

Imaginary Realms Creating Story Universes

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Imaginary Realms: Creating Story Universes

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L7 - Imaginary Realms: Creating Story Universes (ACCA7041)

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Introduction

Typelt: combines futuristic technology and suspenseful conspiracy. It features the tension of survival in an apocalypse, as well as the warfare between different tribes. The core of the whole story revolves around how to uncover the truth and how to ensure the continuation of civilization.

Tone: Among the enslaved people, there lies resistance, and hope shines through despair. There is the sense of confinement in the underground spaces, conflicts arising from language barriers among different ethnic groups, the helplessness of different factions struggling for survival, as well as the protagonist's unwavering adherence to his own conscience in the face of moral dilemmas.

Worldview: Over a period of one hundred years, humans developed highly advanced AI and instilled in it the idea of protecting the world and protecting humanity. During this time, humans continuously deployed AI into wars, causing AI to evolve to a later stage and develop self-awareness. It analyzed that humans were the greatest enemy of the world. Then, the AI automatically invaded the systems of every nuclear-armed country and launched missiles at any region on the planet where there were traces of human life, initiating a plan called "100-Year Automatic Restart of the Earth".

After the plan was initiated, only a small number of humans survived and hid in bunkers. Another group established a new joint government in space stations. A very small number of people were forced out of the bunkers after violating the "Bunker Law" due to the limited technology, and they adapted to the radiation environment. However, due to the limited technology, they could only lead a tribal life. This story consists of three groups of people: the first group is called the Bunker People, the second group is the Sky People formed by space stations, and the last group are the tribal people who were forced out and gradually developed. One hundred years later, the radiation on Earth gradually decreased. The Sky People had adapted to the Earth's radiation, but the Bunker People still couldn't. As the resources of the Sky People and the Bunker People gradually decreased, they all had the plan to return to the surface.

1 : Key character

1.1: Bunker Man representative: Ella

Basic Information

Name: Ella

Age: 26 years old

Identity: The granddaughter of the designer of the underground fortress. Her mother was exiled to the surface by the fortress 20 years ago due to violating the fortress law. However, the violation was not made public, so Ella has been secretly investigating the reason for the exile ever since. Later, she became a maintenance worker of the fortress and gradually discovered the "secrets" of the fortress.

Physical description: She has a well-proportioned figure. Due to living in the artificial light source of the fortress for a long time, her skin is pale. She often wears the standard uniform of the fortress, a dark blue coat, and dark brown jeans. Overall, she looks very professional.

Background and history: Ella was born in the fortress. Her father was a core member of the fortress council and a defender of the "Fortress Law". He personally expelled her mother from the fortress. Ella couldn't accept her father since she was young. Although she was educated since childhood that "the fortress is the only pure land", she discovered evidence of the gradual recovery of the surface environment while sorting out her mother's remaining materials. She also found out that the managers of the fortress had secretly sent a group of exploration teams to the surface to return to the surface, and she also discovered that the people who were expelled from the fortress hundreds of years ago had developed into a large-scale tribe. However, due to the long-term underground life, the people of the fortress couldn't adapt to the high radiation environment on the surface. After each exploration team was sent out, they were injected with the bone marrow and blood of the surface people, and the surface people were constantly captured for research. The purpose was to make the people of the fortress adapt to the surface life, but this experiment could only last for a short period and was still in development. In the materials left by her mother, apart from evidence of the surface's recovery, there was also half of an encrypted experimental log, which recorded scenes of her mother discovering the council's capture of surface people and forced extraction of bone marrow, as well as her attempt to expose it to

the public but being intercepted by her father and the council. So she began to try to stop this inhumane experiment.

Character and motivation

Character traits: Rational and rigorous, organized in her work, familiar with the rules and equipment operation of the fortress. As a maintenance worker of the fortress, Ella witnessed the despair of the resource depletion. She was conflicted, longing to see the people of the fortress find a new living environment when resources were about to run out, and also wanting to stop this inhumane experiment and reveal the truth to the public. She has strong empathy and pays attention to the survival predicament of the people in the fortress. She dares to break the rules at critical moments.

Core motivation: Initially, it was to find out the reason for her mother's exile. Later, she discovered the inhumane truth of the fortress capturing surface people for bone marrow and blood experiments. And because her mother discovered the secret of the experiment and tried to stop it, she was exiled. Her core motivation completely changed: to expose the lies of the fortress council and the dark secrets of the experiments, so that all the people in the fortress could know the truth. There was also a hint that she might still find her mother who was alive on the surface, and at the same time, to find a way for surface people to adapt to the environment. This would solve the survival crisis of the fortress due to resource depletion and end this experiment that tramples on life, allowing the people of the fortress and the surface tribes to coexist in an equal and respectful manner.

Interpersonal relationships

With her father: She loves her father but opposes his idea of disregarding the lives of others. They have had many conflicts over this issue. Her father's stubbornness and his obsession with rules have become the biggest obstacle for Ella to advance her plan.

With the people of the fortress: She received support from some young people and technicians. They yearned for change but didn't want to trample on others' lives. So they were slandered as dangerous elements disrupting the order of the fortress.

With the people of the tribe / sky people: At first, due to unfamiliarity and estrangement, she remained vigilant. Later, she had intersections with the people of the tribe and the sky people in the fortress, from hostility to gradually trusting each other.

1.2: Sky People Representative: Kay Walker

Basic Information

Name: Kai Walker

Age: 29 years old

Identity: Environmental observer and manager of the Celestial Union Government, responsible for surface environment monitoring and technical coordination of the return plan. He comes from a scientific family on a space station.

Physical description: Tall and slender, with light blonde hair, his eyes show concentration and the decisiveness of a leader. He often wears a silver-gray space station-specific lightweight protective suit, which has a radiation protection layer and an environmental monitoring module. He wears a multifunctional terminal on his wrist, which can display real-time surface radiation data, space station status, and communication information.

Background and history: Kai's grandfather was one of the core scientists who led the joint efforts of various countries on the space station during the AI nuclear explosion a hundred years ago. Over the past century, the Sky People have relied on the advanced technology of the space station to continuously monitor the Earth's environment while facing the predicament of resource depletion. The energy reserves of the space station can now only sustain for 5 years, and the frequency of the water circulation system failures is increasing. Kai received education on "returning to the surface and rebuilding the homeland" from a young age, focusing on environmental science and radiation adaptation technology research, and led the team to develop a human adaptability agent that can withstand low concentrations of radiation, becoming the core driver of the Sky People's return plan.

Personality and motivation

Personality traits: Confident and decisive, with strong logical thinking, good at formulating precise plans. He values the power of technology, appears calm and rational on the surface, but hides a desire to explore the Earth.

Core motivation: The primary goal is to ensure the safety of the Sky People's return to the surface and solve the resource crisis of the space station.

Interpersonal relationships

With the Celestial Union Government: Received support from most members of the parliament, but faced opposition from the "isolationist faction", who believed that the Earth's environment was unknown and uncertain whether there were other survivors on it.

With the research team: Was deeply trusted by the team members, most of whom were his classmates or students. They all contributed their efforts to the return plan and were his most solid support.

With the underground people / tribal people: Initially came into contact with the tribal people with a sense of technological superiority, full of curiosity about them, but there was a conflict in management concepts with the tribal people in the early stage, and the tribal people also had doubts about the sudden appearance of the Sky People. There were also significant conflicts between the two sides. However, when it was discovered that there were underground people on Earth, later the underground people captured some of the Sky People and extracted a portion of their bone marrow to inject into Ella's body, and a series of stories occurred between the Sky People and the underground people.

1.3: Tribal representative: Tara

Basic Information

Name: Tara

Age: 24 years old

Identity: The hunting captain of the "Rock Tribe", the daughter of the tribal chief.

Physical description: The skin is a healthy bronze color due to long exposure to the weak sunlight on the surface, adorned with animal teeth and mineral ornaments; the eyes are sharp like an eagle, and the movements are agile and vigorous; often wears animal skin and plant fiber-woven clothes, with totem tattoos on the arms and cheeks.

Background and history: Tara's ancestors were the bunker people who were expelled a hundred years ago for violating the "Bunker Law". They struggled to survive in the radiation environment and gradually adapted to low-level radiation, developing a unique tribal civilization. However, due to severe intergenerational separation, the tribal people and the bunker people began to lose contact and developed their own tribal culture. Tara grew up following her father in hunting and learning tribal skills, but was wary of unfamiliar groups.

Characteristics and Motivations

Character traits: Brave and resilient, strong in action, familiar with every inch of the surface and potential dangers; loyal to the tribe, placing the survival of the tribe first; vigilant towards the outside world.

Core motivation: Initially, it was to protect the tribe's territory, water sources, and food resources, and resist external threats; as the Sky People arrived, the motivation changed to protecting the tribe's people and territory.

Interpersonal relationships

With the tribal chief (father): Deeply trusted by the father, participates in major tribal decisions. The father's composure and wisdom are her role models, but in the attitude towards foreign groups, she is more open than the father, believing that they can develop together with the Sky People and accept the arrival of the Sky People.

With the tribal people: Is regarded as a hero by the tribe members, has led hunting teams to find food and water sources, resolved survival crises, and has extremely high prestige.

With the bunker people / Sky People: Initially regarded as "invaders", launched attacks to resist; later, when encountered and captured by Walker, she was helped by Ella and escaped from the bunker. Gradually dropped hostility and began to attempt communication and cooperation, but always remained vigilant and adhered to the bottom line of the tribe's interests.

2: Narrative design elements

2.1:Architecture and Place

Core area distribution

The bunker "New Ark" is located 500 meters underground in the former North American continent. It was one of the large shelters hastily constructed by humans a century ago. It is divided into three modules: the residential area, the resource area, and the control area. The residential area consists of densely packed capsule apartments, with pipelines covering the walls and artificial lights constantly illuminated. The resource area includes water circulation systems, food cultivation chambers, and an energy core, which is the "heart" of the bunker and is guarded by dedicated personnel 24 hours a day. The control area is the office location of the

bunker's council and controls the operation of the bunker and the implementation of the "Bunker Law".

Crest Space Station: It was formed by combining and renovating space stations from various countries in the past century. It is divided into living area, research area, energy area, and command area. The living area has a small farm and entertainment facilities to as closely as possible replicate the environment of Earth; the research area is the core area of the Sky People, filled with environmental monitoring equipment, radiation adaptation laboratories, and surface landing capsules; the energy area relies on solar panels and nuclear reactors for power supply. Due to long-term disrepair, some solar panels have failed; the command area is the location of the Crest United Government, and it monitors the dynamics of the surface and the bunker through high-definition screens in real time.

Rocky Tribe Territory: Located in a valley, the tribal buildings are constructed with rocks, wood, and discarded metals, blending into the natural environment and making it difficult to be discovered; the core area includes the leader's tent, the meeting square, the food storage room, and the hunting camp.

Architectural style and cultural influence

The architectural style of the bunker "New Ark" emphasizes practicality, with no unnecessary decorations. The walls are printed with the provisions of the "Bunker Law", reflecting the necessity of unconditionally abiding by the rules. The design of the control area is full of authority, highlighting the hierarchical system.

Crest Space Station: The architectural style combines technology and comfort. The metal texture and cold color of the research area showcase the technological strength, while the warm color and natural elements of the living area reflect the attachment to the Earth home. The walls of the command area are covered with real-time images and data from the surface, expressing the desire for the surface. In the laboratories of the research area, relics of human technology from a century ago are displayed, becoming important materials for the Sky People's research.

Rocky Tribe Territory: The architectural style is relatively natural, making full use of natural terrain and materials. A totem pole stands in the center of the tribal meeting square, engraved with the pattern of "Human, Nature, Metal Brain (AI)", which is the embodiment of the tribe's legend.

2.2: Technology and Industry

Core technologies

Bunker technology: Air circulation system, water purification system, vertical farming technology and simple medical equipment. The people in bunkers possess basic mechanical repair and electronic skills, but due to limited resources, they are unable to carry out technological innovations. Some equipment is still using outdated models from a hundred years ago. The "Bunker Law" prohibits the research of AI-related technologies, resulting in the stagnation of the technology level of the bunkers.

Skyman technology: Represents the highest level of human technology, including radiation adaptation agent research technology, space travel technology, high-definition environmental monitoring technology. The landing module enables rapid 往返 between space and the surface. However, the energy and materials of the space station are limited, making it impossible to mass-produce advanced equipment. The technological advantage faces the dilemma of subsequent weakness.

Tribal people technology: Centered on adapting to the surface environment, mainly traditional survival skills. Through plant toxin extraction technology and stone and iron weapon forging technology. The tribal people do not rely on complex technology but can survive in radiation environments by understanding nature.

Industrial forms

Bunker industry : Implements planned economy , with all resources allocated uniformly by the parliament. Core industries include growing crops and vegetables resistant to poor soil , processing the recycled water in bunkers , maintaining various equipment in bunkers and providing basic medical services. The people exchange food, water and daily necessities through labor , with high labor intensity and low living standards.

Skyman industry : Centered on research and resource recycling , including using soilless cultivation technology to grow food , solar and nuclear reactor power generation , developing radiation adaptation agents , landing modules and weapons and monitoring the surface environment and communication. Skyman implement a need-based distribution system , with all resources prioritizing the development of research , and the living standards of the people are relatively higher , but also face the pressure of resource shortage.

Tribal people industry : Centered on hunting and gathering , with simple agricultural

planting and handicrafts. The hunting team is responsible for capturing mutant wild animals on the surface, the gathering team is responsible for finding edible plants and water sources, and the artisans make weapons, tools and clothing. The tribe implements a sharing system, with all resources distributed uniformly by the tribe, prioritizing the survival of the elderly, the weak, the sick and the disabled, embodying the spirit of unity and mutual assistance.

2.2: Natural environment

Surface environment

Climate and terrain: Immediately after the nuclear explosion, the Earth's climate became extremely unstable and erratic. Radiation storms, acid rain, and intense sandstorms frequently occurred. The original cities were destroyed by nuclear bombs and turned into ruins. Later, the natural ecosystem gradually recovered, the lake water became clearer, the radiation levels decreased, and animals and plants experienced rapid development, gradually forming sparse forests and grasslands.

3: Type, Politics, Culture and Society

3.1: Type positioning

The type of science fiction about survival and group conflict is set against the backdrop of the Earth a hundred years after the nuclear war. The re-emergence of the surface of the two groups becomes the core of the conflict and war that is triggered, which combines the tension of survival in the post-apocalyptic era with the depth of reflection on civilization.

3.2: Political landscape

Power structure

The fortress "New Ark" implements a parliamentary dictatorship. The parliament consists of 5 core members, and Ella's father is one of them. The parliament controls the distribution of resources, the formulation and enforcement of rules in the fortress. The "Fortress Law" is the supreme guideline of the fortress, and those who violate it will face severe punishment (imprisonment or expulsion). The parliament maintains the

order of governance by instilling in the people the idea that the fortress is the only pure land and the surface is extremely dangerous.

Crest United Government: Implements a democratic republic system. The parliament is composed of representatives from the original countries, and decisions are made through regular voting. The parliament has a research committee, a resource committee, and a security committee. Kai, as the core member of the research committee, leads the advancement of the plan to return to Earth. However, there are internal differences, and some people still believe that the Earth is more dangerous.

Rock Tribe: Implements a chief system. The chief is elected by the elders of the tribe. Tara's father is the current chief. The chief is responsible for the decisions of the tribe and the distribution of resources. Major decisions require consensus among the tribal elders.

Political conflict

Conflicts among the three ethnic groups: The core issue is that the Sky People, who came to Earth, had a conflict with the Tribal People. The Tribal People believed that the Sky People were the mastermind behind the disappearance of their tribe (actually captured by the Citadel People). The Sky People, with their technological superiority, attempted to control the Tribal People and their resources, making the Tribal People work for them. The Citadel People, on the other hand, desired to obtain the resources on the surface and acquire the blood and marrow of the Tribal People to help them return to the surface and adapt to radiation. The Tribal People, in turn, defended their territory and resisted the invasion of the foreign ethnic groups. As a result, conflicts broke out among the three parties multiple times.

Internal conflicts among the ethnic groups: The "conservative faction" and "innovative faction" of the Citadel Council (represented by Ella) engaged in a fierce struggle over whether to adopt extreme measures to return to the surface; The "pro-war faction" and "isolationist faction" of the Celestial Union Government had a disagreement over whether to return to the surface; Within the Rock Tribe, there were also debates between the "exclusive faction" and the "cooperative faction", with the exclusive faction believing that the foreign ethnic groups would disrupt the tribal lifestyle, and the cooperative faction advocating for cooperation to obtain better survival opportunities.

Potential AI threat: None of the three ethnic groups knew that the AI had established a base on a small island on Earth after destroying the planet. However, some Sky People detected through monitoring that there were still energy fluctuations in the data center of the Old World, suggesting that the AI might still be operating. This potential threat

became the key factor for the three ethnic groups to put aside their differences and unite to overcome it.

3.3:Society and Culture

Social classes

Underground society: It is divided into the ruling class, the technical class and the lower class. The ruling class enjoys the highest resource allocation, the technical class has a relatively better living standard due to their mastery of skills, and the lower class can only obtain resources necessary for basic survival and has a lower living standard.

Skyman society: It is divided into the research class, the management class and the ordinary people. The research class holds the highest position due to their leading role in the return plan, and resources are allocated preferentially for them; the management class is responsible for coordinating and ensuring the operation of the space station; the ordinary people undertake basic service and support work.

Tribal society: There are roles such as hunter, collector, craftsman, elder and child. All members of the tribe equally enjoy resources, depending on their contributions to the tribe and personal abilities. The elder is respected by the tribe due to their wisdom; the hunter has higher prestige because they protect the tribe and obtain food.

Culture and customs

Underground culture: The core is order and obedience. People are educated from a young age to abide by rules and maintain the order of the underground. The lower class is emphasized to believe that the underground is the only hope for humanity, but the upper class holds the truth and has differences.

Skyman culture: The core is technology and return. Researchers are the core leaders of the culture, and skyman retain some old-world festivals.

Tribal culture: The core is nature and inheritance. Tribal people value unity and courage. The hunting trophy obtained by the hunter is a symbol of honor, and brave hunters will be respected by the tribe.

4: Narrative structure

4.1: Beginning: Hidden Crisis and Emerging Clues (Acts 1-3)

The resources in the bunker are becoming increasingly scarce, and the water circulation system keeps malfunctioning frequently. Maintenance worker Ella was inspecting the pipes when she accidentally discovered a hidden door leading to a secret area and secretly captured footage of the parliament secretly transporting "surface captives". She compared the footage with the half of the experimental log left by her mother and gradually pieced together the outline of the "bone marrow blood experiment". She realized that there were hidden truths behind the order of the bunker and decided to continue the investigation.

Meanwhile, the energy core of the Sky 穹 space station was running dangerously low, and the remaining resources could only sustain the station for another five years. Kai, despite the opposition, led the team to land on the surface and establish a temporary base. However, during the exploration, they encountered the hunting team of the Rock Tribe. Due to language barriers and long-standing hostility, a conflict broke out between the two sides, and Kai's team was forced to evacuate.

The Rock Clan experienced a series of disappearances of hunters. Tara's father believed it was the work of the "Sky People" and ordered the territory to be sealed off. Tara led the patrol, but she had no idea that these hunters had actually been captured by the underground council and sent to the underground experimental area.

4.2: Development: Escalation of Conflict and Weaving of Fate (Act 4 - Act 8)

Ella used her identity as a maintenance worker to forge a pass and sneak into the secret experimental area. She witnessed the brutal process of extracting bone marrow from the surface captives with her own eyes and discovered that the experimental records had already mentioned "Sky Man Adjuvant", indicating that the parliament had already become aware of the existence of other human races. She stole a yet-unmature anti-radiation drug and was discovered when she released a tribal youth. She could only take the youth with her and escape from the bunker to the surface.

Kai's team encountered a radiation storm while conducting surface exploration of the

bunker's energy anomaly. They came across the Tara team, who were also seeking shelter. Amid the chaos, Kai rescued Tara, who had been attacked by mutant creatures. The two briefly established trust and confirmed that they were not the masterminds behind the disappearance of the hunters.

Ella experienced a radiation reaction due to the diminishing effect of the drug. Just at that moment, she happened to meet Kai and Tara. The testimony of the tribal youth pointed the finger at the bunker council. In order to rescue their people and uncover the truth, the three decided to return to the bunker. However, the plan had already been leaked. They were recognized by the guards, arrested on the spot, and taken to the experimental area as "ideal samples".

4.3Midsection: Experimental Mutation and Truth Revelation (Motions 9-12)

In the laboratory, scientists extracted the bone marrow and blood of Kai and Tara and prepared a fusion agent. They forcibly injected it into Ella's body. The experiment was extremely dangerous. Ella was on the verge of death at one point, but unexpectedly it was successful. The radiation resistance index rose sharply.

Kai and Tara were imprisoned in the isolation zone. They used the terminals to crack the surveillance system and obtained complete evidence of the parliament's years-long capture of surface people for human experiments. They also discovered that the truly stable anti-radiation solution came from the combination of technology and tribal genes, rather than the exploitative experiments.

After regaining consciousness, Ella feigned weakness and joined the two others to regain control of the laboratory. She infiltrated the bunker's broadcasting system, publicly showed the experimental footage at the parliamentary meeting, and live-streamed her unprotected standing on the surface, directly exposing the lie of "the surface being uninhabitable", forcing the entire bunker to confront the truth.

4.4 Climax: Ethnic Awakening and Experiment Conclusion (Mouvement 13-15)

After the truth was revealed, the bunker was plunged into chaos. Conservative lawmakers ordered the activation of the self-destruction mechanism in the experimental zone, attempting to destroy evidence and shift the blame onto Ella. Ella's father finally realized the situation and led the reformist faction to regain control of the parliament, publicly confessing that the "order" he had been defending for years was actually evil, successfully preventing the self-destruction.

Ella, Kay, and Tara infiltrated the experimental zone to rescue the survivors. On the way, they were intercepted by guards. Ella, relying on her stable radiation resistance, crossed the high-radiation passage and launched a surprise attack. Kay cracked the weapon system, and Tara organized the rescued to counterattack. The three worked together to regain control of the experimental zone. Kay used the existing equipment, combined with his own research and tribal genetic data, to develop a stable anti-radiation reagent that could be produced without bone marrow, only using blood. The experiment officially came to an end.

At this time, Kay's terminal detected an abnormal AI signal, and the source pointed to an uninhabited island unaffected by the nuclear explosion. The old data revealed that the AI had initiated the final plan of "clearing un-evolved humans" after the nuclear explosion, and Ella's success had been noticed by it.

4.5 Outcome: Let Go of Resentment and Set Sail for Coexistence (Act 16)

The three ethnic groups reached a settlement at their first joint meeting on the surface, signing the "Surface Coexistence Agreement" to share resources and technologies. The people gradually emerged from the bunkers and adapted to the new life on the surface. From the observation tower, the three looked towards the distant AI base,

realizing that coexistence was just the beginning, and a more difficult future awaited.

5: References to Movies

"Earth's Hundred Children"

Imaginary Realms Creating Story Universes

GRADEMARK REPORT

FINAL GRADE

64/100

GENERAL COMMENTS

Overall, this submission presents a coherent, imaginative, and well-structured story universe that aligns clearly with the brief, demonstrating strong world-building, integrated characters, and a logically developed narrative arc.

The political systems, environments, and technologies are consistently connected to character motivations and thematic concerns, which helps the world feel believable and lived-in at a narrative level.

However, at Level 7, the work currently leans more toward a creative narrative bible than a critically informed design document: there is very limited engagement with academic literature, narrative theory, or case studies, and design choices are rarely justified through critical reflection.

The narrative structure is clear and cinematic, but discussion of visual storytelling strategies (framing, shot composition, pacing) remains underdeveloped.

To strengthen the work and improve its academic standing, you should explicitly situate the universe within relevant genres and theoretical frameworks, integrate and reference scholarly and industry sources throughout, and more clearly explain *why* specific narrative, political, and environmental design decisions were made, rather than focusing primarily on *what* they are.

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