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CHARACTERS – clichéd stereotypes

**Hassane Moustafa Ali** (aka Yoyo) – journalist “trying to tell the world about the Faloo people” – he himself was a “Bamileke from Cameroon in Africa. Keita’s mother, **Lena** was a Faloon. Lena dies after their house is raided by hooligans immediately after the coup on Zantoroland.

**Charity Ali** – older sister/Harvard – **Keita Ali** (AKA Roger Bannister)

**Billy Deeds** – white runner – Calls Keita a ‘nigger’

**Smart** – white runner

**Deacon Andrews** – killed in his church by hooligans in Part 1, Chap 1.

**Mahatma Grafton** – Canadian journalist friend of Yoyo’s

**President Porter Goodson** (Faloo) killed by **General Jenkins Randall** (Kano) in a coup – his body dumped into the Fountain of Independence in the main square – Randall declares himself President for Life. To raise money Randall instructs his men to kidnap people especially dissidents and issue ransom demands = The Tax

**Anton Hamm** – marathon agent based in Freedom State who becomes Keita’s agent

**Viola Hill** – ‘Blagaybullied’ Black, gay, disabled – sports journalist who wants to be a news reporter – reports to **Mike Bolton**, city news editor

**Freedom State Federal Immigration Minister Rocco Calder** – a recreational runner – ‘no voice, authority or independence in cabinet’ – member of the ruling Family Party

**Ivernia Beech** – old (85 yrs) white woman who sponsors the best essay prize won by John Falconer for “North and South, We Are All Ortizians” – harassed by the Office for Independent Living and abused by her son **Jimmy** – meets Keita when he helps her after the car accident she causes.

**John Falconer** – (half) black scholarship student at Clarkson Academy – lives in AfricTown and uses \$10,000 prize money to make a documentary film about the place – son of Mary and Bartholomew Falconer – Mary is institutionalized for mental illness – hired by Lula as her personal videographer when she finds him hiding in the closet and watching Yvette Peters assignment with the PM – Falconer videos the whole encounter, saves it on a stick and saves an edited version on a second stick which he gives to Lula – Meets Keita on the bus ride to Clarkson after the marathon in Buttersby – later in Africtown at De Norval’s place, he puts the memory stick with the videos of the Calder/Darlene and PM/Yvette encounters into Keita’s backpack

**Lula DiStefano** – landlord in AfricTown – the Queen of Africtown – owner and Madam of the Bombay Booty brothel

**Jerzy Kook Kook** – street eats seller

**Darlene** – she is with John Falconer during the raid on Denorval’s home when Falconer slips the memory stick into Keita’s back pack...then later she tells Saunders that Keita has the stick

**Yvette** – 17 – spies on a **Graeme Wellington**, the prime minister of Freedom State for Lula. John Falconer videos their interaction – then taken from Freedom State, deported to Z where she dies in prison from ‘natural causes’

**Geoffrey Moore** (Whoa-Boy) – 28 yr old “smartass who ran the country.” PM’s EA

**Sergeant Candace Freixa** – black policewoman and a runner

**Mitch Hitchcock** – running race director in Freedom State

**Saunders** – offers Anton Hamm \$60,000 a year for services that will not compromise your marathon agency work ...indeed would complement it ...payment plus bonuses and expenses for one or two of your regular trips to Z. – asks Hamm to provide information about certain Illegals and to take money to George Maxwell in Z - tells Darlene he represents Yvette’s last customer i.e. the PM – Viola Hill describes him to Calder as “a freelance thug who tells secrets about people in AfricTown and is paid by the Freedom State government and anyone else who wants the scoop on what goes on down there.”

**George Maxwell** – contacts Keita re the kidnapping of his sister Charity and her imprisonment in the Pink Palace in Z - asks for \$15,000

**Sondra Pasioka** – social worker with the Office for Independent Living whose questions motivate Ivernia to volunteer at the library where she gives library cards to illegals and meets

### SETTING – Dystopian imaginary islands in near future

Freedom State 2018 – north of Zantoroland in the Ortiz Sea – “the third richest nation in the world” – tobacco, rice and wood – boasted one of the olds most stable parliamentary democracies and its citizens were among the wealthiest in the world.

Enslaved Zantorlanders for two centuries then abolished slavery and deported them back to Zantoroland — adventurous Zantorlanders risked 1500 km open seas between the two islands to get back to Freedom State, ‘one of the richest nations in the world’.

Zantoroland – “What a dump. Dictatorship. Poverty. The whole country of 4.5 million people was like one giant Afric Town.” – bursting at the seams – officially would only take 5000 returnees per year.

Dystopian vision – Purpose: A dystopia is an unpleasant (typically repressive) society, often propagandized as being utopian. [The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction](#) states that dystopian works depict a negative view of "the way the world is supposedly going in order to provide urgent propaganda for a change in direction."<sup>[1]</sup> It is a common literary theme.

The symbol of the ‘red cane’

**PLOT**

When slavery is abolished in Freedom State in 1834 it deports them back to ZL and pays a resettlement fee for each deportee of 25 pound sterling

After the Grand Repatriation ended steady stream of migrants continued to move back to Freedom State settling in AfricTown many living in shipping containers owned and leased out by **Lula DiStefano**

Freedom State pays Z to take back its illegals – Z then kills those who are returned?...Money laundering???? (story Yoyo was working on when he was killed)

Keita to Viola Hill p279 – “My father was working on a story. Something to do with corruption tying Z to Freedom State.” “What kind of corruption?” “Not sure. Freedom State officials were paying off their colleagues in Z. Something to do with refugees.”

**IRBL – Illegals Returned Before Landing**

Viola Hill tells Calder off the record that word on the street in AfricTown from Zantoroland is there is “some sort of secret arrangement between our two countries which has us shipping dissidents back to Zantoroland. Calder says he knows nothing but that “the PM’s office could handle it.

Bossman. I firmed up the deal with GM...Citing National Security we can bypass Cabinet Office and do this on your orders. Off books. \$ only. We can keep intercepting bathtubs, return to Z. WE pay \$2,000 per capita for each IRBL. To cover Z’s assimilation and resettlement ...

**THEMES**

- the plight of the illegal immigrant – ‘Deport the Illegals’ movement – migrants vs refugees
- the unfolding, extending evil of political corruption
- political hypocrisy and lying vs. the truth
- the lingering evil of slavery down through the generations
- the ethics and morality of deportation agreements between countries

**LEM Summary**

Writing – Intentionally cartoonish or just plain bad?

*e.g. p373 the final altercation in Calder’s office between Calder and Wellington, Moore, Saunders and Hamm with Keita watching and John F hiding to video it all:*

“Best way to move money, if the mule is witless, and mules always are,” Wellington said. “Geoffrey, get that damn stick.” Geoffrey pulled the USB stick from Calder’s hand. “You’ll never get away with this,” Calder said.

—uneven pacing—Too slow, then too fast. The timeline lurches around from setting to setting.

— cliché characters, clichéd speechifying

—repetitive unnecessary detail vs. important but un-emphasized detail – complicated and confusing plot development – predictable outcomes: a happy ending!

—the uncovering of the corruption: **You're paying A official in exchange for information about illegals, whom you then deport.** Does the average reader understand the illegality in issue and why it constitutes corruption? The corruption in Z is clear—the state kidnapping its own citizens and executing dissidents (Pink Palace). The corruption in FS is subtler and given the world these days less alarming by comparison and yet it remains the central mystery and the key to unmasking the villains in FS, but who pale in comparison to General Jenkins Randall...at least to my way of thinking who is a classic thieving, murderous despot.

— accordingly the emphasis of the story development seems misplaced.

— What are we to make of all the running details?

— What are we to make of all of Keita's health problems: his hernia and his diabetes?

### **Dystopias: Definition and Characteristics**

#### **Utopia:**

A place, state, or condition that is ideally perfect in respect of politics, laws, customs, and conditions. (Heaven on earth)

**Dystopia:** A futuristic, imagined universe in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through corporate, bureaucratic, technological, moral, or totalitarian control. **Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend, societal norm, or political system.** (Hell on earth)

Dystopias show us where we could but shouldn't go.

#### Characteristics of a Dystopian Society

- Propaganda is used to control the citizens of society.
- Information, independent thought, and freedom are restricted.
- A figurehead or concept is worshipped by the citizens of the society.
- Citizens are perceived to be under constant surveillance.
- Citizens have a fear of the outside world.
- Citizens live in a dehumanized state.
- The natural world is banished and distrusted.
- Citizens conform to uniform expectations. Individuality and dissent are bad.
- The society is an illusion of a perfect utopian world.

#### **Types of Dystopian Controls**

Most dystopian works present a world in which oppressive societal control and the illusion of a perfect society are maintained through one or more of the following types of controls:

- Corporate control: One or more large corporations control society through products, advertising, and/or the media. Examples include *Minority Report* and *Running Man*.
- Bureaucratic control: Society is controlled by a mindless bureaucracy through a tangle of red tape, relentless regulations, and incompetent government officials. Examples in film include *Brazil*.
- Technological control: Society is controlled by technology—through computers, robots, and/or scientific means. Examples include *The Matrix*, *The Terminator*, and *I, Robot*.
- Philosophical/religious control: Society is controlled by philosophical or religious ideology often enforced through a dictatorship or theocratic government.

### The Dystopian Protagonist

- often feels trapped and is struggling to escape.
- questions the existing social and political systems.
- believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives.
- helps the audience recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective.

—so how does this dystopian vision help us with the refugee problems we are facing today worldwide unprecedented since the WWII?

CNN

Hundreds of thousands of migrants are pounding on Europe's invisible doors -- dirty, exhausted and desperate to escape the daily carnage in their homelands. But their arrival also puts a strain on European resources. [Germany expects to take in 800,000 refugees](#) and says it will spend at least 6 billion euros (\$6.7 billion). Austria, which received 16,000 migrants in just two days, [said it won't be able to keep up with this pace](#). At the same time, several oil-rich Arab nations closer to the conflict zones have come under harsh criticism because they've taken in virtually no refugees. So are countries obligated to house refugees? If so, why? For the most part, it boils down to an international treaty.

The [1951 Refugee Convention](#) was adopted after World War II, when hundreds of thousands of refugees were displaced across Europe. The treaty defines what refugees are -- those seeking refuge from persecution. It also gives them a very important right -- the right to not be sent back home into harm's way, except under extreme circumstances. "Since, by definition, refugees are not protected by their own governments, the international community steps in to ensure they are safe and protected," said the UNHCR, the United Nations' refugee agency. The treaty was amended in 1967, in part to include refugees from around the world. And according to the provisions, "refugees deserve, as a minimum, the same standards of treatment enjoyed by other foreign nationals in a given country and, in many cases, the same treatment as nationals," the UNHCR said. The agency said more than 50 million refugees have been resettled. Over the past several decades, [142 states have signed on](#) to both the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 protocol. Hungary is one of the signatories. But it has been criticized by migrants and activists who say refugees are left in decrepit conditions as they await transfer. Now, Hungary is erecting a fence at the Serbian border to help control the flow of migrants. Countries outside of Europe are also stepping up to handle the current flood of refugees. Venezuela, which signed on to the 1967 protocol, said it will take in 20,000 refugees. Australia said it has absorbed 4,500 refugees from Syria and Iraq over the past year. Noticeably absent from the list: the Gulf states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

### What rights do refugees have?"

In addition to not getting sent back to their home countries, refugees have several other rights, including:

- to not be punished for illegally entering countries that signed on to the treaty
- to housing
- to work
- to education
- to public assistance
- to courts
- to get identification and travel documents

### Why aren't Gulf countries taking in refugees?

Since oil-rich Gulf states are close to Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, they'd help absorb some of the refugees, right? Wrong. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates have each given millions of dollars to the United Nations to help Syrian refugees. But they haven't housed any of them, according to Amnesty International. "We've been asking that not only the borders of the region are open, but that all other borders -- especially in the developed world -- are also open," said Antonio Guterres, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Abdul Khaleq Abdulla, a retired professor from United Arab Emirates University, said Gulf states have security on their minds. "Having refugees also feeds into ISIS' appeal," Abdulla said. "And it feeds into the violence in the region, which is already the most violent region on Earth. So all in all, anything that goes in the neighborhood impacts the security and the stability of the Arab Gulf states who are by far the most stable and the most secure." And those Gulf states aren't party to the international treaty -- so technically, they don't have to help.

### The Death of the Most Generous Nation on Earth

Little Sweden has taken in far more refugees per capita than any country in Europe. But in doing so, it's tearing itself apart. By [James Traub](#) Feb 10, 2016

When Europe reconstituted itself in the aftermath of the war, the obligation to accept refugees was embedded in such core documents as the Convention on Human Rights, the Refugee Convention, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Signatories pledged not to turn back refugees with a "well-founded fear of being persecuted." Organizations like the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees were founded to ensure that states honored those commitments. The right to refuge was understood as a universal principle that all civilized states would honor; Europeans made good on this pledge when they welcomed hundreds of thousands who fled from Communist oppression in Eastern Europe. The United States, for its part, accepted nearly half a million people who fled Vietnam after the South fell in 1975.

### Germany accused of 'paying' African countries to take back 'foreign' asylum seekers

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Germany has been giving "financial incentives" to the embassies of some African countries to accept asylum seekers from third states who have been rejected by Germany without the consent of the migrants, a refugee aid organization claims. Berlin has been adding specific "Readmission Agreements" to development aid accords with African countries in order to deport asylum seekers to these countries -- regardless of their actual country of origin. "Pro Asyl" (For Asylum), a German refugee rights organization, alleges. "These agreements commit the African countries to readmitting their own citizens who have had asylum turned down by Germany, but it also allows them to readmit rejected asylum seekers from other countries, who travelled through these transit states," Max Pichl, a member of Pro Asyl, told The Local.

According to the relief organization's data, if German authorities are unable to deport a rejected asylum seeker because they lack sufficient information and documents to determine or confirm their country of origin, they address a third nation's embassy and pay for documentation to be issued "confirming" such a person's nationality as their citizen so that the migrant can eventually be deported to that country. "It is difficult to say how many people it affects. The cases only come to light on an individual basis when someone who has been sent back to Africa reports it," Pichl

told *The Local*, adding that there is “a very long list of countries with whom Germany has such agreements,” according to which “countries are obliged to take back migrants, but nothing more is specified.” At the same time, the data provided by the German Federal Office for Migration (BAMF), which is specifically responsible for deporting rejected asylum seekers, suggests that Germany has 13 such agreements, with only two countries from the list – Morocco and Algeria – actually being African. Apart from Morocco and Algeria, the BAMF’s list includes Albania, Syria, Kosovo, Serbia, and Macedonia. BAMF has not revealed how many people have been deported under these agreements, stating only that “these arrangements make it possible for foreigners to return or be returned via the contracting Member State without the need of a transit visa.”

#### Additional payments for 'successful identification'

Similar issues were reported by German weekly *Der Freitag* on Tuesday, claiming that the rejected refugees whose country of origin cannot be determined are sent to meetings with the employees of some of the countries they could be potentially legally be sent back to. In 2014, German federal authorities ordered 720 “stateless” asylum seekers to attend 50 such meetings with representatives from 18 different African countries, the weekly claims, adding that “an indefinite number of such meetings organized by the regional authorities” had taken place during the same period. Germany allegedly pays the embassies for these “refugee hearings.” According to *Der Freitag*, Berlin also gives them additional money if they subsequently issue relevant documentation for the rejected asylum seekers – so-called emergency travel certificates – which allow German authorities to deport a person “within days.” The meetings with the embassy employees take “several minutes,” and are therefore insufficient to determine a person’s actual country of origin, *Der Freitag* claims, implying that they are only a formality used by Germany to deport unwanted asylum seekers.

... In the meantime, payments to the Nigerian embassy have been suspended “to extract a bit of the smell of corruption,” the paper adds, citing Ulla Jelpke, a member of the German *Die Linke* (the Left Party).

In view of the unending refugee inflow, German public opinion, as well as the sentiments of the country’s political establishment, has gradually turned against the German government’s open arms refugee policy. According to one recent poll, 40% of Germans want German Chancellor Angela Merkel to resign over her refugee policy, while small arms sales in the country skyrocketed after a wave of New Year’s Eve assaults in the German city of Cologne.