THE GIRL ON THE BICYCLE: 25 years old. Composite character; a narrator/everywoman. Educated, working-class English teacher who is a member of England's Women's Social and Political Union. Aware of her place in society compared to that of her male counterparts.

ELEANOR WIDENER: 50 years old in 1912, lived to 75. Entitled, capable and powerful. Prolific philanthropist and impassioned explorer. Donated the Harry Elkins Widener Library to Harvard University in her son's memory.

MARGARETTA "DAISY" CORNING SPEDDEN: 40 years old in 1912; lived to 77. Warm and loving to family and friends, but private to the eyes of the public. The Spedden family was one of the first families to board a lifeboat. Author of Polar the Titanic Bear.

VIOLET JESSOP: 25 years old in 1912; lived to 84. Proud, caring, methodical and discreet. Transatlantic stewardess for 41 years. A witness to everything that occurred on the ship. Survived the sinkings of the Titanic, Britannic, and Oceanic.

NORA: 30-35 years old. Composite character. Unrealistically optimistic, blindly self centered and ready for anything. She is making the crossing to work in American vaudeville theatre, looking for opportunities.

MARGARET "MOLLY" TOBIN BROWN: 44 years old in 1912; lived to 65. Brassy, opinionated, practical. Wants to be part of high society, but on her terms. Mrs. Brown was married to J.J. Brown, a wealthy mine owner. A crusader for the rights of women, mine workers, and others who struggled for survival in the early twentieth century.

IDA STRAUS: 63 years old in 1912; died in the shipwreck. Gentle, observant, spiritual. Returning from the south of france after seeking respite from long-term iullness. Wife of Isador Straus, owner of Macy's Department Store. Gaver her place in the lifeboat to her maid, Ellen Bird, who survived.

CHARLOTTE DRAKE CARDEZA: 58 years old in 1912; lived to 85. Never settled for anything but the best. Heiress of Thomas Drake, wealthy textile manufacturing fortune. Always wore the most exquisite gowns and lavish jewelry.