

The main characters in the scenario are:

- Lord Hepplethorpe
- Lady Hepplethorpe
- their daughter Florence
- Uncle Henry, is the brother of Lord Hepplethorpe's dead father
- the butler Mr Jenkins
- Detective Inspector Bell.

We will also meet:

- Helen, Uncle Henry's daughter
- Mrs Cooper, the chairwoman of Lady Hepplethorpe's favourite charity
- Robert, Florence's secret boyfriend
- Mr Butcher, Mr Jenkins' partner in an illegal black market business
- Police Constable Plod.

There are also a few characters who are mentioned but not present during the scenario:

- Roger Hepplethorpe, Florence's younger brother who is away at school
- Peter Picklington, Helen's fiancée
- Lord Swinepuddle, the eldest son of Viscount Fopsworth, who Lord Hepplethorpe wants to marry Florence
- Mr Smith, Lord Hepplethorpe's new accountant

Player 1:

- Lord Hepplethorpe (George, a baron)
George is **Lord Hepplethorpe**, the lord of **Hepplethorpe Manor**. The Hepplethorpes used to be a rich and powerful family, but these days, businessmen and Americans seem to have become richer than the old families! He is determined not to be outdone by upstarts and is looking for new investments that will make him the riches he deserves.

Recently, he got wind of a **mining expedition** to Africa that could be extraordinarily profitable. All he needs to do is find enough cash to invest - and fast, before someone else does. He has hired a **new accountant, Mr Smith**, to whip the household's finances into shape. He also needs to get his daughter to a wealthy and prominent family. He has been talking to his old friend **Viscount Fopsworth** who wants his son **Lord Swinepuddle** to settle down. That would be an excellent match!

- Detective Inspector John Bell
Detective Inspector Bell has been a police officer for many years. Meeting criminals and victims from all walks of life has washed away any feelings of subservience to "his betters". He is no longer intimidated by class or wealth - the same base instincts rule us all and we all bleed when we are stabbed. He **recently moved to the area** and longs for a juicy case to prove his worth to his new bosses.

Player 2

- Lady Hepplethorpe (Dorothy, baroness by marriage)

Lady Hepplethorpe comes from a **wealthy merchant family** and was raised with the sole purpose of marrying into the nobility. She used to feel confident in her role as Lady Hepplethorpe, but now her father's business has gone under. Once her **father stopped sending money**, Lord Hepplethorpe lost much of his interest in her and she **fears being shunned from society** if he keeps treating her like a second class wife.

Now that her son is at school and her daughter is almost grown up, society is even more important to her. She spends a lot of time on charity work, especially the **Committee for Orphan Welfare**. but now, a new threat has arisen: she had an **affair with her husband's best friend** a few years ago, and now **Mrs Cooper**, the chairwoman of the Committee for Orphan Welfare, seems to have found out. Should this secret come out, her life is as good as over.

The Committee for Orphan Welfare needs more money to keep their schools open - **10 000 pounds**. Mrs Cooper, the chairwoman of COW, has made it clear that she expects the Hepplethorpes to provide this money and has made less than subtle hints that unless Lady Hepplethorpe can arrange the money, she will start telling people about the affair.

Lady Hepplethorpe is tired of **Uncle Henry** constantly coming to stay and drink his way through their wine cellar. She does like his daughter, **Helen**, though and hopes she will find a husband before it is too late.

- Robert Johnson, Florence's boyfriend from the village

Robert is the **son of one of the farmers** in the village. He is 20 years old and has been seeing Miss Florence Hepplethorpe in secret for the past year. He considers himself a confident man, a man with ambitions. But he has to admit that **Florence's plan for him to ask her father for her hand** has him a bit rattled. He wished that he could ask her to run away with him instead, but since she is the Hepplethorpe's only child, he could never ask that of her. It would be madness to walk away from that inheritance, anyway.

Player 3

- Mr Henry Hepplethorpe, Lord Hepplethorpe's uncle

Henry Hepplethorpe is the **younger brother of Lord Hepplethorpe's father**. He was given a generous allowance as a young man, when he married he was given a beautiful home and stocks in several lucrative businesses, and when their father died he inherited a substantial sum of money. But **all his wealth is gone now**, squandered on gambling, drink and bad investments.

Now, all he has left is a crumbling home in need of repair, and a **desperate middle-aged daughter - Helen**. His brother Lord Hepplethorpe has long since stopped helping him pay his debts and will not even give him the money to repair the leaking roof on his house.

But now, his daughter has finally a chance of happiness and a secure future - **Peter Picklington** of the prestigious Picklington family has asked her to marry him. All he has to do, is **convince his brother to pay for the wedding** - one last expense. He knows Lady Hepplethorpe will be on his side - Dorothy has always had a soft spot for Helen. But George is a stingy old bastard and as long as he is lord of Hepplethorpe, he is in charge of the finances.

- Mrs Eugenia Cooper, chairperson of the Committee for Orphan Welfare

Knowledge is power. Mrs Cooper has known so ever since she convinced her French teacher to give her top marks for a badly spelled French essay which contained thinly veiled threats to make known how the teacher had made her living when she was young and poor.

Charities are also good sources of power for those with an organised mind and an ability to turn other people's empathy into funds. Mrs Cooper's latest charity project is the **Committee for Orphan Welfare**, but since the Wall Street crash last year, all her usual patrons have become awfully tight fisted. She needs at least **10 000 pounds** before Christmas, or their school project is going to have to be shut down.

Thankfully, the Hepplethorpes are going to provide the funds. She has already made sure that **Lady Hepplethorpe** knows that she knows about her **little indiscretion** a few years ago. That has made her wonderfully cooperative. As has been said before, knowledge is power.

Player 4

- Miss Florence Hepplethorpe, daughter of Lord and Lady Hepplethorpe

Miss Florence Hepplethorpe is **17 years old** and hopelessly in love with **Robert Johnson**, the 20 year old **son of one of the farmer in the village Upper Hepplethorpe**. She fears the stifling life as lady of the manor and has decided that she will not be married off to some boring toff, not under any circumstances! **Especially not Lord Swinepuddle**.

She is trying to convince Robert to ask her father for her hand. She thinks marrying Robert would give her the two things she wants most: Robert, and the freedom to live her life her own way.

- Mr Butcher, butcher to the Hepplethorpes

Mr Butcher is the local **butcher** in the village of Upper Hepplethorpe, but he is also a cunning **black market trader**. He is very happy about the arrangement he has made with Mr Jenkins, the butler at Hepplethorpe Manor. Mr Jenkins lets Mr Butcher **charge for more meat than he delivers, then Mr Butcher sells the extra meat on the black market and the two split the proceeds**.

Player 5

- Mr Jenkins, butler

Mr Jenkins started working for the Hepplethorpes **over 30 years** ago. At the time, he felt immensely proud over his position as butler at such a noble house. Bit by bit, his pride has been chipped away and now he feels little more than **loathing for his employers**. All his brothers, cousins and old friends from school are either decorated war heroes, have made an exciting life for themselves in one of the big cities, or have emigrated to the adventures of America. He is stuck in a declining house with a declining family, feeling himself descend towards old age with horrifying haste. If he wants something more from his life, he needs to do something about it quickly.

And that was why he accepted Mr Butcher's offer to earn a bit of extra money. Mr Jenkins lets **Mr Butcher** charge for more meat than he delivers, then Mr Butcher sells the extra meat on the **black market** and the two split the proceeds. He just hopes no one ever compares the receipts to the menus and wonders where all the extra meat has gone.

- Miss Helen Hepplethorpe, daughter of Mr Henry Hepplethorpe

Helen Hepplethorpe had almost given up on marriage, but she has finally found love at the age of **35** - or at least a perfectly respectable man who will be able to provide her with a house, a life in comfort and hopefully children. **Peter Picklington** is the son of a judge and his family is very proper and very proud.

Since her upbringing has taught her no skills useful for employment, and there is nothing left of the funds her father inherited, a decent marriage is her only salvation from a poor and dreary future.

The only problem is, that her fiancé and her future mother and father in law **expect a grand wedding at Hepplethorpe Manor**, paid for by her family of course. Unless she can arrange for a wedding that will impress them, she fears that Peter will call the wedding off.

Game master

- PC Plod

In the second part of the scenario, DI Bell will have an assistant, Police Constable Plod. PC Plod will be played by the game master.

	Lord Hepplethorpe is called	Lady Hepplethorpe is called	Florence is called	Uncle Henry is called	Mr Jenkins is called	Mrs Cooper is called	Robert Johnson is called	Helen Hepplethorpe is called	Mr Butcher is called	DI Bell is called
by Lord Hepplethorpe	-	Dorothy	Florence	Uncle Henry	Mr Jenkins	Mrs Cooper	Robert	Helen	Mr Butcher	-
by Lady Hepplethorpe	George	-	Florence	Uncle Henry	Mr Jenkins	Mrs Cooper	Robert	Helen	Mr Butcher	Bell
by Florence Hepplethorpe	Papa	Mama	-	Uncle Henry	Mr Jenkins	Mrs Cooper	Robert	Helen	Mr Butcher	DI Bell
by Uncle Henry	George	Dorothy	Florence	-	Mr Jenkins	Mrs Cooper	Robert	Helen	Mr Butcher	Bell
by Mr Jenkins	Lord Hepplethorpe, My Lord, Your Lordship,	Lady Hepplethorpe, My Lady, Your Ladyship	Miss Hepplethorpe	Mr Hepplethorpe, Sir	-	Mrs Cooper, Madam	Robert	Miss Hepplethorpe	Mr Butcher	DI Bell
by Mrs Cooper	Lord Hepplethorpe, My Lord, Your Lordship,	Lady Hepplethorpe, My Lady, Your Ladyship	Miss Hepplethorpe	Mr Hepplethorpe, Sir	Mr Jenkins	-	Robert	Miss Hepplethorpe	Mr Butcher	DI Bell
by Robert Johnson	Lord Hepplethorpe, My Lord, Your Lordship,	Lady Hepplethorpe, My Lady, Your Ladyship	Florence	Mr Hepplethorpe, Sir	Mr Jenkins	Mrs Cooper	-	Miss Hepplethorpe	Mr Butcher	DI Bell
by Helen Hepplethorpe	Cousin George	Cousin Dorothy	Cousin Florence	Papa	Mr Jenkins	Mrs Cooper	Robert	-	Mr Butcher	DI Bell
by Mr Butcher	Lord Hepplethorpe, My Lord, Your Lordship,	Lady Hepplethorpe, My Lady, Your Ladyship	Miss Hepplethorpe	Mr Hepplethorpe,S ir	Mr Jenkins	Mrs Cooper	Robert	Miss Hepplethorpe	-	DI Bell
by DI Bell	Lord Hepplethorpe, My Lord, Your Lordship,	Lady Hepplethorpe, My Lady, Your Ladyship	Miss Hepplethorpe	Mr Hepplethorpe,S ir	Mr Jenkins	Mrs Cooper	Robert	Miss Hepplethorpe	Mr Butcher	-

Warmup 1: Introductions

Player 1: I play Lord Hepplethorpe, first name George, and Detective Inspector Bell

Player 2: I play Lady Hepplethorpe, first name Dorothy, and Robert Johnson,
Florence's boyfriend from the village

Player 3: I play Mr Henry Hepplethorpe, Lord Hepplethorpe's uncle, and Mrs Eugenia Cooper, chairperson
of the Committee for Orphan Welfare

Player 4: I play Miss Florence Hepplethorpe, daughter of Lord and Lady Hepplethorpe, and Mr Butcher,
butcher to the Hepplethorpe household

Player 5: I play Mr Jenkins, the Hepplethorpe's butler, and Miss Helen Hepplethorpe, daughter of Mr
Henry Hepplethorpe

Player 1: I play Lord Hepplethorpe, first name George.
Dorothy is my wife,
Uncle Henry is my uncle,
Florence is my daughter,
Mr Jenkins is my butler,
Robert is the son of one of the farmers in the village and I only vaguely know who he is,
Mrs Cooper is my wife's acquaintance whom I have never met,
Mr Butcher delivers something to the kitchen and
Helen is my cousin.

I also play Detective Inspector Bell.

Player 2: I play Lady Hepplethorpe, first name Dorothy.
Lord Hepplethorpe is my husband,
Uncle Henry is my husband's uncle,
Florence is my daughter,
Mr Jenkins is our butler.
Robert is the son of one of the farmers in the village,
Mrs Cooper is the chairwoman of Committee for Children's Welfare,
Mr Butcher is our butcher.

I also play Robert Johnson.
Lord Hepplethorpe is my girlfriend's father,
Lady Hepplethorpe is my girlfriend's mother,
Florence is my girlfriend and
Mr Jenkins is her family's butler.
Mr Butcher is the local butcher.
I have never met the other characters.