

Characters

1. Emma Barrett, protagonist (female, age 20)

Appearance – She often wears athletic shorts with polo shirts, a mix of comfort and professionalism for work and play. Her curly hair is a vivid orange and her eyes a deep blue, with a face full of freckles. She always keeps at least a few bracelets on her arms to remind her of the friends she has made.

Personality – Emma is infamously impatient and competitive, occasionally to the point of irritating her closest confidants or causing trouble. However, she is very social, charismatic, and a hard worker, mainly to prove herself to her older sister. She is an intelligent woman, and she makes sure not to be overcome by her competitive spirit in a work setting.

History – Born and raised in an island town, Emma moved to the charming village of Honeymint Hills after being ejected from her home city and threatened with prison time for causing a monster to invade town and wreak havoc. In order for the sisters to afford rent on their new house – and for Emma to redeem herself – she had to find a job, and Cole Adams, the founder of the Hot Iron Hive, took a chance on the young Emma. Despite initial reluctance to learn the art of cooking, she became a valuable asset to the restaurant due to her skills in gathering ingredients and assisting in the financial aspect of the business. One day, a traveling pack of mercenaries visits the Hills, and Emma helps them regain purpose in life by convincing Cole to hire them, which proved to be an excellent decision. The group would work together to build the Hive into one of the most popular attractions in Parmadom. After months of work, and assisting locals with various odd jobs, they learn of a tremendous threat to a region far from the village, and Emma is compelled to join the fight. However, she is aware of just how much the people of Honeymint Hills depend on her and how much her friends would miss her. This critical decision affects how the climactic ending of her journey unfolds.

2. Holly Watson (female, age 23)

Appearance – Her darker hair, taller figure, and more formal attire strongly contrast Emma's casual and energetic attitude. Whereas she is scrappy, Holly is poised and wears more makeup, sleeveless dresses, and a shawl. Villagers often find her elegantly pacing through her library in a pair of shiny heels, subtly trying to keep herself at a comfortable distance with individuals who do not match her style.

Personality – She is calculated and posh, yet also very curious, as she is always eager to get lost in a new story. Emma quickly perceives Holly to be a conceited shut-in, but is willing to interact with her and form a connection. Despite being older and more reserved, Holly shares some of Emma's friendly nature. She occasionally bears a flirtier demeanor, which, oddly enough, has only become noticeable after Emma began having conversations with her.

History – Holly has lived in Honeymint Hills since birth, and was the person who introduced a young Emma Barrett to the village, forced to give the sisters a tour around town by the mayor. Despite their vastly difference appearances, they both had a strong work ethic and a good heart, so they

eventually grew close. Holly becomes Emma's best friend, and is the owner of the village library, The Pages of Honeymint. Ever since she was a child, she was obsessed with literature, especially romance novels and horror stories. Emma's older sister, the famed novelist Annabelle, becomes business partners with Holly and allows her works to be checked out by customers. The library is often full of visitors, as she is quite knowledgeable and intellectual; however, many of her customers are teenage boys, who are probably not there to check out any books. Holly remains polite with them, but pays no mind to their advances.

3. **Cole Adams** (male, age 35)

Appearance – Because of the heavy lifting he does in the village, he can always be seen wearing work boots and black gloves. Well-worn slacks and flannel shirts are his outfit of choice for business in the market. Because he built his restaurant himself, he has powerful arms, yet his large stomach does not paint him as an athlete of any sort. A pair of glasses and a thick black beard complete Cole's jolly look.

Personality – Although he is quite friendly, Cole is best known for his hearty laugh and frequent wise cracking. He may be a businessman, but being welcoming and concerned for his customers is his priority. Cole is quick to stand up for his friends and clients when things get tense, but this does reveal his elusive aggression and physical strength.

History – When the village's original eatery, Hills Gourmet, was shut down and its owner left, Cole saw an opportunity. After years of exhausting work, he opened the Hot Iron Hive, which he built mostly by himself. Although the restaurant operated properly, Cole needed something else to improve business. That missing piece was Emma, who he hired without much reluctance or expectations. Her hard work and ingenuity helped the market grow into the star of the village, and people would travel from miles away to visit Cole and experience his cooking. He has put a lot of effort into the Hot Iron Hive, but building bonds with his customers and sharing jokes on the regular are his top priorities. Recently, he has hired more people to assist him and Emma, but he often worries that his business would quickly decline without her.

4. **Annabelle Barrett** (female, age 24)

Appearance – Like her younger sister, Annabelle has freckled skin and blue eyes, but her hair is a darker red and hangs down below her shoulders. She usually wears buttoned white shirts and dress pants, but she also sports a crisp suit jacket when the weather is cooler. She struts around in sandals most of the time, as she has lived in or near port towns her entire life and enjoys dipping her feet in the water to clear her mind.

Personality – Annabelle maintains a professional appearance whenever she interacts with readers or authority figures, but she is still capable of loosening up and being direct.

History – The Barrett sisters have lived by themselves for several years, but when Emma, the younger of the two, accidentally leads a monster to town, Annabelle quickly decides to start a new life in Honeymint Hills on the continent of Parmadom, but not without expressing her frustration

with Emma. They have struggled to get along for most of their lives, as Annabelle feels that Emma's competitive tendencies always land her in trouble, which distracts her from her work as an author. She is an acclaimed writer responsible for over a dozen popular novels. When she moves to Honeymint Hills, Annabelle decides to work with Holly at The Pages of Honeymint, where she allows her work to be sold. Her presence ends up attracting more customers to the library, but the sisters start to fall away from each other as they become invested in their separate careers. Eventually, Annabelle starts to feel upset with how little time they spend together. Despite their strained relationship, she always believes in the value of family.