

Character Profiles

Core Ensemble

Chen Wei () - The Nationalist

Age: 42 **Location:** Beijing **Identity Position:** Rigid nationalist, strong Chinese identity **Background:** - Senior researcher at Chinese Academy of Social Sciences - Specializes in cross-strait relations and national reunification theory - Grew up during Reform and Opening, witnessed China's rise - Father was a PLA officer, instilled patriotic values

Core Belief: Taiwan is an inseparable part of China; reunification is historical inevitability and moral imperative

Character Function: Represents the mainland perspective viewing Taiwan through nationalist lens, embodies conviction that identity and territory are sacred and immutable

Arc Direction: Will face crisis when confronted with evidence that "Chinese-ness" itself is historically constructed and malleable

Lin Xiaowen () - The Ambiguous

Age: 28 **Location:** Taipei **Identity Position:** Navigating identity ambiguity, generational shift **Background:** - Software engineer at Taiwanese tech startup - Grandparents fled mainland in 1949, parents identify as Taiwanese - Educated in English, consumes global media, less invested in historical grievances - Finds identity politics exhausting but cannot escape them

Core Belief: Identity is contextual and pragmatic; wants to live without historical burdens but increasingly forced to choose sides

Character Function: Represents younger Taiwanese generation experiencing identity as imposed choice rather than natural fact

Arc Direction: Will be forced into active identity declaration due to escalating geopolitical crisis, discovering that neutrality is not an option

Sarah Huang () - The Fragmented

Age: 35 **Location:** San Francisco (American-born Chinese, Taiwanese heritage) **Identity Position:** Post-national cosmopolitan with diaspora fragmentation **Background:** - Tech product manager, parents immigrated from Taiwan in 1980s - Grew up navigating multiple identity contexts (American at school,

Chinese at home, Taiwanese via family history) - Experiences identity as performance and code-switching - Recently confronting questions about belonging due to rising US-China tensions

Core Belief: Identity is software that can be installed, uninstalled, run in multiple instances simultaneously

Character Function: Embodies diaspora experience of identity as plural, optional, and contextual; demonstrates that identity fragmentation is not pathology but adaptation

Arc Direction: Will discover that radical identity fluidity creates its own alienation; must find coherence without collapsing into singular identity

Dr. Evelyn Zhang () - The Observer Proxy

Age: 58 **Location:** Various (academic conferences, research sites) **Identity Position:** Meta-observer, disciplinary detachment **Background:** - Astrophysicist and complexity theorist - Researches large-scale systems, evolutionary dynamics, entropy - Lost family members in historical upheavals, developed philosophical distance as coping mechanism - Increasingly treats human conflicts as data sets

Core Belief: All human meaning-making is temporary pattern recognition in ultimately meaningless thermodynamic processes

Character Function: Provides in-world voice approximating the Observer perspective; allows philosophical ideas to be dramatized through character rather than pure narration

Arc Direction: Will face challenge to her detachment when personal stakes become undeniable during crisis; must reconcile cosmic indifference with human care

Supporting Characters

General Tang ()

- PLA officer responsible for Taiwan contingency planning
- Pragmatic, not ideological, sees reunification as strategic necessity
- Represents institutional momentum toward conflict

Minister Wu ()

- Taiwanese defense minister
- Former academic turned politician, understands futility but must prepare for war

- Represents burden of sovereignty maintenance

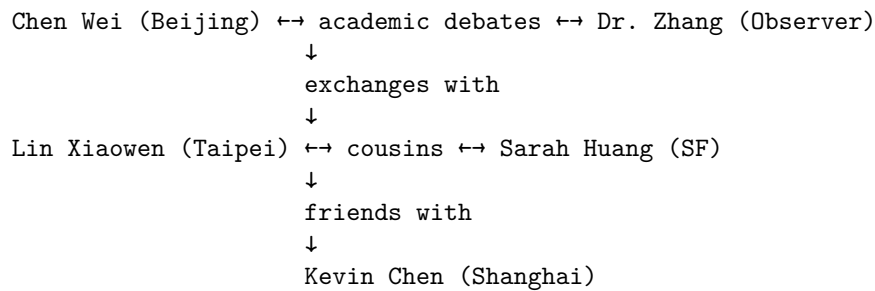
Kevin Chen

- Lin Xiaowen's childhood friend who moved to Shanghai for work
- Embodies economic integration creating cross-strait personal ties
- His choices illuminate how individual relationships exist within larger system forces

Professor Liu

- Elderly historian, lived through multiple regime changes
- Provides living memory of “Chinese identity” as historical construction
- Represents witness to identity’s mutability across single lifetime

Character Relationship Map



Identity Spectrum Positioning

