

## Characters

**Joe Keller** - *“nearing 60. A man of stolid mind and build. A business man these many years, but with the imprint of the machine shop worker and boss still upon him. When he reads, when he speaks, when he listens, it is with the terrible concentration of the uneducated man for whom there is still wonder in many commonly known things. A man whose judgments must be dredged out of experience and a peasant-like common sense.”* Husband to Kate and Father to Chris. He runs J.O. Keller Inc. and produced air plane parts.

**Kate Keller** - *“In her early fifties, a woman of uncontrolled inspirations, and an overwhelming capacity for love.”* The matriarch of the Keller family, she is both perpetually distraught by her sons disappearance and in denial that he could be dead or her husband could have been at fault in any wrongdoing. She doesn't like the potential relationship between Chris and Ann, convinced that Larry will return.

**Chris Keller** - *“32. Like his father... a listener. A man capable of immense affection and loyalty.”* He is the younger son in the family, and runs the business with his father. His older brother Larry disappearing in the war, he has since corresponded with his brother's former love interest. He has fallen in love with her and hopes to propose.

**Ann Deever** - *“26. Gentle but despite herself capable of holding fast to what she knows.”* Part of the Deever family who used to be next door neighbors and family friends, and business partners with the Kellers. She was in a relationship with Larry before he went missing in war and things he must be dead. Through this she has formed friendship and affection for Chris. She believes her father was at fault for the poorly manufactured parts and has since cut him out of her life.

**George Deever** - *“Chris's age, but paler man, now on the edge of self-restraint. He speaks quietly, as though afraid to find himself screaming.”* Anne's older brother and a lawyer by profession. He is aware that Chris and Ann might announce their intentions to marry. Having spoken to his father in prison about his charges, he now believes his father was not at fault and rushes to his hometown to stop Anne and accuse Joe.

**Dr. Jim Bayliss** - *“nearing 40. Wry and self-controlled man, easy talker, but with a wisp of sadness that clings even to his self-effacing humor.”* He and his family live in the Deevers old house. Believed that he was written to enhance the focus on earning money as he mentions several times that he needs to work as a practicing doctor to earn for his wife.

**Sue Bayliss** - *“Rounding 40.”* Shrewd and sensible she is very realistic about how the world works. She seems to suspect that Joe was responsible, but that he found a way to get out of it, and tells Anne as much. She is married to Jim.

**Frank Lubey** - *“Thirty two but balding. A pleasant, opinionated man, uncertain of himself, with a tendency toward peevishness when crossed, but always wanting it pleasant and neighborly.”* Neighbor to them on the other side of the house. Missing the draft call, he is believed to be an example of what can happen when you aren't called into war. He has been able to go on with his life, get married and start a family, and has taken a great interest in astrology. He helps contribute to Kate's hopes that Larry is still alive.

**Lydia Lubey** - *“Robust, laughing girl of 27.”* Once was in a relationship with George before he went off to war. She is wholly devoted to her children, and her world revolves around what goes on at home. She is argued to represent that collective of Americans that focus on the home and what they can control and don't concern themselves with bigger events outside of their control.

**(Most likely will be cut.) Bert** - *Eight.* Little boy that lives on the street. Looks up to Joe and sees him as someone that can bring about control over the other neighborhood kids.