

1. MAISIE BAILLIE
2. DON BAILLIE
3. GREER BAILLIE
4. ERROL BAILLIE
5. DORIS
6. AGNES/ELSIE BEDPOT

7. WEE ECKIE/FERGUS
8. REV ARCHIE DICK /JOCKIE JAMIESON
9. PC ROBBIE FRASER / ALFIE MCGOURTY
10. BETTY TATTERSAL/FIONA HENDERSON/ JESSIE
11. NELLY TATTERSAL / MAGGIE MCGOURTY
12. EWAN/HUGHIE HENDERSON/JOHNNY MAC?

BACKSTORY/SETTING

Maisie and her husband Don run the greengrocers shop in the town. They live in the flat above the shop, with a shared close to flats at the other side.

In 1945/6, for the first new year of peace after the war, Maisie had a few people drop in for New Year and ever since, theirs is the place to see in the New Year. Only trouble is, the party has got bigger and bigger every year and Maisie's famous soup pot and nibbles takes her weeks to prepare. As time's gone on, Maisie's grumbled about the work it takes and how nice it would be to see the New Year in just with the family, how good it would be to see the new year in without a load of dishes and clearing up to be done. Last year, however they got snowed in up in Aberdeen for new year (or perhaps Don took her and the family away so she could get a break from all the work she usually has had to do for the New Year) Trouble is, she *missed* hosting the New Year party – but couldn't admit it, and worse, when they got back Maisie heard that her best pal JESSIE and husband FERGUS hosted the New Year party in their fancy new house. This year Maisie is determined to host a great party....

THE SET: A Living room with a breakfast bar separating off the kitchen area to the RHS. In the kitchen area is a bed recess with a curtain across it. There is a window

MAISIE BAILLIE (42 control freak, competitive, loving)

Maisie is a warm, loving, emotional woman. She and her husband Don have been married since 1939 and they're sexy best friends who enjoy the odd spat. As Maisie would say "Divorce? Never! Murder...Maybe." She and Don are romantics and are great fans of 'the pictures'. So much so, They

named their children after their favourite stars. Although she would deny she worries about what people think, she paints a conformist picture of their marriage to the outside world. In truth, she's the alpha in the relationship, but the pair have developed a way of making Don look like he's the boss of the family. Don thinks he is.....so long as Maisie's happy. Her strongest trait is her competitiveness – although she would deny it categorically. Her reputation as the best host for New Year is one she's proud of. Maisie always wavers between the desire to please, and the strong drive to be the best - attributes that often produce conflict in her. She's a very untypical woman with the outward appearance of a very traditional housewife and mother. Truth is, she's the dynamo of the family, and likes to be in control - and one of the things she likes to be in control of is peoples' happiness. She's about to learn that life is full of chaos that she can't control.

DON BAILLIE. (45)

Maisie's husband. He's a man's man – but he'd rather be with his wife and family than down the pub with his mates (think Phil Dunphy of Modern Family). He's not henpecked, Maisie makes sure that no-one will think that. He loves his family and loves being sociable. He inherited the greengrocer business although he always wanted to be a teacher. It's really thanks to Maisie that the business has thrived, although he's the front man. Everybody loves Don, he's funny, good natured and a loving husband. He'll bore everyone to death with stories about his family, and he's inordinately proud and protective of his daughter GREER – she's his Achilles heel

GREER GARSON BAILLIE (18)

Adored by her dad, Greer is a bit of a prima donna – she's beautiful, talented and clever. But proud. She and Ewan have been friends since they were wee. He's the one person that sees beyond Greer's beauty to the person she really is, and is one of the few people who won't let Greer get away with murder. Greer has dated plenty of boys, but when Ewan announced he was thinking of joining the navy, she realised her true feelings for him. They became boyfriend and girlfriend briefly, much to the two families delight. However Greer expected to call all the shots, and was horrified when Ewan called her bluff and went ahead with joining the navy. Greer, in the weeks before he went away, made a point of going out with Johnny Mac, and not even saying goodbye to Ewan. He's been away for three months and Greer has recently realised she's pregnant. She doesn't know what she's going to do – she doesn't want to climb down from her high horse, but is desperate to see Ewan. Her famous pride won't let her apologise to Ewan – or will it?

ERROL FLYNN BAILLIE (15)

Has just moved from being cute gangly lad to rebellious teen aka James Dean – however hard he tries to look like a real rock and roll type,

underneath he's a total softie. He's very gullible, and looks up to Johnny Mac. His big pal is Wee Eckie. He thinks he's worldly wise, and that his parents friends are so dull and boring – this New Year party is going to change his opinions about a lot of things!

DORIS DAY BAILLIE (10)

The youngest of the family, she's sweet and ingénue. She loves to play – and throughout the night she is going to contribute to the chaos – she will come out with truths about the family at inappropriate times. She likes to mix 'Dollyjuice' which ends up being a lethal mix of alcohol at the party, which she feeds to the Tattersal sisters and the minister. She also drops Greer in it when she uses Greers unused STs as dolly beds – leading her mum to realise Greer's pregnant.

AGNES STIRLING (65ish) /ELSIE TATTERSAL

Maisie's mum. A terrible snob. She thinks Maisie married beneath her, but actually has a big soft spot for Don. Always traditionally and immaculately dressed in suits. She approves of the way the Tattersals dress

JESSIE MURDOCH (42) / BETTY TATTERSAL

Jessie and Maisie have been pals since primary school. They've been either Bezzy mates, or rivals throughout their lives. Jessie married geeky Fergus, who trained to be a dentist and recently has been doing very well for themselves – moving into a semi detached in the town. Jessie's been getting a bit pretentious recently – rubbing Maisie's nose in how lovely it is to be in a 'proper' house. Jessie's pride and joy is Ewan, their only child.

JOCKIE JAMIESON (60'S) /REV. ARCHIE DICK

Jockie is the life and soul of the party – full of jokes, stories and songs. Everyone wants Jockie at their party.

MAGGIE MCGOURTY (40 – 50) /NELLY TATTERSAL

Maggie is a lively, jolly character. She flirts with Jockie and can be a bit racey.

ALFIE MCGOURTY (40 – 50)/ PC ROBBIE FRASER

Alfie is choir master and runs the local amdram group. He's very camp and loves show business – always eager to call a show biz or tv personality an acquaintance. He's a bit of a show off, but you can't not like him. He and Maggie are an unlikely pairing, but they're fun together.

HUGHIE HENDERSON (50ish)/ EWAN/ JOHNNY MAC

Hughie is nice but dim.

FIONA HENDERSON (30ish)/BETTY TATTERSAL/JESSIE

Sweet but dull.

WEE ECKIE (14 but can seem younger)/ FERGUS MURDOCH

Pal of ERROL's. Gullible. Think Shellsuit Bob. A bit clueless, but you can't not love Wee Eckie.

JOHNNY MAC (20s) /HUGHIE/EWAN

Johnny is a self styled James Dean and ladies man He's a bit of a Walter Mitty character – full of stories about what he's done and who he's met. Greer used him to try to make Ewan jealous, but Johnny is convinced no woman can resist him, and is convinced Greer is in love with him. He loves the way Errol and Wee Eckie look up to him – it's always satisfying to have adoring satellites.

REV ARCHIEBALD DICK (60s)/JOCKIE JAMIESON

Think Rev. I M Jolly. Rev Archie takes depression to a whole new level. He knows the kids laugh at him. He's caustic but his dry, morose observations are hilarious. He likes a tippie and has no end of hip flasks and wee bottles he brings out about his person. Archie, in the course of the evening as he gets drunker, confesses a wild affair with a dancer (which may or may not be Betty or Elsie). Perhaps he's always known the Tattersals were not what they seem. He addresses the room and few people listen – but the audience will!

ELSIE TATTERSAL (75ish)/AGNES STIRLING

Elsie lives in the flat opposite/above and is looked after by her two daughters. Elsie is a known eccentric – and her wild tales and sometimes volatile behaviour is put down to senility. It's said she never recovered from being picked out of the rubble during the Clydebank blitz. Elsie is regarded as being bonkers – and her daughters have their hands full keeping her in order.

BETTY TATTERSAL (50ish may seem older) /JESSIE MURDOCH

Betty Tattersal is not what she seems. To the outside world she is the devoted daughter of Elsie and is attached at the hip to her sister NELLY. As a pair they come across conformist, inhibited and sacrificing their lives to the care of their mother. Betty, however is Elizabeth Le Brun – a singer/dancer who met and fell in love with Nelly (Helen) Tattersal. While she travelled over the world she came back to be with Nelly and they've kept up the pretence of being sisters ever since. As they moved from Clydebank to Largs in the late forties no-one has suspected a thing. Except perhaps the Rev....?

NELLY TATTERSAL (40ish seems older)/MAGGIE MCGOURTY

Nelly is Elsie's real daughter. When she was working as an ambulance driver during the war she met Elizabeth. She was engaged at the time, but she knew this was love. Then came the Clydebank Blitz and she and her mum were homeless. It was Elizabeth who helped them through the difficult times. Nelly was aware her mother had suffered badly during the blitz, losing her husband and home, and because she had fallen out with her mother the night of the bombing, she felt obliged to look after her. Nelly's fiancé was killed during the war, and it suited her to play the

perennial spinster. When they moved to Largs people just assumed she and Betty were sisters, and so they allowed the lie to live...

PC ROBBIE FRASER (23)/ ALFIE MCGOURTY

Robbie is the local bobby who is desperate to establish himself as the authority on crime in the area. He's only a constable, but he wants to be a detective, and to prove himself, he wants to solve the mystery of..... (peeing in the phone box, setting something alight,????) He models himself on a mixture of Humphrey Bogart and Sherlock Holmes. He's also a magician. He has a massive crush on Greer, who he thinks can do no wrong.

EWAN MURDOCH (18)/HUGHIE/JOHNNY MAC

Ewan and Greer have been pals since they could crawl. Things changed when Greer hit the teenage years and realised she was pretty and clever and a man magnet. Ewan was still her confidante, but he struggled with it – feeling she was growing away from him, even though she always sought his company when she was down or in trouble. Ewan realised that he needed to make his own way in life and applied for the merchant navy. He was astonished that Greer was so upset and for a while they got together as boyfriend and girlfriend. However Ewan knew he needed to be his own person and joined the merchant navy even though Greer didn't want him to. Greer had a total hissy fit and went off with Johnny Mac – breaking Ewan's heart and substantiating his belief that Greer would always try to walk over him. When he comes back, he's done a lot of growing up, and is hoping that Greer will have too.

FERGUS MURDOCH/WEE ECKIE

Fergus is a buttoned up type, careful with his money to the point of parsimonious - which explains why he's done so well and he and Jessie are living in a nice semi in a good area of town. He doesn't always approve of the Baillies' laissez faire attitude to life, but he can't help enjoying their company – he can really let his hair down. While he supports Jessie and her pretentious party. He can't deny that if you want fun – go to the Baillies.