

XENOMORPH

by John and Philippa Hughes

Background Briefing

Mission Personnel

Operation Lasseter: Team Beta



'questions writ large in smoke and laser light'



**Twitch
Factor
= 70**

Iriaka Conrad: Security Operative

**Female, New Zealand (Maori), mid thirties.
*Vengeful warrior woman? Fuck that. I'm just angry. Angry and scared.***



**Twitch
Factor
= 80**

Chul-Moo Crowe: Security Operative

Male, Korean-Australian, late thirties.

Enthusiasm, guns, limited technical competence. Possible testosterone poisoning.



**Twitch
Factor
= 20**

Cai Gentle: Shuttle Pilot

**Female, Star-born (corporate citizenship), mid twenties.
Company brat, competent, well-liked, but a bit docile.**



**Twitch
Factor
= 60**

Wayne Gould: Security Advisor

Male, Anglo-Australian, late forties.

He's not a hero. He's not a villain. He's just sooo fucking tired of everything.



**Twitch
Factor
= 90**

Uki Pynne: Biologist, Systems Guru

**Male, Japanese, mid twenties.
Researcher. Genius. Uber-Geek. Bit of a prick.**

Meta Game

RIPLEY: "It's just down there, in the basement."

AARON: "The whole place is a basement."

RIPLEY: "It's a metaphor."

Alien³

• "Are we ready for Drop Bear?" • Shackleton security operative Steve Pearson is dead. It was a tragic airlock accident. We commit his body to the Void. • It all comes down to trust • [m/other] • Roleplaying is about conflict. Conflict of wants, conflict of personalities. Conflict of ideas. • The cold war with Weyland-Yutani is running close to hot. MOTHER is getting twitchy. • <<YOU ARE NOT THE COMPANY>> • "Gravity drive is good to go, fusion seed is optimal, you are green across the board. Punch it, Cai!" • Vasquez always dies. That's the trope. Did you ever wonder why Vasquez always dies? • "There is no reciprocity in love. Harmony is not the human condition. The gods are not on our side. The universe is cold and vast and deadly. Individuals mean nothing. Hierarchy is survival. The strong prosper. The Company always wins. Try not to get fucked over." • Pynne said a single sperm has 37.5 Meg of DNA data in it. He said it over breakfast. Ejaculation was a data transfer of 1,587 Gig in about three seconds. He'd done the calculation himself. No one said a word. • As a genre, horror doesn't like you. • <<A SHARE FOR ALL>> • Conrad regretted that she'd threatened to murder Crowe. Later she clarified her statement: she should never have said it *in public*. • Monsters are beings that raise the spectre of evil by overturning the natural order, whether it be an order concerning death, the body, natural laws, or ordinary human values. The key element is a sense of violation. • "Your job as a security operative is to apply *discrete policy correctives*. To keep the corporate's noses out of their own shit. To maintain *plausible deniability*." • Want to play archetypes? Cai is the Innocent, abandoned, whose loyalty will be tested in the crucible. But she's far, far, more. Gould is the Ruler who has lost control and surrendered to chaos. Crowe is the Destroyer, seeking in vain to destroy something that actually needs destroying, something other than himself. Pynne is a magician, but at the moment he's entranced by his own reflection in the mirror. Conrad doesn't care what you think she is, just don't typecast her as a bloody Caregiver. • "I like you Mr. Gould. We can do business together. The trouble, though, is that your spine does not always reach your brain." • Donna Haraway • "Religions and philosophies and governments have all failed us and withered away. The few that remain are empty shells. All that remains are the Corporations." • One of the wonderful things about the movie **Aliens** is that every combat scene revealed something new about characters and relationships. Spectacle served both character and story. • SPRAYPAINT? I'd like to get up close and personal with those fuckers. Say 'gedday' and then blow 'em away!" • As roleplayers, we are all children of Ripley. Those first two movies are part of our collective DNA. • There are monsters within us. There are monsters between us. There are monsters beyond us • Everybody knows that Conrad threatened to kill Crowe. But only a few know she then proceeded to beat him to a pulp. Neither will talk about the reason. • "No matter how bad the dreams get... when I wake up, it's always worse." • [monstrous rebirths] • Ah, those movies... Masculinity as performance, as theatre. Body as spectacle. Muscles and steel. An excessive performance, almost hysterical. Better yet, 'testercial' (*deriving from the fact that one possesses testes*). And the warrior woman? The hard body, hardware, hard-as-nails heroine? If women enact traditional male action roles without changing their psychology, is it just genre cross-dressing? Or can we finally transcend the binaries? [Discuss. At pub. With Guinness. Or lemonade.] • "Ever since I was a kid, I wanted to shoot people." • <<DATA FREES - FREE DATA>> • "Let me share a brutal truth with you, dear boy. The Company has evolved to perfection. It comprises a small number of sadists and a large number of masochists. And I, Mr Gould, am no masochist." • Stay frosty. • To honour you with its seed, with its darkness. • Dialogue is as much about what people don't say as what they do. The denials. The avoidance. • Reality: the vast loneliness of our solitary, cold existence. • "I don't like machines. You should never trust a machine." • Somebody from security called Pynne 'a fucking bonsai'. It was cruel, but the nickname stuck. • Mirror images. • "I'm taking the long view." • We commit these bodies to the Void. •