

# The Lifestage Characters

## LUNA

- 18-year-old university student, working part-time at the Omega Diner as a waitress.
- She's studying animation. She's always loved to draw and has been doodling since she was a little kid. She wants to open her own animation studio someday.
- This is her first job and she's really excited to be making money of her own.
- Problem is, she doesn't have much experience with money. She's so thrilled every time she gets a paycheque download, she wants to spend it all, right away. Too bad life on her own is a lot pricier than she'd thought it would be.
- Work's a drag, except for the people she works with. They're cool. They treat her like an adult. But the diner's a dump, and waiting on people is – how to put this? – not the most fun thing in the world.
- She's moved away from home and is living in a ratty Metro-flat with a roommate who's in pre-med.
- She's into the synth-digital video scene and goes to obscure film clubs where they feature bands playing to a backdrop of experimental films. Her roommate thinks she goes for the guys, but she really goes to check out the artwork in the films.
- There's this really hot guy, Rio, who works at the Omega as a dishwasher. He's incredibly good-looking and is some kind of jock-star and clearly has a thing for her.... But there's also this other guy, Nikos, who hangs out at the diner a lot. He's kind of quiet, keeps to himself... but there's something cool about him....

## NIKOS

- 18-year-old apprentice, in a full-time work/study program to be a wrist-pod technician.
- He's fascinated by technology and was the kind of kid who was constantly fiddling with the settings of the family's MetroLink modulator and downloading the newest software upgrades and add-ons.
- He has an idea for fine-tuning the wrist-pod so it could be used to automatically adjust the lighting in a room to create mini-lighting environments to suit each person's needs and preferences. It's a brilliant idea – but it hasn't exactly set the world on fire. Yet.
- He's moved away from home for the first time and is loving the independence. Unfortunately, though, he's sharing a Metro-flat with three other roommates and is getting sick of never having any privacy. Not to mention his roommates' friends, who always seem to end up crashing on the couch.
- He gets paid as an apprentice, but not much, so he has to be careful with his money. But that's not a problem because he's a careful person anyway. Methodical. Organized. The kind of guy who knows exactly what his banking balance is at all times.
- He's a loner. Tends to roam around Central late at night, frequenting obscure alt-fusion clubs and taking solitary walks along the CanalWay.
- He's got it bad for Luna. Has no idea how to approach her, is shy around girls. He's insanely jealous of Rio, who just has to smile, and the girls come running. Even Luna. Or does she? Maybe he has a chance. Nah. No way, not him.

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### RIO

- 20-year-old, working full-time as a dishwasher at the Omega Diner.
- He's a talented athlete who plays the Game for MetroDynamo. All his life, even through childhood, he's been the Most Valuable Player on every team he's ever been on. He's fast and strong, with lightning reflexes.
- He's only ever wanted one thing: to be a professional Game player. To get signed to the Pro Game League. To be the best Game player who ever lived, set records, elevate the sport.
- Also... to sign a fat contract, make it rich, have all the money he could ever want and just play. Travel, yachts, sports cars, parties, fun. Share the wealth so everybody can have as good a time as he is. 'Cause life's for living, so why hold onto your cash?
- He doesn't make much as a dishwasher, but doesn't save either because he's sure he'll make it big.
- He's tall, built, gorgeous. He's not vain but he knows he's good-looking. It's obvious, the way girls fall all over him. So why not milk it for all it's worth? No harm done on either side.
- There's this new girl at the diner, a waitress. Luna. Cute. He's interested. Why not? Could be fun.

### SIENNA

- 20-year-old culinary school graduate holding down two part-time jobs.
- She works as a cook at the Omega Diner and as a sous-chef at an expensive gourmet restaurant in the Southwest.
- She has one goal that she's been dreaming of ever since she was a teenager: to open her own restaurant one day. A classy place with a sophisticated fusion menu. She's even thinking about names for her place: *Sienna's Cantina*... or maybe *Morsels*...
- As far as she's concerned, the food at the Omega – burgers, fries, shakes, pie, pudding – is a crime against the palate. But she has to admit that it's a good training ground. She's learning how to produce, fast, and she's grateful to Gaia for giving her a start.
- To reach her goal, she's been saving faithfully from both paycheques, every week, no matter what. Even if she has to do without, she's socking the money away. The total is growing, slowly, steadily. Having enough to open a restaurant is a long way away – she's giving herself five years – but every deposit is a step closer.
- She's seeing a very nice guy, who's pressuring her to marry and let him take care of her. But that would mean giving up her dream. Besides, she doesn't want to be taken care of. She just wants to open a restaurant that's so fantastic – not only the food, but the décor, the service, everything – that people will talk of the experience for years to come. So she figures she's gonna have to cut the guy loose. Soon.

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## INDIGO

- 25-year-old university graduate with a well-paying full-time job.
- She's an executive with CitySecure, the company that provides computer security for all the terminals in *The City*. An incredible position for someone her age – she's rising through the ranks quickly because she's smart and capable. And because she knows how to play the corporate game.
- She grew up dirt-poor in a rundown house out in the country, and has never forgotten it. Going to bed hungry and wearing three-times-hand-me-downs. Which is why her main goal is to have money, and plenty of it, so she'll never have to worry or scrimp or make do or feel lesser-than again. Which, in turn, is why, even though she's making good money now, she doesn't quite trust it, and tends to hold on to her cash. Because you can never have too much.
- There's one area that she does splurge on, though: her looks. Being the kid who never had decent shoes or clothes has made her want to look good all the time. For this girl, it's only the best clothes, shoes, perfumes, bags, jewelry, hair. Which all look great on her because she's a knockout.
- She's dating Kane, a handsome and well-off older man. Much older. Who also happens to be Gaia's ex. Which complicates things.

## QUINN

- 25-year-old college graduate with a spouse and one child.
- He's a nurse at one of the shabbier MetroMed hospitals in Central – rundown, understaffed and overbooked. A stress factory. He's chronically wiped, especially after a night shift.
- As a starting nurse, his wages aren't great, and he and his wife are always having money troubles. Constantly behind on their bills, overdrawn on their MetroBank account, maxed out on their credit cards.
- Still, he loves his job and wouldn't want to do anything else. Helping people get better, cope with pain, even die peacefully, is, as far as he's concerned, the best work in the world.
- He's crazy about his wife and baby and can think of nothing better than having a bald, wrinkled infant slobbering all over his shirt.
- He and his wife can't afford to live on their own so they're living with her parents. Not an ideal arrangement. They're dying to buy their own home, but it's out of the question right now. Maybe in a couple of years. Three... Four...
- He's Gaia's nephew and often stops in at the diner for breakfast after a night shift.

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## KANE

- 45-year-old divorced marketing consultant.
- He's Gaia's ex-husband. When they were younger, they shared idealistic values and dedicated themselves to doing good in the world. But he got tired of being poor, so he sold Gaia his share in the diner, went into business as a marketing consultant and is now doing very well for himself.
- He has a plum contract with MetroForm's Customer Conditioning Division, which is dedicated to moulding good consumers. He's making piles of money, living in a fabulous condo in the Southeast and has lots of expensive toys, like a sports car and a state-of-the-art home sync-vid system.
- Since he and Gaia split up, he's had a string of ever-younger girlfriends, and is now dating the very-much-younger and very glamorous Indigo.
- He's tall, handsome and athletic, and looks equally great in jeans or a suit.
- He and Gaia have two daughters, one in high school and one in university, of whom they have joint custody.
- He and his ex are amicable about sharing the kids, but not much else. Gaia thinks Kane is a traitor to their values ("You're a money-grubbing sell-out, shamelessly working for big business"), while Kane thinks Gaia uses the diner as an excuse for not even trying to get ahead ("How does it serve anyone, let alone society, to be stuck in a money-losing greasy spoon year after year?").

## GAIA (pronounced GUY-AH)

- 45-year-old small business owner, divorced, with two daughters, Flore who lives at home and Raven who's at university.
- She's Kane's ex-wife. They share joint custody of their daughters.
- She's the owner of the Omega Diner. Or, as she often calls it, the money pit.
- She's weary of the struggle to make ends meet and wonders if she should chuck it all and get a "real" job, but she can't stand the idea of working for anyone else.
- She's gruff and prickly – on the outside. What's on the inside, she doesn't show. It's a little-known fact (which she's careful never to tell anyone) that "Gaia" means Earth goddess in Greek mythology. But if you think she's one of those touchy-feely Earth mother types who really cares about everybody, you can take a hike.
- When she and Kane were younger, they shared idealistic values and dedicated themselves to doing good in the world. But, in Gaia's view, Kane turned his back on their values and became a corporate marketing consultant for big bucks. Not that she's jealous of his success or anything.
- No, she'd much rather stick with the poor-but-honest lifestyle of running the Omega. She knows the diner is a dive but is oddly proud of her shabby little restaurant.
- She's single. Not that she hasn't had relationships since Kane; there've been men over the years. But nobody special. Meanwhile, just what does Kane think he's doing dating his new young girlfriend, Indigo – trying to reclaim his lost youth? Hah.