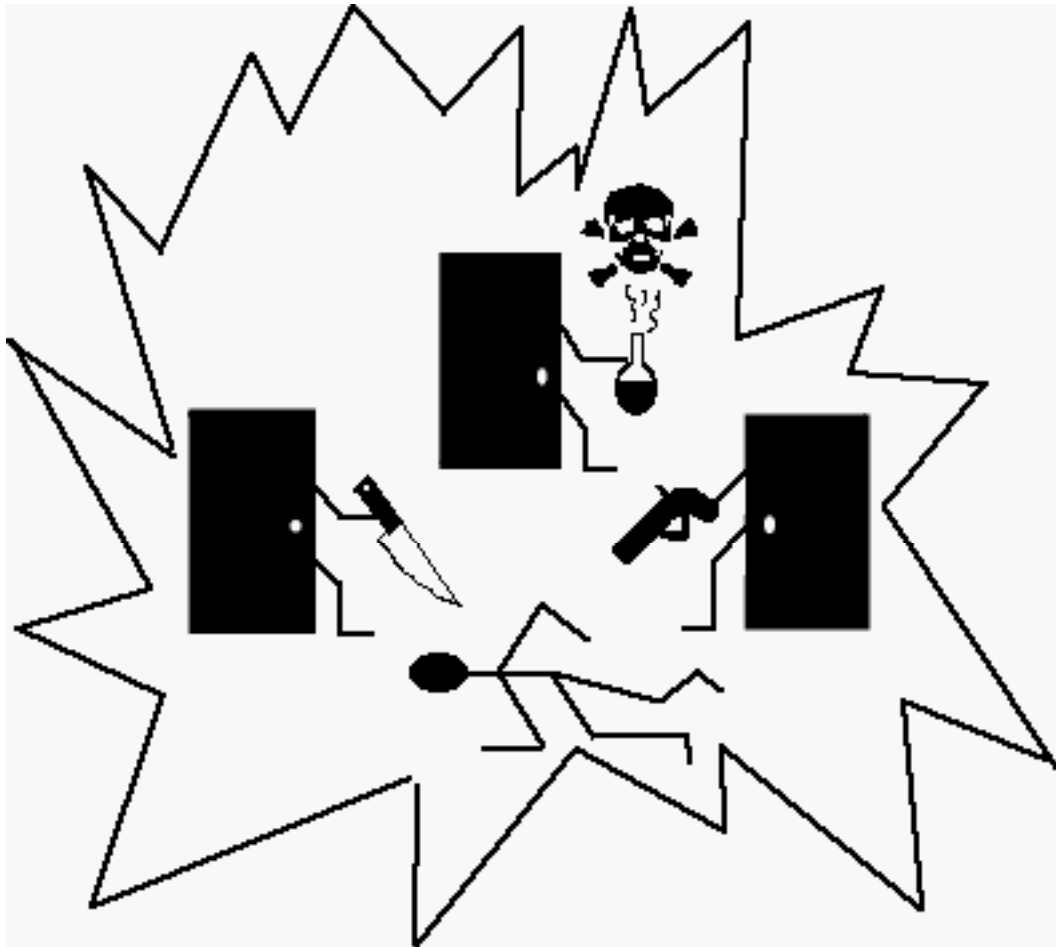


BEDLAM IN CABIN B

A Murder Mystery for Dinner Theater



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By

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

BEDLUM IN CABIN B - (iii)

BARBIE DUHL: The Event Coordinator. She has a great reputation for putting on perfectly coordinated events without a hitch. She is dynamic, efficient, organized... and a notorious snoop. Because she organizes and attends so many different functions, she is able to get a lot of dirt on a lot of people. Then, being the oh-so industrious entrepreneur, she blackmails them, forcing them to work for her as her “Party People” for little or no pay.

CAPTAIN STUBBY: The Captain. Loves sailing, loves parties, and loves Catrina. Wants her to become his First Mate of Love. Barbie has the hots for the Captain and resents his overtures to Catrina. He in turn resents her overtures towards him. A superstitious man who claims otherwise, he is often heard shouting “Last Cruise to Chaos” and is constantly on guard against the ghost he is sure inhabits the ship.

CRAZY VJ DJ: The DJ. Big, outgoing, enthusiastic personality and believer in voodoo. Unfortunately, he’s not very good at the whole voodoo concept, as he learned it all from “Voodoo for Dummies.” He is in love with Nina Colada, and is only working at the party tonight as a favor to her. He doesn’t like Barbie because he doesn’t like the way she treats Nina. He’s come up with a simple plan to stop the mistreatment involving a look-alike Barbie Doll and several long, very painful looking, hat pins.

FRED FLINT: The Pyrotechnician. He is a fireworks expert and is going to shoot fireworks off of the deck of the ship once it’s underway. His work is his love, and his love is his art. Unfortunately, his art put him in prison earlier in his life for a fire he still claims was accidental. By law, he is not allowed near fire or to work with fire, so to get around that, he changed his name from Frank Cracker to Fred Flint and continues creating his masterpieces in the sky. Barbie knows all about Fred’s past and loves to “light him up” by bringing it up as often as she can get away with it.

CATRINA COOK: The Caterer. Catrina loves food and has a dramatic presentation style that is uniquely her own. Unfortunately, during one “presentation,” she accidentally poisoned quite a few guests at a party several years ago. Barbie knows all about the “bad mayonnaise” incident, and has been using it against her ever since.

NINA COLADA: The Bartender. Nina works at a big club in the area and is sought after by many restaurants and private parties. Unfortunately, several years ago while working during spring break, she accidentally served drinks to underage college kids. Barbie found out about it and has been blackmailing her ever since.

PHONET: The Table Decorator. A flamboyant, vibrant, colorful artist with a passion for color. Unfortunately, her passion requires money, and earlier in her life, while living on the beach, she reproduced paintings and passed them off to uneducated visitors as originals. Barbie knows all about Phonet’s past, so Barbie forces her to decorate tables and act as her personal assistant, something that makes Phonet see red!

SCENE ONE – PRE-SALAD :

BEDLAM IN CABIN B - (1)

(All actors mingle with the guests as they arrive and are seated at their tables. “Fuss,” in character, with table decorations, appetizers, drinks, etc. At end of “mingle,” all EXIT. Music starts (Party music) and all actors enter and perform entrance dance. As soon as the dance and applause ends, CAPTAIN begins.)

CAPTAIN: Last Cruise to chaos! Last Cruise to chaos! Is everyone onboard and ready to get underway?

BARBIE: Captain Stubby! You sweet man, don't you think “Last Cruise to Chaos” is a little misrepresentative? I am, after all, the Event Coordinator for this party. It's my job to prevent chaos, not advertise it.

CAPTAIN: Yes, yes, yes. It's not superstition, just a habit I have. Whenever we start making headway I always shout “Last Cruise to Chaos.” I can't remember why.

BARBIE: I understand, sweet Captain Stubby. But it might give everyone the wrong impression. They're expecting an organized, memorable night of special events, not a night of chaos.

CAPTAIN: You're right, Barbie. Let's batten down the hatches, Sailors and Sailor-ettes. Welcome aboard the Good Ship Lollypop!

BARBIE: The Good Ship... Captain, isn't this the Solaris?

CAPTAIN: Not that I'm superstitious or anything, but I always call my ship the Good Ship Lollypop. Just a habit, really. Can't remember why.

BARBIE: You had me worried. All of my Party People worked their specialties around the name of the ship.

FRED: Yes, I don't want to put a damper on the surprise or anything, but let's just say the fireworks display you'll see later tonight isn't spelling out the “Good Ship Lollypop.”

BARBIE: Don't worry, Frank, I'll straighten this out. I am, after all, Barbie, of Parties by Barbie. Is everyone enjoying themselves so far?

(BARBIE leads the applause.)

CAPTAIN: Katrina! You didn't tell me you were going to be here tonight!

CATRINA: I wanted to surprise you.

SCENE ONE – PRE-SALAD :

BEDLAM IN CABIN B - (2)

CAPTAIN: And what a great surprise! I am absolutely NOT superstitious, but I see this as such good luck, having you onboard.

BARBIE: Stubby... I thought it was BAD luck to have a woman on board your ship.

CAPTAIN: Not where Catrina is concerned.

CATRINA: That's so sweet, Captain. Sweet like my Saucy Sailin' Down the Mississippi Mud Cake.

CAPTAIN: I'll sail down the Mississippi with you.

BARBIE: Excuse me, Catrina? Don't you have something to do in the kitchen? Some pots to wash, floors to scrub?

CATRINA: Floors to scrub? I don't think so.

CAPTAIN: Barbie, we have a crew on board to swab the decks. And even if we didn't, I'd scrub those floors before I'd let Catrina ever hold a mop.

CATRINA: Oh Captain, you really are the sweetest man. Sweet like my Sweet Sausage Surprise.

BARBIE: Potatoes to peel? Meat to tenderize?

CATRINA: Not at this moment, no.

BARBIE: Oh well, since you're all here... Stubby-Wubby, would it be ok if introductions are made of my Party People now, since we'll all be working tonight to make this party, Picture Perfect?

(BARBIE leads the applause again.)

CAPTAIN: Well, I suppose this is as good a time as any, but I wish you wouldn't call me Stubby...

BARBIE: Party People, Party People! The Captain is ready to make our special introductions.

CAPTAIN: I'm making the introductions? I thought you said you... Not that I'm superstitious, but this isn't part of my ordinary...

SCENE ONE – PRE-SALAD :

BEDLAM IN CABIN B - (3)

BARBIE: Of course it isn't, Stub-Man. But this is no ordinary night! So, introduce me, introduce me!

CAPTAIN: OK, ok. Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd like to introduce your Event Coordinator this evening, Barbie Duhl.

BARBIE: Thank you Captain, but as you know, it's pronounced "DUEL," not "DULL."

CAPTAIN; I thought...

BARBIE: Go on Captain, go on.

CATRINA: Excuse me, Barbie, I'm not one of your Party People. You promised if I worked this party tonight you'd display my business cards and brochures so everyone would know who catered the party. Where are they?

BARBIE: I did promise that, didn't I. So I put everything upstairs, up in Cabin B.

CATRINA: Cabin B? No one will see them up there.

BARBIE: That's true. I just wasn't sure if you're really ready to advertise your catering business right now, Katrina,

CATRINA: What do you mean by that?

VJ: Excuse me, Miss Barbie...

BARBIE: Hello, VJ.

VJ: Crazy VJ the DJ! Hoodoo Voodoo? I-doo voodoo! And I'm right on time and right in rhythm.

BARBIE: You're not exactly on time, VJ. You were supposed to be here an hour before we left the dock. You got here right before our Party Performance.

NINA: VJ, I was afraid you were going to miss the boat.

VJ: I had a few things I needed to pick up. I'm sorry if I worried you, Nina.

BARBIE: And are you sorry you worried me, VJ? I am, after all, the one who hired you for this event.

SCENE ONE – PRE-SALAD :

BEDLAM IN CABIN B - (4)

VJ: I'm only doing this as a favor to Nina. How are you Nina, ready to cruise?

NINA: Yes, now that you're here.

VJ: I'm hoo-doo for you-doo baby.

BARBIE: Excuse me? Where's all of your equipment? I hope you brought plenty of dancing music! This group looks ready to PAR-TAY, am I right everyone?

(BARBIE leads the applause.)

VJ: My equipment is upstairs. I wasn't sure where you wanted me to set up.

BARBIE: Captain, is it alright if VJ puts his equipment in Cabin B for now?

CAPTAIN: Normally that cabin is used for...

BARBIE: Thank you Captain, remind me to repay you later for your kindness.

CAPTAIN: That really won't be...

BARBIE: Nonsense. VJ, wait just a second before you move your stuff, will you?

VJ: I need to...

BARBIE: Now Captain, why don't I make the introductions since you really don't know all of my Party People. Let's start over with.... Me! Hello everyone, I'm Barbie, of Parties by Barbie, and am your Perpetual Party Preparation Person! *(BARBIE enthusiastically leads applause for herself.)* If there's anything you need tonight, talk to me as I'm always all ears.

BARBIE: Next I'd like you to meet our DJ, Crazy VJ DJ! He's relatively unknown but I know he'll do his best to entertain you this evening. He has dancing planned, and...

SCENE ONE – PRE-SALAD :

BEDLAM IN CABIN B - (5)

VJ: Unknown? Miss Barbie, I'm the most popular DJ in the area. I'm heard nationwide every Sunday morning on VJ's DJ Countdown. Hoodoo Voodoo? I-doo Voodoo!

BARBIE: The Count What? Oh, that's right. Nina did mention something about that. Otherwise I wouldn't have hired you.

NINA: As in you're paying him, right Barbie?

BARBIE: Of course, dear, why wouldn't I?

NINA: Does that mean we're all getting paid?

BARBIE: I didn't say that, did I? Now, back to the introductions. Everyone, this is your bartender this evening, Nina Colada.

NINA: Thank you, just let me know if you have any special requests.

BARBIE: But not too special, right Nina?

NINA: What do you mean by that? I've been bartending for years, I can handle special requests.

CAPTAIN: How about sea drinks? Can you make a Tall Ship? Sea Breeze? Gale at Sea?

NINA: No problem.

FRED: I'll bet you don't know these. Fireball? Chimney Fire? Erupting Prairie Fire?

NINA: I think so.

PHONET: Pink Squirrel? Peach Bunny? Purple Hooter?

NINA: Yes.

CATARINA: Browned Brandy? Coddled Cognac? Soaked Scotch?

NINA: Repeatedly.

VJ: She's personally made me Kiss on the Lips, Kiss in the Dark, Long Kiss Goodnight...

SCENE ONE – PRE-SALAD :

BEDLAM IN CABIN B - (6)

NINA: Velvet Kiss, Kiss Me Quick, Soul Kiss...

VJ: Between the Sheets, Sex on the Beach, Hot Pants...

NINA: Dirty Girl Scout, Maiden No More, Screamin' Orgasm...

BARBIE: How about a Dark and Stormy? Because that's how I'm starting to feel.

NINA: Sure. Dark and Stormy, Heat Wave, Hurricane...

BARBIE: Alright Nina, you know your drinks. And you do know how to serve them, don't you.

NINA: I don't know what you're talking about.

BARBIE: Next, our caterer tonight, Catrina Cook of Catrina Cooks!

CATRINA: Thank you. I have several very special dishes planned for tonight's dinner.

BARBIE: But not too special, right Catrina?

CATRINA: Well yes, actually, I was planning on serving my special signature dishes. You approved the menu, don't you remember?

BARBIE: I did approve your menu. But maybe we should have someone do a thorough "taste test" before you actually serve the guests.

CATRINA: That's ridiculous. These are my most successful dishes. I don't need a taste tester to make sure they're delicious, I know they will be!

BARBIE: That's not what they'll be testing for, Catrina.

CATRINA: Oh, then maybe YOU should taste the dishes first, Barbie.

BARBIE: Are you threatening me?

CATRINA: Of course not, just offering you an appetizer, so to speak.

BARBIE: I think I'll pass on YOUR appetizer's Catrina. Next, please meet our Table Decorator this evening, Phonet.

SCENE ONE – PRE-SALAD :

BEDLAM IN CABIN B - (7)

PHONET: I'm an artist, as you are well aware, Barbie.

BARBIE: Of course you are, dear.

PHONET: I have my own art studio. I'd appreciate it if you'd refer to me as an artist, not your gopher.

BARBIE: Gopher? Don't be ridiculous. But that does remind me, could you be a darling and go up to Cabin B. I have surveys I want to give to our guests tonight – I left them in Cabin B.

PHONET: Why would I do that? I just said I'm tired of being your gopher.

BARBIE: You'll do it because you enjoy IMITATING a gopher.

PHONET: Sort of the way you imitate a Party Planner?

BARBIE: OOOh, Phonet, an insult. A little out of character coming from you, given you don't normally have an original thought.

PHONET: I have plenty of original thoughts, Barbie, believe me.

BARBIE: Original thoughts, but no ORIGINALS, am I right?

PHONET: I've just about had enough...

BARBIE: I know what you mean. My survey? Cabin B?

PHONET: Right. Cabin B.

(PHONET exits.)

BARBIE: And finally, we have a very special treat in store for you this evening. I'd like you to meet Frank Cracker, a man who really knows how to light a fire under you to get things done!

FRED: Right everyone, Fred Flint here, the name is Fred Flint! Although I'm not actually going to be lighting any fires, tonight, Barbie. Just a few fuses. And we like to say ignite in the pyrotech business.

BARBIE: Right, light, ignite...either way, lighting a fire would be a bad thing for you, wouldn't it. You weren't planning on lighting those fuses, were you, Frank?

SCENE ONE – PRE-SALAD :

BEDLAM IN CABIN B - (8)

FRED: Fred. I had planned to... but you're right, I'll get someone else to initiate the ignition.

BARBIE: That would be a really good idea. Wouldn't want you to get into any more trouble, would we, Frank.

FRED: Fred. I thought... right. I'll ask Phonet.

BARBIE: Yes, I'm sure Phonet won't mind. She loves running everyone's errands. Ladies and gentlemen, Frank has a very special treat in store for you this evening – fireworks!

FRED: Fred. Pyrotechnotics. Not "fire" per se.

BARBIE: Yes, we'll keep that in mind, Frank. And these, everyone, are all of my Party People! Now, everyone, everyone, please go to your posts and let's get this party underway!

VJ: Posts? You still haven't told me where you want me to set up.

BARBIE: I don't want you to set up. I want you to move your equipment into Cabin B until I'm ready for you to set up.

VJ: Look. I can't just set this stuff up in a corner. I have to work a little pre-DJ magic.

NINA: Hexes, VJ?

VJ: Not hex's, baby, voodoo magic! I need balance, light, dark, good, bad.

BARBIE: Whatever you want to call it, could you do it privately. I really don't want to watch.

VJ: Why?

BARBIE: Because I said so. And I'm the boss. OK?

VJ: Fine.

(VJ exits.)

NINA: And I don't see the bar... didn't you tell me there was a bar in here? I saw the bar upstairs, is that where you want me to work?

SCENE ONE – PRE-SALAD :

BEDLAM IN CABIN B - (9)

BARBIE: There's a portable bar in Cabin B. See if you can get some of the crew to carry it in here for you.

NINA: I was in Cabin B earlier... I don't remember seeing a bar.

BARBIE: Are you questioning me? Do I have to remind you that you are working for me tonight?

NINA: No Barbie, you don't have to remind me about anything.

(NINA exits.)

CATRINA: At least I know where my supposed "post" is located. I'm off to the galley, everyone.

BARBIE: Before you go, Catrina, why don't you go get your brochures out of Cabin B, and I'll give them to our guests tonight.

CATRINA: That's very sweet of you Barbie. Sweet like my Sweet and Sour Liver Loaf Extreme.

(CATRINA exits.)

FRED: And I still have some mortars to fill before the big display later. But, let me see, let me think... I'll bet you'd like me to go to Cabin B.

BARBIE: Why would I want you to do that?

CAPTAIN: Well I'm going up there. I'm not comfortable with all of those people...

BARBIE: Party People, Stubby-Dubby, Party People.

CAPTAIN: Whatever you call them, I'm not comfortable with all of them up there in Cabin B! Cabin B is.... I'm not superstitious or anything, but let's just say Cabin B is not the kind of place where you want to be lurking around in the middle of the night.

(CAPTAIN exits.)

BARBIE: Ladies and gentlemen, I just want to assure all of you that there is nothing "funny" going on around here. Frank, I've changed my mind. Why don't you go up to Cabin B and see what's going on.

FRED: Fred. The Captain just went up there.

SCENE ONE – PRE-SALAD :

BEDLAM IN CABIN B - (10)

BARBIE: Yes but he doesn't seem to be acting rationally. He got all twitchy from the moment I mentioned Cabin B.

FRED: Sure, Barbie, I'll light on up to Cabin B.

(FRED begins to exit, but before he does, VJ, NINA, CATRINA, and PHONET enter, talking loudly to one another.)

BARBIE: Party People, Party People, settle down! What's going on?

VJ: What's the big idea, Barbie? You send us all to Cabin B and not only is the door locked, but when we tried to get back downstairs the lights all went out and we heard all this banging around.

CATRINA: Are you trying to scare us Barbie?

BARBIE: Party People, Party People! I assure you I had nothing to do with...

(CAPTAIN enters.)

CAPTAIN: I told you, I told you, didn't I tell you?

FRED: Tell us what?

CAPTAIN: Cabin B has a ... I'm not sure how to put this, and I don't even like saying it out loud, but Cabin B has a G – H – O – S – T.

PHONET: A what? What is he spelling?

BARBIE: A ghost? That's ridiculous.

CAPTAIN: Shhhhhhh! Don't say that word! Not that I'm superstitious, but...

BARBIE: Stubby, calm down. You don't have a gh... a G-H-O-S-T. Come here, let me give you a hug.

CAPTAIN: Haven't you heard about this? Everyone is talking about it. They're saying the Solaris is haunted.

(All actors react excitedly to this news.)

VJ: Haunted! I better get out my book.

SCENE ONE – PRE-SALAD :

BEDLAM IN CABIN B - (11)

NINA: What book?

VJ: “Voodoo for Dummies.” I think there’s a good ghost hex in there.

BARBIE: Don’t be ridiculous. I haven’t heard anything about the Solaris being haunted, and I hear everything around here. Nothing gets past me, nothing! Captain. When did this supposed haunting start?

CAPTAIN: It’s been very recent.

BARBIE: How recent?

CAPTAIN: It doesn’t matter. What’s important is that everyone stay away from Cabin B. We don’t need anymore accidents on this ship.

PHONET: Anymore? What accidents have you had?

CAPTAIN: Look, I’m not superstitious, but I don’t like dredging up these things and risk having another problem. I suggest we all take a little break, then we’ll reconvene and take care of whatever needs to be taken care of to get this party started.

BARBIE: But what about everything I put in Cabin B earlier? And where will VJ store his equipment?

CAPTAIN: I have a key. My crew and I will get your stuff. Safety in numbers, I always say. As far as VJ... there’s a storeroom on the upper deck. You can put your equipment in there until we decide what to do.

VJ: Hoo doo thank you? I do thank you!

BARBIE: Yes, thank you Captain Stubby-Tubby.

CAPTAIN: Ladies and gentlemen, this is an excellent time for Barbie and her Party People to take a break. And, if I’m not mistaken, Catrina has the salads prepared, and they are NOT in Cabin B. So you’re in luck, the salads will be served. Enjoy!

(All actors exit talking excitedly about the haunted ship and the “Bedlam in Cabin B.”)