

CHARACTERS: *Junk*

The Raiders

Robert “Bob” Merkin. Early 40s. Junk-bond originator and trader at Sacker-Lowell, an investment bank. Merkin is an unusual combination of charismatic leader and behind-the-desk functionary. On the strength of unparalleled focus and remarkable intellectual gifts, he has emerged as the financier of the age.

Raul Rivera. Mid-30s. Lawyer for Sacker-Lowell. Of Cuban extraction. Wry, playful, ruthless.

Israel “Izzy” Peterman. Late 30s. A corporate raider. Sacramento-born. Intense, rough-hewn, tenacious. Eager to propel himself – by whatever means necessary – to the front ranks of American business.

Boris Pronsky. Late 40s. An arbitrageur. Makes money off rumor and intrigue. All façade, no substance. The proverbial little man in a big man’s body.

Management and Its Allies

Thomas “Tom” Everson, Jr. 50s. Chief Executive of Everson Steel and United, the erstwhile manufacturing behemoth and still-member of the Dow Industrial Average. The steel business has fallen on hard times, and Everson Jr. continues to see through the diversification of the company begun under his father’s regime. Though not quite the brilliant businessman his father was, Everson Jr. makes up for it with heart and in loyalty.

Maximilien “Max” Cizik. Late 40s. Investment banker at Lausanne & Co. Adviser to Everson. Urbane, measured, sophisticated. Born in Prague, but brought up in America. Lausanne & Co. is a leading advisory investment bank, and one of the last of such still connected to the great nineteenth century European merchant banks.

Jacqueline “Jackie” Blount. Late 20s. Lawyer for Lausanne & Co. African-American. Harvard Law. Harvard Business. Appealing, ambitious. With balls and charm to boot.

Leo Tresler. Mid-50s. A private equity magnate. Passionate, pompous, lovable, and very rich. A lion of a man with something of a Texas swagger, despite being born and raised in Connecticut.

Law Enforcement

Giuseppe “Joe” Adesso. Mid-40s. Italian-American. U.S. Attorney of New York, Southern District. Ambitious.

Kevin Walsh. Early 30s. African-American. Assistant U.S. Attorney, Fraud Unit. Punctilious and indefatigable.

Other

Judy Chen. Early 30s. Third generation Chinese-American. A writer. Thoughtful, penetrating, and undaunted by titans about whom she is writing.

Amy Merkin. 40s. Robert's wife. Merkin's business school sweetheart. A financial wizard in her own right. Merkin's deepest collaborator.

Supporting & Minor Characters

Mark O'Hare. 40s. An arbitrageur. Irish-American. Born and raised in heyday of Hell's Kitchen. A street fighter who rides the market's currents.

Corrigan Wiley. 50s. Attorney for O'Hare. Gruff and loyal. Hailing from a family that has served counsel to generations of the Irish mob.

Devon Atkins. Late 20s. An arbitrageur. A kid. In over his head.

Murray Lefkowitz. 50s. One of Merkin's investors.

Charlene Stewart. 20s. Assistant to Robert Merkin.