ANDREW MERCER

*“A Mercer stands on the blood of millions. I refuse to let myself slip and drown.”*

*“In every fight there is true equality. In a fight there are no politics, no wealth. There are only two weapons, two heart beats, and one death.”*

*“When you’re born at the bottom rung you don’t give up or do nothing. You start to climb the ladder. You climb and you climb until you reach the top. And when you’re up there, you kick the damn ladder away and start looking for a new one to climb.”*

One throne. Hundreds of thousands of heirs. Some of them live lavishly with a near infinite wealth, claiming their blood is purer and that it raises their place in the line of succession. Others don’t care and simply want to live their lives. Only a few think about the people and the clans, few want to rule for reasons other than personal glory and power. One of these few is Andrew Mercer. He sees the Mercerite Clans have begun to decline in power and prestige after billions of years, as all great empires and kingdoms eventually do. Most have given up and seek to ride out the last days in what’s left of their wealth and power. Andrew Mercer seeks to restore the Mercerite Clans to their former glory and possibly to a level beyond that.

Like the great warlord of old, Andrew’s life has been steeped in struggle. The original Mercer relished struggle because of the great triumph that comes afterwards, but Andrew did not have such joy with his trials. He was born with a poor link to the throne. Almost all his close friends and family were extinguished by one of many “Purges” by more high ranking heirs to the throne. He barely survived during his service in the Vinari Survival War. And the majority of citizens of the Spacer Alliance that are non-Mercerite are prejudiced against him, for they fear and detest his infamous last name.

So to display his ability to rule he has taken on mission after mission to serve the Mercerite Clans. Over the years many minor clans have grown fond of him as he helped them over and over again. And in time, he gathered a faithful warband around him, some from Great Clans, others from minor clans, and even some from Clan Mercer itself. Over time he has gained some recognition for his deeds, but it is not enough if he wants to take the throne. He has set his eyes on a new target now; a massive criminal network called “the Family” is disrupting trade in the Spacer Alliance. Putting a stop to their crime will be a great victory for the Mercerites

**Vinari Survival War**

Andrew Mercer spent some of his years fighting in the Vinari Survival War. He was sent by higher ranking Mercers because they believed he would die, as he had little to no real combat experience before then. Many lower ranking Mercers were sent to fight in the Vinari Survival War because the odds of surviving a term of service on the Vinnas Front was incredibly low. Andrew not only survived through his term, he also earned himself a warband as he was promoted repeatedly. When he left the Vinnas Front, he was able to take most of his warband with him.

During his time on the Vinnas Front, Andrew realized the perilous state of the Mercerite Clans. He saw the tremendous effort of the Vinari peoples in their attempt to push back against their enemy. He befriended a number of Vinari, both Angelfolk and Wingless, and discovered that their united focus was something that the Mercerites were lacking. With the fall of the Densen Clan, the Mercerites were no longer an economic powerhouse as their main trading partner was gone. Additionally, due to poor planning but good intentions, participating in the Vinari Survival War was stretching Mercerite warbands too thinly across space. The morale during the Vinari Survival War was low, and many Mercerites who weren’t on the front were worried about the implications of losing that war. There was even talk of division as some minor clans expressed a desire to leave or rebel against their respective Great Clans.

**The Warband**

Andrew’s warband consists of just about one hundred Spacers. They come from a variety of Great Clans and minor clans. A few are also from non-Mercerite clans. Andrew proves to be a tactful leader in his ability to rally so many Spacers of varying opinions and cultures. He manages to lead them with few words as they fear and adore him and do not need too much inspiration to enact his orders; they have seen already what he is capable of. For more on important members of his warband, see the related document in the same folder as this document.

**Personality**

Andrew has a certain focus that is incomparable to most people. When he wants to get something done, he is willing to do anything in his power to obtain it except sacrificing his warband. In this sense, his warband is both his greatest strength and his greatest weakness. Through a subtle charisma and his willingness to acknowledge the everyman, Andrew has managed to captivate his warband. However, he is tied so closely to them that their pain is his, and his pain is theirs.

Just like his namesake, Andrew also walks between the line of civility and savagery. Depending on what is more likely to get the results he wants, he may choose to talk or he may choose violence. He is especially adept at the latter due to his time on the Vinnas Front. However, when he does choose the peaceful path, he often attempts to empathize with the other party. After all, he wants to be king one day.

Lastly, Andrew has a sense of discipline. He keeps himself combat ready by training or drilling on a daily basis. He attempts to match this discipline with honor but struggles to do so. Rather, he believes in the concept of survival over anything else, as he saw its importance and power firsthand on the Vinnas Front. Additionally, honor has less value to him as he witnessed the dishonorable actions of many high-ranking Mercerites who believe themselves to be extremely honorable.

**Summary**

The few that have met Andrew Mercer agree that he should one day rule the Mercerites. In a time of chaos and confusion, he would make an excellent leader. However, this does not matter to the protagonist, who is seen as an enemy by Andrew. The dealings that will occur between Andrew and the protagonist will have a massive impact on Andrew, the protagonist, and the overall story of the game as well.