

## Synopsis

Edward Bennett, a playwright, and his wife, Sorel Bennett, an actress, flee London and head to Cookham after a disastrous opening night. But various guests arrive unexpectedly - a Conservative politician, a fiery socialist, a nearsighted ingénue, and a zany modern dancer - each with a long-held secret. When one of the guests is murdered, it's left to Bridgit, the feisty Irish maid with a macabre interest in homicide, to solve the crime. *Death By Design* is a satirical homage to the brilliant wit of Noël Coward, with the intricate plot lines of Agatha Christie, delivered at the pace of a runaway train.

## Characters

**Bridgit:** Maid, works for the Bennetts, Irish preferably but could be Northern. Crabby, cynical, bored of her job, smarter than the rest of them, but essentially warm-hearted. Playing age 45-60.

**Jack:** Chauffeur for the Bennetts. Cheeky chappie, charming, girl in every port, cockney, gets on well with Bridgit, also warm-hearted. Playing age 25-35.

**Edward Bennett:** Playwright, urbane, vain, self-absorbed, quick witted, intelligent, excellent comic timing, has some of the best one-liners in the show, love/hate relationship with Sorel (his wife). Playing age 25-40.

**Sorel Bennett:** Actress, glamorous, vain, diva, self-absorbed, seducer, not that bright. Not afraid to wallop Edward (her husband) in a fight. Playing age 25-40.

**Walter Pearce:** Politician, stiff, Conservative, pompous, traditional, visitor to the house, enthralled by Sorel, disliked by the others, has many enemies. Playing age 45-60.

**Eric:** Radical, political, hates the bourgeoisie and Walter, unemployed, has escaped from an institution, knows Edward and Sorel from watching their shows. Playing age 20-40.

**Victoria Van Roth:** Bohemian, artistic, experimental in all ways, expressionist dancer, intense, drunk, loud, doesn't shave her armpits, pretentious. Playing age 30-60.

**Alice:** "The Visitor", sweet, shy, passionate, emotional, short-sighted, unintentionally funny, essential to the plot. Playing age 20-30.