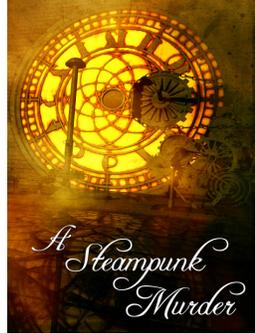






SHOT IN THE DARK
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Lady Araminta Steeles

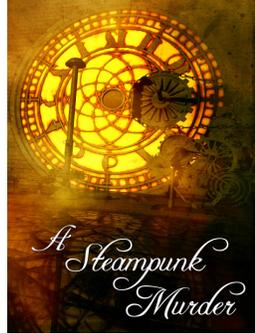
Lady Araminta Steeles, widow of Mr. Phelan Steeles, is the lady of Harrison House. She is a youthful widow with just one daughter, Evangeline. Lady Steeles ensures the day-to-day running of the manor as well as the collection of taxes from those in the nearby towns and countryside. Lady Steeles has a stern disposition, but is the epitome of grace and elegance, dressing always in white. While there is no proof, many believe her to be a sorceress, and because of her all-white attire, she has earned the nickname The White Lady. Lady Steeles wears a white dress, minimal cogs save for her hair pieces and cuffs and carries a white parasol.

Miss Evangeline Steeles

Daughter of Ms. Araminta Steeles, Evangeline is a lively and outspoken young lady just coming to society. Her 21st birthday is the reason for the fete this evening, and gifts have been arriving all day from admirers near and far. The Steeles' have another reason to celebrate though, as on this, Evangeline's 21st birthday, they are also announcing her engagement, to Mr. Bartholemew Payne, one of the most eligible bachelors in the county! Miss Steeles is beautiful with rosy lips, a flawless complexion and a fine figure. She wears a beautiful dress with a corset adorned with metal, leather and cogs.

Lyra Cross

Noted alchemist Lyra Cross is a woman in a man's field. Having studied under one of the most renowned alchemists of all time, Lyra is skilled in all sorts of potions and draughts, and serves a number of people all over the county and beyond. Strong-willed and yet comforting at the same time, many of Lyra's patients insist that she herself is the cure for what ails them, not what she carries in her bottles. She goes where her customers require on her trusty Trike, which means she can usually be found wearing riding gear and a pair of goggles thrown atop her head. She also wears a cuff with spaces for vials of commonly-used concoctions that she carries with her at all times.



The Seer

Rumoured to be a woman of "The Sight", The Seer has a name, but no one actually knows it, and she does not introduce herself with a name, which is why she is simply referred to as "The Seer". A secretive and skittish woman, The Seer speaks cryptically and rarely answers a question with a simple yes or no. She walks with a cane, atop which stands a sparkling crystal that she claims aids in her psychic visions. The Seer wears a long dress and carries pouches on her belt, the contents of which vary from runes to herbs to potions.

Jessamine West

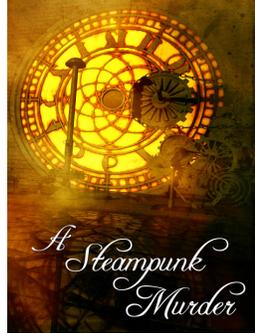
Daughter of head steward Bertram West, Jessamine is a young woman in her twenties, who now works for The Steeles in Harrison House. Having lived in Harrison House her whole life, she has grown up with Evangeline and Emerson Steeles, and the three used to play together in The Violet Forest. However, with age comes propriety and as they grew, each child had to fall into their station. Jessamine is a soft-spoken young woman who doesn't miss a thing. With a love of all things industrial, even her work dresses are decked out with gears, and she finds a million uses for them in her day-to-day duties.

Eulalia Long

Eulalia can be referred to as a "progressive woman". While the custom for women is to wear a dress with a corset, she is a woman of modern style, choosing to wear slacks on the bottom (like a man!) and her corset on the outside of her clothes and even drive her own trike, as evidenced by the goggles she keeps atop her head. Eulalia is quite secretive, rarely speaking unless spoken to. She also carries a bag, although its contents are a mystery.



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Natalya Hall

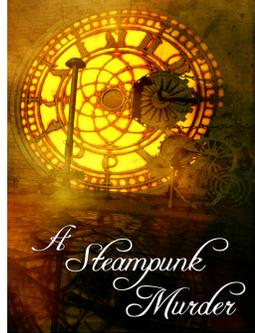
Mr. Freeman's protege, Natalya Hall is a budding horticulturalist who helps tend the gardens in exchange for Mr. Freeman's teachings. Living in Harrison House as part of the "hired help", Natalya is sly, beautiful and mysterious. Her teachings from Mr. Freeman have indeed been going well, as her own section of roses have yielded the biggest, most vibrant blooms Harrison House has ever seen. Natalya wears all black clothing adorned with brass cogs and gears, and because of her work in the gardens, insists on wearing trousers like the men – much to the chagrin of the other women in service at Harrison House.

The Rock Violinist

The Rock Violinist is at Harrison House tonight to entertain The Steeles guests at the celebration of Ms. Evangeline Steeles' birthday and official announcement of her engagement. Her appearance is at first a bit startling – she has metal and mechanics covering nearly all of her body and most of her face. However, her appearance is quickly forgotten when she picks up her bow with her robotic arm, as her talent on the violin is unrivalled in the country. The Steeles consider her application to play at the party tonight a stroke of luck for them, as she has awed and delighted the guests at Harrison House beyond measure. When she puts down her bow, she is soft-spoken and shy, rarely speaking unless spoken to. The Rock Violinist wears a dress and corset, and has gears and machinery all over her body.

Mr. Ivan Burnet

Adventurer and nobleman, Mr. Ivan Burnet is a bright-eyed with an infectious smile. Having recently returned from a stint abroad, Ivan Burnet has been granted a stay at Harrison House. But his stay is not entirely for pleasure, as he has been charged with delivering a gift to party honouree, Miss Evangeline Steeles, from her late Uncle, Orpheus Moon. Mr. Burnet has an easy manner and joyful eyes, despite the fact that he lost arm recently in a train accident. He has a robotic arm in its stead, which he insists works better than the original.



Mr. Bertram West

The head house steward at Harrison House for decades, Mr. West is devoted to the manor, and the Steeles family. A man who enjoys his solitude, West is responsible for the running of the house, organization of the other servants and ensuring the Steeles have everything they need. He is diligent, precise and proper, although he has been known to use his dry wit when the situation arises.

Mr. Freeman

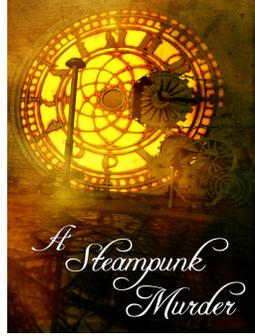
The head gardener at Harrison House, Mr. Freeman is charged with keeping the grounds immaculate. Together with a small team of laborers, he ensures the hedges are trimmed and the vegetable gardens plentiful. His "green thumb" has won Harrison House awards for both the flowers and vegetables each year since Mr. Freeman arrived. He is a stern, proper man who will not speak with the Steeles unless spoken to first. Mr. Freeman can usually be found inside the maintenance shed or in the gardens.

Emerson Steeles

Mr. Emerson Steeles is the eldest child of Lady Steeles, and he grew up in Harrison House. His appearance tonight at Evangeline Steeles' 21st birthday was a surprise and shock to everyone, as he has been away at war. The family received word two years ago that he was killed in action, however he arrived, alive as the day is long, at Harrison House tonight, in good health but minus a few limbs. Emerson Steeles is a proud military man who is fiercely loyal to his family. Emerson Steeles wears a uniform and has a robotic arm, where he lost his original arm to an explosion during battle. He wears an intricate brass patch over one eye, which is equipped with a camera as per modern standard military enhancements.



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*A Steampunk
Murder*

The Vicar

The Vicar, as he is known to his parishioners, is actually Arch Angel Michaelas, a man of the High Angelic Priesthood. While he serves the usual duties of a priest, he also protects his parishioners by any means possible, and is never to be found unarmed. As is the custom of priests in the High Angelic Priesthood, The Vicar has had robotic wings crafted and installed permanently on his back, and uses them often as his preferred method of travel.

Mr. Morgan Bishop

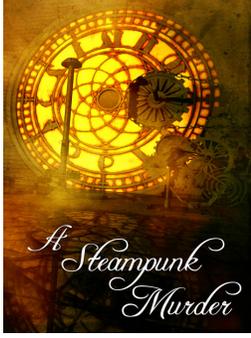
Clearly not a man of status, Morgan Bishop is a gruff and menacing man whose manners show he has not come from a family of good breeding. He is not forthcoming about himself with any of the other guests, and as he does not follow traditional customs of holding proper discussion, is looked upon by the others as quite the outsider; most wonder why he is even attending Ms. Evangeline's fete this evening in the first place. Mr. Bishop wears a suit with leather accents, gears and has a military-grade monocle over one eye.

Mr. Pot

The Steeles' lawyer, Mr. Pot is a particular man who takes his responsibility to his clients very seriously. He has handled the legal matters of Harrison House for decades, rivalling only Mr. Bertram West for length of service to The Steeles'. A peculiar man with glasses and a very tight bow tie, Mr. Pot speaks what is on his mind, has a sharp tongue and has little time for pleasantries. In addition to the bow tie, Mr. Pot also wears a top hat, suit and jacket and a pocket watch on a leather cuff, at which he glances obsessively.



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Tobias Moon

Cousin of Lady Evangeline Steeles and nephew of The White Lady, Tobias Moon is the son of Lady Steeles' estranged brother, Orpheus Moon. The late alchemist created a controversial item called The Moonstone, which was willed to Lady Evangeline. While Tobias has not seen his extended family in years, he has made a special trip to attend Harrison House for his cousin's birthday and engagement celebration. Tobias is proper, well-bred and well-spoken, and wears a suit jacket, top hat and carries a cane adorned with a gemstone on the top.