

= Characters of StarCraft =

Major and recurring characters from the military science fiction series StarCraft are listed below , organised by respective species and most commonly affiliated faction within the fictional universe . The story of the StarCraft series revolves around interstellar affairs in a distant sector of the galaxy , where three species are vying for supremacy : the Terrans , a highly factionalised future version of humanity , the Protoss , a theocratic race of vast psionic ability ; and the Zerg , an insectoid species commanded by a hive mind persona . The latter two of these species were genetically engineered by the Xel 'Naga , a fourth species believed extinct . The series was begun with Blizzard Entertainment 's 1998 video game StarCraft , and has been expanded with sequels Insurrection , Retribution , Brood War , Ghost , Wings of Liberty , Heart of the Swarm , and Legacy of the Void . The franchise has been further extended with a series of novels , graphic novels and other works .

= = Casting and design = =

The characters and story of the StarCraft series were created by Chris Metzen and James Phinney . However , as Phinney was not involved in StarCraft : Brood War , Chris Metzen alone is credited for the development of the plot in the expansion . Despite the series success globally , particularly in South Korea , Blizzard Entertainment has not made any major comments regarding the development of the characters and the storyline of the StarCraft series .

However , interviews with the two of the voice actors have given a glimpse into small parts of the development process . An interview with Robert Clotworthy , the voice of Jim Raynor in all released StarCraft games to date , has revealed that for the most part the voicing for the characters was done over only a few days in sessions of up to four hours , a fact mirrored in a similar interview with Sarah Kerrigan 's actress , Glynnis Talken Campbell . Clotworthy also stated how the concept art for the game usually used for the visual development of characters and locales in games was used by him in order to develop the personality of his character .

Visually , most of the characters and units in the games were developed from artwork by Metzen and Samwise Didier , although at least two other artists ? Glenn Rane and Peter Lee ? have developed concept art for StarCraft II . It is also implied by some of the authors of the novels that the development of the characters in their books was influenced by Metzen as well as Andy Chambers and Evelyn Fredericksen . This is particularly notable for characters later appearing in the games , such as Valerian Mengsk .

= = Main characters = =

= = = Jim Raynor = = =

Voiced by Robert Clotworthy

Jim Raynor is the primary Terran protagonist and player character in the StarCraft franchise . Raynor is the ubiquitous character of the series , having participated in all critical plot points and military conflicts in the sector , except one . He is also the only character to have established inter @-@ species alliance .

A former colonial marshal on the backwater planet of Mar Sara , Raynor joins Arcturus Mengsk 's revolutionaries in their fight against the tyrannical and corrupt Confederacy of Man , where he develops a relationship with Sarah Kerrigan , Mengsk 's second in command . However , he quickly comes to realise that Mengsk is far from the force for good when he abandons Kerrigan and the entire population of a planet to die by the hand of the Zerg to satisfy his own thirst for power . Disillusioned and embittered , Raynor deserts Mengsk and becomes a persona non grata in the new Terran Dominion . The situation gets no better when Kerrigan , who was captured by the Zerg , is assimilated into the swarm and becomes one of their most powerful assets . After desertion , Raynor and his forces take part in major combat operations across the sector : He fights alongside the

Protoss templar Tassadar in the battle that leads to the fall of the Zerg ruler , the Overmind , and splinters the Zerg into several factions . When the expeditionary forces of United Earth Directorate (UED) arrive in the sector to subjugate it , Raynor , Mengsk and Kerrigan (now calling herself the Queen of Blades) combine their Terran , Zerg and Protoss allies to repel the invasion . No sooner than they fall , the alliance shatters .

Four years later , Raynor 's rebel movement is contracted by a group called the Moebius Foundation to recover pieces of a Xel 'Naga artifact which is ultimately used on Char by a combined force of Raynor 's Raiders and Terran Dominion expeditionary fleet to deinfest the Queen of Blades , restoring Sara Kerrigan 's humanity . After her deinfestation , Kerrigan is relentlessly pursued by Arcturus Mengsk ; during one such raid Arcturus 's Dominion forces capture and allegedly summarily execute the rebel commander . It is later revealed that Raynor was not in fact executed , but held prisoner as a hostage to keep Kerrigan in line . After being freed from his prison Raynor assists Kerrigan as she storms the Dominion capital of Augustgrad on the planet Korhal After a showdown with Arcturus Mengsk inside his Palace , Kerrigan manages to gain the upper hand with help from James Raynor , and kills Arcturus by overloading his body with psychic energy , causing him to explode spectacularly . In Legacy of the Void , Raynor and his Raiders are now part of the Dominion military under the new Emperor Valerian , and (with the aid of Artanis and his protoss forces) defend Korhal from an attack by Amon . Joining with Artanis and Kerrigan later on , Raynor watches as Kerrigan ascends to become a Xel 'naga and destroys Amon once and for all ; two years later , Kerrigan - in human form - visits Raynor at the bar on Mar Sara where he began in Wings of Liberty , and he leaves with her . He is not seen or heard from again .

StarCraft creator Chris Metzen designed Raynor as rough @-@ living and dangerous man ; Clotworthy describes Raynor as a man that other characters " wouldn 't mess with " . Nevertheless , his depiction is meant to be that of an ordinary man . Critics connected sympathetically with Raynor 's plights , and GameSpot named him one of the best heroes in video gaming .

= = = Sarah Kerrigan = = =

Voiced by Glynnis Talken Campbell in StarCraft ; by Tricia Helfer in Starcraft 2

Sarah Kerrigan is the primary Zerg protagonist and player character in the StarCraft franchise . Kerrigan serves as the primary antagonist of all but the first and last two games . As " The Primal Queen of Blades " , Kerrigan is the de facto leader of the Zerg Swarm and mentor to broodmother Zagara .

Originally a Terran ghost agent for Arcturus Mengsk , she is betrayed and abandoned to the Zerg , who transform her into a Terran / Zerg hybrid with vast psionic powers under the control of the then unknown Amon . Following the death of the Overmind , Kerrigan asserts her independence , striking out at those who betrayed her and who seek to contain her , eventually taking control of the entire Zerg Swarm . Four years later , Kerrigan invades the Dominion in search of a number of Xel 'Naga artifacts ; these artifacts are instead retrieved by Raynor at the behest of the Moebius Foundation , who assembles them into a device that reverts Kerrigan to a human and releases Amon 's grip on her . After her deinfestation , Kerrigan is mercilessly pursued by Arcturus Mengsk , however she successfully escapes Arcturus 's Dominion forces . After willingly allowing herself to be reinfested on Zerus , Kerrigan is reborn as the Primal Queen of Blades , after which she successfully reunites the Zerg Swarm and storms the Dominion capital of Augustgrad on the planet Korhal with help from Raynor 's Raiders . After a showdown with Arcturus Mengsk inside his Palace , Kerrigan manages to gain the upper hand with help from James Raynor , and kills Acturus by overloading his body with psychic energy , causing him to explode spectacularly . In the aftermath of her victory , Kerrigan gathers the Swarm and departs in search of Amon .

According to Zeratul , Kerrigan factors prominently into a Xel 'Nagan prophecy concerning the Zerg , the Protoss , and the Hybrids . Heart of the Swarm reveals that Kerrigan is the only being powerful enough to stop the fallen Xel 'naga Amon , though exactly how is not revealed . Though originally intended as a throwaway character , Kerrigan grew on the developers , who gave her a greater role in the series . Talken Campbell described Kerrigan 's transformation as " going from good girl to bad

girl " ; many of the aspects of Kerrigan 's infested character design are inspired by the Greek gorgon Medusa . IGN rated Kerrigan as the fifth most memorable video game villain , while readers of GameSpot put Kerrigan as the most evil video game villain .

During the events of Legacy of the Void , Kerrigan enters into an alliance with Artanis while investigating the Xel 'Naga homeworld Ulnar . Some time after Artanis 's reclamation of the Protoss homeworld of Aiur , Kerrigan sends a psionic call to Raynor and Artanis for assistance in permanently killing Amon in the Void . During the joint Terran Dominion / Zerg / Protoss assault of the Void , the full context of Zeratul 's prophecy about Kerrigan is made clear : Only a fellow Xel 'Naga is capable of killing Amon , and only Kerrigan is capable of ascension . With the remainder of the joint armada , Kerrigan is successful in killing Amon during her psychic backlash in the void . During the aftermath , Kerrigan returns to Raynor in human form and disappears .

= = = Artanis = = =

Voiced by Paul Ainsley in Brood War ; by Patrick Seitz in StarCraft II

Artanis is the primary Protoss protagonist and player character in the StarCraft franchise . Artanis is a high templar and a military commander introduced in Brood War . The character also appears in the novels Queen of Blades and Twilight . Later retcons have made Artanis the identity of the nameless ' Executor ' for the Protoss campaign in StarCraft .

An ambitious leader , Artanis is the youngest templar to achieve the rank of praetor and executor . Artanis holds Tassadar in high esteem and despite being a strong believer in Khalai system , he also holds to the idea of reunification with the Nerazim and Tal 'Darim . Artanis is responsible for the initial defense of Aiur alongside Fenix before being dispatched to arrest Tassadar by Aldaris ; Artanis , however , sides with Tassadar and helps him defeat the Overmind . Artanis later organizes the evacuation of his now devastated Nerazim home world of Shakuras , and with Zeratul undertakes measures to cleanse the Zerg presence on Shakuras through the use of a Xel 'Naga temple . When Sarah Kerrigan 's actions result in the deaths of Aldaris , Fenix and Raszagal , Artanis commands a fleet to bring Kerrigan to justice on Char , and despite allying with both the Dominion and the UED remnants , his forces are defeated by her Zerg . Artanis returns to Shakuras to rebuild the Protoss civilization ; with Zeratul having disappeared , Artanis becomes the hierarch of the unified Protoss Protectorate , the Daelaam , but struggles with reintegrating the two estranged branches of his people , with many of the Aiur survivors desiring to retake their home world . He makes a brief appearance in Wings of Liberty in the vision of the Protoss 's last stand against the hybrids and their Zerg swarm .

Artanis is the central character of Legacy of the Void , the third and final part of StarCraft II . He leads the Protoss to invade Aiur but as the invasion went on , many Protoss fell under Amon 's control . Amon has seized the Khala and is controlling the Protoss via their nerve cords . Artanis initially fell under their control but Zeratul severed his nerve cord , dying in the process . Shortly afterwards , Artanis leaves Aiur behind in the ship Spear of Adun and begins his quest to destroy Amon .

= = Terran characters = =

The terrans are a young species with psionic potential . The terrans of the Koprulu sector descend from the survivors of a disastrous 23rd century colonization mission from Earth . Compared to the protoss and zerg , the terrans are technologically inferior , lacking in genetic @-@ diversity , and highly factionalized . The four dominant government factions are the Kel @-@ Morian Combine , the Terran Dominion , the Umojan Protectorate , and the United Earth Directorate . Terrans are in a constant state of conflict : whenever they are not caught in the two @-@ front pitched battle crossfire with their alien neighbors ' interstellar conflicts , they endure frequent assassinations , civil wars and revolutions amongst themselves . Nevertheless , terran ingenuity and unyielding stubbornness has kept them from extinction ; they stand as one of the three dominant species of the galaxy .

== Raynor 's Raiders ==

=== Matt Horner ===

Matt Horner is the captain of the Raiders ' flagship Hyperion and Raynor 's second @-@ in @-@ command . Brian Bloom provides Horner 's voice . Described as " young and idealistic " and guided by strong moral principles , Horner is originally a supporter of Mengsk , but becomes disgusted by Mengsk 's deliberate attacks on civilian Confederate targets . Having come to admire Raynor 's bravery and loyalty , Horner follows Raynor when he abandons Mengsk 's cause , and is keen to strike at the morally bankrupt Terran Dominion . Horner is only an average combatant in personal combat , but is otherwise an excellent pilot and tactician . First introduced in the novel Queen of Blades , Horner commands the Hyperion as it comes under attack from Zerg in orbit of the planet Char and is forced to withdraw from the system , leaving Raynor and a small group of Raiders stranded on the surface ; Horner is only able to return several months later to evacuate the survivors . Horner continues in a similar role in Wings of Liberty , acting as Raynor 's conscience and trying to keep his commander focused . After the capture of James Raynor by Arcturus 's Dominion forces in Heart of the Swarm , Matt Horner assumes temporary command of Raynor 's Raiders , leading the rebel movement for much of the game until Raynor 's return to the Hyperion after the raid aboard the prison ship Moros . During the events of Legacy of the Void , Horner is now an admiral commanding the Dominion fleet , joining the joint Dominion / protoss defense against Amon and his Moebius Corps forces . After Amon falls , Horner is the Dominion 's chief military leader , as he and Emperor Valerian pledge to maintain peace and prosperity for the Dominion .

=== Rory Swann ===

Rory Swann is the chief engineer of the Hyperion . Swann came from a family of tech @-@ savvy miners who opened a successful private mining operation on Meinhoff : however , their operation was crushed by ever @-@ rising taxes . Swann lodged a complaint to the Kel @-@ Morian Combine officials and discovered that Tavish Kerr , who 's mining operations weren 't burden with taxes , bribed officials to put rival claims out of business through excessive taxation . Swann started a miner 's revolt , claiming independence from the Kel @-@ Morian Combine . However , Combine forces arrived and mercilessly crushed the revolt . Swann himself lost an arm , along with many friends , and was only saved because Raynor 's Raiders responded to their distress signal . Swann had nothing left , so he joined the Raiders .

=== Egon Stetmann ===

Egon Stetmann is a former scientist in Terran Dominion 's science project in Tyrador III that involves a cyborg program using New Folsom Prison inmates as experimental lab rats . He tried to reason out , but his former colleagues are silencing him . He invents a virus to escape the facility . Then he hides at Deadman 's Port , he was going to be killed by the criminals when Raynor rescued him . He is now the Hyperion 's engineer / scientist and researcher .

=== Tychus Findlay ===

Tychus J. Findlay is a marine and past associate of Raynor 's who becomes affiliated with the Raiders . He appears in the novel Heaven 's Devil and in Wings of Liberty as one of the main characters . Findlay is known for his charisma and toughness , and by his friendship with James Raynor . He is voiced by Neil Kaplan . Findlay is introduced in the cinematic trailer for StarCraft II , in which he is shown being encased into powered combat armour . According to Blizzard 's Nick Carpenter , the marine in the trailer lacked any identity but eventually evolved into Findlay , allowing

the cinematic team to flesh out the trailer with the character 's personality . Findlay is surrounded by rumours regarding his reputation ; on the one hand , he is held as a loyal soldier who risks his life to save his comrades , while on the other , he is regarded as an amoral scoundrel . Findlay and Raynor fought together for the Confederacy several years prior to the events of StarCraft before becoming outlaws ; Findlay was eventually captured and incarcerated . By Wings of Liberty , Findlay escapes from prison , tracks down Raynor , and recruits him to work for the secretive Moebius Foundation , where , according to Metzen , Findlay acts as the metaphorical devil on Raynor 's shoulder .

= = = = Gabriel Tosh = = = =

Gabriel Tosh is a mysterious arms dealer and a " spectre " ? an elite ghost agent enhanced through the use of terrazine , a potent psionic reagent . Though originally created for Ghost , Tosh is introduced in the novel Spectres and Wings of Liberty , where he is voiced by Dave Fennoy . Metzen describes Tosh as a " Boba Fett @-@ type character " while Andy Chambers feels Tosh is " quasi @-@ Rastafarian " . Tosh possesses a nihilistic personality and believes that he must always look out for himself in order to survive . As such , he acts as a foil for the idealistic and honorable character of Matt Horner . Tosh represents an amoral influence on Raynor , and the temptation to cut corners and act like a pirate , although he is not inherently evil .

You can either choose to help him break out his former friends imprisoned in New Folsom Prison or end his project by using a Dominion agent to end the project .

= = = = Ariel Hanson = = = =

Dr. Ariel Hanson is a scientist who becomes associated with Raynor 's Raiders after her home colony on the planet Agria is invaded by Zerg in Wings of Liberty , where she is voiced by Ali Hillis . A selfless and altruistic individual , she mainly wishes for life to return to normal . She is considered to be the moral opposite of Tychus Findlay , acting as a metaphorical angel on Raynor 's shoulder , and represents a positive moral influence on Raynor . Originally designed as a male character , Hanson was changed in development to female to act as a love interest for Raynor , albeit limited by Raynor 's status as a mercenary and fugitive , and moreover the fact that Raynor is still trying to sort himself out in relation to Sarah Kerrigan .

Either you can help her colony by eliminating the Protoss Mothership , or end the colony 's suffering by killing the colony 's denizens , which leads to her death .

= = = Terran Dominion / Terran Confederacy = = =

= = = = Arcturus Mengsk = = = =

Arcturus Mengsk was the emperor of the Terran Dominion , which presided over the majority of the Terrans in the Koprulu Sector . The main antagonist of the series , he is voiced by James Harper and is the primary subject of the novel I , Mengsk . Mengsk is extremely intelligent and is capable as both a strategist and tactician . While Mengsk does not empathize with people well , he is highly skilled at oratory and propaganda and possesses a remarkable ability for manipulating other people .

Born on Korhal IV , the scion of a powerful founding family of the Terran Confederacy , Mengsk was a colonel in the Confederate Marine Corps and a veteran of the Guild Wars , who became a successful prospector after war 's end . Though trying to distance himself from the actions of his father , a prominent Korhal senator and vocal dissident against the Confederacy , Mengsk became a revolutionary himself when his father , mother , and younger sister were murdered by Confederate assassins . His activities soon spurred the Confederacy to launch a nuclear attack against Korhal , wiping out its population ; Mengsk swore vengeance , and formed a revolutionary group he called

the Sons of Korhal . Years of open conflict successfully weakened Confederate control over the fringe worlds , during which he recruited followers such as Sarah Kerrigan , Jim Raynor and Edmund Duke . Raynor and Kerrigan grew uneasy with Mengsk 's increasingly extreme methods , namely luring Zerg to attack Confederate targets , leading to Mengsk abandoning Kerrigan to the Zerg on the Confederate capital of Tarsonis (another reason for the latter was Kerrigan had been the assassin that murdered his father) . With the destruction of Tarsonis by the Zerg , Mengsk crowned himself emperor and styled himself as a benevolent dictator .

In Brood War , the Dominion is invaded by the United Earth Directorate and Mengsk narrowly escapes capture with the reluctant help of Raynor . Faced with execution and the destruction of the Dominion as alternatives , Mengsk allies with Kerrigan and Raynor to defeat the UED , but Kerrigan eventually betrays their alliance and delivers a crippling blow to Mengsk 's forces . Nevertheless , Mengsk rebuilds and the Dominion remains the dominant Terran power . In Frontline , many of the stories in the anthology paint Mengsk and the Dominion overall as tyrannical and corrupt , no different from the Confederacy .

In Wings of Liberty , Mengsk and his son Valerian find the Dominion opposed by several rebel and paramilitary groups , including those loyal to Raynor . Arcturus suffers compound setbacks during the game , initially due to the mass invasion of Dominion space by Zerg forces which catches the Dominion military and Mengsk unprepared , and later from Raynor 's Raiders who capture and broadcast proof of Mengsk 's war crimes during the events of StarCraft . Despite these setbacks Arcturus manages to overcome these hardships , maintaining his position as Emperor of the Dominion for the remainder of the game . During the events of Heart of the Swarm , Mengsk tries to have Kerrigan killed on several occasions , including issuing an obituary about Raynor . Kerrigan however , successfully reunites the Zerg Swarm and storms the Dominion capital of Augustgrad on the planet Korhal with help from Raynor 's Raiders . After a showdown with Acturus Mengsk inside his Palace , Kerrigan manages to gain the upper hand with help from James Raynor , and kills Acturus by overloading his body with psychic energy , causing him to explode spectacularly . In the wake of his death , Valerian ascends to the throne vacated by Arcturus .

GameSpy cites Mengsk as a classic example of The Who 's " Won 't Get Fooled Again " lyrics " meet the new boss , same as the old boss " . Mengsk was responsible for the release from prison of Tychus Findlay , with the specific purpose of tailing Jim Raynor and killing Kerrigan ; Raynor foils this plan by killing Tychus .

= = = = Edmund Duke = = = =

Edmund Duke is ranking officer in first the Confederacy and later the Dominion . Voiced in the games by Jack Ritschel , Duke also appears in several novels , including Liberty 's Crusade , Shadow of the Xel 'Naga and Queen of Blades . A scion of one of the influential Old Families of Confederacy with a long career in the military , Duke is a methodical and experienced tactician but also as an egotistical and xenophobic man . As a colonel , Duke commands the Alpha Squadron of the Confederate Security Forces , and is the face of the Confederacy for the player in the early parts of StarCraft . Duke initially leads the defense of Confederate colonies Chau Sara and Mar Sara from the Zerg and the Protoss fleet commanded by Tassadar , for which he is promoted to general .

Duke is later charged with quelling rebellion on the Confederate world of Antiga Prime , but is defeated by Mengsk 's forces . When Duke 's flagship Norad II is shot down by the Zerg during the battle , Duke is rescued by Raynor on Mengsk 's orders in return for the defection of the general and his squadron , and Duke 's knowledge is vital to Mengsk 's assault on Tarsonis . Mengsk , still skeptical of Duke 's loyalty , later dispatches Duke on expeditions to investigate the Zerg on Char and a Xel 'Naga artifact on Bhekar Ro in Shadow of the Xel 'Naga , engagements which decimate Alpha Squadron . In Brood War , Duke organises the Dominion 's fleet defences against the United Earth Directorate , and later follows Mengsk into alliance with Kerrigan and her Zerg . However , as part of a surgical strike against the Dominion 's military capabilities , Kerrigan has Duke 's flagship destroyed , killing the general .

===== Valerian Mengsk =====

Valerian Mengsk is the son of Arcturus Mengsk and his successor as Emperor of the Terran Dominion . Valerian is first introduced in The Dark Templar Saga series of novels , while his backstory is further developed in I , Mengsk . Valerian was created as Metzen felt that Arcturus ' story had been effectively told in StarCraft and Brood War . While Blizzard stipulated Valerian 's physical description , The Dark Templar Saga author Christie Golden was given the freedom to develop the character as she wished . A disciple of Japanese martial arts and a keen archaeologist , he is described as " brilliant ... and probably a bit arrogant for knowing it " . Valerian is particularly interested in Xel 'Naga artifacts , which he employs mercenaries and leading archaeologists to retrieve and study . Valerian was raised in secrecy on a number of worlds across the Koprulu Sector during his father 's campaign against the Confederacy . While Valerian shares Arcturus ' passion for liquors and ancient weapons , his relationship with his father is adversarial due to Arcturus ' disdain for both him and his mother in his childhood .

Valerian made his game debut in Wings of Liberty , voiced by Josh Keaton . He is confronted by Jim Raynor , mistaking him for his father Arcturus , aboard the Dominion battlecruiser Bucephalus . Valerian reveals that he is the owner of the Moebius Foundation , the think tank that Raynor had been collecting the pieces of a Xel 'Naga artifact for , and claimed that his mission was the same as Raynor 's - to rescue Kerrigan . Taking more than half the Dominion fleet , Valerian joins forces with Raynor 's Raiders and lays siege to the Zerg stronghold of Char , as part of an effort to prove to the Dominion (and to his father) that he will be worthy to take the emperor 's crown after Arcturus . Ultimately , the mission succeeds in de @-@ infesting Kerrigan , but in the aftermath of the battle a disagreement between Arcturus and Valerian over Sara Kerrigan 's fate sparks an armed civil war between the Emperor and Prince , leading Valerian and a faction of the Dominion 's armed forces loyal to him to seek shelter with Raynor 's Raiders .

In Heart of the Swarm , Valerian helps Raynor and his Raiders escape into the Umojan Protectorate , where Kerrigan undergoes extensive testing in a research lab . The lab is discovered and attacked by a Dominion task force , and Valerian and Kerrigan escape on board the Hyperion , the Raiders ' flagship . Valerian is nearly psionically strangled by Kerrigan for leaving Raynor behind on the base . Valerian knew that his father would be willing to sacrifice him to destroy Kerrigan , even in spite of Hyperion captain Matt Horner warning the Dominion fleet that he was on board , and so he aided Kerrigan and the Raiders in searching for him . During the final assault against Korhal , Valerian recognized that Arcturus was beyond redemption , and asked only that Kerrigan minimize civilian casualties ; Kerrigan thus elected to attend his request , recognizing him as a different man from his father . Kerrigan killed Arcturus shortly thereafter . Following the death of his father and the departure of the Zerg , Valerian assumed the throne and became the new Emperor of the Dominion . He immediately went to work rebuilding the Dominion , and enacted new laws to eliminate the corruption and abuse of power that had occurred during his father 's reign . These reforms included abolishing forced military conscription and slave labor . He also reorganized a number of his father 's secret projects , such as Project Blackstone .

===== November Annabella " Nova " Terra =====

November Annabella Terra , call sign " Nova " , a.k.a. " Agent X41822N " , is a ghost agent and the protagonist of the StarCraft : Ghost sub @-@ series . Grey DeLisle provides the voice for Nova . Despite the indefinite postponement of the Ghost video game , she appears in Wings of Liberty and Heart of the Swarm as well as a series of novels , including StarCraft Ghost : Nova and StarCraft Ghost : Spectres . She is featured as a playable hero in Heroes of the Storm . Blizzard announced that Nova will also be the subject of her own RTS follow on titled Nova Covert Ops , which was released on March 29 , 2016 .

Nova is the daughter of one of the highly influential Confederate Old Families ; despite having unusually high psionic potential her father prevents her from being taken into the Confederate Ghost Program . However , after her family is murdered by an anti @-@ Confederate resistance

movement , Nova flees to the undercity of Tarsonis , where she is forced to work as an organized crime enforcer . Nova is rescued during the Zerg invasion of Tarsonis , and ends up in the possession of the newly formed Terran Dominion , who train her as a ghost . At her request , her past memories are erased .

===== Horace Warfield =====

General Horace Warfield is put in command of the Dominion forces to fight the second Zerg invasion , in Wings of Liberty . He served in the Confederate military under Arcturus Mengsk , and held a higher place among Mengsk 's advisors than Edmund Duke , who also abandoned the confederacy . His entire family was killed during the Zerg assault on Tarsonis due to the use of the psi @-@ emitters , about which Warfield is rumoured to have provided extremely valuable intelligence . In Heart of the Swarm , Warfield is defeated by Kerrigan and tells her to let the transports full of wounded troops leave the planet alive , calling her a traitor to humanity and stating that Raynor would be ashamed of her . Kerrigan , furious at the general 's comments , executes him but allows the transports to escape .

===== United Earth Directorate =====

===== Gerard DuGalle =====

Gerard DuGalle is the commanding admiral of the United Earth Directorate 's expeditionary force to the Koprulu Sector . DuGalle only appears in Brood War and is voiced by Jack Ritschel . Considered the UED 's most capable military leader , DuGalle , a Frenchman , is a staunch believer in the UED 's mission to pacify the sector and carries out his orders with precision . In Brood War , DuGalle leads the UED as it conquers the Terran Dominion ; however , despite his experience , DuGalle believes misinformation planted by former Confederate soldier Samir Duran regarding a psi disruptor , a device that disrupts Zerg communications , on Tarsonis . When DuGalle 's lifelong friend Alexei Stukov abandons the fleet , DuGalle allows Duran to assassinate Stukov as a traitor , only realizing his mistake too late . Nevertheless , DuGalle acts to prevent Duran destroying the psi disruptor and uses it to capture the Zerg Overmind on Char . However , as a result of demoralization , limited manpower and an alliance of enemies led by Kerrigan , the fleet is eventually pushed back and when a final attempt to recapture Char fails , DuGalle orders the retreat . Shortly before the UED fleet is overtaken by Zerg and destroyed , DuGalle composes a letter to his wife in which he admits responsibility for his closest friend 's death and commits suicide by a gunshot to the head .

===== Alexei Stukov =====

Alexei Stukov was the vice admiral and second @-@ in @-@ command of the United Earth Directorate 's expeditionary force . He first appears in Brood War , voiced by Cástulo Guerra ; he later reappears as one of Kerrigan 's lieutenants in the Zerg Swarm in Heart of the Swarm and Legacy of the Void , voiced by Victor Brandt . A man of Russian descent , his military career primarily revolves around secret research , though he is also noted as an excellent tactician . A close friend of DuGalle , Stukov will debate situations with the admiral but will subordinate himself to his friend 's higher rank . Stukov becomes suspicious of the motives of Samir Duran after the latter convinces DuGalle to destroy the psi disruptor . Believing the device to be the UED 's best hope to conquer the Zerg , Stukov instead takes the psi disruptor to Braxis but is tracked down and shot dead by Duran . With his dying breaths , Stukov convinces DuGalle that Duran is a traitor and to keep the psi disruptor running for the UED 's assault on the Zerg homeworld of Char . Stukov 's body is given a full funeral and UED propaganda portrays Stukov as a hero , claiming he died in combat on Char .

Stukov is later mysteriously revived by a Zerg cerebrate to make use of him for its own deeds . He

is first observed , apparently infested , by pirates raiding a secret science facility in the bonus mission " Deception " , a facility that Stukov subsequently destroys . Stukov later appears in another bonus map , " Mercenaries II " , in which he hires several mercenary groups to destroy some of his adversaries . In the StarCraft 64 secret mission " Resurrection " , Artanis sends a task force headed by Raynor to inject Stukov with an experimental serum ; the serum reverses the infestation effects and leaves Stukov healthy , albeit embittered . However , the Protoss cure would prove only temporary , and once Stukov was turned over to the Moebious Foundation for research purposes , the scientists re @-@ infested him in an attempt to replicate the cure , without success . Creative director Andy Chambers regards the resurrection as an experiment by the Zerg , while Metzen notes that Stukov 's resurrection had " really interesting hooks " . Blizzard 's former producer Bill Roper hoped that Stukov 's storyline will be developed further , noting that the character would only be reintroduced if Blizzard can " figure out the right way to do it " .

Stukov joins in the battle against a resurrected Duran , revealed to be a Xel 'Naga , in the Epilogue of Legacy of the Void . In an act of just vengeance , Stukov delivers the killing blow to Duran .

= = = Umojan Protectorate = = =

= = = Michael Daniel Liberty = = =

Michael Daniel Liberty is a terran news reporter whose affiliations have varied over time . He hates it when people such as his former editor @-@ in @-@ chief Handy Anderson calls him " Mickey " . Liberty is described as being " of normal height and proportions , if a little lanky . " He has dirty blond hair that is spattered with lighter striations of gray which is swept back in a ponytail to cover a bald spot . He has a liking for cigarettes , but keeps trying to quit . A few years after going freelance , Liberty remained the same in physical appearance , apart from an abundance of facial hair

= = Protoss characters = =

The Daelaam are the unified protoss protectorate organization representing all known protoss kindred , races , castes , and factions . Before the Brood Wars , Protoss society was divided ? the Khalai of the Protoss Empire , the exiled Nerazim , the heretic Tal 'Darim , and the hibernating Purifiers . Because of the Great War and subsequent Brood War , the former body collapsed and all branches of protoss were forced to band together in sharing knowledge , integrating technology , and for mutual survival .

= = = Khalai = = =

The Khala , or " The Path of Ascension " , was the religious law of the protoss , established after an era known as the " Aeon of Strife " that followed the departure of the Xel 'Naga . There are four distinct castes : The Khalai , or " The Enlightened Ones " , consisted a caste of artists , engineers , and scientists which constituted the majority of protoss society ; the Templar , consisted a caste of militarism , industrialism , and law enforcement charged with exploration and the defense of protoss interests ; the Preservers , consisted a caste of historians , educators , and archivists charged with maintaining the telepathic network that unified protoss society into the Khalai ; and the Judicators , consisted a caste of theologians , politicians , and judiciaries which formed the Conclave ruling class over protoss society .

= = = Tassadar = = =

Tassadar is a high templar who holds the rank of executor in the Khalai military . He appears in StarCraft and in several novels , most notably Queen of Blades . Tassadar is voiced by Michael Gough in StarCraft , with Michael Dorn playing the part in later appearances . Described as being

fascinated with , if somewhat wary of , the dark templar , Tassadar is the commander of the fleet that made first contact with the Terrans by destroying their colony of Chau Sara to contain Zerg infestation . However , Tassadar eventually disregards his orders to continue destroying worlds with no concern for the Terrans , and instead engages the Zerg by conventional means . After tracking the Zerg to their homeworld of Char , he encounters the dark templar Zeratul and Jim Raynor , forging a friendship with the two and learning how to use his psionic powers in conjunction with the powers of the dark templar .

The Khalai government sees Tassadar 's consortion with the dark templar as heretical and as a bigger threat to their society than the Zerg invasion of the Protoss homeworld Aiur , sending Aldaris and Artanis to arrest him . Artanis however , along with Fenix , sides with Tassadar , sparking a civil war between Tassadar 's followers and the government . The conflict is only ended when Tassadar demonstrates the effectiveness of the dark templar against the Zerg . With Raynor , Zeratul and Fenix , Tassadar breaks through the Zerg defences on Aiur to the Zerg Overmind ; Tassadar channels both his own psionic energies and those of the dark templar through the hull of his flagship and crashes it into the Overmind . The resulting discharge of energy destroys the Overmind and transcends Tassadar to a new level of spiritual existence ; Metzen refers to this transformation as becoming a " twilight messiah " .

By the events of StarCraft II : Wings of Liberty , Tassadar is believed dead by the Protoss , though he has become a legendary figure among them . However , when Zeratul visits the remains of the Overmind in his investigations into the Koprulu Sector 's future , Tassadar appears in spirit form and shows him a vision that the Overmind had originally shown him when he destroyed it . This vision foretold the fall of the galaxy to the Zerg Swarm led by the Xel 'naga Amon and his Protoss @-@ Zerg hybrids . This Tassadar turns out to be a projection of the Xel 'Naga Ourois and not the real Tassadar .

= = = = Fenix = = = =

Fenix is a praetor within the military of the Khalai . Bill Roper voices Fenix in both StarCraft and Brood War . A templar and an old friend of Tassadar 's , Fenix is a powerful and cunning leader , but remains distrustful towards the motives of the ruling judicator caste . Under the command of Aldaris , Fenix helps defend Aiur from the Zerg invasion , but eventually falls in the battle of Antioch when his position is overwhelmed by Zerg and his psi @-@ blades lose power . Nevertheless , Fenix is retrieved and integrated into a dragoon , a mechanical fire support unit designed to allow incapacitated warriors to continue military service . Fenix allies his templar forces with Tassadar 's upon the schism between Tassadar and the Protoss government , later leading a task force against the Overmind 's outer defenses , facilitating Zeratul 's assassination of a number of cerebrates and ultimately the death of the Overmind itself . Over this time , Fenix develops a strong friendship with Tassadar 's Terran companion Jim Raynor .

In Brood War , Fenix and Raynor remain behind as a rear guard when the Protoss evacuate the now Zerg @-@ overrun Aiur through a warp gate . They hold it until attacked by United Earth Directorate forces pursuing Arcturus Mengsk , upon which they escape through the gate , disabling it as they depart . With Raynor and Mengsk , Fenix enters into an alliance with Sarah Kerrigan against the UED , even leading the Zerg forces on a raiding mission for resources on Moria . However , after the UED is routed from their position on the Dominion capital world of Korhal , Kerrigan turns on her allies . Though unfazed by Kerrigan 's betrayal , Fenix is slain when Kerrigan 's Zerg launch a surprise attack against his base camp on Korhal . In StarCraft II : Heart of the Swarm , Raynor shows that he still harbors a grudge against Kerrigan for Fenix 's death after seeing her willingly become infested again after all his hard work in returning her to human form .

= = = = Rohana = = = =

Rohana was one of three grand preservers who helped create the arkships . When the Spear of Adun was reactivated , she served as a councilor to Hierarch Artanis .

Before her stasis aboard the Spear of Adun , Rohana was a driven protoss who was not afraid to seek out tasks others thought impossible . She displayed strict adherence to tradition , yet was creative when faced with the issues . After she was awakened , Rohana held on to the old ways of the Protoss Empire , openly speaking out against her Nerazim crew , Artanis ' Terran allies , and the reawakening of the Purifiers . She served as a reminder of the past , clinging to old traditions and ways , and refusing to cut her connection from the Khala even as Amon continued to possess her , stating knowledge and history was the only thing that brought unity to the protoss . Though Artanis valued her memories and her ability to see into Amon 's thoughts , he began to grow weary of her adherence to the old ways and her objections to his choices , becoming more of a critic than a councilor . Eventually , she came to terms with the Daelaam , and cut herself from the Khala , stating that perhaps history did not need to be recorded with perfect clarity

= = = = Selendis = = = =

Selendis is the executor of the Protoss military following the reunification of the race . The character is introduced in the novel Twilight and in the Wings of Liberty campaign , where she is played by Cree Summer . Selendis is fiercely loyal to her race 's ideals and completely dedicated to her responsibilities . A protégée of Artanis , she considers the dark templar to be a threat to her heritage but is willing to work beside them . Selendis is particularly eager to reclaim Aiur from the Zerg . Shortly after Artanis cleanses Shakuras of Zerg , Selendis takes part in an expedition to rescue three stranded heroes from Aiur ; however , the mission was sabotaged by Ulrezaj , who kills two of the trapped warriors . During this time , Selendis became aware of other Protoss survivors stranded on Aiur , but as it was not believed possible to save them , their existence is kept secret . Later , Selendis commands the defenses of the dark templar archives on Ehlna against attack by Zerg and Ulrezaj , resulting in Ulrezaj 's defeat .

In Wings of Liberty Selendis leads a force to the planet Haven , where refugees of Meinhoff and Agria have settled after the fall of their old homeworlds , to purge it with fire in order to eradicate a zerg virus which has infested several refugees . Raynor 's Raiders appear and are formally greeted by Selendis as past allies , Selendis explains her actions and intentions which leaves the player with one out of two options .

Either the player purges Haven in the Protoss ' place while trying to save as many uninfested refugees as possible , this option will have Selendis praise Raynor and calling him a " true friend of the Protoss " , but she will not appear afterwards .

In the other option Raynor sides with Ariel Hanson of Agria , who is the unofficial leader of the refugees , and her ideals of being able to create a cure for the Zerg Infestation . Selendis will lead her forces and attempt to burn the settlements with a Mothership while Raynor will attempt to destroy said ship and Protoss outposts which reinforces the Mothership 's shields . When successful Selendis and her remaining forces will retreat and comment on Raynor 's leading abilities as well as hope that his trust in the refugees is not unfounded .

In the last mission of the Protoss mini @-@ campaign Selendis appears as one of the heroes which makes their last stand against the Zerg and Hybrids and eventually perishes , her last words are an apology to Tassadar for not being strong enough . Her unit is a Carrier .

In Legacy of the Void , she serves as the Executor in the invasion of Aiur but falls under Amon 's control , like many other Protoss . She leads the golden armada against Artanis 's forces , who holds them out long enough for the Keystone to break them free from Amon 's control . Under Artanis 's urging , Selendis severs her nerve cord and urges her fellow templar to sever their cords as well , permanently freeing them from Amon 's grasp .

= = = = Aldaris = = = =

Aldaris is a member of the ruling judicator caste of Protoss society ; in StarCraft he acts as liaison between the player character and the Protoss government . He is voiced by Paul Eiding in both StarCraft and Brood War . Aldaris is a fanatical believer in the Khala and does not hesitate to judge

others through a strict interpretation of its tenets . As a result , he is outraged by Tassadar 's association with the dark templar , and following the outbreak of war between the judicator caste and the templar caste , commands the government forces against Tassadar . Aldaris captures Tassadar and puts him on trial for crimes of blasphemy and treason , though Tassadar is freed by Zeratul . Aldaris later witnesses the rebels successfully penetrate the Zerg 's core defenses , and wishes them luck in their final battle against the Overmind . In Brood War , Aldaris reluctantly allies with the dark templar when the Protoss flee Aiur for Shakuras . However , when Sarah Kerrigan is accepted as an ally by dark templar matriarch Raszagal , Aldaris is furious . While Artanis and Zeratul are absent , he discovers Raszagal is being mentally controlled by Kerrigan and instigates a rebellion amongst the Khalai refugees . When his insurrection is thwarted , the judicator tries to explain his actions to Artanis and Zeratul , but is murdered by Kerrigan before he can reveal her involvement .

===== Taldarin =====

Ancient Protoss , a protoss dragoon , holding the rank of praetor . He was introduced in the StarCraft 64 map , Resurrection IV . Along with Jim Raynor took part in the mission on Braxis to de @-@ infest Alexei Stukov . To date , it is his only appearance .

===== Karax =====

Karax is a Khalai phasesmith . An expert in weapons , armor and ships . Karax is one of the most precise of protoss engineers . Over the course of the war against Amon , he was able to rise above his worker origins , serving as an important part of the war effort . Karax is shorter and stockier than most protoss . The armor he wears also differs in that it is more functional than ceremonial . Karax was among the Golden Armada when it assaulted Aiur . [1] [3] After Amon forced the protoss into retreat , he guided Hierarch Artanis through the Spear of Adun , explaining its systems , and how he had given orders for the Templar in stasis to have their nerve cords removed , as per Amon 's corruption of the Khala . He had already been forced to sever his own nerve cords , but had attached cybernetic tentacles to the tips , effectively giving him extra means of physical manipulation

===== Urun =====

Urun is the leader of the Auriga Tribe and a member of the Hierarchy . He wished to retake Aiur for the glory of the protoss .

Urun appears in " Wings of Liberty " leading the remnants of the Protoss air force in battle during the end of the Protoss mini @-@ campaign , fighting against the hybrids and the enslaved Zerg Swarm .

===== Adun =====

Adun was a protoss warrior and strategist who led the Templar shortly before the exile of the Nerazim . All protoss revered him as a hero . Adun 's legacy achieved exalted status was woven into protoss lore , language and culture . En Taro Adun ! (" In honor of Adun ! ") became both a salutation and a battle cry used by the Kahlai ; Adun Toridas (" May Adun give you sanctuary ") became a standard Nerazim expression . Both the Citadel of Adun and the Spear of Adun was named for him . The zerg , having gained knowledge of Adun 's significance to the protoss , referred to their enemies as " The Children of Adun . "

===== Lasarra =====

Lasarra was a female protoss scientist stationed on Kaldir when it was attacked by zerg led by

Sarah Kerrigan . The protoss were defeated ; Lasarra was captured during the attack on Kaldir at the request of Abathur , who wanted to experiment on her even though it was known that the protoss could not be infested . Kerrigan agreed to spare Lasarra 's life until she found a use for her . During her time onboard Kerrigan 's leviathan , Lasarra interacted with Kerrigan a number of times . Kerrigan tried to justify her actions on Kaldir , saying that if the protoss could contact Shakuras , Kerrigan would not have been able to survive . However , Lasarra is unconvinced , saying that self @-@ preservation is no justification for killing so many innocents . Eventually , Kerrigan admitted she could not and would not justify her actions , stating that both the zerg and protoss were killers . Eventually , as one of the protoss ships was able to break through the zerg blockade , Lasarra was implanted with a special larva and allowed to warp in to that ship . The larva devoured her and then other lifeforms being stored on the ship , evading detection . It eventually transformed into a broodmother , Niadra , which bred a new brood that infested the ship , killing every protoss on board . Kerrigan later showed some regret over Lasarra 's death , as she told Izsha that she did not enjoy having to kill her .

= = = = Kaldalis = = = =

Kaldalis is a protoss zealot and a close friend of Hierarch Artanis . Kaldalis takes pride in the history of the protoss and the Khala , though does not express prejudice towards the Nerazim , and believes that driving them away was a sin . A scar runs down his left eye . Kaldalis survived the zerg conquest of Aiur during the Great War . Afterwards , he joined the Protoss Protectorate led by Hierarch Artanis . Kaldalis was impressed by Artanis ' vision of a unified protoss society , the Daelaam : incorporating the cultures of Khalai , Nerazim , Tal 'Darim and Purifiers .

After the Second Great War , the Protectorate launched its campaign to reclaim Aiur . As a zealot , Kaldalis volunteered to be part of the Akhundelar , the " Tip of the Spear " ; the Akhundelar are the pre @-@ invasion vanguard spec @-@ ops troops expected to suffer heavy casualties . On the eve of battle , Kaldalis met privately with Artanis on Saalok . Artanis doubted that the reclamation was worth the casualties and was surprised to learn Kaldalis had volunteered to join the Akhundelar . Kaldalis declared the hierarch 's vision of protoss unity gave him hope , and that it was a future he was willing to die for . Kaldalis deployed to the surface of Aiur with two other zealots , and two high templar . Their task was to defend a probe warping in a pylon , thereby establish a foothold . The group was attacked by zerg from atop a hill , and from burrows around them . Eventually , only Kaldalis remained to face the enemy . However , enough time had been bought for the pylon to materialize , and Kaldalis was reinforced by zealots warping in .

= = = = Karass = = = =

Praetor Karass was a protoss high templar . His mastery of psionic powers was considered legendary . On the eve of the Second Great War , Karass and his troops journeyed to Ulaan in pursuit of Infested Kerrigan . There he met the Prelate Zeratul ; the dark templar was seeking information on the hybrids . The praetor put himself at Zeratul 's disposal and the pair broke through zerg patrols and found the prophecy Zeratul and Kerrigan sought . Kerrigan attacked the outnumbered protoss shortly afterward . Karass instructed Zeratul to escape with the information ; the praetor and his troops proceeded to buy Zeratul time with their lives . The dark templar reluctantly withdrew aboard Void Seeker , and swore Karass ' sacrifice would not be in vain .

= = = = Talis = = = =

Talis was a protoss Praetor . She was seen in the prologue of the Legacy of the Void , when Zeratul helped her defeat Amon 's forces . She defends the Xel 'Naga temple from both Hybrid and Tal 'Darim attacks , allowing Zeratul to escape , before dying from countless void shades and Hybrid attacking her .

== Nerazim ==

The Nerazim , or " The Dark Ones " , were exiled from Aiur for refusing to submit to the communal will of the Khala . They are warriors who strike from the shadows , and remain dedicated defenders of their people despite their banishment . After the devastation of Aiur in StarCraft , the Nerazim took in their Khalai brethren on their shadowy homeworld of Shakuras , where both sides work to rebuild Protoss society .

=== Zeratul ===

Zeratul is a Nerazim prelate and one of the main Protoss protagonists . The character is voiced by Jack Ritschel in StarCraft and Brood War , and by Fred Tatasciore in all three parts of StarCraft II . A renowned psionic warrior and assassin , Zeratul is somewhat secretive and calculating , but is nevertheless honorable and loyal to his species . He teaches Tassadar how to use dark templar energies and facilitates the final attack on the Overmind by slaying several cerebrates . Following the death of the Overmind , Zeratul tries to put in motion the reunification of the Khalai survivors with the wayward dark templar and unmask the secrets of Samir Duran 's experiments . After Duran revealed he had been breeding Protoss @-@ Zerg hybrids for a greater master , Zeratul set out to find Duran 's master and his plan , which encompasses all of his activities in the three installments of StarCraft II . In Wings of Liberty , he gives Jim Raynor a crystal with his memories to emphasize the importance of the latter 's mission to de @-@ infest Kerrigan . In Heart of the Swarm , he guides Kerrigan to Zerus , the original home of the Zerg , and encourages her to re @-@ infest herself so she can stop Amon , a fallen Xel 'naga who is revealed to be the master of Duran and seeks to destroy all life in the Korpulu Sector and remold it in his image . Zeratul will also feature in the events of Legacy of the Void (originally believed to be the central character , the actual protagonist of the story is Artanis) . He appears early on but is killed as he severs Artanis 's nerve cords to cut him off from Amon 's control . He is described by GameSpot as a " dark warrior who champions the light " and a " willing scapegoat " for his people and ranked in their top ten heroes chart .

The character of Zeratul was created by Blizzard Entertainment 's Chris Metzen , with concept art produced by other Blizzard artists such as Samwise Didier . Chris Metzen mentioned that Ritschel died some time during the development of the game , and thus Fred Tatasciore has taken over as the new voice actor . Tatasciore described Zeratul as an incredible character , a " Darth Vader " who invests so much in the survival of things , and one of the best characters he has ever played . GameSpot described all the characters in StarCraft as " three @-@ dimensional , full of personality and complexity " , and then continued to comment : " Yet even among this star @-@ studded cast , it is Zeratul who stands out as the most noble of heroes , although he is shrouded in a cloak of mystery and aloofness " .

=== Vorazun ===

Vorazun is a Nerazim matriarch , daughter to Raszagal , second @-@ in @-@ command to Artanis , and the leader of the surviving Nerazim on Shakuras . She is a skilled warrior , and dedicated to her people . Vorazun is deeply committed to the individuality and culture of her people . While she originally feared the cultural change the Daelaam was bringing to her people , she nonetheless remained committed to its ideals in a unified protoss nation .

Vorazun had a complicated relationship with Artanis , even before her ascension to Matriarch . Artanis originally believed she was against his vision on unification . Despite Vorazun 's many objections , she nominated Artanis for the role of Hierarch of the Daelaam . By the End War , Vorazun gained a greater deal of respect for Artanis . After the destruction of Shakuras and witnessing him survive against countless foes alone , she claimed Artanis had partaken and completed the " Shadow Walk " , becoming Dark Templar . She also comforted Artanis after he killed Zeratul while under Amon 's control .

Vorazun had accused Zeratul of treason against the Nerazim for his role in the death of her mother

. Despite Artanis ' protests regarding Raszagal 's corruption by Kerrigan , she stated she would always hold Zeratul in contempt . It wasn 't until following Zeratul 's prophecy 's that lead to Ulnar , she admitted that he was closer to the truth than anyone and after finally realizing that Zeratul 's dedication to the Xel 'naga prophecy 's gave the protoss hope , she vowed to honor him with Artanis .

===== Raszagal =====

Raszagal was the matriarch of the Nerazim on Shakuras , and mother to Vorazun . The character appears in Brood War , where she is voiced by Debra DeLiso , and in the novel Shadow Hunters . Described as one of the oldest living Protoss and imbued with tremendous psychic powers , she is one of the few to clearly remember the Protoss homeworld from before the exile of the Nerazim . During her youth , Raszagal was important in ensuring the dark templar were only exiled , rather than exterminated . In Brood War , Raszagal directs Zeratul and Artanis to cleanse the Zerg from Shakuras and welcomes Sarah Kerrigan as an ally in their mission . This spurs Aldaris to rebellion ; Raszagal consequently orders his death . Kerrigan and Samir Duran later kidnap Raszagal from Shakuras , using her to blackmail Zeratul into killing the second Overmind . It quickly becomes apparent that Kerrigan has mentally subverted Raszagal and has been using her to manipulate events from the beginning . Zeratul captures Raszagal , but is unable to hold off the Zerg forces long enough to escape . Realizing that the matriarch is beyond redemption from Kerrigan 's influence , Zeratul kills Raszagal . Raszagal 's mind is freed by the lethal blow , and she dies thanking Zeratul for releasing her , naming him as her successor as leader of the dark templar .

===== Mohandar =====

Mohandar is a prelate within the Nerazim , the elderly leader of the Nerazim and member of the Hierarchy . He believes that Zeratul should return to Shakuras .

In 2503 , [3] Mohandar attended a meeting of the Hierarchy to discuss Zamara , a missing preserver . There were none on Shakuras . A terran female , Rosemary Dahl , attended the meeting , along with Vartanil (a survivor from Aiur) and Executor Selendis ; she was subject to protoss anti @-@ female bias (due to their experiences with Sarah Kerrigan) . Among the topics of conversation covered were Ulrezaj , a powerful dark archon and old enemy of the Khalai . During the meeting , Mohandar deferred to the judgment of Hierarch Artanis . Artanis decided to launch an expedition to rescue the preserver , but didn 't know where to start . Mohandar , however , believed he knew where Zamara was going ? Ehl'na , a Nerazim sanctuary moon . There , the Nerazim , who had no preservers , used modified khaydarin crystals to store memories .

Mohandar tried to insist on only sending Nerazim to the sanctuary , but Selendis talked him into allowing a small number of templar warriors to accompany the expedition . He agreed , but only if there was no disrespect . Vartanil went along with them , and (much to Mohandar 's annoyance) so did Dahl . Mohandar pointed out the protoss were still evaluating her , a terran female .

He took part in the mission to Ehl'na . Once at the Alys 'aril (the center where Nerazim memories were preserved) he met Jake Ramsey (the terran carrying Zamara 's essence) and Zeratul . The latter made ready to leave . Mohandar told him his place was on Shakuras within the Hierarchy . Zeratul promised to return to Shakuras soon .

Mohandar appears once in Zeratul 's apocalyptic vision at the end of the Protoss mini @-@ campaign in Wings of Liberty . By this time , it is implied that he is the most senior member of the Dark Templar remaining aside from Zeratul .

Mohandar appears in the StarCraft II short story Children of the Void , set before Legacy of the Void . He was killed while quelling a Nerazim uprising in the capital city of Talemattros with Matriarch Vorazun .

===== Ulrezaj =====

Ulrezaj is a Nerazim rebel who believes that the Khalai Protoss should either be removed from Shakuras or exterminated . He is introduced in the downloadable Brood War campaign " Enslavers : Dark Vengeance " , and later appears as the antagonist of the novels Shadow Hunters and Twilight . Brought up as a scholar on the moon of Ehl'na , Ulrezaj begins to abuse his position by learning from prohibited sources of information . Resenting the exile of the dark templar from Aiur , he abandons his career and takes up arms against the Khalai Protoss as they establish themselves on Shakuras . He later uses the knowledge learned from his early days to become a dark archon ; an immensely powerful psionic being created by several Protoss merging . Allying with a Terran smuggler , Alan Schezar , Ulrezaj moves an orbital base over Shakuras ; Ulrezaj uses Schezar 's resources to mutate Zerg to attack the Khalai Protoss , while an EMP device disables Shakuras ' power grid . Though defeated by Zeratul 's forces , Ulrezaj escapes .

Ulrezaj reappears several years later , residing on Aiur where he is manipulating a faction of Protoss survivors who were not evacuated . Ulrezaj uses these Protoss to attempt to capture a Terran archaeologist , Jacob Ramsey , who has the powerful mind of a Protoss archivist , Zamara , residing in his own mind ; their failure to do so leads to Ulrezaj personally trying to take Ramsey , but the archaeologist escapes through a warp gate while both Zerg and Valerian Mengsk 's forces also attempt to capture him . Ulrezaj traces Ramsey to Ehl'na , breaking through the defenses of both the Protoss and the Dominion . However , Zamara uses her last energy to lock Ulrezaj 's mind into a storage crystal , sacrificing herself to keep Ulrezaj trapped .

== = Tal 'Darim = = =

The Tal 'Darim , or " The Forged Ones " are a fanatical sect of Protoss cut off from the Khala , who actively worship the Xel 'Naga as gods . They are one of the antagonists in every game , and serve Amon , to rebuild the universe in his name . However , they become allies with Artanis after Alarak defeats Ma 'Lash in the rite of Rak 'Shir and becomes leader , vowing to bring down Amon .

== = = Alarak = = = =

Alarak (voiced by John de Lancie) is a central figure of the Tal 'Darim in the service of Amon . He was first described in the short story Ascension , one of the lead @-@ up short stories before the release of Legacy of the Void . In the story , he holds the title of Fourth Ascendant , a minor leader in the Tal 'Darim hierarchy , known as the " Chain of Ascension " ; one can only advance in rank through Rak 'Shir , a ritual trial by combat of their immediate superior . When the First Ascendant , Nuroka , challenges Highlord Ma 'Lash for leadership of the Tal 'Darim , Alarak remains neutral , until Ma 'Lash seemed on the brink of defeat ; he then declared for him , offering his psionic strength , allowing Ma 'Lash to defeat Nuroka . With the First , Second , and Third Ascendants claimed in the battle , Alarak is named First Ascendant ; however , Ma 'Lash is wary , and threatens a slow and painful death if Alarak betrays him .

Throughout the ritual , Alarak is filled with doubts as to Amon 's goals , which becomes a betrayal as Amon begins to phase out the Tal 'Darim and other " mortal " forces , relying more and more on his hybrid . Alarak thus forms an alliance with Artanis , who pledges to aid in bringing down Ma 'Lash and removing the Tal 'Darim from Amon 's service . With the aid of Artanis ' forces , Alarak challenges Ma 'Lash to Rak 'Shir and defeats him , becoming the new Highlord of the Tal 'Darim . Declaring that Amon had lied to them , Alarak promises revenge against Amon , and joins force with Artanis . After Amon is destroyed , Alarak decides to find a new homeworld for the Tal 'Darim rather than join the remaining protoss on Aiur , though he allows any of his people who wish it one chance to remain with Artanis .

Alarak , in Legacy of the Void , possess immense psionic powers and is always rude and arrogant , exhibiting a sadistic and totalitarian personality . He renounces the concept of freedom and holds zero respect for anything other than the ability to slaughter .

== = = Ma 'Lash = = = =

Ma 'Lash was the Highlord of the Tal 'Darim . He is featured in Legacy of the Void and in the short story Ascension . Ma 'Lash used brute force to become the Highlord . He enjoys killing his challengers slowly , barely keeping them alive while at the verge of being extinguished . In Legacy of the Void , Alarak invokes the rite of Rak 'Shir ; Ma 'Lash loses and dies .

= = = = Nuroka = = = =

= = = = Guraj = = = =

= = = = Zenish = = = =

= = = = Ji 'nara = = = =

Ji 'nara was the First Ascendant , ater Second Ascendant of the Tal 'darim .

= = = = Nyon = = = =

Nyon is a Tal 'Darim executor who Raynor 's Raiders fight in Wings of Liberty for pieces of Xel 'Naga artifacts . He is killed later in the game , when the Raiders destroy his mothership .

= = = = Felanis = = = =

He was the leader of the Tal 'darim who knew the truth behind the organization .

= = = Purifiers = = =

The purifiers are a synthetic race conceived as an " ultimate fighting force " at a time when protoss scientists and engineers were making technological advancements in intelligent and sentient robotics .

= = = = Talandar = = = =

In Legacy of the Void , Artanis ' forces uncover a Purifier robot whose personality and memories was cloned from Fenix . This Purifier thinks he is Fenix in a dragoon shell . Artanis is overjoyed to meet this manifestation of his old comrade and is in no rush to tell him the truth , allowing him to discover it at a pace he is comfortable with , by studying the combat logs . Eventually , upon learning more about Fenix , he decides to have his name changed to ' Talandar ' . He becomes the ambassador between the Daelaam and the Purifiers , convincing them to join force . He follows Artanis in battle to reclaim their homeworld .

= = = = Clolarion = = = =

Clolarion was a legendary protoss executor , whose deeds were taught to Templar warriors long after his death . Because of his status , Clolarion was chosen to take part in the purifier program . His mind was scanned into a robotic shell , in an attempt to recreate and preserve the greatest warriors of the Templar . The Clolarion purifier was sealed in Cybros along with the rest of the purifiers after their rebellion against the Conclave .

In 2506 , during the End War , the Daelaam under the command of Hierarch Artanis came to Cybros to reactivate the purifiers . Clolarion acted as their spokesman and leader during the mission

, and ordered the Purifiers to engage the zerg on the station , and then purified the surface of Endion , the forest moon Cybros orbited . With the battle over , Artanis asked the purifiers to join the Daelaam in the war against Amon . Clolarion questioned his sincerity and only accepted an alliance on the condition of Talandar being their ambassador .

= = Zerg characters = =

The Zerg Swarm is an evolving hivemind : a ruthless amalgamation of biologically advanced , parasitoid @-@ arthropodal species , directed by an instinctive " adapt or die " -mentality . The volcanic world of Char serves as The Swarm 's " primary hive cluster " in the Koprulu sector . Dedicated to the pursuit of " genetic perfection " , the zerg assimilate advanced species across the galaxy , incorporating useful genetic code . They are a virus , they rapidly consume , mutate , adapt , and propagate in minutes . They thrive in the most inhospitable environments that creates superior strains in the process . They are named " The Swarm " per their seemingly endless force deployments and relentless assaults they employ to overwhelm their foes : for The Swarm , sacrificing thousands to destroy or assimilate each one of their enemy 's soldiers is a trivial matter .

= = = Queen of Blades 's Zerg Swarm = = =

The Swarm was reunited under Kerrigan at the end of the Brood War . The cerebrates were eliminated from the Swarm but broods such as the Char Brood remained .

= = = = Broodmothers = = = =

Between the end of the Brood War and Kerrigan 's defeat on Char , Kerrigan created numerous broodmothers , powerful queens , each of which would lead a brood . The queens were ordered to evolve and only submit to the will of the strongest leader , which became a problem upon Kerrigan 's defeat . The brood mothers scattered their broods . Kerrigan was forced to follow and attempt to subdue them . Following the eradication of the last cerebrates in Brood War , Kerrigan creates powerful and intelligent broodmothers to fulfill their role in the Swarm . Kerrigan commanded the broodmothers " to fight , to conquer , to be strong and to lead by force of will " . Through decentralizing command hierarchy , Kerrigan ensured the Zerg Swarm could function without leadership . The strongest of these zerg broods , The Zagara Brood , was led by Zagara . Following Kerrigan 's defeat and de @-@ infestation on Char , the Zagara brood remained there , seeking large egg piles in an acid marsh . Despite General Horace Warfield 's extermination campaign against the zerg remaining on the planet , the brood thrived while all others perished . Its prosperity was interrupted however , when Kerrigan returned to Char and subjugated Zagara , thereby putting the brood under Kerrigan 's control .

= = = = = Zagara = = = = =

Zagara is a zerg broodmother , Kerrigan 's second @-@ in @-@ command , and the leader of the Zagara Brood . In the absence of the Queen of Blades , Zagara sought to reunite the Swarm under her own leadership . She rallied the feral zerg of Char to her side , and managed to hold out against the genocidal forces of General Horace Warfield . However , her brute tactics prevented her from achieving victory . When Kerrigan returned to Char , Zagara challenged her authority due to her regained humanity , thus deeming her unworthy to lead the Swarm . Once defeated by Kerrigan , the broodmother was forgiven and rejoined Kerrigan 's Zerg Swarm forces . Her renewed loyalty is not left unrewarded though , as once Kerrigan ascends to become a Xel 'naga , she relinquishes all command over the Zerg Swarm to Zagara , making her the new " Queen of Blades " , but after being evolved by Abathur and subjected to Kerrigan 's teaching her some lessons . She is seen in the Epilogue , establishing a foothold over dozens of systems to grant a safe haven for the Zerg Swarm as it rebuilds from the long conflict against the Terrans , the Protoss and Amon 's Hybrids forces .

===== Niadra =====

Niadra is a zerg broodmother and leader of the Niadra Brood . She was created by Sarah Kerrigan when she battled the protoss on Kaldir . Although she succeeded in preventing them from contacting the Golden Armada , one of the protoss ships attempted to flee from the planet and travel to Shakuras . To prevent them from surviving , Kerrigan placed a parasitic larva within the captured protoss colonist Lasarra and dropped the psionic veil that prevented her from being warped back to her people . After being teleported to the ship , the protoss attempted to warn the Templar but died as the parasitic larva spawned from her body . Shortly afterwards , it began infesting the local animals kept onboard by the protoss and hid within the ventilation shafts where it found a safe location to mature into a queen . Kerrigan gave her the name Niadra and tasked her with eliminating all the protoss on board the ship , a task she accomplished with assistance from her zerg offspring . After damaging the vessel 's warp drive , Niadra and her brood became the only occupants of the craft , but they had traveled beyond the reach of Kerrigan 's ability to communicate . With few other options , Niadra decided to continue the Queen of Blades ' last directives : to survive , grow her brood , and destroy the protoss .

===== Rokarr =====

Rokarr is a zerg broodmother and leader of the Rokarr Brood . Her brood attacked Terran Dominion fortification at the Sigma Centari platform , but the assault stalemated . Rokarr ordered the destruction of local feral brood lords , whose essence was then used to create more of them . The brood lords easily destroyed the Dominion fortification .

===== Naktul =====

Naktul is a zerg broodmother , and leader of the Naktul Brood . Naktul and her brood were based on Phaeton following the fragmentation of the Swarm during the Second Great War . The Terran Dominion deployed a Drakken pulse cannon on the surface to interdict the orbital rendezvous location for ships of Raynor 's Raiders and their allies fleeing a Dominion attack on XT39323 . When Sarah Kerrigan ? deinfested since the Battle of Char ? arrived to destroy the cannon , Naktul still regarded Kerrigan as " The Queen of Blades " and zerg leader and offered her immediate support . Kerrigan was uncomfortable with this acclamation , but nonetheless accepted the brood 's assistance to destroy the cannon . In spite of her early support , Naktul was amongst the last broodmother to rejoin the Swarm when Kerrigan 's attack on Korhal drew close . Naktul contacted the Swarm as a representative of the remaining renegade broodmothers , and conveyed their wishes to rejoin the Swarm . Kerrigan sent them to destroy enemy strongholds across the Sector to test them .

===== Kilysa =====

Kilysa is a zerg broodmother , and leader of the Kilysa Brood . When Kilysa asked to rejoin the Swarm , Sarah Kerrigan ordered her to destroy Mistaff IV to as a test . During the invasion of Korhal , Kilysa had her leviathans formed a blockade and suppressed Dominion fleets reinforcement into the Korhal system .

===== Nafash =====

Nafash was a zerg broodmother , and leader of the Nafash Brood . Hoping to make the Swarm stronger by evolving a way to deal with extreme cold , Sarah Kerrigan sent Nafash and her brood to infest Kaldir . After Kerrigan 's deinfestation , Nafash sought to create her own Swarm . Shortly after setting up a hive , Nafash moved off into the ice valleys . When the protoss struck , Nafash fell back

to prepared positions . The protoss hunted her down and killed her .

===== Ryloth =====

Ryloth is a zerg broodmother , and leader of the Ryloth Brood . During the Second Great War she kept her large brood out of harm 's way until Sarah Kerrigan returned from Zerus . When she asked to rejoin the Swarm , Kerrigan ordered her to destroy Jontur II , a Dominion shipbuilding world . Her brood on Marek V was almost exterminated by Prometheus Company , but was saved by Kerrigan 's brood .

===== Izsha =====

Izsha is a zerg advisor in service to Sarah Kerrigan . She is a unique type of zerg ; one of a kind . Izsha exemplifies a midpoint for Kerrigan , standing between Kerrigan 's cold rationality and the feral nature of the Swarm . She harkens back to the ideology of the Overmind , but is still a rational individual . In earlier times , Kerrigan used her to store her thoughts and plans . On at least one occasion she entrusted Izsha with a plan to infest a planet using the hyper @-@ evolutionary virus through its water supply . Izsha reunited with Kerrigan following the latter 's de @-@ infestation and subsequent return to the Swarm . She served as an advisor , recalling memories from Kerrigan 's time as the Queen of Blades , and helping her to reclaim the Swarm while remaining attached to her queen 's leviathan .

While Abathur was designed to be " evil , " the concept of Izsha was to strike a balance between human and monster . Unlike Abathur , Izsha was to have a face that the player could talk and relate to , one that Kerrigan could have more of an emotional connection with .

===== Abathur =====

Abathur is a unique super intelligent zerg @-@ biologist creature , created from numerous zerg species . He is the swarm zerg 's evolutionary master craftsman and archivist of the entire Swarm 's DNA library . Arrogant and impatient , Abathur loves biodiversity , despises extinction , and instinctively wants to " eat " anything strange or different so that he can absorb , catalogue and understand it . Abathur is well mannered and is constantly connecting DNA , experimenting on strains and studying the Swarm 's enemies . He does this by " consuming " creatures and gaining access to their genetic code . Abathur perceives other beings in terms of their raw genetic material , not as sentient beings .

The quest for ' purity ' was retained in the zerg psyche , becoming a pseudo @-@ religious concept to them . Through the quest for ' perfection ' the zerg were set on a steady state of evolution and conflict . The core idea of this ' religion ' was that there was a state that the zerg could reach where they no longer needed to evolve , that their evolutionary form would never have to change again because they could already adapt to any situation . Abathur accepts that the Overmind 's instinctive desire for " true perfection " is impossible for the zerg swarm to achieve , yet reasoned that " ... chasing perfection was tactically sound regardless . " Instead , Abathur believed it is " purpose " which makes the zerg strong . Abathur states that without an overriding will , " feral zerg " are lesser than beasts , much like he was after the death of the Overmind . Abathur is personally responsible for the continuation of the zerg @-@ species . He undertakes each experiment as though the survival of the species depends on it alone , and tolerates no genetic regression or evolutionary backstep .

===== Infested Stukov =====

The infested incarnation of Alexei Stukov makes an appearance in StarCraft II : Heart of the Swarm , voiced by Victor Brandt . Following Sarah Kerrigan 's transformation on Zerus , Stukov contacted her and told her about the experiments being performed on Skygeirr Platform . After defeating the

shapeshifter , " Emil Narud " , and his hybrids , Stukov joined the Swarm . Alexei Stukov was granted control of the Stukov Brood ; a brood consisting strains of infestors , infested terrans and aberrations . During the Battle of Korhal , Stukov 's brood attacked Dominion entrenchments .

According to Stukov , he escaped his Moebius captors after being re @-@ infested and learned that the foundation is secretly breeding Protoss @-@ Zerg hybrids at the request of Arcturus Mengsk . Although not a hybrid himself , Stukov oddly seems to possess an amalgamation of Protoss and Zerg abilities and characteristics , though this likely resulted from his exposure to the Protoss anti @-@ infestation cure . Once the lab breeding the hybrid is destroyed , he realizes that he has no purpose and cannot return to Earth or any Terran faction as an infested human . Kerrigan offers him a position in the Swarm as a brood leader until he makes up his mind , and Stukov ultimately decides to stay with the Swarm until the end .

Stukov returns in StarCraft II : Legacy of the Void during the invasion of the Void . During the invasion , Stukov helps kill the Shapeshifter , reversing the position of how Stukov met his demise during Brood War (where he was killed by the Shapeshifter , disguised as a former Confederate ally .)

===== Dehaka =====

Dehaka is a primal zerg pack leader from Zerus who is fixated on adaptation and collecting raw genetic material , which he refers to as " essence " ; for Dekaha , " essence " is survival against extinction . Dehaka lost his large right arm prior to the Swarm 's return to Zerus ; it was later to be found in the same area where Sarah Kerrigan defeated the other primal pack leaders . When the Zerg Swarm returned to Zerus , Dehaka initially opted to simply observe the Swarm and Kerrigan . He witnessed the newcomers awaken Zurvan and the primal @-@ infestation of Kerrigan . Dehaka perceived Kerrigan as the strongest of the zerg pack leaders . He and his pack welcomed the new power by allying with the Swarm , believing Kerrigan would lead them to new " essence " . Dehaka correctly predicted that the other zerg pack leaders would refuse to submit and " adapt " ; the other pack leaders were destroyed by Kerrigan , including Zurvan . Kerrigan confronted Dehaka afterwards , confirming that Dehaka had known that Zurvan would turn on her . Dehaka did not deny this , responding with " one zerg would grow strong , the other would fall " . Dehaka remained with the Zerg Swarm .

===== Overmind 's Zerg Swarm =====

The first broods were formed by the Overmind , with the direction of each brood being delegated to a cerebrate . A brood was engineered for a specific function , which impacted its numerical strength and the diversity of its strains . The Terrans gave the Great War broods reporting names based on beasts found in Earth mythology . The Command Wing broods were responsible for defending the Overmind and searching for new species for assimilation . These broods did not engage in front @-@ line combat unless necessary . The Command Wing included the Tiamat Brood , Baelrog Brood , and Fenris Brood . The Attack Wing broods were the Swarm 's front @-@ line forces , meant to conquer and occupy worlds . The wing 's primary broods were amongst the largest in the Swarm . The Attack Wing included the Garm Brood , Jormungand Brood , and Surtur Brood .

===== The Overmind =====

The Overmind is the center of the Zerg Swarm 's hive mind society , created by the Xel 'Naga as a single consciousness for their experiments on the Zerg . It is the antagonist of StarCraft , where it is voiced by Jack Ritschel ; Paul Eiding voices the character in Wings of Liberty . At some point during its creation , it was secretly enslaved by the fallen Xel 'Naga Amon , who implanted it with a directive to destroy the Protoss and bound the Zerg to a hive mind . The Overmind becomes aware of Xel 'Naga , attacking and assimilating its masters . Through this , the Overmind learns of the existence of the Protoss and is determined to assimilate the fellow Xel 'Naga @-@ empowered species ,

believing this will result in perfection . To provide the necessary force to overcome the Protoss , the Overmind targets the psionic potential of the Terrans for assimilation . He also assimilated Sarah Kerrigan so as to create a weapon to free the Zerg from the control of his Dark Master . The Zerg and Protoss clash on various Terran worlds , eventually leading to Zeratul assassinating the cerebrate Zasz . Zasz 's death momentarily links the minds of the Overmind and Zeratul , allowing Overmind to learn the location of the Protoss homeworld Aiur . The Overmind quickly launches an invasion of Aiur and manifests itself on the planet 's surface . Following a lengthy and costly campaign on Aiur , Tassadar harnesses the energies of the dark templar to strike at the Overmind directly , disintegrating it .

Although no longer a major character in the story , the remains of the original Overmind appear again in StarCraft II . Following the interpretation of the prophetic fragments recovered by Zeratul on Ulaan by the Preservers of Zhakul , Zeratul deduces that the " Great Hungerer " referenced by the prophecy refers to the Zerg Overmind , and travels to Aiur to recover whatever memories lingered within the remains of the Overmind 's husk . In the course of his investigation Zeratul encounters the spirit of Tassadar , who passes on vital information he obtained from the Overmind concerning the Queen of Blades , the Hybrid , and the Overmind 's vision of one possible future brought about due to the death of Kerrigan . Alongside Kerrigan , the Overmind was rated the eighth most diabolical video game villain by GamePro .

== == Cerebrates == ==

Cerebrates are secondary agents in the Zerg Swarm , each of which commands an individual brood of Zerg that possesses a distinct tactical role within the hierarchy . Alongside the Overmind , the cerebrates are the only Zerg with full sapience , each with its own personality and methods , although they are genetically incapable of disobeying the Overmind . Cerebrates can be reincarnated by the Overmind upon death , though dark templar energies are capable of preventing this . The death of a cerebrate causes the Overmind to lose control of its respective brood , which will then run amok .

== == Daggoth == ==

Daggoth was the commander @-@ in @-@ chief of the entire zerg swarm war @-@ machine . As the highest ranking cerebrate , Daggoth was a tactical genius in command of the Tiamat Brood , the largest and most powerful brood in the Zerg Swarm . Voiced by Micky Neilson , Daggoth is the most strong @-@ willed and ferocious of the cerebrates . It trains the player character in the Zerg campaign of StarCraft and dispenses forces to protect Kerrigan following her transformation . Daggoth was charged with protecting the Overmind itself . In the wake of the Overmind 's death , Daggoth immediately takes command of the fractured Zerg broods , annihilated several renegade zerg broods , and ordered several cerebrates to merge to form a new Overmind .

== == Zasz == ==

The second most prominent cerebrate is Zasz , who commands the first strike Garm Brood . A clever but somewhat questioning leader , Zasz is voiced by Bill Roper in StarCraft . Kerrigan often argues with Zasz over her impulsive and seemingly rebellious actions ; despite the Overmind 's assurance that Kerrigan is loyal , Zasz remains untrusting . However , while Tassadar distracts the attention of Kerrigan 's forces , Zasz is assassinated by Zeratul . Its death gives the Overmind and Zeratul a temporary mental link , allowing the Overmind to find Aiur and Zeratul to learn the origins of the Zerg . Zasz 's final words to Kerrigan proclaim her to be " the doom of us all " ; following Kerrigan 's rise to power at the culmination of Brood War , Zasz is seemingly proven correct . Ironically , Zeratul 's connection with the Overmind following Zasz 's death reveals Kerrigan to be the only hope of resisting the eradication of all life by the Xel 'naga Amon .

===== Other cerebrates =====

Insurrection features two further cerebrates , Nargil and Auza . Commander of the Fenris Brood and with the directive of search and destroy , Nargil itself is capable of intercepting enemy transmissions and provides tactical support for the player in Insurrection 's Zerg campaign . Auza , who commands the Incubus Brood and is responsible for reconnaissance , attempts to personally assimilate a rebel Terran psychic , but is overwhelmed as the psychic 's mind overcomes its own . As a result , the Overmind is forced to kill Auza . Retribution introduces Zargil of the Sennith Brood , who relays the Overmind 's directives to the player . Various other cerebrates are also featured throughout the series , though following the death of the second Overmind , Metzen explained that all remaining extant cerebrates died , as they were not designed to live without their creator or killed by Kerrigan herself and absorbing their warriors to her side .

===== Enslaved , Feral , and Renegade Zerg =====

A brood depended on a nexus creature to direct it . In the pre @-@ conflict Swarm , this position was filled by cerebrates . However , supplanting the cerebrate with another entity could allow broods , or other large groups of zerg , to be controlled by non @-@ Swarm agents .

During the Brood War , the United Earth Directorate Expeditionary Fleet took control of the zerg unaligned with Sarah Kerrigan by controlling the second Overmind . The enslaved broods played a critical role in ensuring the UED 's temporary dominance of the sector .

Alan Schezar used a khaydarin crystal to control a cerebrate and its brood . Ulrezaj also used khaydarin crystals to achieve similar results .

" Independent " broods appeared after the turmoil resulting from the Overmind 's death . Some were employed as mercenaries .

===== Second Overmind =====

A second Overmind is created in Brood War , formed from the merging of several cerebrates . This second Overmind never reaches full maturity , and thus lacks the power and intelligence of the original and is much weaker ; attacks that were superficial to the first Overmind send the second into remission , although dark templar energies are still needed to kill it . The second Overmind is captured and drugged by the United Earth Directorate , who use its control of the Swarm to bolster its own forces in the Koprulu Sector , but it is ultimately slain by Zeratul .

===== Primal Zerg =====

The primal zerg are a zerg subspecies from the zerg homeworld , Zerus . They retain the physical and psychological traits of the original " primal zerg " -strains . Their unique genetic @-@ adaptations made assimilation difficult , as they were shown as able to absorb " swarm @-@ essence " to mutate counter @-@ measures . Their highly individualistic nature avoided incorporation into the Zerg Swarm 's hivemind .

===== Zurvan =====

Zurvan , the Ancient One , was a primal zerg of Zerus who had lived for millions of years . Zurvan embodied the " survival of the fittest " ideals the primal zerg pack leaders operated on . Zurvan was wary of the Overmind and the hive @-@ minded zerg swarm , believing that losing ones individuality to a single indomitable will is a terrible evolutionary fate for a strong zerg . He was spawned before the Overmind , and lived to see the return of the Zerg Swarm to Zerus during the Second Great War . It shepherded a deinfested Sarah Kerrigan 's rebirth into the Swarm , before challenging her and subsequently being killed and having its essence absorbed by her . Zurvan was younger than the power found in the first spawning pool but older than the first Overmind . It escaped being

incorporated into the Swarm hive mind by Amon and remained on Zerus when the Swarm left the planet . In time , it became a pack leader and became immense both in power and physique . By the time the Swarm and a deinfested Sarah Kerrigan returned to Zerus , it had been millennia since Zurvan 's last evolution

===== Brakk =====

Brakk was a primal zerg pack leader on Zerus . When Sarah Kerrigan arrived on Zerus , Brakk declared that her zerg intruded on his territory . Wishing to stop her from waking Zurvan , he sent his pack to destroy the quillgor meat that her drones were harvesting . When this was unsuccessful , he personally led an attack on her hive cluster and was killed . The remnants of Brakk 's pack were destroyed shortly afterwards by Yagdra 's pack .

===== Kraith =====

Kraith was a primal zerg pack leader on Zerus and leader of Kraith 's Pack . According to Zurvan , Kraith was " immense and consumed by hatred " . Kraith was defeated by the new , primal reinfested Sarah Kerrigan , who consumed his essence . He was shown charging at a herd of Primal Zerglings , eliminating them .

===== Slivan =====

Slivan , the Eternal Mother was one of the primal zerg pack leaders of Zerus . She was described as " hollow and destructive " by Zurvan . Slivan was defeated by the new , primal Queen of Blades , and her essence absorbed . She can spawn countless locusts .

===== Yagdra =====

Yagdra was one of the primal zerg pack leaders of Zerus . Yagdra closely resembled an ash worm in appearance , and it was considerably larger in stature than most other primal zerg . It could spit gobs of destructive acid that burnt like fire .

When Yagdra learned that Sarah Kerrigan was transforming in a chrysalis , it attempted to halt the process permanently by sending its pack at Kerrigan 's brood . In the process , Yagdra also eradicated the last remnants of Brakk 's now @-@ leaderless pack , however , it was not successful in killing the Queen of Blades before she hatched from her chrysalis . The opportunity came soon enough , however , when Kerrigan , now the Primal Queen of Blades , set out to challenge the pack leaders for control of Zerus . She came for Yagdra first . Aided by Dehaka 's Pack , Kerrigan fought her way through Yagdra 's minions and confronted the pack leader himself . Yagdra told her that her transformation meant nothing . The two fought , and Kerrigan emerged victorious . After slaying Yagdra , she absorbed his essence .

===== Xel 'Naga characters =====

===== Amon 's Dark Forces =====

Amon is the primary antagonist of the StarCraft II : Legacy of the Void expansion . He is described as a malevolent Xel 'naga and is the mastermind behind the Protoss @-@ Zerg hybrids . His ultimate goal is to remake creation in his image (the hybrids) .

===== Amon =====

Amon is first alluded to in a discussion between Duran and Zeratul in the Brood War mission Dark

Origin , in which he is described as " ... a far greater power , a power that has slept for countless ages and is reflected in the creature within that cell . " In Wings of Liberty Zeratul 's investigation into the Hybrids reveals that Amon 's coming has been foretold ; initially , he is described as " one who shall break the cycle of the gods . " On Zhakul , Amon 's role in the Ulan prophecy is further elaborated on , and it is here that he is first referred to as the " fallen one . " After arriving on Aiur to retrieve the surviving memories from the remains of the Overmind , Zeratul encounters the spirit of Tassadar ; from both beings Zeratul gains a glimpse into one possible future in which the Overmind foresaw Amon successfully employ his hybrids and the Zerg to annihilate the Protoss before turning on and wiping out the Zerg . In this future , Amon taunted the Protoss by revealing Kerrigan to be the only one in a position to oppose him .

During Heart of the Swarm events

In Heart of the Swarm Amon 's identity and initial background are revealed . Amon came to Zerus after the other Xel 'naga molded the Zerg . Desiring the Zerg 's power to absorb the essence of their prey for his own goals , he connected many Zerg to a hivemind and later forced an overriding directive on the Overmind : the destruction of the Protoss . Millennia before the start of the series , Amon died after a war with the other Xel 'Naga who had discovered his work with the Zerg , but work on the hybrids continued under the direction of the shape shifter Emil Narud . Sarah Kerrigan learned about Amon when she traveled to Zerus , and came to realize his lingering influence over the Zerg swarm was a major reason behind her crimes as the Queen of Blades . Kerrigan later learned about Narud 's attempts to restore Amon to life , and attacked the shape @-@ shifter 's lab in order to stop him . Although Kerrigan defeated Narud , the shape @-@ shifter used his dying words to reveal that he had already accomplished his goal : Amon had returned . Reflecting on her fight with Narud , Stukov speculated that the Xel 'naga device used to de @-@ infest Kerrigan may have actually had a hand in somehow reviving Amon . He noted that the original Queen of Blades had tremendous power , and that the device couldn 't just simply erase it , surmising that it had to " go somewhere . " After exacting her revenge on Arcturus Mengsk , Kerrigan took the Zerg swarm to hunt down Amon to try to keep him from enslaving the Zerg again .

During Whispers of Oblivion events

In the Whispers of Oblivion campaign released by Blizzard ahead of the upcoming Legacy of the Void , Amon is revealed to have been resurrected in the Sigma Quadrant 's Atrias System . Since his resurrection he has been under the protection of the Tal 'Darim , a fanatical Protoss branch devoted to Amon .

In addition to the above @-@ mentioned names , Amon is also referenced as " a malevolent presence within the void " by Zeratul in Wings of Liberty , the " Dark Voice " in the game captions , and " the dark god " in the prequel Whispers of Oblivion campaign . During his auditory taunts in the Wings of Liberty mission In Utter Darkness , a pair of glowing red eyes can be seen , but there is little else visually distinguishable about the character in the mission despite the fact that raw data exists for Amon in the map editor .

During Legacy of the Void events

Amon was the main villain in Legacy of the Void , though he did not appear in his true form until the epilogue campaign " Into the Void " . He seizes control of the Khala , controlling most of the Protoss as they attempted to retake Aiur . Zeratul and other protoss who had their nerve cords cut were immune to that control . In his last act before being killed by the possessed Artanis , Zeratul severed the Hierarch 's nerve cords , cutting him off from the Khala . Artanis rallies what few managed to avoid corruption and flees Aiur on the Spear of Adun , rallying an army to fight Amon 's forces and destroy his power base , before returning to Aiur with the Keystone (the Xel 'Naga artifact used to purge Kerrigan of her own corruption) . Convincing the possessed Khalai to sever their cords and break away from the Khala , their action sends Amon 's essence into the artifact , which then implodes , banishing his essence into the Void .

As the protoss celebrate their victory , however , Artanis and Jim Raynor are summoned by Kerrigan to Ulnar , the former Xel 'Naga homeworld , which contains a gateway into the Void ; Kerrigan seeks their help in going through and ending Amon once and for all . Fighting through Amon 's minions , led by a reincarnated Duran / Narud , the trio release an imprisoned Xel 'Naga

named Ouros , who had appeared to both Zeratul and Artanis in the form of their deceased friend Tassadar to guide them towards his intended aim : For Kerrigan to ascend to become Xel 'Naga herself , and use her powers to kill Amon , as only a Xel 'Naga could defeat him for good . With the aid of Artanis and Raynor 's armies , Kerrigan undergoes the ascension , and destroys Amon forever .

= = = = Hybrids = = = =

The xel 'naga regularly conducted experiments on other species as part of their " natural life cycle " . Two species , one with the " purity of form " and another with the " purity of essence " , would merge naturally to create a new iteration of Xel 'naga . This process had occurred numerous times . To this purpose , the last incarnation of the xel 'naga uplifted the protoss and zerg , intending for them to lead to the culmination of another iteration of the cycle . Contrary to the xel 'naga 's intent , the hybrids were the result of a perversion of the process . Amon 's servants created hybrids to aid his plan to dominate creation . Overt knowledge of the hybrids began spreading among the terrans , protoss , and zerg , after the Brood War , and most who knew understood the dire threat the hybrids posed to the status quo .

Maar

Maar was the first hybrid to be awakened . Maar took over the forbidden protoss archive world of Zhakul . It subverted some of the Zhakul Guardians and imprisoned the three preservers , draining them to survive . Maar was defeated and killed only after Zeratul freed the preservers .

= = = = Shapeshifter = = = =

The shapeshifter was an enigmatic and mysterious character in the StarCraft Universe . Very little is known about this creature , beyond the fact that the shapeshifter was in fact a Xel 'Naga , and was by its own admission several thousand years old . In each case that the shapeshifter has appeared in a meaningful role the creature has assumed the form of a Terran Male . The Shapeshifter 's allegiance was to the fallen Xel 'Naga Amon , and accordingly its actions were to further Amon 's own goals .

After Blizzard confirmed Duran 's return in Heart of the Swarm , and tacitly implied that he may have appeared in Wings of Liberty , many assumed that the character was reincarnated as Emil Narud . To support this position fans point to the fact that Narud was revealed in Heart of the Swarm to be an ancient shapeshifter serving Amon (fitting his description of himself in Brood War as " a servant of a far greater power ") , and moreover , " Narud " is " Duran " spelled backwards . Although this was observed and commented / discussed by fans in the series , Blizzard made no definitive effort to merge the two characters until the release of Whispers of Oblivion , a three part prequel campaign to Legacy of the Void . In Whispers of Oblivion , Zeratul confirmed that Samir Duran and Emil Narud were indeed the same individual .

Alias as Samir Duran

The shapeshifter makes its initial appearance as Samir Duran , an enigmatic ex @-@ Confederate Ghost operative introduced in Brood War , where he was voiced by Paul Ainsley . Duran was highly intelligent and manipulative , as well as knowledgeable about both the Protoss and Zerg . A former lieutenant in Alpha Squadron , Duran formed a small commando unit after the fall of the Confederacy to fight Mengsk 's Dominion .

Duran quickly allied with the United Earth Directorate 's expeditionary force , and used UED resources to mount an assassination attempt on Mengsk and provided vital intelligence and strategic advice on the Dominion to DuGalle . Duran convinced DuGalle to destroy the psi disruptor , to Stukov 's chagrin , and as the UED closed in on Mengsk and his allies , Duran sabotaged a key operation , allowing the emperor to escape . When Stukov reconstructed the psi disruptor , Duran killed him and revealed his allegiance was actually to Sarah Kerrigan .

With Duran as her advisor , Kerrigan successfully established command over the entirety of the Zerg Swarm . However , Duran vanished shortly afterwards . In a secret mission , he was

discovered by Zeratul engineering a Protoss / Zerg hybrid . Duran ominously explained he " had many names throughout the millennia " , that his work has little to do with Kerrigan and that he served " a far greater power " .

Alias of Dr. Emil Narud

Four years after the events of Brood War , the shapeshifter reemerged in the Korpulu Sector , now going by the persona Dr. Emil Narud - an enigmatic scientist first introduced in Wings of Liberty and later appearing in Heart of the Swarm , voiced by Armin Shimerman . Narud was the head of the Moebius Foundation and was viewed as a genius on Zerg biology and an expert on Protoss and Xel 'Naga technology .

In Wings of Liberty , Narud and the Moebius Foundation backed Tychus Findlay 's contact with James Raynor as a way to get around an imperial decree from Arcturus Mengsk which made it illegal to traffic in alien goods . Narud would later appear by proxy as the Moebius Foundation 's representative during a mission briefing on Tyrador , wherein Narud lent James Raynor his medical transport ships to help Raynor destroy the foundation 's data cores in order to prevent the Queen of Blades from gaining access to them . On the eve of the invasion of Char , Raynor learned from Valerian that Narud had been working with the Dominion 's Crown Prince for the entire duration of the game . In the aftermath of the successful de @-@ infestation of the Queen of Blades , a civil war erupts between Arcturus and Valerian ; in an attempt to find a safe haven , Valerian and Raynor seek shelter with the Moebius Foundation . Initially , Narud greeted and temporarily sheltered the group , but after examining the Xel 'Naga artifact and thoroughly questioning Raynor about Kerrigan , Narud revealed his allegiance to Arcturus and sold out the group to an incoming Dominion fleet , but the fleet 's attempt to kill Kerrigan fails .

Narud later reappeared in Heart of the Swarm after former UED Vice Admiral Alexei Stukov contacted Kerrigan with a message to seek out the Skygeirr Station research facility orbiting Ketill IV . Upon her arrival at the facility , Stukov explained to Kerrigan that Skygeirr housed the Dominion 's primary Hybrid research and development laboratory , and that " Emil Narud " was actually an ancient shapeshifter in the employment of a fallen Xel 'Naga named Amon . After the Zerg swarm breached the interior of the facility and began attacking the Hybrids within , Narud made his initial appearance , broadcasting a message throughout the facility to inform Kerrigan that she was not welcome in the station . After the Swarm breached the lowest level , Narud personally moved to kill Kerrigan by driving a null zone towards the Queen of Blades . When the null zone attack failed , Narud retreated inside a Xel 'Naga temple dedicated to Amon . In a showdown with Kerrigan , Narud taunted the Queen of Blades by using his shapeshifting abilities - first morphing into Jim Raynor , and then into Kerrigan 's own human form , in which he wounded Kerrigan with a psi blade similar to that wielded by the Protoss . Kerrigan gained the upper hand in the end , impaling Narud with her wing @-@ spikes . With his dying breath , Narud proclaimed that Amon had been resurrected and that she would see him soon .

During the epilogue campaign , the combined forces of Kerrigan , Raynor and Artanis ventured into the void in order to rescue " Tassadar " (really Ouroz) and encountered Narud , who was Ouroz 's jailer . After a difficult battle Narud 's forces were overpowered and Narud was cornered by not only Artanis Kerrigan and Raynor , but Alexei Stukov , who called him " Duran . " He asked Duran if he remembered what he had done to him , and Narud assumed Stukov was simply there to gloat . Stukov said " No , I 'm here to say good night you son of a bitch . " (an echo of the words Duran had said right before shooting him) . He then shot Narud with a psychic blast , finishing him for good .

= = = Ouroz = = =

Ouroz was one of the xel 'naga who helped construct the material universe and seed it with life to perpetuate the Infinite Cycle . At some point , he was captured by Amon while the rest of his race was extinguished . He was chained in the Void , which was twisted to the will of Amon . However , he could still subtly influence the material universe , leaving clues to help guide his creations to rescue him by using Tassadar 's form (Zeratul and Artanis) and voices (Kerrigan)

= = Merchandise = =

The characters of StarCraft have been popular enough to inspire the creation of several collectable statues and toys . The first series of statues was released by ToyCom in 2003 , consisting of a firebat with markings similar to some original StarCraft concept art for the firebat , a hydralisk and one of Tassadar with a ceremonial sword , which is also seen in concept art for the original game . A series of toys were also made available in 1998 , featuring two variations of the marine , another hydralisk and a Protoss zealot . In addition , 1 / 30 scale model kits for the marine and hydralisk were released in 1999 by Academy Hobby Model Kits .

A second series of collectable statues , which included infested Kerrigan , Zeratul and a Terran ghost , was in development but appears to have been cancelled . However , upon announcement of StarCraft II in 2007 , Blizzard released a new collectable statue depicting Wings of Liberty mascot character Tychus Findlay .

= = Critical reception = =

The characters and story of the StarCraft series have been received with praise and only minute criticism by many game reviewers . The GameSpot review of StarCraft described the voice acting as " great " , stating that it brings the characters to life . GameSpot goes further in the review for Brood War , commenting that the story and dialogue is with only a few exceptions " brilliantly written " and " one of the year 's best stories in any gaming genre " . The reviewer of StarCraft for IGN praises the melding of the story into the gameplay and implies that the development of the characters during the course of the story , particularly that of Kerrigan , is unforgettable . In addition , the review of Brood War puts the storyline as " solid " .

Gaming Revolution echoed this praise , saying the plot is " fantastic " , but the reviewer added that he felt it was " over too quickly " . At GamePro.com , the reviewer cited that he felt " the characters were talking to me " and even expressed a development of an emotional attachment to the character of Raynor . Electric Playground put the story as the best part of the game , if a little derivative , but described the voice acting as " really quite excellent " .