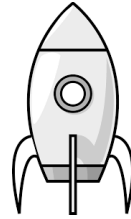


Writing Sample

Character, Obstacle, Item, and Location Descriptions
Light Year: Zero 2nd Edition



Characters

Peggy Gubbins

Now known by most as the daughter of the late Master Surveyor John Locke, she has done all she could to step out of his shadow, going as far as changing her name in her youth. She aimed to build her career organically with her heritage hidden from the members of the USA, but it was unexpectedly revealed to all that attended her father's funeral. Her father, John Locke, was her best friend and hero but she yearns to leave her own mark upon the galaxy as her dad did before her. With her extensive experience as a Surveyor, she was named the lead visionary behind "The Galiant" to chart the far reaches of the galaxy.

Masahiro Ikeda

A prodigious aeronautical engineer on his first official trek off of his homeworld of Earth. Even though his title currently reads "Engineer" he sees himself as much more; he believes that he can reach the illustrious designation of Master Surveyor, but alas no engineer has ever made the transition successfully. He has time to pivot, and plans to send a request to his superiors to reconsider his placement following his tenure with "The Galiant". After watching Officer Gubbins command their crew he knows that he can do her job, and do it better.

Hadiza Abeba

Dr. Abeba is a world renown interdisciplinary scientist who never intended to leave Earth let alone join the United Surveyors Alliance. She never understood how all of Earth's greatest minds so quickly abandoned, and in her opinion, forsaken their homeworld for new ventures. Old Austin believed in her as a scientist. The city invested in her and provided her with the opportunity and facilities to fully analyze her hypothesis: Reverse Planetary Decay. After years of research she and her team released their results but it all fell on deaf ears. Following the lackluster response from the scientific community and the public at large, interest in Dr. Abeba's research completely dried up. After a year of self reflection, she accepted an offer to join the USA's "The Galiant" to analyze and collect foreign materials and life.

Obstacles

Tarnay Pirates

A true annoyance to any commercial space travelers or ambitious interplanetary explorers who are attempting to map out the edges of the known galaxy. Pirate groups that formerly infested this galaxy were some of the most primitive human groups to emerge. They were originally small anarchic bands of violent outcasts, preying on anything and anyone weaker than themselves but have since evolved in scope. The Tarnay Pirates have grown faster in number than the bioweapon used to end Earth's fourth world war. It is believed through unsubstantiated reports that once the pirates hijack a vessel, usually a commercial craft, nearly all victims are converted to the Tarnay. Camera footage confirms that the Tarnay do not discriminate; men and women from all ages fill their ranks (a female as young as nine years old has been recorded leading a squad of other children during a siege of an S-Class Star Cruiser). Whatever ships they invade they immediately add to their enormous fleet of vessels, making the Tarnay Pirates a parasite on the galaxy that must be eradicated to ensure the safety and continued investment by all MegaCorporations on exploration. It is still unknown whether the Tarnay follow directives delivered from a secular leader or if they are structured more in organized tribes in unique regions of the galaxy.

Space Barnacles

Initially discovered and studied on the remote celestial body of Tarn-9 by United Surveyors Alliance scientists, the now dubbed "Space Barnacles" have resilience that has allowed them to attach to nearly all spacecraft. These unique organisms feast upon the aluminum and the other metallic elements that comprise a standard spacecraft hull. Space Barnacles multiply very quickly, either spreading to a new host through physical contact or airborne from their spores that can remain infectious over long distances. The USA has been condemned by all MegaCorporations for the spread of the Space Barnacles over the galaxy and they have since pressured the United Surveyors Alliance to create a repellent or cure to quickly and without harm to shipcraft, remove them. No such successful "Space Barnacle Repellent" has yet been formulated by the USA and damage from the Space Barnacles from the MegaCorporations is estimated in the tens of trillions.

Julien Bergeron

Although his name is Canadian he was born in an Old Austin lab with one purpose in mind; to pilot "The Galian". Julien was once told by another synthetic that pilots were once seen as honorable figures in Earth's pre-exodus society, but now that could not be further from the truth. Piloting is seen universally as a medidial task reserved for synthetic life. All USA craft were once piloted by an advanced AI piloting system called "Boyle", but it lacked the ability to adapt during difficult situations and without a reliable "Fight or Flight" mechanic, the system continuously locked up, declining to make any decision. This flaw led to the deaths of numerous crews who faced high stake situations, possibly against the Tarnay Pirates, leading them to revert back to the use of synthetics. Julien happily serves his true organic masters, especially Officer Gubbins who specifically requested him for the trek.

Shangti

The first new species discovered and cataloged by crew of "The Galian" on the far planet of Shang. The appearance of the Shangti most resembles images of the long extinct Earth Tiger, but highly adapted for Shang's largely desert environment. They dominate the dunes of Shang as the apex predator by blending in with the golden caramel sand with their matching short coat of fur. Lacking claws, they possess hard shelled scoops around both of their front and back paws enabling them to dig at incredible speeds that they use both for tunneling for shelter and ambushing prey. After Dr. Abeba, compared the genetic makeup of the Shangti and preserved copies of an Earth Tiger it was determined that somehow there is common ancestry between the two species. Lead Visionary Gubbins of "The Galian" has ordered her crew to further research how and why the Shangti share a common ancestor with an animal native to Earth.

Key Items

Universal Ion Scanner

It is standard equipment issued to all field operatives of the United Surveyors Alliance (USA). Be it a hostile man-sized arachnid or a simple rivet on "The Galian" that needs to be flush, the Universal Ion Scanner is your go to tool. Shorten to "Uni-Scanner" by most USA members, it dawns the USA's striped orange and black insignia and features a dull gray finish. Powered by a titanium housed crystal array which is built to withstand long years of exposure to the elements much better than the gold alloy housing of the earlier models. As a result, whenever the Universal Ion Scanner runs low or out of power completely, the USA member is instructed to immediately recycle the unit and request a replacement.

Helmet Sealant Bucket

An early requirement for every United Surveyors Alliance spacecraft that became standardized by the USA following the face shield implosion of Master Surveyor John Locke resulting in his unfortunate death. Using the included brush, surveyors are instructed to apply the coating every six to eight uses in foreign atmosphere in order to strength and fill the face shield's molecular bonds. Since this mandate, not one surveyor has suffered the same fate as Master Surveyor John Locke. The USA partnered with Shiny Seal (an industrial manufacturer of glass and glass accessories) to manufacture a proprietary helmet sealant for exclusive use by the USA and its intergalactic surveyors. Additionally once applied, the USA's proprietary helmet sealant creates a hydrophobic surface that repels water instantly.

SMRE 2.0

An SMRE is the classic and beloved Meal, Ready-To-Eat (MRE) designed to sustain an individual engaged in heavy activity such as military training or during actual military operations but now specially made for space! All menus contain a Spoon, Flameless Ration Heater, Hot Beverage Bag, Paperboard Sleeve, and Paperboard Insert Card unless otherwise indicated on the back of the packaging. Unlike the classic MREs, the new SMREs are distinguished from regular military rations by virtue of being designed for minimal preparation aboard spacecraft and on foreign alien regions, using canned, pre-cooked or freeze-dried foods, powdered beverage mixes and concentrated food bars, as well as for long shelf life. New with the cutting edge of culinary technology, each SMRE 2.0 additionally contains a touch of anti-anxiety vitamins to enhance the courage of the USA's noble group of surveyors. Flavors range from Shredded Soy Beef in Barbecue Sauce, Creamy Spinach Fettuccine, Spaghetti with Soy Beef and Sauce, and Soy Beef Tacos.

Mysterious Detritus

A circular disc that matches the dimensions of a Frisbee but with much less plastic. It is heavily tarnished and is engraved with cryptic characters around its edge. These discs have been found all over the explored galaxy in varying degrees of condition, but once restored they appear a brilliant silver with a pink tint. It has been theorized that they were once used as a power source similar to a battery, but it's usage has yet to be replicated. The characters on the disc have yet to be translated by any cryptographer, and remain a mystery to mankind. The crew found the artifact on the outskirts of Shang's capital city and it has been serving the Galian as a paper weight ever since.

Locations

New Sentinel

The premiere city in the newly colonized planet of Sentinel that has become the pinnacle for the possibility of civilization outside of Earth for the past century. Built around the foundation of what was the first ever intergalactic outpost in the region, following investment from Earth's MegaCorporations, the city was remade into a technical marvel that combines both the evolution of technology and the enchanting qualities of Sentinel's nature green. For all of its achievements and its promise of paradise to its inhabitants it could only be experienced by few. The financial burden to live in the advanced city could cripple a bloodline for over ten generations allowing only the most influential and wealthy of the galaxy to inhabit the city's silver streets. While knowing the risk, many families from Earth still agreed to undertake the enormous debt for the chance to breathe the same air as trillionaires and erect a strong future for their descendants.

Old Austin

The final advanced city in the western world of Earth that is not marred by incredible homelessness and hunger. It shines bright in the otherwise desolate sky as its sister cities in the United States, New York City and Los Angeles, fell long ago due to civil unrest by the millions of displaced vagabonds of the "Great Recession". Old Austin was once home to Earth's most instrumental visionaries who were catalysts for the greatest technological improvements, but nearly all have traveled off world to blaze a new trail in the newly discovered settlements. The city now acts as an ark of Earth's artifacts that have not already been smuggled off-world; a sterling example to all of what Earth once was. At the turn of the century, the city adopted "Old" as apart of its name as a mark of pride against the countless off-world cities using "New" in their title.