesbury – I love to read philosophy. I adore Plato and I discuss his “Symposium” about love with anyone I meet that has also read it. *Dress suggestions: A simple frock, with hat and gloves. Carry a book of philosophy.*

Miss Dulcie Ashbury – tapestry is my great love. I do my own designs. I try and make the as intricate as possible. People seem to admire them, especially my landscapes. *Dress suggestions: A pretty frock (possibly embroidered), with hat and gloves. Carry some tapestry or a landscape design you are working on.*

Miss Rebecca Myers – my mother has let me plan the redesign of her garden. I love telling the gardener which plants I want and planning which ones will go at the back and which in front and so on. *Dress suggestions: A floral frock, with hat and gloves. Carry a flower from your garden.*

Miss Candace Essex – it’s a bit unusual, but I love numbers. My father lets me help him manage his financial affairs. He says I have a brain for it and that thanks to my advice his investments are earning a better return. *Dress suggestions: A simple frock, with hat and gloves. Carry a list of numbers you are adding up.*

Name Tags

The special guests

Miss Prunella
Braithwaite

Miss Bethany
Chesterfield

Miss Wilma
Winterflood

Miss Hyacinth
Huntington

Miss Charmaine
Chamberlain

Miss Emily
Stratford

Miss Elizabeth
Montgomery

Miss Clorinda
Rosemonde

Optional important roles

Lord Edward
Mazzing

Lady Marion
Mazzing

Optional witnesses

Miss Mary
Petticoat

Mrs Gertrude
Grimshaw

Miss Juliette
Mazzing

Miss Charlotte
Mazzing

Miss Wanda
Westwind

Miss Maud
Mason

Miss Constance
Cromwell

Miss Emma
Woodhouse

Miss Harriet
Smith

Lady Bernice
Bertram

Miss Fanny
Price

Miss Lydia
Bingley

Miss Eliza
Beaucamp

Miss Sophia
Esperance

Miss Vivienne
Claridge

Miss Abigail
Hamilton

Miss Mildred
Sunnesbury

Miss Dulcie
Ashbury

Miss Rebecca
Myers

Miss Candace
Essex

Merri Mysteries presents...

“The Love Letter”

Dearest

With this letter I confess to a love I cannot hide from you any longer. You must believe me when I say that I passionately adore you. If I were a poet, I would adorn this letter with sonnets expressing my love, but alas, although I have been blessed with good fortune, I lack the talent of lyrical wordsmanship. But please believe me when I say how sincere my love

is for you. It is true, that I have expressed interest in a number of ladies, but that was a mere breeze of affection on my part, whereas, the love I feel for you is more closely aligned with a prevailing wind that shall never die.

My dearest love, if you care for me in even a small way, please let me know. I shall count the moments until I hear from you.

I pledge my unabating love for you,

EDWARD

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“The Love Letter”

by Stephanie Chambers

The CLUES

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“The Love Letter”

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

What I can reveal during Part 1

Staple their clues for Part 1 here

What I need to do during Part 1

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just the special guests & tell them what you know & find out what they know.

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“The Love Letter”

*Miss Prunella
Braithwaite*

What I can reveal during Part 1

It is such a privilege and delight to visit this enchanting abode. It truly is a pleasure. I am anxiously awaiting the Ball. I know it will be such fun even though I may not have energy to dance all night being the delicate creature that I am. I have asked my seamstress to make me a simple pale yellow gown for the event.

What I need to do during Part 1

- 1 Talk to everyone & tell them what you know.
- 2 Say to Lady Mazing (if present), “In terms of decorations for your Ball, Lady Mazing, may I suggest yellow roses on the tables. Roses always lend a classical elegance, don’t you agree?”
- 3 Say to Lord Mazing (if present), “Dear Lord Mazing, during a recent game of polo, I noticed that your horse appeared lame at the end of the game. I hope that it has since recovered?”

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“The Love Letter”

*Miss Bethany
Chesterfield*

What I can reveal during Part 1

I always enjoy seeing these beautiful grounds and the excellent horses make me quite envious. I stupidly twisted my ankle slightly whilst I was dismounting from my horse this afternoon. I just pray it won’t prevent me from dancing at the Ball.

What I need to do during Part 1

- 1 Talk to everyone & tell them what you know.
- 2 Say to Lady Mazing (if present), “In terms of the decorations for the Ball, may I suggest that the tables be decorated with ivy? I think you cannot surpass the elegant simplicity of ivy.”
- 3 Say to Lord Mazing (if present), “Dear Lord Mazing, your cousin Matthew Beadmont recently confided in me how as children you had become blood brothers and pledged your loyalty to one another both in this world and the next.”

Extra Clues for Part One

Divide these 20 clues up amongst those playing the optional witness roles.

When Lord Mazing greeted Miss Braithwaite, she told him that during a recent game of polo, she noticed that his horse appeared lame at the end of the game and that she hoped that his horse had since recovered. He thanked her and said it turned out that his horse was only lame because a stone had wedged itself into its horseshoe and that it is fully recovered now.

When Lord Mazing greeted Miss Chesterfield, she said, “Dear Lord Mazing, your cousin Matthew Beadmont recently confided in me how as children you had become blood brothers and pledged your loyalty to one another both in this world and the next.” Lord Mazing said that it was true that he and Matthew and are very close because he doesn’t have a brother, so to him, Matthew is like a brother. He said he has willed a large portion of his estate to Matthew, just as you would a brother.

When Lord Mazing greeted Miss Winterflood, she said she was sorry he was absent from the banquet that was recently held in honor of her brother’s engagement. She asked him whether he had been ill and if that was why he was unable to attend. He said that he was very sorry, but that he could not attend due to business reasons. He said he has been very busy since he has taken over the running of the estate. He said he has many matters to attend to and that is why he will also not be joining everyone for tea.

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presents...

“The Love Letter”

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

What I can reveal during Part 2

Staple their clues for Part 2 here

What I need to do during Part 2

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just the special guests & tell them what you know & find out what they know.