**Timeline**

BU45 – Aleph Null founded

BU2 – Dissolution of the United States and Ring of Fire incident, recognized end of the old world

U0 – Pan-Mediterranean Union founded

U5 – Aleph Null headquarters destroyed, Athenian branch closes

U10 – Athenian branch re-opens

U50 – Alexander Stathopoulos retires

U90 – Hao Shufen appointed Director of Athenian branch campus

U95 – Kolyma incident

**Outline**

Chapter 1 – Once Gifted Children

* Akiko meets Cassandra and the Hao family while en route to Rome
* Lancaster attempts to arrest Vargas but is rebuffed
* **Characters introduced: Akiko, Cassandra, Shufen, Elias, Lancaster, Vargas**

Chapter 2 – J’Accuse!

* Attending the conference, Marcus Fairchild presents the Mourner project.
* The Hao family sees Lancaster meeting with the Genevan delegation
* Assassination of Prime Minister Albani. Lancaster accuses Vargas, and the Aleph Null representatives are implicated by association. However, Lancaster cannot prove it, so he allows them to leave after a tense stand-off.
* Cassandra helps Akiko escape with them by faking her identity, as she believes the Defense Administration to be innocent.
* **Characters introduced: Marcus, Lena**

Chapter 3 – The Red Envelope

* The gang return to Athens, where Shufen directs them to begin preparing for an invasion. Xiang’s letter arrives.
* Cassandra and Akiko receive Jackson at the Samekh Wing transit hub, per Xiang’s wishes. They learn that Samekh Wing is critical of Aleph Null’s neglect of poor civilians
* They all travel south to Naples and reunite Jackson with Marcus.
* **Characters introduced: Jackson, Eirene, Xiang**

Chapter 4 – In Memoriam

* Aleph Null finalizes the deal with Marcus, and has another encounter with Charlotte and Nathaniel. Elias also arrives in Naples.
* Cassandra confronts Xiang about Chenmei
* Shufen sells Cassandra and Elias out to Lancaster in order to protect Athens, trusting that they can evade him even without her help.
* **Characters introduced: Charlotte, Nathaniel, Chenmei (kind of)**

Chapter 5 – Au Genève

* Aleph Null begins formulating the space elevator plan, but struggle to find an answer.
* Elias and Cassandra travel to Geneva with Charlotte, and hear her proposal for an alliance, which would require them to steal Mourner data for her. These terms are too steep, so they tentatively decline, though she says the offer remains open.
* Cassandra’s compulsions worsen

Chapter 6

* Discovery of the Mnemonic Matrix
* Akiko’s memories are restored
* Shufen’s betrayal of her children is discovered
* Cassanda and Akiko commit to a romantic relationship with each other

Chapter 7

* After losing her mother’s support, Cassandra gives in to frustration and agrees to sell Charlotte the Mourner data in exchange for help.
* With the Inquisition’s help, Aleph Null attacks the space elevator, sending Jackson and Eirene up to ASPIS. Jackson reveals that Marcus knew about Cassandra’s betrayal, and that he made a separate deal with Nathaniel to crush both the Inquisition and Aleph Null.
* Jackson shoots Eirene, but she is rescued by the ASPIS AI, who hopes to use her to destroy itself for good.
* Nathaniel uses ASPIS to destroy several facilities belonging to Aleph Null and the Inquisition, killing Xiang in the process.

Chapter 8

* Aleph Null and the remnants of the Inquisition begin planning to retake the space elevator.
* Grieving over the loss of Xiang, Cassandra uses the Mnemonic Matrix to suppress her own memories, including her relationship with Akiko.

Chapter 9

* Eirene convinces Jackson to turn against his father and help her destroy ASPIS

Chapter 10

* Desperate, Aleph Null and the Inquisition approach Lancaster to help them stand against Nathaniel. Lancaster accepts