

The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag

Character List

By Alan Bradley

Jack Crane

Character Name	First Appearance	Qualities
Flavia De Luce	Page 1	<i>Protagonist</i> , intelligent, 11 years old, witty, sarcastic, chemist, not liked in her home; loves Beethoven's 5th
Nialla Gilfoyle (mother goose)	Page 9	Mourning in the cemetery, arrogant, part of the "Porson's puppets" (Pg. 11), bruised (self-conscious), out of money, broken-down van, smoker, plays mother goose, ran away from home; illegitimately pregnant
Rupert Porson	Page 11	Leader of Porson's Puppets, "everyone knows him" (pg. 11), plays Snoddy the Squirrel in the TV show <i>The Magic Kingdom</i> , in his 40s, looked much older, bad right leg, good speaker, dies at pg. 151 . Found dieters downed plane
Canon Denwin Richardson	Page 12	Village Vicar (bishop), large/buff, sailors, loses things (stolen from)
Bert Archer	Page 13	The mechanic at the garage, older
Mother Shipton	Page 20	Clairvoyant who foresaw London burning, the Great Plague, airplanes, and battleships.
Feely (Ophelia)	Page 21	Flavia's sister, 17 years old, pianist, falls for Dieter
Daffy (Daphene)	Page 21	Flavia's sibling, 13 years old, reader
Father	Page 21	Philatelist (collector) - stamp collector
Mother (Harriet de Luce)	Page 22	Killed in an accident when Flavia was 1
Cynthia Richardson	Page 9	Church's guard/secretary, artist, jerk
Ms. Mullet	Page 44	De Luce's cook

Dogger	Page 48	Father's Man, the gardener, chauffeur, valet, estate, and odd-job man; had been a prisoner of war; symptoms of PTS
Aunt Felicity	Page 55	Father's evil sister, visits every Christmas, mean to the kids
Gladys	Page 56	flavia's bike
Gordon Ingleby	Page 66	Morose, grew and smoked weed, discovered Dieter and his crashed plane
Grace Ingleby	Page 66	Gordon's tiny, doll-like wife, ended up murdering Rupert
Robin Ingleby	Page 66	Gordon and Grace's only child, dies, leads Gordon and grace to seclusion
Mad Meg	page 67	she picks up empty tins and rubbish and ties them up. Creepy, takes the fall for finding Robins body
Dieter Schrantz	Page 74	German pow, starts dating feely. Ex-Luftwaffe pilot, actually found robin's body
Tick and tock	Page 76	Ingleby's cats
inspector Hewitt	Page 92	Homicide detective
Mutt Wilmott	Page 117	Rupert's BBC producer, stalkerish
Miss Cool	Page 143	Owns a confectionary/post office
Miss Mountjoy	Page 143	Niece of Dr. Twinning
Dr. Twinning	Page 143	Father's old schoolmaster, dead
Sally Straw	Page 143	Land Army girl
Maximilian Wight (max)	Page 143	Diminutive neighbor, who, after several triumphant world tours as a concert pianist, taught music
Antigone	Page 144	Wife of Inspector Hewitt, beautiful
Tully Stoker	Page 145	Proprietor and landlord of the Thirteen Drakes

Miss Lavinia & Miss Aurelia	Page 146	Hated by everyone, pianists who were unwelcome everywhere, but still played everywhere.
Constable Linnet	Page 154	Military officer
Detective Sergeant Woolmer	Page 159	Detective, photographer
Detective Sergeant Graves	Page 160	Detective, investigated Bonepenny in <i>Sweetness</i>
Ned Cropper	Page 169	Did chores for Tullu Stoker, smitten with Ophelia (among others)
Alf	Page 194	Ms. mullet's husband
Drusilla	Page 206	Nannie who raised dieter

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Synopsis

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The Weed that Strings the Hangman's bag begins in Buckshaw, Flavia De Luce's house with her father and 2 sisters, Feely and Daffy. Flavia, being her normal self, has indulged herself in chemistry experiments and poking around in other people's business. She goes to the churchyard on the first pages of the book to play pranks on birds. She stumbled across a woman, weeping, who is later revealed to be named Nialla Gillfoyle, but tells Flavia to call her Mother Goose. Nialla is initially rude, condescendingly asking Flavia if she had never seen anyone famous before. Flavia did not recognize Nialla, and Nialla explains she travels with Rupert Porson, a world-famous child's showman, acting as a puppetmaster on a hit BBC show, and their van had broken down in town. The Vicar (local deacon) welcomed the marooned showmen and gave them a plot of land to set up camp for a few days. He offered to allow them to put on a performance in the church, and the excited actors quickly set up an elaborate stage. Rupert Porson is a perfectionist, and made his own set, rigs, lights, and puppets. Rupert planned to put on 2 shows, and just prior to the matinee performance, Flavia was given a tour of the stage and scaffolds behind the set. She climbed to the top, and Porson showed her how he played the puppets and controlled the giant, Galligantius, with a spring-loaded lever. Flavia then took her seat and began to enjoy the performance of Jack and the Beanstalk, until Jack made his appearance and the crowd noticed that his face looked to be almost perfectly modeled after Robin Ingleby. Robin was a 6-year-old boy who had been found hanging from a rope in Gilbert Woods, a nearby forest. The death had been ruled an accident, however, there were a few things that did not quite line up. The townspeople were horrified when Jack came out on stage, some people screaming and running out. After the short chaos from the puppet had settled down, the play continued relatively uneventfully. During the evening performance, when the giant was supposed to fly down, Rupert came falling down instead. He hit the ground, dead. Immediately, Nialla rushed forward but holds herself back when she gets closer to Rupert. The lights immediately went out, and a doctor and detective from the audience rushed forward and declared the showman dead. The detective, named Inspector Hewitt stayed, and, joined by Detective Seargent Woolmer and Detective Seargent Graves, collected statements. Flavia, being Flavia, decided to launch her own investigation. Flavia had determined that Nialla was pregnant, and figured out that was the reason Nialla held back, fearing a shock and possible death for her and her child. After collecting a rather substantial amount of information from random people around town and her friends, Flavia went to go meet with the (still devastated) Grace Ingleby, Robin's distraught mother and found her way to a shrine dedicated to Robin in the attic. She admitted to seeing Robin's death, and he was not hanged. (Grace was having an affair with Rupert, and Robin had stumbled upon them. Rupert reached to grab Robin and shake him, but Robin recoiled, avoiding Rupert's grasp, but as a result, he ended up falling to his death in his home. In an effort to hide the affair, Rupert ordered Grace to go and hang the corpse, making it look like he had accidentally hung himself, and if she did not, Rupert threatened to go to Gordon Ingleby, Robin's father, and Grace's legitimate husband.) Flavia snuck back to the church, and entered through a back door, and found how Rupert had been killed. A clip was attached from a stripped wire to a metal beam that Rupert would lean against

when he reached for the control to the giant. When he touched the lever, he had been electrocuted. After she kept digging through the evidence she had collected, she found out that Grace Ingleby had graduated with an electrical engineering degree, and seemed to be the only one in the town who had the capability of electrocuting someone.