

## **A Murder is Announced**

### **Plot and Character Descriptions**

In the quiet English village of Chipping Cleghorn, a strange advertisement appears in the local newspaper *Gazette*:

“A murder is announced and will take place on Friday, October 13th, at Little Paddocks at 6:30 p.m.”

The villagers assume it is an invitation to a murder-mystery party, and many arrive that evening at the home of Letitia Blacklock, who is baffled—she never placed the advertisement. At the appointed time, the lights suddenly go out, a masked gunman bursts into the room, and the mystery begins. Who placed the advertisement? What secrets are all the guests concealing? Miss Marple is on the case.

#### **Miss Jane Marple**

A sharp, elderly amateur detective from St. Mary Mead. Soft-spoken and polite, she uses her deep understanding of human nature, especially village behavior, to unravel the case. Despite seeming frail, she sees what others miss.

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#### **Letitia Blacklock**

Owner of Little Paddocks, apparently a dignified, somewhat reserved woman in late middle age. She becomes the apparent target of the attack. Calm but secretive, with a complicated past involving money, business connections, and family ties.

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#### **Dora “Bunny” Bunner**

Letitia’s old school friend and companion. Sweet, scatterbrained, and nostalgic. She worships Letitia and often recalls details from their youth—some of which become key to the mystery.

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### **Patrick Simmons**

A young man living at Little Paddocks. Charming, mischievous, and rather flippant. He often teases others and approaches the murder affair lightly, though he has motives and secrets of his own.

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### **Julia Simmons**

Patrick's sister, also staying with Letitia. Intelligent, poised, and occasionally sharp-tongued. She has a mysterious air and a complicated relationship with her brother and the rest of the household.

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### **Mitzi**

A housemaid working for Letitia. Dramatic, emotional, and paranoid, she constantly claims people are out to get her. Her accent and fearfulness add both humor and tension—especially when she becomes a key witness.

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### **Phillipa Haymes**

A lodger at Little Paddocks. Quiet, gentle, and self-contained. She harbors a private grief and a past she tries to conceal.

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### **Mrs. Swettenham**

A widow who, with her son, lives nearby. Inquisitive, genteel, and always eager for village gossip. She attends the fateful “party” out of curiosity.

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### **Edmund Swettenham**

Her son, a would-be writer. Cynical, clever, and mildly self-important. He fancies himself as an observer of life and often makes wry, humorous remarks. Possible romantic interests involve one of the young women.

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**Sergeant Mellors**

The local police sergeant. Solid, honest, and methodical.

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**Detective Inspector Craddock**

The lead investigator from Scotland Yard. Competent, perceptive, and willing to rely on Miss Marple's insights. A grounded, likable professional whose cooperation with Marple is essential to solving the crime.

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**Rudi Scherz**

A young man who appears as an intruder.