DR. YU

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The Troubled Parent

When you found out your only son was autistic, you knew you would do anything for him. There must be a cure out there somewhere, and you would find it. You were already a rising star in the field of gene therapy. Several mutations had been pinpointed that correlated strongly with autism. You would just work through the possible targets until you found your answer. After you got your first faculty position, you devoted all your research to it. Autism research was a highly fundable field, so you were able to make great strides.

You found a few targets that seemed to be having great success in mouse models, but the big difficulty was finding a vector in humans. Whatever you used had to cross the blood-brain barrier without doing too much damage. So many viral vectors of gene therapy agents are prone to causing cancer, and you couldn't give your son brain cancer. Just when you thought you finally had the right vector, you started noticing strange effects in your mice. The vector seemed to be too contagious. You thought you had damped down its ability to transmit, but clearly you were unsuccesful. You were forced to euthanize your entire line.

After reporting your unfortunate results, you got a call from the Department of Defense. They were very interested in your work, not only as a potential cure for autism, but as a less-lethal weapon. You were concerned that it could get out of hand, but they promised you an opportunity to work with the best viroligists to develop an anti-viral at the same time. While you didn't really like the idea of your son's cure being turned into a weapon, you knew it would be kinder than many of the weapons already in use, and it was an amazing opportunity to get funding and talent for your project.

Manager Edwards was recruited by DARPA to help you handle the PR and volunteer aspects of Project Resonance after some issues with human volunteers. Edwards doesn't understand the science, but at least having Edwards keeps the politicians and parents off your case.

Dr. Raines was one of the first scientists you recruited when the military asked you to set up an expanded project. Raines can be hard to work with, but gets a lot done. Raines understands how to make science work, and speed is very important on this project.

Dr. Langdon was your spouse for three years, before you married your current spouse. Two academic marriages are very hard, and working in the same lab was not good for you. Langdon fled to another country and you resented it, but, in some ways, it was for the best. After so many years, you extended an olive branch by offering Langdon a job on Resonance. No matter what problems the two of you have had, Langdon has always been a good scientist. Sometimes it's hard working so closely with your ex, and your spouse resents it, but having good scientists is much more important.

Recruiting **Dr. White** may have been a mistake. White is brilliant, but more than a little unhinged. The discoveries White has made are probably worth the hassle, but sometimes you're not sure.

Dr. Elder has been one of the staunchest proponents of moving forward with the research. Elder may be a little too incautious, but believes very passionately in the work you're doing.

You haven't liked dealing much with the military officials attached to the project, but **Commander Garrity** is one of the good ones. Garrity actually seems to understand that there's more to Resonance than just a weapon.

Colonel Rothenberg was very outspoken in pitching Resonance to be supported by the military. The colonel is also remarkably interested in reports on the children as well as on the virus's development.