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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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*presents...*

# “The Case Of The Missing Matchmaker”

Standard version  
for 6 females  
and 6 males

(“mystery not murder” but there are optional extra parts  
if you want to turn it into a “murder mystery”)

*by Stephanie Chambers  
and Maggie Lawrence*

Second edition

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kit.

## The Suspects

Darlene Hickle has gone missing. The fact that she rarely listened to what anyone told her did nothing to improve her matchmaking business. Her success at mis-matching people reached its greatest height when her computer database crashed. Darlene saw no need to tell anyone of this. Instead she randomly matched couples based on a printout she had of their names and addresses. And now – it has been discovered that she has mysteriously disappeared. She had her company insured and the insurance company has sent Eileen Evensong – a private eye – to investigate. The people present are:

**Eileen Evensong (not a suspect)** (*a private eye*) Although divorce snooping is my specialty, I have also been employed in a number of other cases involving missing persons. Because of my rather unusual career, I am still single. Men don't like the idea that I might find out everything about them. *Dress suggestions:* Dress conservatively in gray, blue or brown tweed. Carry binoculars and a camera have mini-tape recorders in your pockets.

**Benson Hickle** (*café worker – brother of Darlene*) With six university degrees, not under my belt (as I dropped out of all of them), I can't get a job in any field of any significance and my life has not been very successful so far. I'm certainly not dumb. I just haven't found my true direction yet. *Dress suggestions:* Eccentric clothes (eg colored trousers & dull colored shirt with contrasting shoes & socks). Carry some intellectual books.

**Melinda Muscat** (*trainee nun*) I am marrying God and I'm wracked with pre-marital doubt. I'm worried I've got too many bad habits to wear this one. *Dress suggestions:* Nun in full habit and gown. A cross on a neck chain.

**Clarence Kane** (*a park-bench hobo*) I used to collect trash. Now I sleep in it – that is when I'm not sleeping on a park bench in the middle of the city and earning my living from collecting cans. I'm fond of singing the blues. They suit my mood. *Dress suggestions:* Have holes in your hobo clothes & be a bit dirty with face unshaven. Battered hat & some newspapers. Bring a bag full of cans.

**Suzie Bamberger** (*a psychologist – new wife of Steve*) I'm a very good psychologist. I can calm down a stressed city worker faster than you can boil water. Counseling is my thing and I'm up on all the latest methods. I'm also mad about cats. *Dress suggestions:* Classic suit. Carry some counseling "how to live your life" books.

**Steve Bamberger** (*a sports instructor – husband of Suzie*) I'm a very good Sports Instructor. I teach young boys basketball, which is very healthy. I love children and in my spare time I help out at an orphanage. *Dress suggestions:* Sports-clothes, basketball.

**Jasmine Reid** (*music teacher – girlfriend of Shaun*) Although I work in a conservative school teaching bored girls how to blow into recorders, at the weekends I play jazz rock violin in a band with Shaun and we're hoping to release a CD later in the year. I also teach private students. *Dress suggestions:* Modern black clothes. Carry a musical instrument.

**Shaun Goller** (*bookshop staff – boyfriend of Jasmine*) I can make my synthesizer wail like a whale and I also like singing with my band. I work at a specialist music bookshop. I'm classically trained. *Dress suggestions:* Modern clothes such as black pants, black shirt and brightly colored sunglasses. Carry an instrument.

**Sadie Southport** (*a TV reporter – girlfriend of Gary*) I'm a very ambitious local TV reporter. I'm constantly networking as I intend to have my own TV show and really do something good for the world. I love reading philosophy. I also enjoy playing the flute. *Dress suggestions:* Wear modern well-cut clothes, possibly a silk blouse and some colorful beads.

**Gary Balana** (*programmer – boyfriend of Sadie*) My natural talent for numbers and programming landed me a well paid job as an IT computer programmer and my career is going well. But I'm not very socially adept, so I don't have many friends, or to be honest any friends at all. I love watching sport on TV and taking very long baths. *Dress suggestions:* Dress as a nerd. Wear jeans & casual t-shirt & carry a laptop (or replica of one). Have socks that don't match.



**Melinda  
Muscat**  
(suspect)

**Clarence  
Kane**  
(suspect)

**Suzie  
Bamberger**  
(suspect)

**Steve  
Bamberger**  
(suspect)

**Jasmine  
Reid**  
(suspect)

**Shaun  
Goller**  
(suspect)

**Sadie**  
**Southport**  
(suspect)

**Gary**  
**Balana**  
(suspect)

**Judi**  
**Wurtzel**  
(suspect)

**Ian**  
**Wurtzel**  
(suspect)

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **“The Case Of The Missing Matchmaker”**

*by Stephanie Chambers  
and Maggie Lawrence*

*These are the clues for:*

*Eileen  
Evensong*

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 *(speak first)* From what I have gathered from chatting with others at this gathering, it appears that Darlene had a lot of enemies. Only a real snoop like me can get to the bottom of cases like this. That is why her insurance company is employing me to find out if she really has disappeared in a suspicious way or if she is just avoiding her responsibilities and her angry clients.
- 2 I want each of you to tell me about your previous dealings with Darlene.
- 3 Darlene has not shown up to her office for the last week. Her long-time office assistant reported her missing to her insurance company and the police.
- 4 Darlene preferred to live alone and had never been married or had any boyfriends. A close neighbor and friend of Darlene’s said Darlene had left a scrawled note in front of her door telling her to find a home for her dog. Apparently she loved her dog. The neighbor had a spare key Darlene had given her. She found the dog in the empty apartment. The bed had been left un-made. It seems strange that a person like Darlene would just leave without sorting out her affairs properly.
- 5 Benson is the primary beneficiary of Darlene’s will.

## Eileen Evensong - Act Two

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 (*Speak first*) Have any of you seen Darlene recently? What was your last interaction with her?
- 2 I want each of you to tell me what you were up to last weekend when Darlene disappeared. There is no point lying. I have ways to check anything you say.
- 3 Did you see any of the other suspects last weekend?
- 4 Apparently the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of the United States of America had received so many complaints of late about Darlene's business that they were thinking of closing her down anyway.
- 5 It is a small world isn't it? I remember seeing Gary in the Yale University yearbook. He was in the year ahead of me. I studied some computer programming, but I didn't major in it like he did. I was initially studying to be a forensic scientist but when I started doing that sort of work, I found it boring.

## Eileen Evensong - Act Three

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 (*Speak first*) I would like to know what each of you has been up to in the past week and if you have noticed anything suspicious with regards to Darlene.
- 2 Darlene moved a large amount of money into traveler's checks on Monday morning. She didn't go to work that Monday morning and hasn't been seen since.
- 3 Darlene's computer, computer disks and printout of her database were stolen from her office on the Thursday night before Darlene was last seen. Darlene was very upset about it and reported it to the police but the thief was not found. Fortunately she had another printout of her client list at home.
- 4 Darlene took a suitcase of clothes with her. But she appears to have packed in a real hurry as she forgot to take her reading glasses and she didn't tell anyone she was leaving.
- 5 I think you are an undervalued talent Clarence. You are more like a counsellor than a hobo. I am sure there is a good job waiting for someone like you in welfare. And thank you for the card. It was very sweet of you. We must keep in touch after all of this is over.

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **“The Case Of The Missing Matchmaker”**

*by Stephanie Chambers  
and Maggie Lawrence*

*These are the clues for:*

*Benson  
Hickle*

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Darlene and I have never gotten on really well. I have always nicknamed her “ball of fire” partially after her hair color and partially because of her spirited nature. She was Daddy’s little favorite to the degree that when Daddy died he left most of his money to her. Our mother died when we were little, so our father raised us.
- 2 Darlene has been trying to match me up for years to some wealthy woman or other. But none of them have worked out.
- 3 Darlene said that she preferred to live alone because her work was all the romance she could take. She liked her reclusive private life.
- 4 Darlene kept telling me what a failure I was. She really knew how to rub her success right up your nose.
- 5 I don’t consider myself a failure. I have learned all the things I wanted to learn at university and I am still pursuing real true knowledge in my spare time. I am happy because I am still expanding my mind. That is more important than expanding your wallet in my opinion.



## Benson Hickle - Act Two

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Darlene has me over for dinner every Friday night. Our father used to do that before he died so Darlene likes to continue the tradition. But I always ring before I go there just to make sure she is there. I saw her the week before last and she was her usual nasty bossy-big-sister self. But this Friday there was no answer when I rang.
- 2 Last weekend I was working at my new job at a coffee shop in the city. I have been reading Plato's Symposium – such a brilliant discourse on the real value of love. I have also been reading a book about ancient embalming techniques, which is even more interesting.
- 3 Steve came in and bought a cappuccino from me. I also saw Gary come into the shop, but I didn't serve him so he probably didn't notice me. Gary was carrying one of those travel brochures about exotic places. That's why I remember him. I was jealous of him planning a trip somewhere.
- 4 I can't believe that Darlene would leave town without telling me. She always told me even if she was only going on a daytrip somewhere.

## Benson Hickle - Act Three

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 My week hasn't been very eventful – just an endless line of cappuccinos and lattes. Probably the only highlight has been meeting Sadie at this gathering. She is almost as well read as I am and she has some real insights into the meaning of some early Greek texts. I am really looking forward to talking to her a lot more.
- 2 Darlene's assistant told me that Darlene was too miserly to hire a computer consultant to help them sort out their computer database problems. Anyway months after the computer crash she said Darlene remembered that Gary was a programmer and she rang him. He had agreed to show her how all the new matching web pages work on the Internet but he said she would have to hire someone to help sort out her database problem as it wasn't his area of expertise.
- 3 Darlene never did hire a computer consultant. She just used the printout she had of her clients and randomly matched them up. Now we are all experiencing the results! But Gary has put together a simple matching game which we can try out sometime.
- 4 When I went into Shaun's bookshop to buy a book, he told me how he was using his connections to make sure that Darlene's business was closed down. He only told me this after I agreed not to tell Darlene.

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **“The Case Of The Missing Matchmaker”**

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and Maggie Lawrence*

*These are the clues for:*

*Melinda  
Muscat*

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 When I was working as a Church assistant. I found it hard to meet men. I mean – how can you successfully chat up a man when you’re in Church and God is watching?
- 2 I filled out one of Darlene’s matchmaking application forms but she rejected my application. She said I wasn’t pretty enough and that I was too religious and boring and that most men would find my profession off-putting.
- 3 I decided to marry God. I am about to take my vows shortly.
- 4 Although I enjoy being a nun, I would have preferred to have had children. That is the only sad point. But at least I get to work with children at the school the nunnery operates.

## Melinda Muscat - Act Two

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 I saw Darlene in the local supermarket. I approached her and I told her how I had become a nun. She hadn't recognised me in my habit. She said to me, in her usual nasty tone, "God is probably the only one who will want you".
- 2 Last weekend I was at a camp in the country run by the school I work for. I enjoyed playing with all the children.
- 3 Before I left for the country on Saturday morning, I did see Judi coming out of Darlene's office as I happened to be passing it. You looked very distressed Judi. I think you'd been crying.
- 4 As Judi was leaving, Darlene was playing Ravel's Bolero very loudly on her office's music system. I thought that rather odd. That's why I remember Judi and the incident.

## Melinda Muscat - Act Three

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During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 I lead a pretty quiet life. It has been lovely meeting so many new people at this gathering. And Gary has said he will show me a few things on his laptop so that I can impress the children at school. He is a very knowledgeable man and a bit quiet like I am.
- 2 I sensed that something was happening to Darlene and I asked the other nuns to pray for her safety and to light candles for her.
- 3 Gary thinks that because Darlene has wrecked so many people's lives, that it would be immoral to let her continue to run her business.