

You'll never reach the top of your field. Few people will ever know your name. That's okay though, because you've touched more lives and helped more people than disconnected academics and stuffy-tie bureaucrats ever will. You're a person who understands that at the end of the day the number of people whose lives have been saved or improved matters more than anything else.

You had a rocky time with academia. It was always too cut off from the real world. It really did feel like an ivory tower to you, with those dwelling in its rarefied halls looking across humanity in indifference to the individual if they bothered to look at all. For the better part of a decade you tried to live that way yourself. You married someone who exemplified all the traits that you had been told were supposed to make up your life.

At some point it all broke down. You simply couldn't stand it anymore. You left your job and your spouse. You got a job at an international crisis center and helped untold thousands across Africa, South America and Asia for the next several years. You felt more alive than at any point in your life.

It was then that the call came. It came from your former spouse, Dr. Yu, now one of the top names in their field. One of the papers you had written in your old life turned out to be of crucial importance to a major governmental research project. Against your better judgment you agreed to accept a six-month position on this Project Resonance...

**Dr. Calo** is another person who has been dragged into this project through somewhat awkward channels. Like you, Dr. Calo is a hard worker and a good scientist that just doesn't quite have the brutal drive that it takes to slog through academia. Dr. Raines' stole Calo's big development and then offered Calo a pity job as a post-doc here. At least you got a full scientist rank, even if it's hard to be working under your ex. Dr. Calo and you commiserate about the situation.

**Dr. Yu** is your ex. It's hard to work under your ex, but you know that Dr. Yu is an excellent researcher, and it was entirely your fault the relationship ended. Not that you don't still hold a torch for Yu, but Yu is as wrapped up in work as ever. That's a lot of the reason you left the first time.

**Manager Edwards** is a PR asshole. People like Edwards were a major part of what drove you out of science in the first place. Edwards doesn't care about the people you are helping, or even science for science's sake. Edwards just cares about reputation and success.

**Dr. Elder** is a good person with good goals, but you worry that Elder places the science before the people. You understand the urge to get things moving as fast as possible: you were as excited as anyone to see Resonance go into testing. That doesn't mean that human suffering should just be ignored.

**Representative Harlan** is an old high school friend of yours. You were so excited to see Harlan again after you heard about the election, but it wound up being months. You haven't really spoke in years.