



A Scenario for *Altered Carbon: The Role Playing Game*
Inspired by the Netflix Original series
based upon the novel by Richard K. Morgan

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CH. 1: INTRODUCTION TO JOHANNESBURG

TIMELINE

- **2025:** Khumalo Bioware founded in Cape Town, South Africa.
- **2027:** Political tensions in South Africa lead to the succession of The Western Cape Province. Civil War ensues.
- **2028:** Illegal mining activities in the Greater Johannesburg and Pretoria area, lead to an event known as The Collapse. Millions die.
- **2031:** China calls upon the UNP to allow them full collaboration with the New South African government, as repayment for their loans. Within a year, the Chinese New South Africa Coalition was formed.
- **2042:** Private security firms within CNSAC unify as Inyoka Securities.
- **2050:** Western Cape launches Unity. Inviting millions of displaced South Africans back to their home shores.
- **2060:** Unity scientists commissioned for terraforming projects by UNP.
- **2062:** Khumalo Bioware buys rights for The Collapse from CNSAC.
- **2063:** Reclamation commences on "New Jozi."
- **2064:** Khumalo Bioware and Unity sign cooperation agreement on Reclamation.
- **2072:** Nkanyezi Khumalo is born.
- **2100:** Nkanyezi Khumalo becomes majority shareholder for Khumalo Bioware, begins shifting focus to advanced sleeve production.
- **2120:** Center of New Jozi dubbed Iphaladisi. Wealthiest corporations, and citizens maintain their residence here.
- **2160:** CNSAC implemented The Golden Curtain at the behest of Khumalo Bioware. Activity into Iphaladisi is now strictly controlled.
- **2180:** The term Umdala is adopted as South African slang for Meths.
- **2200:** Unity offices are removed from Iphaladisi and relegated to The Edges.
- **2250:** Increasing tensions between Khumalo industries and Unity lead to civil unrest and eventually open warfare.
- **2255:** UNP brokers peace between CNSAC, Unity and Khumalo. Unity reenters Golden Curtain.
- **2300:** Unity secure first option for all future UNP terraforming projects.
- **2372:** Nkanyezi Khumalo celebrates their 300th birthday.
- **2392:** Unity unveils their new project codenamed: Link. Promising to revolutionise Human existence as much as the invention of DHF.



CITY LAYOUT

New Jozi was constructed deep within The Collapse. The walls of the canyon are 15 meters at their lowest points at the Eastern and Western edges, and 45 meters at their highest points of the Northern and Southern walls. When designing the city, Siphiso Khumalo wanted to emphasise the idea that New Jozi would be the center of power emanating out of CNSAC. He took inspiration from the stories of ancient Atlantis and had the city constructed in concentric rings, interspaced with clean waterways.

The heart of the city would be the home of the elite corporations and families. It would be an

unrivaled paradise of architecture, technology, and environmental design. The very central point is dominated by Onkulunkulu Tower, the tallest structure in the city and the home of Khumalo Bioware. The second tallest tower being Ezulwini, the Unity head office within CNSAC.

The rings of the city are numbered from the center outwards, from 0 to 7. Iphaladisi, Paradise, is surrounded by The Golden Curtain and marks ring 0. The still wealthy, but lesser corporations and citizens, occupy the 1st to 3rd rings. Competition and land rights among the Twilight citizens is fiercer than that among the Umdala, as the closer one gets to paradise, the higher one's station is.

The 4th and 5th rings are home to many of the everyday citizens of New Jozi, and although there are CNSAC police stations throughout the city proper, The CNSAC Police Headquarters are located in the central North of the 5th ring. The 6th and 7th ring, although still populated by citizens, are more focused on industry, warehousing, and development labs. During the 3rd civil war, Unity was forced into a satellite office in the Northwestern 7th ring. To reinforce the idea of power stemming from the center, the term used for the 7th ring became The Edges.

Overall, New Jozi, due to Unity influence as well as Siphiso Khumalo's vision, is a city based upon green technology and environmentally sustainable designs. Most of the rings have areas devoted to farmland, and some parks. Even the, by comparison, more densely packed 6th and 7th rings, are fairly green and open.

The same cannot be said for The Outskirts.

Although much of what was once South Africa recovered under the CNSAC government, conditions elsewhere are nowhere near as promising or ideal as New Jozi. Migrants come from all over Africa, hoping to somehow work their way into The Silver City. Surrounding the upper walls of New Jozi, and perpetually looking down upon the splendour of The Silver City, are a mish-mash of poorly constructed homes and businesses crowded closely together. The Outskirts team with neon, and shady dealings, but are still somewhat kept in check by CNSAC police.

Not so, for the underground world of The Grond Gebore.

After The Collapse, many of their settlements were destroyed, however, many new caverns and areas opened up. The waters that collected underground were extremely toxic, and the air was stagnant and just as poisonous. But, the Grond Gebore managed to survive.

By sheer luck, or by the hand of an unknowable, caring force, three key landmarks from what was once Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Bronkhorstspuit were mostly undamaged, although now 30 kilometers or more from the ruined surface. Namely, The Old Amusement Park known as Gold Reef City which can be found in the deep Underground to the Southeast of Ring 2, The University of Pretoria (Tuks University) which can be found in the deep Underground slightly to the Northeast of Ring 3, and The Nan Hua Buddhist Temple which can be found in the Underground to the East of Ring 7.

These areas became a refuge for the Zama Zama in the early years after The Collapse, and the Gronde Gebore slowly and carefully mapped out new caverns and began to reinforce their tunnels. Soon, new settlements had popped up all over New Jozi's Underground. However, these routinely get shutdown when they are discovered by CNSAC.

HISTORY OF NEW JOZI

In the early 2020's South Africa was in a volatile place both politically and financially. In the past 10 years, many corporations had either closed their doors or downsized considerably. One of the largest industries to be affected by this was the mining sector.

Large scale downsizing and retrenchment left thousands of mine workers unemployed, and hundreds of kilometers of mines abandoned. Human ingenuity being what it was, this led to the evolution of illegal miners that came to call themselves Zama Zamas.

Communities and small towns sprang up underground to facilitate the miners being able to spend longer and longer periods there. Eventually different criminal organisations formed among the Zama Zamas, with bosses aggressively protecting their turf.

Above ground, tensions rose to such a breaking point that in 2027 the Western Cape Province of South Africa officially chose to succeed and in order to become its own country. This move, combined with the failing economy, started the Second South African Civil War.

In 2028, the underground activities of the Zama Zamas had caused massive ground instability for the past 18 years, and during a particularly violent altercation between 2 rival organisations a massive explosion caused a very large scale collapse to trigger a cascade of sinkholes and earthquakes.

The Collapse, as it would come to be known, spidered out from Carletonville all the way East to Emalahleni, encompassing the entirety of Greater Johannesburg and Pretoria. The sinkhole was hundreds of kilometers

deep. Millions lost their lives, and their homes. The economic center of New South Africa, was gone.

After the end of the Second South African Civil War, the Chinese government called upon the UNP to allow them to form a new coalition government. Stating that the loans which the governments had defaulted on, could in no way ever be repaid without their help to revitalise and redevelop the country. On November 14th, 2031 the Chinese New South African Coalition (CNSAC for short) was officially ratified.

The years from 2040 to 2080 came to be known as the Southern African Renaissance.

In 2050, The Western Cape began project Unity. Their idea was to invite millions of displaced South Africans home, especially those that had scientific backgrounds. Unity focused on terraforming technologies, as well as unique methods of DHF and AI integration. Each citizen would be trained to contribute to the wellness of the country, the sciences, their fellow citizens, and the environment. This free and open exchange of ideas among its citizens, lead very quickly to them becoming one of the major players in UNP decision making due to the technologies being produced.

In the same time period, Siphiso Khumalo sought to break away from the Western Cape and rejoin CNSAC. He wished to bring his company back to his ancestral home in what was once Gauteng Province.

Khumalo Bioware had become an industry leader in their field, and their patents had made them exceptionally wealthy and powerful. So, in 2062, a deal was signed between Khumalo Bioware and CNSAC for rights to begin Reclamation of The Collapse. By 2063, Unity signed a contract with them to assist in the development of New Jozi.

By 2100, Siphiso Khumalo had retired and had installed his daughter Nkanyezi as the CEO and majority shareholder of Khumalo Bioware. Nkanyezi began to shift the company's focus exclusively to the production of advanced sleeves. Everything from combat to pleasure models, to specialised sleeves for planets with harsh environmental hazards.

In the years since the Reclamation, New Jozi had risen to become the Jewel of African economy. The heart of the city was called Iphaladisi and it was dominated by lush gardens and forests, canals, and skyscrapers all designed to allow maximum light and airflow. Only the wealthiest citizens and corporations were located here. The central spire housed Khumalo Bioware and the residences of the Khumalo family.

The Collapse had not led to the end of the Zama Zama organisations. At the time it happened, many of them already had their hands in several other illicit activities. With illegal mining no longer an option, and their numbers severely dwindled, the factions unified into a single larger structure.

Not all of the underground structures had collapsed, and many immigrants and those dealing in the not so legal, created full communities in these places.

Occasional raids, and cleanup operations by CNSAC happened but to little effect. In an effort to maintain the image she was cultivating for New Jozi, in 2160 Nkanyezi Khumalo insisted on the creation of The

Golden Wall, an energy barrier around the heart of the city. In this way, only coded individuals would be allowed access into Iphaladisi.

By 2180, CNSAC citizens had adopted the word Umdala with reference to those that could functionally keep themselves immortal. The unique cultural heritage lending a reverence to the term.

By 2200, most private security was handled by Inyoka Securities. They maintained absolute loyalty by numbers requisitioned. So, it would not be uncommon for members of Inyoka to clash with other members. Their impartiality was preferred by the Corporations and the Umdala, as CNSAC was still beholden to the UNP.

After the expulsion from Iphaladisi of Unity by Khumalo Bioware, tensions rose throughout the next 50 years eventually leading to yet another civil war — mostly fought with soldiers from Inyoka.

In order to stabilise the region, the UNP brokered peace between CNSAC, Khumalo and Unity. And in 2255, Unity returned to Iphaladisi. Although they still maintain their satellite offices in the Northwestern Edges. To date, the peace is fragile.

Our current year, 2392. Unity has launched their new project, codenamed: Link. Speculation abounds as to its nature, but they are heralding it as the next step in Human evolution and they plan to unveil it within the month.

GEOLOGICAL LANDMARKS

The Collapse had devastated a huge swath of land 196km long, and 90 kilometers at its widest. Of the surrounding areas, the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve managed to survive and even flourish, especially during the time of the Second Civil War. These days it is a monument that is maintained by the Umdala and it cannot be visited by the general public.

Underground, it is said that some ruins of Old Johannesburg and Pretoria survived although these are likely underwater or under rubble, or perhaps the location of Zama Zama enclaves. Rumours are that parts of the old amusement park Gold Reef City, Tuks University, and the Nan Hua Temple still persist.

But, it's difficult to quantify said rumours.

SUIKERBOSRAND NATURE RESERVE

To the Southeast of New Jozi, lies the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve and what was once the small town of Diepkloof. In the days before CNSAC the land functioned as both an archaeological site for the remnants of a Sotho-Tswana city that dated back to the 1800s, and as a wildlife preserve and education center.

In modern times, the Reserve has been protected by a stack encoded energy field allowing only the elite of Iphaladisi to enter. Here the Umdala enjoy abundant natural beauty and quaint housing of an era long since passed on Earth.

Big game hunting is also a pastime that the Umdala engage in here, as well as other activities that can be done away from prying eyes.

GOLD REEF CITY

Once an amusement park built upon an old mine, Gold Reef City is now home to one of the largest Zama Zama enclaves. During The Collapse, the park survived although now buried deep within the Earth. However, any resemblance to an amusement park is long since gone. The abundant materials that were once park attractions were repurposed to reinforce the cavern structure that the park now found itself in.

Being a permanent Zama Zama settlement, much of the housing, markets, bars and farms here are of a better construction and upkeep than the small townships. When Boy Mahlangu became the Boss of Gold Reef, he ensured that his people could live in better conditions than they could find elsewhere and set about building schools and clinics in the area.

Although Boy and his men act as justice keepers within the Zama Zama, his reach is still limited and he has to maintain the balance with the other two leaders.

TUKS UNIVERSITY (THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA)

Founded in 1908, The University of Pretoria was a great center of academia within South Africa. Many of the brightest minds that the country had produced once studied at the sprawling campus.

The Collapse destroyed much of the grounds, however, many of its sturdy buildings survived mostly intact. Lecture halls, student housing and even the campus chapel remained. The caverns that had formed around the buildings were structurally sound enough that the Grond Gebore had little trouble excavating more areas and transforming the university into a permanent settlement.

The research laboratories became invaluable to the quick-minded Grond Gebore, and within a few short years, the settlement became a hub of drug manufacturing within New Jozi.

The residents of Tuks are, by and large, under the rulership of “die Baas.” A ruthless man, by the name of Laaitie. As such, the hand of the other Zama Zama bosses is barely tolerated, and outsiders are almost always killed on sight.

NAN HUA TEMPLE

Situated in Bronkhorstspuit, The Nan Hua Temple was the largest Buddhist temple and seminary in Africa. Its grounds span six hectares of land. After The Collapse, the waters of the Bronkhorstspuit dam flooded much of the area. Whether it was due to the influx of water, or some other force, the buildings of the temple survived. It was during mapping of tunnels and water systems that the Gronde Gebore discovered this fact.

Soon, a project was under way to seal the area off and pump the water out. After only a few short years, the temple became a permanent settlement of the Zama Zama.

In present times, the Temple Boss is a man known as Kobus Van Jaarsveld. An ex Inyoka Securities officer turned rogue, Kobus maintains strict discipline and training of the population there. It has now become the central hub of the Black Market in New Jozi, and security is always tight.

NOTABLE LOCATIONS

ONKULUNKULU TOWER

Growing out of the very center of New Jozi, is Onkulunkulu Tower. A gargantuan structure that rises into the clouds of The Silver City. After the clearing of rubble and the groundwork was laid, Siphiso Khumalo insisted that the tower be built first.

The building itself was designed to replicate the look of an enormous Baobab Tree, its various branches housing members of the Khumalo family and their various descendants and offshoot families.

The tower is a marvel of engineering, and a completely self-contained ecosystem complete with its own areas devoted to farming, research and development, housing, schooling as well as eating and recreational facilities.

Onkulunkulu is the seat of power of both the Khumalo family, and Khumalo Bioware which is why Siphiso chose the name. In his mother tongue of Zulu, it means “The Gods.”

EZULWINI TOWER

Also located within the Golden Circle is Ezulwini Tower, the headquarters of Unity within The Silver City. As Unity was heavily involved with the reclamation efforts in New Jozi, Siphiso Khumalo agreed that they should have a place of honour within the city, and so the tower was built to be the second tallest structure there.

Ezulwini means Heaven in Zulu. The tower itself was named by Siphiso as he wanted to maintain a strong connection to his heritage throughout the Golden Circle.

The tower itself is shaped to look like an enormous Aloe Africanus, with its leaves lightly beginning to open. The building houses many Unity staff members within the city, as well as various research and development departments. Its design reflects Unity's ideals of connection and integration, with many open spaces, ample natural light and green spaces throughout.

The base of the tower is connected at its base and begins to diverge into the nine leaves of its design.

During the 55 years when Unity was forced out of the Golden Circle by Khumalo, the building was used as secondary offices by Khumalo Bioware. However, a condition of the brokered peace was to allow them to return to it.

INYOKA SECURITIES HEADQUARTERS

A building of sleek and efficient design, which serves as a training ground, armory, and contract repository for the firm. Although it is situated within Iphaladisi, it is far from the largest structure there.

Elias Mokwena had the building's design replicated for each of the barracks within the city, of which there are three in total, the headquarters within Iphaladisi, a barracks in the Eastern section of the fifth ring, and one in the Western part of the seventh ring.

Each building houses and trains up to 2000 officers at a time, with the numbers constantly fluctuating as contracts are entered into and completed.

CLUB EDEN

Situated in The Outskirts, Club Eden is owned and run by a man named Zane Khoza, known to many as The Broker. If information or services are to be procured, The Broker is the man that always "knows a guy" and could get you what you want, for a price or a favour. Club Eden is frequented by many citizens of New Jozi, from Golden Children that are heirs to empires and looking to slum it for a night, Grond Gebore that are more often than not in the employ of Zane himself, to the people of The Outskirts themselves that are looking for relief from their lives spent looking down on The Silver City.

The club itself is nestled in the Northern part of the Outskirts, and although the area has a reputation for being unsafe for outsiders, Zane makes sure that his club-goers are unharmed. After all, repeat business is good business.

The interior of the club is decorated in what Zane imagines those of the Golden Circle would deem as being lavish, although those that make up the upper echelons of society definitely have other opinions of the décor.

THE DEAD PHILOSOPHERS SOCIETY

Situated in the Eastern part of the third ring, the Dead Philosophers Society sits on top of a tower that overlooks the waterway between the second and third ring. The building itself was designed to resemble a protea flower, its petals providing landing areas for vehicles, as well as lookout points.

Described by those that frequent it as a parlour of intellectual masturbation, here the Twilight citizens of New Jozi, as well as some members of The Golden Circle, come together to discuss the nature of humanity, sciences, and the arts.

The Society functions as both a café, revolving art installation, and rest house for those that enjoy indulging in hedonistic expressions of humanity. As such, it is common to find the open use of the perspective enhancing stimulant, “Aurora,” being enjoyed by its customers.

THE HIVE

Although ample housing is available within Ezulwini Tower for Unity members within New Jozi, most choose to live outside The Golden Circle. Scattered throughout the city are communal living spaces which are all affectionately called The Hive.

Each building is unique in design and is equipped with gardens, various common areas for relaxation, and art studios for various disciplines. There are units within the third, sixth, and seventh rings. Altogether there are seven in New Jozi.

During the 55 years that Unity was excluded from The Golden Circle, The Hive in the seventh ring was remodeled and expanded to serve as the headquarters of Unity within New Jozi during that time. Subsequently, this unit still serves the dual function of being a satellite office.

THE LION'S DEN

One of the more popular nightclubs in New Jozi, The Lion's Den is situated within the Northwestern part of the fourth ring. It boasts 6 different dance floors and servers that are all sleeved in lion-like bodies. One of its main draws is the free supply of the perspective enhancing narcotic known as Aurora, which is supplied in smokable form in hookah pipes.

MALENGA SETTLEMENT

Deep below the earth of the waterway between the Eastern third and fourth rings lies Malenga Settlement. In order to access New Jozi, The Grond Gebore constructed a hidden bathysphere elevator that travels below the clean waters above, and into the toxic ground waters that still pollute the ruins of The Collapse.

Once there, heavy environmental hazmat suits and breathing apparatus have to be worn to walk through the toxic waters for half an hour to another airlock which contains a decontamination unit. Only then can a person enter the settlement.

One of the larger of the Grond Gebore townships, Malenga is a collection of ramshackle buildings, salvaged and repurposed, or stolen technology, markets, brothels, and bars.

While the Grond Gebore are distrustful of Grounders, they have a strong sense of community and try to look out for one another.

The largest building in the township belongs to Jean DuBois, a sub-boss that reports to Laaitie — the Boss of the Tuks University enclave. He deals mainly with smuggling operations.

While smaller townships often pop up in the underground of New Jozi, three of the longest standing midsized settlements are Malenga, Mhluzi, and New Alexandria.

THE PIT

Although fighting arenas do exist in New Jozi, they are strictly controlled. Real Death is not allowed, and the athletes are often sponsored by corporations in order to display their latest lines of sleeves or augments. In these tournaments, sleeve death does sometimes occur, but even that is infrequent.

The Pit does not have any such restrictions set in place. The fighters are not screened for Ego stability and are encouraged to be as creative and brutal in their matches as possible. Real Death is a real concern, and some events are held specifically for this purpose. While Freak augments are not allowed in legal arenas, they are often featured at The Pit.

Due to its illegal status, The Pit does not maintain a set location in New Jozi. A new location is chosen for each event, and fighters and attendees are sent the details via a secure, one-way communication system. One thing that each venue has in common is its opulence. Luxuries and pleasures of all kinds adorn each venue.

The Pit seems to be run by a person known as The Coordinator. Their true identity is unknown, as they appear in a new sleeve for each occasion. If The Coordinator is the person in charge of the operation, they must have a vast amount of wealth and influence.

CLUB EXODUS

Club Exodus is situated in the Southwestern part of The Outskirts. It was primarily opened to be a direct competition to Club Eden, and is owned by Zane Khoza's sometime ally, sometime rival Jean DuBois. The interior colour scheme is mostly pulsing blue neon. The club consists of three floors, each with their own DJ Booth, open walkways, seating booths, and an upstairs VIP area.

Jean decided to cater to the same market as Zane, but to at least artificially, give the idea that patrons could slum it... in safety. However, many shady dealings still take place within the club, but as it is not Jean's main base of operations it is tame in comparison to what takes place behind doors at Club Eden.