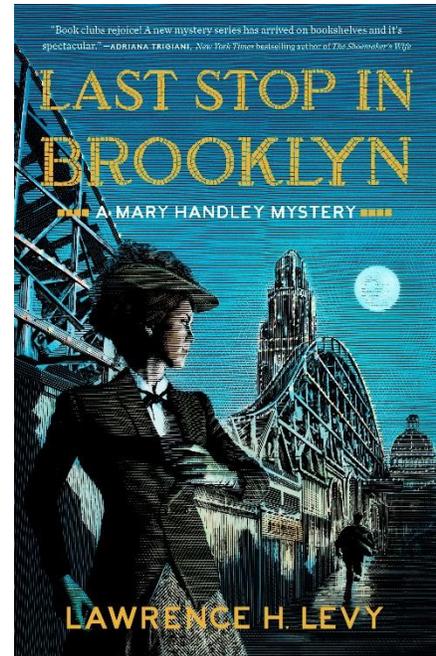


Character Guide

Last Stop in Brooklyn by Lawrence H. Levy



1. **Mary Handley**—She is an extremely bright, self-educated woman who refuses to accept the limited role of women in nineteenth-century America. Mary is also confident and doesn't shy away from conflict, no matter who the person is. By her considerable intelligence and determination, she has built a successful career as a private detective in spite of opposition from her mother and most of society.
2. **Harper Lloyd**—Harper is a talented investigative reporter who is working on the case involving the bombing at Russell Sage's office. Harper has a quick wit and is one of the few people who can match Mary's when they throw barbs at each other. He is essentially a good, caring person, even if he hides it at times with sarcasm.
3. **Police Superintendent Patrick Campbell**—He is a gruff, no nonsense policeman who has risen high in the ranks at the Brooklyn Police Department. Campbell was the first to notice Mary's ability and gave her a chance on an impossible case where she exceeded his expectations. Since then he has become her mentor and friend, and now that she's a private detective, she can go to him for advice and information, in spite of his curmudgeon personality.
4. **Dr. Chester Lawrence**—An endocrinologist who temporarily suspended his practice to do a study on minorities, Dr. Lawrence has a definite agenda and wants to prove that minorities are racially inferior. He's amused by Mary's pluck and soon finds out that she is more than he can handle.
5. **Austin Corbin**—He is the owner of the Long Island Railroad, the Manhattan and Oriental hotels in Coney Island, and other properties. He is a rabid anti-Semite and hates people of color. Corbin believes most immigrants are inferior and wants to severely curb their entry into the United States. He's shocked at Mary's acceptance of these people, and his attempts to match wits with her usually results in Corbin coming out on the short end.

6. **Sean Handley**—He is a detective at Second Street Station in Brooklyn and Mary's brother. Because of his own personal tragedy and constant haranguing by their mother, their contentious relationship has softened over the years, and they have become supportive of each another.
7. **Elizabeth Handley**—She is Mary's mother and rules her family with an iron hand (or at least tries to). She is completely against Mary's career. She wants Mary to abandon it, get married, and have children, because to Elizabeth career and family are mutually exclusive. She loves her family but is very judgmental and hardheaded, which causes many arguments.
8. **Jeffrey Handley**—He is Mary's father and he tries to be the peacekeeper in the family. Jeffrey's thirty-two years of working in a butcher shop has provided his family with only a meager living, but it's enough to get along. He loves his two children and is very supportive of their careers and dreams. When Mary was a little girl and showed a thirst for knowledge, he found a way to bring home books to quench that thirst.
9. **Lazlo**—He owns the bookstore where Mary has her office. Lazlo is an effete intellectual who spars with Mary over academic and theoretical matters. It's all in fun. He has a soft spot for Mary and looks upon her as the daughter he never had. Of course, Lazlo would never have a daughter because he doesn't consider children human beings until they can have an intelligent conversation. He is incredibly supportive of Mary and glows at each of her accomplishments.
10. **Sarah Cooper**—She is Mary's childhood friend and would build her up when Elizabeth and the other children at school tore Mary down. Sarah is now married to a successful lawyer, Walter Cooper, is a great mother to three children and seems very happy. Hardship has avoided her, but she will be tested.
11. **Walter Cooper**—He is Sarah's husband and seems to love her very much. However, does he?
12. **Ameer Ben Ali**—He is a Black Arab from Algeria who has been convicted of a murder he says he didn't commit. Not very fluent in English, he is easily frustrated and gets emotional. That exacerbates his problem by increasing the already significant prejudice against him because he is a foreigner.
13. **Basem Ben Ali**—He is Ameer's loyal brother who has come to New York with the hope of proving Ameer's innocence. It's hard for him to reconcile the warm greeting at the

Statue of Liberty with the way many Americans treat immigrants.

14. **Leo Cosgrove**—A former circus performer (don't get him started on that or he will go on forever) who now owns a string of butcher shops, Leo owns the shop where Basem works and allows him to take time off to help his brother. Contrary to most people's image of a butcher, he has a strong passion for the theater.
15. **Inspector Thomas Byrnes**—He is the highly regarded chief of New York detectives whose many accomplishments inflate his already huge ego. He wrote a well-respected book on crime fighting, coining the terms "third-degree" for his aggressive interrogation techniques and "Rogue's Gallery" for his advanced criminal identification system. His image and reputation are sacred to him, and he guards them very closely. He also covets the favors of many of the rich robber barons who pay him handsomely for his services.
16. **Alexander "Clubber" Williams**—A large man who earned the nickname of Clubber because he uses his police club so freely, he is a cohort of Byrnes. A blowhard and a bully who is full of himself, he's made a lot of money by receiving bribes from the gambling establishments and houses of ill repute in the Tenderloin District.
17. **Russell Sage**—Sage is an extremely wealthy stock market manipulator who, along with partner Jay Gould, has been generously rewarded for his unethical and illegal maneuvers. He's a stingy workaholic who hoards his money and refuses to let go of any of it, especially not to charity.
18. **Olivia Slocum Sage**—She is Sage's second wife and married him when she was forty-one, after he had financially ruined her father. There are rumors that it is a marriage of convenience, but whatever the reason, it seems to work for them. Olivia is supportive of Sage, even though she is very involved in charity work and he is a renowned skinflint who refuses to contribute.
19. **Theodore Roosevelt**—For the sake of his family, he is working in a boring government job in Washington, D.C. Roosevelt is asked to be the president of the Police Commission in New York City but he doesn't want to disrupt his family and is hesitant to accept the job. An advocate for women's rights, he is impressed by Mary's spunk.
20. **Jacob Riis**—A well-known journalist and muckraker, he is a friend of Harper Lloyd and Roosevelt. Riis is very concerned with the uneven standard of living in the United States where very few people have all the money while many are starving.

21. **Andrew Carnegie**—He is the famous robber baron and steel tycoon who has earned praise for his support of charitable causes. Though he once wanted nothing to do with Mary, he begins to warm to her. However, some of the things he’s done in the past still haunt him.
22. **Edgar Jefferson**—He’s an African American who dreams of going to England and becoming a famous Shakespearean actor. Currently, he’s stuck in Coney Island in the title role of the “Kill the Coon” booth, allowing white people to throw balls at his face. Edgar isn’t bitter. He views it as a means to an end until he can save up enough money to go to England. However, he soon gets drawn into the murders that are occurring in Coney Island.
23. **Arthur**—Edgar’s white boss who runs the “Kill the Coon” exhibit. He and Edgar get along very well, both having a good sense of humor. Arthur is much less a bigot than a business man who realizes Edgar’s worth in this enterprise.
24. **Colleen Murphy**—The daughter-in-law of Elizabeth’s close friend, she is suspected of infidelity by her husband, Brian. Mary follows her to determine if Colleen is being unfaithful and discovers much more. Colleen seems like a typical humble housewife of the era, but appearances can be deceiving.
25. **Brian Murphy**—He is in the Merchant Marines and is away for long periods of time. Positive that his wife is cheating, Brian hires Mary to trail Colleen. Mary would have never taken his case if it weren’t for the constant nagging of her mother.
26. **William Laidlaw**—William, who was injured during the bombing of Russell Sage’s office, accuses Sage of using him as a human shield to protect Sage. Bitter, in pain, and generally miserable, he sues Sage for his considerable injuries.
27. **Mrs. Norcross**—She is Henry Norcross's mother and is devastated by his actions. Her feelings of guilt for not recognizing her son was troubled are all-consuming and it seems that she will be forever searching for the reason why. Her instinct tells her that Mary understands her, and, as a result, she trusts her.
28. **Joseph Hodges Choate**—A famous lawyer, his résumé includes arguing several cases before the United States Supreme Court. He takes on Laidlaw’s case partially because he wants to help him but also because he wants to stick it to Sage.