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Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Prom Pandemonium”

Play version
for 8 to 16 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. 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.

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)**

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“Prom Pandemonium”

by Stephanie Chambers

The Play

Prom Pandemonium - Act One

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 24 “Anyone” clues and write their character’s name next to each one.*

Amanda: 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.

Hilary: And the ones you ended up buying match your dress better dear. Doesn’t she look beautiful?

Amanda: Please be quiet mother. Competitions aren’t everything.

Anyone: Now that most of you are going to college, the only competition you need to concern yourself with is the academic one.

Anyone: 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.

Billi-Jean: But I did as much work on that committee and yet there's no way anyone would have voted me prom queen.

Anyone: How do you know? They haven't announced it yet. But I suppose more people know Melissa because she also won the marathon.

Peoni: But there are rumors that Lance Armstrong wasn't the only one to use steroids. I've been jogging for years and Melissa only took it up a year ago.

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

Baresh: Her parents have had a few financial problems lately. I heard her Dad's sport's store went into receivership. Maybe she needed to win a sports scholarship in order to go to college.

Jiles: She 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.

Hilary: I don't know that Melissa would take steroids. She was always criticizing me for the few tiny cosmetic enhancements that I've had. She said it was cheating.

Anyone: That's different – totally different. Melissa has her heart set on going to college. She wants to be a lawyer. Michelle Obama is her role model.

Harvey: 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.

Anyone: When Melissa found out recently that Ivy League schools like Harvard don't offer athletic scholarships she was devastated.

Billi-Jean: Is that why she suddenly wanted to become my study buddy? Did she wake up to the fact that she'd need to use her brain and not just her muscles in order to get in to Harvard? I think she's leaving her run a bit late for that.

Baresh: I went to Harvard. When Amanda and Melissa were still friends, she used to ask me lots of questions about it.

Anyone: Was she hoping you'd use your connections to get her in to Harvard?

Harvey: Yeah. I wondered why she had your work phone number on her cell phone.

Anyone: It's only a few weeks since Amanda and Melissa stopped being friends. She probably hadn't gotten around to removing it.

Anyone: Harvey told me her phone log showed she'd spoken to Baresh only last week.

Hilary: Is there something you want to tell us Baresh? Some men your age fancy themselves as being attractive to young women, but it's normally just all in their head.

Baresh: No. She rang me to talk about her Dad's financial crisis. She thought I might be able to help. And she also thought I could help her patch up her rift with you Amanda.

Anyone: 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.

Anyone: Yeah. I heard you two having a heated argument. I heard Harvey saying, "You wouldn't do this if you really loved me Melissa".

Harvey: 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?

Anyone: Did your sadness turn to anger? Is that why you wrecked her dress tonight?

Peoni: Jiles is the one that's besotted. He came into the jewelry shop I work at and he was looking at engagement rings.

Amanda: Is that true Jiles? But we've only been dating for four months?

Jiles: 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.

Billi-Jean: You guys are so chauvanistic. You think your women need to follow you abouts like sheep dogs. Why couldn't you go to the same schools Melissa wanted to go to Harvey?

Harvey: I don't have a good enough SAT score for those sorts of schools.

Kade: Most of the real billionaires never went to college. College just reinforces that stay in the box sort of thinking – the kind of thinking that you don't need if you want to make millions.

Anyone: And was this mini-drone an example of your out-of-the-box type of thinking Kade?

Anyone: Yeah Kade. I noticed you had a non-disclosure document and I saw Melissa's name on it. What was that all about?

Kade: Melissa was in the target demographic for a product I've been working on, so I wanted to get her opinion on it – sort of market research.

Anyone: Did you think she was stealing your idea? Was this drone attack, your way of warning her not to go ahead with her theft?

Peoni: Kade's an entrepreneur for sure. But he's not a techie. He couldn't make a drone. Stop picking on him.

Anyone: But you're brilliant at that sort of stuff. Maybe you helped him Peoni.

Anyone: Yeah. I heard you were furious when Melissa beat you in the marathon. You'd won it for two years straight before that and you didn't like having the title taken away from you.

Anyone: She wasn't as angry as Amanda was when she heard that Melissa had posted some weird photos of her on Facebook. She was livid. Apparently they were photos Melissa snapped when Amanda impersonated Jim Carrey doing his stuff. Melissa put them on Facebook after Amanda unfriended her.

Jiles: 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.

Anyone: But being prom queen would look good on your CV.

Anyone: 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.

Anyone: When Kade was a kid he used to fly a remote controlled model aircraft.

Kade: And when I was a kid I used to wet the bed, but that doesn't mean I still do it.

Anyone: Harvard scientists have developed a small flying robot that's the size of a penny. They plan to use it for good purposes like searching for bodies trapped under collapsed buildings and so on. But the one used in this prank was the size of a baseball.

Anyone: And it didn't contain a camera. It just had spikes and when they made contact, it squirted out purple ink.

Anyone: Jile's parents didn't rent a limo for Jiles and Amanda to go in to the prom. They bought one.