

Dangerous Games

Pamela Loyd





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DANGEROUS GAMES

By Pamela Loyd

Among friends, what is more dangerous—the truth or a lie?

CAST

All characters are age 50 or older, dressed casually. Character's names will be chosen (instead of alphabet letters) after the cast has been selected.

A: Host/Hostess, either gender, suggests an interesting game.

B: Guest, either gender, once had a lucky lottery ticket.

C: Guest, either gender, hopes no one's really had an affair.

D: Guest, either gender, thinks strip poker would be more fun.

E: Guest, either gender, sings in musical comedies.

SUSAN: Guest, female, says she had affair with someone in the room.

RON: Guest, male, married to Tara, says he had the affair with Susan.

TARA: Guest, female, married to Ron, thinks the affair is so funny.

Place

Living room of A, where a "Game Night" party takes place.

Time

Present day, a Saturday evening.

Production Note

Try to have at least two men in the cast so it isn't immediately obvious who must have had the "affair." The second man might be best as E or B, and the role of D is most funny if played by a sweet, innocent-looking woman.

DANGEROUS GAMES

Setting: Living room of A. Chairs, a couple of side tables, a table for food and drinks. Several game boxes might be on this table, particularly the game "Trivial Pursuit."

At Rise: Party guests mingle, there is chit chat and laughter.

A: O.K. everyone, are you ready for a game?

E: That's right, it is game night.

SUSAN: What game are we playing tonight, A_____?

B: I hope it's not "Trivial Pursuit" again. I never know that stuff.

TARA: I agree. I always lose at...what's it called again?

RON: *(puts his arm around Tara)* Ha-ha, very funny Tara. *(to all)* My wife here is terrible at remembering "trivial pursuits."

(Everyone agrees about the game: let's not play "Trivial Pursuit"; we've played it so many times; it's too hard; I always lose; etc.)

C: Anyway, I don't like games anymore.

D: I know what you mean. They get boring so soon.

A: You don't like games? But I invited you all over for game night, so I thought you all wanted to play a game.

RON: I want to play a game, but not the same old things we always play. Isn't there something new?

SUSAN: Something more interesting?

A: Well, I do know a game that might be more interesting. If you're all brave enough.

D: Brave enough? What is it? strip poker? *(everyone laughs)*

A: No, no. It's more interesting than that.

TARA: That's good, because I'm not sure anyone would be interested in seeing me in my "trivial" birthday suit.

SUSAN: That's not so "trivial." Not at our age. *(everyone laughs)*

E: So, what is this mysterious game of yours, A_____?

A: It's called "Two Truths and a Lie." Everyone takes a turn telling two truths about themselves that aren't generally known, and one lie. Then everyone tries to guess which are the truths, and which is the lie. If you guess correctly you get a point.

D: That's your game? Strip poker sounds better.

SUSAN: No, no, let's play it. It sounds fun.

E: So how do we start?

A: Whoever wants to go first just starts.

(a brief moment while everyone thinks, sips their drink)

B: It's *two* truths and *one* lie, right?

A: That's right.

B: O.K., I've got something. I hate Chinese food...I speak three languages...and a lottery ticket once really paid off for me.

TARA: Really? You won the lottery? How much did you win?

A: You can't ask that, Tara. You have to guess which is the lie first.

TARA: Oh, right. Then I say the lie is that you won the lottery.

(a few people agree)

E: No, I think the lie is that you hate Chinese food. How can anyone hate Chinese food?

(several people agree)

SUSAN: Yes, but what about speaking three languages? If B_____ can speak three languages wouldn't we know that about him/her?

(more agreement)

C: So, which one is it, B_____? I think winning the lottery is the lie.

B: Actually, that's the truth.

(Everyone: What? You're kidding? Really, you won the lottery. When was this? etc.)

B: Wait, wait, wait everyone. What I said was—I once had a lottery ticket that paid off. And it did. I won \$5.

RON: Ooohh. So we can be tricky in this game.

(Everyone laughs, jokes about being tricky)

B: The lie is that I speak three languages.

SUSAN: I knew it. I knew you didn't speak three languages.

B: I only speak two languages—English and Pig-Latin. The secret language of elementary school.

SUSAN: Oh, ery-vay unny-fay. (*"very funny" in Pig-Latin.*)

RON: Another tricky answer, B_____. You cannot be trusted.

(Everyone laughs)

E: So, who's next?

SUSAN: I'll go next. My three things are...I'm a published poet...I enjoy washing the dishes by hand...and...I once had an affair with someone in this room.

C: What did she say?

D: She said she's a published poet. That's true. One of her poems was published in the kid's section of the local paper when she was in 6th grade.

RON: Tricky, tricky, tricky.

C: No, what did Susan say about an affair?

TARA: Oh, you make it too easy, Susan. The lie is that you *like* washing dishes. That's so obviously not true. No one likes washing the dishes.

C: Then you think the affair is the truth?

TARA: Oh. I don't know. I would hope that's not the truth. Especially with someone in this room.

RON: So. Do you mean you had an affair with someone, and it *happened* in this room?

E: Which means it might be with someone none of us know.

B: Or do you mean you had an affair with someone *who's in this room right now*?

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!