

# ***BIRCH HOLLOW***

## CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY

**Elloise**, who is also called Lou, is 92; she is the matriarch of the family; full of history; a survivor; wise; charming; spunky and assertive, but now ailing and failing; she is in her final time. Lou has been the glue in this family for multiple generations. She is also the glue and much of the momentum of this play, and must have a powerful presence and energy at the same time her personal flame is burning out.

**Newton**, her son, is 73; except for service during WWII, he is a life-long farmer; salt of the earth; work-horse; private; low-keyed. Strong, but gentle. Steady.

**Dolly**, Newton's wife; 70; hard-working, but rarely satisfied; traditional and fussy; often a force to be reckoned with; carrying some extra pounds.

**Dayton** is the son of Newton and Dolly; he is 43; loyal and loving; once very productive, but now intense, unpredictable, and "damaged" in multiple ways. He wears a rather obvious hair piece.

**Molly**, Dayton's wife; 42; sensible, caring; assertive; a registered nurse by profession.

**Buster** is the son of Dayton and Molly; 21; visceral, aggressive, honest man of the earth; exudes health and vitality.

**Polly** is Buster's wife; also 21; sweet, attractive, seeks and makes happiness the best that she can.

**Pastor Pat** (for Patricia) is about to turn 40; the family's religious point-person and, by profession, a friend to all; for the most part she's got it all together.

**Dr. Percy Paster**, 51, is the local doctor who not so long ago stepped out of the English countryside and landed in Birch Hollow. After some lonely months he is starting to feel at home.

**Joe** is 21; he is a friend to Buster and Polly. Enigmatic but sociable; he shows signs of a big-school influence in clothing and hair; but in general he is a smart, charming, likable fellow. For casting, Joe needs to have an appreciably different look and coloring than that of his friends.