

Character Compilation of A Tatterdemalion's Testimony

Part 1: List of Every Character in the Book

Below is a comprehensive bulleted list of all named characters mentioned in the book, drawn directly from the text. This includes major, minor, and briefly referenced individuals.

- Sarah Vigue (narrator and protagonist)
- Mom (Sarah's mother)
- Dad (biological father)
- Miah (Jeremiah, Sarah's brother)
- Becky (Sarah's sister)
- Daddy John (John Herrin, first stepfather and abuser)
- Mark (third father/ second stepfather)
- Peggy (step-grandmother)
- Grampa (maternal grandfather)
- Rona (step aunt)
- Chris (Rona's boyfriend/ex-husband)
- Granny Herrin (paternal grandmother of stepfamily)
- Grandma Marie (paternal grandmother)
- April (paternal aunt)
- Carol (father's third wife, Sam's mother)
- Sam (half-brother)
- Christina (cousin)
- Darrell (coworker)
- Marty (coworker)
- Joe (coworker and friend)

- Lori (Bible study friend)
- Richard (Bible study friend)
- Zoe (niece)
- Aaron (nephew)
- Andrew (ex-boyfriend)
- Martha (Presbyterian pastor)
- Brother Arnold (pastor from Georgia church)
- Dave (mom's fourth husband)
- Doug (friend, modern-day John the Baptist)
- Tim Tebow (athlete and spiritual figure)
- Stacey (coworker)
- Nigel Mumford (healing seminar speaker)
- J. Vernon McGee (Bible teacher, referenced)
- Ray Comfort (evangelist, referenced)
- Michael Ramsden (RZIM speaker, referenced)
- Francine Rivers (author, referenced)
- C. S. Lewis (author, referenced)
- Henri Nouwen (author, referenced)
- Lisa Bevere (author, referenced)
- Francis and Judith MacNutt (authors, referenced)
- Billy Graham (evangelist, referenced)
- Greg Laurie (pastor, referenced)
- Mark Driscoll (pastor, referenced)
- Francis Chan (author, referenced)
- Doreen Virtue (new age author, referenced)
- Louise Hay (new age author, referenced)

- Edgar Cayce (new age founder, referenced)
- Tom Brady (athlete, briefly mentioned)
- Rob Gronkowski (athlete, briefly mentioned)
- Aslan (fictional lion from Narnia, referenced symbolically)
- Eustace (fictional character from Narnia, referenced symbolically)
- Old Dan and Little Ann (fictional dogs from Where the Red Fern Grows, referenced symbolically)
- Job (biblical figure, referenced)
- Hosea (biblical prophet, referenced)
- Gomer (Hosea's wife, referenced)
- Nicodemus (biblical figure, referenced)
- Enoch (biblical figure, referenced)
- Paul (apostle, referenced)
- Moses (biblical figure, referenced)
- Abraham (biblical figure, referenced)
- Eve (biblical figure, referenced)
- Adam (biblical figure, referenced)
- Habakkuk (biblical prophet, referenced)

(Note: Biblical figures and referenced authors/evangelists are included as they are treated as "characters" in the narrative's context, even if not directly interacting.)

Part 2: Character Bios

For each character, there is a bio based on the book's descriptions and narrative role. Bios focus on significant details.

Sarah Vigue (Narrator and Protagonist)

- **Personality:** Resilient, introspective, and fiercely independent, shaped by trauma into a truth-seeker with a sharp wit and analytical mind. She is passionate, empathetic, and prone to self-doubt but driven by a deep spiritual hunger and desire for authenticity. Her humor is self-deprecating and raw, masking vulnerability.

- **Primary Motivation:** To find healing from childhood trauma, understand her spiritual path, and achieve a genuine relationship with God, breaking cycles of abuse and neglect while helping her family.

- **Appearance:** Described as having ash-blond hair, a prominent thigh scar from medical negligence, and a resilient but weary build from chronic pain. Often in practical, unpretentious clothing like track pants and tank tops, reflecting her no-nonsense, survivalist style.

- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Strengths: Hyper-aware memory, empathy for the broken, resourcefulness, and spiritual openness leading to profound insights. Weaknesses: Overreliance on self-reliance leading to isolation, difficulty trusting others, proneness to shame and over analysis due to trauma, and struggles with boundaries.

- **How the Character Changes:** Sarah evolves from a spiritually lost, trauma-haunted woman dabbling in the occult to a born-again Christian embracing faith, self-forgiveness, and purpose. She shifts from victimhood and self-protection to vulnerability, spiritual maturity, and advocacy, finding hope through divine encounters and mentorship.

Mom (Sarah's Mother)

- **Personality:** Loving but flawed, resilient yet chaotic, with a daffy, humorous side masking deep insecurities from her own trauma. She is affectionate and protective when able but often overwhelmed, leading to neglectful or enabling behaviors.

- **Primary Motivation:** To provide for and protect her children despite her own mental health struggles and poor choices in partners, seeking stability and love she never fully received.

- **Appearance:** Described as having gone from vibrant to worn, with periods of obesity and physical decline (e.g., neck injury); often disheveled, reflecting her unstable life, with a warm but tired face.

- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Strengths: Innate maternal love, humor as a coping mechanism, and willingness to support Sarah emotionally during crises. Weaknesses:

Undiagnosed bipolar disorder leading to denial and poor decisions, inability to protect her children consistently, and reliance on unhealthy relationships.

- **How the Character Changes:** Mom starts as an unreliable, trauma-impacted figure but shows growth through apologies, support during Sarah's spiritual battles, and her own late-life conversion to Christianity, becoming more empathetic and spiritually aligned.

Dad (Biological Father)

- **Personality:** Fun-loving and charismatic in bursts but ultimately passive, limited by alcoholism and limited thinking; affectionate in short doses but unreliable and self-pitying.

- **Primary Motivation:** To provide sporadically for his children and escape his own unfulfilled potential, seeking validation through superficial relationships rather than deep family bonds.

- **Appearance:** Handsome with deep brown, silky-soft hair (dark shine like black), missing front teeth (later dentures), and a rugged, working-class build from warehouse work; often disheveled with a mustache that made him look like Jon Arbuckle.

- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Strengths: Playful and fun during visits, providing fleeting moments of joy; capable of physical labor and basic provision. Weaknesses: Absenteeism, avoidance of responsibility, enabling of abuse (introducing John), and self-sabotage through limited ambition and alcoholism.

- **How the Character Changes:** Dad remains largely stagnant, embodying unfulfilled potential and regret; his stroke and death force Sarah to confront his flaws, leading her to break free from his influence and seek healthier father figures in God.

Miah (Jeremiah, Sarah's Brother)

- **Personality:** Resilient and athletic, with a quiet strength and humor; loyal and supportive of Sarah but privately grappling with his own trauma.

- **Primary Motivation:** To build a stable life, excel in sports and family, and protect his loved ones while overcoming his own childhood scars.

- **Appearance:** Athletic build from sports; described as having a tough, scrappy look in youth, maturing into a reliable, family-oriented man.

- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Strengths: Protective loyalty to Sarah, determination in sports and life, ability to connect deeply with family. Weaknesses: Internalized trauma leading to isolation, physical health issues (hernia), and difficulty expressing vulnerability.
- **How the Character Changes:** From a traumatized child to a supportive adult and father; he grows more open about his feelings (e.g., disowning Dad), finding validation and strength through family bonds and Sarah's influence.

Becky (Sarah's Sister)

- **Personality:** Rebellious and boy-crazy in youth, evolving into a troubled but fiercely protective older sister; bipolar disorder adds volatility, but she shows deep love and resilience.
- **Primary Motivation:** To survive abuse and mental health struggles while protecting her siblings and raising her own children, seeking redemption through sacrifice.
- **Appearance:** Blonde and luminous in youth, marked by self-harm scars; later worn by bipolar and life hardships, with a tough, survivor edge.
- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Strengths: Sacrificial love for siblings, quick to fight back against abusers, intuitive empathy. Weaknesses: Bipolar disorder leading to impulsivity (e.g., suicide attempt, spending sprees), difficulty maintaining stability.
- **How the Character Changes:** From a scapegoat victim enduring abuse to a mother reclaiming her life; she confronts trauma through therapy and faith, becoming more stable and supportive for her children and family.

Daddy John (John Herrin, First Stepfather)

- **Personality:** Manipulative and abusive, with a charismatic but sinister facade; charming to outsiders but tyrannical at home, blending military discipline with cruelty.
- **Primary Motivation:** To control his family and environment, deriving power from abuse and manipulation, rooted in his own unresolved trauma.
- **Appearance:** Blonde Doberman-like (tall, lean, aggressive); military build, with a stern, unyielding face.

- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Strengths: Charismatic enough to infiltrate family circles, disciplined in military style. Weaknesses: Sadistic tendencies from abuse cycle, inability to form healthy bonds, leading to isolation and downfall.

- **How the Character Changes:** Little to no change; his abuse escalates until imprisonment, remaining a symbol of unchecked evil without redemption in the narrative.

Mark (Third Father/ Second Stepfather)

- **Personality:** Crude, verbally abusive, and ignorant; a gruff, Homer Simpson-like figure with poor hygiene and explosive flatulence, blending neglect with occasional provision.

- **Primary Motivation:** To maintain a stable home through work while exerting control, driven by his own unaddressed issues and resentment toward blended family dynamics.

- **Appearance:** Scraggly facial hair, crinkled paper-like face from hard labor; stocky build, often unkempt with a working-class, rough exterior.

- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Strengths: Hard worker providing financially, capable of basic farm labor. Weaknesses: Verbal abuse and ignorance alienate family, poor emotional intelligence, enabling of dysfunction.

- **How the Character Changes:** Minimal growth; his abusive behavior persists until divorce, representing stagnant, harmful masculinity without self-reflection.

Peggy (Step-Grandmother)

- **Personality:** Manipulative, narcissistic, and domineering; a whirlwind of judgment and gossip, blending superficial piety with controlling behavior.

- **Primary Motivation:** To maintain family dominance and secure resources (e.g., state aid), using manipulation and religious superiority to control her environment.

- **Appearance:** Hissing like a snake, with a volatile, unapproachable demeanor; described as cold and queen-like, with a sharp, unyielding face.

- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Strengths: Resourceful in manipulating systems for gain, influential in family dynamics. Weaknesses: Narcissism leads to cruelty and denial of others' needs, hypocrisy erodes trust.

- **How the Character Changes:** No significant change; she remains a source of emotional and physical harm, embodying unrepentant manipulation.

Grampa (Maternal Grandfather)

- **Personality:** Stern but protective, with a gruff exterior hiding occasional tenderness; a traditional figure who occasionally challenges Peggy's dominance.
- **Primary Motivation:** To provide stability for the family while navigating his own limited role, protecting grandchildren from harm.
- **Appearance:** Elderly, weathered from life; stern face softened in rare protective moments.
- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Strengths: Protective instincts (e.g., intervening in Peggy's abuse), quiet wisdom. Weaknesses: Passivity in family conflicts, limited influence over Peggy.
- **How the Character Changes:** Subtle shift toward more vocal opposition to Peggy's cruelty, but remains a background figure without major transformation.

Rona (Step Aunt)

- **Personality:** Spoiled and manipulative, with a princess-like beauty masking cruelty; petty and self-centered, using pranks to assert dominance.
- **Primary Motivation:** To maintain favoritism and superiority in the family, deriving power from belittling others.
- **Appearance:** Pretty as a princess but spoiled-looking; youthful in memories, with a smug expression.
- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Strengths: Charismatic charm to manipulate adults. Weaknesses: Pettiness leads to cruelty, lack of empathy isolates her.
- **How the Character Changes:** No real change; remains a symbol of jealousy and exclusion, with no redemption arc.

Tim Tebow (Spiritual Figure/Mentor)

- **Personality:** Passionate, humble, and disciplined; a charismatic leader with boy-next-door charm, resilient under pressure, focused on faith and service.

- **Primary Motivation:** To glorify God through athletics, charity, and authentic living, inspiring others while overcoming career setbacks.
- **Appearance:** Athletic, clean-cut, with a friendly, boyish face; muscular build from football, always professional yet approachable.
- **Strengths and Weaknesses:** Strengths: Unwavering faith, perseverance, selflessness in service. Weaknesses: Public scrutiny tests humility, but he grows through it (not detailed in book).
- **How the Character Changes:** Evolves from a young athlete to a mature faith leader; his career ups/downs build deeper reliance on God, influencing Sarah's spiritual growth indirectly.