

NIGHT MUST FALL - Character Breakdown:

The Women

Mrs. Bramson: 55-70... lady of the manor (well...bungalow and gardens, actually!), a stern spinster, rich, and to be obeyed. She does a good effort at prim and proper, if not also a tad pompous with it! Her favourite book is a Victorian 'sensation novel' called East Lynne, about a woman who has a child through an illicit affair. She is the stalwart of the play, the one who drives most of the action. She spends most of the play in a wheelchair (which she does not need) and makes everyone else do her bidding. Both funny and desperate!

Olivia Grayne: 26-35... the intelligent but rather 'plain-Jane' niece. She is 'employed' by her domineering aunt and seems to be there for no other reason than Mrs. Bramson's pleasure. She whiles her days away writing poetry and such, when not attending on Mrs. B, or reading to her from her favourite book. She finds Hubert an 'unmitigating bore' but seems attracted to Dan, against her better judgement. She is careful, meticulous, nobody's fool..but reliant on her aunt's wealth. Not a 'funny' character although she has a hidden charm and appeal.

Mrs. Terence: 40-60... the cook. She is an energetic woman and a force to be reckoned with. She has worked at the bungalow for some years and does not mind speaking her mind about the folk around 'ere! Needs good timing to be both funny and sinister at the same time!

Dora Parkoe: 18-25... the maid. A humble northern working-class lass. 2 months pregnant to Dan. Works for the wretched Mrs. B. She is pretty, perhaps a bit slutty (for the time), definitely a bit stupid. She can be nervous and clumsy...a nice part, perhaps a bit skittish...some nice comedy one-liners.

Nurse Libby: 30-50... Mrs. B's nurse. She only appears a couple of times but has the potential to be a real comic part. She knows all about Mrs. Bramson's ailments and treats accordingly!

The Men

Hubert Laurie: 28-37... a nice enough kinda chap who's recently made friends with Olivia, although she is not particularly welcoming of his 'boring' romantic advances. He is a well-read, talented individual and of sound background etcetera, etcetera... but somehow not quite the knight-in-shining our heroine needs! He has been 'hanging around' the bungalow for a couple of weeks or so, whilst on holiday.

Dan: 25-35... a charming, disarming, aloof and rotten psychopath. He has already killed one person before the play opens, and yet somehow we like him. He is good-looking, witty and 'always acting'! A real debonair, womanising murderer! He manipulates Mrs. Bramson's emotions and becomes her hired help. Throughout the play we see him unravel, culminating in total breakdown.

Inspector Belsize: 45-55...the cop. Authoritative and capable CID. As the name suggests, a big chap. He is in charge of the murder investigation.