

CHARACTERS

BENNY PORTER (35) Young Benny endured the simmering tensions of his parents. An outsider at home, becoming an acute observer. His charmer persona evolved as a way to just 'get along'. He enjoyed the social and sporting life at university (still has twinges from rugby injuries). Couldn't cope with being stuck back home on holidays, and in student debt. So committed a reckless act of fraud.

Tried his luck in London, in advertising. He impressed on a PR assignment. Had a knack for intuitive problem solving. In growing demand, with little quality time for Alice and (later) Daisy. Only now does he appreciate that Alice is his true soulmate. And Daisy means the world.

Benny respects Tycho as a force of nature. He's both critical and envious of Anton's playboy lifestyle. They develop an 'odd couple' rapport. He shares hopes and fears with confidantes. Tenderly so with Daisy. Tactically so with dynasty matriarch Maude. Tantalisingly so with Steffa. Women are drawn to him. He's a good listener and his charm is genuine - keys to his PR success.

Deep down, Benny is in search of himself. Believes he's damaged goods, unworthy of Alice. Conditioned to seek emotional escape. Empathising and dealing with the concerns of others. He can walk away from them.

ALICE (35) Her mother teaches art, her father manages a caravan park. Benny was Alice's teen sweetheart, frustratingly distracted. She witnessed his impulsive act of fraud, at the solicitors' firm where his father worked. She encouraged his interest in art. Inspired him to open their London gallery, and fears he'll lose it.

Now back in Stowbay. She finds emotional release, seduced by voluptuous shop boss Yvonne. Drawn to RAF pilot Roy. She maintains resolute independence from Benny, though with lingering yearning. Will they, won't they get back together? For the sake of Daisy above all.

DAISY (10) A sensitive soul, coping with her parents' separation and affairs. A vital go-between. Benny and Alice admire her resilience. Daisy bonds with new school friend Juanita, whose parents have also separated. Juanita's father is pilot Roy. The girls are fascinated and disturbed by the challenges they face.

Harriet (60) and Clive (60) Porter. Benny's parents. Clive's profligate father ruined the family's long established department store business. Clive stepped in, training as a solicitor, to avoid bankruptcy. He had to forfeit Pincham Hall, with the kitchen garden that he loved as a child - and give up his rugby player ambition. Harriet stuck with him though they were incompatible without the cushion of wealth. She lost a baby girl at birth. She still confides to 'Louise' as an invisible comfort. Clive was incensed by Benny's act of fraud. He recently retired to focus on market-gardening. Harriet is a WI do-gooder. The couple find escapist thrills with Stowbay Players Theatre. They share an awful secret.

Tycho Thanos (70) Gregarious, self-made hotels tycoon - beginning as an immigrant with a suitcase of his mother's lace. Driven by need for revenge after an early snub by the snooty son of a famed hotelier. Needs Benny as a trusted outsider. Relaxes on his schooner yacht with visiting mistresses. A bad example to Anton, though at least he's discrete. Hides a health concern, heart tremors. Has an abiding love and respect for Maude. His physio-aide Hector is a smiley enforcer.

Maude Thanos (55) Spry, discrete. Worked in a bank and helped guide Tycho's early career. Sympathises with their sons over resisting his dominance. Expanding

her beloved nature reserve through a 'mistress pact' with Tycho. Relaxes by painting landscapes. Shares dynasty concerns with Benny. Has her own secret agenda.

Nikolas Thanos (32) Smart operator. Keeps his distance, based in Singapore. Tycho's gay jibes still hurt. Benny discovers he has a secret family.

Anton Thanos (30) Headstrong playboy. Resents Nikolas' absence, exposing him fully to Tycho's dominance. Needs Benny to extricate him from his misadventures.

Giselle Thanos (30) Anton's coolly flirtatious wife, with designs on Benny. She's frustrated by family duty and by Anton's affairs. Threatens divorce. Re-unites with her girl band, needing Benny's support.

Pascalie (25) Benny's ambitious gallery assistant. Experience at a top auction house has made her over-confident. Her sassy audacity hides a manipulative streak.

Kendrick / Kenny Risk (50) Art 'facilitator' and forger. Fronting as a cabaret singer. **Steffa (40)** Anton's athletic yacht skipper. Impressively alluring to Benny. Confides about teen abuse by a sailing mentor. Benny senses lethal vengeance intent.

Des (70) Club legend player, now chairman of Stowbay FC. Long time pal of Tycho, shares his dismay at money ruining the 'beautiful game'. Runs Stowbay Stock Cars.