

Backstory Questionnaire

A Backstory profile explores your character's history and explains their personality in the current day.

Note: If you are unable to complete this document, ask me to provide it in Google Docs instead.

Your Details

Name	Loren John Presley
Online Handle	
Date Completed	

Character Details

Name	Jeiocha (Pronounced JAY-oh-ka)
Description e.g., Species Sex Age Height + Weight Other details	Species: Snake Sex: Male Age: 5 months (equivalent to 8 human years in development) Length: ~ 16 inches Black Indigo iridescent scales with milk-white belly. Prussian Blue Eyes.
Fictional species?	Jeiocha is breed of snake called "Coadagu," (pronounced co-uh-dag-OO) a fantasy breed exclusive to the stories surrounding him.
Story	Jeiocha, the snakeling, is a character of the story novel, "Underwing," the first in the series of books dubbed "Tales of the Coadagu." The sequel volume, titled "Netherlife," is expected to be released in the near future.
Siblings	Jeiocha was among 24 snakelings born of his mother, but they were promptly put to death the moment of their birth.
Other media available? Images, Video footage, Costumes, etc.?	Book Trailer is included and art in a separate email.
What colours would you like me to use?	Mystic indigo and blue.

Please write on the right hand side in the spaces below. If any section doesn't seem relevant you can skip it.

If your character does particularly well in an area, (e.g., if they had good parents), by all means include that too! This questionnaire isn't about finding your character's faults, it's about understanding their particular balance of strengths and weaknesses.

Stages	Notes – Extremity, specific details, etc.
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Trust and Confidence

- mother nurtured/acted as character as baby would hope?
- character as baby acted as they would hope? (didn't let themselves down/surprise themselves by biting)?

From the first moments of his life, as a hatchling, Jeiokha experienced feelings of being lost and aimless as a newborn baby, unsure of where to go or what he should do. The night of his birth, he found himself without his mother or father or siblings after a scuffle in the night...He was instead watched over by select number of animals who inhabit the mystic forest of Vawkuu (vah-KOO) Jeiokha at first was apprehensive of these other animals, being a newborn snake with instincts that helped him to protect and fight for his life. It took a little time for him to trust the other members of Vawkuu who showed themselves to be benign to him. He soon stopped nipping at them (fortunately he never landed a bite on any of them), and even went as far as to trust and enjoy company to those who offered it to him. Interestingly, it seemed his favourite food was tree fruit. A family of wolves particularly let him have shelter with them for a short spell, and as a baby, Jeiokha enjoyed nestling in the warm fur of a wolf named Aurtemis. From Spring through summer, Jeiokha grew under the watch of Aurtemis, Fynon (Frinn-nun), the stag, Remasi (rem-MOSS-ee) the wood rat, and most closely by Lang, the Gray Hawk, a Grandfather figure to the rest of the forest.

Freedom and Self-Determination

- does character hold on/grasp?
- does character let go?
- is character destructive and cruel?
- was character benign and relaxed?
- what was it like to express choice for the first time in their life?
- did they make any bad choices in their inexperience?
- does the character doubt themselves?
- does the character focus on details because they can't watch everything – the big picture contains too much detail?
- does the character often feel unready to show projects to others?
- does character wish they were invisible?
- how cooperative/wilful is the character?
- how well does the character express/suppress themselves?
- how controlled do they feel by others?

Given this initial sense of security and trust that all was right in his life and the world he knew, Jeiokha began exploring his freedom and living out his personality in Vawkuu. He was notably playful, but often at the expense of others, pulling harmless stunts tricks for his amusement. His intention was to have fun, and not to do harm, however.

Ambition

- how energetic was your character as a small child?
- how much did your character enjoy/feel guilty about their victories and achievements?
- how good did they get at cooperating?
- did they develop a tendency to berate themselves?
- what are the character's biggest wishes and dreams? Can they ever fulfil them?

Other younger members of Vawkuu expressed disinterest in admitting Jeiokha with their games, usually because they thought Jeiokha would be too slow to keep up. But Jeiokha blew away these expectations. Though he was a snake, he showed a knack for racing quickly through the forest like a flying, living whip, with impressive reactions and clever stunts...but when he demonstrated these feats, the other youngsters in the forest saw him as a show or entertainer, and the snakeling was equally uncomfortable with this. He wished to be admitted, but not the center of attention—and he could never seem to find the right balance to attain this place among any company. It soon set in for Jeiokha also that he was a singularity in Vawkuu. He was the only one of his kind, and also one of a kind. He experienced feelings of being disconnected from the world and its other agents in life. Jeiokha soon hit a low in the paradise forest, and came to detest what he could do and who he was, questioning even what he was. His abilities became a curse to him as they drew the pressure of attention from others. He could not relate or connect with the other animals, implicitly even other snakes and reptiles. Those whom he had tried to play with only ended up feeling bothered and saw him as a nuisance, and their words left wound after wound in the snakeling's spirits.

At this point, Jeiokha wished he could be someone else. If only he could trade all he had for something better. But that was impossible.

Jeiokha did however, meet another snakeling of his same species—a girl calling herself Ameia, who initially played a prank of her own on him! This was a much needed boost for his spirits as the kinship he held with Ameia gave him an outlet to relate—to be understood as well as to understand another.

Productivity

- how did the character feel about being productive rather than playing?

Jeiokha and Ameia learned they shared similar desires as well as questions and fears. Neither of them knew where they

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - what was the transition from home to school like? - how well prepared did he feel to contribute? - how did they feel about others also contributing? Status, adequacy, teamwork? - what were their thoughts about being part of the society they lived in – what they were going to be as an adult? - how did their caste, gender, race and other facets of their identity factor into this? 	<p>came from, and only had vague memories of their respective parents and origins.</p> <p>Both Jeiokha and Ameia wondered who they were meant to be. They felt unsatisfied with the idea that as snakes their only purpose was to eat, sunbathe, and sleep. While initially Jeiokha had experienced welcome intentions from Vawkuu, he learned he was expected to have a lowly place off to the side, and he experienced alienation in this way. Those who had seen his feats of acrobatics and athletics and keen mind caused unwanted attention and questions.</p> <p>More trouble was soon to come.</p> <p>Jeiokha and Ameia soon discovered that Vawkuu and its senior creatures such as Lang, Aurtemis and Frynon, had been keeping secrets from them, and about them. Jeiokha learned his species was being hunted by a legion of animals who were loyal to an enigmatic figure named Zared...a beast claiming to surpass all life on the earth, even humans, and said to wield terrible powers.</p> <p>NOTE: (Though none of Vawkuu have seen Zared, he is a variant species of wolf called the Saboa—now called a Belial—a creature much like humans in that they have the ability to choose between true good and true evil and they have the capacity to sin. Zared is essentially a “damned soul” armed with awful sorceries, seeking retribution).</p> <p>Now Jeiokha felt caught in a horrible plight. He was the subject of an evil hunt from forces who were willing to wreak ruin on Vawkuu, if Jeiokha was not handed over to them. Many would die because he was alive...because he existed. More than ever, Jeiokha was made to believe he was something horrible.</p>
<p><u>Child to Adult Transition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how well did others appear to regard your character? 	<p>Lang the Hawk, and Aurtemis the Wolf, and especially Jeiokha’s special advocate, Ameia, tried encouraging Jeiokha to believe</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how did your character ensure some sense of sameness / continuity? - how was it decided who was in their social group and who was out? - who did they appoint as their adversary (if anyone)? - who were their role models? - who were their girlfriends/boyfriends during adolescence, and what were these partners like? - how did they go about keeping the pool of people they were to establish their new identity in, manageably small (ie., cliques, political interests, etc.)? 	<p>he was still something good. Just the same, none of them were able to give him an answer that gave him peace. Jeiokha felt his life was a frightening riddle—perhaps one that he would never answer.</p> <p>Not all the advice Jeiokha received was even advice he wanted to hear. Loth, a cobra who took a special reverence to the little snakeling, warned him prophetically and insistently to prepare himself for forces in the world that was seek his destruction, and to acknowledge that he was face such an extent of opposition that many would even “curse his name long after his death.” Even so, Loth tried to promise Jeiokha that he should not be hindered by these hateful forces, and that he should remember and be devout about his self-respect, yet to prepare to live in a world that was unfair and often unjust. Naturally, Jeiokha thwarted this advice with disbelief and anger.</p> <p>NOTE (This is where I’d like to leave off, as I don’t want to spoil too much more of the conflict and the secrets. But I’d like to offer this teaser hope for Jeiokha’s character development, if it works):</p> <p>Jeiokha was in the world, but it seemed the world was also in him. Great forces wanted him destroyed for reasons he had yet to discover. Many others forces wanted him to live. His foes told him he was evil. His allies loved him as a friend.</p> <p>But it wouldn’t be enough to let the words others shape him, for good or ill. Jeiokha’s inner light for his life required him to somehow learn to believe for <i>himself</i> that he was important, to be anchored in believing he could be a force for good. If he can accomplish this, then perhaps even the forest that sheltered and protected him could become something he in turn would protect and save...</p>
<p><u>Closeness in Relationships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does your character affiliate with others well? - what is your character's attitude towards 	<p><i>How does your character get on with the business of being an adult? ie., doing their job and finding a partner?</i></p>

<p>work? - what is your character's sexual / intimate relationship(s) like?</p>	
<p><u>Passing on Responsibilities</u> - what is your character's relationship with their career when they retire? - what is your character's relationship with their children as they become adults?</p>	<p><i>What are your character's plans to pass on the responsibilities of contributing to their career and family on to the next generation?</i></p>
<p><u>End of Life</u> - how will your character feel about reaching the end of his life?</p>	<p><i>Does your character feel that they have lived their life well? What, if anything, do they still want to do/wish they had done differently?</i></p>

And that's it! Thank you for completing this questionnaire, and please return it to me at thecharacterconsultancy@gmail.com