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Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Storm Survivors”

Standard version
for 12 to 16 guests

by Stephanie Chambers

Second edition

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The Suspects

It is October 2005. A number of athletes are relaxing on a tropical island in the Great Barrier Reef after an international competition. But, alas, a cyclone has arrived two months earlier than usual.

Although everyone has survived it, there are pythons and other hazards to deal with and to make matters worse, someone has been found murdered. So now everyone is trapped together on the island with a murderer who may strike again. Sounds like fun, doesn't it! The people who were present when the murder took place include:

Solveig Belakovich – (F) I am a Russian gymnast and I won a gold medal in rhythmic gymnastics. I make my ribbon float through the air as I perform dazzling movements. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a blonde wig and black gymnastics attire and carry a long ribbon attached to a stick. Add a little gold glitter to your face. And make sure you wear a fake gold medal.

Canute Svendesson – (M) I'm a Swedish table tennis master. I move so fast you don't even see me hit the ball with my bat. I won a gold medal at the games. You've probably seen me on TV advertising sports watches. I move a little more slowly but I look just as good. *Dress suggestions:* Wear shorts and a T-shirt. Carry a table tennis bat and ball and wear a sports watch.

Fu Wei Dongya – (F) I am a swimmer. I am from China. My arm muscles are as large as most people's thighs. I am very serious about my sport. Besides swimming, I also train by lifting weights. I won a gold medal. *Dress suggestions:* Short black wig. Wear red and yellow T-shirt and shorts or a navy blue leotard. Carry some small weights. Add some major padding where your arm and leg muscles should be.

Mutsumi Yoshita – (M) I am on my honeymoon on the island. Back in Japan I own an electronics factory. My family is very well-known in Japan. *Dress suggestions:* Short black wig. A modern colorful T-shirt with matching hat, socks and/or shorts. Make sure your gym boots are immaculately white. Carry a camera or video and pretend to take photos or a video of everyone – include your wife in every photo. Carry a small backpack with a small bottle of soy sauce (well sealed so it doesn't spill). If possible, make sure you and your wife Yuko have matching T-shirts.

Yuko Yoshita – (F) I am on my honeymoon. Back in Japan I work as a chemical engineer in Mutsumi's factory. I recently discovered a way to make silicon chips smaller. *Dress suggestions:* Black wig. Wear a modern colorful T-shirt with matching hat, socks and/or shorts. Make sure your gym boots are immaculately white. Carry a camera and a small backpack with another set of clothes in it. If possible, make sure you and your husband have matching T-shirts. © copyright Acture Pty Ltd 2005 **Page 1 of 3**

Maralitja – (M) (nickname "Marally") I'm an aboriginal tour guide and a pretty relaxed kind of guy. This is only my second week on this job. Before this I was an aboriginal dancer and a didgeridoo player. I grew up in crocodile country. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a modern T-shirt and some khaki shorts. Carry a didgeridoo or some sticks (if available). Also hang binoculars around your neck.

Annie Richards – (F) I'm a snorkeling and deep sea diving instructor at the resort. I love looking at fish of all kinds. I don't eat fish because of my love for them. Although I am very happy underwater, I would like to marry a wealthy man and live in a big house overlooking Sydney harbor with a yacht moored outside. *Dress suggestions:* A swimsuit covered by a tropical sarong or a wetsuit, goggles and fins.

Ronald Perkins – (M) I'm the owner of this resort and many others. I was inspecting the resort when the cyclone hit. I'm a bit of a wheeler and dealer. I have many local and interstate political connections and I'm divorced ... if any of you ladies are interested. *Dress suggestions:* Stylish clothes such as a cream linen suit with a pale yellow shirt & an expensive watch.

Terone Jones – (M) I'm an American basketball pro and we won gold. With my endless tricky moves, I'm a star on the court and off – if you know what I mean. The ladies love me because I'm good looking and know just how to flatter them. *Dress suggestions:* Add some stilts (eg cans) under your trousers to make yourself look amazingly tall. Wear blue, red and white basketball gear or track pants. Add a gold medal.

Vicki Omonnanu – (F) I'm a Kenyan marathonist. I won a gold medal, despite having surgery on my Achilles tendon not long before the games. I'm cynical about fame and I avoid doing press interviews. *Dress suggestions:* Black wig (long hair tied tight in a ponytail). Tight fitting running shorts and a T-shirt in red, green and black colors. Carry heat rub in your bag.

Wolfgang Kupersmidt – (M) I'm a German weightlifter. Although I look and sound ferocious while I'm lifting weights, I'm a very mild-mannered family man who wouldn't hurt a fly. I weigh 182kg (400 pounds). I lifted 260kg (573-pounds) in the competition and I broke my own personal best to obtain a silver medal. *Dress suggestions:* A very large royal blue T-shirt and white shorts with lots of pillows underneath so you look more bulky. Carry some weights (small ones will do). Wear a silver medal.

Sapphire – (F) I'm a free spirit and I've been camping illegally for some time on the island. I guess you might call me a modern day hippie. Sure, I love nature, but the cyclone freaked me out a bit so I came to the resort for shelter. *Dress suggestions:* A sarong or other hippy gear. Add some extra rings (eg pretend nose rings, belly rings) and color your hair with hair mascara that washes out (eg bright green). Carry incense or aromatherapy oils.

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3 witnesses (optional)

Wanda Hill – (F) I'm a British newspaper journalist in Australia to cover the competition. I pretend to be relaxed and casual. I get all the dirt on the athletes by getting friendly with everyone. *Dress suggestions:* Wear stylish light summer clothes (eg linen skirt/pants and light cotton shirt) and carry a notepad and a camera.

Harry Hughes – (M) I'm a bodyguard. I'm very strong and I'm afraid of no one. I really like eating junk food. *Dress suggestions:* A T-shirt and jeans but add padding to your arms and shoulders so you look like a muscle-bound hunk. Wear sunglasses.

Derwent Richards – (M) I'm a fabulously wealthy fashion designer and I'm on the island for a holiday. Everything has been splendid, until now! Can't they do something about these cyclones? It's completely ruined my holiday, not to mention my clothes! *Dress suggestions:* Flashy floral shirt and chunky gold jewellery. Shorts. Wear lots of suntan oil. A dark fake tan.

2 investigators (optional)

Investigators that have only just arrived on the island

Kim Campbell – (M or F) I'm an Australian police officer. I'm the one who is in charge of this investigation. Don't worry I'll soon get to the bottom of this. Will everyone please have their bags ready for inspection please. *Dress suggestions:* A police uniform.

Chris Walsh (to be played by the second person who is killed) – (M or F) I'm a forensics expert. I have only just arrived on the island. *Dress suggestions:* Conservative shorts and a short sleeved shirt. Carry a camera and evidence bags.

Name Tags

Solveig
Belakovich
(suspect)

Canute
Svendesson
(suspect)

Fu Wei
Dongya
(suspect)

Mutsumi
Yoshita
(suspect)

Yuko
Yoshita
(suspect)

Maralitja
(suspect)

Annie
Richards
(suspect)

Ronald
Perkins
(suspect)

Terone
Jones
(suspect)

Vicki
Omonnanu
(suspect)

Wolfgang
Kupersmidt
(suspect)

Sapphire
(suspect)

Investigators

**Detective Kim
Campbell**
(investigator)

Chris Walsh
(investigator)

Witnesses

Wanda Hill
(witness)

Harry Hughes
(witness)

Derwent Richards
(witness)

“Storm Survivors”

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

Solveig Belakovich

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 First the cyclone, then Lydia die. Things are not good on island.
- 2 On the night of the cyclone, I sleep in back corner next to Annie. I always sleep well, like tree.
- 3 It is not good now electricity gone. It is too hot without air conditioner and doors and windows are shut to keep out the snakes.
- 4 Why was poor little Lydia killed? Lydia was blonde. I am blonde. You think murderer kill blondes? Lydia was Polish. Hopefully the murderer only kills Polish. Then we all safe.
- 5 Vicki – you probably wonder how I can win so many gold medals. It's because I am Russian and Russians are the best gymnasts in the world. And one day we will prove to the world that Russians are superior in every way.

Solveig Belakovich – Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 *(after someone dies, if anyone asks you about heat rub say)* Yes we all use heat rub. But heat rub not a poison. It medicinal.
- 2 Before the cyclone, Ronald started boasting about all the women who were after him for his money. He said Annie had been after him for months and she was really jealous of Lydia because Lydia also fancied him.
- 3 The other athletes are jealous of me because I have won many medals.
- 4 Some of the men have offered to take care of me. But how do I know they're not the murderer?

Solveig Belakovich – Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 When Mr Yoshita's wife isn't around, he complains that she talks to him too much and is always telling him what to do. I also heard that Mutsumi gets angry when people are not what he considers respectful and polite to him and his wife.
- 2 Hopefully we not on island for too much longer. Hope soon boat take us off island. Then we can all be happy again.

“Storm Survivors”

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

Canute Svendesson

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Someone say Lydia didn't die natural. Her skin funny color. Do we know what killed her?
- 2 I didn't sleep that night after all the excitement and adrenalin of the cyclone. I sat on a chair next to where Sapphire sleep. I notice Lydia did not move after the worst of the cyclone was over.
- 3 I am afraid of snakes. I thought it would be better on a bigger island like this one. But now I wish I'd stuck to a little coral cay like Green Island where there would be less snakes.
- 4 Mutsumi – why do you and your wife keep to yourselves so much? Do you think you are better than us? And why do you make sure you have that bag with you all the time?

Canute Svendesson – Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 *(after someone dies)* Let me see. Yes, they're dead. And no marks – just like Lydia – the same odd skin color – very strange. She smells of mint. So did Lydia. Could it have been poisoned toothpaste? No, I remember Vicki told me she used twigs from the Neem tree to clean her teeth – not toothpaste.
- 2 Vicki was a fine athlete. She even beat the Russians and they're not easy to beat in track and field events. I'm lucky table tennis isn't their forte.

Canute Svendesson – Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 I told Solveig she should not spend so much time with Maralitja. I saw him on an Australian nature show on TV during the competition and he was milking a Taipan. So he obviously knows a lot about poisons and he seems attracted to foreign women.
- 2 Maybe this mad person thought it would be a thrill to kill athlete – famous people. I think it could have been Maralitja. He's a pretty weird person. He likes crocodiles. He must be mad.

“Storm Survivors”

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

Fu Wei Dongya

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 They cannot do tests here, so they don't know what Lydia poison is. Maybe it was something she eat. The Japanese people – they always complained about the food here. Now they have reason to complain – nothing to eat but coconuts. I wonder what coconut taste like with soy sauce?
- 2 (*after Canute says about being afraid of snakes say*) Just hit the snakes with table tennis bat. I saw you in the competition and you can paddle that bat about very quickly.
- 3 Vicki – some people use steroids to build up their body but my super strong arms are due to working out, not chemicals. I don't pollute my body with anything unnatural.
- 4 We stuck here. Can't swim away because of stingers and sharks. And nothing to drink but mineral water and soft drinks.

Fu Wei Dongya – Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 *(after someone dies if anyone asks you about heat rub say)* Vicki had a jar of heat rub in her bag. But that common among athletes, especially after international competition.
- 2 Canute decided to sleep in the other room during the cyclone because he'd had an argument with his wife.
- 3 How do we avoid the killer if we don't know **who** to avoid?
- 4 Murderer have no reason. Murderer is stupid.

Fu Wei Dongya – Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

- 1 Before the cyclone hit, when my satellite phone and laptop still worked, I did a few searches on the other people on the island and I found out that Mr and Mrs Yoshita are big names in Japan and Mr Yoshita's father died under suspicious circumstances a few months before their wedding.
- 2 Not good to walk just two alone. Not safe. I hope they catch bad person and take him away. Murderer isn't woman. Women don't kill. Women protect. That's woman's role.

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These are the clues for:

Clue page for the witnesses or investigator

*Print as many copies as you need
of these four pages.*

Staple a copy of their name tag here

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

Staple their clues here.

Act Two

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

Staple their clues here.

Act Three

During this act, you must reveal the following points:

Staple their clues here.

Extra Clues – Act One

Divide these 18 clues amongst the witnesses and investigators:

There was a lot of noise during the cyclone. It was really scary. You could hear the buildings being torn to pieces and the trees crashing.

We were all listening to the radio bulletins during the cyclone, but then they ceased when they said the winds had reached 200 kilometers per hour in Cairns. In American terms, 200 kilometers per hour is 120 miles per hour. That's almost as bad as Cyclone Tracey which flattened Darwin in 1974. I was reading about it in the cyclone preparation booklet. The winds reached 217 kilometers per hour in Darwin.

I did hear Lydia screaming at one point during the cyclone, but I thought she was just scared of the storm. I saw someone go to comfort her, but from the distance I was from her, I couldn't make out who it was. I wish I had better eyesight.

I was scared during the cyclone. I spent the whole time under my pillow. The cyclone was more scary than monsters.

Fu Wei did push ups during the cyclone. It was good for her – made her forget the storm. Feel muscle. Forget storm.

I was busy filming the storm and everyone's reaction to it on video. But Lydia wasn't in my video because I mainly filmed the gym area.

Towards the end of the first onslaught of the cyclone, I heard Lydia cry "Help, we're all going to die".

During the cyclone they kept the connecting door between the gym and the squash court open. They closed the connecting door later to help us sleep.

During the cyclone we had to open and close different windows at different times depending on which way the wind was blowing to stop the pressure building up and taking off the roof.

During the cyclone I went for a bit of a wander into the other room. But I noticed it smelt strange so I left.
