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The Imperial Family & Their Retainers Murasaki is the loyal wife of the Shogun. Intelligent and Toyotomi Murasaki wise in the ways of the Imperial Court, and always happy to **Janet Young** talk to anyone, but beware her anger and cross her at your peril. She is known as a patron of the arts. Hirohito is the Shogun's son and heir. He is not yet come of Toyotomi Hirokito age and is a spoilt and petulant young samurai, who usually Ben Allen gets his own way because people are afraid to say 'no' to him. Jin is a former peasant who rose to become the head of the Sakamoto Jin Shogun's Bodyguard. Once deadly and fearsome, he has Simon Clark become old and should surely have retired to a monastery to make way for someone younger. Mariko is the Imperial Astrologer and Matchmaker and favourite of the Shogun's wife, Toyotomi Murasaki. She is Michelle Fujiwara Mariko married to Fujiwara Yoshi, the Imperial Physician, and the Minett mother of Fujiwara Mai, the Keeper of the Imperial Archives. Yoshi is the Imperial Physician. A learned scholar of medicine who has attended the Shogun for many years Tujiwara Yoshi Charlie after successfully overseeing the birth of his son. He is married to Fujiwara Mariko, the Imperial Astrologer, and is **Pugsley** the father of Fujiwara Mai, the Keeper of the Imperial Archives. The Bakufu Ashigaru is the Imperial Chancellor, an officious and overbearing but capable administrator who oversees the Oda Ashigaru running of the government with an iron hand. Getting on in Alex Helm age, it is rumoured he is looking for a worthy successor to replace him - if anyone can live up to his high standards. Mori is the Minister of the Centre, responsible for the Imperial Treasury. He works very hard but also can be seen Miramoto Mori Nick Curd enjoying life on his days off. He is the eldest son of Miramoto Akira and the heir to the Miramoto clan. He is reputedly highly superstitious. Yabu is the Minister of the Left, responsible for overseeing Andrew Tokuqawa Yabu the administration of all Foreign Affairs. He works Ditchburn diligently in his role and is both diplomatic and intelligent.

He is a true follower of the way of the samurai.

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		Motoko is the Minister of the Right, responsible for
Takeshi Motoko	Heidi Kaye	overseeing the enforcement of law and order. She earned her post through hard work and is a clever administrator. She is also a fierce warrior and strict observer of the code of Bushido. She is the niece of Takeshi Hirima, the Daimyo of the Takeshi Clan.
Fujiwara Mai	Ray Hodson	Mai is the Keeper of the Imperial Archives. This intelligent and charming woman is always ready to talk about books, history or anything. She is a conscientious worker, and often stays in the Archives late into the night in order to fulfil her imperial duties.
Sano Ichiro	John Davies	Ichiro is the Imperial Magistrate. Formerly a mere temple servant, he was raised to this honourable post after saving the life of the Shogun's wife from death at the hands of one of the Ninja. He is both diligent and fair in carrying out his duties and has a reputation for being scrupulously honest.
Bayushi Kuro	Michaela Aschan	Kuro is the Prefect of Edo City Gaol, after the previous holder of the post committed seppuku when the Great Fire of Edo broke out in the prison. Kuro used to be the persona physician of the Shogun, but was demoted some years ago for unknown reasons.
Ishida Kitsu	Steve Ellis	'Iron Fist' Kitsu is the Prefect of the Imperial Police and a tough and mean policeman who has maintained stability and reduced crime in difficult times. He is the brother of Ishida Matsunari, the Daimyo of the Ishida Clan, and the father of Ishida Kiri but his other daughter drowned at sea in a storm on the ship of Akodo Katagiri.
Kawasaki Tojo	Tanya Franklin	Tojo is an Inspector in the Imperial Police, Tojo is a hard-boiled street cop who has seen many years on the street. She has had bad karma of late, as many of her police partners have met an untimely end, though she always seems to survive, somehow. She has vowed revenge on their killers.
Takeshi Moru	Mark Threlfall	Moru is a member of the lower classes recently adopted into the Takeshi Clan and appointed to the rank of Inspector in the Imperial Police. Moru is fresh-faced but very eager and has already made a number of arrests. He is extremely dutiful.
Matsu Kurosawa	Paul Kennedy	Kurosawa is the Fire Warden of Edo and works all hours to protect the city from calamity. Renowned for his honesty and integrity, he seeks to expunge the shame of his father, who committed seppuku after being convicted of embezzlement of public funds.
Tokiko	Alison Rider- Hill	Tokiko is the Head of the Imperial Revenue Service. A ronin, she was formerly a member of the Akodo clan before it was disbanded by the Shogun. Since taking up her position, she has raised significant sums in taxes for the government – can she really be as honourable as she purports to be?
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The Daimyo & Their Vassals Ishida is the Daimyo of the Ishida clan. He is a great military leader and a wily fox who has survived the years going Ishida Matsunari Steve Bassett from strength to strength. He is set on making the Ishida the top clan in Japan, preferably at the expense of his Clan's traditional enemies, the Miramoto clan. Kiri is the daughter of Ishida Kitsu and niece of Ishida Adina Matsunari. She is a respected samurai warrior and a true Ishida Kiri Schreiber student of Bushido. Her sister drowned in scurrilous circumstances when the Akodo Clan junk sank in a storm. Ieyesu is the Daimyo of the Tokugawa clan but reputedly ambitious for more. The Tokugawa clan has grown strong, Jon Cloutmanlokuqawa leyesu despite the opposition of the Takeshi Clan, their traditional Green enemies, due to his ability to strike a series of powerful marriage alliances. Omi is the second wife of Ieyesu and mother of Buntaro and Dream stepmother to Yabu. A wise and courtly samurai, she is lokuqawa Omi Cloutmanknown to have a fiery temper, but is also a talented poet Green and member of the Society of the New Moon. Buntaro is the second son of Tokugawa Ieyesu. He is a skilled swordsman and soldier. Still unmarried, he is often lokuqawa Buntaro Colin Wallace seen as aloof and focused on the furtherment of the Tokugawa and of Japan. Akira is the head of the Miramoto clan and the greatest sea captain that Japan has produced in modern times. Proud, Miramoto Akira Mike Nudd clever and resourceful, his family may one day become the most powerful in Japan unless their traditional enemies, the Ishida Clan, manage to stop them. Fujiko is the loving wife of Miramoto Akira and has borne Miramoto Fujiko him three children. Shockingly, she has converted to the Gail Freedman Gaijin religion, which (according to rumour) has caused a rift between her and her husband. Yuki married into the Azai Clan but her husband was executed for drawing his sword in the Imperial Palace and Miramoto Yuki Megan Jones the Azai Clan was dissolved so she returned to the Miramoto Clan. She is a steadfast believer in and adherent to the code of Bushido and acts honourably in all things. Hirima became the Daimyo of the Takeshi clan after the sudden death of her husband. She aims to thwart her Clan's Takeshi Hirima Julie Winnard traditional enemies, the Tokugawa clan, and fulfil her desire for the Takeshi to become the pre-eminent clan in Japan.

Takeshi Mizu	Evie Hill	Mizu is the heir to the Takeshi clan. She is a naive and trusting young girl who loves the theatre and poetry. She was recently captured by the notorious bandit, the White Crane, but miraculously escaped with her honour apparently intact.
Takeshi Wayu	Lynn Oddy	Wayu is a famous poet and writer. She is the head of the Society of the New Moon and believes women should be allowed to perform on stage. She is a devoted follower of the way of the Samurai. She and her husband were recently attacked by a bandit while travelling to Edo.
Akodo Katagiri	Martin Jones	Akodo was thought dead for some time but has recently returned to Edo and seeks the return of his ancestral clan lands, lost when he and his father (and the daughter of Ishida Kitsu) were reported drowned when their ship sank There are those who claim him to be an imposter but he certainly appears like the rake and wastrel he used to be.
	The ?	Ambassadors
The Honourable Hiohe Hojo	Fiona Lloyd	Niohe Hojo is the ambassador to Japan from Manchuria. Some say she was born under an auspicious sign and is destined for greatness but it is unclear exactly what the future holds. She is a strong and independent woman with a wily streak - as befits an ambassador.
Prince Zang Juzheng	Roger Gammans	Prince Zang is the ambassador to Japan from the mighty Imperial China. This royal diplomat is very polite and highly inscrutable yet commands the largest army in the world.
His Excellency Hwang Yun-Gil	Jerry Elsmore	Hwang is the ambassador to Japan from Korea and was a resident of Japan for many years. He is highly intelligent and learned, able to speak with great knowledge on many subjects.
Matriarch Sho-Nei	Kate Dicey	Sho-Nei is the ambassador to Japan from the Kingdom of the Ryuku Isles and reputedly trained as a priestess. Little is known about the islanders other than their religious leaders are said to possess an inner sight and can see thing beyond the understanding of others.
Admiral Zheng Zhilong	Adam Hayes	Admiral Zheng is the ambassador to Japan from the Kingdom of Dadu. Although Dadu is a small nation, he controls a vast fleet of vessels, which ply the high seas where they will. Although a high-ranking personage in his own country, he is often seen carousing in the inns of Edo.

	1	he Ronin
Musasashi	Martin Ellis	Musasashi is a Ronin and the leader of the 47 Ronin who tried but failed to avenge the death of their leader by killing the Imperial Chancellor, Oda Ashigaru. He is a man of great honour in the eyes of some and a disgrace to others. He awaits trial for his crimes.
	Ti	ie Monks
Tripitaka	Liz Hayward	Tripitaka is the Acting Abbot of the monks of the Shaolin temple. He has travelled extensively, going to India and back. He is usually accompanied by his monks, but he is well able to defend himself and teaches the art of defence t those who show respect to the Shaolin teachings.
Keji	Graham Rushton	Koji is the Keeper of Relics at the Shaolin Temple. Despite the exterior of a peaceful monk, this former samurai is hot- headed and prone to outbursts if he or his temple are insulted. People laugh when he says he is a ghost hunter - but if they laugh too long they tend to regret it!
Hyuga Teiji	Doug Freedman	Hyuga Teiji is the Steward and Almoner of the Shaolin Temple. He is responsible for the collection and distribution of alms for the poor. He has recently returned from a tour of the many temples and shrines in the countryside which are affiliated with the Shaolin Temple.
Sanzang	Paul Norris	Sanzang is the Treasurer of the Shaolin Temple. He also teaches the martial ways of Shaolin to those who are in need of training in defence. He is often seen about Edo's less disreputable areas, preaching the Shaolin way to enlightenment and harmony.
Yang Miya	Charlie Paul	Yang Miya is the Shrine Maiden of the Shaolin temple. She comes from the Ryuku Isles and is reputedly able to divine the future by talking to the dead. Many come to her for guidance because of her visions and because she charges very little, with all fees going to the temple coffers.
	7	he Geisha
Ki ki	Sue L	Kiki is the elderly proprietor of the House of Cherry Blossom and the Madam of the Geisha who work there. She is well respected and admired and keeps an orderly house, although there was, apparently, an unfortunate incident there recently.
Chie-Chie	Kate B	Chie-Chie is a geisha of the first rank. Her attention is therefore sought by many of those with power and influence, since she is superior to the other two geisha in training and experience. She is very private and rarely seer outside the Geisha house.

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S S S S S S	Tu-Tu	Abi Kirby	Fu-Fu is a young geisha of the second rank. She is in demand by many clients and can be seen about Edo visiting them at all hours. She receives many gifts from admirers, but is still learning how to be a geisha of the highest rank and ability.
\$\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	\(\lambda_i-\lambda_i\)	Natalie Curd	Ai-Ai is a young geisha of the second rank. She is in demand by many clients and can be seen about Edo visiting them at all hours.
\$\frac{1}{2}\$		The Su	umo Wrestlers
\$\\ \\$\\ \\$\\ \\$\\ \\$\\ \\$\\ \\$\\ \\$\\	Kenko	Brain Williams	Kenko is a Sumo Wrestler vying to win the Basho at the Cherry Blossom Festival. He is often seen hanging around the "Crane" School of Martial Arts which is currently led by Shimako. He is a practitioner of the Christian religion.
*****	Tevshi	Mathew Freedman	Teoshi is a Sumo Wrestler vying to win the Basho at the Cherry Blossom Festival. He is often seen at Toda's sake house, where he acts as protection against drunken revellers and other such groups. There is some debate about his origins and if he is peasant or samurai - only Teoshi knows.
S S S S S	Wakanami	Tym Norris	Wakanami is a Sumo Wrestler vying to win the Basho at the Cherry Blossom Festival. He is often seen at Kiki's Geisha house, where he ensures the safety of the geisha. He and Kenko are known to be friends, but are rivals when it comes to sumo wrestling.
\$\frac{1}{2}\$	Daishi	Graham Arnold	Daishi is a Sumo Wrestler vying to win the Basho at the Cherry Blossom Festival. He also works as a bodyguard for Kinyu, the Moneylender and has been married to Satomi, the Pawnbroker for many years.
		The Company	of the Rising Sun
	Chen	Cameron Betts	Chen is the leading actor in the travelling troupe of actors called the Company of the Rising Sun. He is married to Nobu and has a daughter Minoru, both members of the troupe. Sadly, his son recently died in a tragic accident on stage.
**************************************	Hobu	Rei England	Nobu supports the Company of the Rising Sun troupe of actors. She writes the plays, manages the costumes and make-up and also plays the flute. She is married to Chen, the leading actor in the troupe, and is the mother of Minoru.
\$	Minoru	Victoria Bettelheim	Minoru is the daughter of Chen and Nobu and a member of the theatrical troupe, the Company of the Rising Sun. She is a competent musician and is often seen in inns playing on the shamisen, although of late her tunes are sad, due to the death of her brother on stage in a tragic accident.
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Otomo	Malk Williams	Otomo is an experienced but undistinguished actor and musician in the Company of the Rising Sun troupe. Otomo well known for his ability to recollect the texts of hundreds of different plays. He likes to keep himself to himself when not on stage.
Shoji	Lucya Szachnowski	Shoji is an actor in the Company of the Rising Sun troupe. Shoji is famous for his ability to play the female roles on stage. Off stage, Shoji loves to meet his adoring audience and has fans in both the Imperial Court as well as in the rougher parts of town.
	The	Merchants
Yoritomo	Mike Snowden	Yoritomo is a young unmarried merchant whose financial genius and eye for identifying advantageous opportunities for investment and overseas trade has already made fortunes for many of the noble samurai families of Japan. He is engaged and shortly to be married to Noboru, the Incense Merchant.
Kinyu	Steve Hatherley	Kinyu, the Moneylender is the merchant who bankrolls many of the noble samurai families of Japan. The former business partner of Satomi, he is now known for his lack o mercy and compassion, both in matters of business and matters of the heart.
Satomi	Penny Norris	Satomi is a pawnbroker. She is married to Daishi, the sumowrestler. She is renowned for her keen business sense and desire to drive a hard bargain. She is very superstitious an consults an astrologer before taking any decisions of consequence.
Toda	Jenny Dunn	Toda runs the sake house, under the direction of her father in which the new gaijin are required to stay whilst in Edo. She employs Shinjo to act as the bartender and Teoshi, the sumo wrestler, to keep order. She is also known to be a member of the 'Drunken Monkey' School of martial arts.
Shinjo	David Brain	Shinjo is the bartender at Toda's Sake house. He is a friendly and polite bartender who is always happy to lister to other people's stories. Where he comes from and what he was before he was a bartender is unknown, but his eyes suggest a chequered past.
Hoboru	Su Jolly	Noboru is a merchant who sells the finest supplies of incense to the samurai and monks of Edo. She is engaged to be married to Yoritomo, the Administrator of the Imperial Kou. She is known to be intensely possessive of him and can become very jealous.

		Hikari is a young unmarried marchant who offers for sale
Hikari	Ali Mawhinney	Hikari is a young unmarried merchant who offers for sale to the samurai the finest supplies of tea. She is very polite and humble and always eager to share a cup of tea with friends and strangers alike and share the news of the day. She is one of the best friends of Noboru.
Ayako	Kris Alice Hohls	Ayako is a middle-aged paper merchant who makes and offers the finest writing supplies for sale to the samurai and the temples. She was married to Musasashi, the leader of the 47 Ronin, before he divorced her.
Shimako	Clare Gardner	Shimako is the elderly unmarried head of the 'Drunken Monkey' School of Kung-Fu, which she inherited from Master Yuan, when he was killed in a martial arts duel against the master of a rival school. She is known to have converted to Christianity.
Supaiku	Fiona Kennedy	Supaiku arrived in Edo from China only a short while ago and is still a bit of a mystery. She can regularly be seen about the rougher parts of Edo but she is supremely skilled in the martial arts, as those who think otherwise find out to their cost.
	Ţ	he Gaijin
Father-Superior Jose Da Cunha	Kyle McCormick	Da Cunha is one of the Gaijin. He is the supreme head of the Christian Church in Japan. Born in Italy, one of the Gaijin countries, he was initially appointed to spread the word about the Christian God in Imperial China, before being promoted to lead the Christian church in Japan.
Father Martin Alvito	Petter Olsen	Father Martin is one of the Gaijin. He is the officiating pries in the first Christian church in Japan. Born in Spain, one of the Gaijin countries, his first posting was to the Spanish colonies in South America. He is quiet and introspective, given to contemplation of life's challenges and the Word of God.
Father Rodrigo Mendoza	Paul Evans	Father Rodrigo is one of the Gaijin. He is a former acolyte of Father Martin and now a priest of the Christian Church in Japan in his own right. He runs the Christian Mission, which ministers to the poor and downtrodden. He is a tolerant and peaceful soul but the hard look in his eyes suggests that this was not always so.
Brother Diego	CJ Romer	Brother Diego is a Japanese convert to Christianity. He went on a pilgrimage to Rome a few years ago and has only just returned, full of the holy spirit. He can be heard preaching regularly across Edo, condemning evil souls to damnation but eager to convert as many of the Japanese to

Don Juan De Ferreira	Tony Mitton	Don Juan is one of the Gaijin. Born in Spain (one of the Gaijin countries), he is an experienced military man and his the captain, this year, of the <i>Black Ship</i> that carries back to Portugal each year the profits of the Gaijin trade with Japan. He is a loud and arrogant man who looks down on those less physically able and less important than him.
Vasco Rodriguez	Sam Coltman	Vasco is one of the Gaijin. Born in Portugal, one of the Gai countries, he is the pilot of the <i>Black Ship</i> . Unlike some of the other Western Christians, he is happy to mix with the Japanese. He likes sake and can often be seen carousing thins with his friends.
Dovotéia Santos	Nickey Barnard	Dorotéia is one of the Gaijin. She is the widow of the Trade Factor to Japan appointed by the King of Portugal. Her husband died soon after they arrived in Japan and she has assumed responsibility for her husband's affairs. A strong and independent woman, she is only too willing to trade with the Japanese.
John Blackthorne	Mark Booth	John Blackthorne is one of the new Gaijin. He is a sailor from the distant land of England. His knowledge of the Japanese language and culture is limited. On arriving in Japan, his ship, the <i>Erasmus</i> , was impounded, his crew imprisoned and he has been virtually a prisoner ever sinc setting foot on shore.
The Reverend' Pieter Van Hekk	Steve Coltman	Pieter Van Nekk is one of the new Gaijin. He is a Dutch sailor, and arrived on the <i>Erasmus</i> with John Blackthorne and is likewise a 'guest' of the Miramoto clan. His knowledge of the Japanese language and culture is limited A strong believer in the Gaijin Christian God, there is nonetheless a strange antipathy between him and the Gaijin priests.
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