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Party games for 8 to 100 guests

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presents...

“Party Escape”

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".

For further details on **Merri Mysteries** or to order another mystery dinner party kit, see www.merrimysteries.com.

See the host's guide for further details on the copyright requirements for this kit.

The Suspects

Is your worst nightmare being at a party that you want to escape, but can't? Hopefully this won't happen at this party if you are clever and a little lucky. If you're game, come along and enjoy the challenge.

Your host has invited quite an assortment of people including:

Enigma – I am famous for my bizarre song lyrics, wild stage antics and the spontaneous and sometimes outrageous street performances I often hold. My mother still calls me Tanner, but no one else does. And it's not worth having a last name if it's as boring as Brown. **Dress suggestions:** Bring an instrument of some kind. Wear a hat you have decorated to make bizarre.

K-Ching – my nickname reflects my obsession with starting businesses that make money from people's small change – but lots of it. My legal name is Harper Harris. My entrepreneurial empire is the business equivalent of penny stocks. **Dress suggestions:** Wear business clothes and a formal hat.

Dr. Ward – although I sometimes commit people to a psych ward, most of my clients are part of the elite and don't require that sort of treatment. Or they manage to avoid it. It's stressful dealing with multi-millions and all the decisions and baggage that come along with it. **Dress suggestions:** Wear business clothes and a formal hat. Bring a Rorschach inkblot.

Gabby – I've always been told I have the gift of the gab, hence my nickname. Believe me - you need it as a social column writer. I know everyone here, but even so, I certainly didn't expect this. My real name is Kerry Chappell. **Dress suggestions:** Wear stylish party clothes and a stylish hat. Bring a notepad and pen.

DoorMuse – I'm an artist. My specialty is doing customized murals on doors – large and small. I love creating a surprise for my client – generally on the inside of cabinet doors or on the narrow edge of full sized doors. I'm hoping this party will help me get some new clients. My business name is the only name I go by these days although my real name is Terry Door. **Dress suggestions:** Wear old clothes splattered with paints or very artistic clothes. Carry an artist's palette or paint an old hat so it looks like one or wear a beret. If you want, add some artistic fake tattoos.

Sol – everyone calls me Sol because in my early days I was known for my work with solvents. I'm an industrial chemist by trade, although now I'm more of a business owner. I have plants in a number of countries. My formal name is Spencer Wilds. **Dress suggestions:** Wear business clothes or a white lab coat, safety goggles and a formal hat. If available, carry a test tube.

Loopi – back in the days when I was a barrister, I was given this nickname because I was often able to find legal loopholes to help my clients out of their dilemmas. But nowadays I'm a politician – on the right side of the equation – of course. I campaign under my real name, which is Whitney Moore. **Dress suggestions:** Wear business clothes and a formal hat. Carry a small "Vote for Whitney Moore" sign or badge.

Avatar – all my gaming buddies call me this; because they say I keep changing my personality to suit whatever character I'm currently playing in whatever game is hot. My real name is Bailey Jones. I don't know why I've been invited. You guys are all ancient compared to me. I'm still at high school. Maybe it's another joke my gaming buddies are playing on me. **Dress suggestions:** Wear a t-shirt and jeans and a backwards sun visor. Bring a joystick (optional). If you want, add some fake tattoos.



Optional witnesses

Billie – I’m an architect. I design tiny houses or tiny condos. I met our host recently at a party. **Dress suggestions:** Wear creative clothes and a creative hat. Carry a tape measure and some paint samples.

Tarran – I teach people how to ride horses in a way that the horse also enjoys. I also taught our host how to ride and our discussions in the saddle led to our becoming friends. **Dress suggestions:** Wear jodhpurs, a riding hat and carry a riding crop or any other horse gear you can find. Show everyone pictures of your horses on your phone.

Harley – I don’t ride motorcycles. I’m actually shoemaker – a very down to earth profession (excuse the pun). Our host bought some shoes from me and we became friends. **Dress suggestions:** Wear creative clothing, a creative hat and good shoes and carry a shoe you are very proud of making.

Leighton – I run a small plant nursery. We only sell mini pots of small succulents and tiny cactuses. I went to school with our host – we go way back. **Dress suggestions:** Wear gardening clothes and a sun hat and bring a tiny pot plant with you.

Mallory – I’m a tour guide. But unlike other tour guides that focus on history, I take people into the forest and describe the plants and let them bathe in their healing glory. I met our host on a long hike I did. **Dress suggestions:** Wear green or brown clothes and wear a hat made from some leaves so you look as if you just stepped out of the trees. Wear hiking boots.

Niko – I’m a DJ at a trendy bar downtown. And I sell my mix tapes legally online, but I don’t make much from them. So I also work as a sound engineer at a large theater. I met our host on a train. **Dress suggestions:** Wear trendy clothes and a trendy hat. Carry some flash drives with your mix tapes on them and try and sell them at the party.

Sage – I teach aerial yoga classes. I love spending most of my day upside down. I met our host through a mutual friend. **Dress suggestions:** Wear yoga clothes. Write an Om symbol on an old sun visor and wear it. Carry some yoga blocks and straps.

Storm – I know this may seem strange given my name, but I’m actually very placid and easygoing. I run camps for kids. I met our host years ago at an outdoor event. **Dress suggestions:** Wear brightly colored clothes and a fun hat. Carry some kids games or a magic trick. Or use some string to make a cat’s cradle.

Name Tags

Enigma
(suspect)

K-Ching
(suspect)

Dr. Ward
(suspect)

Gabby
(suspect)

DoorMuse
(suspect)

Sol
(suspect)

Loopi
(suspect)

Avatar
(suspect)

Witnesses

Billie
(witness)

Tarran
(witness)

Harley
(witness)

Leighton
(witness)

Mallory
(witness)

Niko
(witness)

Sage
(witness)

Storm
(witness)

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The Play

Party Escape - 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 witnesses take a turn to say the line. If there are no optional witnesses, 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 8 “Anyone” clues and write their character’s name next to each one.*

HOST: Read out the Rules (see the last page of the Host Guide).

Improvise a bit of mass panic once you know you are in this situation.

Enigma: Which of you is the weirdo that’s set all this up? Are you getting a sick thrill from watching all of us freak out? Once my fans find out about this, you will regret this.

Dr Ward: Sick people are often clever and pretend to be the victim. Some of your songs have always made me wonder about your psychological profile Enigma. And your name itself certainly hints that you are behind all this. Why it’s the name of the encryption machine used by the Nazis in WW2. And a stunt like this would bring you even more fans no doubt.

Sol: And it would bring you more clients too Dr Ward. Keep calm everyone. Don’t panic. We’ll get out of this. Being a chemist, I’ve always been pretty good at mathematics problems. So bring on the puzzles.

Avatar: People who are good at solving them are also usually good at creating them too. And you’d certainly be the one most likely to have access to poisons and lethal gases. Or maybe this is revenge by someone for the environmental pollution your factories cause? I’m just a kid so obviously I haven’t got the money to buy sensors for the windows and doors.

Gabby: That’s not what I heard. You go to school with the children of people I know and they told me you won an eSports pro-gaming competition recently. You certainly have more technical skills that I do.

DoorMuse: Yes, but you know everybody and some of your contacts have helped you to get the equipment. I’m just a struggling artist and a Luddite as well.

Loopi: Yes but your partner is a really well paid programmer. You told me that when you were painting the cabinet doors in my condo. But I suppose it could have also been K-Ching as entrepreneurs are often really up on technology.

K-Ching: A happening like this – it’s probably something DoorMuse would call “performance art”. You’re probably already secretly shooting a viral video of us. Or maybe you and Loopi are in cahoots on this? More press means more wealthy clients for you and more votes for Loopi.

Anyone: Enough with the accusations. Does anyone have an idea as to how to get out of here alive? What do you think this letter stuck to the back of my drink coaster means? Does anyone else have a letter on their drink coaster? Let’s put them together and see if that provides a clue.

Anyone HINT: You must use all eight letters, although pluralizing it is OK even though the plural of it might not be considered an acceptable word in Scrabble – so just work out the 7 letter word and add the “s”.

(after everyone has decided on the word the letters form):

Look it spells

_____.

What does that mean? The dictionary says it means, “*something unwanted or unpleasant is about to happen soon and causing worry.*” It must be the plural of that.

Anyone: And who had time alone in the room and could have put these letters under our drink coasters?

Anyone: We all did because at the beginning of the party we all gathered in the kitchen, but our host told us to look at the dining room on our way there.

Anyone: There are some library books (or printouts from them) over there. And our host(s) told me they aren’t theirs, so the planner of all this must have brought them here. Which book would be likely to have a word like _____ in it?

Anyone *(after the word is found in the chapter headings of one of the books):*

Well that confirms we were correct with the word we formed with the letters. But where do we go to from here?

Anyone *(except Gabby)*

Well that chapter begins “*Call me Ishmael*” and it talks about how he finds going on a ship takes away his depression. One meaning of Ishmael is “*social outcast*”. None of us fit that mold do we? In a sense it is the opposite of what Gabby is all about.

Anyone *(except Loopi):*

Loopi quoted Moby Dick in one recent political speech:

“There is a wisdom that is woe; but there is a woe that is madness.”

We certainly aren’t having a whale of a time. Sorry for the pun. Maybe taking a short break will help us work it all out.