

The Heart Line

Witness

Ayan Lee is a tourist on an extended layover in the city-state of Autonexia, where many travellers break their trans-continental travel. His final destination is the old country where he hopes to meet up with distant family. His strength is *streetwise*, and his personality is *headstrong*.

Other Characters

- **Wei Ling** is the Hilton concierge, professional but cold. She can procure drugs, sex and information for clients, with the utmost discretion.
- **Elise** is a back-packer staying at the Hilton, intending to travel north into the continental Far East.
- **Deacon Everett** is a business traveller. He is picked up every morning from the Hilton in a private cab. He looks distinctly unwell, with liver-coloured spots just above the line of his collar.
- **The Woman on the Train** travels on the UMT every morning on the industrial line to Gurong Island. She wears a business suit and Pharmaco lapel pin.

Location and Era

Autonexia is a peninsular city-state and former communist state, now a world-class hub for commerce thanks to the political direction of the Founders. The native population is a mix of Chinese, Malay and Indian, with a large percentage of European ex-pats. Land is scarce so most people live in high rises. Tourists can shop, eat, and enjoy the theme park on Sento Island. Littering, spitting and jaywalking incur fines, vandalism is deterred with corporal punishment, and drug offences are capital crimes. Same-sex relationships have only recently been decriminalised.

Other Locations

- **Undercity Mass Transit (UMT).** It's prohibitively expensive to take taxis and it's not practical to walk, so everyone takes the underground rail.
- **Monument Square.** Autonexia's political leaders are honoured here. Armed police on display and demonstrations put down swiftly.
- **Century Mall.** A popular tourist shopping destination with food court, cinema and almost every global brand represented. Fully air conditioned.
- **Orchid Road.** A five-mile long strip of bars and restaurants, crossing several canals. Solicitation and drug peddling by stealth.
- **The Hilton.** A huge hotel stuck in the last century. Free bottles of state-branded water. 24 hour buffet where backpackers mingle with the ultra-rich. Air conditioning smells stale.
- **Sento Island** is reached by UMT monorail link, and the largest theme park outside China.
- **Gurong Island** is linked by a causeway and the UMT, and is the centre of chemical and engineering industry. Access is controlled by armed guard.

Cards

An Ancient Civilisation

Inhuman Creature

Victims

A Hostile Group

Visions

Clues

- Two mirror-masked police beat a dishevelled man while people around walk by.
- The UMT passes another train at speed, which seems to have no windows. As it passes an animal stink fills the carriage.
- The train makes a stop between stations. Outside the carriage the lights are red. Janitors labour to clear large amounts of sinuous matter from the tracks.

- Tomorrow's newspaper is left on the train.
- A paper UMT map which show a line not printed on any official posters.
- A man approaches on the Orchid Road, speaking too softly to hear. He seems to offer a lizard for sale.
- Masked youths run through the carriages, shouting and whooping, pursued by transit police with weapons drawn.
- The train stops between scheduled stops at an unknown station.
- A thump as something lands on the carriage roof while the train moves at speed.
- A metallic smell coming through the air conditioning.
- A salesperson with flawless skin offers a new anti-ageing product endorsed by celebrities.
- A two people a bundled into a Pharmaco van on the Orchid Road.