

Characters

Stephen Miller

Age twenty-six.

Stephen graduated from Bartlemas College, Torley, with a history degree and he currently works at the Pat-Rires Museum, Torley, as a research assistant in the archaeology department. He isn't happy there, not because he doesn't like the work, but because it is all too similar to the years he spent as a student. He needs a change and want to be more 'hands on,' get out of the library and archives.

Personally, Stephen is a bit of a loner, partly through shyness and insecurity, but also through a desire to *be* alone – one of the reasons he took the research job. That said, he is more lonely than he realises, and wants a life partner. He has had girlfriends, but nothing serious or lasting, and is currently between partners.

He's struggling to find a direction for his life and doesn't really have a plan. His goal was to be a researcher and archivist, but this has now soured in the face of the reality of it, and he sees himself ending up as a librarian or curator, which doesn't appeal.

Basically, he is *ready* for an adventure, and – in a sense – feels he doesn't have much to lose.

Molly Plummer

Age twenty-four.

Abandoned by her mother at birth, Molly (named by the staff at the hospital where she was first taken) was raised in children's homes, shunted from home to home and never being adopted due to her rebellious behaviour. Finally, at age nine, Ada took her in and worked with Molly's fiery spirit, gradually teaching her to channel it efficiently and take responsibility for herself.

Molly grow up with great love and respect for Ada. Naturally intelligent, she studied at Bartlemas University Hospital, Torley, and became a registered nurse, specialising in child care and with work in child psychology.

She returned to Lower Hangton Children's Home on subsistence wages to work as a helper, utilising her nursing and counselling skills as part of her role there, while supplementing her salary with relief work at the local cottage hospital.

Father Jenkins

Age sixty-eight.

Parish priest of the Over-Torley area (a large area north and west of Torley, incorporating the Hangtons).

A highly intelligent man and very spiritual, he has astudied the occult and is a designated exorcist with the church.

Because his studies and practices brought him into contact with the second reality, he came to the attention of the Administration of Mysteries and Occult Knowledge (AMOK) a secret organisation with connections to the church, government, military and police. AMOK know o

the Experts but do not have official links. The Experts initialise contact on their own terms. Father Jenkins is one of the unofficial links between AMOK and the Experts, and is able to communicate messages *to* the Experts, although they rarely respond directly.

Jenkins does struggle to ratify the depths of the second reality with the beliefs of the faith he has grown up with. While he accepts the responsibilities he has taken on, and will do his duty to the death, he resents the *need* for it, and longs to return to the simplicity of his earlier pastoral days before he learned of such things.