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# Merri Mysteries

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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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*presents...*

## “Storm Survivors”

Meet and mingle version  
for 17 to 30 guests

*by Stephanie Chambers*

Second edition

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## The Suspects

It is October 2004. 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 wife Yuko have matching T-shirts. © copyright Acture Pty Ltd 2004 **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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## 16 witnesses (optional)

**Somerlad Yeltsin** – (F) I'm a Russian gymnastics coach. I'm always pacing up and down the stadium worrying about my gymnasts, and now I'm pacing up and down an island in the middle of nowhere, worrying about my gymnasts. Some of the Aussies like to call me "Summer Love" as a nickname. *Dress suggestions:* Wear pale blue shorts and a white T-shirt.

**Fang Tao** – (M) I'm a Chinese swimming coach. Before I became a coach I won lots of medals in international competitions. I try to be a friendly and supportive coach. *Dress suggestions:* Short black wig. Wear a red and yellow shirt and shorts. Add some major padding where your arm muscles should be. Carry some weights.

**Susan Jackson** – (F) I'm an American TV reporter in Australia to cover the competition. I like to take a very high-tech approach. I have been under a lot of pressure from my bosses back in New York and I'm stressed out because I have deadlines to meet. I need to get on-line fast! Can someone please find me an Internet connection! Where's the manager?! *Dress suggestions:* Light stylish summer clothes (eg linen pants and a silk blouse) and carry a video camera and a notepad.

**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 camera.

**Zvetlana Svendesson** – (F) I'm the wife of Canute and a world famous model. I'm more famous than anyone else on the island, although they have momentarily eclipsed me as the world's focus has been on the competition. *Dress suggestions:* Glamorous beach or tropical attire and very dark sunglasses. Carry a very large bottle of water.

**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.

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**Derwent Richards** – (M) I'm a fabulously wealthy interior 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.

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**Carie Richards** – (F) I'm a fashion designer. Everything has been "super". I just love the sun – pity we're not getting any! Has anyone seen my gold sandals? *Dress suggestions:* Flashy pale purple shirt with tropical print on it and lots of chunky silver jewellery. Shorts. Lots of suntan oil. A very dark fake tan.

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**Larry Tomson** – (M) I'm an Aussie crocodile expert. I run the best crocodile farm in Australia. I was just taking time out to do some snorkeling – swapping crocodiles for sharks you might say. When you spend your life trapping crocs, sharks are child's play. *Dress suggestions:* Khaki shorts and a shirt or board shorts, T-shirt and a towel.

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**Tania Helgart** – (F) I'm a remedial masseuse at the resort. I love working on an island because I can swim and sunbathe in my bikini on my days off. *Dress suggestions:* Well-oiled body, leotards or gym clothes and perhaps with a towel around your neck. Carry aroma therapy oils.

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**Helen Ramsay** – (F) I'm a waitress at the resort. Just let me hold your hand and you'll see how strong I am. Anyone for a relaxing shoulder rub? *Dress suggestions:* White shirt, black skirt.

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**Trevor Douglas** – (M) I'm a barman at the resort. After I saw the movie Cocktail I started to include my love of dancing in my job. *Dress suggestions:* Flowery Hawaiian-type shirt. Add some fake-tanning lotion to make yourself brown.

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**Terry Brown** – (M) I'm a porter and room attendant. The job's a bit heavy or at least the suitcases are but American tourists tip well. *Dress suggestions:* Black trousers and a tropical shirt and a porter's cap.

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**Julie Manie** – (F) I'm a cleaner at the resort. I can make a bed so quickly; I ought to be in the Guinness Book of Records. *Dress suggestions:* Wear a uniform. Have cleaning rags still hanging out of the pockets. Carry a feather duster.

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**Frank White** – (M) I'm a gardener at the resort. I'm a palm specialist. The cyclone has ruined all my beautiful work. It'll take years to get it back the way it was. I'm going to start as soon as I get my rake down from the top of that palm tree. *Dress suggestions:* Drape yourself in cuttings from various plants as if you have just emerged from the bushes. Khaki clothes with maybe a spade in hand.

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**Stacey Clownfish** – (M or F) I love scuba diving. I love the fish, so I spend all my holidays underwater on tropical islands like this one. Just ask me to name any fish and I will. *Dress suggestions:* Wear scuba diving gear (snorkel and goggles) and carry a book about fish or pictures of fish.

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## 3 investigators (optional)

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### *Investigator already on the island before the cyclone*

**Gildas Mitterand** – (M) I'm a French policeman. I've been on the island with my wife for a second honeymoon. I am very particular about details and I'm famous for my detective abilities back in France. They will be very happy to have my expert help here. I will solve the murder! *Dress suggestions:* Conservative shorts and a short sleeved shirt. Carry a camera.

### *Investigators that have only just arrived on the island*

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**Mike Toogood** – (M) I'm a reporter from the local paper in Cairns. A murder is really big news in a small city like this. This is the biggest story of my life. Much bigger than any cyclone! *Dress suggestions:* Carry a notepad and a camera.

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**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. Don't worry I'll soon get to the bottom of this. Will everyone please have their bags ready for inspection please. *Dress suggestions:* Conservative shorts and a short sleeved shirt. Carry a camera and evidence bags.

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## 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***

**Gildas Mitterand**

**Mike Toogood**

**Chris Walsh**

***Witnesses***

**Somerlad Yeltsin**

**Fang Tao**

**Susan Jackson**

**Wanda Hill**

Zvetlana Svendesson

Harry Hughes

Derwent Richards

Carie Richards

Larry Tomson

Tania Helgart

Helen Ramsay

Trevor Douglas

Terry Brown

Julie Manie

Frank White

Stacey Clownfish

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

**“Storm Survivors”**

*by Stephanie Chambers*

*These are the:*

*Clues*

Merri Mysteries presents...

## “Storm Survivors”

*Clue page for the witnesses or investigators*

*Print as many copies as you need.*

*Staple a copy of their name tag here*

### What I can reveal

*Staple their clue(s) for stage one of the party here*

### Clues for after the second murder:

(you will receive these clue(s) later during the party)

*Staple their clue(s) for stage two of the party here*

### What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just the suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.

*Storm Survivors*

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Merri Mysteries presents...

## “Storm Survivors”

# Solveig Belakovich

### What I can reveal

First the cyclone, then Lydia die. Things are not good on island.

On the night of the night of the cyclone, I sleep in back corner next to Annie. I always sleep well, like tree.

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.

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.

Some of the men have offered to take care of me. But how do I know they're not the murderer?

Hopefully we not on island for too much longer. Hope soon boat come take us off island. Then we can all be happy again.

### What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 Say to everyone, “The other athletes are jealous of me because I have won many medals.”
- 3 Say to 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.”

*Storm Survivors*

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*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **“Storm Survivors”**

### *Canute Svendesson*

#### **What I can reveal**

Someone say Lydia didn't die natural. Her skin funny color. Do we know what killed her?

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.

Maybe this mad person thought it would be a thrill to kill an athlete – a famous person. I think it could have been Maralitja. He's a pretty weird person. He likes crocodiles. He must be mad.

#### **What I need to do**

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 Say to Fu Wei, “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.”
- 3 Say to 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?”

*Merri Mysteries presents...*

## **“Storm Survivors”**

### *Fu Wei Dongya*

#### **What I can reveal**

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?

How do we avoid the killer if we don't know **who** to avoid?

Murderer have no reason. Murderer is stupid.

We stuck here. Can't swim away because of stingers and sharks. And nothing to drink but mineral water and soft drinks.

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.

#### **What I need to do**

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just other suspects & tell them what you know & find out what they know.
- 2 If Canute says to you about 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 Say to 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.”

## Clues for the first stage of the party

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*Divide these 38 clues amongst the witnesses and authorities:*

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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.

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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.

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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.

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

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

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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.

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

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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.

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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.

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I will shoot whoever murdered the little Polish girl. I am a good shooter.

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