Now I will hand each player a copy of Lu's base character sheet. Then I will shuffle the *Alter Ego* sheets and distribute them, up to five to each player. Some sheets may be left out and some players may get more than the others.

▶ Let's take the time to read our materials individually. The rules will come later: Narrative and instructions go hand in hand and they should clear each other up.

As soon as we are all ready, I'll proceed to explain the dynamics in detail:

Each scene is equivalent to a five-minute subway ride. We get off after just one stop. When we hear the signal, the train will enter our station: We bid our farewell to Dom and pretend to get off, then we go out of character. We have thirty seconds of complete silence, with a Blackbird cover in the background, to move on to the next Dom and check what *Alter Ego* we will play in our next scene.

Each of us will play as many versions of Lu as the number of *Alter Ego* sheets we have received. Let's put them in any order and cycle through them scene after scene: If we have three, start with the first, then go to the second, then the third, then back to the first in the fourth scene and so on. When we go back to an *Alter Ego* we've already played, let's avoid portraying them exactly the same way. Their last meeting with Dom must have influenced them somehow, strengthening their resolve or shifting their goals.

We will all play at the same time, so while I play Lu with a Dom, all of you will be another Lu with another Dom. If there's an odd number of players, one of us will be free to roam the area during each scene, listening but never speaking to gather useful information they will be able to use in the following sequences.

✓ If we haven't done it already, let's leave the area for Dom's team to prepare. Don't split up: Let's all stick together, united and ready to go. Yes, stand as one!

When the fifteen scenes are over, we'll line up like this, right in front of Dom's players. If we have convinced them to stay, they will give us their *Alter Ego* sheets and in the end, if we have more than them, the universe will be safe. Or at least unchanged.

If the Doms want to explain their reasons, let's listen politely. Then rejoice or regret the result, according to the temperament and motives of the *Alter Ego* we liked the most. The game is over, but if the Doms demand explanations, let's fill their ears with multidimensional technobabble. Pretending to know how the universe works is our job.

ЬĿ