

Below you will find a complete list of all roles, divided into in-game groups or families. To give you a better idea, we'll first give you the group descriptions and then the list of characters.

The casting of characters might be somewhat different than you are used to, meaning you will not, in fact, be choosing according to the character descriptions. In the signup form we will ask you to give your preferences regarding what you would and wouldn't like to have in your game and we will put together a choice of three suitable characters for you. Therefore, please do not forget that the list of roles published online serves primarily for giving you a general idea before the game.

Please be also aware that these descriptions serve primarily as public information about the character, general knowledge for their neighbours and acquaintances, which sets a basis of what is known about whom – not as an accurate depiction of the character's full game content or story. The game works with a low level of transparency, meaning that the short description may not reveal many of the most interesting things about a character and there may be much more under the surface.

List of groups

Villagers

For the locals of Morsange, the Beast is not about a reward, a diversion, or prestige. For them it means that their lives are in danger; that some of the ways they used to earn their living are suddenly impossible. Because of the Beast, Morsange also suddenly hosts many more men and strangers in general than would be welcome. Apart from the Beast, the village folk also have their own issues to keep them occupied: business matters; the market festival; the presence of strangers; tensions between the Catholics and the Huguenots; and, of course, also the return of men from the war.

De Morsange

The local noble house is one of the richer, more successful and forward-thinking in the area – at least compared with the other ones in this poor mountain region. The lords de Morsange are known for hosting important scientist and philosophers, supporting trade and conducting business of their own. However, long before the arrival of the Beast, the young, newly wed and infatuated lord Alexandre, the ruler of the land, left to fight against the British in the New World. And when the steward he appointed died, his father had to start ruling the lands again. Now the young lord is returning home from the darkness of the war... into a land haunted by the Beast.

De Portefaix

The vast lands of de Portefaix seem to many to be a place where time has stopped, when it comes to trade and new customs. The house de Portefaix has always been more interested in prestige, military service, and order in their lands than in money. They, too, have been struck by disaster – the husband of the current mother-regent died prematurely and there is open talk

that the young Christophe Auguste is weak-minded and unable to rule. But the family is probably planning to forget their worries for a while – they came for a courtesy visit before the market festival and the house de Morsange is hosting them generously.

Hunters

The Beast and the reward for it has naturally lured several hunting groups into the village. Their motivations for hunting it vary, and so do their opinions on the nature of the Beast. Some of them want to earn money; some are striving for fame and a glorious trophy; others are chasing the Devil. For many months, the hunts have been a chaotic affair and many good-for-nothings lived comfortably off the incentives paid by the state – but now that has changed. The King himself decided to intervene and sent his best huntsman to slay the Beast before the international scandal destroys the reputation of the fair France.

Galley slaves

A group of women guarded by several soldiers work at a nearby excavation site. Women without a hope for a better life, without any trace of weakness, without dignity, and without conscience. Their guards have their hands full – and it does not help that the Beast has even feasted on them. There was also an administrative error that caused two men accompanied by a new guard to get to the women's prison. The atmosphere is even tenser than normally.

Strangers

The events in the village have also attracted a few traders and even caused the arrival of two investigators. And while one of them is here to prove whether Sabine Rufus is a witch, the other one came to help the archbishop decide whether a miracle took place in Morsange through Claire Gravois. Some locals have already suggested that neither of them is really welcome. And what should they think of the two merchants who are obviously planning to make as much money as possible from the trouble with the Beast?

List of characters

Villagers

Family Lefevre

"All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."

Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina

Until a short time ago, the Lefevres were a successful merchant family. Prosper Lefevre ran the family business prudently and raised his eldest son Ulrich to do the same. But then Prosper suddenly died and Ulrich, who was supposed to take over the business, was killed in the war in America. That meant that the responsibilities for the family's wellbeing have fallen to the young Abel, because his older brother Christian left the land a long time ago to dedicate his life to God. Since then, things have been going downhill for the Lefevre family. The Dupont family has been getting ahead, which has

reopened old wounds from the time when the Catholic Lefevres and the Huguenot Duponts fought against each other in the religious war.

Beatrice Lefevre (58)

"Children are knives, my mother once said. They don't mean to, but they cut. And yet we cling to them, don't we, we clasp them until the blood flows.

Joanne Harris, The Girl with No Shadow"

Beatrice is in a difficult and sad situation. Her oldest son and her brother left to fight beyond the ocean; her beloved husband died unexpectedly. She was left alone at home, with two daughters and her young son Abel, who suddenly became the head of the family, and had to work day and night to save the family from losing everything altogether. Throughout the last year, the family has been under tremendous pressure from the family Dupont, both in business and personally. And the question is whether anything will change now - only Beatrice's brother returned from the war alive and he brought the "best friend" of her late son along: a drunkard, a madman, a ruined man. It seems storm clouds are gathering over the family Lefevre.

Gaston Durand (51)

'Just because a man has died for it, does not make it true.' Oscar Wilde

Beatrice's brother only moved in with the family a few years before the men left for war. For a long time, there have been rumours - maybe his own family left him; maybe he's a widower; or maybe he has no family of his own, maybe he is a man who has never done anything right in his life. Even today, nobody can be sure, but one thing is certain: he has always seemed like a straight, honest man. It was a surprise when this mature and well-off man volunteered to go to America to fight for the freedom of strangers. But an even bigger surprise came when he returned - and brought Achille Chevalier with him.

Prudence Lefevre (22)

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

Lao Tze (loose translation)

She is the second oldest child in the family and were she a man, she would be a good head of the family. She is cool-headed, wise and, knowing her duty, she does everything for the prosperity of her family without turning prideful. In her free time, she frequently prays and reflects in the church; she is always in the first rows at mass and knows all the prayers by heart. She even goes to the pub for a dance here and there and has good friends at the castle; she is a cheerful companion - but she still hasn't got a man. The villagers have started gossiping - is she maybe planning to go to a monastery? Is the family keeping her for some rich old man? Or perhaps she might be a sodomite?

Abel Lefevre (20)

"Victory has a thousand fathers, but defeat is an orphan."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

When his father died and Abel became the temporary head of the family, the family business was plunged into a series of disasters which they only managed to navigate with great difficulty. The family's position deteriorated; many customers have left; and the honour and reputation of the family almost suffered several blows, which they only dodged by the skin of their teeth. When they got the message that the soldiers would return home, Abel felt like a great weight had fallen from his shoulders: now his more decisive, clever and talented brother who was raised to be a leader would take over. But he did not come back and so the temporary head became the real one and Abel is supposed to become a true businessman. And it is clear at first sight how much experience he lacks when compared to men like Jean Dupont and Théodor Renard de Grazières.

Marie Lefevre (18)

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

Mother Teresa

Marie is a living proof that even in the toughest of times, one can retain hope and optimism. Many would perhaps blame the smiling girl of naivety or say that she does not realize how much danger the family business is in and how terrible the family's situation is. But Marie is aware of all that: she has mourned her father and brother and she makes no secret of the fact that her position may change drastically. Even so, she can still find time for her friends; she can still smile every morning; she can still pleasantly surprise her mother and brother; and she even does her work around the house patiently and takes care of Achille. But the question is when her youthful revelry will end.

Achille Chevalier (24)

"The war has ruined us for everything."

Erich Maria Remarque

Ulrich Lefevre has not come back from the war and he never will. Instead, Uncle Gaston dragged a desperate parody of a man home; a madman stumbling between intoxication and terrible hangovers; between a mad frenzy and the blackest of depressions. Fortunately, most of the time he is taken care of by Marie, Gaston and the other soldiers, but he probably cannot stay in the family for long. And his right to be there is rather doubtful to say the least: how long is he planning to stay anyway?

Family Dupont

"I will make money as long as I can."

Jacob Fugger in Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

The family Dupont did not have it easy in the land after the religious wars; after all, they are Huguenots and did fight against the locals. However, their business spirit and hard work turned them into one of the most important merchant families in the region. They have remained devout Huguenots; indeed, Jean Dupont even gave his eldest son to God, in the hope that he would become a pastor. But the Beast does not avoid this family any more than the others. Lambert Dupont's flocks and shepherds are constantly in danger; some of them have even fallen victim to the Beast already. Two of those were Martin and Olivia Gravois, whose children have become wards of the family Dupont.

Jean Dupont (53)

"For the merchant, even honesty is a financial speculation."

Charles Baudelaire

Jean Dupont inherited his father's fortune and a growing business. After twenty-five years of his rule, the business has expanded to influence the whole department and the family's fortunes have increased several times over. He achieved all this with his business sense and his Protestant work ethic – and, according to some, also through a complete lack of moral scruples, as long as he moved within the boundaries of the law. It must also be said that since the family is devoutly Protestant and Jean's father and great-grandfather were influential Camisards - after all it was Jean's father Claude who negotiated a dearly bought truce with the royal army - the family's starting position in the region was very, very unfavourable indeed. They had many conflicts with the other merchants and even with the local nobility - to the extent that Jean issued complaints to the Royal Court several times.

He is a hard man who has accomplished many things in his life; and finally it's even starting to look like he might definitively defeat his greatest competitors: the Lefevre family. Everyone was also shocked by the devoutness of his faith when he sent his son off to study to become a pastor... which is also where we get to the family's only recent failure.

Lambert Dupont (47)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:11

While Jean was learning accounting and business, Lambert had to herd sheep. Why Claude Dupont forced his younger son to engage in such inferior work will probably remain a family secret. What is important is that it did not break Lambert in the least. He worked his hardest and when Jean made his first good sum of money, Lambert borrowed some from him and apparently even insisted on paying him interest. He bought more sheep and started his own business in a different field... but one that earns him enough money, so that he can proudly look his brother in the face.

Even now, Lambert spends a lot of his time outside; he often checks on his shepherds and despite his relatively advanced age, he often sleeps in the pastures, up in the mountains. But the Beast changed him. When it started attacking his flocks, he got anxious: he had them graze closer to the villages and even armed some of his shepherds. After the third attack on his shepherds, when Martin and Olivia Gravois were killed, his anxiety turned into an icy rage. Lambert became very active in the hunt for the Beast and he provides money and supplies for the other village hunters.

Jean-Baptiste Dupont (23)

"The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son."

Genesis 20:11

Jean-Baptiste is a reflection of all of Jean's hopes and dreams. As a young, intelligent and ambitious boy, he listened passionately to every sermon of the Huguenot pastor and, together with Bernard Desmarais, he was almost his apprentice. Everyone expected that once Jean-Baptiste turned a little older, his father would make him his successor and give the family business over to him. Jean-Baptiste also met Lucienne, who converted to the Protestant faith for him (and for his family's fortune). Then Jean expressed a clear wish for his son to become the pastor, and in front of the whole village, he clearly showed what a generous decision giving his son to God was.

But the old Pastor decided otherwise. It was a great disappointment for the Dupont family, and a great scandal, when the old Pastor chose Bernard Desmarais instead and sent him to Switzerland to study there. Jean-Baptiste was devastated and for a week he did not leave his home, praying in seclusion. But then he came out and there was not a trace of sadness on him. He ordered many learned books and taught himself from them - and when Bernard Desmarais returned and took up his duties, Jean-Baptiste went to every single mass. And after every single mass he had a friendly word with Pastor Bernard Desmarais. It would be hard to say which one of them is more respected in the village; very hard indeed.

Lucienne Dupont, born Fournier (25)

"No woman wants to be in submission to a man who isn't in submission to God!"

T. D. Jakes

Lucienne was born into the family of a baker; a family that had never been remarkable or significant in anything and whose name was doomed to die. After all, out of all the children, only two girls lived to become adults: Lucienne and the much older Olivia from their father's first marriage. The girls could not have been more different, which showed in the many fights they had. When Olivia married a poor shepherd, Martin Gravois, Lucienne stopped openly meeting with her. The conflict between the sisters caused Olivia to be disinherited, which made Lucienne rich enough to finally marry the man she had been seeing for a long time. Jean-Baptiste Dupont

It is said that when Jean-Baptiste did not become pastor, his only reason to live was his love for Lucienne. And Lucienne was overjoyed and satisfied when the whole Gravois family, including the children, were hired by Jean-Baptiste's uncle Lambert, so Olivia, Martin and all the three children had to call her Madam and bow to her. But then the Beast hit, slaughtered Martin and Olivia and Lucienne suddenly found herself in a peculiar situation. As the last living relative, she was charged

with caring for the three Gravois orphans. But instead of taking them into her home or at least giving them some better work, she offered them no improvement and only invites them to some family lunches - but beforehand she has them washed and brushed to humiliate them.

Pierre Dupont (19)

"I never aimed at a set goal; the only system I followed, if a system it may be called, was to let myself go wherever the wind was blowing drove me."

Giacomo Casanova

Firstly, we must say that Pierre loves god, loves his family and is a good man. Otherwise it might seem that this young man, who likes to laugh, drink and looks at every pretty girl (and many say he has even bedded many a single girl in the village), doesn't quite fit into the family

Pierre was brought up to take over the family business one day. He knows his numbers, can assess the quality of goods, reads and writes in several languages and he has even led many a negotiation. But even his negotiations have been laced with the taste of scandal: a few months ago, he returned with a wagon full of goods, a full purse and a wide smile - and a giant black eye and no hat.

Sophie Leveque (27)

"Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition."

Marilyn Monroe

Sophie is not from Morsange at all. Jean Dupont noticed her during one of his business trips and after a rather unclear succession of events he brought her to the village one day, appointing her as one of his main assistants in managing the family business. Many say that he did that to have a young, beautiful, and surely also willing, girl to hand as an employee after the death of his wife - but their behaviour does not correspond to that. Miss Leveque has a special place for her set at the table; she does not even have to attend some family meals; and she doesn't even go to mass with the family: she has remained a Catholic.

But nobody can deny that she is excellent at her job. Sophie is probably the first woman in the region who is so good at business that she puts many men to shame. Although her position as Jean Dupont's assistant is formally subordinate, she has amassed a plethora of contacts in the area - not only to other merchants, but also to important judges, nobles, army officers and, rumour has it, also to people who live outside of the law.

But the biggest source of gossip in the village is that Miss Leveque is a rich woman and, according to everyone, it is high time for her to get married. And despite that it seems she is not even seeing anyone!

Family Renard

"Though ambition itself be a vice, yet it is often times the cause of virtues."

Quintilian

The family Renard is the embodiment of merchant success. For many years, the Renards led the merchants' guild, mitigating the strife between the families Dupont and Lefevre. And now they have got even further after Théodore Renard's second, very advantageous, marriage, which, together with a rich wife, also brought him an aristocratic title. That is naturally a cause of envy for the other families and there is more and more talk of the fact that not all Renards live an exemplary life.

Théodore Renard de Grazières (51)

"Men who before had pleasant manners enough undergo a complete change on attaining power of office. They despise their old friends: devote themselves to new."

Marcus Tullius Cicero

The dream of every merchant come true. A single-minded man, the head of a rich merchant family who worked his way up through his own diligence and who commands respect even from his

competitors. Although he was a Catholic himself, he married Aurélia Dupont, the sister of Jean Dupont. This marriage of convenience enabled him to become the head of the merchants' guild and he has kept this post for many years. Through his position and his eloquence, Théodore Renard calmed the age-old strife between the Lefevres and the Duponts.

Two years ago, his wife died - but Théodore did not mourn her for long. A few days ago, he married again. And since his new wife is of noble birth, Théodore Renard has a fresh title - de Grazières.

Marguerite Renard de Grazières (53)

"Mostly it is loss which teaches us about the worth of things."

Arthur Schopenhauer, Parerga and Paralipomena

An aristocrat and an overall charming lady who has been a friend of the Baroness Marie-Claire de Portefaix for many years. Her husband, as well as her only child, has been dead for years and for a long time, she was unable to come to terms with their loss. She looked for consolation in books theological, philosophical and mystical, but it was nowhere to be found. Perhaps she would have died in sorrow had love for Théodore Renard not entered her life. The recent marriage brought joy back into her life and new energy into her veins.

Valérie Renard (46)

"It is better to be high-spirited even though one makes more mistakes, than to be narrow-minded and all too prudent."

Vincent Van Gogh

If Théodore is an eloquent debater and a prudent diplomat, his sister Valérie is his very opposite. She does not go far for a harsh word and feminine charm is not a word she cares for. When Valérie gets angry, she frightens people. Even a grown man gets out of her way if he has an ounce of sense in his head. Rumour goes that in the past she may have gotten involved in several fights, brawls and allegedly even murders, which brought a lot of unwelcome attention to the village. Then her brother took her away from the village for many years. Many suspected that he had found a husband for her in the north of France; others claimed Théodore had put her in a monastery. However it may be, she lost none of her temper after returning to the village. Now she is helping her cousins with the business.

Léa Renard (23)

"In her life, a woman must obey three men: her father when young, her husband when married and her sons when widowed. Woe be unto a woman who refuses to obey!"

Confucius

Théodore's daughter from his first marriage. A beautiful young girl who seems to be the best catch in the village. She is friendly and liked by all. Or that's how she likes to see herself: others might say she is spoiled, ill-mannered and has become utterly uncontrollable after her mother's death.

Apparently, her father already has a good match for her, but Léa has made her own decision about whom she'd like to marry. Despite her father's wishes, although in all propriety, she is seeing the young officer Marcel Demaël.

Richard Renard (35)

"When his wife was at his side, she was also in front of him, marking out the horizon of his life. Now the horizon is empty: the view has changed."

Milan Kundera, Encounter

Victor's younger brother is a honourable and fair man. It has not been long since he lost his beloved wife during a tragic hunt for the Beast. Since then, his cousin Valérie has been taking care of his household. Richard works for his cousin Théodore. Because of his job, he often travels beyond the borders of Gévaudan to buy and sell goods.

Richard is the true fox amongst the Renards: he is clever, eloquent, quick-witted, and although he lacks Victor's superhuman strength and tenacity, there are not many who'd like to have him as their enemy.

Victor Renard (43)

"Let them hate me, as long as they fear me."

Caligula

Victor doesn't like people. He doesn't understand them and therefore he is distant to them. It is hard to say what would happen to him, were he not part of the family Renard. But the family provides him with a job - he collects debts. When someone cannot be won over by Richard's charm or Théodore's eloquence, the matter is given over to Victor and his icy eyes. He explains, with a cruel directness, what happens to those who don't pay their due, and the debtor starts trying his very best to satisfy his creditors from the Renard family. Fortunately, it has been years since he actually had to fulfil his promises.

Family Forestier

"The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life."

Richard Bach

The Forestiers are quite an unconventional family. Benoit Forestier, a gamekeeper and a friend of the Renard family, brought up two children and neither of them calls him father. The first one is the daughter of his late sister and the other one is a foundling he took pity on. But Joseph Forestier does not live at home anymore; he decided to join the army and so he lives with the garrison at the castle.

Benoit Forestier (42 let)

"Friendship can only exist between good men."

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Benoit Forestier is a close friend of the family Renard. They have known each other for a long time and while Aurélia Renard was still alive Benoit was a frequent guest at their house. Now he is there less often, but he still remains at Théodore Renard's side. The villagers say that it was Théodore who helped Benoit get his good place as the Baron's gamekeeper when he put in a good word for him at the castle. Benoit is reliable, precise and he thinks about what he does. People say he would make a better grounds steward than a common gamekeeper, but Benoit does not complain. He spends more time in the village than in the woods and unlike the other gamekeepers, he doesn't really engage in the hunts for the Beast much.

Benoit is well-mannered and polite, but he does not have many close friends in the village - he is happy with just the Renards, with whom he spends a lot of time. Despite his age, he is still unmarried.

Camille Forestier (22)

"There is no good father, that's the rule. Don't lay the blame on men but on the bond of paternity, which is rotten."

Jean Paul Sartre

Camille is the daughter of Benoit's late sister. Her father is unknown. Since her childhood, she has been Benoit's ward - but she spends more of her time at the castle than home; after all, she works there as a maid. That also means that she does not have many friends in the village. Those who get to know her better talk of her as a sensitive, talented girl who always does her duties and who mostly serves the scientists. Maybe they have something to talk about even with an ordinary village girl?

Family Bouchard

"The tiger protects the wood; the wood protects the tiger."

A Bengal saying

The Bouchards are a poor Huguenot family and they have always been close to the woods. Gerard Bouchard used to be the Baron's gamekeeper and his sons often followed him to work. After all, his son Lucas inherited his father's position. The other members of the family have always been at home in the woods and even the Beast has not changed that.

Céleste Bouchard (45)

"There is only one enduring happiness in life—to live for others."

Leo Tolstoy

Céleste's family never had much money, but she always made sure that her children were not hungry. She earns a bit on the side as a herbalist and the other villagers often come to her for good advice. When her children grew up and started taking care of themselves, her life got easier. But only until her husband Gerard and her son Denis left for war and her husband never came back. Her son had more luck, but he was unable to take his place as head of the family and so this job fell to Céleste. The family can truly use her wisdom and experience now, so it does not seem she is planning to retire.

Denis Bouchard (27)

"Only the dead have seen the end of war; only the dead know what it is to be alive."

Plato

Denis had always dreamed that when he grew up, he'd have a better life than his parents. He became a cobbler and tried to make money; he worked as beater at hunts and helped his brother the gamekeeper in the woods. He was always very conscientious and hard-working. He married Isabelle, the daughter of a local doctor. Possibly because he wanted to impress his wife's family and bring home more money, he left for the American war with his father. He returned fatherless and changed by what he saw during the war. He lost the youthful energy he used to have. He is brooding and anxious and it seems his return to his old life will be slow. What did Dennis see; what did he do to come from the war so changed?

Isabelle Bouchard, born Pelletier (25)

"In love, unlike most other passions, the recollection of what you have had and lost is always better than what you can hope for in the future."

Henri Stendhal

Isabelle has never been an obedient daughter and her secret marriage to the poor Denis did not make her relationship with her mother, Chantal Pelletier, any better. However, she loves her husband very much and she has never regretted her decision. When her husband decided to go to war with his father, she tried to talk him out of it. When she failed, she at least sent her own father, who always wished her happiness, with him, so he could watch out for her husband and her father-in-law. But only her husband came back.

For Isabelle herself, the time she spent apart from her husband was a true trial. Also because of the bitter pill she had to swallow when she fell from the relatively well-off doctor's family into the poverty of the Bouchards. Isabelle had to learn how hard a crust of bread can be when she has to earn it herself. But Isabelle is not someone who gives up easily. She found her ways and now she is getting back up - and she is not going to let anyone stand in the way of her new family's happiness.

Lucas Bouchard (25)

"There is no greater sorrow than to recall happiness in times of misery."

Dante Alighieri

Even as a little boy, Lucas used to accompany his father on hunting trips into the forest and when he grew up, he first became his helper and then the gamekeeper. He was happy with his life and always cheerful; he had a good job and a nice wife, Dominique. Naturally there are rumours that they fought fairly often and that Dominique did like to stop for a glass or two at the Pelletiers' house, but that happens.

In the end, Dominique's mark in Gévaudan's memory was a different one. She was the first victim of the Beast. Lucas sorted out all the necessary arrangements and then he embarked on a journey of revenge. Many might laugh at the village hunters, but Lucas believes that only the locals stand a chance in defeating the monster.

Alphonse Bouchard (18)

"There will be killing till the score is paid."

Homer, The Odyssey

The youngest son is a bit of a black sheep in the family. He has never learned a craft, but he likes to spend money, although it's not really clear where he gets it from. Because of his brawny build and hot temper, he is well known for picking frequent fights when he deigns to turn up in the village.

Sometimes he buys a round for his friends in the pub and so they love him to no end.

Alphonse prides himself on the fact that unlike the rest of the family, he found a way to riches and a better lot in life even without back-breaking labour. But he doesn't forget his duties: even with the worst of hangovers, he always gets up and accompanies his mother to church.

Michelle Bouchard (21)

"I was not a hypocrite, with one real face and several false ones. I had several faces because I was young and didn't know who I was or wanted to be."

Milan Kundera, The Joke

Michelle is a force of nature. She picks herbs in the woods - and knows it better than most men. She knows about hunting, herbal remedies and even much of the wisdom of much older local women. But while she does all that, she never forgets to be a young girl. And while in other families, parents worry about who might come for their daughter, one thing is clear with Michelle: she will bring her own husband home.

Her mix of impertinence, eloquence and cunning opened a way to friends above her station - and when she appears somewhere with her friend Léa, the richest girl in the village, everybody knows trouble is not far behind. The girls simply want to have fun - and it doesn't matter that one is wearing the finest brocades and jewellery, while the other goes around in rags and made her perfume herself.

Family Gravois

"God has always been hard on the poor."

Jean Paul Marat

Life has never been kind to the Gravois family. They were never rich and so they had to work for Lambert Dupont as shepherds. When the attacks of the Beast started, they had no option but to continue in their work and that cost Martin and Olivia Gravois their lives. The task of caring for their children fell to Lucienne Dupont, but that did not save them from herding sheep. In the end, it seems God finally took pity on them - Claire managed to turn away another attack by the Beast and save her siblings.

Claire Gravois (20)

"The Lord is my share; my bequest and castle; my rock and my light; my salvation; my guardian and protector; I have no protectors but him."

Jan Amos Komenský

Fate has always tried Claire greatly; after all, it has tried the whole Gravois family. She was born into a poor family and from an early age she had to work and help her parents, Olivia and Martin, make a living and take care of the younger siblings.

But Claire never complained; she accepted God's trials humbly and without complaint. After their parents died, slaughtered by the Beast, she patiently bore the way their guardian treated them and never expressed her discontent at the fact that they still have to herd sheep close to the place where their parents died. As a pious Catholic, she also resists her aunt's family's wishes for the Gravois siblings to convert to the Huguenot faith.

It therefore shocked everyone that it was Claire who saved her sister Emma and her brother Martin from the Beast's attack. Soon thereafter, people started gossiping that it was the Virgin Mary herself who protected Claire in her darkest moment.

Martin Gravois (18)

*"If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!"*

Joseph Rudyard Kipling

Martin has always had a temper and he has never let people walk over him. Even as a child he often got into fights; often when someone slandered his family. He even dared to stand up to stronger and older boys - and so he got beaten up fairly often. But that never stopped Martin from defending the family honour again. Although some of his temper was blunted by time, Martin grew into a young man who is never far from hitting someone.

That is part of the reason why it is harder for him to cope with the behaviour of their guardian and Aunt Lucienne Dupont than it is for his sisters. His discontent is growing and he's already made several scathing remarks on their aunt's account. His sister Claire tried to talk to him, but in vain. But they need to eat and even Martin has had to learn to let many things slide.

After the death of their parents, he feels responsible for protecting his sisters and defending the family name. But despite that, when their darkest hour came, it was not him, but Claire, who stood up to the Beast when it attacked - and that is hard to bear for Martin.

Emma Gravois (16)

„One only begins to understand life when he starts thinking of death.“

Jiří Hubač

As the youngest child, Emma has always been the sweetheart of the whole Gravois family. She had to work as hard as everyone else, but as long as the harsh conditions allowed it, she was the centre of attention and love of her parents and siblings. Thanks to that, Emma grew into a cheerful and maybe somewhat careless girl who spent her free time dreaming of a better life.

But the Beast changed everything. Not only did it kill Emma's parents, but she was to be its next victim herself. She only survived thanks to her big sister Claire, who was unafraid to stand up to the Beast. But scars are not the only thing that reminds her of that event. Since then, Emma has been more serious and she's been spending more time in the church than before. She makes no secret of how grateful she is to her sister and to God for saving her life. But her former optimism has not disappeared, on the contrary: it is as if facing death bolstered her faith in a better life even more.

Other villagers

Pastor Bernard Desmarais (26)

„That's me in the corner

That's me in the spotlight

Losing my religion”

R.E.M. - *Losing my religion*

Bernard is a Huguenot pastor. The old pastor chose him instead of Jean-Baptiste Dupont, although nobody expected that. It was therefore quite a shock for many people. It therefore came as even more of a surprise when Bernard returned from Switzerland with a beautiful wife; and despite everyone's expectations, they got along very well with Jean-Baptiste and supported each other.

The first weeks in his new position after the death of the old pastor were hard for him. But the villagers came to favour him for all his good work and thanks to his good relationships with Father Grégoire, the Huguenots and Catholics get along quite well in the village. His conciliatory words make Bernard respected not only by the villagers.

Vivian Desmarais (25)

"Sleep and I shall soothe you, calm you and anoint you.

Myrrh for your hot forehead

Then you 'll feel

Everything's alright, yes, everything's fine."

Andrew Lloyd Weber – Jesus Christ Superstar

Vivian is Bernard's wife. She is from Switzerland, from the family of a wealthy merchant. After they arrived at Morsange, Vivian strongly supported Bernard. Their happy marriage was an example to everyone. The only thing that's surprising for everybody is that they still have no children - but that is probably because of her illness. Vivian has been ill for a long time and that is why Sarah Amble helps them out with any household chores. Ever since Vivian arrived, she has been very devout in her faith, but now it seems that her faith is growing in strength - which has a strong effect on all those around her.

Father Grégoire Bonnet (53)

"God doesn't require us to succeed, he only requires that you try."

Mother Teresa

A Catholic priest. The old Father Grégoire is not local, but he has lived here for all his life. Originally, he was only supposed to come and help out for a short time, but for various reasons, he stayed. His behaviour is rather profane and many think he should reflect on what he does. On the other hand, his sermons and advice are welcomed by all. Although Grégoire is devout, he is also very peaceful and that is one of the reasons why the relationship between the local Catholics and Huguenots is so civil. He sometimes even overlooks some of the not completely Christian customs of some local women.

Georges Amble (38)

"If we men married the woman we deserve, we should have a very tedious time of it."

Oscar Wilde

Georges Amble loves his wife, Sarah; that is certain. Some say she is his salvation; some claim the opposite is true. But the truth is that young Georges used to spend a lot of time in the pub and nobody ever saw him do a day's worth of work. Then he met Sarah and since then he has been working very hard to bring some extra money home. He helps where he can; he is even the local gravedigger. For the love of his wife, he did not actually leave with the others to fight in America, although he had originally planned to. Although some begrudged him that at first, time blunted the edge. After all, in that time Georges has done a great deal of work for the village and that counts.

Sarah Amble (37)

"You can have everything in life you want, if you will just help other people get what they want."

Zig Ziglar

The villagers may gossip that Sarah has her husband on a short leash, but they cannot deny one thing: she works just as hard as him, if not harder. It is she who helps out in the household of the Pastor's wife, Vivian Desmarais, and takes care of her when her illness gets bad. The Pastor and his wife are very thankful and Vivian has already said many times how indispensable Sarah is to them. And the Pastor's wife is not the only one who has something to be grateful to Sarah for. Many women in the village trust her to help them. Everyone in the village knows very well that Sarah has helped many a girl and woman who got herself tangled in a mess.

Chantal Pelletier, born Simon (45)

"Solitude naturally tends rather to strengthen than weaken love."

Alain René Le Sage

When Anton Pelletier left for the war, the villagers feared there would not be anyone to take care of their health. But soon it became clear that Chantal, who had helped her husband with everything, had learned a great deal herself. So she became a worthy replacement for her husband and nothing has really changed in the villagers' lives. Some might grumble that a woman should not be doing such noble work, but when they get sick, they are grateful for her help.

Chantal lives alone, because her daughter Isabelle married into the Bouchard family. She sometimes chats with the other women in the village, although she does not really have much in common with them; with men she only talks about work-related matters. She is kind, hard-working and honest. Maybe too much. Some in the village take advantage of that and pay her less for her work than they did to her husband. That gets Chantal Pelletier into unpleasant situations where she has to worry about money, which she does not really want much, but which she needs to be able to take care of herself.

Daniel Moris (23)

"All changes, even the most longed for, have their melancholy; for what we leave behind us is a part of our-selves; we must die to one life before we can enter into another!"

Anatole France

Daniel went to the war with his brother Charles, but returned without him. Evil tongues quietly say that it might be better this way. After all, Charles always used to be trouble and he never could do much apart from breaking women's hearts. That was an especially stark contrast with the solid and reliable Daniel, who never used to be much fun, but he worked hard and was passionate about his business. Despite that, Daniel mourns his brother. He, too, was changed by the war, but he is ready to return to his old life with his beloved wife Jeannette.

Jeannette Moris (22)

"The head cannot long play the part of the heart."

François de La Rochefoucauld

Jeannette did not have long to enjoy her husband Daniel. Shortly after the wedding he joined the army and went to war, so Jeannette had to fend for herself. She found a job as a maidservant at the castle and waited for his return for many years. And now Daniel is back and Jeannette can finally find out what it means to be Madame Moris.

And she could really use some support now: her father, Fernand Noyer, is drowning in drink; there is more and more work to be done at the castle with every new guest; and many could even say that Jeannette seems to be going to work full of anxiety, as if she did something wrong.

Sabine Rufus (27)

"All passions make us commit faults; love makes us commit the most ridiculous ones."

François de La Rochefoucauld

Sabine came to the village more than fifteen years ago as a young girl. Odette Martin took her in as an

apprentice and when she died, she let Sabine inherit her craft. And Sabine decided to face it proudly - she goes around the village with her head held high; many say that she can have any man she wants; and it is no secret she can cast an evil spell on anybody who crosses her. But her behaviour and the practices she upholds also gave her many enemies in the village. Those escalated into accusations of poisoning and witchcraft, which is what the state investigator, Guillaume Morel, is coming to look into.

The noble house de Morsange

"When we get used to the idea of losing someone, their unexpected return feels even more painful."

Oscar Wilde

The domain of Morsange has long been one of the most prosperous in the Gévaudan province. That hasn't changed even after Baron François Joseph Paul de Morsange gave the rule over to his son Alexandre, nor after the young Baron de Morsange decided to leave to fight in the faraway war in America. However, the mourning over the late - as everybody believed - Alexandre de Morsange, and most importantly the Beast's fury did leave a bit of a mark. However, Alexandre François Auguste is back now and everything will surely return to how it should be.

(Baron) Alexandre François Auguste de Morsange (35)

"Well, then, this is what I have to tell you: I myself am Odysseus! After twenty years, after unbearable hardships, I have returned to my native land."

Odysseus; retelling by Gustav Schwab.

The news from war said that Alexandre de Morsange had died in America. Yet, with a handful of men he is now returning to his home - which had already pronounced him dead. What will the return of this lost son be like? Everyone remembers Alexandre differently: to some he is too strict with himself and others both; to others he is an arrogant, callow youth without any life experience; others see him as a fool who left a young wife behind and plunged himself into an adventure, which would not do anybody any good.

Alexandre led his men through war - because they supported him. Will they manage to go through peace together?

François Joseph Paul de Morsange (62)

"What have I become

My dearest friend?

Everyone I know

goes away, in the end..."

Trent Reznor – Hurt

The old Baron likes to reminisce back to the long years he had gloriously spent in the French navy. Ten years ago, his wife died and her departure seemingly caused all the weight of old age to suddenly come crashing down on François. He gave the rule of the land over to his son Alexandre and he started engaging mostly in hunting and reading.

When Alexandre and a dozen of men from the village left for war, Alexandre made his friend,

Gustave Lucas d'Aumonte, the steward in charge of the lands. But Gustave's death meant that François had to get back to his duties. His daughter-in-law, Anne Sophie, is a great help and support to him in governing the lands. Maybe duties were what the old man needed most of all - people say that he got his taste for food, life and wine back. And surely, meeting his good friend Marie-Claire de Portefaix will bring new blood into his veins.

Anne Sophie de La Hogue (32)

"Living proof—Penelope felt her knees go slack, her heart surrender, recognizing the strong clear signs Odysseus offered. She dissolved in tears, rushed to Odysseus, flung her arms around his neck and kissed his head and cried out, 'Odysseus—don't flare up at me now, not you, always the most understanding man alive!'"

Homer: The Odyssey, translated by Robert Fagles

Anne Sophie comes from an impoverished noble family. Her marriage was one of several steps that were supposed to give her family its former glory back. And its former money. Anne Sophie got an excellent education which further expanded her naturally intelligent mind. She always gave her husband Alexandre good advice in political matters and issues of government. And when Alexandre left to fight in America and his friend Gustave Lucas d'Aumonte, who was supposed to take care of the lands while Alexandre was away, died, she became an indispensable helper to her father-in-law François de Morsange. The old Baron always listened to her advice and he hardly ever decided anything without her. For a long time, Anne Sophie was in mourning after he husband had been pronounced dead. She didn't even dare hope he would return to her.

Adèle de La Motte (25)

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Eleanor Roosevelt

The second daughter of the impoverished noble family de La Motte is a charming young lady. Only three years ago, Adèle worked as a governess for the family de Portefaix. But then the family managed to get hold of the Parisian tutor Alfred Decaul and Adèle's services were no longer required. Soon thereafter, she found her place at the neighbouring baronage, where Anne Sophie took her in - perhaps because she understands the hard situation of a noble lady without financial security. A favourable marriage could definitely solve her uncomfortable position forever - but is there anybody who would be interested in her hand in marriage? Especially considering how much she loves her books, poems, and similar impractical things?

Charlotte Sheffield (32)

"Women! Women! Who will understand them? Their smiles contradict their glances, their words promise and lure, while the sound of their voices drives us away. One minute they comprehend and divine our most secret thoughts, and the next, they do not understand the clearest hints."

Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov

This lady from high society, who is a talented artist, has been causing excitement from the moment she arrived. After all, Charlotte Sheffield is a beautiful woman who is definitely aware of her charms. She quickly found admirers amongst the noble gentlemen and local villagers both. However, it must be said that they are only men. The local women are significantly less exhilarated by her arrival and they try to persuade their partners not to trust this Englishwoman. Without success.

She is writing her own book, where she will voice many opinions; she is in contact with scholars all over Europe... it seems a true celebrity has come to Morsange!

Charles Marteau (57)

"This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap."

George Bernard Shaw

The family Marteau has been tied to the house de Morsange for four generations. The eldest son

from this family has always served as steward for the castle and all the lands. Charles Marteau took the position over from his father over thirty years ago. His life is tightly knit with house de Morsange, but his position also makes him close to the villagers. As the butler, he not only supervises the servants, but he also takes care of the needs of the scientists who live at the castle and the galley slaves who have been called to work at the excavation site by the Baron.

But Marteau is no ordinary lackey. He is responsible for many assets; he makes important decisions; and he often decides on things which are too lowly for the Baron himself. However, loneliness has made a mark on him: if there is someone close to him, it's the local gambling crowd.

Scientists

"The happiness and the future of humanity will depend upon science."

Charles Richet

House de Morsange has always supported arts and sciences and François and Alexandre de Morsange did not stay behind. It is very fashionable to host learned scholars at one's court and this estate is no exception. And so, the lords de Morsange granted their patronage to two renowned enlightened philosophers and gave them the space they need for their studies.

Étienne Lamarck (38)

"Act in such a way that you always treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, never simply as a means but always at the same time as an end."

Immanuel Kant

Étienne is a very learned man. For several years, he has been writing a scholarly book on philosophy and natural sciences and he plans to make his mark in history with it. He was invited to the castle by Alexandre de Morsange before the young Baron left for America. He can often be seen in talks with the aristocrats, his generous hosts. His favourite topic is metaphysics, which he considers to be the only pure natural science and he often has long philosophical and scientific debates with his colleague Tadeusz Grabowski. It was upon his request that Baron François de Morsange brought in a group of galley slaves to labour at the excavation site.

Tadeusz Grabowski (28)

"If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?"

Albert Einstein

Tadeusz might be a scholar and expert on many natural sciences, but he is not writing a book. Instead, he focuses on individual experiments and writing short, scholarly papers, which hardly anyone in the land can understand. Despite that, Tadeusz is well-respected at the court: he is well-versed in medicine, both human and animal; and he is often used as a personal physician by the family de Morsange. His sporadic fights with Étienne are also legendary; and his surprisingly well-educated wife plays a part in them too. The esteemed scholars debate fiercely over which science is right; whether and how God is present in the world; what the limits of ethics are; and how the classics should be interpreted. Some arguments even ended by them throwing food and plates at each other and slamming doors.

After such an argument, there is always a short period of terse silence between Monsieurs Grabowski and Lamarck – but that quite quickly breaks into a friendly spirit again.

Złota Grabowska (27)

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

Marie Curie Skłodowska

If anybody expected Złota to be a silent accessory to her educated husband, they would be very disappointed indeed. Tadeusz was accompanied by a confident, well-mannered woman, and while she definitely does not rave, ramble and interrupt the gentlemen, her clever retorts can humiliate an impertinent man better than any blow.

That is one of the reasons she fits in so marvellously with the local ladies and spends quite a lot of time with them. There is also talk that she helps her husband with his research and that, in fact, half of his papers might, in reality, be hers, but it is simply not that easy for her to publish it. Whatever the truth might be, their relationship is still full of love, even after all the years. They still try to surprise each other; they give each other gifts; and many a woman in the castle and the village is jealous of the attention that the young Pole gets from her husband.

Soldiers

"A monk or an old soldier; the two men who best appreciate life."

Honoré de Balzac

The garrison at Morsange might not be the biggest one in the land; however, nobody could doubt the capabilities of the local soldiers. Their job is to protect the nobility at the castle and to keep peace in the village. And if it were not for the Beast, nobody could find fault with their work.

Rodolphe Neville (46)

"The aim and end of war is... murder; the weapons employed in war are espionage, treachery and the encouragement of treachery, the ruining of a country, the plundering and robbing of its inhabitants for the maintenance of the army, and trickery and lying, which all appear under the heading of the art of war. The military world is characterized by the absence of freedom—in other words, a rigorous discipline—enforced inactivity, ignorance, cruelty, debauchery, and drunkenness. And yet this is the highest caste in society, respected by all."

Leo Tolstoy

As the second son, Rodolphe had no right to take over the family business. However, he never begrudged that to his brother Robert; he did not want to spend his life shuffling numbers and haggling. Military life seemed more respectable and interesting. Therefore, he did not take up the business even after his brother was murdered, and instead he left it to the family Dupont. When Alexandre de Morsange decided to go fight in America, Rodolphe felt it was his duty to go with him. Four years later, he has returned and once again taken up his place at the castle garrison; however, he was quite displeased to find the young and inexperienced Marcel Demaël in command.

Joseph Forestier (19)

"Orphans are the only ones who get to choose their fathers, and they love them twice as much."

Adam Johnson

Joseph was brought in by Benoit Forestier from the woods ten years ago. He was alone and abandoned, so Benoit took him in and give him his name. Joseph helped Benoit in the forest and from his childhood he also ran various errands for the garrison at the castle. He joined them when he turned sixteen. He is better with a sabre and a rifle than many a seasoned veteran and he is not shy about it. His character is not spoiled by excessive pride, drinking or womanizing and many think he is driven by a desperate need to not disappoint his fellow soldiers; to not disappoint his master; and most importantly, to not disappoint Benoit.

Marcel Demaël (25)

"The culture of officers must exemplify both professional excellence and ethical judgment."

Ferdinand Foch

Marcel Demaël came to the castle straight from officer school, after passing all his exams ahead of time and with excellent results. Despite that, he ended up in Morsange. Evil tongues say that this was primarily due to his nature: Marcel does only what he is obliged to do; his confidence borders on arrogance; he scorns people of lower birth; and despite his age, his subordinates fear him more than respect him.

At least that is what the men in the village say of him. However, that might also be because the young officer is admired by many women – especially since he is so well off, after all.

Marcel is the son of Honoré Demaël.

The noble house de Portefaix

"Your honor, your renown, and your praises will last forever."

Maro Publius Vergilius

The head of the ancient and glorious house de Portefaix is Baroness Marie-Claire - although her son Christophe Auguste has long been old enough to rule himself. Unfortunately, his illness has not allowed him that so far; although it seems that could change soon. The Baroness came to Morsange with her son and important members of her court not only to visit her friends and neighbours, but also to discuss the next steps in the issue of the Beast.

Baroness Marie-Claire de Portefaix (51)

"Education, too, is where we decide whether we love our children enough not to expel them from our world and leave them to their own devices."

Hannah Arendt

A much-tried woman, who always stays loyal to tradition. That is how one could describe Marie-Claire, who has been through many hardships in her life. One of them was the death of her husband, after which she was left alone to take care of her young son. And as if that was not enough, in time it showed that her son was sick. Now the time is coming when her regency could come to an end and she can finally get some rest.

Christophe Auguste de Portefaix (23)

"A human being can become human only through education."

Immanuel Kant

Christophe Auguste is Marie-Claire's only son and rightful heir. When his father died, Christophe Auguste was too young to take over his inheritance, so his mother was the one to take care of everything. Soon it was clear that it was better that way, because his disease showed itself. His seizures removed him from public life, but it seems that they have subsided lately and so Christophe Auguste might finally be able to take up his duties.

Naturally, the only thing anybody speaks about at the court are his seizures. But in whispers, many add that if it was only about them, everything would be great. However, the young master is peculiar in many other things and many people think that it is simply impossible to ever let him rule.

Alfred Decaul (36)

"He makes me confess that I ought not to live as I do, neglecting the wants of my own soul, and busying myself with the concerns of the Athenians; therefore I hold my ears and tear myself away from him."

Alcibiades about Socrates in Plato's dialogue Symposium

Alfred started as the tutor of His Lordship three years ago. Marie-Claire had employed him upon recommendation of her relative from Paris. Alfred is very educated and has clear ideas about how the fits of the His Lordship should be treated. His methods are unconventional and modern but they do, it seems, yield some results.

Naturally, results brought him influence at the court. People say that Christophe's routine influences everybody at the court through Alfred's new methods and that he has established many new strange customs, which mean that this... educator now dictates the routine of the whole house.

Father Matthieu (43)

"God had one son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering."

Saint Augustine

Father Matthieu has been the confessor of de Portefaix for many years. He even grew up with Christophe Auguste's father and that might be why he often has his word in the young master's

upbringing and also why he loudly proclaims that it is high time for Christophe Auguste to claim his due.

Matthieu is an important supporting force for the house; its stable rock. He, persistently and always, brings absolution before God to those who need support on their way through life. Some say that his love and humility show a trace of pain in his past; but that is surely just gossip.

Henriette Colbert (29)

"Everything has its limit - iron ore cannot be educated into gold."

Mark Twain

Henriette was born into the family of the treasurer of de Portefaix. Since early childhood, she watched her father work and so Henriette grew into a worthy and capable successor and, after her father's death, she took over the care of the finance and assets of de Portefaix. Although she has only been in office for a few years, Marie-Claire has already grown used to relying on her treasurer.

Henriette thinks that it is high time for the young master to marry, ideally to someone who will bring new fortunes to de Portefaix. Henriette is quite confident in her behaviour and she is not afraid to say her opinion.

Honoré Demaël (45)

"I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well."

Alexandre the Great

Honoré served in the army for many years and he has been Marie-Claire's friend since childhood. Even now he provides great support for her. Honoré is a direct and honest man who can keep his word - and there are not many like him in this time. Although he does not live at the court of de Portefaix as such, he is often a guest there and he has accompanied them this time. His son Marcel is also serving at the garrison of de Morsange and, allegedly, Honoré wants to use this opportunity to give his son some good fatherly advice after the long time apart. Honoré is also respected as a judge for any conflicts.

Florence Margaux De Portefaix (20)

"One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star."

Friedrich Nietzsche

Florence is Christophe Auguste's step-sister. After her mother's death, her father, the old Baron, took her in and even allowed her to use the family title. Although the atmosphere between her and Marie-Claire had originally been tense, she soon proved to be a big help in managing the lands. Her views are very modern and enlightened and she would like to modernize their lands as soon as possible. However, Marie-Claire is firmly against that - and maybe that is justified. After all, Florence definitely brings change everywhere she goes, but only rarely has she put any thought into it. It is said that she behaves like a hurricane and just waits to see whether something interesting will come out of her ravages.

Hunters

Germans

"As soon as men decide that all means are permitted to fight an evil, then their good becomes indistinguishable from the evil that they set out to destroy."

Christopher Dawkins

After half a year of attempts, all the hunters who were hunting the Beast just for money slowly crept away. In order to be able to live at Morsange for six months and pay all the expenses, a hunter needs strong motivation, a stable financial background and, after several hunters became prey, a good dose

of courage. Heinrich Renner's group has all that. The professionals who hunt curious creatures across the whole world, came here looking not only for a reward, but also for another trophy for their collection of strange beasts.

Heinrich Renner (48)

"I for my part think that in the perfect general the following four attributes ought to be present: knowledge of military matters, overall excellence, commanding prestige, and luck grounded in divine support."

Marcus Tullius Cicero

The leader of the group. This experienced, authoritative Prussian aristocrat has been through a lot and has the scars to prove his many adventures. He is said to have many trophies to his name and he is one of the best hunters in the world. The local Beast is a good opportunity for him to show his abilities, so he will definitely try to be the one who gets it. Heinrich is driven by ambition and a lust for glory: maybe this monster will be his last; maybe this will be the one that will make him remembered in history.

Julian de Lorraine-Lillebone (26)

"The medical profession is a farce with three characters: the patient, the physician and the disease."

Hippocrates

This young aristocrat is a bit of a mystery to the locals. Why, after graduating from medicine, a baron decided to leave the comfort of a big city and went to the country with an expedition of hunters, is not quite clear. Maybe it was to get worldly experience; maybe he is running from something. However, the local women are definitely keen on the young and handsome lord. In his profession, he only respects educated authorities and the image of a woman doctor is absolutely alien to him. That is why, right after he arrived in the village, he got into conflict with the local doctor, Chantal Pelletier.

Ludwig von Kleist (16)

"Rashness belongs to youth; prudence to old age."

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Ludwig's father promised to finance Renner's expedition. His only condition was that they had to take his son. Evil tongues say that he wanted to get rid of him, because Ludwig is definitely not a shy wallflower; on the contrary, he is far too careless for his age and he has started seeking out bad company, girls, and parties. That is why Father thinks the expedition will be good for him. Ludwig didn't complain; he was enticed by the adventure and at least he wouldn't constantly be under his father's watchful eye and could taste true freedom.

Hans Esbach (40)

"Science says the first word on everything, and the last word on nothing."

Victor Hugo

His reputation precedes him: he is known across the whole of Prussia and France as a brilliant hunter and scientist, afraid of nothing and capable of slaying any monster. But glory has got into his head a bit. He likes to listen to himself and some wonder how much of what he says is true. But there is no doubt that he knows his craft very well and his scientific zeal is insatiable. He has known Renner for a long time and they are friends who have been through many an adventure together.

Robert Lestrangle (31)

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go."

Thomas Stearns Eliot

Robert was born across the sea in Louisiana and he fought for France in the Seven Years' War. Then he went to Europe - possibly accompanied by some of the returning soldier, since he knows the local veterans. Nobody knows much about him; he does not speak about his past much. The only thing he

says is that he has a wife in new France and that he's not interested in any of the local women - not even for one kiss. He joined Renner's group a short time ago as a tracker.

The Royal Huntsman and Company

"Courage is good. Perseverance is better."

Jean de La Fontaine

When King Louis of France himself decided to intervene in the case of the Beast of Gévaudan, his choice was clear. Who else but his capable huntsman, Philippe Vaumesle d'Enneval, who was recently awarded an aristocratic title, could deal with the dangerous animal? Monsieur d'Enneval has never disappointed his King before and he will not allow the Beast to change anything about that.

Philippe Vaumesle d'Enneval (42)

"Decide what you want, decide what you are willing to exchange for it. Establish your priorities and go to work."

H. L. Hunt

Right after his arrival, Philippe realized that he'd have to bring some order into the whole hunt. After all, all the foreigners the Beast has lured into Morsange mostly get in each other's way. He immediately started drafting plans and preparing changes. Enough time and lives have been wasted already. Whatever the price may be, he will soon bring the Beast's head to Versailles. After all, failure is a word the decisive and ruthless Royal Huntsman does not know; and he is definitely not planning to learn it!

Jerôme Grossier (28)

"He who lives by fighting with an enemy has an interest in the preservation of the enemy's life."

Friedrich Nietzsche

If you see the Royal Huntsman, Jerôme is never far behind. He is supposed to be Monsieur d'Enneval's manservant, but people say Jerôme has a weapon in his hand much more often than his master's chamber pot. He definitely accompanies Monsieur d'Enneval on all hunts and tracking expeditions and everybody who's seen him swordfight says he is excellent.

It seems that the Huntsman relies on his manservant's abilities quite a bit, which is a great honour, considering that Jerôme obviously lacks both the polite manners and the unobtrusive ways of a good servant. Many gossips and crazy theories have been spun by the local servants, asking how this thug was able to survive at the royal court.

Hélène Petit (24)

"Man has his will, but woman has her way."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

While many might doubt Jerôme's abilities, Hélène is an exemplary servant. She is quiet, humble, she can stand where she is needed and be quiet when it is appropriate. So nobody is surprised that Monsieur d'Enneval prefers to send her for important errands or documents. After all, Hélène is a nice girl and people like her company. She quickly fit in with the locals and many local women like to chat to her. She even has a good influence over men; even Jerôme behaves better when he's around her.

Evil tongues say that Monsieur d'Enneval doesn't use Hélène just for carrying letters and that he calls her to him a little bit too often, even during the night. Who knows; Hélène only ever responds with a mysterious smile. Naturally, nobody says anything in front of Monsieur d'Enneval - but who could blame him, think the local gentlemen, who silently envy him.

The Spanish

"It is wonderful how much time good people spend fighting the devil. If they would only expend the same amount of energy loving their fellow men, the devil would die in his own tracks of ennui."

Hellen Keller

This group has people's curiosity, because it's full of contrast. The Spanish temper is mixed with the prudent behaviour of men who have been through a lot. Their fighting spirit stands in contrast to the peacefulness typical of deeply devout people. The famous face of their leader is accompanied by men nobody has heard of before. And the group itself exudes a certain tension.

Ángelo Francisco de el Aranda (37)

"Fame is something which must be won; honour only something which must not be lost."

Arthur Schopenhauer

Ángelo is a well-known hunter, although not as famous as, for example, Heinrich Renner. Commoners say that Ángelo has been pursuing the Devil around the world. The more down-to-earth ones claim that strong faith simply doesn't stop him from hunting for gold. Ángelo is a man in his prime - but he does bear the marks of injuries from his past. He is more of a cool-headed and careful leader; and the connective tissue of a group of men who are just getting to know each other. Many a woman in the village has turned after Ángelo, but although he is happy to return a smile, he is keeping his distance from romance.

Pablo Lopéz (49)

"A: Tell them they must leave the missions. They must submit to the will of God.

G: They say it was the will of God that they came out of the jungle and built the mission. They don't understand why God has changed his mind."

A dialogue by Altamirano and Gabriel from the film The Mission.

Pablo is the oldest member of the group. He is very devout, but also hot-tempered and often grumpy. He seems strict - especially when he looks at you with his piercing eyes and it seems clear to you that he's looking for your sins. But around children and older women he transforms completely. He suddenly seems to liven up and, for a moment, forget the gloom he carries with him. He plays with the children and talks about everyday matters with the women. Older villagers say that his serious face is the face of a man who has been robbed of something. Pablo obviously doesn't care much for Miguel. When not talking to Ángelo, he is in the church or alone, reading a book.

Miguel Hidalgo (29)

"For me there is no redemption, no penance great enough."

Captain Mendoza from the film The Mission

The youngest member of the group, and the tracker. At a first glance it's obvious he's also a former soldier: His moves are economical and purposeful. He knows his way around a weapon and doesn't wait long to hit an offender. There is something wild in his eyes, something which makes people fearful. Some say that he does not fit in Ángelo's group, but he holds Miguel under his wing. Ángelo is also obviously a good influence on Miguel, since he is humble and calm around him. It is generally known that Miguel has spent a few years in America - but a different part than the one the war for independence happened in.

Carlos Antonio Esteban (39)

"When love is not madness, it is not love."

Pedro Calderon de la Barca

Carlos is the most cheerful man in the group. He is a bit older than Ángelo and he's seen a lot - but he doesn't let it get to him. He focuses on the good things in life and he's always ready for another

adventure, or other opportunities to have some fun. He is one of the few foreign hunters to quickly get along with the villagers - what made the bond was, of course, wine. However, they are a bit less happy that he also gets along with the local women, who are happy to receive his attention. So it is only a question of time before some jealous local man gets fed up with that. Carlos is Angelo's good friend and as such, he is his right hand.

The Russians

"For a mad dog, no distance is too long to run."

A Russian saying

After some time, the people of Morsange got used to many hunters: oddballs, foreigners, drunkards and wretches who long for revenge. However, the group lead by Irina Alexandrovna has yet to lose their interest. It's hard to say whether it's because of their exotic garments; the men's drinking sprees; their odd style of hunting; or the fact that they are led by a woman carrying a sabre and two pistols.

Princess Irina Alexandrovna Platonova (41)

"Bitterness is like cancer. It eats upon the host. But anger is like fire. It burns it all clean."

Maya Angelou

She has only arrived recently with her group of hunters. Her manner is very confident and decisive. She has tracked the Beast here all the way from Russia where it allegedly slaughtered her husband. That might be why Irina is so strict with all the other hunters and why she is tirelessly working to make sure it is her who hunts the Beast down.

Apparently, she has more children apart from Nikolay waiting for her at home; but if that is true, she is not going to return to them before she's avenged her husband. Irina is resolute and does not have words to spare. She dresses like a man, which irritates some women - mostly noble ladies.

Gennadi Yakovlevich Lvov (48)

"Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth."

Oscar Wilde

Gennadi is very eloquent and his birth is clear. His behaviour, demeanour and dress all show that he is from high society and his eloquence makes it obvious that he's a seasoned diplomat. So it is quite odd that he came with Irina and her hunters; he is probably just using her as his escort. Or is it not the case? This worldly man can, when in the mood, share many stories from all around Europe. Preferably with a glass of wine - but that can be treacherous, since after that he sometimes gets into a dark mood, which is better to be avoided.

Roman Dmitryevich Vinogradov (55)

"Valor is stability, not of legs and arms, but of courage and the soul."

Michel de Montaigne

Roman comes all the way from distant Siberia. He's the oldest hunter and he likes to tell all manner of stories and legends. Irina apparently chose him for her group because of his excellent marksmanship and vast experience from hunts in the harshest possible conditions. He is also a brilliant tracker. Because of his age and experience, Roman sees most people as his children and he strictly reminds everyone of traditional values and the importance of honour. The young Nikolay most of all.

Nikolay Sergeyeovich Platonov (20)

"Man has a choice and it's a choice that makes him a man."

John Steinbeck: East of Eden

Irina's son Nikolay studied to be an officer in Moscow and he was probably on his way to the Imperial Guard itself. However, after the death of his father he accompanied his mother on the hunt

for the Beast. To everybody he seems like a very well-educated young man, albeit torn by the desires and insecurities of youth. So it is no wonder that in one moment you can see him in seclusion with a book and in another he's in the centre of all attention with a glass in his hand. He also likes to show off in front of the girls from the castle, who are flattered by the attention of such a charming young man.

Pavel Konstantinovich Koloman (36)

"One can know a man from his laugh, and if you like a man's laugh before you know anything of him, you may confidently say that he is a good man."

Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Pavel Konstantinovich is a soldier and a hunter who's been through thick and thin with the army, and he arrived here with Irina's group. He's a strong man who doesn't balk from using his fists. It might be odd that this strict-looking man is so enthusiastic about literature, but as he said himself during one of his many overly philosophical debates, he sees himself primarily as an author. Pavel often notes down various stories into his diary: he is probably collecting the material for a book.

Strangers

Merchants

"Moderation in temper is always a virtue; but moderation in principle is always a vice."

Thomas Paine

The strangers who came because of the Beast were not only hunters, but also others who decided to offer their services. Amongst those were the merchants Michel Brun and Gabriel Vert, who came to negotiate options for supplying and selling everything necessary for the hunt of the Beast.

Michel Brun (33)

"Peace demands the most heroic labour and the most difficult sacrifice."

Thomas Merton

Michel believes that every person has their unique place in the world; a mission which they must fulfil in their lives. He has dedicated his life to making the world a better place for all good people. Nothing can sway him from his journey; only sometimes he has to overcome obstacles caused by the oddities of his firm friend Gabriel.

Now his mission has led Gabriel all the way here; to the cursed land of the Beast. And as always, he will take full responsibility for his work. After all, one must not yield when facing evil!

Gabriel Vert (36)

"It is precisely on account of the simplicity of its basic laws that makes morality so difficult in practice."

Novalis

Nobody can give a satisfactory explanation of how Gabriel became Michel's best friend. One could hardly find two beings as different as these two. When Michel talks of morals and ideals, Gabriel speaks about decay and points to mankind's sins, which he so often has to bear himself. While Michel believes in a happy future, Gabriel believes in nothing - only damnation and Hell. Michel is a charming and pleasant companion; on the other hand, Gabriel's rough and disagreeable nature can get many to leave their table.

Gabriel surely has many good sides; but it seems only Michel knows about them. And yet, Michel and Gabriel are inseparable.

Investigators

Guillaume Morel (46)

"The discovery of truth is prevented more effectively, not by the false appearance things present and which mislead into error, not directly by weakness of the reasoning powers, but by preconceived opinion, by prejudice."

Arthur Schopenhauer

Rumours that black magic has been used in the village have crossed the borders of Gévaudan.

The complaint got all the way to Paris and so Guillaume Morel, a famous Parisian investigator, is coming to look into it.

Guillaume believes in God, King and France; but most importantly he believes in reason and justice. He has a great deal of experience in investigating witchcraft and such experience has led him to conclude that herbalism does not hide any black magic. The events in Morsange will surely be no exception.

Father Frédéric (53)

"Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider."

Francis Bacon

Father Frédéric has also been brought to this region by the Beast. Not meaning that this respectable Jesuit shall take to the woods and try to track and kill the Beast; surely not. Frédéric's specialization is not hunting, but miracles. And the locals think that when the young Claire Gravois saved her siblings from the Beast, it must have been a miracle. But a miracle is not a miracle before the Church has called it that. Father Frédéric is thought to be a wise man who takes his service to God very seriously indeed. He teaches the young brother Christian, who collaborates with him on investigating the miracle, the same things. And Christian definitely has a lot to learn - Frédéric is well learned, amicable and generally considered a genius. After all, the respect most of these well-travelled hunters seem to have for him says a lot.

Brother Christian, born Lefevre (21)

"Some say that God is love. Others that love is God. And I say that love is divine."

Robert Fulghum

It is no coincidence that Father Frédéric is being accompanied by Brother Christian. Although he only has little experience with investigating miracles, he has something else to offer: a knowledge of the land and its people.

Before brother Christian became a novice of the Jesuit Order, he used to be Christian Lefevre, the son of Prosper Lefevre from Morsange. Father Grégoire Bonnet soon noticed Christian's talents and he personally put in a word with the Church so he could get a good education. So, many years ago, Christian left his home to dedicate his life to God. And now he is coming home again.

Galley slaves

Corinne Boutin (34)

"Where there is power, there is resistance."

Michel Foucault

Corinne is a strong woman who can take care of herself. She has only been at the galley for a short time, but it cannot be said that this new experience broke her. Some might say she stayed free even in prison. At least in her mind. She has never been afraid to stand up to the guards and she was almost always in conflict with the toughest one, Serge. Hardly a day went by without her being punished for something. And now that Serge Laroche is dead, Corinne's behaviour has been strange. She is quieter

than usual and it seems that she doesn't really know what to do now that she's been robbed of her everyday entertainment.

Nadine Leclerc (41)

"Hope, though small, is a strand of green."

Dante Alighieri

Nadine is from the village. She left it many years ago, but now she is glad fate has led her back. Maybe so she can find something she left behind the last time. She often sneaks away from the group and tries to be as close to the village as possible. But that doesn't make all the villagers happy.

Genevieve Denis (29)

"Man cannot possess anything as long as he fears death. But to him who does not fear it, everything belongs."

Leo Tolstoy

If there is someone who deserves the galley, it is Genevieve. She has killed several people; she does not hide it and it seems she is not even ashamed of it. She brags that she used to be good and sweet; but if that is true, what led her to such evil?

Monique Leblanc (24)

"The heart loves all that contradicts reason."

Lucius Apuleius

Monique has been coping with her punishment at the galley much worse than most of her companions. After all, she got here after a long fall from an important merchant family in the north of France. The prisoners argue over what crime she has committed, but Monique says nothing on that matter.

Sébastien Fusilier (40)

"There are three pains: saying farewell to loved ones; poverty after riches; and humiliation after fame."

An Arabian saying

Sébastien is a dandy who would definitely be comfortable in the presence of so many women - had it not been under such disagreeable circumstances. That stops him from taking advantage of his situation and enjoying it. Sébastien obviously hasn't got used to his imprisonment yet and he is very irritable, distant and unapproachable. He tries to talk to the guards, since they are also men, but they ignore him. They obviously think worse of him than of most of the imprisoned women. But Sébastien does not give up. He constantly tries to make friends (with anyone). He is apparently aware that he will be unable to survive at the galley without them.

Laure Foch (27)

"My whole life was hell, my girl... and still I would not have exchanged it for a different one."

Miguel de Unamuno, Abel Sanchez

Laure knows her stuff. She's leading a small gang at the galley and it seems she got used to her new life. She's not even suffering much. The only thing that worries her is her volatile relationship with Brigitte. It seems they know each other from before and they are after each other.

Amélie Gaudet (31)

- I say, Hercules, that I have been waiting for you. But it was a hard time for me, as it would be for a mortal man. As you can see, there is quite a lot of suffering around here.

- I can see that just from looking at you, Prometheus.

Cesare Pavese, Dialogues with Leucó

Amélie doesn't fit in with the galley slaves much. She is the only one not used to working with her hands from the past. She's not used to living amongst criminals and if it was not for the protection

from Laure, her life at the galley would be very unpleasant indeed. She is clever and gives good advice. She is also one of the only ones who can read and write, which is why many (including the guards) use her to read and write letters. That is a considerable source of extra money for Amélie. Amélie is calm and unobtrusive. She is often seen at Laure's side and is very easy-going. The only person she ever gets into conflict with is Pascal Moreau - the assistant scientist who leads the excavations.

Zoé Mercier (25)

"Bear whatever fate gives you and you will prevail."

Vergil

Zoé still keeps saying that she is innocent. That is what many others say, but this fragile girl really looks like she would be unable to commit a crime. It seems some of the local gentlemen also believe it, judging from the looks they give Zoé when their wives are not around. Zoé would like to return home to her family, but not many can do that before their time is due. And even if she could - would she have somewhere to return to?

Simone Garnier (55)

"Pay attention to your enemies, for they are the first to discover your mistakes."

Antisthenes

The circumstances that led to Simone's imprisonment are not quite clear. She is the oldest woman in the group and as such, she is quite respected. Many of the galley slaves come to her for advice. There is also an unwritten law that they try to spare Simone from the hardest labour. Some of the guards have a similar approach. But despite that, Simone does not abuse her influence and she does not get involved in the scheming between the women.

Since the group came to Morsange, Simone has changed. She spends more time alone. She never looks the villagers in the eye, but shoots daggers at their backs with hateful looks. She moves in the chateau as if she's been there before. However, she hasn't divulged her secret to anyone yet.

Brigitte Blanchard (26)

"We can rely on bad people. At least they don't change."

William Faulkner

Brigitte is one of the seasoned criminals She has been on the streets since early childhood; she made her living however she could; later she turned to prostitution and organized crime. She was well known in the Parisian underworld. She has a special position amongst the others and she has already been imprisoned several times. She tries to put herself in the role of the leader and that gets her into conflict with Laure, who cannot stand her.

Thierry la Fleur (33)

"Life is the most valuable thing of all," said the philosopher; but he did not take his words back even under pain of death."

Gabriel Laub

Unlike Sébastien, Thierry is almost enjoying his stay at the galley. Almost as if he didn't realize his situation. He tells people he's writing a book about his life and that the galley is giving him great material. The question is what he'll say after a few years. Thierry is very eloquent and curious. He is becoming a popular companion and he's apparently planning to expand outside the galley. But only a few of the free people talk to him.

Flavia Rathgeber (31)

"But I, being poor, have only my dreams."

William Butler Yeats

Judging from her accent, Flavia was born in Switzerland, but she was arrested in France. As a servant

at the court of de Portefaix, she was accused of insinuating herself into the favour of the Baroness and then stealing everything she could get her hands on. But fortunately Marie-Claire soon discovered what a viper she was nourishing in her bosom and sent Flavia to the galley. But even there she is helped by her natural articulacy and nimble tongue: she reads the other women's dreams and they sometimes reward her with a bit of food or some extra clothing.

Mélissa Lussier (19)

"Unhappiness too can become a habit like piety."

Grabam Greene

Mélissa's star is not a lucky one. Since her childhood there was not a day without a beating for her; she fought with everybody over everything. Such a life could not lead her anywhere but to the galley. And it hasn't ended here. If there is a fight amongst the galley slaves, Mélissa is always in it and usually also the one to blame for it. The guards and the other galley slaves try to sort her out, but although Mélissa sometimes tries, it ends as it always has. Some of her fellow-prisoners are starting to grumble over why they should be bearing the guards' wrath because of this young girl.

Alain Fortescue (44)

"Justice renders to every one his due."

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Alain is a strict, but just man. He is simply in the right place. He does his job without bias or prejudice. His main goal is for the work to be done in order and in peace. The women know that if they abide by the rules, they do not have to worry about any wanton punishment from his side. On the other hand, Alain has no favourites. He tries to have the same, neutral relationship to all prisoners. In the past, Alain has had problems with Serge Laroche. He often had to calm him down, often even by punishment (like fines). That is one of the reasons why the galley slaves respect him.

Rémy Gaillard (38)

"Lieutenant Colonel Tsukanov - he used to be the commander of the Marfîn Special Prison for a while. Not only I, but all the prisoners from that prison can vouchsafe that he has never done anything bad to anyone; only the good."

Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, The Gulag Archipelago

Rémy Gaillard is one of the nicer people in the galley prison. Not that he doesn't do his job well, but he sometimes stands up for the prisoners when the other guards are crossing lines and Alain is not nearby. But he would never go against his superior and he can hold a grudge against a galley slave who stands up directly to him.

Sylvain Dubois (22)

"The true value of a man is not determined by his possession, supposed or real, of Truth, but rather by his sincere exertion to get to the Truth."

Gottbold Ephraim Lessing

First of all, Sylvain needs to get his bearings. He does not know the galley slaves or his new colleagues. He hasn't really had a chance to show his true colours and it is only up to him how he'll fit into this complex society. The galley slaves are most curious about that, since for a while they were left in relative peace. Maybe they have something to fear: youthful zeal and respect for the letter of the law can bring more pain than anything else.

Pascal Moreau (42)

"An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field."

Niels Bohr

Pascal is here to lead the excavations. He manages the works, notes down the findings and likes his

job. Unfortunately, his ideas sometimes defy reality, since Pascal simply cannot assess what work the women are capable of doing (apart from other things). He also often comes up with tasks which seem completely useless to an ordinary person. Sometimes he even gets into conflict with the guards because of that.