A WRITER'S NOTEBOOK FOR DESIGNING SECONDARY CHARACTERS SELFISHLY
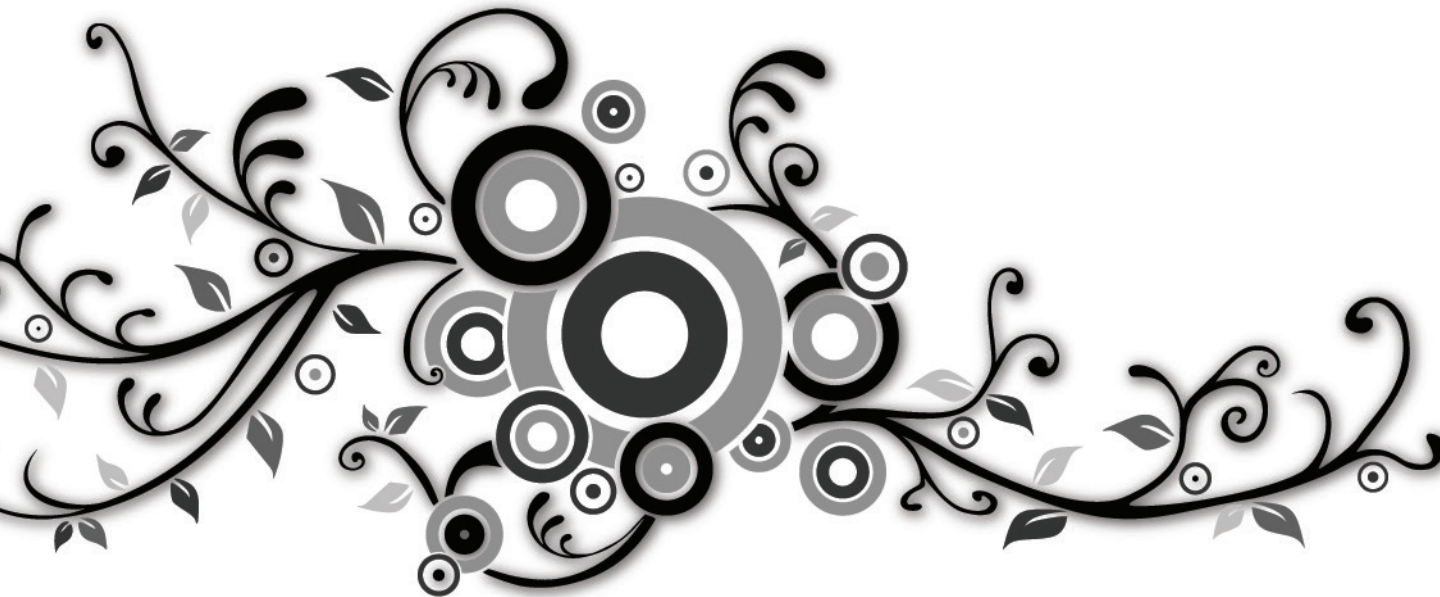
A WRITER'S NOTEBOOK FOR

DESIGNING SECONDARY CHARACTERS

SELFISHLY

FOREWORD

Heroes are rarely a reader's favorite character. It's the sidekick, the villain, the comedic relief. More than just being liked, side characters are essential to a story's progression and plot. Many heros need a mentor, there are times that someone needs to act as a Greek chorus, and sometimes you need a whole crew of people to help take down a villain.

These characters also provide interaction and contrast for the hero. The hero can't be brave if the rest of the characters aren't afraid. The comedic relief isn't funny unless we see the mentor rolling his eyes at the antics. Even the view of the world depends on the interactions between your characters.

Your task, dear writer, is to fall in love with every character you write. This workbook is here to help you meet each of the characters in turn. Familiarize yourself with them, their quirks and interests, their voice and their being. The best way to do this is write characters you enjoy. Create that character that makes you laugh. Write a villain that you want to punch. Learn who they are and what motivates them.

Remember, they each see themselves as the hero of their own story. They're whole people, with traumas and inside jokes and romances. Not every facet

of your meeting will appear in your book, but that doesn't mean you don't get to explore that. Write those things here, and let their personality bleed onto the pages.

Once you're finished filling this book out, if you're so inclined, I encourage you to write up little "what if" scenes of the characters interacting with each other in odd circumstances. How would your Greek chorus and sidekick interact while riding horses? The villain and the mentor decades ago? Have fun with it.

You can also fill this out as you go, just like with the other workbooks in this series. This notebook can simply be a place for you to write down those things you've included in your story as you go. Then you can refer to it later in order to make sure the next draft is accurate all the way through.

In the end, use it however you need to in order to write selfishly.

I UNDERSTOOD, THROUGH REHAB, THINGS ABOUT CREATING CHARACTERS. I UNDERSTOOD THAT CREATING WHOLE PEOPLE MEANS KNOWING WHERE WE COME FROM, HOW WE CAN MAKE A MISTAKE, AND HOW WE OVERCOME THINGS TO MAKE OURSELVES STRONGER

SAMUEL L. JACKSON

The Villain

Statistics

Name:

_____

Nickname:

_____

Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Education: _____

Job/Career: _____

Neurodivergent? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Physical Disablity or Impairment? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Sexual Preference: _____

Romantic Preference: _____

Portrayed by (Actor/Actress): _____

Identifying Marks

Scars

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Tattoos

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Attributes*

Constitution: _____

Strength: _____

Dexterity: _____

Intelligence: _____

Wisdom: _____

Charisma: _____

Luck: _____

*Provide a number (0-20) like in tabletop RPGs, or use your own rating/scale system.

Personality Overview

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Motivations

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Strengths

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Weaknesses

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How they're the same as the Main Character

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How they're different from the Main Character

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Cornerstone memory

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Defining moments

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Additional Notes

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The Mentor

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Name:

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Nickname:

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Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Education: _____

Job/Career: _____

Neurodivergent? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Physical Disablity or Impairment? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Sexual Preference: _____

Romantic Preference: _____

Portrayed by (Actor/Actress): _____

Identifying Marks

Scars

_____

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Tattoos

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Attributes*

Constitution: _____

Strength: _____

Dexterity: _____

Intelligence: _____

Wisdom: _____

Charisma: _____

Luck: _____

*Provide a number (0-20) like in tabletop RPGs, or use your own rating/scale system.

Personality Overview

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Past failures

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Strengths

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Weaknesses

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Why they can't accomplish the adventure

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Their history with the villain

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Additional Notes

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ROMANTIC INTEREST

Statistics

Name:

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Nickname:

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Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Education: _____

Job/Career: _____

Neurodivergent? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Physical Disablity or Impairment? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Sexual Preference: _____

Romantic Preference: _____

Portrayed by (Actor/Actress): _____

Identifying Marks

Scars

_____

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Tattoos

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Attributes*

Constitution: _____

Strength: _____

Dexterity: _____

Intelligence: _____

Wisdom: _____

Charisma: _____

Luck: _____

*Provide a number (0-20) like in tabletop RPGs, or use your own rating/scale system.

Personality Overview

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Role in the story (other than being the romantic interest)

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Strengths

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Weaknesses

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What makes them attractive to the Main Character

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What makes them attracted to the Main Character

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How they met the Main Character

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Mutual friends with the Main Character

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Additional Notes

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The Sidekick

Statistics

Name:

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Nickname:

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Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Education: _____

Job/Career: _____

Neurodivergent? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Physical Disablity or Impairment? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Sexual Preference: _____

Romantic Preference: _____

Portrayed by (Actor/Actress): _____

Identifying Marks

Scars

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Tattoos

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Attributes*

Constitution: _____

Strength: _____

Dexterity: _____

Intelligence: _____

Wisdom: _____

Charisma: _____

Luck: _____

*Provide a number (0-20) like in tabletop RPGs, or use your own rating/scale system.

Personality Overview

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How they're different from the Main Character

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Strengths

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Weaknesses

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Why they're on the adventure

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Hesitations about the whole adventure

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Truth they see that the Main Character doesn't

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What they contribute to the solution of the plot

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Additional Notes

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The Secret Ingredient

Statistics

Name:

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Nickname:

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Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Education: _____

Job/Career: _____

Neurodivergent? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Physical Disablity or Impairment? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Sexual Preference: _____

Romantic Preference: _____

Portrayed by (Actor/Actress): _____

Identifying Marks

Scars

_____

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Tattoos

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Attributes*

Constitution: _____

Strength: _____

Dexterity: _____

Intelligence: _____

Wisdom: _____

Charisma: _____

Luck: _____

*Provide a number (0-20) like in tabletop RPGs, or use your own rating/scale system.

Personality Overview

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Role in the backstory

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WHAT THEY ARE KEEPING SECRET THAT IS THE KEY TO THE SOLUTION

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WHY THEY KEEP THAT SECRET

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Strengths

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Weaknesses

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The Society

Name: _____

Role in the society: _____

Appearance

Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Personality

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Scars/Tattoos

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Name: _____

Role in the society: _____

Appearance

Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Personality

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Scars/Tattoos

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Name: _____

Role in the society: _____

Appearance

Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Personality

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Scars/Tattoos

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Name: _____

Role in the society: _____

Appearance

Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Personality

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Scars/Tattoos

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Name: _____

Role in the society: _____

Appearance

Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Personality

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Scars/Tattoos

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Name: _____

Role in the society: _____

Appearance

Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Personality

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Scars/Tattoos

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Name: _____

Role in the society: _____

Appearance

Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Personality

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Scars/Tattoos

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Name: _____

Role in the society: _____

Appearance

Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Personality

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Scars/Tattoos

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Additional Notes

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The Greek Chorus

Statistics

Name:

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Nickname:

_____

Age: _____

Race/Species: _____

Gender: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____

Build: _____

Skin Tone: _____

Hair Color: _____

Eye Color: _____

Education: _____

Job/Career: _____

Neurodivergent? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Physical Disablity or Impairment? Yes / No

If Yes: _____

Sexual Preference: _____

Romantic Preference: _____

Portrayed by (Actor/Actress): _____

Identifying Marks

Scars

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Tattoos

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Attributes*

Constitution: _____

Strength: _____

Dexterity: _____

Intelligence: _____

Wisdom: _____

Charisma: _____

Luck: _____

*Provide a number (0-20) like in tabletop RPGs, or use your own rating/scale system.

Personality Overview

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Reason for their ignorance

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Strengths

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Weaknesses

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Additional Notes

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