**SeaView Character Bios**

**STEVEN - Cass’ cousin**

Age range: Early 20s

Accents: RP.

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Black dual heritage: British Jamaican and West African

Charismatic, likeable, warm, a joker, strong, contemplative, reliable, loyal and intelligent.

Vibrant and charming externally but this masks a complex internal world. He has a real depth of loneliness, plagued with a sense of guilt for having certain privileges that his cousins weren’t afforded. Steven’s a strong presence when he’s part of a big group, but he can only keep this up for so long. Adaptable to whoever he needs to be, a social chameleon – but he can feel lost, unsure of where he fits in life. Everyone in the family treats him like the golden child - he excels at everything. He’s studying Law at Durham University and has been awarded a competitive graduate job at a top law firm ready for when he finishes third year.

During his time at private school he became an amazing swimmer and rugby player. A Ralph Lauren Polo-shirt kind of boy, no socks and loafers - geek chic. His mum Diane and dad Atlas pin big hopes on their son, Steven often feels like he owes them. He is living out the life they want him to live, becoming the man they want him to be. But he often questions if this is his true calling: what would he do and who would he be if there were no rules or expectations? Recently he’s been suffering from blackouts, he doesn’t remember what’s happened or how long he’s blacked out for. Deeply fearful there’s something wrong with him - he is holding onto a secret, too ashamed to tell anyone.

**CASS - Steven’s cousin**

Age range: Mid-Late 20s

Accents: Birmingham

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: British Jamaican

Charismatic, likeable, warm, a joker, strong, contemplative, reliable, loyal and intelligent. Vibrant and charming externally but this masks a complex internal world. He has a real depth of loneliness, plagued with a sense of resentment for having to fulfil a role ascribed to him via his older brother. Cass has a strong presence when he’s part of a big group, but he can only keep this up for so long. Adaptable to whoever he needs to be, a social chameleon – but he can feel lost, unsure of where he fits in life. He often looks to Steven with silent jealousy, deeply aware of the different privileges his cousin has been afforded. However, there’s a deep love between them, an undeniable bond.

He excels at everything. A real talent for art, he attends night classes which he keeps secret from his brother Chez. He’s been working for his brother since his parents died in a fire when he was aged 9. Chez was the one that managed to get them both out alive, Cass unconsciously feels he owes his brother his life. He’s very obedient to Chez but sees through his brothers ego facade and quietly thinks he’s more intelligent than Chez, though he wouldn’t dare challenge him, even when he thinks his brother is wrong. He is living out the life Chez want him to live, becoming the man his brother wants him to be. But he often questions if this is his true calling: what would he do and who would he be if there were no rules or expectations?

**REX - Steven’s older half brother**

Age range: Early 30s

Accents: Birmingham

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: British Jamaican

Commands attention, strong orator, charming, charismatic, protector, caring, strong sense of morality, wise, can be self righteous, he has a hard outer shell hiding a soft inner soul. Secure in an alpha status but since being in prison he met an inspirational influence in David who has become a surrogate father figure to him. Once unable to sit quietly, he now sees the strength in listening, watching, observing. He’s become connected spiritually, not aligning to any religion, more connected to the universal, to the collective consciousness. He battles a violent past that has an overwhelming power and potential to consume him.

Rex grew up with a different upbringing to Steven; Rex’s dad has a history of armed robbery and his son grew up very aware of that world. He developed a desire for violence himself and throughout his teens the relationship with his mum Diane and her new partner had become fraught. Rex rarely stayed at his mums, moving between homes constantly, busy making money and getting into trouble. His mum radically rejected him once she met Steven’s dad Atlas, Rex didn’t fit into her new lifestyle and so she acted as if he didn’t exist - all this had an influence on Rex’s behaviour. He’s never let it affect his relationship with Steven though, adamant that he would be the best big brother he could. Back in the day Chez and Rex would roll together, Rex took the wrap for Chez - because Rex knew Cass wouldn’t have anyone to look after him if Chez went down. Rex feels like Chez owes him one.

**Chez - Cass’ older brother**

Age range: Early 30s
Accents: Birmingham.

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: British Jamaican

Stubborn, arrogant, highly aspirational, always dresses on point, hard working, determined, vain, strong disciplinarian, sweet talker, charmer, smart, egotistical, strives for the best - no matter the cost - the sky is the limit.

Having lost his parents at 17, he brought up his younger brother Cass alone. He holds this as a mantle, he has a slight martyrdom complex. Chez had a strong idea of what they would have to do to survive. He didn’t have the chance to grieve, there are a deep wells of emotion that lay untouched, just beneath the surface. Chez instead focuses his energy on the material, he always looks on point, dressed well, designer watches, nice car. Chez and Rex grew up like brothers too, they have often vied for alpha spot. Rex thinks he’s more emotionally intelligent than Chez is, Chez thinks he knows better than Rex.

Chez has worked hard to succeed, he’s at the top of his game. He owns a Barbers but he wants to step away from his illegitimate business with James and step fully into being an honest business man, his hope is to buy Nova’s club. There was a period of time in which violence was an every day occurrence, but him and Dane have established themselves at the top now and secured a sense of peace. They’re respected, totally. On his Tinder profile he boasts about being an award winning business owner and has a quote from Will Smith that he thinks is really deep. He’s got a few women on the go, but Nova is special to him. He wants everyone to respect him, but especially her. Behind all this though, Chez is desperate for validation and love, he doesn’t really know who he is without the superficial stuff.

**DANE - Very close to Chez, grown up like family**

Age range: Early 30s

Accents: Birmingham.

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Black British

A quiet violence, big build, intimidating, he’s shyer than Chez but still very present in a room, a giant, dependable, loyal, polite when he needs to be, well mannered, respectful. He’s well-read but not opinionated, strong minded, willful, straightforward, observant, proactive, and easy-going until you rattle him. Dane is very aware of the ways of the world but he’s still content to be less than his worth - he knows he’s talented and has potential but he feels resigned to the hand he’s been dealt in life. Dane can be hot headed and has the ability to be very aggressive and dominant. Dane’s the reason Chez has so much respect behind him - he’s Chez’ right hand man, a true Beta. Chez doesn’t have many people he can count on, but Dane is one of them.

Dane can be narrow minded, he sets his sights on something and does anything in his power to get it - that’s what Chez and Dane have in common however Dane’s first action is to wade in and throw his weight around - it’s always got the job done in the past. He’s asexual, he isn’t concerned with having a love life or a family of his own. Chez and Cass are his family now, he even lives with them.

**SHERELLE - Cass’ best friend, grown up like a sister**

Age range: Mid 20s

Accents: Birmingham.

Gender: Female

Ethnicity: Black and White dual heritage.

Deep thinker, kind, considerate, thoughtful, soulful, mystical energy, an observer, Sherelle is reserved, thinking carefully before she speaks, calm, serene, peaceful.

Sherelle has not often been afforded the chance to put herself first. Though she’s naturally giving she sometimes resents the actions of family and friends around her. She’s witnessed a lot in her life and although she carries a hint of this, she also appears a positive presence. People naturally gravitate toward her for advice, though only if they want to receive it straight - sometimes she comes across judgmental and self-righteous as she is always ‘right’, whether you like it or not. Sherelle and Chez keep their distance, she has spoken out about how he dominates his younger brother Cass’ life.

Her mum, Violet, raised her alone and is a recovering alcoholic. Sherelle looked after her mum a lot growing up as she struggled to cope with her mental health and their bond is intense. The two women are very connected to the spiritual plane, something that Sherelle has actively avoided since her mums breakdown - she blames forces beyond her control, almost seeing her mother as being possessed. Fearful of a power passed down in her linage, Sherelle focuses instead on the practical logical facts of life. She wants to be a Scientist to research new diseases and DNA, to fix people with modern medicine and offer pragmatic ways to heal.

***DIANE - Steven’s mum***

Age range: Early 50s

Accents: Trained well-spoken West Midlands (an accent that has been practiced)

Gender: Female

Ethnicity: British Jamaican

Diane is stubborn, strong willed, opinionated, highly aspirational, blunt, clear sense of how things should be done, demanding, bold, determined, judgmental, hard outer shell, self-conscious, self-aware.

Diane is a status climber, proud to signal what the family are worth. She met Atlas when Rex was turning 8. Rex’s dad had recently been sent down for an armed robbery and Diane found herself alone with her son. Diane isn’t her real name, she changed it so it was more acceptable to the “British” middle class circles. She is an optimal traditional Auntie, who would have been against interracial relationships back in the day. Her journey through life has been immense, she’s seen it all. She’s gone from a hard as nails, tough woman, a bit of a gangster to someone who wears a two piece matching outfits always, professional woman with extremely high expectations. Rex hasn’t fitted in with her new lifestyle so she has cut him out of her life, completely abandoning her son. She has strong opinions about Chez’s side of the family.

**ATLAS - Steven’s dad**

Age range: Late 50s

Accents: West African but been in UK for a long time.

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: West African

Atlas has built up a successful property development business and offered Diane a radically different way of life. They went on all inclusive holidays and bought flashy cars. Atlas is completely dominated by Diane’s presence. He is quiet, mild mannered, and carries the world on his shoulders. Silently holding things together and desperately trying to keep his family on an even keel and please his wife. He has come from a well to do family and has always kept his head down and worked hard for what he’s got. The family look to him as the anchor, especially Diane. Atlas finds it hard to speak his mind, or to express himself at all. He has a steady relationship with his son Steven, but it’s fairly functional and lacks intimacy.

**CARL**

Age range: Mid 50s

Accents: RP

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: British White

Calm, methodical, vindictive, power hungry, manipulative, perceptive, private, successful, clever, diligent, capable, rational, egotistical, persistent, determined, unforgiving, inflexible, stubborn.

Carl is used to being king. He’s a “Businessman”, at the top of the pyramid. Carl has a number of legit businesses but they’ve all been predominantly funded by the buying and selling of drugs, he’s the ghost that no one can connect it all to. He’s steadily built an empire, on the shoulders of young lads that he exploited - like Chez, Dane, and Rex. The guys don’t know that Carl is the top of the chain.

**NIA - Carl’s daughter**

Age range: Late 20s

Accents: Estuary

Gender: Female

Ethnicity: Dual heritage / White

Nia is Carl’s daughter, she resents her father. She’s independent, never taking money off her dad, instead shining in her own right. Resilient, inventive, hard working, dynamic, confident, organised, strong, vigilant, opinionated, out going, motivated, skilful, responsible, ambitious, practical, intelligent, sophisticated, observant and mature.

Nia has grown up in opulence, private schooled, her dad showered her with gifts growing up. Nia is seeking something but it’s not clear what? She’s bored of the fake intimacy that comes with money, she wants something more meaningful. When she was a teenager she ran away for a week and lived with Rex, which drove her dad insane with anger. Nia and Rex have always had a thread of connection that draws them to one another. She’s a positive influence on Rex, keeping him grounded, but their relationship has been distant since he got sent down.

**BUBBLES**

Age range: Mid 60s

Accents: Jamaican Scruffily dressed, out of shape but not overweight, healthy, sounds older than he is and looks younger than he sounds, he is a walking oxymoron.

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Jamaican

Intense, very intelligent, spiritual, expressive, bold, gregarious, commanding, empathetic, demanding, lonely, fearful, a strong presence and very profound.

Bubbles is a local legend, so the story goes he used to be a big player in the area. He made millions and was at the top of his game, in the same league as Carl and Chez now, but he lost it all and there’s a question mark around what happened to Bubble’s business empire. He has seen a lot in his life; he is connected to the spirit world and constantly quotes from the Book of Maccabees, prophesising the end of the world is soon upon us. Desperate to connect but he’s on a different plane to most of us so his thoughts can get lost in translation. He sometimes sings on street corners and although everyone thinks he’s homeless because of how he presents he actually has his own flat that he bought out right from when he was making lots of money when he was younger. In many ways, Bubbles is a Guardian Angel - but who is he guarding and protecting and why?

**NOVA**

Age range: Early to Mid 40s

Accents: Well-spoken, Eastern European been in UK for a long time.

Gender: Female

Ethnicity: Eastern European

Nova is selfish, logical, manipulative, mean, perfectionist, judgemental, powerful, well respected, ruthless, revered, rude, self assured, direct, smart, vivacious, stubborn, and arrogant.

She is highly successful business woman, tough and blunt, she’s sacrificed a lot to achieve what she has. Not coming from money herself she’s built her business up from nothing. She is drawn to Chez and the danger she perceives that comes with his more illicit side of business. She eroticises Chez and tokenises him too. She likes to take him out to high class parties with her as she likes the attention that they get. Chez and Nova have been on and off for years now. Chez has worked hard to gain Nova’s trust so she will accept the payment of the club in cash.

**JAMES - Carl’s Employee/Who Chez reports to**

Age range: Late 40s

Accents: Irish

Gender: Male

Ethnicity: Caucasian

Tough and slightly ruthless. He gets the job done and doesn't ask questions. You can see that the years of service has taken its toll on him, out of shape, hairline receding. He is loyal.