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“Prom Pandemonium”

by Stephanie Chambers

Third edition
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The Suspects

Melissa Matthews – the girl they all thought would be prom queen – has been attacked by a tiny drone covered in spikes. Her beautiful dress has been ripped to shreds and covered in purple ink.

Who would do such a thing? Was it one of the other girls (or their boyfriends or parents) who wanted the crown? Or was it someone else?

Harvey Belvidere – I'm Melissa's dashing handsome boyfriend. That's what she calls me. We've been sweethearts for over a year now. We met in a politics class. I can't believe anyone could be so mean as to do this to her. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a tuxedo (or suit) and a pale violet boutonniere. Wear a black wig if you don't have black hair.

Amanda Proshnikov – It's true that I'm the next girl most likely to be the prom queen. Melissa and I had been friends till recently when we had a major falling out over a pair of stilettos, we both wanted to buy and wear to the prom. In the end, I let her wear them, but I told her our friendship was over. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a beautiful prom dress with a matching wrist corsage and beautiful stilettos. Or make something that looks like a prom dress out of crepe paper and wear it over top of normal clothes.

Jiles Rockford – I'm Amanda's loyal boyfriend. We both love to do Latin dancing and my family is taking her with us on a luxury cruise this summer. Even though I would do anything to make her happy, I would never do something like this. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a tuxedo (or suit) and a boutonniere that matches Amanda's corsage color.

Hilary Proshnikov – I am Amanda's mother and it's true that I have entered Amanda in every possible beauty competition since she was a baby. And I have never let her eat a single ice cream or other dessert because I want her to have good teeth. But it's just because I want her to make the most of her life and because she is so beautiful, isn't she? My husband and I are here tonight because I am a teacher at the school and I have to supervise the event. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a very flowery formal dress. Make yourself look older.

Baresh Proshnikov – I'm Amanda's father. I'm a lawyer. I mainly do corporation law. I just hope Melissa's parents don't press charges against whoever did this. It's just a teenage prank, after all. In my day, we just threw eggs at people we didn't like. Now it's a bit higher tech. **Dress suggestion:** Wear a tuxedo (or suit). Make yourself look older.

Billi-Jean Johnston – I'm not on the list of likely prom-queens even though I am on the social committee. I'm here with my girlfriends because I'm too much of a nerd and too brainy for any guy to be interested in me. But just because I probably could create a drone, doesn't mean I did. Someone could have probably just bought one online. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a pale violet prom dress with a matching wrist corsage. Or make something that looks like a prom dress out of crepe paper and wear it over top of normal clothes. Make sure it has lots of petticoats so it sticks out a lot (e.g., like a Quinceañera dress).

Peoni Penrose – I'm one of the more radical girls and I'm not a dumb superficial beauty queen type. That's why my dress is more Goth – more punk than most. Melissa and I didn't hang out together so I don't know why I'm considered a suspect. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a black Goth / punk looking prom dress and matching wrist corsage. Or make something that looks like a prom dress out of crepe paper and wear it over top of normal clothes.

Kade Kenyon – I'm Peoni's boyfriend. Tuxedos aren't my normal style. They hide my great tats. Melissa and I were only in one class together – Spanish. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a tuxedo (or suit) and a boutonniere that matches Peoni's corsage color. Add some fake tattoos.

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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Police Officer Chris Truslow (male or female) – I’m a local Police officer. I often get called in to sort out small crimes like this one. But the high-tech nature of this crime makes it more exciting. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a fake Police uniform or blue shirt and trousers and carry a notebook and pen.

Optional witnesses

Renny Rettar – I’m not a suspect because I wasn’t in any of Melissa’s classes and so I barely know her. I must admit she is cute though. But don’t tell my prom date that I said that. I’m a footballer and I also do a lot of weight lifting so this tux doesn’t fit me that well. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a tuxedo (or suit) and a boutonniere. Add some fake bulging muscles underneath.

Elena Evanowich – I used to go to Church with Melissa when we were both around eight years old, but then she switched to another Church so I haven’t had much to do with her for years. So that’s why I’m not a suspect. I’m planning to become a nun so this is probably the last dance I will ever go to. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a modest prom dress and matching wrist corsage. Or make something that looks like a prom dress out of crepe paper and wear it over top of normal clothes.

Abe Atkinson – I’ve only been in this school for six months, so I barely know anyone, so that’s why I’m not a suspect. But it didn’t stop me from asking a pretty girl to the prom. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a tuxedo (or suit) and a boutonniere.

Shelley Seagrass – I don’t go to the same school as Melissa. But my boyfriend does. That’s why I’m not a suspect. I work as a lifeguard at the local pool. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a prom dress and matching wrist corsage. Or make something that looks like a prom dress out of crepe paper and wear it over top of normal clothes.

Oakley Orsarchi – I’ve been in France for six months as an exchange student, so that’s why I’m not a suspect. If you want to practice your French, oui – I’m the person to talk to. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a tuxedo (or suit) and a boutonniere.

Verity Vallant – I spent the whole time at the prom outside in the car park. That’s why I’m not a suspect. I’m more of an outdoors girl and so is my boyfriend. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a prom dress and matching wrist corsage. Or make something that looks like a prom dress out of crepe paper and wear it over top of normal clothes.

Terry Trombone (male or female) – I work for the hotel where the prom is being held. I was just here to check everything went smoothly. I was in the foyer at the time when the incident occurred. And just so you know, I don’t play the trombone. It’s just my name. *Dress suggestions:* Wear black trousers and a white shirt.

Iola Interlaken – I’m a journalist with the local newspaper and I am here to write up the prom for my socialite column called “Iola’s Inside Scoop”. With all that’s happened, I’ll have plenty to write about this time. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a fashionable outfit and lots of jewelry.

Stevie Mix – I’m the DJ. I pride myself on playing music to suit my audience and in this case as it’s a mixed audience, I’ve already played few tracks that everyone knows and I have a few of the latest tracks ready for late into the evening. But with all that’s going on, no one will probably be dancing from now on. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a black shirt and black pants and some headphones.

Mrs. Janice McCormick – I’m the school principal. I am here in a supervisory capacity. This is the nicest part of my job – seeing the graduating students looking their best. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a formal but conservative dress.

Mr. Joe McCormick – I’m the husband of the principal. I work as an accountant, but sometimes my wife brings me to these sorts of events so she will have someone to dance with. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a tuxedo or suit.

Prue Positrone – I’m the emcee. I had the pleasure of announcing the couples as they entered the hall. I spoke to each person before the event to check I knew how to pronounce his or her name correctly. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a formal but conservative dress.

Albert Albatross – I won at the science fair, but I couldn’t get a date for the prom, so I’ve come by myself. At least this way I get to see everyone. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a tuxedo but with a check flannel shirt underneath.

Felicity Flash – I’m the official prom photographer. I’m the one who has to make sure everyone’s prom photo looks great. I admit I sometimes have to resort to a bit of Photoshopping to achieve that. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a formal shirt and pants and carry one or two cameras (as large as you can find).

Lincoln Luxor – I’m a limo driver and I bought a few of the suspects to the event and I have been waiting in the limo to take them home at the end. When I saw everyone leaving the hall, I came in to see what had happened. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a uniform or a shirt, tie and pants with a cap.

Beta Beautifimo – I’m in different classes to Melissa – that’s I’m not a suspect. I’m really excited because tonight is my first date with this guy I’ve fancied for years. I couldn’t believe it when he asked me to the prom. I almost fainted. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a prom dress and matching wrist corsage. Or make something that looks like a prom dress out of crepe paper and wear it over top of normal clothes.

Wes Westward – I’m so glad my school days are almost over. I can’t wait to head west just like my name as soon as we graduate. In fact, I might keep heading west and end up in Hawaii. Who knows? *Dress suggestions:* Wear a tuxedo (or suit) and a boutonnière.

Venetia Velvet – I’ve been a pen pal for many years with my prom partner. I live in Europe – Venice actually. He paid for my airfare so I agreed to come. It’s been wonderful to finally meet him. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a prom dress (velvet if possible) and matching wrist corsage on a velvet ribbon. Or make something that looks like a prom dress out of crepe paper and wear it over top of normal clothes.

Elroy Evans – I’m a basketball dude so I feel like a fish out of water in these clothes. I can’t wait till I get to go home and change. I’m only here because my girlfriend begged me to come along. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a tuxedo (or suit) and a boutonnière.

Arva Avatar – I’m a really spiritual person and wearing these material garments really seems superficial to me. But my mother insisted that I go along with the illusion of reality for what she thinks is a special occasion. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a wispy hippyish prom dress and matching wrist corsage. Or make something that looks like a prom dress out of crepe paper and wear it over top of normal clothes. Carry some incense or wear some essential oil perfume.

Carr Cardinal – I love the chance to wear these sorts of over-the-top clothes. It suits my theatrical bent. I’m bound for the stage and not just the stage at the prom. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a tuxedo (or suit) and a red boutonnière.

Lisette Litherspoon – I’m a terribly shy person and I just hope I match the wallpaper at this hall – really, I do. My cousin asked me to be his prom date. That’s why I’m here. I speak with a lisp, so have pity and please don’t ask me too many questions. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a very plain prom dress and matching wrist corsage. Or make something that looks like a prom dress out of crepe paper and wear it over top of normal clothes.

Harvey
Belvidere
(suspect)

Amanda
Proshnikov
(suspect)

Jiles
Rockford
(suspect)

Hilary
Proshnikov
(suspect)

Baresh
Proshnikov
(suspect)

Billi-Jean
Johnston
(suspect)

Peoni
Penrose
(suspect)

Kade
Kenyon
(suspect)

Investigator

Police Officer
Chris Truslow
(investigator)

Witnesses

Renny
Rettar
(witness)

Elena
Evanowich
(witness)

Abe
Atkinson
(witness)

Shelley
Seagrass
(witness)

Oakley
Orsarchi
(witness)

Verity
Vallant
(witness)

Terry
Trombone
(witness)

Iola
Interlaken
(witness)

Stevie
Mix
(witness)

Mrs. Janice
McCormick
(witness)

Mr. Joe
McCormick
(witness)

Prue
Positrone
(witness)

Albert
Albatross
(witness)

Felicity
Flash
(witness)

Lincoln
Luxor
(witness)

Beta
Beautifimo
(witness)

Wes
Westward
(witness)

Venetia
Velvet
(witness)

Elroy
Evans
(witness)

Arva
Avatar
(witness)

Carr
Cardinal
(witness)

Lisette
Litherspoon
(witness)

Merri Mysteries presents...

“Prom Pandemonium”

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These are the:

Clues

Merri Mysteries presents...

“Prom Pandemonium”

Clue page for the optional characters

Print as many copies as you need.

Staple a copy of their nametag 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.

Merri Mysteries presents...

“Prom Pandemonium”

Harvey Belvidere

What I can reveal

I wondered why Melissa had Baresh’s work phone number on her cell phone.

Melissa called me this morning. In fact, she called me ten times this morning about this and that and how unhappy and angry she was about everything. I had a headache by the end of it, so I texted her to say I was running out of battery even though I wasn’t and then I switched off my phone.

Melissa told me she’d come up with a great idea that would make a lot of money. When I asked her for details, she refused to share them with me. I thought that was really bad given that we’ve been dating for over a year.

I’m sorry about what Melissa said to everyone when we were getting our photos taken. It wasn’t my idea. I don’t know why she got so obsessed about it. We’d had enough photos taken already in my opinion. My face was aching from the fake smiles.

When it happened, Melissa screamed – pretty natural reaction I suppose. And then she told me to get the thing away from her. But I didn’t want to go near it – it had tiny blades and was cutting her skirts to pieces.

Melissa rang me from the bathroom and told me to go back to her house and to get some clothes for her to change into. I told her I would as soon as the police let me leave.

What I need to do

- 1 *(If someone says that Michelle Obama is Michelle’s role model, say this)* Yes. And she’s determined to go to Harvard just like Michelle did. She seems to be ignoring the fact that Michelle didn’t do her undergraduate at Harvard. She did it at Princeton, but I suppose that’s still an Ivy League college.
- 2 *(If someone asks about the heated argument you had with Melissa, say this)* I wanted her to apply to the same schools I was applying for. I just want us to be together. Is that too much to ask?
- 3 *(If Billi-Jean asks why you don’t just apply to the same schools as Melissa, say this)* I don’t have a good enough SAT score for those sorts of schools.
- 4 *(If someone asks you what you were doing at the time of the incident, say this)* I was busy clapping like most of us were.

You should divide these 70 extra clues up amongst the people playing optional roles and staple their clues on the clue pages for the witnesses and investigator. Please make sure they are all given out.

(Say to Billi-Jean) People weren't voting for Melissa just because she was pretty. She did a lot of good work on the social committee raising money for the school excursion to the Mall of America in Minneapolis, so that poor kids could come too. *(When Billi-Jean responds, say this)* How do you know? They haven't announced it yet. But I suppose more people know Melissa because she also won the marathon.

Melissa would never take steroids. She would be too afraid they'd make her not look feminine.

(Say to Harvey) Melissa has her heart set on going to college. She wants to be a lawyer. Michelle Obama is her role model.

(Say to Billi-Jean) When Melissa found out recently that Ivy League schools like Harvard don't offer athletic scholarships she was devastated.

I wonder if Melissa kept in touch with Baresh because she was hoping he'd use his connections to get her in to Harvard.

Melissa has Harvey's work phone number on her cell phone. But it's only a few weeks since Amanda and Melissa stopped being friends. Maybe she just hadn't gotten around to removing it.

(Say to Hilary) Harvey told me Melissa's phone log showed she'd spoken to Baresh only last week.

Maybe Harvey noticed that the steroids were making Melissa more masculine. Maybe she had to shave her face. I've heard that sometimes women who take steroids have to do that.

(Say to Harvey) I heard you two having a heated argument. I heard you saying, "You wouldn't do this if you really loved me Melissa". Did your sadness turn to anger? Is that why you wrecked her dress tonight?

Maybe this mini-drone was an example of Kade's out-of-the-box type of thinking he's so into.

(Say to Kade) I noticed you had a non-disclosure document and I saw Melissa's name on it. What was that all about?

Melissa had signed a non-disclosure agreement with Kade and yet she was now getting funding for a similar idea. Maybe Kade thought she was stealing his idea. Maybe the drone attack was his way of warning her not to go ahead with her theft.

Peoni is brilliant at technical sort of stuff. Maybe she used her skills to help Kade get back at Melissa for stealing his idea.

Peoni was furious when Melissa beat her in the marathon. She'd won it for two years straight before that and she didn't like having the title taken away from her.

(Say to Jiles) Amanda was angry when she heard that Melissa had posted some weird photos of her on Instagram. She was livid. Apparently, they were photos Melissa snapped when Amanda impersonated Jim Carrey doing his stuff.

Being prom queen would look good on your CV. Maybe that's why Amanda wrecked Melissa's dress, so that she would be the prom queen.

Billi-Jean saw Melissa reading one of her essays before she'd submitted it. She was so worried that Melissa would use the same phrasing or arguments in her own essay and that then she would be accused of cheating, that she tossed it in the trash and wrote a whole new essay. And she was furious when she only got an A minus for it rather than her usual A plus and that Melissa got an A plus for hers. In fact, she says that's the only reason she wasn't made valedictorian.