

Setting: Victorian era Yorkshire village

Arthur Tillet



Northern English accent (e.g., Yorkshire, Derbyshire). Age: 30s

A local villager with a drinking problem who at first is a drunken pest, but as the story progresses, we learn that Arthur is a kind man who is struggling to get over the recent death of his mother. He is also the stationmaster of the recently opened (and very tiny) railway station. He becomes a friend to Thomasina.

LINES

Drunkenly coming on to Thomasina

“Give us a kiss now won't you?”

Recalling his dead mother's love for the moors, with sadness

“She'd get a tear in her eye as she looked out upon it. She loved this land.”

When happily explaining his role at the railway station (as stationmaster)

“My responsibilities here keep me on the straight and narrow, I'll tell you that much. A sense of duty can do wonders for a lost soul.”

Explaining a situation with considerable shame.

“That's the thing... I hadn't the foggiest idea what he were on about. It were the drink, you see? I'm an embarrassment, Thomasina.”

Staring into the woods with a vacant gaze, trying to remember something. Confused, distant. Asked what he is trying to remember:

“I'm not sure... Something in the woods... It will come back to me.”

Leonard Shoulder



Northern English accent (e.g Yorkshire, Derbyshire). Age 60+. Think Norman Clegg from “Last of the Summer Wine”.

A sickly, kindly elderly man – it is he who invites Thomasina to Bewlay to undertake the excavation. Mysterious and slightly evasive.

LINES

Happily explaining how he knew about Thomasina

“I saw your interview in the Bakewell Times. A young lady travelling the county, digging up barrows and documenting her findings - perfect for the job!”

A serious discussion about events 25 years earlier

“Samuel Briden hadn't been able to harvest a single crop for two seasons. Even Herne Wood were sick, berries rotted as quickly as they grew. Folk thought the ground were blighted.”

Reassuring Thomasina, with warmth

“I can assure you there's nothing to fear. Coincidence reigns supreme.”

Reflecting on his poor health, wistful

“Aye, I were on my way to find you when I stopped here to catch my breath. I've not much go in me these days.”

Restrained excitement, delivered in a cold manner after he has tricked Thomasina into unleashing a dormant demon.

“My dear Miss Bateman, there is a God about whom you know nothing, because men have forgotten Him. We call Him by His name: Abraxas.”

Lord Panswyck (pronounced PANS-WICK)



Posh, aristocratic accent. Age: 30s. Think Mr Darcy from "Pride and Prejudice"

A larger-than-life character. Lord Panswyck owns a vast amount of land and employs many of the local villagers on his estate, where he keeps livestock. He has a flirtatious personality and is very forthright in his admiration for Thomasina, he finds her very beautiful and tries hard to charm her. He is also a keen painter. He is full of deceptions, and it is never clear if he is telling the truth or what his true motivations are.

LINES

Spoken in a jolly manner, the last line is pure flirtation

"You must think me a scoundrel of the highest order for asking you to undertake such folly! Of course I would have lent you my men either way. I merely desired an excuse to share a cake with you."

Angrily and dismissively speaking to Thomasina about Arthur Tillett

"I do wish you wouldn't spend so much time with that fool, it's beneath a woman of your standard. It's sad really, that dog urine they serve here has rather pickled the man's brain."

Speaking with seriousness and hope, but in a mysterious way

"With this sacred place rebuilt, He shall be venerated once more and the name Panswyck shall be uttered again across all of England! He guided the hands of my ancestors, now it is time for Him to guide us."

Warmth and admiration toward Thomasina, spoken with absolute seriousness.

"And that's what I admire about you. Tenacity. You don't give up, do you?"

Happily and extravagantly offering Thomasina a drink in the inn, in front of all the customers

"My dear, please allow me the pleasure of buying you a drink. A welcome antidote to the wind's bite, wouldn't you say Stanley?"

Father Roache



Northern English accent (e.g Yorkshire, Derbyshire). Age: 50s

The local vicar. He suffers from an unexplained illness that brings on bouts of extreme nausea. A kind man with a deep love of Shakespeare, he sometimes delivers his lines with a theatrical flair and is fond of quoting the Bard himself.

LINES

Spoken with happiness and warmth

“Miss Bateman, don't hesitate to try one of Mrs de Plancy's wonderful cakes.”

A serious question

“Tell me Miss Bateman... do you believe in God?”

A Shakespeare quote, delivered with hammy enthusiasm (he is a big fan of Shakespeare but certainly not a trained actor)

“Let's talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs... Make dust our paper and with rainy eyes... Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth... Let's choose executors and talk of wills.”

A desperate plea, begging Thomasina to perform a bloodletting procedure on him

“Let the blood from my arm. Cut me, I beg you!”

Delivered in a worried but defeated tone, knowing that Thomasina is about do something truly terrible despite his advice

“I... wish you well with your findings, Miss Bateman. May the Lord strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.”

Stanley Kemp



Northern English accent (e.g., Yorkshire, Derbyshire). Age: 40s

The innkeeper of the Plough and Furrow Inn, where Thomasina stays on her adventure. A proud but hypocritical man, he lectures Thomasina on his virtues of honesty whilst downright lying to her throughout the course of the game. However, Thomasina never realises this, and in general, trusts him.

LINES

Cheerily talking about the weather

"I'm happy to report the rain of yesterday has lifted, it's a clear morning outside."

Amused by Thomasina's profession

"Why are you interested in digging around in the dirt, lass? Haven't ye better things to do with your time?"

A warning

"The mind is capable of manifesting frightful things, Miss Bateman."

An admission of guilt

"As you know, I like to run an honest establishment. And well... I have not been honest with you, lass."

Pointedly speaking to two men who were warning Thomasina against the excavation, displeased

"Here to wish Miss Bateman good luck for her excavation, gentlemen? An excavation strongly supported by Lord Panswyck no less!"