

## Character Descriptions

Frank Archer, a beau, posing as servant to Aimwell. [No accent.] Archer is an adventurous rake, an independent spirit who makes his own luck. More of a cynic than his friend Aimwell, he does his best to keep Aimwell grounded, and their plan to marry a wealthy woman and split the money on track. But he has a lousy memory for names and their cover story, and he panics just a bit when he sees the plan going off the rails.

Tom Aimwell, another beau. [Brother of Viscount Aimwell, and an English lord, if you can manage a posh BBC accent.] Aimwell is working with Archer on a scheme to marry a wealthy woman and split the money between them, but he's a secret romantic that wants to be in love with the woman he marries. He's also a fundamentally decent soul who comes clean with Dorinda rather than deceiving her into a marriage, or marrying her under false pretenses. Brave, adventurous and a little reckless, he rushes into trouble headlong and figures it out as he goes.

Will Boniface, a Landlord of an inn. [Southern accent.] The leader of a local band of thieves, he always has one eye on the profits. He was born and bred in Lichfield, Kentucky, but he dreams of a better life, one in which he's either rich enough to leave, or fortunate enough to attract the interest of the wealthy and beautiful Mrs. Bountiful, the best of women.

Cherry Boniface, his daughter. [Southern accent.] Cherry is funny, game and adventurous. And very literal. Like her father, she dreams of better things, and life in a better place, and she's secretly gathering her resources and making her plans to get out of here and get that better life.

Mrs. Bountiful, country woman, specializes in herbal medicine. [Southern belle.] The local faith healer. A Wiccan in a Christian town, kept safe by the fact that she's extremely rich and genuinely beloved by the people she's managed to help. Earnest, well-meaning, and passionate about using chicken teats and probes to heal the sick.

Dorinda Sullen, Mrs. Bountiful's daughter. [Southern belle.] Dorinda might just be the most well-grounded person in the entire play. A loyal friend to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Sullen, she supports her in a plan she fully knows is ridiculous and fraught with real problems, all the while pointing out those problems. She thinks of herself as bulletproof against romance and idiotic choices, until she meets Aimwell.

Jeremiah Sullen, a country block-head, Mrs. Bountiful's son and Dorinda's brother. [Southern accent.] Sullen drinks to forget. Mostly, he drinks to forget he's married. He and his wife quarrel constantly, and they both desperately want to divorce. He spends long hours out of the house, drinking and gambling with any other company he can find. He's never sober, if he can help it. There's more here than a comic drunk; anyone who's ever been in a disaster of a relationship should be able to sympathize with him, and we should be rooting for his divorce and his happiness by the end.

Kate Sullen, his unhappy wife, Mrs. Bountiful's daughter-in-law. [Upper class Manhattanite, no accent.] She married Jeremiah Sullen a year ago, and it's only taken a year for things to completely unravel between them. She's a wealthy Manhattan socialite who briefly thought this country marriage would bring her happiness, and she's attracted to and increasingly unable to resist Archer. She ends up being

the unexpected voice of feminism, the one who makes us feel just how few choices a woman has, in love and in life. The Sullens' divorce is the joyful ending of this play, the affirmation that everyone deserves to be happy, and it only works if we actually like both parties.

Peter Scrub, servant to Mrs. Bountiful and her family. (Helps with scene changes.) [Think Droopy Dog.] Scrub is easily the sweetest, most lovable character in the play. He just wants to be everyone's friend. He's loyal to the family he serves, but when their house is attacked by robbers, he's completely ready to surrender and grovel, as long as they let him live. (We may let him find magnificent courage eventually, in an eight-person found-objects fight scene at the end of the play.)

Andre Foiegras, a French clergyman turned highwayman (Helps with scene changes). [Outrageous French accent.] Foiegras loves robbing. Foiegras loves women. Foiegras loves robbing women. Foiegras started life as a priest, but fell far, far off the path. These days, he fancies himself a gentleman bandit, and always wears a mask, whether he's playing at being a priest or playing at being a robber.

Dana Hounslow, his associate/Director (Helps with scene changes). [Southern accent as Hounslow, no accent as Director.] Earnest and frazzled as the Director, and desperately trying to keep everything from going off the rails. The set designers are idiots. The costumers are idiots. Nobody's read the script, and here you are in front of a live studio audience, potentially about to look like an idiot in front of millions of viewers. Keep it together...keep it together...

Taylor Bagshot, another associate/Assistant Tech (Helps with scene changes) [Southern accent as Bagshot, no accent as Assistant Tech.] Used to working with the high-strung Director, and talking all the crazy kitties on set down out of their trees. Calm and easygoing no matter how tense things are getting, Bagshot quietly solves problems, while everyone else is freaking out.