

Character Compendium for *A Bride's Choice* in Central City

Annabelle Singleton

- **Background & Identity:** Annabelle feels trapped in a life controlled by her overbearing Aunt Viola in 1872 St. Louis. On her 24th birthday, she discovers a letter from her deceased father revealing she was adopted and born out of wedlock to her birth mother, Julie. This revelation means she is not a Singleton by blood.
First Appearance: A Bride's Dilemma in Friendship, Tennessee.
 - **Key Relationships:**
 - **Aunt Viola:** Her controlling, adoptive aunt who constantly criticizes Annabelle's size and restricts her freedom.
 - **Thaddeus Kincaid:** A handsome stranger she first meets in St. Louis, who rescues her aunt's dog. They reconnect in Central City, and Annabelle falls in love with him, though she initially hides the truth about her birth. She eventually agrees to marry him.
 - **Pearl Miles:** Annabelle's childhood friend's mother, who becomes a maternal figure after Annabelle is kicked out by Aunt Viola.
 - **Jake Miles:** Pearl's son and Annabelle's childhood friend, who acted like a brother to her growing up.
 - **Marianne Kincaid:** Thaddeus's ten-year-old daughter, who shares a growing bond with Annabelle.
 - **William Kirby:** Annabelle's former fiancé, who broke off their engagement to marry a Northern woman, causing her much embarrassment.
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Thaddeus Kincaid

- **Background & Identity:** A widower from St. Louis, haunted by the loss of his wife, Catherine. He is the head of the Kincaid Company, investing in mines across the West. Though initially determined to avoid romantic entanglements, he is drawn to Annabelle's strength and compassion.
 - **Key Relationships:**
 - **Marianne Kincaid:** His ten-year-old daughter, who lost her mother at the age of four.
 - **Alexander Kincaid:** His younger brother, a war veteran struggling with deep emotional scars.
 - **Annabelle Singleton:** The woman who reignites his hope for love and family.
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Pearl Miles

- **Background & Identity:** A widow from Nashville and the mother of Jake Miles. Pearl becomes a strong support system for Annabelle, as she was also best friends with Annabelle's birth mother, Julie.
 - **Key Relationships:**
 - **Jake Miles:** Her son, now a lawyer in Central City, married to Cornelia and the father of Robert Oscar.
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Jake Miles

- **Background & Identity:** Pearl's son and Annabelle's childhood friend. Once rebellious and angry, he has turned his life around and now practices law in Central City.
 - **Key Relationships:**
 - **Cornelia:** His wife and the mother of their two-year-old son, Robert Oscar.
 - **Annabelle Singleton:** A childhood friend he treats like a sister.
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Raymond Taggart

- **Background & Identity:** Cornelia's brother, a baker who owns "Nora's" bakery in Central City. He is deeply in love with Nora, a woman from his past, and is relentless in his search for her.
 - **Personality & Traits:** Sincere and dedicated, though clumsy in expressing his feelings (e.g., a public marriage proposal to Nora).
 - **Key Relationships:**
 - **Nora Wilson/McGleery:** The love of his life, for whom he named his bakery.
 - **Cornelia:** His supportive sister.
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Nora Wilson / McGleery

- **Background & Identity:** An Irish immigrant and skilled seamstress. After fleeing a troubled past and marrying for security, she became a widow when her husband, Ralph, died in a mining accident.
 - **First Appearance:** *A Bride's Journey to Central City*.
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Additional Characters

- **Marianne Kincaid:** Thaddeus's daughter, longing for a mother figure.
- **Alexander Kincaid:** Thaddeus's war-broken brother, living in St. Louis.
- **Cornelia:** Jake's wife and Raymond's sister.

- **Sadie:** A young girl taken in by Nora and Charlotte in Breckenridge.
 - **Beatrice:** Alexander's caretaker, known for her firm but compassionate demeanor.
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Setting Compendium for A Bride's Choice in Central City

St. Louis, Missouri

- **Time Period:** 1872.
 - **Significance:** Annabelle's initial home with Aunt Viola, as well as the base for the Kincaid Company. A bustling city filled with vendors and newsboys, it contrasts sharply with the quieter, freer life Annabelle finds in Central City.
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Central City, Colorado

- **Significance:** A rugged mining town where Annabelle seeks refuge. It represents new beginnings and independence for her.
 - **Key Locations:**
 - **Teller House:** A grand hotel where Annabelle and others stay.
 - **Nora's Bakery:** Raymond's business, named after Nora.
 - **Jake and Cornelia's Home/Office:** A modest residence attached to Jake's law office.
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Nashville, Tennessee

- **Significance:** Annabelle's childhood home and the location of her father's estate. Pearl also plans to sell her house here to move west.
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Breckenridge, Colorado

- **Significance:** Nora's home after fleeing her past. It serves as a backdrop for her reunion with Raymond.
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Jefferson Barracks

- **Significance:** A military hospital where Beatrice worked with wounded soldiers, reflecting Alexander's struggles as a war veteran.