

The Village



The families of Thamesly have been here since long before the arrival of their current Norman overlords, and will probably still be here long after. Although many freedoms have been lost, the villagers value their independence and try to settle most matters themselves, without involving the lord. While some still dream of past glories, others have learnt how to prosper under the new system.

Thamesly is a close-knit community, where everyone knows everyone else's business. While there are bitter feuds and malicious gossip, everyone still knows that their fates are interlinked. The soldiers and nobles see Thamesly as a resource to be exploited, but for the lofty Aylings, humble Cotters, notorious Notegoods, honest Eastefields, scholarly Poles, beleaguered Bywaters and ambitious Millers, Thamesly is home.

The Village explores themes of community, family, social status, and feudalism from the peasants' perspective.

| Name | Gender | Description | Group |
|---------------------------|--------|---|------------|
| Harold Ayling | M | The richest man in the village | Ayling |
| Joan Ayling | F | A woman of wealth and ambition | Ayling |
| Godwin Ayling | M | A proud and ambitious young man | Ayling |
| Rose Ayling | F | The pampered daughter of the wealthy Ayling family | Ayling |
| Nicholas Baker | M | The village baker. An outsider who accepted serfdom to marry | Baker |
| Christina Baker | F | The baker's wife. A happily married woman | Baker |
| Mott Bywater | F | A desperate woman on the edge of destitution | Bywater |
| Will Bywater | M | A former soldier looking to clear his father's name | Bywater |
| Walt Bywater | M | A young man recently returned from serving in the army | Bywater |
| Edward Cotter | M | A poor but honest serf | Cotter |
| Margaret Cotter | F | Maid to Joan Ayling | Cotter |
| Young Edward Cotter | M | A poor shepherd boy with a kind heart | Cotter |
| Anne Cotter | F | A sensible young woman, maid to Rose Ayling | Cotter |
| Robert Eastefield | M | The village Hayward and a respected leader of the community | Eastefield |
| Maud Eastefield | F | A strong-minded woman and leader of the Wives' Guild | Eastefield |
| Emma Eastefield | F | A recent widow struggling to manage her lands | Eastefield |
| Little Richard Eastefield | M | A youth with heavy responsibilities | Eastefield |
| Greedy John (Miller) | M | The village's unscrupulous and ambitious miller | Miller |
| Beatrice Miller | F | Wife of the upwardly mobile Miller family | Miller |
| Simon Miller | M | The miller's son, and a brash youth | Miller |
| Eleanor Miller | F | Overlooked by her family, Eleanor looks out for herself | Miller |
| Granny Notegood | F | A tough old woman, matriarch of the Notegood family | Notegood |
| Roger Notegood | M | A poor but dishonest serf | Notegood |
| Edith Notegood | F | The wife of Roger Notegood who struggles to maintain order in the family | Notegood |
| Lazy John (Notegood) | M | A shiftless, lazy young man | Notegood |
| Maggie Butcher | F | A young widow enjoying her new found freedom | Notegood |
| Matilda Notegood | F | Roger Notegood's manipulative daughter | Notegood |
| Christopher Oakes | M | A poor man with too many sisters but plenty of ambition | Oakes |
| Estrild Oakes | F | A spinster who receives holy visions | Oakes |
| The Widow Agnes | F | The priest's housekeeper and the subject of much gossip | Oakes |
| Father Benedict | M | The village priest, struggling to retain the respect of his flock | Other |
| Peter the Woodward | M | A gamekeeper turned poacher | Other |
| Jane Star | F | The town alewife, who has been making a tidy profit from thirsty soldiers | Other |
| Old Mother Pole | F | Matriarch of the Pole family and village midwife | Pole |
| Ralph Pole | M | The village Reeve | Pole |
| Mabel Pole | F | The Reeve's self-important wife | Pole |
| Henry Pole | M | The Reeve's rebellious brother | Pole |
| Catherine Pole | F | The outspoken wife of Henry Pole | Pole |
| Thomas Wooler | M | A wealthy wool-merchant from Bristol | Wooler |
| Alice Wooler | F | A wealthy wool-merchant's daughter | Wooler |