

"Demon" Donnie Mirath

Backstory

Species: Psychoactive-activated demon

Sex: ♂

Age: 40s

Birthday: 10th September 1984

Height: 5ft 9in

Weight: 180lbs (unless he uses his power to reduce his weight)

Siblings: John (2 years older) and Charles (6 years younger)

Profession/skills: Drug lord (jointly with John), specialising in administration, social engineering, and cybercrime

Demonic skills: Creation of fire of different colours, invisibility and reducing his weight

Description: Less showy than Demon John. Demon Donnie has much smaller wings than Demon John, more like cherub wings. They definitely could not be used for flight. They are feathered, brown, and have aquamarine tips. His horns are shorter and straighter, and his eyes are less bright than Demon John's, more of an unusually warm reddish-brown

Demon Donnie is an original character from the *Mirath* universe. In human form he is Donnie Mirath, and turns into a demon when he takes various drugs. His brother, John, also does this, however Donnie has more control over whether or not he turns when he takes a given drug, and is a more controlled demon overall. He has an analytical mind and has an affinity for colour and light - which his demon form allows him to exploit.

Trust & Confidence

(first discovery)

Donnie began transforming into a demon during times that he took LSD, but was not consciously aware at first that this was happening. All he was aware of was a sense that something had happened to him (or maybe that he had done something) but he couldn't put his finger on what. This spooked him, but he didn't tell anybody about his misgivings.

This was broadly for two reasons: firstly, that Donnie comes from a family with a culture of not speaking up about emotions (see Donnie's original backstory for further details about this), and secondly because, as somebody who finds comfort in logic and the ability to articulate his thoughts clearly, he could not describe what he felt unsettled about. Before long he made the connection that he felt the most anxious after his drug experiences (irrespective of what the drug was), so decided to limit his drug-use, at least for a while.

Although he could not have been aware of this at the time, the transformation only happened with LSD at first, and later began to occur with other drugs.

After a few weeks or months of him dealing with this unspoken anxiety on the few occasions that he still took drugs, John introduced himself to Donnie as Demon John.

It should be said that Demon John did not prioritise telling Donnie that it was drugs that turned him into a demon. His main objective during that first introduction was to make sure Donnie and Charles knew that he had a demon form.

Meeting Demon John had a strange effect on Donnie. On the one hand, it gave him a firm clue: although becoming a demon should have been impossible, John presented him with all the evidence he could have wanted to believe that it could happen. Once Donnie had gotten over the shock of seeing his brother in a supernatural state, Donnie began to test out the capacity for demonhood on his brother, and impose a sense of order on it. John was happy to comply, as he himself wanted to understand his demonhood better.

On the other hand, When Donnie first saw Demon John he recognised intuitively that he was seeing the unspoken danger that he had sensed in the aftermath of his more recent drug trips. Seeing John willingly get into fights, play with fire, and be generally reckless, deeply unsettled Donnie.

During Donnie's preparation for the set of tests that later became known as The Donnie Files, he asked himself the question, "Can I become a demon, too?"

Freedom & Self-Determination

(infatuation with his new power)

Donnie left his musings about his own demonhood at that point for a while, and took to observing John as they went through his list of experiments until he felt that he understood enough to explore his own demonhood. Being far more cautious than John, Donnie hoped for predictable results and to come out of the experience safe. Once he had seen several of John's transformations, he decided to test himself to see if he could turn into a demon.

He did everything in the safest way he could, given the knowledge he had gathered from observing and recording the results of John's experiments. He set up a camera in his own bedroom, and took the drug that seemed to result in the best-controlled demon when they had tested John (weed). He stripped to the waist so that he didn't damage any of his shirts, and lay on his bed to transform.

The result was that he could indeed transform.

When Donnie watched his recording back, he saw himself as a demon for the first time. Despite knowing more or less what to expect, he was shocked at the sight of himself in this state. Most of his attributes were less extreme than those of his brother, but the striking difference between wing size was the main feature that caught his attention.

He fully expected John to ridicule him for this. He also felt rather cheated that his wings would not allow him to fly. However, as a middle brother caught between a reckless yet successful older brother and a younger brother who got away with everything (while also being able to rely on his two older brothers to have his back), Donnie was used to figuring out ways of looking after himself and ensuring he gets what he needs. It usually takes some clever thinking, planning, or being prepared to be flexible, but this is Donnie's speciality.

John was capable of teleportation, so Donnie hypothesized that he was, too. If he was, then did that mean he could teleport into the air and torpedo himself through the sky?

He tested this, tentatively at first. He tested his range, the safety of long-distance teleportation, how frequently he could teleport, and read about the potential hostility of the environment a long

way above the ground (temperature, wind-speeds, pressure, etc.) He found that teleporting frequently, a long distance, or both could be tiring.

In practice, this meant that he had to be selective about when he flew, and how long for.

Donnie revealed these experiments and their results to John, and John offered to pick Donnie up and fly with him. The experiment was successful - John was able to carry Donnie for what Donnie considered to be a decent length of time and distance, and it became a core part of their repertoire.

Like his brother, Donnie is also capable of spontaneously setting fires and causing detonations. However, he has never been as recklessly aggressive as his brother so doesn't like using his powers to hurt people. Donnie's power is also weaker than John's, so he is conscious of the need to use strategies to get the most out of his power rather than to rely on brute force.

One of the skills he has cultured is the ability to create a flame that glows very bright - bright enough to temporarily blind people. With that said, the risk of damaging another person's eyesight is not lost on him so he sometimes uses light as a mask to harmlessly dazzle people, by creating lights behind or beside his head. This puts his face in silhouette and hides his identity without hurting anybody.

Donnie also discovered that he can create fire in different colours. As an LSD fan, he rather enjoys this and often does it for his own entertainment. On the subject of colour, Donnie rather likes colour generally. As Donnie got more used to his demonic self he further embraced his love of colour, and bought a few Hawaiian shirts. He got this idea from his hacker friend, Xan (or Travis591 online), who often wears them himself.

All of this - his tiny wings, his less aggressive, strategy-heavy approach, and his affinity for colour, helped him to differentiate himself from John. For Donnie, being a middle sibling means that differentiation means a lot to him. When he noticed these differences he began to appreciate them and want to keep them unique. In this sense, Donnie became possessive. Not of power, but of individuality.

That is not to say that power wasn't part of this, he simply enjoyed utilizing his less-impressive fire-power in a way that still proved effective, and as time went by that drive to punch above his weight, so to speak, prompted him to hone his skills in all sorts of ways.

Donnie also discovered that he had the ability to turn invisible. When he did, he tested out its parameters and took to partially using it. When he did this, he physically reduced his weight so that he didn't leave footprints.

Ambition

(taking realistic stock of his power's limits and potential)

Once Donnie had a decent working idea of how he could use his demonhood, he developed a firmer sense of ambition to work with John on his drug empire. Their powers complimented each other well, so Donnie could easily see not only how he could carve a comfortable existence out of it, but how he could help John's lot too. This isn't to say that John was struggling - he found running his empire easier in many ways due to his demonic power and presence - but as Donnie watched him go about his business, he saw how he could fit into 'the firm' with John.

So he did.

Although John has always teased Donnie, something about the quality of their relationship changed. John sensed Donnie's new sense of freedom, and gave him a little more space to be his own man. In return, Donnie felt more inclined to cooperate and have as much contact with John as their drug operation demanded.

Productivity

(teaming up to enhance his efficacy)

It didn't take very long at all for Donnie to graduate from his formation of an ambition to his decision to dedicate himself to being a productive member of the Mirath team.

Child to Adult Transition

(adolescence)

Donnie swiftly became proud of his new identity as a demon. While he already had an older brother who was also a demon, it helped him to differentiate himself from his younger brother (Charles never developed the ability to become a demon), and his unique look and demonic abilities (along with the attendant skill-set he developed) helped him to feel unique, valuable, and effective in his own right.

Like John, Donnie did not go through an 'adolescence' - a reassessment of his demonic self and abilities. His testing and experiencing of his demonic form was a reassessment in its own right, as he had already existed as a normal human. Therefore there is little to say here.

Closeness in Relationships

(Donnie's long-term ability to co-exist with others)

There is little to say here either, as Donnie went straight from discovering his abilities to wanting to team up with John. The quality of his affiliation with John, along with his capacity to be an effective and enthusiastic worker, have already been detailed above.

Passing on Responsibilities

(ageing as a demon)

As the years went by, John turned demon far more often than Donnie did. It was only when Donnie started to feel a bit older that the pair of them realised that John was ageing more slowly than Donnie. This is what alerted them to the idea that the demonhood was halting the ageing process.

End of Life

(demon mortality)

The few things that could harm or kill Donnie are mostly similar to John's list. One difference is that Donnie could be seriously harmed by a strong electromagnetic pulse.

Credits

Based on theory by:

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

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