

Agatha Christie's 'Murder On The Nile' – Character Descriptions

Kay Mostyn is a beautiful, wealthy, and entitled woman with a manner of one born to command. She is married to Simon, who was engaged to her good friend Jacqueline de Severac, and tragically becomes the victim of the murder.

Simon Mostyn a personable young man, is Kay's husband, a charming Englishman with a secretive side. While protective of Kay, his true motives may come into question as the plot unfolds. Notably, he was previously engaged to Jacqueline.

Jacqueline de Severac and Kay forged a strong bond while attending a posh school in Paris, until Jackie's family financial woes forced her to leave school. Later, Jackie asked Kay to help her fiancé, Simon, find a job, but their plans took an unexpected turn when Simon and Kay fell in love. Feeling betrayed, Jackie maintains a facade of cool composure, yet beneath her demeanour lies a determination and passion as she relentlessly pursues the newlyweds. Her jealousy turns bitter, leading her to follow them on their honeymoon and even threatening Kay's life.

Canon Pennefather an imposing and middle-aged clergyman, serves as Kay's guardian and was her father's best friend. He oversaw her finances until her marriage, after which Kay became "free" of his oversight. Throughout the play, he takes on the role of the detective, listening, observing, and offering advice, often unsolicited, to everyone onboard as he investigates the murder and uncovers the truth.

Helen Ffoliot-Ffoulkes is a narcissistic, wealthy, and snobbish elitist who exudes an air of entitlement. She treats her great-niece, Christina, like a servant and consistently makes every situation about herself.

Christina Grant Miss Ffoliot-Ffoulkes's great-niece and companion, is a sweet and sensible young woman with endless patience. Despite her demanding aunt's expectations of utter obedience, Christina maintains an even-tempered disposition that sometimes appears almost too good to be true.

William Smith a charismatic socialist with a disdain for the upper class, joins the luxury cruise despite his lack of visible means of support. His unkempt appearance belies his refined voice, hinting at his hidden background. Quick to criticize wealth and privilege, Smith's outspoken nature contrasts with his protective instincts. Smitten with Christina, he becomes fiercely protective of her, showcasing a softer side beneath his outspoken exterior.

Louise the French maid, possesses a deceptive charm and cunning demeanour. Sly and conniving, she navigates her role with an air of secrecy, always aware of the truths hidden beneath the surface. With her keen perception, Louise sees more than meets the eye, often using her knowledge to her advantage. Despite her alluring appearance, she is not above exploiting opportunities when they arise, adding an element of intrigue to her character.

Dr Bessner is a mysterious doctor of unknown origin, claiming to hail from a small country in Europe and speaking some German. Specializing in psychology and mental disorders, he becomes involved when his services are required aboard the cruise. As the story unfolds, it is revealed that Dr Bessner harbors a deep-seated grudge against Kay's father, stemming from the tragic death of his wife and son in a war caused by the munitions manufactured by Kay's father. His enigmatic background and hidden vendetta add layers of intrigue to his character as the plot progresses.

The Beadsellers are relentless and pesky peddlers aboard the boat, specializing in selling cheap trinkets and souvenirs to the passengers. Originating from Arabic backgrounds, they are skilled sellers of beads, postcards, and other knick-knacks. Their persistence knows no bounds as they employ competitive sales tactics to capture the attention of potential buyers. With their unwavering determination, they add both annoyance and authenticity to the cruise experience, embodying the vibrant spirit of local marketplaces. (typically, double-cast in the bit parts of either McNaught or The Police Official)

The Steward a Nubian by origin, serves as the ship's greeter and primary server of passengers. Always wearing a smile, he exudes amiability and charm, though he only understands about a quarter of what the passengers say to him. Despite this language barrier, he diligently attends to the needs of the guests, ensuring their comfort and satisfaction throughout the voyage. Tasked with appeasing the desires of the wealthy and sometimes whiny clientele, he navigates his role with patience and diplomacy, all while maintaining his friendly demeanour.

McNaught serves as the ship's captain. (typically played by one of the Beadsellers)

The Egyptian Police Official makes a brief appearance at the end of the play without any lines. (typically, one of the Beadsellers)