

CALIBRATION

Character Breakdowns

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CONFIDENTIAL

SERIES REGULARS

HUGO DANNER — Lead

Screen time: All 8 episodes, ~65% of runtime (played by 3 actors: child, teen, adult) **Age:** Adult Hugo: early to mid 20s **Ethnicity:** White/Caucasian

Physical (Adult): 6'2", 265 lbs. Enormously muscular but proportional — not bodybuilder aesthetics, functional mass. The kind of build that makes people stare. Brown hair, brown eyes, unremarkable face on an extraordinary body. Moves with deliberate care — slower than he needs to, gentler than he is, constantly monitoring. Dresses simply: jeans, work boots, thermal shirts. Nothing fitted (he breaks things that are too tight).

The Role: Hugo is the emotional center — a man defined by the gap between what he can do and what the world will let him do. He is not a superhero, an action hero, or a science experiment. He is a person who has spent his entire life performing normalcy, and the performance is consuming him. The role requires physical enormity played with extreme gentleness.

Performance Requirements:

- Convey immense physical capability through restraint, not demonstration
- Carry extended silent sequences (Hugo alone in the mountains, Hugo alone in cells)
- Physical: extensive wirework for strength demonstrations, fight choreography at reduced intensity
- Emotional range: grief, rage (suppressed), loneliness, brief joy, acceptance
- Chemistry required with: Raya (intimacy through trust), Marcus (easy friendship), Lyle (institutional manipulation), Abednego (love + resentment)

Arc: Isolated child → brief normalcy → exile → weapon → prisoner → autonomous man (for five minutes) → death. The performance should feel like watching someone slowly suffocate in a room full of air.

Type: An actor with genuine physical presence who can make stillness more powerful than violence. Intelligence expressed through observation, not exposition. A man who looks dangerous and acts gentle — and the tension between those two things IS the performance.

Audition Scenes:

1. The calibration training (Ep 1) — Hugo at five, practicing not crushing an egg
2. "It feels like being a guest" (Ep 5) — the medical exam monologue with Raya
3. The embryo facility (Ep 7) — shutting down the artificial wombs, one at a time

CATHERINE LYLE — Series Regular

Screen time: Episodes 3-8, ~20% of runtime **Age:** Late 40s to early 50s **Ethnicity:** White/Caucasian

Physical: Lean, composed, immaculate. Blonde hair cut above the shoulder, precisely maintained. Gray eyes. Dresses in dark suits — never casual, never underdressed. No jewelry except a watch.

Moves economically. Never wastes a gesture. The physical vocabulary of a woman who has spent her career in rooms where showing emotion is a tactical error.

The Role: Lyle is the antagonist but not a villain. She believes — genuinely, with the conviction of someone whose father died because human bodies are fragile — that genetic enhancement is a moral imperative. She recruits Hugo because she needs him. She studies Hugo because she wants to replicate him. She orders his death because she cannot control him. At every step, she believes she is right. The audience should understand her reasoning even as they condemn her actions.

Performance Requirements:

- Carry institutional authority without becoming a cartoon
- Convey moral certainty that the audience gradually recognizes as the most dangerous kind of wrong
- Emotional restraint: Lyle does not emote. Her one moment of visible feeling (ordering the strike) should devastate.
- Chemistry required with: Hugo (the handler who values the asset, not the man), Keyes (professional partnership)

Arc: Institutional operator → architect of PROMETHEUS → the woman who ordered the death of the most remarkable human being who ever lived → promoted. The arc should feel like watching competence in service of a fundamentally broken premise.

Type: An actor who conveys intelligence and authority through stillness and precision. Cold without being ice-queen cliché — warm enough to be convincing as a recruiter, rigid enough to order a kill. The kind of presence that fills a room by emptying it of everything unnecessary.

Audition Scenes:

1. The recruitment in Tahiti (Ep 3) — selling belonging to a man who has nothing
2. "Get me the complete protocols" (Ep 5) — at the observation window, looking at dying embryos
3. "Execute" (Ep 8) — ordering the thermobaric strike

DR. RAYA PATEL — Series Regular

Screen time: Episodes 5-8, ~12% of runtime **Age:** Early 30s **Ethnicity:** Indian-American

Physical: Compact, precise. Dark hair tied back. Glasses (functional, not styled). Lab coat most of the time. Small hands — a detail Hugo notices, because his hands are the most dangerous parts of his body. Moves quickly, efficiently, the metabolism of a mind that's always working.

The Role: Raya is the moral fulcrum. She loves Hugo. She also feeds his data to PROMETHEUS. She compartmentalizes until she can't. Her scientific curiosity about Hugo is genuine and her emotional connection is real, and the coexistence of these two things is her tragedy. She is not a spy pretending to care — she is a scientist who cares and who is also spying, and the distinction matters.

Performance Requirements:

- Carry the dual role (lover + researcher) without either reading as fake

- Physical intimacy with Hugo that conveys trust, not just attraction
- Scientific dialogue: must be convincing as a geneticist
- The betrayal reveal: guilt, love, and professional justification simultaneously

Arc: Curious scientist → conflicted lover → caught spy → exile → witness (Geneva, the USB drive, the truth).

Type: An actor who conveys intelligence as empathy rather than detachment. Curiosity as her primary mode of engagement with the world — she asks questions the way other people breathe.

Audition Scenes:

1. "How does it feel?" (Ep 5) — first examination, the question that changes everything
2. "I knew. And I stayed because—" (Ep 6) — the betrayal confrontation
3. Watching Hugo's video testimony (Ep 8) — alone, the weight of what she's been given

ABEDNEGO DANNER — Series Regular

Screen time: Episodes 1-2, 4, 7-8, ~10% of runtime **Age:** 50s-60s (ages across the series) **Ethnicity:** White/Caucasian

Physical: Tall, thin, increasingly gaunt as the series progresses. In Episode 1: vigorous, intense, the body of a man who forgets to eat because his mind is occupied. By Episode 7: gray, trembling, the body of a man consumed by guilt. Wire-frame glasses. Perpetual lab coat or rumpled button-down. The absent-professor aesthetic that masks ruthless intellectual ambition.

The Role: Abednego is the creator — both brilliant and morally bankrupt. He produced the most significant biological achievement in human history, alone, in a garage. He also violated his wife's autonomy and his son's consent. The role requires both truths held simultaneously: the genius and the monster are the same man.

Performance Requirements:

- Convey scientific brilliance through passion and precision, not exposition
- Age convincingly across 20 years
- The confession scenes (Eps 1, 4, 7) require escalating vulnerability
- Chemistry required with: Hugo (love + obsession), Anna (guilt + partnership)

Arc: Ambitious creator → guilty father → broken old man → dies in custody, having hidden one last notebook.

Type: An actor who makes obsession feel like love and love feel like obsession. The kind of intelligence that forgets there are other people in the room.

Audition Scenes:

1. The injection (Ep 1) — no dialogue, holding the syringe, looking at his sleeping wife
2. "I love you. I love what I made. And I can't separate them." (Ep 4)
3. The kitchen table (Ep 7) — transferring the complete protocol, knowing his son will die

RECURRING

MARCUS WEBB

Screen time: Episodes 2, 8 | **Age:** Early 20s | **Ethnicity:** Black

Hugo's roommate at CU. Easy, warm, comfortable in his skin — everything Hugo is not. Communications major. Asks no questions, demands nothing. Hugo's only friend. In Episode 8, Marcus is a journalist who publishes Hugo's story in *The Atlantic*.

Type: Natural charisma, warmth without effort. The kind of person who makes lonely people feel welcome.

DAVID "CADE" CADENA

Screen time: Episodes 4-5 | **Age:** Late 30s to early 40s | **Ethnicity:** Hispanic

Master Sergeant, JSOC. Hugo's field handler. Treats Hugo with respect — not as an asset, not as a freak, but as a soldier. Injured in the Syria ambush; walks with a cane afterward. The only institutional figure who earns Hugo's genuine loyalty.

Type: Quiet authority. A man who leads by competence and treats everyone, including a superhuman, as a professional equal.

ANNA KOENIG DANNER

Screen time: Episodes 1-2 | **Age:** 40s | **Ethnicity:** White/Caucasian

Hugo's mother. Registered nurse. Practical, observant, afraid of her son but fiercely protective. Her body language around Hugo subtly betrays her fear — a slight stiffening Hugo notices and never mentions. Dies of pancreatic cancer off-screen (reported in Ep 4).

Type: Strength expressed as practicality. A woman who holds the family together while terrified of what her family contains.

ELENA NAVARRO

Screen time: Episode 2 | **Age:** Early 20s | **Ethnicity:** Latina

Hugo's first relationship. CU molecular biology PhD student. Smart, ambitious, physically affectionate in ways that terrify Hugo. Their relationship is genuine but bounded by Hugo's secret.

Type: Intelligence and warmth. The kind of woman who makes you feel seen — which is exactly what terrifies Hugo.

DR. MARTIN KEYES

Screen time: Episodes 5, 7 | **Age:** Late 50s | **Ethnicity:** White/Caucasian

PROMETHEUS lead researcher. PhD MIT. Thirty years in government science. A good scientist, not a great one — and the gap between good and great is the reason PROMETHEUS fails. Watches Hugo shut down the embryos with relief, not horror.

Type: Scientific competence without genius. A man who has spent his career in the shadow of people more brilliant than himself and has made peace with it.

TREY KENSINGTON

Screen time: Episode 2 (one scene) | **Age:** Early 20s | **Ethnicity:** Open

USC quarterback. Talented, confident, trash-talking. The man whose spine Hugo breaks. Never appears again — exists as a consequence, a weight Hugo carries for the rest of his life.

COLONEL JAMES HARKER

Screen time: Episodes 4-5 | **Age:** 50s | **Ethnicity:** Open

Senior military officer who oversees Hugo's operational deployment. Professional, by-the-book, uncomfortable with what Hugo represents but committed to using him effectively.

MARIA CHEN

Screen time: Episode 8 (epilogue) | **Age:** Late 20s | **Ethnicity:** Asian-American

Graduate student in archival science. Discovers Abednego's notebook in a federal storage facility. A cryptography hobbyist who will eventually crack the cipher. The person who brings the Danner Modification back into the world.

Type: Quiet, methodical, curious. The kind of person who finds extraordinary things in ordinary places because she looks where no one else bothers.