

Character Sketches for The Dissident:



Josh Morgan - Josh appears as a young adult, usually wearing jeans and always wearing sunglasses. His eyes are the window to his soul, which is a reflection of the truth of reality, so he wears the sunglasses to protect others from seeing the truth "before they're ready." Because reality as we know it is illusion to Josh, he can manipulate our reality, which is manifested as miracles: healings, multiplication of food, etc.

Josh Miller - A parolee from Little Sandy Prison. Sheriff Buzz believes that Josh Morgan looks like Josh Miller, and might therefore be the at-large, missing parolee.



JoBeth MacIntosh - Single woman from whom Josh rents a room. She lives alone, having lost her parents a number of years ago. She grew up in the home she now lives in. She is widowed, her husband having been killed by a co-worker years before. Her husband was in construction. Her neighbor's cat craps in her flower beds, and she is building a shed in the back. She probably has separation anxiety from losing her husband and her parents.



Joe "Buzz" Buzanski - The local sheriff. He's slightly overweight. Stereotypical southern sheriff, but is a decent guy at heart. He's suspicious of Josh (see Josh Miller above).



Buddy - deputy sheriff for Buzz. Buddy is a young man, wanting to follow the rules by the book. However, when the sheriff is out of the office, Buddy leans back in his chair and relaxes.



Margie Platter - Waitress at the Corner Cafe. Older woman, appears older than she probably is. She'd be a heavy drinker if she didn't live in a dry county. Has arthritic knee. She's very wary of Josh, until he accidentally heals her arthritis. Wears a pink and white striped apron in the cafe.



Mel Stein - Cook at the Corner Cafe. Very much a background character.

The Bolt Family:



Frances Bolt - Pregnant mother. She is in her last month of pregnancy. She is unmarried, possibly left by the father of her children. He has two children, not counting the third on the way.

Tiffany Bolt - 4-year-old girl. She sees Josh first appear through the trees and wanders away from her mother, falling into the ice. She is rescued by Josh.

Frank Bolt - Frances' 7-year-old son. Though he is on the scouting trip in the beginning of the story, we actually don't see him until the very end, in the hospital.

The Ringman Family:



Jack Ringman - local scout leader, city councilman, Lions Club president. He is a "well-respected man about town" (as the Kinks would say). He is a family man with strong community ties.



Marian - Jack's wife. She is longing for a better relationship with Jack, especially after Jack "sees."

Jeremiah - The "good son." He's a boy scout. Unfortunately, he is the only one in the family left without "seeing."

Timothy - The "bad" son. A typical stoner and troublemaker. Timothy is the first in the town to "see."



Rev. Billy Thornberg - Minister at the Baptist church. Billy is troubled by a feeling of doubt, and has trouble with how to deal with his church members. He is no-nonsense, and so Josh is no-nonsense when he deals with the Reverend.



Henson Blackfox - Cherokee Indian. Josh meets him in the jail. Henson believes Josh is a medicine man and also native.

Charlie Decker - TV Anchor in Lexington.

Lisa Denham - TV reporter "on the scene" in Pinehurst.