

Lessing, Doris: 1919 – 2013

The Fifth Child, 1988 – Characters

Harriet Lovatt – Harriet is the protagonist and mother of the family.

David Lovatt – David is Harriet's husband and the father of the family.

Ben Lovatt – Ben is the titular "fifth child" whose birth and abnormal, inhuman nature disrupt the family's happiness.

Dorothy – Dorothy is Harriet's widowed mother who helps care for the grandchildren.

Luke, Helen, Jane, and Paul – The other Lovatt children.