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Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Prom Pandemonium”

Meet and mingle version
for 17 to 31 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

First edition

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"Merri Mysteries" was formerly known as "Tailor Made Mysteries".

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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 more high tech. **Dress suggestions:** 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 (eg like a quinceanera 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.



Optional Investigator

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 a 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 boutonnière. 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 boutonnière.

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 boutonnière.

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 boutonniere.

Venetia Velvet – I’ve been a penpal 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 boutonniere.

Dress suggestions: Wear a tuxedo (or suit) and a boutonniere.

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 insense 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 boutonniere.

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.

Name Tags

**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)**

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presents...

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by Stephanie Chambers

These are the:

Clues

Merri Mysteries
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“Prom Pandemonium”

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.

Merri Mysteries
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“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.

(see next page)

Harvey Belvidere Page 2

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.
- 1 *(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?
- 2 *(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.
- 3 *(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.

Merri Mysteries
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“Prom Pandemonium”

Amanda
Proshnikov

What I can reveal

I know you probably all think I did it. But it's not true. I don't hate Melissa. We were friends for years. But the whole shoe debacle made me realize we don't have the same values. To her, the shoes were more important than our friendship was. I gave her a choice and she chose the shoes. I love shoes too, but they're just shoes.

I wish my mother would be quiet about the Prom queen business and everything. Competitions aren't everything.

After the parade, Melissa and Harvey hogged the prettiest place at the school for their photos. We asked them politely to let us take a turn having photos on front of the fountain, but Melissa told us rudely that there were plenty of other spots and to leave them alone.

I was on my cell phone a bit during the dance. I wasn't controlling a drone. I was just texting a friend who couldn't make it to the prom because she got the flu.

(see next page)

Amanda Proshnikov Page 2

I was glad there was no blood. It didn't actually get to her skin. I would have fainted if it drew blood.

I took some great photos of Melissa screaming with her dress all messed up. I've posted them on Facebook already. She's gonna love that.

What I need to do

- 1 *(if Peoni says how Jiles was looking at engagement rings, say this to Jiles)* Is that true Jiles that you were looking at engagement rings? But we've only been dating for four months?
- 2 *(say this to your father Baresh)* After the parade, I had to drag you away, didn't I Dad? I reminded you that as Melissa and I are no longer friends, you shouldn't be chatting to her parents. You said that just because I didn't like Melissa anymore, it didn't mean you had to avoid her. I thought that was a strange comment, but now I see that you and Melissa had been chatting often. *(getting angry)* Maybe you wish Melissa was your daughter, rather than me.
- 3 *(say this to your mother Hilary)* We had dinner at a salad bar. How tacky is that? Jiles wanted us to go to a fancy restaurant but my mother won't let me eat anything but salad. I can't wait till I get to go to college and I can leave home and eat whatever I want.

Merri Mysteries
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“Prom Pandemonium”

Jiles
Rockford

What I can reveal

Melissa claimed she'd read that book “Born To Run” and that ever since she started wearing toe shoes she started to enjoy running and did better at it too. She runs further than I do each week.

Amanda and I ended up having to take most of our photos in front of the school's entrance gates because Harvey and Melissa hogged the good spot. Certainly not as romantic a backdrop as I'd hoped for.

We did dance sometimes, but we were avoiding Melissa and Harvey, so we were at the other end of the hall.

What I need to do

- 1 *(if Amanda asks if it's true that you were looking at engagement rings even though you've only been together for 4 months, say this)* Four glorious months. Yes it's true Amanda, but I can give you more time if you need it. I just thought if you knew how serious I am about you, that you might make sure we go to the same school. Harvey told me how much trouble he was having with Melissa.

- 2 *(if someone says how angry Amanda was about the weird photos of her that Melissa put on Facebook, say this)* They made Amanda look like she belonged in an asylum – not good for someone who wants to become a psychologist. But pulling a prank like this one wouldn't look good on anyone's CV either.
- 3 *(say this to Harvey)* Poor Melissa. She must have been so embarrassed about the fact that you couldn't afford a limo Harvey. Your parents lending you their Volvo just wasn't the same. When I was at the gas station filling up the limo, you were there filling up the Volvo. You told me that Melissa had made you drive to another town two hours away this morning to get her another pair of pantihose the color she wanted.
- 4 *(if someone asks if you were wanting to propose when you went down on one knee under the arch, say this)* Yes. I had wanted to propose. But I should have realized how shy you are Amanda. Sorry. When you and Melissa were still friends, I had confided my plans to Melissa and she told me that you'd love the attention and that you'd want me to do it that way, so I did.
- 5 *(if someone says how you were the first to go up to see the drone, say this)* Yeah. It was so cool. I've never seen a drone before – just photos on the news.
- 6 *(if someone asks about Amanda's reputation being damaged if they prove she did it, say this)* And my parent's lawyers will make sure that never happens. Not that I suspect Amanda had anything to do with it. But I just want her to know that I'd be there to support her even if she was guilty.

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 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?