

# COMRADES

## NEW YORK: 2025



It is springtime in New York, and the city is tearing itself apart. Since seceding from the United States, this new city-state has been overwhelmed by factions of people who will bully, bribe, steal, and kill to control the future of the metropolis.

With just four weeks remaining before the constitutional convention, the city hangs in the balance. Now is your chance to seize it as your own.

Every block in every borough is home to one or more bespoke political groups. Some are loyal to a larger philosophy or movement; some are strictly independent. Here are just a few:

### SQUATTERS

A spontaneous movement to reclaim the vacant luxury housing that has choked the city like an invasive species, the squatters behave like anarchists, free-gans, or crust punks, but are fluent in the oldest language New York ever spoke: real estate.

### THE COOP

An increasingly popular radical socialist sect that intends to convert every corner of the city into a worker's cooperative, and which isn't afraid to use violence to ensure that everyone does their part.

### NEW TAMMANY

The remnant of the old Democratic party, these proud neo-liberals dream of turning New York into a modern super city: clean, efficient, blandly progressive, and tightly controlled by a benevolent triumvirate of forward-thinking billionaires.

### FACTIONS

#### STRAPHANGERS UNION

A public transit advocacy group turned into an all-around crusader for the forgotten people of New York: the commuters, the nannies, the teachers, and everyone else without whom this city would die.

#### LOYALISTS

A reactionary sect nostalgic for the imaginary paradise once called America, these conservatives demand a return to the union, and have openly invited the old U.S. Army to invade and subjugate the city beneath the stars and stripes.

#### MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

Based in Wall Street, these ultra-libertarians call for a return to a happier time, when the city was ruled by robber barons, and no taxes, labor laws, or financial regulation impeded their freedom to profit off the blood of the weak.

#### HARDHATS

A loose coalition of construction workers, sandhogs, cops, and wannabe tough guys who believe the city requires a dictator's iron fist to survive. Who that dictator will be remains undecided.

#### SMALL TROUBLE

What happens when...

- The bodega closes
- Their rent spikes
- Their jobs disappear
- Their stuff gets stolen
- Family comes to stay
- A lover vanishes
- A pet gets sick
- A neighbor needs help
- The wifi goes out
- There's no booze/drugs/water
- The ceiling caves in
- The cops knock on the door
- Bedbugs are everywhere

#### BIG TROUBLE

What happens when...

- The subways fail
- The museums go broke
- The power goes out
- A gas line explodes
- Guns flood the streets
- A hurricane hits
- The cops go on strike
- The Brooklyn Bridge begins to crack
- The United States starts a blockade
- The park becomes a warzone
- The public turns against the party
- A hero is shot dead

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### MANHATTAN

A beautiful corpse whose grand avenues are infested by needle-thin high rises owned by mysterious billionaires whose feet never touch sidewalk. The heart of the city, it hasn't beat in years.

### BROOKLYN

A jumble of neighborhoods where gentrification's wounds never healed. Home to violent radicals, intellectually paralyzed academics, and stubborn old-timers who will never let go of their block.

### QUEENS

A magnificent, sprawling melting pot. Each group has its own agenda, and nobody's speaking the same language.

### THE BRONX

Birthplace of Uptown 2020: a mixed media artistic movement whose style is unmistakably New York, and whose leaders grow more radical by the day.

### STATEN ISLAND

The epicenter of reactionary New York. Aside from the anarchist collective at the ferry terminal and the traveler community beneath the Narrows bridge, utterly overrun with loyalists, fascists, and worse.

### THE BLOCK

- Barb's Busy Corner: A deli offering bad produce, okay coffee, and killer heroes
- Porky's Suds: A cavernous laundromat whose staff is friendly but whose dryers can't be trusted
- Gin 'n Stuff: A liquor store where dusty bottles cower behind bulletproof glass
- Blarney Cove: A narrow dive bar where teenagers chug whiskey sours and old-timers sleep in the booths
- Ronnie's: A fix-it shop run by a gravel-voiced Brooklyn legend
- Abby's Kitchen: A soup kitchen and shelter with hot food and warm beds
- The Shed: A performance space in the back yard of a burnt-out brownstone
- The Abbatoir: An underground gym home to the best fight nights in the city
- Notoma: A Trinidadian bakery famous for roti, doubles, and sweet rolls
- Mariel's Hair & Nails: A suspiciously-affordable second-floor salon
- The Playground: A dog run, basketball courts, a jungle gym, and choice gossip
- Shanghai Garden: A Chinese-Caribbean takeout spot that delivers anything you want in 15 minutes or less
- Vincenzo's Hardware: A labyrinthine hardware store that's been in the neighborhood longer than anyone

### NPCs

- Alex Lucero: A guerilla pointillist who uses skyscrapers as her canvas
- Amelia Hill: An expert smuggler who operates out of her family's diner
- Anthony Westcott: The rapidly balding heir to Westcott pharmaceuticals
- Birdie: A street fighter with a high tolerance for gin, screamo, and pain
- Charlie: The local bodega cat: wise, hungry, and utterly untrustworthy
- Clyde Fitzgerald: A third-rate vlogger who stumbles onto the odd scoop
- Danae Persaki: A red hot trumpet player and occasional contract killer
- Douglas Ward: A disgruntled ex-drone pilot not yet used to civilian life
- Elliot Brooks: Caretaker of an empty church, owner of thousands of pigeons
- Faser Six: A graffiti artist who can paint your message anywhere in town
- Fatou Cissé: A sadistic parks commissioner with far too much power
- Grit-DMZ: Pirate radio broadcaster sharing new politics and classic beats
- Harold Buchanan: A global developer with the power to topple governments
- Huang Shanfu: A gay architecture student who fled persecution in China
- Ivan Reyes: A Cuban immigrant, indie journalist, and master of deepfakes
- Jack Wolfhand: An eco-fascist obsessed with the purity of early Norse culture
- James Corlin: A perennial Broadway standby who runs with high society
- Jean Tamborini: A retired seamstress and dog-walker to the stars
- Jeremy Vu Le: A Chinatown native redeveloping his old neighborhood
- Josh Kaufman: An accordionist busker who knows everybody in town
- Kelix Sabo-tabby: A trans Wobbly with a deep background in Marxist history
- Little Sinatra: An old school crooner who reworks standards to serve the left
- Louise Kelly: An immigration officer disillusioned with her country's policy
- Mary Wright: A statistician and spin doctor who molds numbers like clay
- Neja Ruwanpathirana: A crooked private detective and ace blackmailer
- Pilar Verdugo: A cheerful enforcer for the upstart Chilean mob
- Salima Bey: An ambitious food truck chef who mistreats her staff
- Shepherd: A radical street preacher with a rap sheet as long as his beard
- Sibyl: A trans New Age priestess who ministers to the wayward and queer
- Yazmin Williamson: A shockingly corrupt social media influencer