

Six characters in search of a plot

1. Isobel – Sue

My name is Isobel James. What words would I use to describe myself? Watchful, a listener, thoughtful. I always try, when asked, to give a considered opinion.

I studied Environmental Science and Conservation at University and I have been an active member of Greenpeace since then.

My favourite outfit is jeans, T shirts and a slouchy jumper. Unfortunately, there is nothing I can do to hide my rich red hair, Pre-Raphaelite some call it.

2. Sister Mary Bernadette – Sheila Swanson

I am Sister Mary Bernadette, known as Bernie to my pupils, though they think I don't know. I seem to be popular among the girls perhaps because I play the guitar and organise the choir. I think it is important to retain some air of mystery and there is much speculation about the events of my life before entering the convent. Once a month I spend a Sunday afternoon away from the school, more mystery to feed the speculation.

3. Mary Benfield – Sheila Marks

My name is Mary Benfield. My sister, who can be very cutting, says bitterness runs through me like a stick of Blackpool rock. It's not surprising if I'm bitter. I spent 35 years as secretary in the office of Trenchard's the accountants. 35 years loyal service. It counted for nothing. When old Mr Trenchard passed on and his waster of a son took over I was out on my ear. What do I have now? A small pension and a smaller flat. I go to church for some company but most of them are a bunch of shallow hypocrites.

4. Costin Popescu - Nick

The name I am using at the moment is Costin Popescu. I am a business man. Where I come from you know what that means? You use your fists and a gun or you are nothing. Look I don't pretend. If someone want to buy sex and drugs I supply them. If I don't someone else will. Ok Bucharest got too hot for me so now I am here, but the trade is the same. I supply a demand, that is all and the Bucharest girls, when I bring them over are very popular.

5. Ben Truscott - Mike

My name is Ben Truscott. You have probably seen my vans and building sites. "Trust Truscott the Homemaker." That was my dad's idea and he made sure I followed him in the business. My dream was to be a singer. My teachers said I

had the voice. At the moment, the closest I get is in the local amateur operatic society and choir, but my dream was to be another Bryn Terfel. I have a daughter who has a wonderful voice. I don't want to be like my dad and ruin her dream. Ironically, she is more interested in the building trade.

6. Delia - Sally

My name is Delia Partridge. I am cursed with high intelligence. After a while just hoovering up diplomas and degrees becomes boring and pointless. Now I take any job to earn some money to fund my main love. This surprises people. It is the band Muse. Oh, and among my other talents, I am an excellent photographer. My main subject, well the band Muse of course. I will follow and photograph them anywhere.