

# Cast of Characters

TGO has four main characters and a small number of recurring, supporting characters. They are discussed below.

Among other metaphors, the three “living” characters represent various philosophies of the individual’s role in society (see the character descriptions).

## Main Characters

### Steve “Ledge” Delaney

Ledge is from the Autonomous District of North America, which encompasses modern-day North and Central America. When he was very young, his mother persuaded his father to give Ledge a prion treatment to enhance his physical strength as an adult, but the lab made a mistake that almost killed him.

Ledge obtained a scholarship to the Confederation Naval Academy and graduated at the middle of his class. He was trained as a pilot by the Confederation Navy and opted to have a DUI (dewey) interface implanted in his body to allow him to more easily control ships and other devices equipped with virtual-reality interfaces.

While working off his service to the Navy on commerce patrol around a frontier world named New Brazil, he met and fell in love with a young navigator, Amy Johnson. The two became engaged to be married. While on patrol, their cutter, the CNS Giap, encountered a pirate ship. The pirate opened fire on Ledge and Amy’s ship, killing Amy before escaping and leaving Ledge in shock and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Ledge is held over in a Navy mental hospital for a year, but is eventually tossed out as part of the Navy’s “one-year rule” on invalidated patients. Upon his discharge, Ledge learns that his mother has just died, leaving him the family farm as a legacy.

Ledge converts the land to liquid funds and uses the money to purchase a small courier starship, the *CIS Daisy* (which is the spaceship equivalent of a cargo van), and go into business as a “freelancer,”

taking odd jobs as he can find them, moving small cargoes and passengers around known space.

Ledge is a law-abiding character, and he will take pains to do things by the book, including applying for and obtaining various licenses and permits. He accepts that there are limits on behavior, even if they are counter to survival. One might call this a code of ethics. Throughout the show, his code is frequently challenged. Sometimes he rises, sometimes not.

### Relationship with “Amy”

Once obtaining his own starship, the *CIS Daisy*, he reprograms the ship’s AI computer to mimic the personality and appearance of Amy Johnson, his dead fiancée. As the show progresses, we learn that the ship’s computer is not typical.

Amy’s personality grows, eventually developing emotions and becoming consciously aware. This also breeds awkward moments, such as when Amy’s younger sister discovers that Ledge has programmed the AI in Amy’s image. Ledge struggles between trying to hold onto the memory of Amy and an increasingly severe psychosis brought on by his overuse of virtual reality to be and use the AI version as a surrogate for Amy.

Later in Season One, the computer discovers that it also has developed feelings for Ledge, but not after a series of adventures and a season of character development.

### Ledge’s Arcs

Ledge is the main character, and therefore, his arc is intertwined with the main story. Throughout Season One, he struggles, trying but unable to forget the memory of his dead fiancée, Amy Johnson. In the final episode, he literally buries the past and we leave him on the cusp of beginning a new relationship with Miranda (see recurring characters).

## Colin Jones

Colin Jones is a child prodigy who ostensibly loses his high-paying, high-profile research job with a mega-corporation when the Zimrakkans sell the answers to his projects to the corporation.

In actuality, he has been sequestered by the corporation to infiltrate the crew of the *CIS Daisy*. At the time he begins, even he does not know why, except that he is to carefully trace every location to which the ship travels and learn as much as he can about her past. His secret identity is revealed to the audience in flashbacks in *Public Beta*.

Jones has a sister, Ariel, who appears in *Keeping up with the Joneses*.

In a metaphorical sense, Jones represents the aspect of humanity that yearns to break free of the imposed bonds of society, but is afraid to do so. Jones will obey laws, but resents them. In terms of modern day political philosophy, he would be something of a “Capital L” Libertarian.

### Jones’ Arcs

Jones does not realize that he is unhappy in his high-profile, lucrative job as a corporate researcher until he meets Koko. Koko challenges him in ways he had never been tried before and eventually pulls him away from the soul-crushing machinery of society. Ledge’s ethical behavior eventually makes him regret having acted as a spy for Zumpco. In the end, he makes a decision to leave that organization.

## Koko “Tanaka”

Koko’s background is nebulous. Koko is not her real name. Rather, it is a nickname her mother gave her because of the way she misspelled “cocoa.” Koko’s real last name is not revealed during the show, but in *Blue Gene Baby*, we learn that her Civilian ID Card lists her as Koko Tanaka from Lima, Peru.

Koko speaks her mind, blurting things out that would normally create awkward social situations. She is smart, and an excellent judge of character. She is a restless soul, and will engage in activities such as skydiving from orbit and space-walking

just for the thrill. “Look before you leap,” is not in her phrasebook.

Koko is a crack shot with a pistol and is an expert in hand-to-hand combat and small unit tactics, although she tries to hide those aspects of her persona from the *CIS Daisy*’s crew. She resents being called a, “gun nut,” despite much evidence to support that epithet.

Behind her facade, Koko is a covert CSA field agent who has been assigned by the agency to investigate the events that have led several organizations to look at the *CIS Daisy*.

Koko’s parents were both CSA agents, and they were killed in a mundane flight accident when Koko was about five years old (or...was it an accident? And did they both die...? This might be answered if there is ever a Second Season). The agency, as part of its policy, took care of Koko, seeing to her welfare and education. When she came of age, she entered the CSAs programs and became a covert agent.

Her current assignment to infiltrate the *CIS Daisy* is considered a secondary mission by her superiors, who know that something is going on because other organizations are also involved, but they do not know exactly what is transpiring.

Koko has, embedded in her forearm, a wireless DUI implant, although this is something she hides from the crew.

### Koko’s Arcs

Koko also has an arc concerning a divorce with her past, but it is from a growing discontent and desire to be free to make her own choices. In some ways, she can be seen as an extended metaphor for the struggle women have had to endure to become equals in a traditionally male-dominated society. As the show progresses, she becomes increasingly disenchanted with her CSA job as the government takes a more active role in managing the agency, and replacing many of her “surrogate family” with political operatives. As the show climaxes, she will make a decision to quit. Although, as Robert DeNiro noted in *Ronin*, you never really leave...

Koko also has a secondary arc wherein she and Jones eventually cultivate a love-hate relationship.

## Amy Johnson

Amy Johnson was a poor student who entered the Confederation Navy's ROTC program as a way to finance her education. She studied mathematics and fine arts.

While on assignment, she met Ledge. Over the course of a long patrol on the frontier, they fell in love and became engaged. A week before they were scheduled to return home and get married, Amy is killed during a battle with a pirate ship. Her character appears through three different means: as a shipboard computer AI, as a PTSD-induced hallucination, and in flashbacks/dreams.

The role of Amy is challenging to play as her various incarnations are subtly different. The character is named after a famous British aviatrix who was died in the early 1940s when weather obscured her landing site and she crashed into the Thames Estuary.

Amy has a family and a younger sister, Dawn. Dawn appears in *All About Amy*.

### Amy/AI

Following his release from the Navy mental hospital, Ledge loads his collected memorabilia from his and Amy's relationship into the *CIS Daisy's* AI Computer. Over the course of the first season, the computer learns and adapts to this, and in later episodes, achieves sentience, with its personality and manner based on Amy's history.

### Amy (Dream)

Partly because of PTSD induced by Amy's horrific death in his presence and exacerbated by his overuse of the ship computer's virtual reality capability, Amy occasionally manifests as a hallucination. Her appearances are transparently a device through which Ledge talks to himself. This version of Amy is much more human than the computer version, but her dialogue and reactions are really what Ledge would expect, not reflective of what Amy was.

### Amy (Flashback)

When she returns as part of flashbacks or in dreams, Amy is like her true character. She is friendly, perky, cute, educated, and smart. She definitely would have been a keeper.

### Amy/AI's Arc

Amy, the *CIS Daisy's* AI computer personality, learns to feel emotions, and by the end of the series, falls in love with Ledge even as she recognizes she has become sentient. In the season climax, she sacrifices herself trying to protect the crew.

## Recurring Characters

A number of supporting characters appear in more than one episode and help carry the story as well as expand the backstory and the setting's verisimilitude.

### Ariel Jones

Ariel Jones is Colin Jones' obnoxious sister. Even Colin dislikes her, but he considers her family. In *Keeping up with the Joneses*, she is brought on to Ledge's team as a business manager.

### Deputy

Deputy (not named) is the smart-assed assistant to Marshal Ryan. He appears in several episodes.

### Reeves/Stuart

Reeves is the original AI Computer Personality installed on board the *CIS Daisy* when it is bought by Ledge. The character is based on the valet named "Jeeves" from the works of Pelham Grenville Wodehouse. Although the character recurs, the AI erases itself at the end of *Shakedown*. In *The Butler Did It*, Ledge finds the "real" Reeves, who turns out to be a butler named "Stuart." Stuart tells Ledge how to get access to the *CIS Daisy's* locked data files.

### Lo Fat

Lo Fat is a middle-management organized crime boss. He runs his own "cell" of legitimate and illegitimate operations. He describes himself as a "Reformed Buddhist" and his philosophy seems to

be as adaptable as the wind. But he does not believe in killing sentient beings. That being said, all other options are on the table. He does not find his name humorous, and those who do tend to wind up in stress positions.

Lo Fat was close friends with Miranda's former husband, and was sworn to protect Miranda should anything bad ever happened to her husband (and something bad did happen). Lo Fat has a more than passing interest in Miranda, and is constantly trying to tempt her into joining him for social "activities." He would never force himself upon her and seeks to fulfill her wishes whenever he can. In *Adventures in Fine Dining*, his relationship with Miranda spares Ledge and Crew from harsh retaliation by the mob for events in *The Daughters of Albion*.

## Marshal Ryan, CBI Agent

Marshal Ryan is an agent for the CBI, the modern equivalent of the FBI. He is investigating the CIS Daisy for reasons even he does not fully understand, except that there are irregularities concerning the death of Daisy's former owner.

## Miranda

Miranda first appears in *Adventures in Fine Dining*.

Miranda was born on Earth, to a very poor family, but she was exceptionally attractive and garnered the attentions of an older, wealthy man who was secretly a member of an organized crime syndicate. The couple eventually married and moved to her husband's estate on planet Xia.

Miranda's husband was murdered by other criminal elements, and Miranda inherited his property, leaving her moderately wealthy. She occupies herself by running an upscale restaurant on Xia, as well as acting as a luxury commodity investor and broker. She prides herself on being an oenologist.

Despite her low birth, Miranda is very cultured and precise in her social interactions, and she spent a great amount of effort to become so. She could recite passages from the 2800 edition of *Miss Manners* if pressed to do so. She is immaculate in her grooming, professional in her fashion sense, and witty in conversation.

Miranda also has a special relationship with the criminal boss Lo Fat.

## Blake Lewis, Journalist

Blake Lewis is a star reporter for the Confederation News Agency. He first appears in *The Daughters of Albion*. His name is taken from William Blake, author of the poem *Vision of the Daughters of Albion*, and Sinclair Lewis, an American muckraking journalist, as well as being a personal homage to an old friend from my days at Turner Publishing who encouraged me to pursue such creative avenues as this.

## Other Characters

A number of supporting characters appear once.

### Dawn Johnson

Dawn Johnson is Amy Johnson's younger sister. She appears in *All About Amy*.

### Daisy

Daisy was a former CSA agent who, while trying to infiltrate the office of Ernest Silvio, ended up falling for him and joining him in his plans. She is the person for whom the *CIS Daisy* is named.

In *Shakedown*, the characters discover her corpse on planet Shangri-la.

### Ernest Silvio

Ernest Silvio was the former owner of the *CIS Daisy*. He was the CEO of Zumpco. His suspicious murder is the catalyst for events in the story.

### "Boris and Natasha"

These two characters work for a top secret section of the CSA in charge of dealing with advanced extraterrestrial technologies. Their real names are never revealed. They become involved in the plot when they come to suspect that the *CIS Daisy* holds the key to tracking down some loose alien technological devices.