

Old Adam: Faithful Servant to Robin/Ruthven and one of the few who knows about his sketchy history. He gets quite into the demands of bad baronetting and plays up to his evil sidekick role. A fun cameo.

ROB. This is a painful state of things, Old Adam!

ADAM Painful, indeed! Ah, my poor master, when I swore that, come what would, I would serve you in all things for ever, I little thought to what a pass it would bring me! The confidential adviser to the greatest villain unhung! Now, sir, to business. What crime do you propose to commit to-day?

ROB. How should I know? As my confidential adviser, it's your duty to suggest something.

ADAM Sir, I loathe the life you are leading, but a good old man's oath is paramount, and I obey. Richard Dauntless is here with pretty Rose Maybud, to ask your consent to their marriage. Poison their beer.

ROB. No – not that – I know I'm a bad Bart., but I'm not as bad a Bart. as all that.

ADAM Well, there you are, you see! It's no use my making suggestions if you don't adopt them.

ROB. (melodramatically) How would it be, do you think, were I to lure him here with cunning wile – bind him with good stout rope to yonder post – and then, by making hideous faces at him, curdle the heart-blood in his arteries, and freeze the verymarrow in his bones? How say you, Adam, is not the scheme well planned?

ADAM It would be simply rude – nothing more. But soft – they come!