

Counting on Trust:

CHARACTERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

[To allow quick use, items are alphabetized by most-used name (e.g., *Abe* not *Han*). Names of characters are in **bold**; MAJOR characters are in capital letters.]

Abe Han: born in China, attended college in U.S., holds dual citizenship; founded software company in Seattle; now financial consultant in Shanghai, where he lives with family; married to **Aracely Lucero Han**: born in Santa Fe, mother of their twin sons; Abe is brother of Ziyi, the former wife of **John Liu**

Amin Dubois: third overdose victim

Kay **Beaulieu**: **Gabriel's** academic advisor

CHARLES LOCKE: owner of consulting firm that specializes in productivity improvement in small manufacturing companies; former associate professor of engineering, **Nebraska State University**; has private pilot's license; married to **Eleanor Locke**; currently recovering from prostate cancer surgery; surgeon was **Dr. Elgin**; an assistant of Elgin's is nicknamed **Nurse Goosey**

Coop Helms: sheriff of Eagle County, NE in which the **Farm** is located

(Joe) **Eldon**: manager of John Liu's Lincoln estate

ELEANOR LOCKE president of **Omniprotein, Inc.**; co-founder (with John Liu) of the organization and designer of its original programs, previously a vice president and faculty member, **NSU**; Ph.D. in microbiology; married to **Charles Locke**, no children; they live on small lake near Farm; have dog named **Jake**

FARM: property owned by **Omniprotein, Inc.** between Lincoln and Omaha on which Liu Lake is located, as well as research laboratories, an administration building, superfish and waste processing plants. and water purification plant

Franklin (**Frank**) Wayne: head of security at **Omniprotein's Farm**

GABRIEL JORDAN: top **NSU** graduate student in College of Biological Sciences; polymath trying to narrow interests to choose doctoral dissertation topic;

currently teaching assistant for introduction to immunology course; just chosen as team teacher of next term's systems biology-bioinformatics survey course; hobbies: cooking and trail-bike riding; son of **Matilda (Tilde)** Jordan, speed-talking epidemiologist in NSU's Graduate School of Public Health, specialty: sexually transmitted disease, and **Edward** Jordan, member of faculty in NSU's School of Law, specialty: law in developing nations

Joanne Landre: senior at NSU; part-time security guard (partnered with Jose Callafo) at **Farm**; first overdose victim

JOHN LIU: chair of **Omniprotein Inc.**'s board; president of **Liu Enterprises** (venture capital firm, HQ Lincoln); co-founder (with Eleanor Locke, then of NSU) of **Omniprotein**; president of **Liu Foundation**; residence in Lincoln; divorced husband of **Ziyi** Han; father of deceased son **Will**; college roommate of **Abe** Han

Joint Venture Agreement: classic structure used to transfer technology and other assets among organizations, with some partners providing space and personnel and other partners providing technology and training, usually with profit-making goal

Justin Leggert: newly appointed member of the faculty of **NSU-Omaha's** department of computer science; second overdose victim; wife **Anne**

Kadi Somersby: executive assistant to **John** Liu; loved by **Sam** Chien

Liu Enterprises: venture capital firm, headquartered in Lincoln, which provided funding to found **Omniprotein**; **John** Liu, president

Liu Foundation: family foundation, currently headed by **John Liu**, which awards grants to individuals and organizations for agricultural improvement projects

Ministry of Fisheries: Chinese government agency that must approve John Liu's joint venture agreement between Omniprotein, Inc. and two Chinese generals to build a superfish farm in the region under each general's command

Nature Rules: an eco-activist organization that stages a highly publicized demonstration against **Omniprotein** every couple of years, although the company is a model of food production with minimal environmental impact

Norman Olivier Liu (deceased): John Liu's father and founder of Liu Foundation

Maggie Singh: Eleanor Locke's executive assistant

Duncan Melchior: president of Nature Rules

Pei Yaobang (General), nickname: *Old Pei*; commander of China's (fictitious) Eighth Military Region; former senior officer to General Zhou, and partner with him in joint venture application by Omniprotein, Inc. to Ministry of Fisheries

Peoples Liberation Army (PLA): unit that encompasses most of China's military; overseen by the **Central Military Commission**, representing the Chinese Communist Party and the central government

Proprietary information/data: information that is the property of a person or company and cannot be used without permission and, often, a fee or royalties

Sam Chien: president of **Chien Security**, Lincoln-based private security firm that provides guards for VIP visitors to **Omniprotein** and oversees security of its proprietary information; his chief of operations is **Brad Smith**; Sam teaches karate as sideline; he's loved by **Kadi Somersby**

Kay Seaver: **Gabriel's** supervisor as teaching assistant

SELENA CAMPBELL: wonderfully beautiful, newly enrolled graduate student in biological sciences at **NSU** with major interests in fish and genetics; admired and loved by Gabriel Campbell; raped as child so has negative attitude toward men; rides ancient motorcycle; alone in world since her grandmother (**Nana**) died of cancer last spring; carries switchblade given to her by her **Uncle Scotty**

Zhang **Shaoqi**: son of **Zhang Wei**, a senior member of the staff of the **Central Military Commission**, the group of senior Communist Party leaders and generals that controls the **PLA**; Shaoqi has been a friend of **Abe Han** since prep school

State Council: executive branch of China's central government

Superfish: fish bio-engineered and genetically tailored by Omniprotein to grow faster and bigger in location-specific, adverse growth conditions

Tung Ling (Colonel): General Zhou's chief of staff

Vice presidents of Omniprotein, Inc. (all but Chada are researchers as well):

Al Ames, Ph.D., senior vice president for administration

Stuart Canto, Ph.D., vice president for operations

Raul Catalan, Ph.D., vice president for public affairs

Savitri Chada, J.D., vice president for development; oversees grants and contracts as well as patents and licenses on discoveries of Farm researchers

Konrad Flick, Ph.D., vice president for academic programs

Rick Kreider, Ph.D., vice president for research

Zhou Xiaoping (General): commander of China's (fictitious) Eleventh Military Region who orders theft of Omniprotein's proprietary information

Ziyi Han (Liu): former wife of **John Liu**, mother of **Will** (deceased); president of clothing company she founded in Shanghai to produce and sell her original designs