

Weimar and Nazi Germany: The Characters

Dirk, a Nergman soldier

You are a 22 year-old former soldier who fought bravely in the Grand War. You believed in defending your country's interests and reputation and you saw many of your friends die in battle. The loss of the war hurt you deeply. You gained pride in what it meant to be Nergman during the war and to lose meant to take something away from your soul. You wish you knew whom to blame for Nergmay's loss. You aren't totally sure what you will do after the war. Sometimes you have memories of it. You remember the fear and the excitement. Coming back to a city where no one seems to care what you went through is disappointing. You're actually not sure what success means to you as a person but you think it begins with finding a job. Your ultimate success mission is to rebuild your country's pride and make Nergmay what it once was: a superpower.

Erhard, a Nergman policeman

You are a 24 year-old former soldier. You fought in the Grand War because that is what you were supposed to do. When Nergmay goes to war, your family does its part. Your grandfather fought in some of the great wars of old. You didn't particularly think the war made sense or was worth it. There were too many deaths and injuries. For what? But you did your duty and that is what counts. Once you returned to your hometown you did what made sense: you got a job as a policeman to use what you learned from the war. You care about doing everything well, including your job. If you are a policeman now, you want to be the best one you can be. You believe in the Social Democratic party that runs the country. It is moderate and cautious. Some people have even suggested you should use your war record to run for local or national office. Your success mission is to advance in your career, to find a wife, to have a family, and to feel like you've done your part for your city.

Dolf, a Nergman grocery store owner (Dating Marisa)

You are a 34 year-old Nergman grocery store owner. Your store is next to Michael's Wejish store. If you don't have something in stock, you'll send a client over to Michael's and vice-versa. You consider yourself a simple man. You have a grocery store and that is it. You graduated from high school but didn't go on to college; instead you took over your father's store when he got ill. You are suspicious of political radicals. To you, we should just care for our neighbors, our businesses, and our families. You've never been one to consider too much whether someone is a Nergman or a Wej. In fact, you're dating a Wej woman now, Marisa, and the relationship is going better than any before. Your success mission is to make your store thrive, to help your community, to get married, and to start a family.

Arnold, a Nergman police officer (married to Wilma)

You are a 25 year-old police officer married to Wilma. You became a police officer because you believe in order, security, and authority. You like the idea that there is someone who gives orders to you and that you can give orders to regular people. You believe that when something is a law that makes it right. Not being able to fight in the Great War, because of poor eyesight, was one of the greatest disappointments in your life. You will make up for it though by being a strong and capable police officer who will support the law, the state, and Nergmay. Your success mission is to rise in the police ranks, to have children with Wilma, and to make sure that lawlessness and disorder never come to the streets of Lerbin.

Kurt, a Nergman baker (married to Marina)

You are a 31 year-old Nergman baker, married to Marina, with two kids aged 5 and 3. You are a baker because your father was a baker and your grandfather was a baker. You don't consider yourself to be a smart or educated man. You're a man of tradition, of Nergman tradition. You bake breads in the same way your ancestors did. You like the hard work of using your hands and making something real. You're suspicious of intellectuals, bankers, and Communists. You're just a simple person going about your life in the Nergman tradition. Your success mission is to have a bakery that thrives, to have children who follow in your footsteps, and to see that Nergman culture is preserved.

Ulf, a Nergman clothing factory owner

You are a 41 year-old Nergman clothing factory owner. You do not have a wife or kids. Your factory; *Clothes R' Us*, is your life. You are a businessman and you respect other people who own businesses, not the rabble who works there or the Wejish bankers who fund them. You can't stand having to give part of the money you earned to the Wejish bankers who loaned you start-up money or to the Wejish insurance agent who gives you fire insurance. You have worked hard to get where you are and you are considering running for local or national office. You've been attracted to the newly formed Sizan party because they speak of self-reliance, of Nergman power, and of rididng the land of Wejish influence. You really don't like the Wejs. To you, they look different. Talk different. Act different. Your success mission is to make money from your factory and to support the growth of the Sizan party.

Rupert, a Nergman doctor

You are a 38 year-old single Nergman doctor. You served in the Grand War as a medic and saw the most terrible things imaginable: amputated soldiers, poisoned soldiers, and grisly corpses. You want to forget those horrors by healing. You work at a general practice and at one of the local hospitals. You consider yourself to be of a new generation of educated, enlightened Nergmans. You don't follow in the simple path of your ancestors. You are breaking new ground. You've become particularly interested in the field of Eugenics. You see so many sick, frail, handicapped people. You wonder, what if only the healthiest, strongest people were to mate? Could we create a better race? A stronger Nergman race? You've heard of attempts to sterilize criminals and mentally handicapped people. That sounds reasonable to you. Your success mission is to grow your medical practice, to find a wife and have strong Nergman children, and to look for ways to support the growing field of Eugenics.

Julius, a Nergman journalist

You are a 23 year-old journalist just starting your career. You're excited about your profession – you see writing the news as a way to shape people's views about the world. You have recently begun writing for a newspaper called *The Thunderstorm*, which prints news meant to awaken the people. You deeply mistrust the current government because you think they have not done enough to address the major problem of Nergmay: the influence of the Wejish people and the ways that they have ruined Nergmay. You want to bring the Wej problem to light through your writing. Your success mission is to improve the circulation of your newspaper and to increase awareness of the Wej problem.

Werner, a Nergman train conductor

You are a 27 year-old train conductor. You are a government employee and value your steady paycheck and job security. You don't consider yourself a particularly political person. You wake up each morning to do your job and to earn your money. You enjoy saying hi to the people who board your train each day. You hope one day to have a wife and to raise a family. You secretly are a gay male with deep attractions to members of your own gender. In order to seem an "ordinary" Nergman, you will try to get married a woman but secretly "find" the other gay character. Your success mission is to maintain your job and to find a wife to raise a family.

Thomas, Nergman priest

You are a 31 year-old priest of the traditional Tiashcrin religion. At one time, almost everyone in Nergmay was Tiashcrin (besides the Wejs). Now, faith is beginning to fail because people are swept up in the promise of modern life. You, however, still believe deeply in God and the power of religion. You believe that you were called on Earth to do right, to do good, and to help the weak. You are fearful of people who are too radical and of people who believe that they can change the world without the help of god. Your success mission is to people back into the Tiashcrin faith.

Manfred, a Nergman factory worker

You are a 24 year-old factory worker. You work in Ulf's clothing factory. At least, that is what it seems like you do. Really, you are a member of the government's secret agency. No one else can know this. Your job is to find radicals who seek to challenge the government's authority and to turn them in to the police. You are in charge of finding people who plot against the government. You will be on special lookout for Wejs who want to destroy the Nergman country. Your people depend on you. You must "get in" good with the Wejs to find out who the radicals are and what their plans are. Your success mission is to find the Wej traitors and get rid of them.

Katharina, a Nergman teacher

You are a 25 year-old Nergman teacher who teaches at the same school as Therese and Rachel. You consider being a teacher to be the perfect profession because you get to shape young children's minds and share with them the value of their Nergman heritage. You are proud to have been born in Nergmay and were devastated that your country lost the Grand War. You teach your students about the great aspects of Nergman history and culture and the ways that Nergmay could once again become a future power. There is only one thing missing for you: a husband and a family. Your success mission is to raise a beautiful Nergman family and to teach children for many years in the future.

Hanna, Nergman works in clothing factory

You are a 23 year-old worker in Ulf's clothing factory: *Clothes R' Us*. This is not where you see your future. You did well in school but it was hard for a woman to get work other than factory-work. You dream of getting a better job, perhaps one in the government. You don't see yourself as particularly political but you like the fact that the government has power. You don't like chaos or weakness. You want to be a part of something that will make strong change in your society. Success, for you, means to get out of this factory job and to find something better in which you can make a difference and make change.

Therese, a Nergman teacher

You are a 27 year-old teacher at the same school as Katharina and Rachel. You are married and have 1 child, a 4 year-old boy. You consider yourself to be part of a new generation that has thrown off all the inhibitions of the past. While you have responsibilities, you still like to dance, sing, and go out with your friends. You like to talk politics, to see the newest movies, and to go to the museum to see the great artists. You want to be a citizen of the world, not just of Nergmay. You don't care what color someone's skin is or what religion they are a part of. Your success mission is to do your job well and to raise a healthy family while still having time to enjoy life.

Wilma, a Nergman nurse (married to Arnold)

You are a 24 year-old nurse who works with Dr. Stephen and you are married to Arnold, a policeman. Arnold believes deeply in authority and order, but you have a problem with the fact that Dr. Stephen is above the Nergman doctors at the hospital. He is a Wej. Your parents taught you that Wejs are inferior, that they secretly kill Nergman babies. You wonder about that whenever you see Dr. Stephen work. Why does he, as a Wej, get to boss true Nergman's around? You want to have children with Arnold but would like them to grow up in a society in which there is more pride in being a Nergman. Your success mission is to see Nergman power grow and to raise strong Nergman children.

Marina, a Nergman illustrator (married to Kurt)

You are a 23 year-old illustrator. You have always loved to draw. You always drew as a child and now you can't believe that you will get paid to draw pictures. You have landed a dream job at *The Thunderstorm*, a recently formed newspaper. They will tell you what to draw and you will do your best. You are married to Kurt, a Nergman baker who believes strongly in traditional Nergman values. You've never thought much about what it means to be a Nergman but it is very important to him. Your success mission is to do well at your dream job and to make your husband happy.

Sandra, a Nergman secretary (married to Leopold)

You are a 23 year-old secretary who works in the city government office. You type up daily memos and laws and thus have a good sense about what is happening in the government. You are married to Leopold, a fun and daring metalworker who happens to be a Wej. That doesn't mean much to you. In this day and age, what does it matter whether or not someone is a Nergman or a Wej? Doing well at your job is important to you although sometimes you can't believe how incapable the government workers seem to be. You work there, but you don't consider yourself very political. Your success mission is to do your job and to raise a family with Leopold, hopefully with at least three kids!

Simon, a Wejish history professor (married to Sophia)

At the beginning of this role-play, you are a 33 year-old history professor at the leading university of the city. Being a Wej is a significant part of your life. You study about Wejish history and you write (and teach) about the history of the Wej people in Nergmay. You grew up in a religious family and still attend the house of worship where Barib Leo is the leader. However, you consider yourself between two worlds: the religious and the academic. Living the life of a Wej, to some degree, is important to you as is the community. However, you also care deeply about the intellectual world, about new ideas, modernity, and the opinion of your fellow Nergman professors. You are up for tenure to achieve lifetime security as a professor at the university. Your success mission is to continue to participate in the Wej community, to publish books, to gain a higher position in the university, and to have children.

Rachel, a Wejish teacher

You are a 31 year-old elementary school teacher. You are a secular (non-religious) Wej who has a passion for the Wejish people and their history, but not for the religion. You belong to the Wejish people, but you consider many of the ancient religious traditions and prayers to be outdated. Recently you have become part of a secret group of Wejs who dream of reestablishing a Wejish homeland in Wejistan, the ancient faraway land of your people. There, you could govern yourselves and be free of any possible persecution. Family-life means little to you right now. Your success mission is to help get Wejs out of Nergmay and to the land of Wejistan, where you could fight for its independence from foreign control.

Gabriella, a Wejish homemaker

You are a 36 year-old Wejish woman, a mother of four children (aged 9, 6, 4, and 1) and the wife of the religious leader of the city's Wejs, Barib Joshua. You are proud to be a traditional Wej and to be a homemaker. To you, the place for a woman is to be in the home to care for it, to care for the children, and to support your husband. You were taught how to do this by your mother and you plan to teach your daughters to do the same. Your success mission is to have healthy, happy children who are respectful to their parents and their traditions. Dreams of working outside the home or getting involved in politics seem senseless to you.

Sophia, a Wejish Government Official (Married to Simon)

You are a 28 year-old Wejish bureaucrat. You have worked in various government offices doing mid-level administrative work. You know it is not prestigious work but you are proud to make your own money and to help make Lerbin's government function. You are also proud of the work of your husband, Simon, who is increasingly gaining prestige for his research and writing at the university. You hope in the next few years to have children, which you know would add much to your life. You do not consider yourself particularly religious or political. You are just a regular person going about your life. Your success mission is to support your husband, to ensure the well-being of your home, and to do quality work in the government office.

Barib Joshua, a Wejish religious leader

You are a 42 year-old leader of the Wejish religious community. You are a *barib*, the title given to Wejish religious leaders who lead their followers in prayer and learning. Leo has four children, aged 9, 6, 4, and 1 with his wife, Gabriella. You dream of increasing the level of religious observance and faith in his community since in recent years many have left the fold to study in public schools (instead of religious ones) and to marry non-Wejs. With his faith in tradition, Barib Joshua is naturally cautious about change and drastic moves. Your success mission is to support the Wejish community in its faith and tradition and in raising your four children to be kind, educated, and religious people.

Michael, a Wejish grocery store owner

You are a 32 year-old Wejish grocery store owner. You're the one that everyone in town knows. They stop into your shop to say hi or just to buy some milk. You are friendly, out-going, and bright. You ask about the families of the people who come into your store because you know their parents and their children. You are a member of the Wejish community board and care deeply about the entire community. You are suspicious about radicals who want great change, people like the anarchists and communists who are always riling people up. To you, good things happen when people care about those they know. You're not married yet but your eyes are open for the right person. Your success mission is to have a shop that makes money, to find the right person and start a family, and to make the decisions as a community board member that will support those who need help like the poor and elderly.

Dr. Stephen, a Wejish doctor and chairman of Wejish community (married to Sandra)

Stephen is 41 years-old and married to Sandra. You are a doctor with a successful general medical practice that has a wide variety of clients. Widely respected by your peers, you have recently been elected chairman of the Wejish community because of your thoughtfulness and care for others. You care deeply about the past and future of the Wejish community in Nergmay and hope to continue to rich tradition of learning, worship and benevolence to others. You have two children, aged 8 and 5, and consider your family one of your top priorities in life. Your success mission is to ensure the well-being of your family and community.

Marisa, a Wejish nurse (dating Dolf)

You are a 22 year-old smart and educated Wej who is part of mainstream Nergman culture. You recently graduated with a nursing degree and have begun to work at one of the local hospitals, under the service of Dr. Stephen. You consider yourself an enlightened, "modern" Wej in the sense that you don't follow any of the traditional ancient customs. You went to public high school and interact mostly with non-Wejs like Dolf, the young man you are dating. Your success mission is to advance in your nursing career, gain respect from the educated class of Nergmans, and eventually start a family.

Robert, a Wejish butcher

You are a 26 year-old butcher. You work in your father's butchershop. He trained you and is now passing the family business on to you. You don't consider yourself a particularly religious Wej but you follow in the traditions of slaughtering and preparing meat the Wejish way. That is how your father did it and how your grandfather did it. You consider yourself a regular Wej but also a Nergman. You went to public school and have both Wej and Nergman friends. You're not married yet but you see a family in the future. You want a simple life of family, friends, and job. You don't consider yourself to have a political philosophy – you're just a regular guy who goes about life. You secretly are a gay male with deep attractions to members of your own gender. In order to seem an "ordinary" Nergman, you will try to get married a woman but secretly "find" the other gay character. Your success mission is to make your family's butcher shop thrive, to find a romantic partner, and to settle down and have a family wife a wife.

Leopold, a Wejish metalworker

You are a 26 year-old middle-class Wej who has trained as a metalworker. You consider yourself a radical, secular Wej. You don't practice any aspects of the traditional religion but you are fiercely proud of your Wej identity. As a student, you often joined various radical groups like the anarchists and the communists who sought total changes in Nergman society. You feel that people are too conservative and too scared of change. You realize that being a radical anarchist in Nergmay is dangerous and you must keep this part of your identity secret (or at least share with only a few trusted friends) until it is time for you to take the government down. You are married to Sandra, a Nergman secretary. Your parents were not happy that you married a non-Wej, but for you great change means doing things the new way. Your success mission is to not only about advancing in your profession, it is about challenging the unjust aspects of a system and abuses of power and to make the great abusers pay.