

Voltage Backstory

Species: Western dragon

Sex: ♂

Age: 24

Height: 5ft 6in

Weight: 145lbs

Siblings: None

Voltage is an original character, and a gentle and positive spirit who enjoys companionship, family, and food.

Trust & Confidence

(newborn)

Voltage hatched from an egg. He was able to crawl, even walk a little, from the beginning, but needed help from his mother to help stabilise him. He found it particularly interesting to explore his house for the first time, including the bathroom. He was scared however, the first few times he heard the toilet flush as he didn't understand the world well enough yet to understand what a toilet flush was, and why it happened.

Voltage's mother nurtured him well, and made herself present for him to run to whenever something in the house surprised or scared him.

Freedom & Self-Determination

(toddlerhood)

His mother found a good balance between taking care of him and allowing him to experiment with independence. In this way, as soon as Voltage started exploring his surroundings he began to test out his own capabilities for himself. His mother watched over him to ensure that he didn't try to do anything too dangerous or beyond his abilities (after all, he was just a toddler), and as a result he developed a sense of certainty in his own capability. He built on this over the years and feels very much that he is capable of making his own decisions and choosing his own path through life.

Occasionally, when his mother needed time to herself or to run an errand, she would pass Voltage over to his grandmother who would look after him for a while. Voltage's grandmother was a sweet, kind, and caring person. She loved Voltage dearly and taught him various skills, including the importance of cleaning up after himself and other values pertaining to good manners and housekeeping.

Whenever she noticed him being good, after lunch she would reward him with a car trip to the local candy shop. Voltage loved his grandmother too and was always good for her.

His underlying confidence means that he doesn't concern himself with the fine details too much and is happy to get by with more of a focus on the broad strokes of life. As a result he is a fairly relaxed individual.

He likes being seen and acknowledged by others, is generally very happy to show off anything he has been working on, and is happy to cooperate with others. He does not feel any particular need to be wilful.

Voltage learned from his mother to cherish life, and to be kind, both to himself and to others. As an adult, he holds onto his memories of his mother as he feels that she was taken from him too soon.

Ambition

(young childhood)

Voltage grew into a highly energetic young child.

His mother set him up with regular play dates to give him a chance to bond with other children of his age. When he was 4, his mother enrolled him into pre kindergarten, where he had daily contact with other children. He started kindergarten at age 5. Overall, he had pleasant experiences with these children, and the few times that he met a more dominant-minded or vindictive child, the teachers were available to help him make sense of it and to learn how to respond.

His cooperative streak meant that, although he loved to achieve things, he did not like to be victorious over other people. For him, cooperation was by far the better route to take and he saw little value in "coming out on top".

Along with being cooperative, Voltage was more creative than destructive, and enjoyed watching his mother cook. In later years he would start to help her with food preparation, but for now he enjoyed watching her prepare their meals almost as much as he liked eating them.

In fact, Voltage valued family so much that his greatest wish has always been to marry and have children of his own.

Productivity

(older childhood)

Voltage had enjoyed playing with other children to a point, but he has always felt a need to become, and stay, busy. Because of this, when he started the more structured school of his later childhood he took to it well.

Of course, the workload and the difficulty of that workload was only part of school life. He had to become part of the school's community too. This he found more nerve-wracking, but not overwhelmingly so, and he successfully integrated himself into the community.

The fact that Voltage liked to cooperate with others went a long way towards helping him to settle in and be considered likeable, both by his teachers and by most of his class mates. Just as he contributed his own part to any group project, he valued the work others put in.

He felt less charitable towards people who didn't do their share of the work. It annoyed him, and he generally responded by asking them very politely to do their share next time. However, that rarely worked, and he tended to find himself doing all of the work the next time they worked together.

With his dedication to work, Voltage was one of the nerdier kids. This was fine with most of his class mates, but a few - mainly the cool clique - made fun of him for it. He also had geeky interests such as reading (especially science and sci-fi books), gaming (including being part of a local DnD group, which he loved for its friendliness and potential to fire his imagination), and cooking. He didn't go to parties or have the most up to date technology. This led to him being called 'poor' by these kids. Although there was truth in the idea that his family was too short of money for him to have all the best clothes and technology, he also didn't want to go to parties. He felt that he might get caught up in the wrong crowd there, and that discouraged him where he might otherwise have found a way to attend.

One of Voltage's least favourite things about school was an initiative called School Spirit Week, which required new and original ideas on a regular basis. Voltage felt pressurised whenever this came up, especially given that it was not a vital part of the educational experience. If it had been, perhaps he would have been more receptive to it, but it felt like an extra duty that had no good reason for existing. Later, he would feel the same way about prom and homecoming.

Child to Adult Transition *(adolescence)*

As a teenager, Voltage continued to be liked and well regarded, and he continued to prefer harmony over discord. He did not wish to experiment with new ways of being - rebellious, for instance - as he preferred the predictability that came with remaining the same.

By this time, Voltage had a group of friends. Overall, he accepted people into this group if they were kind and agreeable people, and kept a distance from anyone meaner-spirited or who liked to try to dominate the group. For him, once again, hierarchy was unwelcome, especially if it brought conflict along with it.

Voltage's preference for harmony was consistent enough that he did not make an enemy of anybody who he did not want in his group of friends: if somebody didn't have the right sense of kindness and agreeableness about them, he simply didn't spend time with them without making an issue about it. This helped him to avoid developing an adversarial relationship with anybody.

He also began to take a particular liking to good food, so food tended to be one of the elements that bonded himself and his friends. They often went out to eat, and to catch up while doing so.

Voltage's mother had been becoming steadily sicker over the span of a few months, until she eventually got sick enough to be put on life support. A few days before his 15th birthday, while Voltage was in school, he received a phone call to tell him that they had switched off her life support.

His grandmother took care of him for a while after this.

Voltage saw his mother as a role model, along with some of his teachers and friends.

As adulthood appeared on the horizon he firmed up his career aspirations. He decided to embrace his love of food and aimed to become a chef.

One day, Voltage saw a girl being bullied and stepped into put a stop to the bullying. She was grateful enough that she hugged him on the spot, and they started to spend time together. Her name was Anastasia. Before long they became boyfriend and girlfriend. Anastasia preferred having kind people around too, so both she and Voltage found that their friendship networks meshed in well.

Closeness in Relationships

(young adulthood)

When Voltage was 22 years old, he popped the question to his girlfriend. She said yes. A year later, they had their first child together.

As an adult, Voltage works as a chef in a family-friendly restaurant. He prefers this environment and has remained loyal to the establishment despite receiving job offers from high-end restaurants. Higher-end restaurants also required longer working hours, which only discouraged him further, as he prefers spending time with his wife and children. He still values cooperation and harmony and as a

result he makes a great team player in the kitchen.

He is similarly pleasant in his romantic and sexual relationship. His approach to sex is relatively tame and consent of himself and his partner is important to him.

Passing on Responsibilities

(older adulthood)

When Voltage retires he will do so with many good connections, mainly friends who he has met throughout his working life.

He intends to maintain a relationship with his children as they grow into adulthood and is raising them in such a way that he has a good relationship with them by the time they become independent of him.

End of Life

(old age)

For Voltage, the real riches in life are a warm and loving family, and the concept of continuity - of having the next generation. As Voltage already has effective relationship-building skills, he is very likely to end his days with a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction at a life well lived.

Credits

Based on theory by:

Erikson, E., (1951) 'Childhood and Society', W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. chapter 7.

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~Hayley, The Character Consultancy