

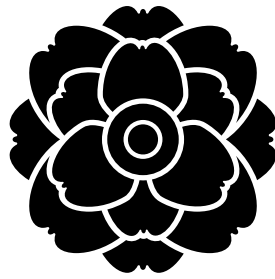


THE DEADLY ROSE



CHARACTER READING GUIDE

WRITTEN BY T.A. WILLBERG



IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

FRASER HENLEY



First mention: Chapter 1

Knows and works with the *Florist*. A friend of *Eddie Hopper*.

THE “FLORIST”



First mention: Chapter 1

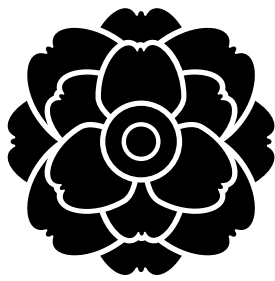
Russian. Has worked with *Eddie Hopper* and *Fraser Henley* on a nefarious “trading deal”. Distinct paralysis on right side of face and uses a cane.

EDDIE HOPPER



First mention: Chapter 1

Friend and colleague of *Fraser Henley*. Appears to have done some double crossing in his past. Killed and marked with a rose on his chest.

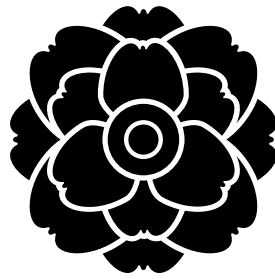


MARION LANE



First mention: Chapter 2

Short, slim build with dark brown hair, pale skin and cornflower blue eyes. Born on 6 November, 1934 to *Alice Lane* (deceased) and *Devon Lane* (deceased). Marion endured a lonely existence in East London, living with her widowed mother, who committed suicide when Marion was only 16. This tragedy, along with the earlier loss of her father, shaped her life and set in motion an unquenchable desperation to find meaning, purpose and a sense of belonging. At 18, Marion took up employment at an automobile workshop where she fostered a talent for repair and mechanics. At the age of 23, she was recruited by Miss Brickett's to work in the agency's most illustrious department, Gadgetry. Since then, she has proven herself a trustworthy and hardworking employee, who'll do anything to protect the people she loves (and the agency itself). During her first year as an apprentice, Marion solved the murder of former filing assistant, *Michelle White*, who was killed by her colleague, *Edgar Swindlehurst* (the agency's former Special Case Officer).



WILLIAM ALEXANDER HOBBS (BILL)



First mention: Chapter 2

Black and dishevelled hair, dark eyes, tall and narrow-framed with little interest in his appearance. Bill is *Marion's* closest ally and best friend. He joined Miss Brickett's in 1958, just days before *Marion's* recruitment, and assisted her in solving her very first "test" — a puzzle (Trick) lock. Later, he became involved — alongside *Marion* — in solving the murder of *Michelle White*.

Bill is logical and cool-headed, though occasionally withdrawn and reticent.

MAUD FINKLE



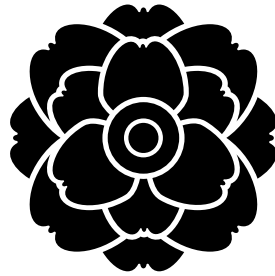
First mention: Chapter 2

Recruited in the same year as *Marion* for skills gained through years of living on the streets of London. Gregarious, forthright and "nimble-fingered".

NANCY BRICKETT



First mention: Chapter 2



Owner and founder of the agency who previously worked with *Professor Henry Gillroth* as a cryptanalyst (during WWII). Nancy is unmarried and has no family outside the agency (that we know of!). As she's proven countless times, Nancy will do anything to protect the integrity of Miss Brickett's, earning her a reputation as cold, stern and ruthless.

DOLORES HACKSWORTH



First mention: Chapter 3

Marion's maternal grandmother, with whom she lived from the age of 16.

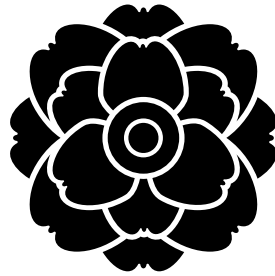
Dolores now lives in America (spending her days doing who knows what).

KENNETH "KENNY" HUGO



First mention: Chapter 3

Ex-New York City private detective. Kenny joined Miss Brickett's as a junior Inquirer halfway through 1958. He was recruited by *Nancy* to help solve the murder of *Michelle White*. Handsome, burly, though brash and direct.



KATE BAILEY



First mention: Chapter 3

Junior Inquirer and *Kenny's* love interest (much to *Marion's* dismay).

FRANK STONE



First mention: Chapter 3

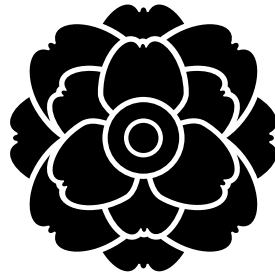
Ex-Detective Inspector for the Dorset Police. Now, head of the apprenticeship programme and field office at Miss Brickett's. Frank joined the agency shortly after it opened and has been a stalwart member ever since. A childhood friend of *Marion's* mother (*Alice Lane*), Frank has become something of a father figure and mentor to *Marion*.

CONSTABLE MARSHAL REDDING



First mention: Chapter 3

A constable for the Metropolitan Police, Redding is one of Miss Brickett's only outside collaborators. Though he likes to think they're in cahoots, Redding has only a vague understanding of how Miss Brickett's operates,



has never met an Inquirer in the flesh and has no idea where the operation is run from.

OLD TOM



First mention: Chapter 3

A “compromising witness” identified by *Constable Redding* in the Harrogate murder investigation. Old Tom may or may not know both *Eddie Hopper* and *The Florist*.

ALICE LANE



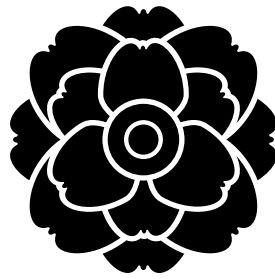
First mention: Chapter 3

Marion's mother and *Frank's* old “friend”. Committed suicide in 1950, rendering *Marion* an orphan.

JESSICA MEEL



First mention: Chapter 4



Kind, intuitive and risk-averse, Jessica is one of *Marion's* closest friends and a fellow second year apprentice.

THOMAS PROCTOR



First mention: Chapter 4

New recruit/first year apprentice. Tall with a wispy build and white blond hair. Withdrawn and reticent. Seldom talks.

AMBROSIA CLEMENTINE QUINN



First mention: Chapter 4

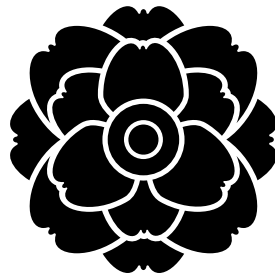
New recruit/first year apprentice. Thick-set, bronzed hair. Sharp-witted with a brilliant memory. Highly skilled at gadget construction.

JEROME LONGMORE



First mention: Chapter 4

New recruit/first year apprentice. Spirited, gregarious. Appears to be cool, calm and collected (but just wait until he comes across a spy snake!).



AMANDA SHIRLEY



First mention: Chapter 4

Apprentice in *Marion's* group and assistant case manager in the Intelligence Department. Aloof and generally disliked.

PROFESSOR UDAY BAL



First mention: Chapter 7

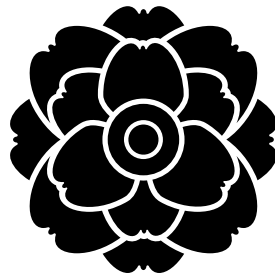
Head of the Gadgetry Department and Chief Gadget Engineer. An immigrant from Pakistan. Highly intelligent, creative and mild-mannered (although some believe him to be disorganised and forgetful).

DAVID ESTON



First mention: Chapter 8

Fellow apprentice in *Marion's* group. Recruited under questionable circumstances after his step-brother, *Ned Ashbry* — a former employee



“went missing” across the Border. David is *Bill’s* nemesis and regards himself as an outcast.

PRESTON DINN



First mention: Chapter 8

Apprentice in *Marion’s* group. Nonchalant, likeable. Hails from Ghana and previously a stevedore.

THE HIGH COUNCIL



First mention: Chapter 10

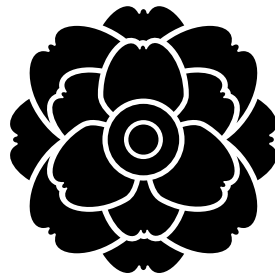
The governing body of Miss Brickett’s Investigations & Inquiries. Members: *Frank Stone, Nancy Brickett, Delia Spragg, Barbara Simpkins, Professor Gillroth* and *Rupert Nicholas*.

DELIA SPRAGG



First mention: Chapter 10

Agency tailor and member of the High Council.



RUPERT NICHOLAS



First mention: Chapter 10

Head of security and member of the High Council. Likes to keep the apprentices in order (and is thus greatly disliked).

TOBY



First mention: Chapter 12

Professor Bal's mechanical spy snake (occasionally operated by *Rupert Nicholas*). The snake's eyes are motion-detecting cameras. It can be operated remotely by an elaborate pocket watch. Toby is the lead snake in the menagerie (yes, there're more).

HARRY "THE BARMAN"



First mention: Chapter 14

Head cook and agency barman. A recluse who spends most of his time lingering in the library. Few know much about his character or family background.

