

## LITTLE DEATHS \* CHARACTER LIST

### WISE HOUSEHOLD

SIMON WISE - Detective Inspector

RACHEL WISE - Simon's wife; traditional wife and mother (deceased in childbirth 1872); idealized by Simon

REBECCA WISE - oldest daughter; wants to start school for mentally retarded; falls in love with Michael Talbot; 18

MIRIAM WISE - ultra-feminine miss; 16

SARAH AND DAVID WISE - twins; David is the valued son; Sarah, the scientist; 14

LEAH WISE - deceased, 7 yrs of age in typhoid epidemic of 1873; a favorite daughter of Simon

DEBORAH WISE - the musical child; 10

NAOMI WISE - Simon's last loved little girl; 7

EMILY WISE - child with Down Syndrome; 3

HANNAH GELBSTEIN - Rachel's cousin; feminist; runs Wise household with an iron hand; about 35

ZADOK WISE - Simon's father; runs watch and jewelry shop in Manchester; independent thinker and supporter of Jewish emancipation; formerly an itinerant peddler

MARTHA - maid-of-all work; Christian, but knowledgeable about Jewish observance; 50s

ELIAS BAUMGARTEN - Wise family physician; present at Rachel's death; acquaints Simon with Michael Talbot

### FAIRHAVEN HOUSEHOLD

LADY ALICIA FAIRHAVEN: murdered aristocrat; flirted with feminism; had series of lovers (most recently May, Talbot); also A.B., muckraker who uncovered baby death scandal of a few years earlier;

SIR GREGORY FAIRHAVEN: Lady Alicia's husband; liberal MP in House of Commons; traditional English gentleman; many gambling debts; mistress is Arabella Bowdoin, with whom he has illegitimate son; also approaches Frederick May, wife's former lover, for financial help

CHARLES FAIRHAVEN: blames father for mother's death; age 10

CLARISSA FAIRHAVEN: age 5

ANTHONY FAIRHAVEN: age 3

ABIGAIL: Fairhaven children's governess

MR CREEVEY: Fairhaven butler

MRS. SHAW - Fairhaven housekeeper

JAMES: Fairhaven footman; he had a flirtation with Lady A, and is a suspect briefly in her murder with the motive that she rejected his advances, or refused to help him. He is alibied by the laundry girl

MATHILDE: Lady A's French lady's maid

## CONNECTED TO FAIRHAVEN HOUSEHOLD

**PENELOPE ABBOTT:** Lady Fairhaven's best friend. She is a widow, about 38 years of age. She has two sons, one at Cambridge, the other at public school (boarding). She is a widow; her husband was a general in the Crimean War. She helps Wise gather information about certain suspects in the Fairhaven case (May, Rothschild, Maximus). She also reveals Lady F's identity as A.B. She is attracted to Simon.

**AMANDA:** Lady Abbott's maid

**ARABELLA BOWDOIN:** Sir G's dollymop, age 23 or 24. They met in Aldershot and had a brief affair, which produced Reggie (age 2). Arabella relocated to London, where Sir G pays for her upkeep at Kate Hamilton's. She is primarily his lover, but does some trade on the side. She is a suspect in the Fairhaven murder as she is both ambitious and violent. She provides an alibi for Sir G initially (as he does for her), but later it is discovered she is lying. She actually goes to the Fairhaven residence shortly before Lady A's murder with the intention of confronting Lady A, but sees her with an unidentified man and leaves.

**KATE HAMILTON:** The madam of the brothel where Arabella lives. She gives Murdoch the information that Arabella attacked another of her girls.

**JOSEPH WINKEEP:** garden boy; age 13; he has fled back to his village because he connects Lady A's death with the note he carried from her for Talbot (but gave to Brantley) the day before.

**SAM ENDICOTT:** Fairhaven gardener who brings Joseph to work in the London house, and has been sexually molesting him

**MOLLY REID:** dismissed Fairhaven maid. James impregnated her, Mr. Creavey fired her, but she blames Lady A for not intervening. Her baby died, she could not get another position, and took to the streets. Then she developed tuberculosis and is near death. She is a suspect initially in the Fairhaven murder, and later as a participant in the baby murder ring.

**PROFESSOR THEODORE MAXIMUS:** eccentric professor at London College; follower of JS Mill; has a fondness for prepubescent girls; hobby is photography. He is a suspect in the Fairhaven murder because Lady A is aware of his sexual predilections.

**FREDERICK BRYANT MAY:** the matchstick king. He is a London industrialist who built the lucifer match factory and made a fortune. He is in love with Lady A, and had an affair with her a few years ago. However, she rejected him, and his wife threatened separation, so he returned to the bosom of his family. Sir G invites him to dinner to ask for a loan

**ABRAHAM ROTHSTEIN** – powerful banker, son of Lionel Rothstein who established the House of Rothstein; also a Jew; negotiates purchase of Suez Canal; acquaintance of Lady Fairhaven and Sir Gregory; gave Lady Alicia a ride home the night of her murder

**ALFRED ROTHSTEIN** – Abraham's younger brother; leads a life of debauchery, scandalous parties; Lady A knew him and once attended one of his gatherings

**GERTRUDE ROTHSTEIN** – Rothstein's wife; leader of the National Society for Women's Suffrage; knew Lady Alicia slightly; Hannah has attended some of her meetings

TALBOT INSTITUTE

**MICHAEL TALBOT:** An Anglican Irishman educated at Trinity College. He forsook a promising career in general medicine to specialize in pediatrics, especially congenital malformation and mental retardation. He has set up a practice in London. He has had an on-again, off-again affair with Lady Fairhaven, who sponsored his Institute. He briefly falls in love with Rebecca.

**OLIVER BRANTLEY:** Talbot's assistant. He suffers from cerebral palsy and scoliosis. He is completely loyal to Talbot. He procures infants for his research from the midwife Catherine Martin. He also runs messages between Lady A and Talbot. He is a little in love with Lady A himself, but only in his imagination.

**FANNY:** Talbot's maid at home

**NURSE CUNNINGHAM:** Talbot's nurse

**MR. WAINWRIGHT:** Talbot's professor in medical school

#### CONNECTED TO BABY DEATHS INVESTIGATION

**MARGARET SHELLEY:** woman who finds first dead baby

**MR. DAWSON:** Administrator of St. Giles workhouse. He is an apologist for the system, and provides no useful information. However, one of his residents mentions the "bent" midwife, later identified as Catherine Martin.

**NICHOLAS PRODGER:** A boardman and wall plasterer who is also a police informant. He mentions both Brantley and later Mrs. Martin as involved in baby trading.

**CATHERINE MARTIN:** Mrs. Martin is a midwife who was investigated by the police about 6 years ago for eliminating unwanted infants. Nothing was proved in this investigation. She is now functioning as a procurer of infants for Brantley.

#### POLICE STATION PERSONNEL

**SERGEANT THOMAS MURDOCH:** Murdoch is a Scotsman who served in the Crimean War, fell in love with one of Florence Nightingale's nurses, (NANCY), and followed her back home to London. There he joined the force. They are a devoted couple, but to their great sorrow have no children. Murdoch has served with Wise for several years, and at one time they were of equal rank. But Murdoch has been passed over for promotion. He challenges Wise about his handling of the Fairhaven case (NEW). Murdoch sees the baby death case as a way of winning promotion.

**CONSTABLE BROWN:** new but ambitious detective constable in his early twenties. He is eager to win the approbation of his supervising sergeant, Thomas Murdoch, and even of Inspector Wise. He tracks down Joseph Winkeep, the gardner's boy, and identifies the footprint in the garden.

**SERGEANT COLLINS:** Talks about Garrick play with Murdoch

**CONSTABLE FIELDS:** Reports baby death at Talbot's office; present when Brantley kills Murdoch and describes scene to Wise.

**ROBERT WALKER:** The superintendent of the Whitechapel station. He involves Wise in the Fairhaven investigation because of the Jewish link. He is also somewhat biased against Jews especially in the police force.

**MATTHEW TURNER:** A former police inspector who was Simon's sergeant during the Crimean War. He is responsible for bringing Wise into the force. He was blinded and gravely injured during the Clerkenwell bombing, and forced to retire.