

Roles

Truvy: Female, 40-50

Owner of a small town beauty shop. Full of energy, she knows everyone's business and shares it with anyone who will listen. She has a huge heart and in her way, is looking out for all that enter her shop. She always has advice for you, and that advice often comes in the form of country sayings. Truvy is also a dreamer, she lets herself believe that she would like the adventure that another place could bring, but in reality she's the loyal glue that holds this small family of friends together.

Annelle: Female, 18+

early 20s. A very shy "hair-dresser" – well, in truth, new to hairdressing, but hopeful of a future. She's the outsider. We meet Annelle when she is down on her luck and at her lowest point. Her husband has run off and has taken her car and money. She's behind on rent and at a loss as to her next move. She's earnest to a fault, and over the course of the show shifts from a very soft-spoken person, to a bible-loving Christian with her heart on her sleeve, to a young woman who understands who these ladies are and trusts herself enough to begin to wield a humor of her own.

Clairee: Female, 60-70

Widow of the former mayor of Chinquapin. Bit of the Grande Dame. She is wealthy and also knows everyone's business. She uses gossip like currency in this town. She is the sarcastic member of the group. She loves to laugh and poke fun at the little things that others cry over, she'd be great company at a funeral. She loves the local high school football team, and she has...um....let's say a bit of a sweet tooth.

M'Lynne: Female, 50-55

Mother of Shelby. She is over-protective at times and finds the need to have a firm grasp on the world at all times. She is a busy woman who worries too much for her age, never gossips, and wants what is best for her family. One suspects that she was Shelby when she was younger and, as we so often do, now tries to use her experience to save Shelby from making the same mistakes. Of course the tighter that she hangs on to Shelby, the more rebellious her daughter is. M'Lynne's the pillar of support for others, but hasn't had to reach out for support for herself very often. She keeps a tight council (will not gossip), and possesses much of the steel in the play's title, until her daughter's death cracks her. Everybody in Truvy's shop helps her to pick up the pieces.

Shelby: Female, 18+

mid-20s. A diabetic young lady, who is very much her mother's daughter. Folks say that she's the prettiest girl in town, and she is, but she's so much more. She's smart, confident, has an absolute sense of who she is, and loves naturally being the center of every room that she's in. She has a great sense of humor and revels in the power of youth. She's hungry for life, and wants to make her own mistakes. She aspires to her

mother's toughness, but rebels against her protection. Her own vulnerability frustrates her. Shelby's favorite colors are pink and pink, and she wields pink like a shaft of iron.

Ouiser ("Weezer"): Female, 60-70

She is the same age as her oldest friend, Clairee. She is wealthy, eccentric, and forceful. She doesn't suffer fools easily. If misery loves company, it adores Ouiser. She is the engine in this (and any) room. She says that men are "horrible creatures," and pretends to have moved on past that concern in her life. Ouiser thinks that she's as independent as they come. She says that she's been in a bad mood for forty years, and that the sooner her body wears out the better off she'll be. She's a southern woman, who wears a funny hat, an ugly dress and has hands like t-bones from gardening in the soil. Of course, all of that covers a longing in her heart. One that Shelby helps to repair.