

## CHARACTERS - LEADS



**SARAH WAKEFIELD:** Lead, Woman 25 - 30 White.

A restrained frontier wife whose quiet intelligence masks growing moral resolve. Captivity under Dakota protection shatters the certainty of her settler worldview, forcing her to see injustice not as abstraction but as lived reality. She wants safety, belonging, the freedom to write. She fears social exile, the collapse of her marriage, the consequences of speaking. She survives by observing and adapting, but emerges changed—choosing testimony over safety. Her power is not action, but witness: she risks everything to record a truth that cannot save everyone, but refuses to let it be erased.



**CHASKA:** Lead, Man 25 - 30 Dakota

A Cut-Hair. A man fluent in both Dakota and settler worlds, disciplined, intelligent, and morally grounded. Where others answer violence with violence, Chaska chooses restraint—not out of submission, but conscience. He wants survival without surrendering humanity. He fears becoming what the war demands, losing moral agency. He protects Sarah during the war, but that mercy becomes a liability afterward. Condemned by a system indifferent to truth, he survives the conflict only to be destroyed by the peace that follows.



**DR. JOHN WAKEFIELD:** Lead, Man 35 - 40 White

A respected frontier physician whose need for control intensifies under threat. Intelligent, socially aware, and deeply insecure, John equates order with morality and reputation with righteousness. He wants status, stability, authority within his community. He fears public disgrace, loss of masculine and social power. As Sarah's testimony threatens his standing, John aligns himself with institutional power. His silence—and interference—make him complicit, revealing how injustice is sustained not by cruelty, but by self-preservation.

## CHARACTERS - SUPPORTING



**BISHOP HENRY WHIPPLE:** Supporting | Man | 40s | White  
A principled Episcopal bishop attempting reform from within an institution resistant to it. Measured, persuasive, and morally clear-eyed. He wants accountability, humane restraint. He fears that moral appeals will arrive too late. Whipple represents conscience constrained by power—advocating justice within systems designed to limit its reach.



**WINONA:** Supporting | Woman | 18–23 | Dakota  
Chaska’s resilient younger sister whose intelligence and emotional acuity anchor her community. Observant and unflinching, Winona navigates loss and violence with quiet authority. She wants survival with dignity. She fears powerlessness, the loss of family and future. Winona offers moral clarity without sentimentality, grounding the story in lived consequence rather than ideology.



**HAPA:** Supporting | Man | 25–30 | Dakota  
A Dakota warrior defined by conviction and fury. Married to Chaska’s sister he is charismatic and uncompromising, Hapa believes restraint is a luxury his people can no longer afford. He wants retaliation, survival through strength. He fears erasure, submission, extinction through compromise. Hapa embodies resistance without illusion. His path exposes the cost of vengeance, but also the desperation that makes it feel necessary.