

Characters for

Lars

... and good riddance

Lars

I am a family man. I love my wife; I love my two little daughters. They were the beginning and the end of my existence. Now that they are gone, they have left me with a void that I do not know how to fill.

When I was younger, I had quite a few friends. We had fun; we partied and toured the clubs. We would stay up all night and watch boxing when there was a good championship fight – I really loved the fights.

I did not have many girlfriends. My friends often went home with girls they picked up and had one-night-stands. I did too, but I disliked it when they left me next day, it made me feel discarded, so I stopped doing it, except when I was very drunk.

I was very happy when I met Lena. She was just there in the morning, and she did not go away even though I had a terrible hangover and threw up several times. I moved into her apartment half a year after we met, but I had lived there almost from the beginning. Lena's apartment looked nicer than mine, so we preferred it to mine. Lena also had nicer friends, so I stopped seeing mine, except Pontus who kept on coming anyway. Lena did not mind me having a friend of my own, she said it was important.

When Lilli was born I was so happy I cried. Two years later Lullu was delivered by a Cesarean, and Lena could not lift her up for a month. I did everything for that little human being. I do not think I have ever been more content.

The girls woke up very early in the morning, and we decided that I should tape the championship fights instead of staying up all night. I never saw any of them after that. It was not so important.

One day, when I came to pick up Lullu in nursery school, she was not there. The staff had looked everywhere. There was a great commotion, and Lena came rushing from the job. Later, when the police was called, we heard that disappearances were wide spread. Nobody knew why. In the evening news, they estimated that 100,000 people were just gone, and it was the same all over.

That night, I tried to hold on to Lena as we drifted into sleep, but she untangled herself as she used to and rolled over on the side to sleep on her own. The next morning the bed was empty. I sat on the couch all the following day, holding onto Lilli. She wriggled and protested that I smothered her, but I could not let her go. I wanted to, but my arms just would not release her.

In the evening, just as the sun set, she disappeared. There was no warning; there was no sound. Just there and then, my arms were holding nothing.

Quick reference sheet

Lars

– 43

– male

– **Allerød** (suburbia)

Bereaved family man

Stunned

Self mutilated (psychologically and socially)

Mr. Right

the good father

Has **experience** but doubts himself

Preparations

From time to time the director will ask you to describe some aspects of your post-apocalyptic existence. You can prepare yourself for these assignments by considering the following questions:

Have you left the couch yet?

Will you stay in the house, eventually?

How and where do you sleep?

How are your dreams?

Pleasure

I don't think I shall do that anymore. It's no fun!

When playing pleasure, you should really just try to have the character do things that are perceived as pleasant either by you or by the character and refrain from those that are unpleasant.

At the more philosophical moments, you can of course also start discussing with yourself whether the character should shun the pleasures in order to become more focused and strong willed.

When playing a demon, the easiest thing is to tempt the character with pleasures that are either debilitating, like drugs, or just impractical, like staying under the covers all morning.

It is possible to use abstinence as a demon too, for instance by spoiling every moment the character tries to do something pleasurable by questioning the wisdom of the action.

Sandra's supporting cast

Conny (her mother)

It's not easy being a single mother, trying to keep Sandra happy. But she is never satisfied anyway, working, doing the house work, being responsible and always just a bit behind.

When you are really tired you take maybe a day or two in front of the telly to recharge.

All you really long for, is to become a family again. Sandra never gets it, but when you have a relationship that it is really just as much for her sake. God knows that men aren't easy, but a girl needs a father - and you need to be not so terribly alone.

Direction: *Self pitying, embarrassing, dim witted. Conny always wants herself to look good; but don't you dare succeed as a player.*

Asim (Sandra's sometimes friend who is a boy)

Sandra is fun. Sandra is interesting. Sandra is also kind of sexy.

You actually have a nice family, and you do well enough in school when you chose to go there. But if you do as they say, you will be a boring doctor with a boring life with a boring wife from "back home".

They would freak, if they knew that you liked Sandra. And you would also get heat from the boys. So no one can know. No one!

Directions: *Asim is a kind and intelligent young man, who thinks it is very important to maintain his reputation. Try to be a little ashamed of your feelings.*

Wei (girl from Sandra's class)

I don't think it is so important. People do not have to occupy themselves with what I think – I can just keep it to myself. Mostly they don't want to listen to me anyway unless I speak about the things they care for.

Direction: *Wei isn't as shy as she seems – more like reserved. Try and let the others in the scene speak the most, but don't hesitate to make a point (even if unpleasant) when opportunity is eminent.*

Peter's supporting cast:

Simon (Peter's father)

I spent the better part of my life living in sin. I was vain, I coveted and I was deceitful – the only things I did right were the things my neighbors could observe. And then one Sunday morning God spoke to me. I got out of my bed and ran up the street to church. I was almost too late, but I made it to the Holy Communion.

Ever since that I have lived a righteous and good fearing life, and I only wish I had not started so late in life.

That is my greatest hope for my son. That he will grow up to know God and to know what is right and wrong. I shall never give up on my duty to teach him that, no matter what it takes.

Direction: Simon is stern in the way that only people who know they are right can be. There is not a doubting heart within him, so never give up on his principles. He is in no way evil, but his willingness to do what he feels is necessary can be frightening.

If you get into a conflict with Peter and he doesn't give in, resort to violence; it is quick, easy to quantify and righteous.

Aunt Ruth (Peter's aunt)

I really go and visit Simon and Tabitha far too seldom. And their little Peter is such a darling. I just dote on children. How long has it been? Six years?

Hopefully they have lain off some of the preaching, but you cannot just give up on family.

Direction: Aunt Ruth is the kindest being. She is not aware however, that she can look frightening to children, nor that she has a slight odor of urine. So she will not recognize any reservations of Peter's until it is too late.

Søren (teacher)

It is not an easy task to be a teacher, especially not, when some kids need care more than knowledge. From my last job, I have learned the hard way that you should not start on something with people unless you know how to follow it to the end.

But there is a funny feeling about Peter. He seems needy.

Direction: Play Søren like the nice teacher stereotype, but not like a Messiah. He has no options unless he gets definite proof of anything, and he really doesn't feel up to it.