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| **Name: Josef Steinmetz Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Germany Date of Birth: 1/26/1855**Biography: Growing up in a large family, you knew that you needed to find a career of your own to support yourself. Therefore, you became an apprentice to the local carpenter starting at age fifteen. Now, you are a carpenter on your own from Cologne, Germany. You left because you could no longer support your wife and four children at home. You were fairly successful in Germany and managed to save up enough money to bring yourself and your eldest son to New York City. However, you do not have any money left once you arrive. On the voyage over, you developed a cough that has lasted for three weeks with no end in sight. |
| **Name: Anna Piatowski Sex: Female****Nation of Origin: Poland Date of Birth: 5/15/1867**Biography: The youngest of seven children, especially as a girl, you realized that there was nothing left for you in Warsaw. Your family is dirt poor and cannot support you any longer. You had to borrow money from a wealthy aunt in Boston, but just enough for the voyage. When you arrive in New York, your plans are to work just long enough to save up enough money to catch a train to Boston to meet up with your aunt. However, you have never worked before in your life, but you figure that you should be able to find work in a kitchen or something of that nature. |
| **Name: Janos Rembienska Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Greece Date of Birth: 7/27/1862**Biography: The middle child of nine, as a male in Greece, there was no opportunity for you in your small farming village. You have a wife and an infant son in Stelonopolis, but you cannot afford to take them with you to New York. Instead, you left them with her father and mother. You have always worked as a farmer and have no industrial experience at all. Your plan is to work in New York and eventually go west to claim land through the new Homestead Act. After getting your land, you will send for your wife and child. About two weeks into the journey to America, you hurt your leg on a rusty nail that was sticking out from the wall near your bunk. The wound is getting worse and worse as the voyage continues. It has gotten so bad that you now walk with a limp around the ship. |
| **Name: Franz Gugenheim Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Germany Date of Birth: 3/1/1870**Biography: As a child, you grew up in a privileged family of bankers. You, personally, have never had to work a day in your life. However, on your eighteenth birthday, your father passed away and you were expected to take over the family business. You hate banking, so you decided to take as much money as you could gather and run. You gathered together some jewelry and silverware from your mother’s household. You paid for your voyage and have 5 American dollars in your pocket. Luckily, you had a tutor growing up who taught you to read and write, as well as to speak French, Russia, and some English. |
| **Name: Jan Bakker Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: The Netherlands Date of Birth: 4/5/1867**Biography: Growing up in a family of twelve children, you knew that it would be hard to stake out a living of your own in Amsterdam. Even as a man, it was difficult to find work in the city. So, on your twentieth birthday, you came up with the plan to move to America with your favorite brother, Johann. Saving up for a few years, you finally have the money. On the voyage to America, your head started to itch. Your brother looked and sees little bugs moving around in your hair – it’s lice. Hopefully they’ll be gone before you have your interview at Ellis Island. |
| **Name: Anton Michel Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: France Date of Birth: 1/3/1864**Biography: Growing up in the Champagne region of France, you had a difficult childhood. Your father died when you were three, leaving your mother alone with six children. She remarried when you were five to a man who decided that he did not want to be a father. So your mother, in order to keep him happy, gave you all to the local orphanage. You were never adopted, and instead, were sent to a workhouse at the age of twelve. At the workhouse, you often faced corporal punishment. So, starting at age eighteen, you began saving up the money you made working at the local textile factory. You finally made enough, but not a penny more, to travel to New York City. During the first week of your voyage, the person on the bunk above you got very sick. So sick, that he hasn’t moved from bed for days. Two weeks later, you have developed an irritation of the eye which includes blurriness of vision, a thick yellow discharge, and itchiness. You hope it clears up soon. |
| **Name: Marie Florenciano Sex: Female****Nation of Origin: Italy Date of Birth: 7/25/1870**Biography: As a young woman in a small village outside of Rome, you married a poor farmer who grew olives for a local olive oil company. You were always willing to work on the farm, and quickly became a proficient farmer. However, two years ago, your husband was killed in fight at the local bar in town. Without support from your husband, you lost the farm to the greedy landowners of the village. You have no family in Italy, but you do have a cousin in Brooklyn. Selling all of your jewelry, including your wedding ring, you bought passage to the States. However, on the voyage over, you developed a severe gastro-intestinal disease, including cramps, vomiting, and diarrhea. You have done your best to hide it on the ship, but you’re worried that the interviewer at Ellis Island will find out that you’re sick. |
| **Name: Johann Bakker Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: The Netherlands Date of Birth: 11/15/1872**Biography: You, along with your brother Jan, have decided that there is no future for the two of you in The Netherlands. While you would have liked to have stayed in Europe, you have agreed to accompany your brother to America. You have worked for three years at a local tulip store in Amsterdam, but you have no industrial or agricultural experience. On the voyage to America, your brother developed lice. You are worried that this will hurt his chances to enter into the country. You can’t imagine being stuck in a foreign country alone. Especially since you don’t know any English. |
| **Name: Moses Goldstein Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Russia Date of Birth: 6/30/1863**Biography: As the eldest son of a prosperous Jewish family in Minsk, you thought the whole world was in front of you. However, last year, your father and two of your younger brothers were killed in a pogrom in your town. Now realizing what it really means to be a Jew in Russia, you have decided to leave for the land of opportunity, America. Taking your mother and three younger sisters, you spent all of your family’s money on the fare on the ship. On the trip over, your youngest sister passed away due to dehydration. Your mother is devastated and now says she wants to return to Russia. You know that this is impossible and you are worried that she may cause a scene at Ellis Island. |
| **Name: Mikhail Kozlov Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Russia Date of Birth: 12/12/1869**Biography: You have been orphaned ever since your mother died in childbirth of your youngest brother. Your father, unable to handle raising six children on his own, gave you all up to the local orphanage in your village outside of Moscow. Growing up in the orphanage, you learned to get tough quick. You even managed to get a job at the local textile mill in town. Working at the mill for the last seven years, you saved up enough money to buy a ticket to America. You are nervous since you do not speak a word of English, but you figure it can’t be that hard to learn once you’re in New York. |
| **Name: Peter Kosciusko Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Poland Date of Birth: 10/16/1883**Biography: You absolutely love the small farming village that you grew up in outside of Krakow. It was always a peaceful, serene place to raise a family. However, last year, Russian soldiers came in the village, shot all of the men over the age of 30 and took over the entire village. Terrified at what this means for you, you ran away to Warsaw. You broke into a jewelry store and stole as much as you could. Then, you bought a ticket for America. About a week into the voyage, you hear a rumor that Polish authorities have discovered your identity and may have alerted New York police of your presence. You are very worried that when you arrive at Ellis Island you will be arrested and sent back to Poland. |
| **Name: Sarah Yuriov Sex: Female****Nation of Origin: Latvia Date of Birth: 12/6/1865**Biography: The eldest of three sisters and three brothers, you are still unmarried. Having the reputation of the town spinster, you decided to move to Poland for a new start. However, your prospects were just as bad in Warsaw as they were in the small village you grew up in in Latvia. So, after gaining a job as a maid for a wealthy family, you began saving up as much money as you could. Only earning a dollar a month, you realized that you would never be able to save up the money you needed. So, late one night, you stole the family silverware and ran to the nearest port city. You booked passage to America and you hope that you can get another job as a maid once you arrive in the city. |
| **Name: Isaac Felber Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Germany Date of Birth: 3/16/1870**Biography: Growing up as the son of the local town magistrate, you thought that your life would always be amazing. However, two years ago, your father was killed in a brawl over taxes, and you were left to fend for yourself. Quickly realizing that the town despised your father, no one would give you a job or a chance. So, you packed up all of your belongings and booked passage to America. On the voyage to the States, you got into a fight with another young man over the bunking arrangements. Banged up and bruised after the fight, you tried to go about your own business. However, the blow received to your stomach has not healed and you are starting to experience severe pain in your abdomen. You are worried that you might be seriously injured, but you don’t want the interviewer at Ellis Island to find out. |
| **Name: Chang Li Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: China Date of Birth: 1/1/1870**Biography: You are a seventh generation rice paddy farmer. Rice is all you have ever known and all you ever planned to do with your life. However, your local village has experienced three years of drought in a row, and you can no longer pay your debts. So, selling your farm, you, along with your wife, are going to try to make a new start in America. You heard that California is a wonderful place with lots of farmland and opportunity. Hopefully you will be able to start over fresh on a farm out there. Your wife and you do not speak a word of English, but hopefully that won’t matter in California. |
| **Name: Rachel Akkerman Sex: Female****Nation of Origin: Poland Date of Birth: 4/16/1873**Biography: You are the middle child of a family of three children. Growing up in a Jewish household, family was always very important. However, last year, your mother passed away, shortly followed by your father. Your older brother moved to Moscow to try to find a job and your younger sister married a local farmer. On your own, without a husband or any family in Poland, you decided to go to America to join your aunt and uncle. They sent you some money to buy a ticket, but you have been left no additional money. You hope to find a new Jewish husband to support you once you arrive in New York. |
| **Name: Fu Chen Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: China Date of Birth: 7/1/1866**Biography: Your wife and you always hated the village of your birth. It was a very small village where everyone knew everything about everyone. Your wife always dreamt of a new life in America. However, when she passed away of consumption last year, you decided to honor her by making the trip yourself. You, along with your eldest son, booked passage to America. You’ve heard that there is a lot of opportunity for a Chinaman with explosives experience working for the railroads. You hope that both your son and you can find work once you arrive in California. |
| **Name: Ivan Mikov Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Russia Date of Birth: 4/17/1870**Biography: Growing in the slums of St. Petersburg, you never experienced anything besides hunger, thirst, and struggle. Your father abandoned your family when you were two, leaving your mother alone to raise eight children. She began to work in one of the few professions available to women in the city, prostitution. When you were eight, your mother passed away from an unknown disease, leaving you all to fend for yourselves. At ten, you started to run “errands” for the local criminals and soon became a proficient pickpocket. After saving up enough money, you decided to try your luck in America. You don’t speak a word of English and can’t read or write, even in Russia. You hope this won’t matter in America since it never mattered in Russia. |
| **Name: Karl Helmut Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Germany Date of Birth: 7/31/1869**Biography: Your favorite piece of writing comes from Karl Marx, entitled *The Communist Manifesto*. After reading this influential work, you have decided to dedicate yourself to the Communist cause. Realizing that there isn’t any chance for change in Berlin in the near future, you decided to try your luck in America, the land of opportunity. You know that your ideas are pretty radical, but you figure that all of the other immigrants on your ship are just uneducated and need to be taught the message of Karl Marx. Every morning on the ship, you preach to anyone who is willing to listen about the inevitable war between the capitalist swine and the overworked proletariat. Your words have carried themselves all the way up to the captain, and he is less than thrilled. In fact, rumor has it that he is going to report you to the authorities at Ellis Island. |
| **Name: Markus Von Bruten Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Italy Date of Birth: 5/22/1864**Biography: Although you are ethnically German, your family has lived in northern Italy since 1852. You speak fluent Italian and are proficient in German. However, you cannot read or write in any language. You were happily settled, along with your wife and five children, in a small town outside of Venice. However, two years ago, a new authority took over who hates foreigners, and that includes you. Giving you little in the way of options, you have decided to start your life over in America. You hear that New York City is a city of many opportunities. However, you can only afford to take your eldest son along with you. This means that your wife and four other children will have to fend for themselves in Italy. |
| **Name: Giovanni Casella Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Italy Date of Birth: 8/19/1869**Biography: Growing up in Rome, you have always loved the culture of the city. You descended from a long line of bankers, dating all the way back to the Medici family of Florence. With such a prestigious family history, you never thought that you would ever struggle in life. However, on your eighteenth birthday, after a huge argument with your father, you were cast out of the family. With no family support and no money, you had no choice but to leave. You stole your way onto a ship heading to America. Luckily, since you had a private tutor growing up, you are very educated, including a sizable knowledge of the English language. However, you have never worked in any job besides banking. |
| **Name: Johanna Slanakos Sex: Female****Nation of Origin: Greece Date of Birth: 9/3/1870**Biography: You are the youngest daughter of six girls. Growing up in Patras, you took a job working at the local school when you turned eighteen. However, you quickly realized that this was not your passion. Instead, you have always dreamt of having a farm of your own. You’ve heard stories of all the land available in America and you have decided to try to claim some of it on your own. You figure that since America is the land of opportunity, you won’t struggle as a young woman on your own. However, you do not know any English yet.  |
| **Name: Freide Kraft Sex: Female****Nation of Origin: Switzerland Date of Birth: 4/16/1866**Biography: After marrying your childhood sweetheart at the age of fifteen, you always thought of your destiny to be a good wife and mother. You gave birth to six children before the age of 22, including a set of twins. However, three weeks before your twenty-third birthday, your husband was killed in a fight over a payment owed to him for his work as a cobbler. Without the income from his shop, and with six children under the age of 6 to raise on your own, you panicked and ran. You dropped the children off at the local orphanage and left for Geneva. However, your luck was just as bad there, including being robbed of all of your jewelry. You decided that your only chance is to escape to America. You book passage and hope for the best. |
| **Name: Olga Auspov Sex: Female****Nation of Origin: Russia Date of Birth: 6/16/1856**Biography: Growing up in Moscow meant that every single day was some kind of escapade with new experiences. However, when you were thirteen years old, your family moved to a small farming village outside of the city. You hated to constricting environment and you especially hated the quaint, small-town men that you had to chose from in the village. Instead, you dreamt of a life on the stage with an exciting life full of parties and new adventures. You married the local cooper and started to settle into your life as wife and mother. Three years ago, your husband passed away and left you his shop. You saw this as your chance. So, you sold the shop and booked passage for your two children and yourself to New York City. Certainly in a city this size finding a job as an actress should be a piece of cake. Right?...  |
| **Name: Isidor Francopolis Sex: Female****Nation of Origin: Cyprus Date of Birth: 8/24/1872**Biography: Growing up on the island of Cyprus was always an enjoyable experience. You came from a loving, affluent family and quickly found a desirable husband at the age of fourteen. However, two years ago, tragedy struck when your husband passed away from typhus and left you alone with three small children. Six months ago, you came into a bit of money when a wealthy aunt passed away. So, you decided to start over in America with your children. You booked passage and are hoping for the best. However, you only speak Greece and a bit of Turkish, but hopefully that shouldn’t matter in the land of opportunity. |
| **Name: Petro Strawsky Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Russia Date of Birth: 2/12/1867**Biography: Growing up in St. Petersburg without a father meant that you were the head of your family. At the age of eight, you started to steal from the other boys at your school. By ten years old, you were a professional pickpocket and rafter. Everything seemed to be going well until you got caught in one of your recent counterfeit schemes. Now you need to get out of town quick. Without hesitation, you book passage to furthest away place that you can think of; America! About two weeks into the voyage, you recognize one of the other passengers as one of the people that you stole from in the past. You pray that he doesn’t recognize you back because if he reports you to the captain it could be trouble for you in America. |
| **Name: Heng Chao Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: China Date of Birth: 10/11/1869**Biography: While growing up, your father was a member of the Imperial guard of the emperor. However, when you were ten, your father lost his position, so you all moved out to the countryside to live with a distant aunt and uncle. You hate rice, and all you were surrounded by was rice paddies. At the age of thirteen, you ran away and took the train all the way to Beijing. Once you arrived, you started working in a textile mill. You married a local woman and started a family. However, with the arrival of your third child, you realized you wanted more for your family. So, you decided to move to America to start over. You cannot read or write in Chinese, and you do not know any English. Also, lately you’ve been getting these headaches that can be completely debilitating. The headaches usually last a day or two and make it so that you can barely get out of bed. |
| **Name: Hua Zhou Sex: Female****Nation of Origin: China Date of Birth: 4/18/1860**Biography: Born in the province of Canton, you grew up along the banks of the Si-Kiang River. Starting at the age of eight, you were forced to leave your family home to stay in the girls’ home with about thirty other young girls. This house was the same play where you learned to work. Although you were allowed to go home for meals, you were never to live with your family again. At age fourteen you married a boy from a nearby village. While he was by no means harsh or cruel, you do not love him. In fact, you dream of a new life in this magical land of America. Starting at age eighteen, you saved up as much money as you could and finally managed to book a ticket to San Francisco. You leave behind your husband and four children without as much as a note. You hope that once you arrive in America you can start over your life fresh. |
| **Name: Akira Hamamoto Sex: FemaleNation of Origin: Japan Date of Birth: 2/16/1854**Biography: Ever since you were a small child, you heard another voice inside your head. Your mother always told you that the voice was simply one of the kami spirits speaking to you and guiding you along your path. However, your mother passed away when you were ten, so you were forced to live with an aunt in a nearby village. She taught that the voice in your head was evil and therefore you were evil as well. As soon as you were a full grown woman, at age fifteen, she kicked you out. You lived on your own for a while, but now you figured you might as well try your luck in America. Only two days into your voyage, the voice in your head told you to jump overboard and swim back to Japan. You didn’t listen, but the voice got stronger and stronger. You’re hoping that by the time you reach San Francisco, the voice will give up and go away for good. |
| **Name: Haruki Ishii Sex: MaleNation of Origin: Japan Date of Birth: 5/13/1832**Biography: You have lived in the same small village outside of Kyoto your entire life. Your wife and you have watched all five of your children grow up and become successful adults. You stopped farming on the rice paddy at the age of fifty and, following the passing of your wife, have been living with your eldest son and his wife for the last ten years. You have been happy and content with your life in Japan. However, lately, it has been harder and harder to remember the people you encounter and the places you’ve been. Recently, your son and his wife have decided to move to America and they are taking you with them. On the voyage to America, your memory problems seem to be getting worse. Your son is worried about you, but doesn’t see any other option than to continue on the way to America. |
| **Name: Igor Porkowsky Sex: MaleNation of Origin: Russia Date of Birth: 5/25/1868**Biography: Born in Kiev, you were born into a wealthy family of factory owners. As the first born son, your parents greatly valued your education. After completing your studies in Kiev, you continued your education in Paris, France. While in France, you learned even more about the opportunities available to immigrants in America. With your mind made up, you booked passage to America at your first chance. You know that your parents are furious and will no longer support you, but with your education, you figure it will be easy to find work. Also, you can read and write in Russian, German, French, and some English. |
| **Name: Giuseppe Garibaldi Sex: Male****Nation of Origin: Italy Date of Birth: 7/15/1867**Biography: Growing up on the streets meant that you had to get tough quick. At the age of twelve, you were arrested for fighting over the outcome of a boxing match. After your trial, you were sent to a boys’ workhouse, which was especially a prison. You did hard, manual labor until you were released on your eighteenth birthday. After that, you decided that there was no future for you in Florence. After robbing a local grocery store, you bought a ticket for America. You figure that America means a fresh start were you can become a new man. |
| **Name: Patrizia Lanza Sex: Female****Nation of Origin: Italy Date of Birth:** |
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