SYNOPSIS: Percy Talbot has just been released from a five year prison sentence for manslaughter. She is trying to find a place for a fresh start, and based on a page from an old travel book, travels to the small town of Gilead, Wisconsin. The local sheriff, Joe Sutter, who is also Percy’s parole officer, finds her a job at Hannah’s Spitfire Grill – the only eatery in this struggling town. The Spitfire Grill is for sale. But with no interested buyers, Hannah decides to raffle it off. Entry fees are one hundred dollars and the best essay on why you want the grill wins. Soon, mail is arriving by the wheelbarrow full and things are definitely getting hot at the Spitfire Grill. This musical triumph is an inspiring celebration of fresh starts and the power of what one person can do.

**Percy Talbott:** Percy is pretty, if a bit rough-edged. Her face declares the strength of her youth and a sadness beyond her years. She carries a terrible secret. Strong folk/county belt to ‘D’, some head voice required.

**Hannah Ferguson:** About seventy, Hannah is the owner of the Spitfire Grill. She is a tough-skinned and flinty old bird with a short, no-nonsense manner bordering on the bitter. She can also be very tender-hearted and fiercely loyal. She has a secret of her own to protect.

**Shelby Thorpe:** In her mid-thirties, Shelby is a plain, soft-faced creature with a shy, almost ethereal manner. She is the wife of Caleb Thorpe. Once her trust is gained, she also is a very loyal friend. Folk soprano with strong high belt to D.

**Caleb Thorpe:** In his early forties and the out-of-work foreman of the now-defunct stone quarry, Caleb is a frustrated man clinging to the past and the authority he once had. He bitterly opposes change. Solid folk/rock voice with an edge (Top ‘G’)

**Sheriff Joe Sutter:** In his mid to late twenties, Joe is a young, small-town policeman with a restless nature and a genuine desire to escape Gilead. Strong folk tenor to a ‘G’

**Effy Crayneck:** In her fifties, Effy is postmistress and the town busybody. She is a woman with narrow eyes and a sour tongue. There’s little to gossip about in a town so small, but when there is, she is the source. (Carries close harmony)

**The Visitor:** In his mid-forties and a mysterious figure who never speaks, the visitor has powerful eyes and a very strong sense of his body.