**Name**: Cassandra Hao Zhenyan

**Appearance**: Short hair, tan skin, brown eyes. Above-average height, with long legs and a toned body from regular exercise. Likes wearing makeup and fancy clothes when off work, but wears a simple jumpsuit or business attire when on duty.

**Age:** 28

**Background**: The daughter of a wealthy Chinese immigrant family living in Montreal, Cassandra attended the best schools in the city, although her academic performance was unexceptional. After graduating, she was appointed as the chief of security at Aleph Null’s Montreal branch campus in what she would be the first to admit was a brazen display of nepotism.

**Personality**: Cassandra is a socialite who projects a cheerful demeanor, bordering on flirtatious with women she finds attractive. However, this masks a deep sense of self-loathing and passive suicidal ideation. She blames herself for her girlfriend’s death, and has lost all will to live herself, as she believes she does not deserve the comfort her wealthy upbringing has provided. She’s prone to compulsions such as ritual handwashing and scratching herself when under stress, is extremely protective of her personal space, and fears any kind of emotional intimacy. Because of her lingering guilt, Cassandra is overly protective of people close to her.

**Goals**: Atone for her role in her ex-girlfriend’s death, and prove to everyone (including herself) that she deserves happiness.

**Voice**: Playful, acts friendly to anyone who hasn’t earned her enmity. Will use some casual terms like “gonna,” instead of “going to,” but includes sophisticated vocabulary that reflects her higher education. Unlike her mother, she also uses a lot of common English idioms, jokes, and metaphors, which she often has to explain. Never uses profanity more severe than “damn” or “hell,” and even those are saved for serious situations.

**Misc**: Has a habit of tossing things to herself while idle, such as rocks or small fruits. Physically perceptive, able to notice small details. Studied organic chemistry in university, but didn’t do well.

**Name**: Miura Akiko

**Appearance**: A slender woman of average height, with black hair usually done up in a ponytail. Typically wears plain clothes with few accessories, favoring comfort and utility over style. Cassandra considers her exceptionally beautiful.

**Age**: 27

**Background**: Akiko’s parents fled Japan aboard a migrant ship after the Ring of Fire disaster. Both of them were killed during a mutiny against their family’s rule, but, because Akiko was only sixteen at the time, the rebels allowed her to leave the ship in exile rather than executing her. After arriving in Montreal, she studied aerospace engineering at McGill university and joined the Aleph Null after graduating, not because she wanted to, but because it was the only job she could get.

**Personality**: Akiko is an angsty, short-tempered, and deeply lonely woman, discontent with how her life turned out after school. She hates the fact that she ended up a wanderer with no purpose, which is why she latches on to (and falls for) Cassandra so quickly. She acts like she doesn’t care about anything other than herself, but that is just a coping mechanism – in truth, she is deeply empathetic, even if it takes some pushing for her to admit it. This helps her bond further with Cassandra, as both of them realize that they are masking some aspect of their personality.

**Goals**: At first, Akiko only wants to find some kind of purpose in life. After finding the truth about her past, she joins Cassandra in making it her mission to honor their deceased friend’s memory.

**Voice**: Speaks in a casual tone with lots of slang, doesn’t use big words, and curses regularly. Also uses interjections such as “you know,” “like,” and “I mean” when making a point. When faced with authority figures, however, she defends herself by hiding behind a mask of false politeness, acting like the stereotype of a demure Japanese girl that the westerners she’s worked with find non-threatening.

**Misc**: Knows a lot about airships, having grown up on one.

**Name**: Jackson Fairchild

**Appearance**: Tall and handsome, with dirty blonde hair and stubble on his chin. Smells of liquor most of the time. Doesn’t take care of his appearance, so his hair and clothes are often messy.

**Background**:

**Personality**: Arrogant, and outwardly callous, but surprisingly good at reading people. Takes a sort of “tough love” approach towards people close to him. He is jealous of his father’s love for his late sister and will do anything to win his approval.

**Goals**: Wants to earn his father’s love and respect.

**Voice**: Crass, speaks with no regard for manners to everyone except his father. Often overstates his own importance and accomplishments to make himself feel better. Also tends to ramble unless whoever he’s speaking to intervenes to focus his attention back onto the point. He likes to make crude sexual references, such as “got our balls in a vise” referring to leverage.

**Name**: Hao Shufen

**Appearance**: Tall and thin, basically an older version of Cassandra, with a near-permanently stern expression. Usually wears a suit with expensive jewelry.

**Background**: As a young woman, Shufen came to Montreal aboard a migrant ship crewed mostly by Chinese refugees. She left the ship alongside her friend, Sun Meiling, when they found an opportunity to work at the burgeoning Aleph Null Research and Development company. She quickly rose through the ranks, especially in the power vacuum left after the Carnaval Uprising, and was eventually appointed director of the Montreal branch, although not before conceiving a set of twins out of wedlock during an affair that she regrets to this day.

**Personality**: Shufen is very strict and by-the-book, and expects her children to do things “the right way,” by which she means “her way.” Although she does love Cassandra and Elias, she uses them as a way to indirectly make up for her past mistakes, which is why she is especially harsh when she thinks they are repeating them. She has little sense of humor, much to her daughter’s disappointment. Because of her experience during the Carnaval Uprising, she will do anything to avoid violence.

**Goals**: Ensure Montreal’s safety and independence by any means necessary.

**Voice**: Formal, almost stilted, and speaks using as few words as possible. Never uses slang – in fact, she simply does not understand a lot of English slang terms or idioms. Rarely expresses anger outright, but will sharply criticize her children when they do wrong.

**Name**: Elias Hao Zhenjie

**Appearance**: A young man of average height, with short, dark hair and glasses. He is usually seen in a blue uniform reminiscent of a soviet commissar.

**Background**: Elias is the older of the Hao twins by about half an hour. Like his sister, he was raised to be Shufen’s potential successor at Aleph Null Biomedical, but he became radicalized while studying economics at university and left for the United States to join the American Comintern. Shufen, who fought against the Comintern-backed coalition forces during the war, was greatly upset by this and all but disowned her son.

**Personality**: Elias is a jovial man, to the point that many accuse him of not taking things seriously, although nothing could be further from the truth. While he believes in the Comintern, he does not cling to idealism, and is willing to compromise or employ underhanded tactics to achieve his goals. In fact, he is secretly an accelerationist, and knowingly allows the plot against the Aleph Null to go ahead, believing that it will re-ignite the stagnant revolution.

**Goals**: Spread the Comintern’s influence in Montreal.

**Voice**: Though he is highly educated, he talks like an everyman, and, often begins his sentences with pensive noises like “Hmm” or “Aha.” Calls Cassandra “little sister (meimei)” a lot. Any threats he makes are very subtle.

**Name**: Sun Xiang

**Appearance**: Athletic, sturdy build and strong jawline. Short, well-kept hair. Pale skin. Clean-shaven. Mostly seen wearing business casual attire, even when off work.

**Background**: Xiang was Cassandra’s childhood best friend and introduced her to his sister, Chenmei. When the two girls fell in love with each other, he supported them, but Chenmei’s death drove a deep rift between him and Cassandra. After university, he continued to work with the Science Administration, although his memories of the Montreal incident were also wiped.

**Personality**: Xiang values his family above all else. He spends much of his time training at both the library and the gym, which he finds distracts him from his grief over his sister’s death. Following that traumatic event, he has become a bitter, sardonic individual, reacting to others – especially Cassandra – with scorn and sarcasm.

After reconciling with Cassandra, he remains stoic, but with less hostility towards her.

**Goals**: Advance his career and make his sister proud, wherever she is.

**Voice**: Sarcastic, often makes snide comments whenever he is displeased.

**Misc**: Really likes salty food, and can often be found snacking on pretzels or potato chips.

**Name**: Jacob Lancaster

**Appearance**: Usually the tallest person in the room. Dark, weathered skin. Neat hair and moustache. Dresses in expensive suits when off-duty, but usually seen wearing his dark blue Skywatch uniform.

**Background**: Grand Admiral Lancaster leads the Union’s Skywatch – its fleet of airships. This is considered the most prestigious position in the government outside of the Prime Minister himself. It was Lancaster who pushed for the Union’s support for the loyalists in the American Civil War, during which he fought several key battles against the Comintern-backed rebels. After the cease-fire, he has focused on rooting out internal enemies and strengthening the Union’s military in preparation for the inevitable resumption of hostilities.

**Personality**: Lancaster is an ambitious, power-hungry leader, but he truly wants the best for his country. Unfortunately, his stubbornness can blind him to alternatives when it comes to pursuing this goal.

**Goals**: Prepare what he thinks is an inevitable second war against the Comintern by annexing Montreal, and punish those responsible for the bombing in Athens.

**Voice**: Loud and boisterous, often accompanying his speech with grand hand gestures. Conceals threats and malice underneath a layer of feigned, saccharine friendliness, but will immediately drop the act if called out on it. Makes passive-aggressive remarks to people he dislikes, such as Marcus Fairchild (much to the latter’s annoyance). Quotes and references poetry a lot.

**Name**: Marcus Fairchild

**Appearance**: Though he is middle-aged, Marcus looks even older than he is due to years of stress. His hair is grey and thinning, his skin is pale, and he has what seem to be permanent bags under his eyes.

**Background**: As the head of the Science Administration, Marcus is in charge of all matters pertaining to research and development. He has no political ambitions but has to play politics anyway in order to secure approval and funding for his projects. Often times, this means prioritizing research that holds little interest for him, such as weapons technology.

His magnum opus is the Mourner Project, a collaborative effort between his AI division and Aleph Null biomedical to create AI simulacra based on the memories of living humans. In order to fund the project, however, he agreed to give Lancaster access to the technology for use in AI-powered military cybernetics. Due to an internal crisis following Chenmei’s death, the project was delayed, but Lancaster refused to allow them more time, and the resulting rush job led to yet another death – his daughter, Lena.

**Personality**: Marcus is a tired, old man who has grown sick of politics and wishes he could pursue science without having to play such games. He is a scholar at heart and values intelligence and competence, showing condescension towards all those he feels do not live up to the same principles, such as Akiko after she abandons her academic career.

Lena’s death devastated him to his core. He resents everyone involved, including his own son. Sending Akiko to the *Rainier Wind* was a way of getting rid of her, not a favor.

**Goals**: Avenge his daughter’s death by leaving Lancaster in disgrace, and make sure her sacrifice wasn’t in vain by completing the mourner project.

**Voice**: By far the most erudite of the cast and uses lots of big words with perfect grammar, but is very direct and up front about what he means. Will openly disparage anyone he doesn’t respect, even if they are in a position of authority over him because he’s simply tired of all the bullshit.

**Name**: Nathaniel Bergstrom

**Appearance**:

**Background**:

**Personality**:

**Goals**:

**Voice**: