

The Play That Goes Wrong

Plot and Character Descriptions

The Play That Goes Wrong is a farcical comedy about an amateur drama society, the Cornley Drama Society, attempting to stage a 1920s murder-mystery called ***The Murder at Haversham Manor***. As the actors prepare for opening night, even the pre-show goes awry: props are missing, set pieces are breaking, and the stage crew is frantically trying to fix things. Once the play “officially” starts, the cast attempts to maintain composure despite an escalating avalanche of disasters. The mystery story they are *trying* to tell involves the murder of Charles Haversham. Inspector Carter arrives to investigate, questioning Charles’s fiancée Florence, her brother Cecil, and Charles’s friend, Thomas, among others.

Chris

The director, designer, costumer, props master, and a dozen other titles he proudly lists. Plays *Inspector Carter*, the detective investigating the case.

Jonathan

Earnest but talent-poor actor. Plays *Charles Haversham*, the murder victim in the play within the play.

Robert

One of the senior members of the troupe. Plays *Thomas Colleymoore*, brother to Florence, Charles’ Fiancé.

Dennis

Nervous, inexperienced, and not good at memorizing lines. Relies heavily on notes written on his hands, often mispronouncing words he’s reading for the first time. Plays *Perkins*, the butler to Charles.

Max

Enthusiastic newcomer and loves applause and audience attention. Plays *Cecil Haversham* and *Arthur the Gardener*.

Sandra Wilkinson

Dramatic, glamorous, and self-focused actor. Plays *Florence Colleymoore*, fiancé of Charles.

Annie Twilloil

Usually a stage manager, not an actor. Forced onstage when Sandra is knocked unconscious. Plays *Florence* whenever Sandra is incapacitated.

Trevor Watson

The long-suffering stage manager and sound operator. More concerned about his missing Duran Duran CD than the show. Eventually dragged onstage to fill in and manage crises.