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presents...

“Mystery In The Library”

Standard version
for 6 females
and 6 males

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 Sherlock Holmes is here to investigate, so the perpetrator of this heinous crime will no doubt be revealed as the night proceeds.

Master Sherlock Holmes (from *Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) I am a man with such superior detective skills that I have become world famous. 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 and Aladdin is from the Far East. But, I am not a great reader of fiction, I prefer to do chemical experiments and I also play the violin. This certainly does not seem like a normal case. Things are not what they seem. It is more like the Mr Angel case. You may like to read about it in my diary, if you get time.

Dress suggestions: Old-fashioned clothes, carry a magnifying glass & a pipe.

Alice (from *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll) Mr Holmes 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. Oh there is so much to tell – all about the tea cups and the Queen of Hearts shouting “Off with his head! or “Off with her head” and all the other people I met in Wonderland, but it would take too long. I come into the library and look 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: Dress as a little girl with pig tails in your hair and rosy cheeks.

Cinderella (from *Cinderella*) 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 sister. My step-sisters saw me covered in cinders after cleaning the fireplace and, my name being Ella, they gave me the nickname of “Cinder-ella”. After working all day on my chores, I often

wondered if I’d ever be happy again. The ladies of my household were invited to the Duke’s ball. But my step-mother said I could not go unless my chores were done. Fortunately, my Fairy Godmother came to my aid and – well, you all know the rest of the story. King Henry was fascinated by my glass slippers. I think he thought that if I had no slippers, that the Duke’s son would not find me in my fairytale and then I would be free to marry him instead. *Dress suggestions:* Dress like a princess with tinsel/glitter or as a servant covered in cinders.

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 my stepmother, plotted to get rid of me. She dressed as an ‘old pedlar woman’ and sold me some lace for my waist. Then she laced me up so tight, I ‘lost ... (my) breath, and fell down as dead.’ Fortunately, the seven dwarfs soon returned and cut the lace in two, so that I could draw breath. The Queen knew I wasn’t dead because her mirror told me so, so she came again with a poisoned apple. The dwarfs thought I was dead. A prince saw me and carried me away. Then the apple fell out of my mouth and I came back to life and we married. King Henry kept trying to get me to marry him, but I refused. *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.

Pinocchio (from *Pinocchio* by Carlo Lorenzini – penname Carlo Collodi retold by James Riordan) When I was a puppet I lied a lot, but the Good Fairy taught me not to and to be good. ‘How stupid I was as a puppet. And how glad I am to be a real live boy.’ When I lied my nose became so long I ‘could not move without banging it against the walls or door.’ Geppetto sold his coat to buy me a spelling book for school. I sold it to go to the puppet theatre. Then I saved a puppet from being burnt by the showman and the showman gave me coins for my father. A fox and a cat told me they could multiply my money in “The Field of Miracles”. A bird and the ghost of the cricket tried to warn me not to. The evil fox and cat hung me in a tree to die, but the Good Fairy saved me. But I still let them fool me into burying my money so it would grow. They stole it. Later I became a donkey and ended up rescuing Geppetto from the belly of a whale with the help of the Good Fairy. King Henry thought that I was a silly puppet and he tried

to fool me into being his slave. But the Good Fairy warned me that he was an evil man. *Dress suggestions:* A red jacket with a white frill-necked shirt. Make a pencil nose out of cardboard.

Robin Hood (from *Robin Hood* by various authors) I am a wealthy man who has been forced to become a thief. I steal from the rich and give to the poor. The poor of England were being asked for too many taxes. The taxes were required to fund various political battles overseas. I simply gave back to the poor the money that they had had unfairly taken away from them in the first place. Little John and I met on a plank across a river. But he would not let me pass. He is a very portly but strong man. He did not see why he should make way for me and so we did battle. He used his staff, but I was victorious in our skirmish. Afterwards, he came to know me and to be one of my main supporters. *Dress suggestions:* Dress in period clothes, a cape and a mask.

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, I found that she looked very different from her usual self. The Big Bad Wolf locked my Grandmother in the cupboard. So I said to the Wolf who was sitting in bed dressed in my Grandmother's nightgown, 'Why, Granny...what big eyes you have got.' And the wolf said, 'The better to see you with, my child,' imitating her voice. I won't bore you with the rest as you have probably all heard it. Most versions of the story end happily with my being saved from the wolf's clutches by my father and the woodcutters. King Henry and the Big Bad Wolf had a lot in common. They were both men that little girls should stay away from. *Dress suggestions:* A red hooded cape with a dress beneath (possibly also in red). Carry some little cakes or cookies.

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. Great Big Bear's bed and Middle-sized Bear's bed both weren't right for me. But Baby Bear's tiny bed was perfect, so I got in. I didn't even take my shoes off. King Henry kept saying I was a spoiled little girl and that if I was his child, he would lock me 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 me sitting in it, he got very angry. *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.

Aladdin (from *The Adventures of Aladdin* by various authors) I met a 'mysterious stranger who said he would pay me a silver penny if I went down a manhole for him'. I found myself in a 'large chamber... (filled with) pots of gold.' 'Put out the flame and bring me the lamp!' he said. When I hesitated, he left me in there, dropping his ring in the chamber as he did so. Terrified, I put the ring on my finger and 'twisted it round and round'. 'Suddenly the room was flooded with a rosy light and a great genie with clasped hands appeared', and said he was at my command. I told the genie I wanted 'to go home' and immediately I found myself there. I told my mother of my adventures. She was disappointed I had returned with only the old oil lamp. But she started to polish it and 'out shot another genie'. He said that we had set him 'free after centuries' and that he would be our servant. Things went pretty well after that and I married a beautiful princess. King Henry was jealous of my having a genie and even though he was already wealthy, he ordered me to give me to him but I refused. *Dress suggestions:* Wear middle eastern clothes (eg baggy trousers). Add sequins and jewels.

Dracula (from *Dracula* by Bram Stoker) I am Count Dracula of the Kingdom of Transylvania. They are many 'my creatures, to do my bidding and to be my jackals when I want to feed.' They then tried to thwart me, I, 'who commanded nations, and intrigued for them, and fought for them, hundreds of years before they were born I was countermining them'. 'My revenge is just begun! I spread it over centuries, and time is on my side.' They harassed me such that I had to return to Transylvania. But you will have to read the pages to see what happened then. King Henry realized that being dead himself, he had a lot to fear from I – the Un-Dead. There was nowhere he could escape us. The King thought it was beneath his royal dignity to suck people's blood. Such false pride hath he. *Dress suggestions:* Old-fashioned clothes. Add fake blood, red lipstick, white powder on your face and very long canine teeth.

Wizard of Oz (from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum) To get to my place you follow the yellow brick road. People think that I can accomplish anything. Dorothy and her friends came to see me. Scarecrow was amongst them. He was in search of a brain. They all expected me to wave a magic wand and to solve their problems for them. Instead I told them that they must first prove themselves worthy by bringing me the

broomstick of the Wicked Witch before I would grant their requests. They succeeded and I pointed out to them that they already possessed what they sought. They just had to start using their abilities. King Henry was jealous of my supposed abilities. He wanted to be able to do anything himself.

Dress suggestions: A wizard's outfit with stars and the moon on it and with a long pointy hat.

Dorothy (from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L Frank Baum) After I was captured by the flying monkeys and I defeated the Wicked Witch of the West, I came back to the Wizard only to find out he had no powers at all. He offered to take me back to Kansas in his balloon, but then he took off without me. Fortunately, someone told me to use my magic slippers. After I returned home, I told my family and friends, how there's no place like home. King Henry was the same as the wicked witch – wicked to the core. He had the audacity to tell me to go and play. *Dress suggestions:* A blue dress with a white blouse underneath. Add white sox and magic red shoes. If you can, add long black hair tied in two bows.

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Master Sherlock
Holmes

Alice

Cinderella

Snow
White

Pinocchio

**Robin
Hood**

**Little Red
Riding Hood**

Goldilocks

Aladdin

Dracula

Wizard of Oz

Dorothy

Merri Mysteries presents...

'Mystery in the Library'

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

Master Sherlock Holmes

During this act you must make the following comments to the other characters.

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 a 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?
Pinocchio	So how did you stop King Henry from making you his slave?
Robin Hood	So it was a political battle between you and King Henry?
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?
Aladdin	So you refused to give the King your genie. How did he take that news?
Dracula	So how did you make King Henry a member of the Un-Dead?
Wizard of Oz	So King Henry was jealous of you Wizard?
Dorothy	What did you do when King Henry told you to go and play?

Master Sherlock Holmes - Act Two

During this act you must make the following comments to the other characters.

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?
Pinocchio	So did you get to turn King Henry into a donkey?
Robin Hood	King Henry disliked you, but did you really want to be rid of him?
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?
Aladdin	So why did you let yourself be robbed of the lamp when Alice had warned you?
Dracula	So did you get to feast upon King Henry?
Wizard of Oz	What did you do when King Henry asked you to create a new role in his book for him?
Dorothy	What did the King do next to get the slippers?

Master Sherlock Holmes - Act Three

During this act you must make the following comments to the other characters.

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?
Pinocchio	How come we haven't found a donkey in place of the King?
Robin Hood	So did you and your men slay Henry?
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.
Aladdin	So did you banish King Henry to a dungeon?
Dracula	The Wizard of Oz said you failed once again in your mission. Is that true?
Wizard of Oz	Dracula said he put King Henry in a trance. What happened then?
Dorothy	And what happened on the night of the King's departure?

Merri Mysteries presents...

'Mystery in the Library'

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

Alice

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Sherlock Holmes asks you a question:

- 1 At night, I liked to skip around the library, singing tunes to amuse myself. The King yelled at me and said I gave him a headache.
- 2 I told him to not 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 Pinocchio and I often team up for a game of hide and seek. It's lots of fun, isn't it Pinocchio?
- 5 One time I was hiding and the King came along with Snow White when the King caught sight of me. I'd forgotten that I'd come out of my book when I was 'nine feet high' and hiding wasn't easy.
- 6 He called me a spy, made me bend down and pulled my pig tails till tears I cried.
- 7 I was still 'nine feet tall'. Thankfully Pinocchio stopped me in time so that my tears didn't cause any flood damage.

Alice - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Sherlock Holmes asks you a question:

- 1 When people are found guilty in court they are locked away. But King Henry wasn't a real person anymore, 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 that. I'm more clever than that.
- 3 I know that I am only a little girl. Why even when I am nine feet tall, I am still not very strong.
- 4 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.
- 5 I told the King I was going to make it up to him by polishing his boots. He liked this and he would chat with me while I polished.
- 6 He told me that Aladdin was a selfish man and that he was going to teach him a lesson.
- 7 Aladdin had always been very kind to me, so I didn't want him to be hurt, so later I told you, didn't I Aladdin, of what the King had said.

Alice - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Sherlock Holmes asks you a question:

- 1 I decided to get him to experience the same kind of thing that happened to me in Wonderland.
- 2 I came out of my book while I was still holding the bottle labeled 'Drink Me'. The King asked me what it was.
- 3 I told him it was a delicious drink that tasted sort of like 'cherry-tart, custard, pineapple, roast turkey, toffee, and hot buttered toast.'
- 4 I didn't tell him that if he drank it he would become so small I would be able to squash him.
- 5 I told King Henry 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 I told him because I thought it would be even more attractive to him.
- 6 He told me that as I am only a little girl, I shouldn't be drinking such drinks and he took the bottle off me.
- 7 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

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Sherlock Holmes asks you a question:

- 1 I admit that as I am quite petite and he is such a large man, it was not always easy to avoid him.
- 2 I ran away as quickly as I could. He, being portly, was not very fit and he never caught up with me.
- 3 If by chance he caught hold of me before I ran, I yelled and Aladdin and his genie would come to my assistance. I am lucky to have such friends.
- 4 On other occasions, my tears would bring my fairy-Godmother to my aid. She often brought with her a pumpkin which she turned into a chariot which carried me away.
- 5 The King said if I continued to avoid him, he would see to it that I would be made to clean and scrub the library floors.
- 6 He left me so distraught that when I returned to my book, the other characters kept asking me if I was ill.
- 7 *(after Aladdin speaks to you)* Yes. I am lucky to have such a kind friend as you Aladdin and one with so much charm.

Cinderella - Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Sherlock Holmes asks you a question:

- 1 My fairy God-mother and I conversed in secret and I warned her of his wrath towards her. She reassured me that we would win over the King any day.
- 2 My fairy God-mother told me to cheer up. She gave me a little bell to ring wherever I needed her assistance with the King.
- 3 One night the King crept up behind me and grabbed my glass slipper.
- 4 I rang the bell and my fairy God-mother came. She told him to let go of my slipper. He said he'd break it.
- 5 Then much to my amazement my fairy God-mother disappeared. I was very alarmed.
- 6 I rang the bell again and I called out, but no one came. Why didn't you come Aladdin?
- 7 King Henry leant towards me and I bit his ear. While he screamed in pain, I ran off with my slippers.

Cinderella - Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points after Sherlock Holmes 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 She said she was afraid the King now knew her weakness so she said she couldn't help me in the library any more.
- 3 I loved the library and I didn't want to forsake it, so I started to daydream about what the library would be like if King Henry had never existed.
- 4 The children's book section of the library is pretty quiet during the week as most kids these days are in childcare or at school.
- 5 I decided to try visiting the library during the daytime instead of at night. But I found it not so good as you have to keep avoiding being seen by the real people.
- 6 I wanted to learn more about King Henry, so I did a search on the computer and I found that he was mentioned in one book just on him, in three other books on English history and in one Encyclopedia section and in one CD-ROM Encyclopedia.
- 7 Going to the library during the day gave me an idea of how to rid the library of King Henry.