**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:** 27

**Background**: The daughter of a wealthy Chinese immigrant family living in Athens, 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 Biomedical in what she would be the first to admit was a brazen display of nepotism.

**Personality**: Cassandra outwardly projects an outgoing and cheerful demeanor, bordering on flirtatious with women she finds attractive. However, she has a deep sense of self-loathing and insecurity after Chenmei’s death, and believes she does not deserve her lot in life. She’s prone to compulsions such as ritual handwashing and scratching herself, especially when under stress, and is extremely protective of her personal space, to the point she does not allow guests in her room and will not use public toilets.

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

**Voice**: Uses elevated vocabulary, which she inherited from her mother. However, unlike her mother, she also uses a lot of common English idioms, which she often has to explain. Makes playful, joking remarks to her friends, and towards women she finds attractive. Also never uses profanity more severe than “damn” or “hell.”

**Misc**: Has a habit of tossing things to herself while idle, such as rocks or small fruits.

**Name**: Hao Shufen

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

**Background**: As a young woman, Shufen came to Athens 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 Biomedical company. She quickly rose through the ranks, especially in the power vacuum left after the war with Geneva, and was eventually appointed Director, 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 her children, 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.

**Goals**: Because of her experiences during the war, she is desperate to defend Athens at all cost, both by doing whatever she can to avoid conflict, and by spending inordinate amounts of money to shore up the city’s defenses.

**Voice**: Almost always speaks in a formal manner that reflects her advanced education and wealth. Never uses slang – in fact, she simply does not understand a lot of English slang terms or idioms. Rarely expresses anger, but will sharply criticize her children when they do wrong. Basically no sense of humor.

**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.

**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 the ship’s tyrannical captain, but, because she 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 computer science at McGill university and joined the Defense Administration 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 university. She hates the fact that she ended up a listless wanderer with no purpose, which is why she latches on to (and falls for) Cassandra so quickly.

**Goals**: At first, she only wants to find some kind of meaning in life that will cure her ennui. After her memories are restored, she makes it her mission to honor her deceased friends, Chenmei and Lena.

**Voice**: Speaks in a casual tone with lots of slang, doesn’t use big words, and curses regularly, including some Quebecois sacres that she picked up. Also uses interjections such as “you know,” “like,” and “I mean” when making a point.

**Name**: Sun Xiang

**Appearance**: Athletic, sturdy build and strong jawline. Short, well-kept hair. Fair 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 Defense 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.

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

**Voice**: Sarcastic, often makes snide comments whenever he is displeased. Doesn’t speak any more than he believes is necessary, unless he is angry.

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

**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. Although he believes in the Comintern, he does not cling to idealism, and is willing to compromise or employ underhanded tactics to achieve his goals.

**Goals**: Spread the Comintern’s influence in Europe, specifically in neutral territories bordering the Union (such as Athens and Geneva).

**Voice**: Though he is highly educated, he talks like an everyman, and, often begins his sentences with pensive noises like “Hmm” or “Aha.” Likes to make analogies and reference stories and parables. Will happily pontificate ad nauseam if he is not stopped. Calls Cassandra “little sister” a lot.

**Name**: Leon Maréchal

**Appearance**: Lanky build with olive skin, messy brown hair, stubble, and a lot of tattoos. Middle-aged, and often wears a green fisherman’s cap

**Background**: Leon is the captain of Samekh Wing, one of the joint military units formed by Aleph Null security staff and the Montreal city militia. As the leader of a smaller wing made up of lower-class citizens, Leon criticizes Aleph Null for prioritizing defense spending over support for those impoverished and displaced after the war.

**Personality**: Values justice and principle. Has a strong sense of loyalty to his team and will always act in their best interest, even if it means putting his own neck on the line. He is sympathetic to the Comintern, although he is wary of them heading towards vanguardism. He is honest and does not mince words, no matter who he is talking to.

**Goals**: Protect and provide for his staff, especially when nobody else will.

**Voice**: Curses a lot, especially with the Quebecois *sacres*. While he tends to wax philosophical about economic and social theory, he doesn’t use big words to do so. His English is stilted, reflected by his infrequent use of contractions.

**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 a no-nonsense type with little patience for fools. He wants the best for his country and its people, but is also stubborn, and his narrow focus can blind him to alternative options.

**Goals**: Root out traitors and punish those responsible for crimes against the Union.

**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 happily 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**: Resentful, bitter, and exhausted. Marcus is a scholar at heart and values intelligence and competence. He is condescending towards all those he feels do not live up to the same principles, such as Akiko after she abandons her academic career. Doesn’t like yes men and appreciates pushback, as long as it is supported with adequate evidence.

**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. He hates beating around the bush and is tired of men who disguise their true meaning with sarcasm, weasel words, or circumlocution.

**Name**: Jackson Fairchild

**Appearance**: Disheveled

**Background**:

**Personality**: Erratic, bordering on manic, but surprisingly empathetic. He just adopts a sort of “tough love” approach towards people he cares about. He is jealous of his father’s love for his late sister and will do anything to win his approval.

**Goals**: Wants his father to love him

**Voice**:

**Name**: Lena Fairchild

**Appearance**:

**Background**:

**Personality**:

**Goals**:

**Voice**:

**Name**: Nathaniel Bergstrom

**Appearance**:

**Background**:

**Personality**:

**Goals**:

**Voice**: