

Sarah Jansen – *The Reluctant Historian*

❖ Overview:

- **Age:** Mid-30s
 - **Profession:** High School History Teacher
 - **Location:** Alberta, Canada
 - **Medical:** Type 1 Diabetic
 - **Living Situation:** Lives with her brother, Mark Jansen
 - **First Appearance:** *Vespucci* Season 1, Episode 1
 - **Fate:** Dies during the Fall of Winnipeg (Season 3)
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❖ Personality & Core Traits:

- Deeply rational and historically literate, but emotionally worn down.
 - Fiercely loyal to truth, but slowly loses faith in its power.
 - Often dry-humored, exhausted, and running on caffeine and sarcasm.
 - Holds a fierce love for history and learning—believes education is how societies survive.
 - Complex emotional relationship with children: she loves them in theory, but is frustrated by their indifference or manipulation.
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❖ Visual & Behavioral Anchors:

- Always seen with a Tim Hortons cup (or multiple) within arm's reach.
 - Keeps her insulin in a visible pouch—never ashamed, but quietly vigilant.
 - Often wears layered sweaters or scarves—she's not styled to impress, she's styled for survival.
 - Her desk is always cluttered: papers, outdated textbooks, stress candy, red pens, and emotional fatigue.
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❖ Key Backstory:

- Sarah and her brother Mark lost both parents when they were younger. This created a powerful bond between them—one rooted in mutual grief, but evolving into ideological divergence.
 - While Mark turned his pain into activism and secessionist rhetoric, Sarah channeled hers into education and preservation—wanting to keep Canada intact because she believed *something* needed to hold.
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❖ Key Plot Point: *Fired for Insulin*

- A turning point in her arc: during a routine class, she injects insulin discreetly.
- A student, influenced by misinformation or dramatics, tells their parents "Miss Jansen was doing drugs in class."
- The school board, already anxious about her political "tone" and lack of control in class, uses it as justification to quietly fire her.
- The incident becomes public in her small town. Rumors swirl. No one corrects them.

- This moment breaks her last belief in institutional support—if even her own workplace won't stand by her, who will?
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❖ Relationship with Mark:

- Loves him deeply, but is furious at what he's becoming.
 - Their house becomes a war zone of passive-aggressive silences and emotional hostage-taking.
 - She joins him at the rally—not to support it, but to protect him. To witness.
 - When she dies later, Mark is forever haunted by her final words and the fact that she was *right*.
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❖ Sample Dialogue:

"I'm not high, Timmy. I'm trying not to die, thanks."

"Yes, I took a shot in class. It's called insulin. I'd love to explain how the pancreas works but, y'know, budget cuts."

"If I seem tired, it's because I am. I'm teaching the fall of Rome to kids who think TikTok is a credible source."

"I love history. Doesn't mean I wanna live through it."

"I'm not taking sides, I'm just too tired to pretend this is fixable."

"Honestly, at this point, I teach for the paycheck and because no one else will."

❖ Symbolic Role in *Vespucci*:

Sarah represents the last fragile link to reasoned democracy and fact-based civil discourse. Her death is not just tragic—it's *symbolic*. She is the teacher whose warnings were ignored, the voice of history lost in the noise. When she's gone, the last moral guardrail collapses.

Her cluttered desk and abandoned classroom become one of the most quietly devastating visuals of the early war.