

**Mary Thoday**, William's wife and Geoffrey Deacon's widow. A once-pretty maid of the Thorpes, she was originally suspected of helping her first husband steal the emeralds. Some people suspect that she might know something about their hiding place.

**James Thoday**, William's hefty brother. He was an officer on a tramp freighter, home on leave for Christmas and New Year's Day, who stayed and helped tend to his sick brother. He also took an extra, unexplained, day getting from his brother's house back to his ship. It was James who gave his brother a parrot that gives Wimsey important information.

**Horace "Potty" Peake**, a retarded pig keeper and the pumper of the church's old-fashioned pump-organ. Although he was an important witness to the events leading up to the mysterious death, it is almost impossible for Wimsey and Blundell to understand exactly what he saw.

**Sir Henry Thorpe**, a crippled war veteran and local squire. It was at his 1914 wedding that the Wilbraham emeralds were stolen by Deacon. His death the Easter after his wife's death helped set up the cause of the investigation.

**Lady Thorpe**, Sir Henry's wife, who died on New Year's Day. Her grave, when reopened to receive her husband's body, reveals the mutilated corpse that launches Wimsey's investigation into the village's affairs.

**Hilary Thorpe**, Sir Henry's intelligent teenage daughter. She finds important evidence in the bell-tower and provides Wimsey with important information about some of the local characters. After the death of her great aunt, Mrs. Wilbraham, Wimsey becomes the administrator of the Wilbraham estate, as well as of the stolen jewels, which Wimsey recovers before identifying the corpse.

**Nobby Cranton**, an experienced and crafty jewel thief. He was set up by Deacon to be caught for the original jewel robbery in 1914. He returned to Fenchurch, St. Paul, on New Year's Day of 1930 to look for the jewels, and so is suspected either of being the corpse in the graveyard or of putting it there.

—Terrance L. Lewis

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## Nineteen Eighty-Four

*Author:* George Orwell  
*First published:* 1949  
*Genre:* Novel  
*Locale:* London, England  
*Plot:* Science fiction  
*Time:* 1984

**Winston Smith**, a citizen of Oceania. He is an intelligent man of thirty-nine, a member of the Outer Ring of the Party who has a responsible job in the Ministry of Truth, where he changes the records to accord with the aims and wishes of the Party. He is not entirely loyal, however, for he keeps a secret journal, takes a mistress, and hates Big Brother. Caught in his infidelities to the Party, he is tortured until he is a broken man; he finally accepts his lot, even to the point of loving Big Brother.

**Mrs. Smith**, Winston's wife, a devoted follower of the Party and active member of the Anti-Sex League. Because she believes procreation a party duty, she leaves her husband when the union proves childless.

**Julia**, a bold, good-looking girl who, though she wears the Party's red chastity belt, falls in love with Winston and becomes his mistress. She, like her lover, rebels against Big Brother and the Party. Like Winston, too, she is tortured and brainwashed and led to repent her political sins.

**O'Brien**, a member of the Inner Party. He leads Winston and Julia to conspire against the Party and discovers their rebellious acts and thoughts. He is Winston's personal torturer and educator who explains to Winston why he must accept his lot in the world of Big Brother.

**Mr. Charrington**, a member of the thought police who disguises himself as an old man running an antique shop in order to catch such rebels as Winston and Julia. He is really a keen, determined man of thirty-five.

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## 1959

*Author:* Thulani Davis  
*First published:* 1992  
*Genre:* Novel  
*Locale:* The Chesapeake Bay area of Virginia  
*Plot:* Social realism  
*Time:* 1959

**Willie Tarrant**, the narrator, a bright twelve-year-old girl who, in 1959, is preoccupied with boys, kissing, and music. After she is selected to be one of six African American students to integrate the all-white Patrick Henry Junior High, Willie's mundane world is shattered. She and the all-black community of Turner, Virginia, become embroiled in the civil rights struggle. As this naïve yet spirited young girl comes of age during this turbulent period in American history, she shares her eloquence and sense of dignity with her community. Willie's narrative becomes a metanarrative for the African American experience.

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