**Themes**

1. No matter how good your intentions, you can’t force people to accept your help
   1. E.g. the Directorate conquering people to “help” them, or Alexia’s savior complex
2. All human life is equally valuable. It is wrong to sacrifice lives without their consent, no matter the benefit.
   1. Marcus’ test subjects being deceived vs. Alexia’s soldiers willingly giving their lives for the cause
   2. But what happens when two mutually-exclusive groups are at risk?
3. Technological progress must serve the common good
   1. Lancaster seeking to use Marcus’ technology to cement his own power, as opposed to Marcus’ desire to empower the citizenry.

**Plot Points**

* Istanbul surrenders to the Directorate, Yevgeny is installed as a provincial governor.
* Jackson and Mayumi travel to Bright Lighthouse in Italy to try and convince Marcus Fairchild to aid the Peregrines, while Ian goes to Geneva with Charlotte
* Marcus and the Peregrines begin laying the foundation for a diplomatic relationship with the Directorate by manipulating the Administrative Parliament. However, Marcus exploits the Peregrines’ weakness to make significant demands, such as Hector’s factories.
* Ian joins the Inquisition and helps Charlotte with various tasks. They come into conflict with the Magistracy, whom Charlotte believes are conspiring against Théoden.
* As Charlotte and Ian are closing in on a suspected spy, Magistrate Nathaniel Barbie convinces Théoden to send them and a group of cadets to the Black Site at Thessaloniki. Charlotte suspects he is trying to get them killed, but the mission is a success, and they retrieve a Mourner drone prototype, taking several captives as well.
* Civil unrest in Istanbul leads the Skywatch to arrest Mayor Ozcan. Yevgeny realizes that the Directorate’s position there is untenable and makes preparations to surrender to the rebels, but Directorate agents prevent him from doing so, leading to his death in an uprising.
* As a result, the relationship between the Peregrines and Directorate sours. War is declared. Much of the army and navy, sick of being abused by Lancaster, defect to the rebels, but remain outnumbered.
* Marcus reveals that ASPIS is protected by a pre-crusade security system, and that the mourner AIs are sophisticated enough to crack it, which is a major reason that Lancaster supported the project.
* Although Eirene wants the weapon destroyed, Alexia and the others agree to activate ASPIS, hoping to convince the Directorate to surrender without bloodshed. Unfortunately, the control center is under Skywatch control, so they must quickly capture it before they can be overwhelmed by the Directorate’s superior numbers.

**Character Summaries**

To be edited as developed

1. **Alexia Eliades (25/F)**

One of two protagonists in the story, Alexia has strong ideals but only really became involved in revolutionary activity in order to protect her best friend and love interest, Eirene. She’s fairly laid-back with her friends, but able to remain serious when carrying out her duties.

During her year of student service, she was ordered to arrest Eirene Baros for treason, but agreed to shelter the girl instead after learning that she was falsely accused. They continued to live together as Alexia pursued a degree in Data Science, but were forced to flee to Istanbul just before her graduation, once the Directorate learned of her betrayal.

After she discovers the human cost of the Mourner project and Marcus’ erasure of his workers’ memories to cover it up, she breaks the alliance with him, starting a schism. As the situation deteriorates, she becomes stubborn and paranoid, unwilling to place her trust in anybody except Eirene. Eirene eventually convinces her to relinquish power as the war draws to a close.

Alexia was raised as an Orthodox Christian; no longer follows any organized religion but still believes in the existence of God. Not being in control causes her great distress, which is part of why Marcus’ manipulation of her memories enrages her so.

**Appearance**: Tall, strong build. Reddish-brown pixie cut hair. Brown eyes. Light bronze skin.

**Voice:** Casual, making frequent use of phrases such as “like,” or “I mean” to begin a point. Uses more elevated language in formal situations.

**Ancestry:** Greek

**Flaws**: Prone to stubborn and paranoid behavior, with mild OCD that worsens under stress.

**Miscellaneous:** Tosses small objects (e.g. rocks) to herself when bored. Refuses to use drugs and alcohol.

**Relationships:**

*With Eirene* – More than her best friend, Alexia is deeply in love with Eirene. They met when Alexia was sent to (falsely) arrest her for treason, but instead helped her escape after learning of her innocence. Despite suspecting her romantic feelings to be mutual, Alexia has not made any advances since she still sees Eirene as being under her protection and doesn’t want to take advantage of that relationship. After seeing Eirene’s growing distress at the ongoing conflict, Alexia offers to have her relieved of duty permanently, though Eirene refuses.

*With Besim* – Since they both have a religious background, they’ve bonded over some theological discussion and debate, and they consider each other close friends despite the age gap. Alexia enjoys hearing his war stories as well, and they sometimes gently tease each other. After the schism, she feels lost without his guidance, but also resents him for abandoning her.

*With Mayumi* – Thinks she’s a little overbearing, but ultimately a good person. Alexia has some suspicion that Mayumi is dealing with personal issues and wishes she’d open up, unaware of the full extent of her depression. No matter what happens, since Eirene trusts her, Alexia trusts her.

*With Christen* – Ex-girlfriend. They dated for a while, but broke up during university. Unbeknownst to them, this was caused by Marcus erasing their memories after they took issue with some of his practices, making them think they just fell out of love and drifted apart. There is no bad blood between them, so, once they realize Marcus’ deception, they will happily work together and respect the fact that they’ve both moved on.

*With Ian* – They start as friends, and Alexia often encourages him to take more breaks from his work lest he die of exhaustion. After she learns that he survived the Samara Tower raid and has been working for Kasimira, she feels betrayed and will have difficulty trusting him again.

1. **Eirene Baros (24/F)**

The deuteragonist of the Peregrine chapters, Eirene believes strongly in the value of individual lives, and is more loyal to Alexia than to the revolution. Although fairly shy and introverted, she tends to open up more when she’s with the woman she loves. Her duties involve flying aircraft for the Peregrines – typically troop transports, but occasionally fighter aircraft as well. The pleasure and excitement that she feels during battle is greatly worrying to her, as she believes that one should not enjoy the taking of lives.

Eirene has a poor relationship with her family, and hasn’t spoken to them for years. Her father disowned her after discovering her homosexuality, and her mother and brother were unwilling or unable to stand up for her. She also feels out-of-place due to her mixed race, which wasn’t helped by her father’s prejudices.

**Appearance**: Curvy figure. Wavy, dyed blonde hair. Light olive skin.

**Voice:** Soft. Tends to let others speak over her during group conversations, communicating any displeasure through body language. Never uses profanity more severe than “hell” or “damn” unless she’s extremely upset, and even then will typically apologize for it.

**Ancestry:** Greek/Chinese

**Flaws**: Bloodlust, over-dependence on Alexia

**Miscellaneous:** Enjoys drawing as a hobby, typically with charcoal or pencils. Fidgets rapidly when nervous, often using her fingers to tap a nearby surface. Is knowledgeable about ancient Greek history. Not religious herself, but respects her girlfriend’s beliefs.

**Relationships:**

*With Alexia* – Alexia means the world to her. Eirene fell in love with her while staying in her apartment after being rescued, but didn’t say anything in case she came on too strong and jeopardized their relationship. Acts as Alexia’s moral compass at times.

*With Mayumi* – Close friends. Mayumi is one of the few people other than Alexia that Eirene really trusts, seeing her as something of an older sister.

*With Ian* – Neutral. They don’t really talk all that much.

*With Besim* – His dedication to his religion unnerves her, since that reminds her of her abusive father. As long as he isn’t talking about that subject, however, she recognizes his wisdom and will listen to his counsel.

1. **Ian Dayal (31/M)**

Although he’s initially a Peregrine commander, Ian is the protagonist of the Geneva chapters. He escapes Athens with Charlotte and ends up joining a cult, the Historian Inquisition, in the hopes that they can help him find – or avenge – the Peregrines. He usually stays calm and collected, but is quick to anger if pressured.

After meeting Charlotte and learning more about the bombing, he agrees to help her, hoping that he will learn the truth about what happened to his friends. As he spends time with the Historians, Ian becomes more loyal to them than to the Peregrines, and chooses to remain with the Inquisition rather than rejoin them. He follows Charlotte on her quest for vengeance after Emma’s death at Bright Lighthouse, but her extreme methods make him question his own willingness to sacrifice lives for the cause.

Though Ian will prioritize the success of the mission over saving people, he feels guilty afterwards for abandoning his friends, and will try to make amends. Takes his work very seriously, and has few qualms about making any sacrifices necessary.

**Appearance**: American. Short, dark hair, with brown eyes and skin. Slim and muscular body.

**Voice:** Suave and charming – at least, he thinks so.

**Ancestry:** Indian-American

**Flaws**: Hot-headed, projects his anger at himself onto others

**Miscellaneous:** Atheist.

**Relationships:**

*With Alexia* – He feels guilty after “betraying” her at Samara Tower. Once they meet again, he’ll do whatever he can to make up for that and prove that he can be trusted.

*With Mayumi* – Ian is annoyed by Mayumi’s cavalier attitude towards her work, completely unaware of her hidden depression. When he learns about it, he feels terrible that his own preoccupation kept him from noticing.

*With Charlotte* – Is intrigued and slighty intimidated by her, and they eventually become close. Knows that she has a slight crush on him, but doesn’t reciprocate due to the difference in age. Working for her gives him a sense of purpose, so he is quite loyal to her and the Inquisition.

*With Emma* – Like a daughter to him. The fact that Emma so willing to be a child soldier for Kasimira is unnerving, and he tries to protect her, becoming distraught and enraged when she dies.

1. **Mayumi Nagai (26/F)**

Mayumi was a former crewmate aboard the Japanese Migrant vessel *Katayama*, and the daughter of its captain. After her parents were killed during a mutiny, she was abandoned in Istanbul and developed severe depression. Her only sense of self-worth came from making her parents proud, and, without them, she any reason to live, eventually joining the Peregrines just to be part of something. If she died for their cause, she thought, then at least her life would have had some meaning.

In pursuit of this “goal,” Mayumi accepts increasingly dangerous missions, since she views herself as disposable. Somehow, she keeps surviving, and eventually realizes the value she has to her friends. When she does risk her own life to destroy the *Shanghai*, it is not because she wants to die, but because she wants the others to live.

**Appearance**: Svelte/elegant, with her black hair done in a neat undercut. Medium-tan skin. Brown eyes. After Hotel India, has a prominent scar on the left side of her head.

**Voice:** Very causal language, often repeating some words. Tends to go off on tangents if not stopped/focused.

**Ancestry:** Japanese

**Flaws**: Suicidal depression

**Miscellaneous:** Is fond of horseback riding.

**Relationships**:

*With Eirene* – Sees her as a little sister, and is very protective, doing whatever she can to make her happy.

*With Alexia* – Friendly. As she is aware of Alexia’s romantic interest in Eirene (and vice versa), she keeps a careful look out to make sure that Alexia doesn’t dare break Eirene’s heart. However, Mayumi is slightly envious of her for having a successful romantic relationship.

*With Ian* – Is a bit more forgiving of his work with Kasimira, since she knows what it feels like to have no purpose in life and understands why he would stay with them for so long.

*With Besim* – Respects him as a senior officer of the Peregrines, and for his refusal to ask his troops to do anything he wouldn’t do himself.

*With Jackson* – Doesn’t like him at first, thinks he’s rude and arrogant. Eventually, they do start to trust each other after learning that they’ve had similar doubts about their own lives, and helping each other overcome their issues.

1. **Besim Karahan (62/M)**

An elderly veteran who fought to defend Turkey during the Crusade, Besim helped the crew of the *Peregrine* find refuge in Istanbul, and was responsible for integrating them as the city’s militia. He serves as the militia’s commander and their liason with the city’s civilian government.

Acts as a father figure to the younger rebels, but will always side with those who can more substantially increase the revolution’s power, even if their values conflict with his own, or if doing so would alienate an individual member.

**Appearance**: Muscular (for someone of his age). Sharp, well-trimmed grey beard and hair. Brown eyes and dark skin.

**Voice:** Formal and erudite, with an expansive vocabulary. Makes frequent references to mythology and tradition.

**Ancestry:** Turkish

**Flaws**:

**Miscellaneous:** ???

*With Alexia* – Appreciates that she takes the time to listen and talk about subjects that are important to him, namely theology. In that sense, he sees her as something of a student under his mentorship.

*With Eirene* -

*With Mayumi* – Recognizes her depression, and wishes that she’d let others help her deal with it. Has reached out to her a few times, but is always rejected.

*With Ian* – He approves of his hard-working nature and is setting him up to succeed him as high commander, at least until he joins the Inquisition instead.

1. **Jacob Lancaster (68/M)**

**Summary**:

Grand Admiral of the UNPD, who also assumes the office of Director-General after Magnus’ death. A strict authoritarian, he sincerely believes that only a strong, centralized government can take the decisive action necessary in a time of crisis. Despite his arguably tyrannical policies, he aims to be a “benevolent dictator,” offering expansive welfare systems, education, and fair treatment of prisoners in order to promote stability.

Though he believes in God, having once been a Catholic before leaving the church, Lancaster’s experiences with the League Crusade convinced him that organized religion is a major source of conflict, and seeks to promote a secular state at all costs. Lancaster is particularly disturbed by his citizens putting their faith in religious leaders over secular ones. Resistance only strengthens his resolve in this matter, though he is eventually convinced that he cannot enforce his believes on the entire world.

**Appearance**: Dark skin and grey hair. Scarred due to injuries sustained in the crusade

**Voice:** Stoic and intense

**Ancestry:** British

**Flaws:** Stubborn, authoritarian

**Miscellaneous:** Is fond of reading and writing poetry.

1. **Marcus Fairchild**
2. **Lena Fairchild**
3. **Jackson Fairchild (24/M)**

**Summary**: Jackson is the son of Marcus Fairchild. Having been neglected by his father during his youth, he engaged hedonistic behavior, seeking the attention he craved. Jackson desperately wants to prove his worth and be appreciated by his father, and, once he meets the Peregrines, thinks that helping negotiate the alliance is the way to do it. He acts arrogant and condescending as a shield for his own insecurities, and savors anything that lets him feel important, no matter how small.

**Appearance**: Young, skinny. Pale skin and scruffy blond hair.

**Voice:** Elevated, haughty

**Ancestry:** British

**Flaws:** Condescending attitude annoys others, overly eager to prove his own importance

**Miscellaneous:**

**Relationships:**

*With Marcus* – Slightly resentful of his neglect, but still eager to impress him, desperately seeking validation.

*With Lena* – They have an adversarial relationship, as Lena views herself as superior to natural-born humans, and Jackson is jealous of the attention their father gives to his “favorite” child.

*With Mayumi* – He initially looks down on her, and she is annoyed by his rudeness, but they start to become friends after their time in Naples. He is impressed by her quick thinking, and they soon realize that they have a lot in common, since they both feel alone and lack purpose in their lives.

1. **Christen Sinclair**
2. **Charlotte Aucoin (19/F)**

**Summary**: A Junior Inquisitor from the Kasimirans’ Historian Inquisition. She recruits Ian to help her investigate the attack on Samara Tower, but secretly hopes he will prove to be an ally in the struggle for power against her rivals in the Magistracy.

Charlotte cares deeply for her sister, Emma, and prioritizes her well-being over all else.

**Appearance**: Tunisian ancestry, brown skin, hair, and eyes. Petite figure.

**Voice:** Ordinarily cool and confident, but this façade quickly breaks down when under pressure. Her English is stilted, depicted through a lack of contractions in her speech.

**Flaws:** Manipulative (lies to Ian about meeting the Peregrines to keep him for her own purposes), insecure about her young age compared to her peers – and her enemies.

**Miscellaneous:** Smokes often. Prefers to speak in French because it reminds her of her old life, before her parents died.

**Relationships:**

1. **Emma Aucoin**
2. **Nathaniel Leuthold**

**Locations**

**Istanbul**

**Athens**

**Geneva**

**Montreal**

**Thessaloniki**

**Herodotus**

**Bright Lighthouse**

**ASPIS Control**