



Sentient Russia

Alexey Barkhatov's Russian heroes

Villagers / Country

Blacksmith Russian man (mojique)

40 years old, jack of all trades, strong, reasonable, short-spoken "go-to guy" for all villagers: they all turn to him for support, help and advice. Since he had been in the army, he knows how to handle a weapon. When times are rough he can easily get enough food for the family by hunting and fishing. He knows the area quite well. Married, has three kids. He doesn't read newspapers, nor he watches TV, that's why he hasn't heard about "harmless" aliens. When the catastrophe happened, he was working in his forge wearing the protection mask. He suspected something bad was going to happen, so he rushed to find his family, but it was too late. He got stuck under the ruins with a young and basically helpless villager.

Huntsman / gamekeeper

A survival, a hermit, ascetic loner ~35 years old. He lives in a wild dark forest after leaving a big city many years ago when he wanted to avoid other people's company. He considered it as a cure and recovery after being betrayed by people he loved. He hasn't have any contact with other people for many years. He knows the area extremely well, he is also kind of an expert of a wild life: animals, birds, insects and plants. He is quite a sniper and has got excellent survival skills. When the disaster happened he decided to follow insects which were rushing to leave the open space. When it was nowhere to run he hid inside a den with a sleeping bear.

A convict

A gloomy Siberian man in his 40th, to whom life wasn't too kind which is noticeably only by looking at his face. He's a long time prisoner in a very unfriendly zone in Siberia. Was convicted either due to some evil plan (when actually he was innocent) or by some "noble crime" (for example, when he was in the fighting the war he killed/hit his commander who gave an inadequate order which else would have caused many people's death). Other prisoners respect him. He receives letters from his wife sometimes, but never responds, because he knows that he's not going to come back soon and wants her to move on. When the catastrophe happened, he was in the quarantine with 2-3 other prisoners.

Miner

Young easygoing man (25-30 years old) from a Siberian village, he goes to a mine trying to make some money for his big family: his parents, younger brothers and sisters and an old grandfather who used to work on a mine for a very long time. The boy got to learn for a little bit and then goes into the mine for the first time with his older mentors. When the catastrophe happened, he and his mentor (who got a serious injury) stuck under the ground.

Characters from big cities

Epidemiologist

A young (~30 years old) scientist, brilliant mind, future hope for Russian science, a bit fanatic geek, who loves to spend his time near the microscope looking at viruses and other contentious things. His big dream is to win a Nobel Prize, so he searches for a case which would let him get it everywhere. He lives in a rented apartment in Moscow with 2 friends. He's in love with a cute girl from his laboratory, but as most of the geeks in the world he's too awkward around her. Luckily, when the catastrophe happens, he got stuck in a clean room with her and a brilliant old professor.

Journalist

He's young (max.30 years old) ambitious, but not too lucky guy. He can not be considered as a successful journalist: he dreams of his own column with brilliant investigations and revelations while doing small reports on events which do not matter. He's a big fan of conspiracy theories, he's doing his best to start his own investigation, but always fails. More than that, he always gets himself in trouble. Lives with his parents. When the disaster happened, he hid in a subway station.

Driver

(Underground) A grown man in his 40th with wife and a teenage son. He is a driver in Moscow subway and he always feel responsible for other people. Train enthusiast, he knows how to drive nearly any vehicle. He nice and reliable and not even a little bit violent or harmful, but when the time comes, he realizes that he is the one to take care of people around. When the catastrophe happened, he was alone in the train, driving through the tunnel to a power depot.