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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Mardi Gras Mayhem”

Meet and mingle version
for 17 to 30 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

First edition
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The Suspects

It's Mardi Gras in New Orleans and the city is full of party-goers. The parade has just finished and the invitation-only Ball is about to commence. The only problem is that this year's Rex King of the Mardi Gras – a local property developer called Darrin Hibiscus – hasn't been seen since he went up the steps of Gallier Hall to collect the keys to the city. The Mayor waited in vain in his office, but the king never appeared. His wife, the Queen waited for him to pass by, but he never did. Where has he gone? Has he been kidnapped? It's your job to find out.

Adoette – I am one of the Mardi Gras Indians. My native Indian name means large tree, that's why I have some twigs coming out of my Indian squaw costume. My ancestors are from the Yellow Pocahontas tribe. I work in a dress boutique. **Dress suggestions: Wear a squaw costume with feathers and beads but also include some twigs coming out of it.**

Pierre – I am a direct descendent of the French-Canadian explorer, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville – the one who found land south of New Orleans in 1699 and called it "Pointe due Mardi Gras." I live in the French quarter of New Orleans. I just watched the parade go by. I am a draftsman by trade. **Dress suggestions: Wear a beret and a cape and don't let anyone call you Peter.**

Maid Coralie – I am a maid on the Krewe of Rex. Our Krewe is one of the oldest and our colors of purple, green and gold are now the official mardi gras colors. And we started giving out the collectible doubloon coins in 1960. I am a nurse in real life. **Dress suggestions: Wear fancy purple, green and gold clothes and carry some chocolate coins to hand out to whomever you meet. Wear a biggish hat that looks stuffed full of something.**

Captain of the Carnival (Culley) – I am the absolute leader of the carnival organization team and leader of the parade. In real life I am an accountant and believe me sometimes I find working with people much harder than working with numbers and receipts. **Dress suggestions: Wear an elaborate colorful hat with a feather at the top, matching tasseled trousers and shirt and a red beard and, if possible, a crooked red nose.**

Zinnia – I'm on the Zulu Krewe. I'm an environmentalist. Normally I work in an organic Permaculture nursery. The good thing about living in New Orleans is that everything grows well in this warm climate. **Dress suggestions: Wear a white t-shirt with an Hawaiian grass skirt. Carry a coconut.** © copyright Merri Mysteries Inc. 2012 Page 1 of 2

Fitz – I carried the flambeaux (Naphtha-fueled torches) at the parade. I work at a hardware store during the day, but I'm a cool dude at night. **Dress suggestions: Wear a white robe and carry one torch in each hand (or just carry flashlights).**

Dr Babs – I'm a physician and I was on the Knights of Babylon Krewe. Our Krewe was founded in 1939. Our king, or Sargon, takes his title from the legendary Babylonian ruler. But he wasn't the king of the actual carnival this year unfortunately. Our parade route went mainly down St Charles Avenue this year. **Dress suggestions: Wear a flamboyant colorful outfit. Carry a bag full of bandages and other first aid items.**

Mayor Norwell – I am the current mayor of New Orleans. I think the Mardi Gras is great for the city as it brings lots of visitors and keeps us alive and vibrant. And nowadays there are lots of volunteers to help with the clean up afterwards so even that's not a problem. I just wish I hadn't eaten so many king cakes at the party at Gallier Hall. **Dress suggestions: Dress in a suit and tie and carry something that looks like a King Cake.**

Duchess Dinah – I one of the ladies that works on all the committees for various charities around New Orleans. My daughter is all grown up now and is working as a marriage and family therapist, so I have lots of free time. I'm lucky to have inherited some money to live on, so I like to give back by giving my time. **Dress suggestions: Wear a grand glittering outfit complete with a tiara.**

Wise Man Goldwin – I dressed as the wise man carrying gold during the parade. I run a jewelry store downtown and I feel very attached to the soft warm metal that it is. **Dress suggestions: Wear a hat and Arabic men's outfit. Wear lots of golden chains and carry some gold bars (or representations of them).**

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Page 2 of 2

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Optional investigator

Police Chief – I’m in charge of the Police in New Orleans. I have a lot of extra Police on duty during the parade so I can’t explain how something like this could possibly have happened. *Dress suggestions: Wear a uniform and carry a notebook and pen.*

Optional witnesses

Boeuf – I am a fax ox. A bunch of masked cooks chase me around. They say I am a symbol of the feasting on “Fat Tuesday” before the austerity of Lent. *Dress suggestions: Wear white clothes and attach some horns to your head. If you want, you can also have some cow-bells tied around your neck.*

Chef Julia – I am a masked French chef. I chase the ox who is fat and ready to eat. Cooking it is a symbol of the feasting on “Fat Tuesday” before the austerity of Lent. *Dress suggestions: Wear white clothes and a chef’s hat. Carry a meat-testing fork or meat thermometer.*

Pa Rum Pum Pum – I am a little drummer boy in the Rex marching band. I can really hold a good beat and I am one of the best in our band. *Dress suggestions: Wear a marching band uniform and carry a drum. Sing “Little Drummer Boy”.*

Renata – I play the recorder in our band. Sometimes people lose their place in the music when they are moving along, but I never do. The tunes are part of my every step. *Dress suggestions: Wear a marching band uniform and carry a recorder.*

Percy The Page – I am one of the young men who assist the King on his journey through the city. Darrin has had me running errands all day long. I’m exhausted. *Dress suggestions: Wear a page’s uniform.*

Trixie – I am one of the masked riders on each float during the parade. I throw beads, doubloons, and other trinkets to the crowd. *Dress suggestions: Wear a mask and an elaborate, colorful costume.*

Magnus – I am the scariest masked rider on any of the floats. I throw beads, doubloons, and other trinkets to the crowd, but the little kids run away rather than receive them from me. *Dress suggestions: Wear a scary mask and an elaborate, colorful costume.*

Zelda – I am one of the many poor peasant wenches at the Mardi Gras. Give me a nickel and I’ll dance in a spiral, till I fall down. *Dress suggestions: Wear a poor peasant costume.*

The Purple Lieutenant – I am one of His Majesty the King’s lieutenants. *Dress suggestions: Wear a purple gold-trimmed uniform.*

The Green Lieutenant – I am one of His Majesty the King’s lieutenants. *Dress suggestions: Wear a green gold-trimmed uniform.*

The Gold Lieutenant – I am one of His Majesty the King’s lieutenants. *Dress suggestions: Wear a golden gold-trimmed uniform.*

Penny The Puritan – I come from a previous era and I am dressed in a prim and proper way. I curtsy when I see the royal family. *Dress suggestions: Wear a bonnet and a long skirt and a blouse buttoned up to the collar.*

Jessie The Jester – I bring jokes and wit and sarcasm to the royal court. Through my merriment, I bring pleasure to everyone. *Dress suggestions: Wear a colorful or black and white two-tone outfit. Wear a large soft hat with upturned corners.*

Sassie The Show Girl – I have traveled from the stage shows at Las Vegas to be at the Mardi Gras. I sing and I dance and I know how to put on a show. *Dress suggestions: Wear a flamboyant, glittering outfit with a large hat with many feathers.*

Belinda The Banana – I am a piece of fruit that everyone loves. But I don’t like to be peeled, mashed or squashed. *Dress suggestions: Wear yellow clothes or a banana costume. If you want, you can carry some banana.*

Name Tags

Adoette
(suspect)

Pierre
(suspect)

Maid Coralie
(suspect)

Captain of the
Carnival (Culley)
(suspect)

Zinnia
(suspect)

Fitz
(suspect)

Dr Babs
(suspect)

Mayor Norwell
(suspect)

Duchess Dinah
(suspect)

Wiseman Goldwin
(suspect)

Investigator

Police Chief
(investigator)

Witnesses

Boeuf
(witness)

Chef Julia
(witness)

Pa Rum Pum Pum
(witness)

Renata
(witness)

Percy The Page
(witness)

Trixie
(witness)

Magnus
(witness)

Zelda
(witness)

The Purple Lieutenant
(witness)

The Green Lieutenant
(witness)

The Gold Lieutenant
(witness)

Penny The Puritan
(witness)

Jessie The Jester
(witness)

Sassie The Showgirl
(witness)

Belinda The Banana
(witness)

Cleopatra
(witness)

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These are the:

Clues

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

What I can reveal

Staple their clues here

What I need to do

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

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Adoette

What I can reveal

Darrin treats everyone with contempt. At first I thought he was just racist, but now I see that he's not just racist. He treats everyone with contempt, even his wife.

What I need to do

- 1 *(if someone asks if you were able to sneak up behind Darrin and kidnap him, say this)* I had barely ever met the man. He lived in a far wealthier part of town than where I live.
- 2 *(if someone asks if it's true that Darrin told you to mind your own business when you suggested he buy his wife a grey skirt, say this)* That's only the half of it. His wife said she would wait until I had the blouse in white. I told them that the next shipment was going to cost ten percent more. So he insisted on buying the pink one. When they left, I could see there were tears in her eyes.
- 3 *(if someone asks if suggested there be a native Indian ceremony to bless the Mardi Gras, say this)* Yes. He said it would be boring and too slow to be considered entertainment. The Mayor loved the idea, but unfortunately the King's vote had more weight, so it was overruled.

(see next page)

Adoette Page 2

- 4 *(if someone asks you if you had something hidden under your squaw's outfit, say this)* Unfortunately Indian squaws weren't known for their fashionable outfits. They came in one-size fits all. I wasn't hiding anything except for a few icepacks to keep me cool.
- 5 *(if someone asks where you went to when the King went missing, say this)* The squaw's outfit was scratching and it was bothering me, so I went to adjust it in the bathroom at Gallier Hall. But I didn't see the King.

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Pierre

What I can reveal

Even though he knows I want everyone to call me Pierre, Darrin always calls me “Peter” even though he knows it annoys me.

I love looking at the plans for the old buildings in town. They have them all at the city’s museum. I’ve learned a lot from them.

What I need to do

- 1 *(if someone asks if it is true that you were the one who filmed Darrin's construction company building foundations with more Styrofoam and less concrete, say this)* We French are known for our discreteness. I admit I took the video, but that doesn't mean I have had anything to do with Darrin's disappearance.
- 2 *(if someone asks what you and Darrin argued about at your office, say this)* I did the designs for his new apartment block and he said he would not use me again unless I made the toilets smaller. I told him they already had doors that opened out rather than in and that I couldn't make them any smaller or people would bang their heads whenever they got up off the seat.

(see next page)

Pierre Page 2

- 3 *(if someone asks about the award you received for one of your recent drafting projects, say this)* Yes. The drafting association gave me an award for the best-designed block of condos. But I had to pay the submission fee myself because Darrin wouldn't even, though it was for his building. He's never even complimented me on it, although his sales people now use it as a selling point when they are selling the condos.
- 4 *(if someone asks you why you chose a spot to watch the parade that was near Gallier Hall, say this)* No. It just happened to be close to my office, so I could dash back to work afterwards. Even though we are closed for the Mardi Gras holiday, I still had some urgent work to finish.
- 5 *(if someone asks you where you went when you left your spot, say this)* I got bored watching the parade. I went back to the office. I had so much work to do.

You should put these 98 clues on the clue pages for the witnesses and investigators. Please make sure they are all given out.

.....
I heard that when they voted as to who should be King, Darrin only narrowly scraped in. The vote was 6 to 4 in his favor.
.....

(ask the Captain of the Carnival) Why were there so many dissenters opposed to Darrin being elected to be the Mardi Gras King?
.....

(ask Wise Man Goldwin) Is it legal for Darrin's construction company to put so much Styrofoam in the foundations?
.....

The poor people who live in houses that Darrin's company built. They don't have proper foundations, so if a storm comes they might just blow over.
.....

All this speculation about Darrin's company not making their building foundations properly is all just speculation. I don't think anything has been proven.
.....

There's a video posted on the internet showing Darrin's construction company building foundations using more Styrofoam and less concrete.
.....

Video footage can be rigged. The people who work for Darrin's construction company would have noticed someone filming them wouldn't they?
.....

(say to Pierre) You were seen lying on the ground with a camera in hand Pierre, so you must have been the one filming it. That's true isn't it?
.....

(say to Adoette) Maybe as you are soft-footed, you were able to sneak up behind Darrin and kidnap him?
.....

When Adoette says she had never met Darrin – that's not true. During the lead up to the Mardi Gras, he met with all the people on the main floats, so he would have met her.
.....