

REVISED CHARACTER LIST 2

PROTAGONIST/ANTAGONIST (MUST HAVE)

Simon Wise

Michael Talbot

MAJOR CHARACTERS/CRITICAL FUNCTION (SEEM LIKE MUST HAVES)

Lady Fairhaven (the corpse; raises feminist issues for Wise; overtly tied to Talbot through her charitable work for his Institute; tied to issue of unwanted babies in her covert role as A.B.)

Sir Gregory (the prime suspect); focus for Simon's anger - the bad husband who must be punished

Rebecca (love interest for Talbot, foil for Simon re Emily); independent woman?

Emily (to link Wise personally to deformed babies); his black-white thinking

Rothschild (maybe Rothstein?); second suspect; discreet lover of Lady F; knowledgeable about Sir G's debts; Jewish issues; could know Lady Penelope, Talbot's family socially

Dead babies (the second crime); start with second baby

VERY IMPORTANT CHARACTERS (SEEM LIKE PRETTY MUCH MUST HAVES)

Murdoch (loyal friend and colleague who goes back to the Crimean days and who tries to protect Wise from Walker's wrath; his death is motivation for Wise's second character turn)

Walker (someone to persecute Wise and embody antisemitism); role is to demand closure on Fairhaven case, and to counsel disengagement about dead babies

Rachel (traditional, loving wife; her death explains Wise's initial despair, withdrawal) -

Leah - eliminated

Brantley (prime suspect in baby deaths); Victorian society's views toward disability; go-between for Lady F and Talbot; link with Catherine Martin

Catherine Martin (alternative suspect in baby deaths); social problem of single mothers; acquainted with Brantley

INTERESTING CHARACTERS

Lady Penelope (feminist perspective; love interest for Wise); provides insight into Lady F's character

Henrietta (feminist perspective; allows emergence of Wise's bemused humor) - eliminate?

Martha - provides Gentile perspective on Wise family; assumes some of Henrietta's feistiness

Arabella (shows consequences of prejudices against women; possible conspirator with Sir G in Lady F's murder); shows another disreputable, but also human side of Sir G (a la Clinton); might also know Rothschild

MINOR CHARACTERS

Constable Brown - eliminate; Simon could take on his action regarding Joseph Winkeep and the plaster of Paris shoe

Zadok (Jewish role model for Wise) - make an appearance or two in Wise family; Jewish themes; embodies the message of fighting spirit, assimilation

Wise children (humanize Wise, show family side) -

Rebecca - the little mother

Miriam - the aspiring socialite

Sarah - the scientist; the feminist of the family

David - slated to be the scholar, but in fact wants to be an explorer

Naomi - dreamy, unworldly, artist, musician

Emily - see a little more of her; cute, assertive personality

Dr. Baumgarten (professional colleague for Talbot - discussions of Elephant Man, eugenics; Jewish confrere for Wise - allows interactions re Judaism); just barely beyond furniture level

Matthew Turner (Gentile mentor to Wise) - eliminate;

BACKGROUND CHARACTERS

Molly Reid - furniture character; don't give her a name, but have Wise encounter the no-name servant the butler is throwing out of the house - Simon and Murdoch comment on her tragic fate - plight of poor single mothers; keep very short and on the periphery

Professor Maximus (sexual attitudes; suspect in Fairhaven case) - eliminate, or try to find some other place for this scene with Maximus as a furniture character; could reveal Lady F's secret identity as A.B. in this encounter

Frederick May - could be no-name character who is mentioned in relation to Sir G's debt situation; or eliminate

James - eliminate or have that scene disclose important information about Lady F; more - the footman said....

Nicholas Prodger (street person; links baby deaths investigation to Catherine Martin) - two anonymous men talking in a pub reveal important information about baby deaths woman in workhouse (suggests baby murder ring) - fingers Catherine Martin

Mr. Dawson (plight of poor in workhouse) - keep as furniture?

Clarissa Fairhaven (hook to motivate Wise)

Anthony Fairhaven (create sympathy) - really furniture; just stands there and looks cute

Charles Fairhaven (stimulate guilt, anger in Sir G) - eliminate

Mr. Creavey (because there has to be a butler!) - furniture

Mathilde (source of information about Lady F) - combine with James or eliminate

Kate Hamilton (provides insights into Sir G's character; suggests Arabella as suspect);

Rothschild may be acquainted with her

Joseph Winkeep (provides link between Lady F and Talbot immediately before her murder) - show that this is very important

Margaret Shelley (finds dead baby) - no-name; furniture

some additional servants (to open, close doors, remove children etc.)

some additional policemen (report additional dead babies, listen to Walker be prejudiced against Wise)