

Permafreeze

At First Glance

An eternal winter has fallen over North America. In 2081, Dr. Vincent Gallagher, an American biochemist, went on an excursion to the Arctic and illegally returned with a specimen that is known to produce frost during photosynthesis rather than glucose. An experiment gone wrong led the lab he was working in to explode, killing Dr. Gallagher and releasing the specimen into the atmosphere in the form of a gas. Almost immediately, North America's climate changed, including a 30 F decrease in surface temperature and heavy snowfall, leading to mass casualty and a population decline of nearly 30%. North America began to collapse shortly after, and the governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States were left in turmoil. An oligarchy has been implemented in North America by the United Nations, but corruption and violence continues to run rampant.

Factions

As the result of the implementation of an oligarchy per the United Nations, justice and virtue cannot exist under the corrupt rule of the **J.U.D.G.E.S.** Corruption and violence runs rampant across the USMCA, resulting in the formation of four major factions.

★ Hunters Association

- Tight-knit communities that are not usually welcoming to outsiders. Branches consist of between 30-50 people.
- Branches are dispersed throughout North America, but are especially prevalent on the East Coast on the United States
- Composed of normal citizens, but are heavily armed unlike the average citizen.
- Allegiance to the Hunter's Association is absolute and membership is for life. Defectors are to be killed.
- Chiefs of smaller branches are required to pay debts and summarize six-month periods twice a year at Silas Dunham's home in Little Rock
- **GOAL: SURVIVE.**

★ The Vanguards

- Those who have turned their back on North America and seek vengeance for those who have wronged them.
- Similarly to the Abandoned, most have bounties on their heads. The Judges have deemed them criminals are to be killed on sight.
- Live heavily secluded lives and don't tend to leave their homes alone. Tend to live in the mountains or in the snow.
- Consider themselves vigilantes. They think what they are doing is right and don't consider themselves "bad people."
- Normal humans. Do not care for Abandoned or Jicozens; believe them to be abominations of the Judges and Gallagher.
- **GOAL: KILL THOSE LOYAL TO THE JUDGES AND DISMANTLE THE SYSTEM.**

★ Jicozenium

- Followers referred to as Jicozens

- Religious movement that believes Dr. Gallagher's experiment was a sign from God and see Dr. Gallagher as their Messiah
- Led by oracles who preach Dr. Gallagher's research and published papers as Scripture
- Believes the Permafreeze is the modern day rendition of "Noah's Ark" and they have a duty to save those deemed worthy by God and Dr. Gallagher
- Especially fascinated with the Abandoned and believe them to be prophets
- **GOAL: Spreading the word of Dr. Gallagher and converting non-believers to Jicozenium**

★ The Abandoned

- A group of "people" with supernatural abilities, born out of or awakened by Gallagher's explosion.
- The Abandoned are second-class citizens and experience discrimination at the hands of regular citizens. Survival is difficult enough as it is, but being an Abandoned makes it much more difficult
- Abilities include photokinesis, energy manipulation, snow/ice manipulation, superhuman strength, shapeshifting, etc. Some have completely nonhuman bodies (like **Mishou**)
- Most Abandoned have bounties on their head; if they do not, they are often employed with the SIU
- **GOAL: ???**

J.U.D.G.E.S

- ★ Jurisprudence of Diligent Governance and Ethical Statehood, or simply the Judges, is the overruling oligarchy of North America. Each country offers up two Judges, with a total of six. The Chief Justice position belongs solely to the United States and is reserved for the eldest member on the bench. The Judges' headquarters is located in Washington DC. The current Chief Justice is Marco Fowler.
- ★ The Judges oversee The Camarilla based in Mexico City, similarly to the presidential duty of commander-in-chief.
- ★ The Judges hold virtually all legal rights— all judicial, executive, and legislative power. They are the commanding power of North America, responsible for the creation of laws, and the final set of ears in the judicial system.
- ★ The system is heavily corrupted since the power is only held by six people, so they tend to act in their own self-interest. This has led to the formation of four major factions across North America.

The Camarilla

- ★ The Camarilla is North America's military based in Mexico City, which employs 2.5 million North Americans. It is under the rule of the Judges, who work out of Washington DC.
- ★ The Camarilla is divided into four branches:
 - Fuerza Especial Conjunta (FEC): Mexico's main branch, which employs mostly Mexican soldiers. The FEC is overseen by **General Enrique Sandoval**. It is also the largest branch amongst the four.
 - United States Marine Corps: The United States' main branch, which employs mostly American soldiers. The USMC is overseen by **Commandant General Hassan Redouane**.

- Imperial Army: Canada's main branch, which employs mostly Canadian soldiers. The Imperial Army is overseen by **General Joshua Yates**.
- Specialized Intelligence Unit (SIU): Composed of the elite soldiers of the other three branches of the Camarilla. For protection purposes, the overseer is not a name known to the public. The SIU employs only around 100 soldiers, but also employs a select number of captured Abandoned if they respond positively to brainwashing.

