

Consultation Transcript

This transcript is a full record of a 1-hour consultation I had with Furry X. Furry X has an original character named Ava, who is currently only vaguely developed and exists in an even less developed worldbuilding setting. Furry X asked for this consultation to focus on a combination of Ava's backstory and the setting they would be the most impactful in.

>Furry X, 11:44

Let's go! I'm all ready, I'll move to my computer.

>The Character Consultancy, 11:44

Okay!

So I can see that you've completely filled in your questionnaire, so that's great. Thanks for this!

I understand that your goal for this session was to discuss plot ideas for Ava.

What ideas have you had so far?

>Furry X, 11:48

Right! So my goal with the character was to create something a character with specific characteristics and then setting which surrounded them that idolized those specific characteristics. [Redacted]

>The Character Consultancy, 11:49

Aha, understood. Thank you for clarifying this.

I'm reading through your questionnaire answers and notice that although you state, the top that their name is Ava, you consistently called them 'Character' throughout. Would it be reasonable to guess that this character rejected the name Ava (perhaps along with the name's gender bias)?

>Furry X, 11:50

No, that's actually me being very bad, writing.
Ava is the preferred name.

>The Character Consultancy, 11:51

Okay, thanks.

And I get the impression that Ava grew up to have pretty strong masculine attributes - a penis but also a strong physique. How tempted were they to present as male, just to make their life easier?

I'm aware that Ava's a cow and that cows are invariably strong so I'm unsure quite how to read the fact that they grew up unusually strong.

>Furry X, 11:54

I think they would be outwardly read as male -- I would surpass the heartiness of bovines and go in the direction of that they grew up very strong in the way a male body lifter with a sweet tooth would. Tall, thick, stands out in a crowd, looks like a small male giant.

>The Character Consultancy, 11:55

Good to know. Thanks!

And I'm very interested in how the dad responded to their birth. Was he excited to have a daughter specifically?

Since, first glance, it sounds like he thought he had a son instead and that this was a surprise to him.

>Furry X, 11:59

Aha! I thought that might come out strange - I was envisioning a single mother raising Ava. Attentive, birth and infancy, and then slowly growing more detached as time went on. the male presentation, the overgrowth and over active genitalia, and lack of discreet male direction is interesting to me. I think the father would be excited for a daughter, and distraught with the result of the birth to the point of it drawing a wedge between the mother and father [Redacted]

>The Character Consultancy, 12:00

And it's a great question to ask. Dads are so important to our growth and well-being. Many of us still rely on gender role-based shorthand to get through life and I bet you're more aware of it than I could ever be, but so long as we're doing that, dads do tend to have a massively helpful role in helping us figure the world out.

There's the straightforward stuff to do with 'what does it mean to present as masculine?' but there's also the fact that dad is unlikely to have been in the symbiosis that we as infants developed with our mums.

Maybe I should say more about that symbiosis: babies cannot self-regulate. They can't keep themselves calm and generally, if they get angry or scared will heighten and heighten their emotions until it all becomes way too much. One of the primary parent (usually mum)'s tasks is to regulate the baby, to calm them down when they start to get overwrought.

I think it tends to usually be mum because feeding is such a helpful time for doing this regulation. Although we now have commercially available formulas which means that breastfeeding is no longer the only way to feed an infant, breastfeeding is particularly helpful for creating that symbiosis.

It truly bonds mother and baby, even to the point that mum needs something from baby: full breasts can be painful so breastfeeding can be a relief to that.

There are undoubtedly other elements, play, probably the fact that mum, rather than dad, gestated the infant, but mum also gets a powerful emotional bond with the baby.

All of that means that there's mum and infant in this tight little mutually-affirming relationship which we call symbiosis, and dad's not part of that.

That can be a lonely position for dad, but it also comes in incredibly handy when the infant starts to grow up a little and needs to start separating from mum. With dad around, the child has someone else to go to, this new, big, masculine person who does Other Stuff™ that mum doesn't.

It's new, it's exciting, and overall, dad represents everything that is new and exciting. He can start to show his child around the wider world. What's it like to go to the park and feed the ducks? What's it like to go to play group? What's it like when someone in the family goes away to work for a day and only comes back in the evening? All of these things are dad's job to guide his child through.

And here we are with Ava, who didn't get that.

>Furry X, 12:10

That's a very interesting way to focus on one thing (the mother) and then branch and come back to the idea of intimacy in another relationship in the same vein but with someone else that's amazing!

Something else I want to touch on, because I would (if possible) love to get some input on setting for the character (i.e. character lived in XYZ time/setting).

And this might be a way to make the psyche start to click shut.

>The Character Consultancy, 12:12

That would certainly help.

I've talked about an infant's actual parents but the culture, or the 'cultural parent', is also very influential.

>Furry X, 12:18

[Redacted] There was this moment I had last year, I was just leaving my house for the first time after being home recovering from surgery for the longest time. In my city there are a lot of shops that are stacked on top of each other, like an entire Walmart on top of another story, it's very futuristic already and then you throw in trains and cars and it becomes this wonderful assault on the senses because it's extremely busy but there's brilliant chaos to it. But anyway: I had this moment, [Redacted] I was in this place I felt like I was experiencing something that everyone expected of the future ([Redacted], high rise buildings, overly busy streets), but there I was and it made me... stand out in a very odd but pleasing way.

>The Character Consultancy, 12:19

Oh, so almost like a premonition sort of feeling, it sounds like?

>Furry X, 12:19

In short: the culture that surrounds me doesn't expect things like me or the things I'm administered to exist openly, but it comes with a very odd - and naturally occurring - price. Close, yes!

>The Character Consultancy, 12:20

What would you say the price is?

>Furry X, 12:22

[Redacted] and an anything-can-happen type of life. [Redacted]

>The Character Consultancy, 12:23

No indeed - it really sounds like [Redacted] means having to take the rough with the smooth.

>Furry X, 12:24

It definitely is! It's most difficult to express for me, though, that's why I've always enjoyed the furry community: they seem idealize some of the things I go through. [Redacted]

>The Character Consultancy, 12:25

Yes, it really sounds like it!

So this world that Ava belongs in, it sounds like it's... not quite futuristic, but almost leaning in that direction. Cosmopolitan, maybe?

Or the kind of feeling you get when you see Malaysia's airports or hear about something that's come out of Silicone Valley?

>Furry X, 12:27

I think you're much closer with the airports and silicone valley - near future with potential rampant development.

I've loved futuristic, cyberpunk settings; but I get stuck with what manifests in those types of settings (I know we're coming close on time, so thank you so much!!).

>The Character Consultancy, 12:28

Hey, as far as time goes, I recognise that our late start was down to confusion. Would you like to take the 10 minutes we lost? I'm not in any great hurry over here.

>Furry X, 12:28

I'll definitely take it, if you wouldn't mind! but I won't hold you to it.

>The Character Consultancy, 12:29

That's fine by me!

Okay, so my next thoughts with the almost-futuristic setting is that research seems important for the worldbuilding side of that.

Fortunately I don't think that would be too hard. Have you ever heard of a television program called *Click*?

>Furry X, 12:30

I haven't!

>The Character Consultancy, 12:31

Okay! So it's put on by the BBC so I'm not sure if you'd be able to see it, but it's a magazine-style program about technology.

They show you the latest - and when I say latest, I mean the very, very latest, the most experimental, cutting-edge tech that scientists around the world are just starting to create prototypes of, hypothesise about, etc.).

Some of it beggars belief, but it's science fact, not science fiction.

I'm just looking up Click's online presence to see if there's anything you might be able to see in the US, to help you get inspiration for Ava's world.

They're on Youtube. I don't suppose you can play their videos, can you? Sometimes these things are restricted to the country of origin

[\[Link to BBC's Click program\]](#)

>Furry X, 12:33

I definitely have access to BBC (a majority of my online friends are from Scotland). I can look into it!

Yes! These work!

>The Character Consultancy, 12:34

Oh, fantastic!

Okay - I just asked my partner for inspiration for other places you could look.

There used to be a TV program called Horizon but they seem to have gone quiet in recent years.

Just having a quick look...

Aha! [\[Link to Horizon episode guide\]](#)

And they're still producing things (which is the vital thing for what you're looking for). They might not focus quite as much on the future but it might be a good place to get a sense of the most current of current affairs, with a focus on specific areas of life?

But Click's your best bet, I think.

Okay, so we are running out of time now. Do you feel like you've gotten what you were looking for with this consultation?

>Furry X, 12:39

I'll dig in! this sounds incredibly interesting!

>The Character Consultancy, 12:39

Great!

And I can keep a beady eye out for potential links between Ava's cultural parent and their development while I finish writing up your No Frills first draft. I always send further questions along with the first draft so we'll have more to discuss with this.

>Furry X, 12:40

Awesome!! Thank you so much; I'll bring down some notes as well for happen-stance. I really appreciate this! thank you so much.

>The Character Consultancy, 12:40

No problem! It's been a pleasure!