

Dame Hannah: Hannah is an outwardly sweet old lady with a feisty side. She has the responsibility of setting the spooky scene at the beginning and tying up the emotional loose ends at the end of the show. She is the most sensible and “normal” of the whole bunch, acting as a way into the story for the audience. There’s a lot going on in this deceptively difficult role.

ROB. Dame Hannah! This is – this is not what I expected.

HAN. **Well, sir, and what would you with me? Oh, you have begun bravely – bravely indeed! Unappalled by the calm dignity of blameless womanhood, your minion has torn me from my spotless home, and dragged me, blindfold and shrieking, through hedges, over stiles, and across a very difficult country, and left me, helpless and trembling, at your mercy! Yet not helpless, coward sir, for approach one step – nay, but the twentieth part of one poor inch – and this poniard (produces a very small dagger) shall teach ye what it is to lay unholy hands on old Stephen Trusty’s daughter!**

ROB. Madam, I am extremely sorry for this. It is not at all what I intended – anything more correct – more deeply respectful than my intentions towards you, it would be impossible for any one – however particular – to desire.

HAN. **Bah, I am not to be tricked by smooth words, hypocrite! But be warned in time, for there are, without, a hundred gallant hearts whose trusty blades would hack him limb from limb who dared to lay unholy hands on old Stephen Trusty’s daughter!**

ROB. And this is what it is to embark upon a career of unlicensed pleasure!

(DAME HANNAH, who has taken a formidable dagger from one of the armed figures, throws her small dagger to ROBIN.)

HAN. **Harkye, miscreant, you have secured me, and I am your poor prisoner; but if you think I cannot take care of myself you are very much mistaken. Now then, it’s one to one, and let the best man win!** (Making for him.)