Character Descriptions

Billie Dawn
A former Broadway “chorus girl” (a performer who dances and sings but doesn’t have a major role), who left her career to be the girlfriend of Harry Brock. Billie Dawn is from a working-class neighborhood in New York City and is largely uneducated. Oftentimes, she says just what she’s thinking, which isn’t always socially acceptable. Though she is not sophisticated, Billie Dawn has great street smarts, a good heart and beauty. She has come to Washington to accompany her boyfriend Harry Brock and attend dinners and events as his date.

Harry Brock
A “self-made” businessman who has made his fortune in scrap metal. Harry never takes no for an answer and demands things be done his way. He treats everyone like his employees, including his girlfriend Billie Dawn to whom he is both verbally and physically abusive. Harry does not respect Billie Dawn and tells many people how dumb she is. He believes everyone has a price and can be bought, including U.S. senators. He has come to Washington to convince Senator Hedges to introduce a bill that will make him richer than he already is.

Paul Verrall
A journalist currently living at the hotel where Harry Brock and Billie Dawn are staying. He has integrity and treats people honestly and fairly. Where Harry Brock is aggressive and mean, Paul Verrall is patient and calm and treats Billie Dawn respectfully.

Ed Devery
The lawyer to Harry Brock, Ed Devery helps Harry carry out his business plans, even the ones that are shady or illegal. Ed is an alcoholic. He is bitter and depressed by his circumstances and has a jaded view of the world.

Senator Norval Hedges
A senator willing to take bribes. He has been receiving campaign contributions from Harry Brock for many years and now owes him favors. He lacks integrity and is easily bought.

Mrs. Hedges
The senator’s wife who accompanies him to official dinners and social engagements. She is not expected to know about political issues or have an opinion. Typically, she may help to entertain the other wives.