

Setting: Victorian era Yorkshire village

Thomasina Bateman



Southern English “Home Counties” accent. Age: Late 20s/early 30s. Personality has influences from Lara Croft and Scully from X-files.

Thomasina Bateman is the main protagonist of the game. A woman of science, single, strong-willed but warm and good natured. A very likeable protagonist. She is a “barrow-digger” – traveling throughout England, she excavates ancient burial mounds and documents her finds for a future book. She does not suffer fools and has a rational worldview. She is adventurous and has an inquisitive nature. Throughout the course of the game, these rational views become eroded as she sinks deeper into the mystery. Behind the façade of her character is a deep sadness and nostalgia for her childhood, a time when she would go on expeditions with her father. Her father has been in a comatose state for the last 25 years after suffering an accident, and Thomasina will do anything to make him well again.

LINES

Happily introducing herself, with confidence

“My name is Thomasina Bateman. I'm here to excavate Hob's Barrow.”

Upon hearing a warning about Hob's Barrow – an ‘unnatural place’, confident and determined.

“We must seek to understand the world by rational means, Ms Walker. One cannot abandon reason.”

In a letter to her mother, years after the tragic events of the game take place. Serious, solemn.

“I have spent these past years in torment, trying to piece together what remains of obscured memories. What I am about to recount to you will seem beyond comprehension, but I beg for your patience.”

Reflecting upon a troubling day, doubt creeping in

“The day was starting to test me. The term 'coincidence' was feeling insufficient to explain what was happening. It was after that first conversation with Leonard Shoulder that I started entertaining thoughts of a truly irrational nature. “

In a letter to her mother, speaking with total regret and sadness.

Oh, Mother... what have I done? Forgive me.

Mother Mildred



Northern English accent (e.g., Yorkshire, Derbyshire). Age: 60s

An elderly woman that some consider a witch or “Wise Woman”. She is an expert on local flora and fauna, providing Thomasina with guidance on tinctures and tonics.

LINES

When happily speaking about her talent for creating tinctures

“Folk from all around seek me for help with their ailments. Herne Wood is abundant with flora that, if mixed correctly, will cure almost any ill.”

A solemn warning

“Samuel Briden hanged himself not long after. Reason enough for you to stay well clear of that place.”

When issuing instructions to Thomasina, clearly and concisely.

“Elderflower and flintwort. If you bring me these things, I can make the poultice for you. Then it just needs to be applied directly to the joints, that should ease his burden.”

Delivered with a touch of sadness

“There used to be quite a few elder plants growing here in Herne Wood, but they've long since gone.”

Annoyed

“And I know exactly why you're in Bewlay. You won't get far by lying to me again.” (*Bewlay pronounced “Bew-lee”*)

Mary de Plancy



Northern English accent (e.g., Yorkshire, Derbyshire). Age: 70+

A kindly elderly churchgoing woman, a Christian, who is known locally for her fine Bakewell puddings. She is in mourning for her recently deceased husband, the local cobbler. She is often to be found around St Edmunds, the local church.

LINES

Happily offering Thomasina one of her homemade cakes

“Good day! Would you like to buy one of these cakes, pet?”

Exclaiming in exasperation that local children have eaten all the gingerbread she made.

“Those little whelps have already gobbled up all the gingerbread!”

Spoken with sadness, reflecting on her husband's death

“Love is precious, pet. There's nowt that can replace the hole it leaves in your heart.”

Speaking of her deceased husband with fond warmth

“You know, the things I miss most about him are the things that used to annoy me. The click of his jaw as he chewed his sandwiches. Leaving his tools all around the house. The way he'd never back down from an argument.”

Shakily asking Thomasina the question (she herself does fear death)

"Do you fear death, pet?"

Rebecca



Northern English accent (e.g., Yorkshire, Derbyshire). Age: Late teens/early 20s.

A maid in the employ of Lord Panswyck, the local landowner. An anxious character, she asks Thomasina for help when Mr Ambrose, the milkman (who is also her lover), fails to show up at the local market.

LINES

Cheerily saying good morning to the innkeeper

"Good morning, Mr Kemp, I'm here for his Lordship's paper."

Worried that the milkman (her lover) has not arrived at the market

"Aye, he should have been here a good two hour ago. I hope misfortune hasn't befallen him."

In tears when she reveals her plans to elope with the milkman, who has gone AWOL

“We were to run away together, today, ma'am! I'm worried sick that he's stood me up.”

Happy but worried, upon reuniting with the milkman (who has been physically attacked)

“Jesus! What happened to you? Were you in a fight?”

Bidding an angry farewell to her horrible governess

“Oh stick it where the sun don't shine, you bitter old sow!”

Jane



Northern English accent (e.g., Yorkshire, Derbyshire). Age: 7-10

A friendly but mischievous local girl, often seen with her brother Wally at the local beck or selling apples with her father in the market. A keen juggler. After Thomasina helps her find her lost doll, she gives Thomasina directions to Hob's Barrow when nobody else will. She is cheeky but ultimately helpful.

LINES

Earnestly talking about her dolls

“I'd introduce you to my dolls, but they are drying out at the moment.”

Exasperated at her brother, who has stolen her favourite doll

“Wally is the worst brother in the whole world!”

Quietly and nervously talking about fairies

“Wally says he sees them on the moors, dancing and riding on the backs of birds.”

Exclaiming, with worry.

"It's bad luck to touch the Ammon's Horn!"

Amused and giggly

"Silly! What were you doing in that smelly old badger's hole?"