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Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Mystery In The Library”

Standard version
for 14 females

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition

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The Suspects

The other night in the library, when many characters were out of their books enjoying a sojourn in the night air, a crime was committed, grim and grave, right in our own library. As a result his Majesty Henry VIII – that famous monarch from the English history books – has disappeared. Gathered are the characters who were present in the library at the time of the nasty deed. Fortunately Master Miss Marple is here to investigate, so the perpetrator of this heinous crime will no doubt be revealed as the night proceeds.

Miss Marple (various novels by Dame Agatha Christie) I am just an ordinary woman with a penchant for finding out the truth. Nothing goes unnoticed by me. I already know a lot about each of the suspects, just from looking at their appearance. For example, I can tell Alice is a little girl with a very fanciful imagination. This certainly does not seem like a normal situation. Things are not what they seem. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in old-fashioned clothes – very prim and proper. You may like to carry your knitting.

Alice (from *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll) Miss Marple is wrong. Wonderland was not my imagination. It was a wonderful dream – a dream filled with strange creatures.” I saw a White Rabbit looking at its watch and I followed it down a rabbit hole. I fell down a deep well, but I fell slowly so I had plenty of time to look at the jars of “Orange Marmalade” and such. I came to a bottle saying “Drink Me”, but “the bottle was not marked poison”, so I drank it. I “shut up like a telescope” till I was only “ten inches high”. Then I found a cake marked “Eat Me” and I ate it and grew very tall. My feet were so far away. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a little girl with pig tails in your hair & rosy cheeks.

Queen of Hearts (from *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll) Oh there is so much to tell – all about the tea cups and my shouting “Off with his head! or “Off with her head” and all the other people Alice met in Wonderland, but it would take too long. Alice comes into the library and looks at the children’s books. King Henry said he didn’t like little girls. He said his wives had too many of them and not enough boys – only one boy in fact. *Dress suggestions:* Wear white and stick big red cardboard hearts on your clothes.

Cinderella (from *Cinderella*) I am a merchant’s daughter. Then my mother died and my father remarried a widow with two grown daughters. Alas, when I met them, they treated me as a slave rather than as a step-sister. My step-sisters saw me covered in cinders after cleaning the fireplace and, my name being Ella, nicknamed me “Cinder-ella”. *Dress*

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suggestions: Dress like a princess with tinsel/glitter or as a servant covered in cinders.

The Fairy Godmother (from *Cinderella*) After working all day on her chores, Cinderella often wondered if she would ever be happy again. The ladies of her household were invited to the Duke’s ball. But Cinderella’s step-mother said she could not go unless her chores were done. Fortunately, I came to Cinderella’s aid and – well, you all know the rest of the story. King Henry was fascinated by Cinderella’s glass slippers. I think he thought that if she had no slippers, that the Duke’s son would not find her in her fairytale and then she would be free to marry him instead. *Dress suggestions:* Like a fairy complete with wings and a wand for wishes.

Snow White (from *Snow White* by The Brothers Grimm) My step-mother was jealous of my beauty and asked a huntsman to do away with me. He took pity on me and let me run away into the forest and I came to the house of the dwarfs. I ate their porridge. They found me later asleep and asked me to stay and take care of them. But I am not a porridge thief like you Goldilocks, I only took a little from each bowl as I was fainting from hunger. And since then I have kept house for them, so I have repaid my debt to them. My step-mother asked her looking-glass ‘Who is the fairest of us all?’ and it told her I was living in the glen. Then you – my stepmother, plotted to get rid of me. *Dress suggestions:* Old-fashioned clothes such as a drawstring sash at the waist, puffy sleeves, flouncy skirt. She had black hair, red lips and white skin.

The Queen (from *Snow White* by The Brothers Grimm) I dressed as an ‘old pedlar woman’ and sold Snow White some lace for her waist. Then I laced her up so tight, she ‘lost ... (her) breath, and fell down as dead.’ Unfortunately, the seven dwarfs soon returned and cut the lace. I knew she wasn’t dead because my mirror told me so, so I came again with a poisoned apple. The dwarfs thought she was dead. A prince saw her and carried her away. Then the apple fell out of her mouth and she came back to life and they married. King Henry kept trying to get Snow White to marry him. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a queen with a crown and a long gown. Add a nasty face mask.

Dorothy (from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum) After I was captured by the flying monkeys and I defeated you – the Wicked Witch of the West – I came back to you – the Wizard – only to find out you had no powers at all. You offered to take me back to Kansas in your balloon, but then you took off without me. Fortunately, someone told me to use my magic slippers. *Dress suggestions:* A blue dress with a white blouse underneath. Add white sox and magic red shoes. Add long black hair tied in two bows.

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Wicked Witch of the West (from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum) After Dorothy returned home, she told her family and friends how there's no place like home. King Henry was the same as me – wicked to the core. King Henry had the audacity to tell Dorothy to go and play.
Dress suggestions: Dress as a witch complete with broomstick, green skin and pointy hat.

Little Red Riding Hood (from *Little Red Riding Hood* by various authors) I was on the way to visit my Grandmother when I met the wolf. We chatted about how I was visiting my Grandmother and I told him where she lived. Then he left me and I went to my Grandmother's cottage. When I came inside my Grandmother's cottage, I found that she looked very different from her usual self. *Dress suggestions:* A red hooded cape with a dress beneath (possibly also in red). Carry some little cakes or cookies to take to your grandmother.

The Grandmother (from *Little Red Riding Hood* by various authors) The Big Bad Wolf locked me in the cupboard. So Little Red Riding Hood, said to the Wolf who was sitting in bed dressed in my nightgown, 'Why, Granny...what big eyes you have got.' And the wolf said, 'The better to see you with, my child,' imitating my voice. I won't bore you with the rest as you have probably all heard the story. Most versions of the story end happily with Little Red Riding Hood being saved from the wolf's clutches by her father and the woodcutters. King Henry and the Big Bad Wolf had a lot in common. They were both men that little girls should be kept away from. *Dress suggestions:* A long nightgown with a bed-jacket and a bonnet on your head.

Goldilocks (from *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by various authors) I ate porridge at the bears' house. The bears hadn't locked their front door, so that's permission to eat their porridge, isn't it? I didn't get much porridge anyway. Great Big Bear's porridge was too hot, Middle-sized Bear's bowl was too cold. So I had to eat Tiny Little Bear's and his bowl is so small. Then I tried to find a comfortable chair to sit on, but Great Big Bear's chair was too hard, Middle-sized Bear's chair was too soft and Tiny Little Bear's chair collapsed on me. I was getting tired after all this, so I went upstairs to find a bed to rest on. *Dress suggestions:* Cute little-girl clothes. Tie a ribbon in your golden hair and don a blue dress, a frilly white apron, red shoes and yellow socks.

Mamma Bear (from *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by various authors) Goldilocks tasted my porridge, sat in my chair and lay on my bed. But she found my porridge too cold and my chair and, later when she went upstairs, she found my bed too soft. Baby Bear's bed was perfect, so she got in. She didn't even take her shoes off. Poor Baby Bear, she broke his chair and slept in his bed. King Henry kept saying Goldilocks was a spoiled little girl and that if she was his child, he would lock her in the tower. The King had a chair in the library that he liked to sit on. It was large and I suppose it reminded him of his throne. Whenever he found Goldilocks sitting in it, he got very angry. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a medium-sized mother bear but with normal clothes on top.

Joan of Arc (from books on the history of France) I was born a French peasant. When I was 13, I heard the voices of three saints who told me that I had the mission of liberating France from England's domination. At 18, I left home and traveled to the court of the dauphin who later became King Charles VII. After being tested by a group of theologians, Charles placed his troops under my command. During my rule, they were successful against the British. I was captured and burned at the stake for heresy, witchcraft and diabolical visions. King Henry didn't like me because I was a Catholic. He was also annoyed that I am more famous than he is. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a soldier but also as a saint. Wear a rosary. Carry the stake.

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Name Tags

Miss
Marple

Alice

Cinderella

Snow
White

Dorothy

Little Red
Riding Hood

Goldilocks

Joan of
Arc

Associates

Queen of Hearts

Fairy Godmother

Queen

Wicked Witch

The Grandmother

Mamma Bear

Merri Mysteries presents...

'Mystery in the Library'

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

Miss Marple

Miss Marple - Act One

During this act you must take turns in asking the other characters these questions:

- Alice** Did King Henry treat you badly child?
- Cinderella** You do look a bit distraught Cinderella. I can well understand that it was no fun being chased by the King Henry. Someone please give the lady your handkerchief if you would be so kind, so she can wipe her brow. How did you stop the King from stealing your slippers?
- Snow White** Why did you turn down the King's marriage proposal?
- Dorothy** What did you do when King Henry told you to go and play?
- Little Red Riding Hood** Before your incident with the wolf, I heard you were a very fearless little girl?
- Goldilocks** What did King Henry do when he found you in his chair?
- Joan of Arc** So it was a religious battle between you and King Henry?

Miss Marple - Act Two

During this act you must take turns in asking the other characters these questions:

- Alice** Surely a sweet young girl like you wasn't involved in a crime like this?
- Cinderella** The King had threatened you. What did you do then?
- Snow White** Did you work on your plan with Cinderella?
- Dorothy** What did the King do next to get the slippers?
- Little Red Riding Hood** Do you think King Henry was trying to trick you?
- Goldilocks** So did you get to put your plan into action?
- Joan of Arc** King Henry disliked you, but did you really want to be rid of him?

Miss Marple - Act Three

During this act you must take turns in asking the other characters these questions:

Alice	And how did you plan to trick King Henry?
Cinderella	Why did your fairy God-mother desert you in your hour of need?
Snow White	So you gave the King a poisoned toothpick?
Dorothy	And what happened on the night of the King's departure?
Little Red Riding Hood	Did the King annoy you enough to make you want to remove him from the library?
Goldilocks	The librarian must not like your shelf clearing process.
Joan of Arc	So did your troops slay Henry?

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These are the clues for:

*Alice (and the
Queen of Hearts)*

Alice (& Queen of Hearts) - Act One

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Miss Marple asks you a question:

- 1 At night, I liked to skip around the library, singing tunes to amuse myself. The King said I gave him a headache.
- 2 I told him not to be angry about it. I offered to show him some of the comic books. I was sure they would make him smile.
- 3 To this he replied gruffly, that Kings had more important things to think about than comic books.
- 4 **Queen of Hearts:** Goldilocks, Alice and I often team up for a game of hide and seek around the library. It's lots of fun.
- 5 One time Alice was hiding and the King came along with Joan of Arc when the King caught sight of her. Alice had forgotten that she'd come out of our book when she was 'nine feet high' and hiding wasn't easy.
- 6 King Henry called Alice a spy and pulled her pig tails till she cried. She was still 'nine feet tall'. Thankfully Goldilocks stopped her in time so that her tears didn't cause any flood damage.

Alice (& Queen of Hearts) - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Miss Marple asks you a question:

- 1 When people are found guilty in court they are locked away. But King Henry wasn't a real person any more, just a book character, so he couldn't be dealt with by a court.
- 2 I decided to take the matter into my own hands, but I didn't go around shouting 'Off with his head' or anything silly like you do Queen of Hearts. I'm more clever than that.
- 3 I knew I had to get King Henry to like me so that I could perform my trick on him. So I went up to him and apologized for hiding while he was talking.
- 4 **Queen of Hearts:** Alice said she was going to make it up to him by polishing his boots. The King liked this and he would chat with her while she polished.
- 5 He told her that Goldilocks was a selfish little girl and that he was going to teach her a lesson.
- 6 Goldilocks had always been very kind to us, so we didn't want her to be hurt, so later we told you, didn't we Goldilocks, of what the King had said?

Alice (& Queen of Hearts) - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Miss Marple asks you a question:

- 1 I decided to get him to experience the same kind of thing that happened to me in Wonderland. So I came out of my book while I was still holding the bottle labeled 'Drink Me'.
- 2 The King asked me what it was. I told him it was a delicious drink that tasted sort of like 'cherry-tart, custard, pineapple, roast turkey, toffee, and hot buttered toast.'
- 3 I didn't tell him that if he drank it he would become so small we would be able to squash him.
- 4 *Queen of Hearts:* Alice told him that if you drink it all quickly in one go, it makes you feel very light-headed. It doesn't really, but that's what Alice told him because she thought it would be even more attractive to him.
- 5 He told Alice that as she is only a little girl, she shouldn't be drinking such drinks and he took the bottle off her.
- 6 He drank the bottle all down in one go and then... No. I'm not saying any more.

Merri Mysteries presents...

'Mystery in the Library'

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

Cinderella (and her Fairy Godmother)

Cinderella (& Godmother) - Act One

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Miss Marple asks you a question:

- 1 It was not always easy to avoid his advances. I ran away as quickly as I could. He, being portly, was not very fit and he never caught up with me.
- 2 If by chance he caught hold of me before I ran, I yelled and Joan of Arc would come to my assistance. You are a wonderful friend, aren't you Joan of Arc?
- 3 On other occasions, my tears would bring my Fairy Godmother to my aid.
- 4 **Fairy Godmother:** The King said if Cinderella continued to avoid him, he would see to it that she would be made to clean and scrub the library floors.
- 5 The memories of toiling endlessly for her step-mothers and step-sisters made this threat of his cause her to weep.
- 6 He left us both so distraught that when we returned to our book, the other characters kept asking us if we were ill.

Cinderella (& Godmother) - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Miss Marple asks you a question:

- 1 My Fairy Godmother and I conversed in secret and I warned her of his wrath towards her.
- 2 You reassured me, didn't you Fairy Godmother, that we would win over the King any day? You gave me a little bell to ring wherever I needed your assistance with the King.
- 3 One night, the King crept up behind me and grabbed my glass slipper.
- 4 **Fairy Godmother:** Cinderella rang the bell and I came. I told him to let go of her slipper. He said he'd break it.
- 5 Then I disappeared. Cinderella was very alarmed because she knew King Henry couldn't be trusted. She rang her bell, but no one came. Why didn't you come Joan?
- 6 Cinderella bit King Henry's ear. Then she disappeared into the safety of our book.
- 7 Cinderella knew that if she simply locked him up or hurt him, he would vanish back into his book at dawn and he would be his usual self the next night. We book characters are a bit like Cinderella's pumpkin, except we vanish at dawn rather than midnight.

Cinderella (& Godmother) - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Miss Marple asks you a question:

- 1 She apologized to me later. She said that because she had created the glass slipper by her magic, if he destroyed it, he would destroy her.
- 2 You said, didn't you Fairy Godmother, that you were afraid the King now knew your weakness so you said you couldn't help me in the library any more.
- 3 The children's section of the library is pretty quiet during the week as most kids are at school.
- 4 **Fairy Godmother:** Cinderella decided to try visiting the library during the daytime instead of at night. But she found it not so good as you have to keep avoiding being seen by the real people.
- 5 She wanted to learn more about King Henry, so she did a search on the computer and found that he was mentioned in three books on English history and in one Encyclopedia section. Going to the library during the day gave Cinderella an idea of how to rid the library of King Henry.
- 6 When we come to the library each night, the last person to leave turns out the lights. You said you did this, Miss Marple, as you were the last.