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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents . . .

“The Search For The Truth”

Meet and mingle version
for 17 to 30 guests

(Christian “murder mystery” version)

by Stephanie Chambers

First edition

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The Suspects

A large group is attending a Christian camp. The theme for the weekend is to find the truth. As the weekend progresses the participants find that they are not only on a search for their own personal truth, but also the truth in relation to a crime they didn't think could ever happen – the murder of camp leader, Peter Stein. Peter was a hard-working 56-year-old man who was said to look like “a stern garden gnome”. He was a Vietnam vet and retired Lt. Col. in the US Army. His favorite food was Haggen Daaz ice cream and he never turned down dessert. He had a wife who helped run the camp, two grown children and four grandchildren. He was a counselor for the police department. He had a Masters in counseling, although some people found his counseling style a bit dictatorial.

Kevin Spicer – I'm mad about heavy metal music. I played piano for 11 years but now I prefer to play bass guitar. I received a scholarship recently to do computer science at university. I like chick flicks but never get to see them because I don't have a girlfriend and I'm too embarrassed to go on my own. I hate Tim Allen movies. I was in a car wreck last year that totaled my friend's car. I drive a big red Buick, work at sorting parcels, and still live with my mom. *Dress suggestions:* Black clothes and glasses. Carry a heavy metal CD.

Pamela Marras – I am so sweet – everybody says so. I have a beautiful laugh that is contagious, but too loud sometimes, people tell me. Guys are mad about me and I'm mad about Latin and Psychology (both of which I am studying). I have played in the sea a little bit but I don't know how to swim so I don't go swimming. I wear contact lenses. I've vacationed out of the country to places like Trinidad and Bermuda. I'm vegetarian. I like karate movies and I hate people telling me what I should or shouldn't do. *Dress suggestions:* Pretty feminine clothes. Carry a book on Latin. Flirt and laugh a lot.

Kennie Rosie – I love any movies by Monty Python especially “The Search For The Holy Grail”). I'm a drummer and play the guitar pretty well too. I've written a few songs including “My Two String Guitar” which everybody knows and likes. I love basketball and work at a grocery store. I have a girl for a best friend (Kitty Raymond) and a girlfriend (Renata Beavis). I'm a great skateboarder and a pretty good snowboarder too. I can always make people laugh so I'm good fun to have around. My ambition is to be a radio broadcaster or an actor, because I can do great English and Australian accents. *Dress suggestions:* Carry a guitar. Quote bits from “The Search for the Holy Grail”. Speak with an accent.

Eleanor Hoskins – I am fluent in sign language as both my parents are deaf. I spent last Christmas on a cruise in the Bahamas. I wear braces and I can eat more than anyone else but I never put on weight. Everyone teases me about my appetite. They tell me I'm eating all their supplies but I don't think they're serious. My hair is red right now but I change the color every month or so. I'm mad about a guy named Tyler, but that might change next week. I'm a student and I work at a copy shop part time. I've taken 3 years of German but still struggle with it. I will be attending an elite art school in San Francisco next year. I like to wear clothes that show my flat tummy. At night I go to sleep cuddling my teddy bear. *Dress suggestions:* Wear arty clothes that show your tummy. Color your hair (with a temporary overnight color). Carry a teddy bear. Carry a German translation book and speak a few words of German.

Damien Hoskins – I'm Eleanor's brother. I still live at home with my parents. Like my sister, I am also fluent in sign language. I love country music. I also went on the cruise with my parents. I have a dog and a cat (the cat is also deaf). I always wear a baseball cap, even to bed. The only time I don't wear it is in the shower. I'm really fit because I walk about two miles every day and play football, basketball and do wrestling. *Dress suggestions:* Sports clothes and a baseball cap. Carry a football or basketball.

Renata Beavis – Some people think I'm a bit fanatical because I carry a toothbrush and mouth wash with me wherever I go. I make lists for everything, keeping track of every food group I eat during the day on a chart, which I keep in my purse. I always match the color of my top with my socks. I'm an avid scrapbooker so I'm always taking photos. I'm Kennie's girlfriend and I have a little white Maltese dog named Angelo, but they call him “Angel”, because he is one. *Dress suggestions:* Carry toothbrush and mouthwash and a notebook and pen. Wear green socks that match your green top and wear green nail polish.

Kitty Raymond – I'm a gymnast. I no longer compete but I am still as limber as ever. If you notice my lisp, I would prefer you not to mention it. I like to have something in my mouth to chew on. The guys don't seem to like me very much. My socks never match. I think it's a waste of time to worry about that. My parents are always off traveling somewhere. I've been to every state in the Union but Alaska and also traveled to Germany, Italy, England, and France. I don't eat breakfast, and some people think I'm a bit ditz. I wear contacts and when I spend the night somewhere without having my contact solution, I sleep with my contacts in my mouth. I swallowed them once. *Dress suggestions:* Wear mismatched gymnastic type clothes with odd socks. Chew gum, speak with a lisp and behave a bit ditz.

Theresa MacGregor – I am a teenager and I'm in love with a 21 year old named John Mark Harrison and have been for at least a year (he used to go to our Church but moved to Wisconsin). I've never been kissed by a boy and I like to mother everyone, even my own mother. I play the violin, am very ticklish and I'm very good at saving money. I have a purple and green bedroom; I'm great at foos ball, love the Green Bay Packers and talk very loudly when I'm excited. I love any movie from Saturday Night Live (eg "Wayne's World" etc.) and simply adore the actor Heath Ledger from "The Patriot". I love the ocean. In fact I love almost everything except my big feet! *Dress suggestions:* Wear purple clothes, big shoes and a long blond wig. Carry a violin.

Langley Weaver – I am a student. I play electric guitar (in a band with Kennie and Kevin), and am gaga over Donna Glover! I drive a black Cougar and I'm VERY protective of Donna. I'll do anything she wants. I sing back up in the band and I have a little brother. Though I like heavy bands, I'm usually very mellow. I've just started working at a grocery store on weekends. It's not much fun but it helps to pay my student fees. *Dress suggestions:* Modern clothes with glasses and bleached hair.

Donna Glover – I'm a student and I'm gaga over my boyfriend Langley. I'm teaching myself how to play the piano and I work at a department store. I adore short shirts and hipsters but my parents won't let me wear them. With my blonde hair everybody says I look like Britney Spears. I know a lot about horses. I plan to be a vet and I don't intend to have any kids. I prefer animals. I love anything that's pink. My whole room is pink. I also sing in a choir. They tell me I have a lovely singing voice. I pretend to be ditzy (but I'm really not). Eleanor Hoskins is my best friend in the world. *Dress suggestions:* Pink clothes and a blond wig. Sing a little.

Rose Willis – I'm a youth leader and I also work as a draftsman for an architecture firm. I'm getting married this fall to Keld who I adore. I just started learning the guitar so we can sing songs at camp, but I'm not particularly good at it. I don't like girls who giggle all the time and just chase boys. Some people say I'm spunky but that's not important to me. What is important is honesty and staying close to people you love. I drive an old silver/gray Honda. I'm sort of a tomboy, with one niece and one nephew. *Dress suggestions:* Plain non-feminine trousers and shirt. Carry a guitar.

Keld Henderson – I work as a draftsman for an electrical firm. I'm getting married this fall to Rose, which is very exciting. I'm usually quiet except when in a competition of some sort. They say I'm very competitive. I love to ride jet skis. I really want one! I drive a little white truck and love anything that has to do with the "Indiana Jones" series, whether it is the movies or the TV show. *Dress suggestions:* Modern clothes. Carry an Indiana Jones video.

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Optional (but recommended) Investigator

Detective Sam Cummings – a police officer. I knew Peter from the police station. But we weren't friends. *Dress suggestions:* Mock police uniform.

Optional Witnesses

Optional extra characters:

Narda Spencer – I am a student. I have two little sisters who I baby-sit, and I baby-sit for other people as well. I love children and plan to have lots one day and live in a house near to my parents. I am one of Theresa's best friends. I play basketball and have a boyfriend named Michael that I have known almost my entire life. He lives next door to me. Some people think I'm a little dull and boring. *Dress suggestions:* Basketball clothes or plain clothes. Carry a basketball and a picture of a boy (Michael) in your wallet.

Roland O'Connor – I am a student. I've had the same girlfriend since 5th grade. I love watching TV with friends in my room. Sometimes I baby-sit my little brother. I think Church is boring but I like listening to the band play (the youth worship band which is Kennie, Langley and others). I eat whatever I can get my hands on – I'm not fussy. I like computer games, and playing in the snow. *Dress suggestions:* Carry a small computer game, add extra freckles and wear a green coat.

Paul Mitters – I'm a freelance journalist and I love computers. I want to be a pastor who works as a computer programmer. Money is not the most important thing in my life. I drive a little old silver Honda Accord and have a girlfriend named Jerilyn. I'm mad about Karate movies and I started learning Karate a year ago. I'm extremely fluent in Spanish. I like to bleach my hair and usually take things just a bit too seriously. I love talking to people. *Dress suggestions:* Neat and tidy shirt, trousers and tie. Carry a Karate video.

Jerilyn Waters – If you think I look Hispanic, it's because my father is half Mexican. I have a boyfriend called Paul and I drive a little white compact car. Although I am pretty small, I'm strong, and that's because I'm into weight lifting. I am always in a good mood and love my job in a department store. I am very patient with young children and old people. *Dress suggestions:* Modern or Mexican clothes. Carry an exercise weight.

Jerome Pritchard – I work at an import/export company. I was in a car wreck last year that totaled my car (not the same car wreck as Kevin). I sing really well especially when doing karaoke. I love tunes from the 80's. I wear glasses and I like to be nice to people. I love anything that has to do with swords. In fact I have a collection of swords. Once I dropped my highlander sword on my foot and cut it. I like computer games. *Dress suggestions:* A black trench coat and glasses. Carry a sword (cardboard).

Frank Balley – I'm a youth leader. I play the guitar and harmonica. I have loads of great Hollywood impressions and can make people laugh. I'm married to Mary and have two little boys called Freddie and Billie. I have new job in another part of the country so my family and I will be leaving town soon. *Dress suggestions:* Conservative clothes. Carry a guitar or harmonica.

Colin Tilbury – I am a student who enjoys fire and talking to the women at youth group. I am on the debating team at university and I'm a pretty good talker. Some people think I'm a nerd but that's because they don't really know me. I'm incredibly smart and love rap music. *Dress suggestions:* Modern clothes. Wear glasses, carry a book on debating and talk a lot on boring subjects.

Marco Garbellini – I am a student. My family has just moved here from Italy. People tell me that I will be a preacher one day. I guess that's because I have the vocabulary of an extremely educated 30 year old. I'm told I'm quite a catch and I get enough attention from girls to prove it. I have one sister and many foster sisters. *Dress suggestions:* Modern clothes. Carry a dictionary, speak with an Italian accent and flirt a little with the women.

Tiffany Garbellini – I'm a student and a cheerleader. I've got plenty of energy and jump around a lot. I'm very affectionate, friendly and outgoing. I've just moved here from Italy and I love it here except the pizzas aren't the same as at home. I like to hug people and I'm always looking out for the under dog. *Dress suggestions:* Modern clothes or a cheerleader outfit. Chat to everyone with an Italian accent.

Aria Lindsey – I'm an energetic person who likes to wrestle... and win. People say I'm a little loud sometimes. I think one of the guys at this camp likes me, but is just too shy to show it. I never miss Church. I love singing hymns. *Dress suggestions:* Gym gear. Talk loudly and hum or sing a little.

Francine Castle – People tell me I'm pretty cute. Maybe it's because I giggle a lot and I've got a great smile. I go to Church sometimes with friends and always help out at fundraisers for the Church. I love flowers and pretty clothes. *Dress suggestions:* Feminine frilly clothes with a bow in your hair. Laugh a lot.

Emma Plummer – I’m pretty athletic and can take most guys to court in a good game of hoops. I love any sport. I admit I like men a bit too much but I don’t really want a boyfriend right now. They tell me I have a beautiful smile so I smile a lot. *Dress suggestions:* Sporting clothes. Carry a basketball and/or a sporting trophy.

Greta Bayliss – I like classical music like Mozart and Bach. I play the organ at Church and I’m usually very quiet and serious. I have an older brother who’s married with five children but I’ve never been married. I wear glasses and don’t smile very much, but that doesn’t mean I’m grumpy. I just take life seriously, that’s all. *Dress suggestions:* Plain conservative clothes and glasses. Carry a classical music CD.

Quinn Lamont – I am an artist. I make collages from magazines and newspapers. I have had several exhibitions of my work and so have to go to art galleries and be interviewed but as I’m pretty shy, I don’t enjoy it very much. *Dress suggestions:* Plain but paint splattered clothes.

Poppy Taylor – I recently hurt my ankle jogging and was on crutches for a couple weeks. I love staying up late but then I’m too tired to go to work. However I always get to Church on time. I have lots of pets and two sisters and love eating Sunday dinner with my family. *Dress suggestions:* Jogging clothes with a bandaged ankle.

Cliff Romano – I’m a youth pastor. I was a professional clown/magician for 10 years. I love football and I love to play the piano, but haven’t had lessons in years so I’m a bit rusty. I take my badminton game very seriously and I can’t go a day without chocolate. I used to teach karate and love any karate film, especially anything with Bruce Lee or Jackie Chan. *Dress suggestions:* Sporting clothes. Carry a Karate video and have chocolate bars in your pockets.

Belinda Romano – I’m married to a youth pastor. I love to play piano and sing. I don’t like candy but love chocolate. I can’t drink alcohol (it makes me ill). I collect American Flags and American Flag memorabilia and I like the rustic look in furniture. I think Gene Kelly was a genius on the big screen and always wished I could have met him in person (he died 2-2-96). I have most of his movies on video. Chicago is my favorite big city. I like romantic books and movies. I prefer comedy above all other movie genres. *Dress suggestions:* Modern clothes. Carry a box of chocolates and/or a Gene Kelly video.

The Suspects

| |
|--|
| <p>Kevin Spicer (suspect)</p> |
| <p>Pamela Marras (suspect)</p> |

Kennie
Rosie
(suspect)

Eleanor
Hoskins
(suspect)

Damien
Hoskins
(suspect)

Renata
Beavis
(suspect)

Kitty
Raymond
(suspect)

Theresa
MacGregor
(suspect)

Langley
Weaver
(suspect)

Donna
Glover
(suspect)

Rose
Willis
(suspect)

Keld
Henderson
(suspect)

Investigator

Detective Sam
Cummings

Witnesses

Paul Mitters

Jerilyn Waters

Jerome Pritchard

Frank Balley

Colin Tilbury

Marco Garbellini

Tiffany Garbellini

Aria Lindsey

Francine Castle

Emma Plummer

Greta Bayliss

Quinn Lamont

Poppy Taylor

Cliff Romano

Belinda Romano

Narda Spencer

Roland O'Connor

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“The Search For The Truth”

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the:

Clues

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“The Search For The Truth”

Clue page for the witnesses or investigator

Print as many copies as you need.

Staple a copy of their name tag here

What I know

Staple their clues here

What I need to do

- 1 Talk to everyone, not just the suspects and tell them what you know and find out what they know. Look at *The Suspects* pages.

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“The Search For The Truth”

Kevin Spicer

What I can reveal

I saw Peter at Church. And last week I saw him with his family at the ice cream parlor. He told me pralines 'n' cream was his favorite. I noticed he had a much bigger ice cream than anyone else in his family.

I can't remember Peter speaking to me personally at the camp. But he was always barking orders to everyone. I think the only “camps” he'd ever been on were “boot-camps” in the army so he had no idea how to run the camp as a “fun event”. He ran it like “boot-camp” and it wrecked the whole camp for everyone.

Peter's speech on Friday night didn't worry me. I just thought he'd gone bananas and ignored it.

I was a bit depressed last night so I went for a drive. Driving out in my beautiful Buick and having my stereo playing full blast always makes me feel better.

I got on okay with Peter, but I think he was jealous of my car. His wife wouldn't let him have a red car. She thinks it's too bright for an old man to drive. Maybe he was going through a mid-life crisis and that's why he gave that stupid speech.

A few people were disgruntled about Peter's speech on Friday night. I heard a few people say they weren't sure whether he was joking or not. But what is worrying me is whether we might all have been poisoned? How do we know it just hasn't taken effect yet? Shouldn't we all be going to have our stomach's pumped or something? (*see next page*)

Kevin Spicer Page 2

If someone asks you...

- 1 (*when you got up this morning, say*) I got up this morning at around 7:30. The birds were still singing and people were snoring.
- 2 (*what you did this morning before breakfast, say*) I sat in the dining area of the men's cabin and played computer games on my laptop. Peter talked to Kennie and me for a bit. Then Peter went outside. I think I heard him talking to someone.
- 3 (*where you sat at breakfast, say*) I sat at the end of the table next to Donna at breakfast. Langley was opposite me.

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“The Search For The Truth”

Pamela Marras

What I can reveal

Peter lives near me so I see him quite a bit. Recently I saw him at Church and at the local store. He was buying binoculars so he could spy on his neighbors.

Peter said to me on the camp: “I will have to teach you how to swim when we get back. Just because you wear contact lenses doesn’t mean you should shirk from things like swimming. And what’s this about counseling victims rather than the criminals when you become a psychologist? The criminals are the real ones who need psychological help. Believe me, I know. I work with them.”

Peter’s speech on Friday night didn’t worry me. I’ve never liked what he’s said about anything, so I just ignored it.

Some people have been giving Peter the cold shoulder on this camp. Actually it’s been more like a freezer, than just refrigerator-type “coldness”.

I get on okay with Peter. I just hope Peter’s death wasn’t like Agatha Christie’s “Sparkling Cyanide” where the wrong person was killed because people were sitting at the wrong spot at the table. In that case, the murderer may try again to kill the person they really want to kill. I’m not sure that I want to stay here. Can we go home now if we want to?

I haven’t seen any strangers near the cabins, but you never know. Thieves can be quick and so can murderers I guess. (*see next page*)

Pamela Marras Page 2

If someone asks you...

- 1 (*when you got up this morning, say*) I got up this morning at six. I couldn’t sleep. I’m not used to sharing a room with other people.
- 2 (*what you did this morning before breakfast, say*) I sat in the girl’s dining room and read my book till the others got up. I have to read certain books for the literature course I’m doing.
- 3 (*where you sat at breakfast, say*) I sat between Damien and Peter at breakfast. Kennie sat opposite me.

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“The Search For The Truth”

Kennie Rosie

What I can reveal

I saw Peter at Church and I also saw him last weekend at the movies. He was there with his wife and they'd just seen “Meet the Parents”. I was going to see “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”.

Peter told me that he'd chosen a really good video for the camp. When he told me what he'd chosen, I almost died in horror. It was the kind of movie six year olds watch. It was about birds or something. Fortunately, he and his wife left us and went to bed after the first fifteen minutes, so I was able to swap it for a murder mystery video that I had in my bag because I was going to return it on the way home.

I thought Peter had gone a bit off his rocker with his speech. Fancy telling people not to watch Monty Python movies or to play in rock bands. I was a bit irritated. I don't see why we have to give up things like listening to rock music. It isn't fair. I thought Peter needed to chill out – badly.

I got on pretty well with Peter as long as we didn't talk about movies.

Peter wasn't someone I thought would ever be murdered. I thought that everyone would just not let him run any more camps. At breakfast I ate fruit loops just like Peter did. How do I know, as Kevin said, that I wasn't also poisoned and it just hasn't hit me yet?

(see next page)

Kenny Rosie Page 2

If someone asks you...

- 1 *(after Kitty says you threatened Peter, say)* I always try and look on the bright side of life, but having a ‘friend’ like you Kitty, saying that I threatened Peter, makes it hard. How could you say such a thing? I'm a pacifist Kitty – you know that. You're a betrayer Kitty. You're just as bad as Judas.
- 2 *(say the rest of these points in response to what Renata says to you)* Beside's me.

Now steady on Renata. He worked at the Police Department as a counselor. Maybe it was some criminal gone a bit crazy.

Maybe they slipped in and out without being noticed.

What have you noticed that's so strange?

Sounds like pretty normal behavior if you ask me. In fact, the only person behaving strangely was Peter himself. Do you think he meant what he said about giving up karate and chocolate?

Here, have a cry on my shoulder Renata. You'll feel better for it.

- 3 *(when you got up this morning, say)* I rocked out of bed this morning at eight. I'm always energetic in the morning.
- 4 *(what you did this morning before breakfast, say)* I cleaned my teeth and had a shower. I talked to Kevin in the men's dining room. Then it was time for breakfast.
- 5 *(where you sat at breakfast, say)* Renata sat on one side of me at breakfast and Kitty sat on the other. Pamela sat opposite me, but I didn't really talk to her.

Merri Mysteries
presents...

“The Search For The Truth”

by Stephanie Chambers

These are the clues for:

*Extra clues to
divide up
amongst the
witnesses and
investigators*

Divide these 64 extra clues up amongst the witnesses and investigators. If you don't have many of these, you may like to also share them with the suspects.

I heard lots of the people at the camp lost respect for Peter because they felt he was being too bossy.

Some people at the camp thought Peter wasn't the angel or the quiet gnome he pretended to be.

Maybe it was a delayed poison that one of Peter's police clients gave him for some crazy reason.

Peter kept complaining that the music was too loud. He kept telling people to turn it down. He made everyone feel uncomfortable. People were getting grumpy about it.

Peter told Kennie that if he found any of his “Monty Python” videos at camp he would burn them. He said they were morally bad for anyone to watch.

Maybe someone wants Peter's job as a police Counselor. These days people are so ambitious they would probably kill just to get a job. I wonder who is next in line for his job?

Peter's wife thought he was right in trying to ban modern music and brutal competitive sports.

Lots of the people at the camp were annoyed with Renata because she was taking photos of everyone while they were asleep.

Donna said Peter was too old to be running a camp and that she was going to make sure he didn't run any more.

I saw Kennie looking through Peter's diary that he left on the kitchen table when he came on Friday night. I wonder if he looked at Peter's diary and saw the diary reminder to have his parents destroy his Monty Python video collection.
