

Characters

Hedda Gabler: The daughter of the famous late General Gabler. Surrounded by wealth and luxury for all her life, the start of the play sees her return from her honeymoon, with husband George Tesman- a man of good prospects but not as much money as she is accustomed to. Hedda is skilled and intelligent; however she is subjected to a 19th century woman's duties as a housewife. To maintain her aristocratic profile she desperately suppresses her masculinity and scandalous desires but seeks enjoyment through manipulating her husband and friends. She's unpredictable. She's dangerous. You will love her. You will hate her!

George Tesman: A friendly and intelligent young scholar, eager to please his handsome young wife. He is often foolish and naïve, which Hedda finds considerably irritating. Tesman represents the placid and domestic life, which burdens Hedda with boredom; his ambitions are lower than his capabilities and talents limited by his lack of spontaneity. Unlike Hedda, George received a feminine upbringing from his Auntie, who still persists to baby him. Hoping to gain a professorship in history, Tesman is content in knowing that his greatest rival 'Eilert Loevborg' (A notorious alcoholic) no longer stands in his way... or so he thinks.

Eilert Loevborg: A literary genius and craftsman of the written word! Eilert is Tesman's biggest competitor in the academic world. After numerous scandals relating to alcoholism, he fell from grace and became an outcast of society. Now cleansed of his vices by his new writing partner 'Thea Elvsted', Eilert has returned to the city and published a new book to rave reviews. What's more? He has a new manuscript which promises to be ground-breaking. During the play we discover he once shared a close relationship with Hedda, causing a stir and quite possibly a 'slur'.

Aunt Julianna: Julianna Tesman or 'Auntie JuJu' as she is called by George is a well-meaning and dutiful traditional woman of the 19th century. Julianna raised Tesman after both his parents died and throughout the play; she cares for her sick sister 'Aunt Rena'. She struggles to acknowledge that George is a grown man and no longer needs to be parented. She is obsessed with impressing Hedda and bridging the gap between their painfully different class backgrounds.

Judge Brack: 'And then the justice...' Brack is a judge of a relatively inferior rank. With connections around the city he is the bearer of rumour and gossip. A friend to Tesman and Hedda, though 'preferably of the wife' he visits the house regularly. Often it is Judge Brack who ensures he is the one to feed Tesman with information on alterations in the possibility of his professorship. Meddling in people's affairs is a hobby of Brack's. Similarly to Hedda he searches for ways of amusing himself; as a single man, who is past his prime. He flirts with Hedda and tries to entertain fantasies of a triangular relationship with the couple, allowing him fulfil his sexual desires with Hedda- though in spite of this he is dogmatic in keeping within societies' boundaries and maintaining his upper-class status. Sly, cynical and deliciously dangerous.

Thea Elvsted: A meek but passionate woman. After she and her husband hired Eilert Loevborg as a tutor to their children, Mrs Elvsted became attached to Eilert and therefore left her husband to act as a personal secretary to him, aiding with his research and writing. Upon the writers return to the city Thea visits Tesman for help, fearing Eilert will revert back to his alcoholism. Mrs Elvsted was once an old flame of Tesman's and recalls Hedda tormenting her, when they were both at school together.

Bertha: George and Hedda Tesman's household maid, once a servant to Aunt Julianna. She tries very hard to please her new mistress but Hedda is dissatisfied with her. A smaller part in the play but with huge connotations of what Hedda would have become, had she not married a man to maintain her status in society.