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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

## “Out Of The Game”

Small play mystery  
(not murder) version  
for 12 to 16 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

First edition.

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“Merri Mysteries” was formerly known as “Tailor Made Mysteries”.

Although this mystery is loosely based on some real events, the characters and plots are totally fictional.

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See the host’s guide for further details on the copyright requirements for this kit.

## The Suspects

Sometimes embarrassing things are deliberately left out of the history books. They are covered over and forgotten. The truth is that the 1919 World Series wasn't the only black mark in baseball history – there was a far worse event in 1944.

At the tail end of the war, good baseball players were in short supply as they were all overseas doing their duty for their country as part of the war effort. So, as some of you may know, women baseball players were enlisted to fill the gap. What you might not know is that there was still one male baseball team and they played against the women's teams. They were the Boston Odd Sox. The team was comprised of baseball players who couldn't do their military service for various (mainly physical) reasons.

The Odd Sox were competing against the Chicago Cheeky Chicks. The Odd Sox needed to win this game in order to reach the finals. The Chicago Cheeky Chicks were the worst team in the League having not won a single game.

But there were rumors afloat that the Odd Sox were under control of some powerful gambling entities and that they were going to throw this game. A lot of money was resting on it. Most, but not all of the players were in on it as they stood to make an extra year's wages in just one game.

In the first two innings the Cheeky Chicks had performed as admirably bad as usual and the Odd Sox, despite their efforts not to win, were in a slight lead. The problem was that the girls all kept hitting the ball so that it landed on the bases and, thus, it couldn't be easily ignored by the person manning the base.

And the girls – all flat-footed and overweight – didn't run very fast so despite ball fumbles and other tactics, the Odd Sox couldn't get them out without totally revealing to their fans that they were trying to lose the game. Things were getting desperate for the Odd Sox and it was time for them to bat.

Although they tried to miss hitting the ball, the pitcher Petticoat Peterson kept pitching so that her ball hit their bat no matter where they moved it. Then in the last and final innings, Petticoat Peterson ran off the field and locked herself in the bathroom and claimed she had been given a laxative. The game was called off and because the umpire was the cousin of a police officer, the police were called in to investigate.

Now you might assume the Odd Sox were responsible, but apparently there was some pretty strong in-fighting going on amongst the players in the Cheeky Chicks. And with fans, managers, gamblers and others involved, no one knew for sure who did it. So now let's relive this moment in history and find out who really did it.

## The Boston Odd Sox

**Righty Mathews** (*right fielder*) He is called "Righty" because he bats with his right hand whereas everyone else on the team is left-handed. He carries the team emblem (a skunk) wherever he goes. He couldn't go into the army because he had a knee injury from falling off a roof as a child. He is currently unemployed. **Dress suggestions:** Baseball clothes. Bat. Carry a stuffed toy marked to look like a skunk (or a picture of one). Wear odd socks.

**Shoey Jacobs** (*left fielder*) He is called "Shoey" because he wears a different pair of shoes to every match. He has more shoes in his cupboard than Imelda Marcos. He couldn't go into the army because he was flat-footed. He works as a waiter at a high-class restaurant. **Dress suggestions:** Baseball clothes. Make each of your shoes look different to each other in some way. Carry a spare pair of shoes for the game. Wear odd socks.

**Double-Take Edwards** (*pitcher*) He is cross-eyed. He couldn't go into the army because of this. He can do fantastic, sneaky curve balls and is a great pitcher as long as you point him in the right direction and as long as he chases after the correct one of the balls he sees. He is the sound man for a radio station. **Dress suggestions:** Baseball clothes. Carry a ball. Wear odd socks.

**Sleepy Joe** (*catcher*) He has very big hands and when he's awake, he's a great catcher. He couldn't go into the army because he suffers from a rare disease which makes him fall asleep at odd times. He works as a legal clerk for the county office. **Dress suggestions:** Baseball clothes. Wear a catcher's mitt and carry a pillow. Wear odd socks.

**Doorbell Dunstan** (*first base*) He is quick on the mark if he knows what's going on. The problem is that he often doesn't hear the bat hitting the ball so he doesn't know a player is heading his way. He wasn't accepted by the army because he is deaf. He is a university microbiology student. He is a close friend of Sleepy Joe. **Dress suggestions:** Baseball clothes. Carry a hearing funnel. Wear odd socks.

**Go Go Grimblat** (*center fielder*) He doesn't miss much and he's one of the stars of the team. Unfortunately his skills come in equal weight with his arrogance and he is a bit of a pain. He wasn't in on the scam because he is too much of a big mouth. He has a slight hearing impediment and that he is why he wasn't accepted for military service. He is a car salesman. **Dress suggestions:** Baseball clothes. Wear odd socks.



## Name tags

### 12 Suspects

Righty  
Mathews  
(suspect)

Shoey  
Jacobs  
(suspect)

Double-Take  
Edwards  
(suspect)

Peachy  
Cream  
(suspect)

Moldy  
Cheese  
(suspect)

Lippy  
Lovell  
(suspect)

Sleepy  
Joe Peterson  
(suspect)

Doorbell  
Dunstan  
(suspect)

Bouncy  
Betty  
(suspect)

Clumsy  
Carol  
(suspect)

Go Go  
Grimblat  
(suspect)

Slammit  
Suzie  
(suspect)

**2 optional witnesses**

King  
Kordon

Mrs Paula  
Dingle

**2 optional authorities**

Detective Sergeant  
Mabel Finn

Dr Peter Pepin  
(Police Medical)

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## *The Play*

**Note:** *Although this is in play format, you do not have to take to a stage and act it out. You can just sit around a dining table and read out your lines or sit in a circle on sofas etc.*

**Note:** *If it says the line may be said by “Anyone”, we recommend that one of the optional detectives and witnesses take a turn to say the line. If there are no optional witnesses or detectives, then everyone should take a turn saying one of these lines, however, the person the clue is about should not say it. You may like to work out beforehand who will say each of these 12 “Anyone” clues and write their character’s name next to each one.*

Sleepy Joe: Petticoat and I are cousins. I’ve grown up with her and I’m really upset that she’s been embarrassed like this. I was in on the scam, but I thought we were just losing a game – not making people ill. I wouldn’t have got involved if I knew it would lead to this. That’s why I owned up and told everyone about the scam when I found out what had happened.

Righty Mathews: Everyone thinks that because I carry the team emblem around with me that I am a great supporter of the team, but that isn’t true. I carry it because I think the team stinks and “The Skunk” emblem represents that. I mean – look at us – what a bunch!

Double-Take Edwards: I wasn’t really in on the scam. It’s just that Righty was in on it and he’s the one that points me in the right direction to pitch. I’m innocent – really I am. I was absolutely shocked when I heard about it, because we’ve always been such an ace team.

Doorbell Dunstan: What scam? I didn't hear anything about a scam. Nobody told me. I swear I didn't hear about it. My hearing isn't the best 'cause I blew up a firecracker in my ear as a child. And my other ear was never that good from birth.

Go Go Grimblat: I don't know how there could have been a scam without me knowing about it. They must have been so secretive. They probably knew that a man of my talents wouldn't risk his whole career just for a few extra dollars.

Clumsy Carol: I did notice when Shoey came by second base when he was batting that he stayed to chat a bit longer than he probably should have with it being a competition game and all. But I didn't think you'd be in on a scam Shoey. You seemed such a nice guy.

Shoey Jacobs: I'm sorry about the scam. I didn't want to be part of it at first, but I kept thinking about all the shoes I'd be able to buy with the money and I need new shoes for every game. They give me luck – without them I'd just be a flat-footed no-hoper. My shoes make me feel special.

Bouncy Betty: Petticoat and I don't get on. She's jealous of my baseball skills. I get lots of people out because my reactions are lightning quick. Because she isn't much of a pitcher, there were a lot of hits during the game and that made my job all the harder.

Anyone: Before it was announced that the game was cancelled, Peachy and Lippy were overheard saying how happy they were that Petticoat was out of the game for a while. They said that now they'd get the attention they deserved.

Lippy Lovell: Of course I'm upset about Petticoat. I'm just not crying because tears end up in your lipstick and it gets all watery and yucky, so I don't cry. But I'm sad about it nonetheless. She always looks good with her starched petticoats and everything and she's kept up the team's sassy image.

Peachy Cream: To be honest I was just looking forward to the end of the game, which would be the end of the series for us. I don't really like playing baseball. I only do it because my Dad's one of the league's big sponsors and my sponsor too.

Slammit Suzie: I could have kissed Petticoat when she got Go Go out in the last half of the game. She was in top form and he deserved to get out. His ego needed to have the air let out of it. Slam, slam, slam – out – that's how it sounded. Great! Shame it wasn't enough to put us in the lead.

Bouncy Betty: I knew something was funny with this game, because they weren't hitting the ball very hard and if I had the ball and was running back to base, they sort of let me get there first and it wasn't just a "ladies before gentlemen" thing – they were trying to lose and I knew it. Petticoat and I had an argument about it during the game.

Moldy Cheese: I work in my parents' cheese factory, so I do tend to smell a bit like moldy cheese, hence my nickname. I don't care. All I care about is baseball. I love it. I love playing it.

Slammit Suzie: But after Petticoat got Go Go out, she started to look a bit strange. She pitched a few times and then she grabbed her belly and rushed off the field and into the bathroom. I thought she might have just needed a quick visit. I couldn't believe it when the medic said she wouldn't be able to return to the game. It was so sudden.

Clumsy Carol: I didn't manage to get many of the guys out – well none really. It's not that I'm a butter fingers, it's that I just can't seem to get my hands on the ball in the first place even if it's hit straight towards me. The ball keeps moving quicker than I do – that's the problem.

Righty Mathews: No wonder the army wouldn't have us. And it's embarrassing playing the girls and losing a lot of the time. I thought we may as well lose with some money in our pockets for our troubles. It is just a shame that our last game before the finals was against such a terrible team. No one has ever taught Petticoat how to do anything tricky. It was slow ball for her – that's for sure. All she cares about is her starched petticoats and how she looks.

Anyone: During the game, Doorbell hit a ball in the direction of Peachy. She tried to duck but it hit her on the head. This really hurt, as she didn't stop it with her hands for fear of breaking her precious nails. Petticoat told her in front of everyone that she had let the team down, as it should have been an easy catch.

Peachy Cream: Yes. Baseball is really dangerous. It's so easy to break your nails. Petticoat was telling me to stop doing my nails while the Manager was revving us up before the game. I think she was just jealous because she had bitten her own nails so much they barely existed.

Shoey Jacobs: They are talking about banning us for life from baseball so I suppose that's an end to my baseball shoes collection. Maybe I'll take up basketball instead or golf. Golf shoes are pretty neat.

Moldy Cheese: Petticoat didn't like my smell and she was threatening to get the Manager to kick me off the team because of it. That's why they put me in right field rather than as short-stop where I belong.

Anyone: Petticoat sprayed Moldy with Eau D' Cologne during the game. Moldy hates that smell with a passion.

Go Go Grimblat: Peachy's father had told her that if she didn't improve her game, she would have to have private baseball lessons from Petticoat every afternoon.

Double-Take Edwards: Petticoat doesn't like me because I'm cross-eyed some of the time. She's always avoiding looking at me and she treats me more like a leper than a fellow baseball player.

Anyone: Petticoat had complained to the Baseball League officials saying that having Double-Take as a pitcher made the whole competition look ridiculous – after all who ever heard of a cross-eyed pitcher.

Lippy Lovell: Petticoat and I aren't that close either. She knew I wanted to be pitcher. She knew I would be better at it than she was. But Mrs Dingle – our manager – liked the jam tarts that Petticoat baked and brought to our practice sessions. That's why she was her favorite and she got to be pitcher.

Righty Mathews: When Peachy and Petticoat were young and at school, Petticoat stole Peachy's Barbie doll and wrecked its nails.

Doorbell Dunstan: Petticoat thought I was dumb just because I'm deaf. A lot of people make that mistake. But I'm not dumb – in fact I've just completed a university science degree majoring in microbiology and I've applied to be enrolled in the masters program.

Peachy Cream: Righty had recently been retrenched by the brick-making company he works for and he needed the money from the scam to start his own driveway construction business.

Sleepy Joe: Clumsy Carol likes Shoey, but Petticoat also liked Shoey and she was always giving him hugs.

Shoey Jacobs: Petticoat and Bouncy worked at the same Diner. Petticoat got to be a waitress whereas Bouncy spent her time cooking eggs mostly. So Petticoat got tips and Bouncy didn't. The boss said he'd let Bouncy be a waitress next time one of the waitresses left or was off sick. But none of them wanted to leave.

Moldy Cheese: When the Cheeky Chicks went on a team trip to Minneapolis for a game, the bus driver had trouble getting all the luggage to fit on the bus. Petticoat told him Lippy had two bags rather than just one and she had to leave her makeup bag at home.

Double-Take Edwards:  
During the game, Lippy would have gotten Sleepy Joe out, but Petticoat got in the way of the ball.

Lippy Lovell: The way to get picked as pitcher is to bake better tarts or at least that's how Mrs Dingle sees it. Peachy and I wanted to complain about it, but we were afraid we'd get kicked off the team if we did.

Sleepy Joe: Petticoat told the Manager she would make her a pound of chocolate fudge if she took Moldy off the team. Moldy found this out.

Bouncy Betty: At the beginning of the game Petticoat stuck a heart inside one of Shoey's baseball shoes and he saw it when he took his shoes off at half time to put on fresh socks.

Doorbell Dunstan: Go Go stays home most of the time. He says he's perfecting his game, but really it's because none of the girls will go out with him.

Clumsy Carol: One time at a party Lippy had accidentally put lipstick on her teeth. Petticoat knew but didn't tell her. Later Lippy found out and she was very angry that Petticoat hadn't told her about it.

Go Go Grimblat: Slammit had heard rumors that the manager intended to make Petticoat the captain during the next season.

Slammit Suzie: When Petticoat and Clumsy Carol were at school, Petticoat told the teacher that Carol had said a swear word, which wasn't true. Petticoat got her friends to back her claim and Carol had to rinse her mouth out with soap.

Anyone: During the game, when Petticoat was batting she hit the ball towards Righty, but he missed it and he fumbled and she made it to first base. His teammates jeered him and Petticoat laughed.

Anyone: Petticoat always teases Bouncy about the way she makes the ball bounce when she hits it. Often at a practice session, Bouncy ended up in tears because of Petticoat's endless taunts.

- Anyone: Sleepy Joe had bought along some coffee to sip so he wouldn't fall asleep during the game, but Petticoat bumped his mug when she first took her place to bat and he spilt the lot.
- Anyone: During the game, because Sleepy Joe hadn't had his coffee, he fell asleep. No one noticed except Petticoat as she was batting. She woke Sleepy Joe up by making a song and dance about how he was asleep and she embarrassed him in front of the crowd.
- Anyone: After the last game, the Cheeky Chicks went out dancing together to celebrate their manager's birthday. Petticoat refused to share a taxicab with Moldy so Moldy had to go in a cab by herself and pay the whole fare.
- Anyone: Double-Take and Doorbell had spent last weekend looking at real estate that they can't afford. And they both told the agents they would be able to make a deposit after this weekend.
- Anyone: Shoey gave Petticoat some special inner soles to give to Clumsy Carol, but Petticoat kept them for herself and Shoey saw she had them on during the game when she stopped to remove a pebble when she was batting.
- Anyone: During the game after Clumsy Carol missed getting Double-Take out, Petticoat came over to her and pinched her arm and told her to wake up. Carol's arm hurt for ages.