Character Descriptions for *The Man Who Came to Dinner*

**Sheridan Whiteside:** Famous radio personality. Is a combination of quick-witted, unbelievably rude, self-centered, yet charming, relatable, and ultimately loyal. Simultaneously the worst person you have ever met and the best friend you could possibly have. Trapped in the Stanley’s house after falling and injuring his hip.

**Maggie Cutler:** Whiteside’s full-time secretary. All business, very loyal, charming, runs interference for Whiteside. The best secretary available. Falls in love with Bert Jefferson.

**Mr. Earnest Stanley:** Head of the household. Factory owner in the small town of Mesalia, Ohio. Really eager for Mr. Whiteside to leave the house, but also wants to make sure he doesn’t get on the wrong side of the celebrity. Every inch the stern father, expects his children to be obedient to him in all aspects of life.

**Mrs. Daisy Stanley:** Mother of the house. Clearly a fan of Mr. Whiteside. Tries to bend over backwards to make sure he is happy, while still supporting her husband.

**June Stanley:** Daughter of the house. Loves her family, but has ideas for her own future. Namely, she has fallen in love with a union organizer that her father despises.

**Richard Stanley:** Son of the house. Loves his family and doesn’t want to disappoint his father, but dreams of being a photographer. Afraid to chase his dream.

**Harriet Stanely:** Earnest Stanley’s sister. Older, and there is definitely something….off about her. She is described as “wraithlike” and “quite strange.” She has a very interesting past.

**Bert Jefferson:** News editor of the local paper, *The Mesalia Journal.* Pretty stereotypical newspaperman of the time, will do anything to get his story. Has also written a play that is a major part of the plot line. Falls in love with Maggie.

**Lorraine Sheldon:** Famous actress of the London and New York stage. Incredibly fashionable and chic. Has a bit of a reputation for how she lands such wonderful parts, and is Whiteside’s primary source for gossip. Always gets whatever she wants.

**John:** Butler of the Stanley household. Actually gets along quite well with Whiteside.

**Sarah:** Cook of the Stanley household. Also gets along very well with Whiteside, primarily through the many pastries she creates for Whiteside.

**Dr. Bradley:** Cares for Whiteside while he is in town. Is a fine doctor, but let’s just say that he wouldn’t do so great in a larger situation. Thinks Whiteside wants to work with him on the memoir he has written.

**Miss Preen:** Whiteside’s nurse. She takes an immense amount of verbal punishment from Whiteside. Does her best, but every person has a breaking point.

**Metz:** Act 1 walk-on. A professor of insect life and friend of Whiteside. Brings him an unconventional present. Speaks with a bit of a wild German accent.

**Beverly Carlton:** Act 2 Walk-on. British playwright, who is great friends with Whiteside and especially Maggie. Speaks with a very proper British accent. Does sing a brief amount.

**Banjo:** Act 3 Walk-on. Banjo is modeled after Harpo Marx, and is very difficult to describe. He’s zany, full of energy, off the wall, does absolutely the first and most outrageous thing that comes to his mind. Always. He has no filter, and has never thought of developing one.

**Sandy:** June’s love interest. Union organizer. Respectable young man who truly appreciates the situation in which June finds herself.

Other parts include: Delivery people, radio workers, members of a choir, convicts, police officers.