365, Volume I:
365 Character Questions
for Writers and Roleplayers

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Introduction

It can be difficult to come up with one original character after another, whether you're a writer or a roleplayer. To that end, it sometimes helps to answer one or more odd little questions about your character to flesh her out. This book includes 365 such questions, one for each day of the year. You can use them as writing exercises by creating a random character just for the purpose of answering a question, or you can use them to flesh out a pre-existing character.

Go to today's date and answer that question about your character. Alternatively, flip to a page and pick a prompt at random. Or you might glance through the questions until you find one that suits your fancy. Sometimes you need to look around until you find something that inspires you, but sometimes the best route is to answer a question that seems entirely unlikely--the most unexpected things can result.

Set a timer for five to thirty minutes and free-write about the topic at hand. See what comes out. You could further refine your answer into an essay, a journal entry for the character, a short story, a vignette, an interview with the character, or anything else that seems appropriate.

Try to answer different questions for each character you flesh out in this manner. It helps to explore different aspects of each, although there might be some overlap (certainly some questions overlap in subject matter). If all of your characters have the exact same aspects of their history or personality defined then a sameness might emerge, even if the answers to the questions are different for each. I recommend answering at least two different questions for every character, and no more than ten at once--with the number of questions in direct relation to how important the character is to your story or game.

One other possibility is to answer just one to three questions at first. Then, at different periods during the course of your novel or game, answer another question to help you delve deeper into the character. This allows you to work any new developments that have occurred into your answers and can lend unexpected depth to your current work.

Although most of these questions are, at a base level, aimed at a modern-day character in the "real" world, I've tried to write them such that with a little imagination they can be altered to work with almost any setting or genre.

Some of these questions seem on the surface to be fairly simple, and can be answered with a quick sentence or word. Try to go deeper than that and ask yourself additional questions like "why" and "how"? I avoided including many of those in order to avoid being redundant, but that makes them no less important. Any of these questions, no matter how seemingly simple, could lead to paragraphs or pages of response.

Don't take any question at face value. I've deliberately left plenty of ambiguities and empty spaces so you can take things in any direction that seems natural to your characters!
January

1. What does your character's name mean to her?

2. It's January second. Where is your character today and what is she doing?

3. If your character could change one physical detail about herself, what would it be?

4. Describe your character's hairstyle in detail. Why did she choose it? How much does she care about it?

5. What is your character's favorite physical activity?

6. When was the last time your character climbed a tree? Why and under what circumstances? If she has never climbed one, why not?

7. Your character comes face-to-face with her worst enemy. What is her first reaction?

8. What is your character's least favorite physical activity?

9. What is your character's favorite weather?

10. What is your character's favorite season?

11. Your character keeps a photo album of memories from her lifetime. If she could only keep one photo, what would it depict?

12. Does your character keep any pets?

13. A very large centipede runs across your character's leg. What does she do?

14. What does your character eat for breakfast?

15. What is your character's least favorite weather?

16. What is your character's fondest childhood memory?
   • If your character were in the habit of keeping a journal, what good memories could she go back and re-visit through that journal? Would she do so often?

17. What is your character's favorite piece of artwork?
   • Describe any pieces of artwork found in your character's home or office.

18. What is your character's least favorite season?

19. Someone asks your character to describe her family. How does she answer?

20. Is your character a morning person, a night owl, or something else entirely?

21. What is your character's least favorite color?
22. What does the color orange make your character think of? How does it make her feel?

23. Your character walks into her home and sees blood on the floor. What is her first reaction or thought?
   • Why is there blood on the floor? Whose is it?
   • What happens next?

24. Describe the outside of your character's home.

25. Describe a typical birthday for your character.

26. What mythological figure best personifies your character?

27. What is your character's least favorite animal?

28. A law enforcement officer stops your character for a minor violation. How does she react?

29. What does the color red make your character think of? How does it make her feel?

30. A stranger makes a crude comment to your character. How does she react?

31. What is your character's favorite animal?
1. What is your character's favorite beverage?

2. What is your character's least favorite food?

3. What does the color blue make your character think of? How does it make him feel?

4. How does your character feel when he visits someone in the hospital (or other major medical facility)?

5. Has your character ever had surgery (or other major medical treatment)?

6. Does your character gamble? Is he good at it?

7. Does your character know how to swim?

8. How does your character feel about large bodies of water?

9. Does your character have any phobias? What are they and how intense are they? How have they impacted his life?

10. What does the color purple make your character think of? How does it make him feel?

11. Your character lies on his back on a summer day and looks up at the clouds. What images does he see in their shapes?

12. A terrible crime has been committed, and evidence points to your character's guilt. He didn't commit the crime, but he doesn't have an immediate way to prove it. What does he do?

13. Your character witnesses a terrible crime being committed, and he sees the perpetrator's face. He also knows that the perpetrator has friends in high places. What does he do?
   • The perpetrator is someone he trusts and respects. How does he handle this?

14. Your character sees someone get hit by a car; they're still alive but obviously badly injured. No one else is nearby to help. What does he do?

15. What is your character's favorite piece of clothing?

16. How does your character dress on a typical day?

17. What is your character's earliest clear memory?

18. How well can your character defend himself in a fight? Has he ever had to?

19. Is your character introspective?

20. How opinionated is your character? Does he like to share those opinions with others or keep them to himself?
21. Is your character confident or overconfident? Does he lack confidence?
22. What hobby or side interest is most important to your character?
23. Open your character's wallet, purse, or briefcase. What do you find?
24. Open up your character's drawers or wardrobe and describe what you find inside.
25. What does your character's bedroom typically look like?
26. What style of furniture does your character prefer?
27. What style of furniture would your character never purchase?
28. Your character moves into a new home. What's the first thing he buys for it?
March

1. What games did your character play as a child?

2. What does your character do for recreation?

3. It's the first day of truly good weather that your character has seen this year. What does she do?

4. Your character is enjoying an outdoor activity away from civilization when a particularly bad storm hits. There are others with her, including children, and there is no man-made shelter nearby. What does she do?

5. A doctor tells your character that she has been fatally injured and that there is no hope for her. How does she handle the situation?

6. Your character is alone in the middle of nowhere. A snake bites her, and she's pretty sure it's a poisonous one. What does she do?

7. How does your character feel about growing old?

8. How does your character feel about her own mortality?

9. What sort of diet does your character eat? Is she a vegetarian? Does she like meat? Does she prefer fresh foods, restaurant meals or instant meals?

10. What kind of physical condition is your character in?

11. How easily does your character get bored? How does she respond to boredom?

12. Write numbers down the side of a sheet of paper and list everything that is most important to your character, including abstract principles such as freedom, physical things such as her home, and emotional things such as her daughter. Go back and circle the things she'd be willing to fight or die for.

13. What was your character's last nightmare?

14. What was your character's last pleasant dream?

15. When your character daydreams, what does she dream about?

16. What's the worst nightmare your character remembers ever having?

17. Does your character typically remember her dreams?

18. Does your character typically dream in color, or in black and white?

19. What, if any, chronic medical conditions does your character have, and how does she handle and treat them?
20. Your character gets up one morning in the usual fashion, but the sun never rises. What does she do?

21. What is the first thing your character does when she gets up in the morning?

22. What is the last thing your character does before going to bed at night?

23. Whom does your character most love in all the world?

24. What is your character's most traumatic memory?

25. What scars, birthmarks, tattoos, or other identifying marks does your character have? What stories lie behind them, if any?

26. How would your character's parents describe her?

27. What is your character's relationship with her family like?

28. Who is your character's worst enemy?

29. Who is your character's best friend?

30. What one person does your character most wish she didn't have to put up with, but feels she has to?

31. If your character developed a handicap or debilitating illness, how would she handle it?
1. Who is your character's confidant?

2. Is your character married? Does he have a lover, significant other, girlfriend, boyfriend?

3. Whom does your character live with?

4. If you were to use the speed dial function on your character's telephone, who would answer?

5. How does your character feel about his co-workers? What are they like?

6. To whom did your character give birthday presents last year, and what did he give them?

7. What did your character receive for his last birthday?

8. What is your character's favorite holiday?

9. What is your character's least favorite holiday?

10. How close is your character to his friends? How well do they know him?

11. What is your character's darkest secret? Who else knows about it?

12. Does your character have any siblings? What sort of relationship does he have with them?

13. What is your character's favorite hangout?

14. Where does your character feel most safe?

15. Is your character a "regular" anywhere? What do the other people there think of him?

16. If your character went to a zoo and didn't have time to see everything, which animals would he look at?

17. When your character goes shopping, which stores does he frequent?

18. What is your character's financial situation? How does he feel about it?

19. What hobbies did your character have once, but has since given up on?

20. Has your character ever been fired from a job? If so, why?

21. Has your character ever quit a job? If so, why?

22. Does your character have any children? What kind of relationship does he have with them?
23. Does your character like to read? If so what does he read, and under what circumstances? Is he a casual reader or a die-hard fanatic?
   • Make up the titles of three books your character has read in the last year.
   • Go to an online bookstore and find three real books your character has bought in the last year. Has he actually read them?

24. What is your character's favorite type of music? Does he have any favorite musicians?
   • Make up the names of three fictional bands your character feels strongly about.
   • Go to an online music store and find three real albums your character has bought in the last year. Does he still listen to them?

25. Your character wakes up to find that war has been declared. What does he do?

26. When he was a child, what did your character want to be when he grew up?

27. Is your character doing the job he always thought he wanted to do when he grew up? If so, is it all he thought it would be? If not, why not and does he have any regrets?

28. What does your character wish he could do that he can't? How badly does he want it and what would he do to get it?

29. What item does your character wish he possessed that he doesn't? How badly does he want it and what would he do to get it?
   • Think back to when your character was five years old, eight years old, twelve years old. Write a holiday gift wish-list from his point of view.
   • How does your character feel about physical possessions in a general sense?

30. What is your character's most treasured possession?
May

1. What is your character's secret dream? What one goal, ambition or desire does she keep hidden from others, and why? What would she do to achieve it?
   - Write a list of your character's top five lifetime achievement goals.
   - Starting at age 15, write down one major goal for each five years of your character's life until her current age.

2. What is your character's worst fear? How far would she go to avoid it?

3. If your character could be any famous person, whom would she choose and why?
   - List your character's favorite celebrities.
   - How does your character feel about the concept of fame and celebrity in general?
   - Is your character more interested in entertainment figures or historically significant figures?

4. If your character could achieve any one position of authority, what would she choose and why?

5. If your character could change the entire world in one tiny but pervasive way, what would it be?

6. If your character knew she would die tomorrow, what would she do today?

7. Who was your character's favorite teacher and why?

8. Does your character tend to focus her efforts on one project at a time, or does she spread her efforts across a variety of projects?

9. Does your character like to cook? If so, what does she like to cook and how good is she at it?

10. If someone tried to blackmail your character, what would she do? How easy or difficult would it be?

11. If your character needed a security clearance for a job she wanted, would she be able to get one?

12. There's someone who hates your character, but your character doesn't realize it. Who is this person and why does he hate your character so much?
   - How would your character find out?
   - What would she do about it?

13. Someone is secretly in love with your character. Who is it and how does your character feel about him?

14. Is your character at all spiritual or religious? If so, what religion or spiritual path does she follow? How devout is she?
   - Does she hate all members of any religion(s)?
   - Is she tolerant of other religions? If so, how tolerant?

15. What hurt will your character never forgive? How old (and how minor or major) is this hurt? How much does it affect her life?
16. One of your character's parents said something to her that she'll never forget. What are the words that will always echo in her ears?

17. What is your character's favorite color to wear? Is it the same as or different than her favorite color?

18. Open up your character's kitchen cupboards. What do you see?

19. What does a typical grocery list look like for your character?

20. Does your character prefer recreational activities that involve other people, or solo activities?

21. Does your character ever get drunk or high? What is she like at those times?
   • What are her drugs of choice? Are they legal or illegal? If illegal, how does she obtain them and justify their use?
   • Does she have an addictive personality?
   • Is she addicted to anything? If so, how does it affect her life?

22. From your point of view, what is your character's worst flaw?

23. From your point of view, what is your character's greatest strength?

24. From the point of view of someone close to your character, what is her worst flaw?

25. A stray cat (or dog) shows up on your character's doorstep several days in a row and appears to have no home. What does she do?

26. From the point of view of someone close to your character, what is her greatest strength?

27. Your character arrives home to find her door unlocked and slightly ajar, and she's sure she locked it on her way out. What does she do?
   • Why is it unlocked?

28. From your character's point of view, what is her worst flaw?

29. If someone told your character that she had a mental illness, how would she react?
   • What if a close friend suggested it?
   • What if a professional made an official diagnosis?
   • What if a close friend or relative of hers was given the diagnosis instead?

30. Is your character an introvert or an extrovert?

31. From your character's point of view, what is her greatest strength?
June

1. A stranger knocks on your character's door in the middle of the night and asks for help. Does your character open the door and let the stranger in?
   - What if the stranger is a tattooed, wiry man with blood on his face?
   - What if the stranger is a weary-looking old lady?
   - What if the stranger is a twelve-year-old child who keeps looking around as though someone is following him?

2. Does your character have any allergies or sensitivities? How do they affect his life?

3. Is your character progressive, using new technologies as they become available? Is he slow to adapt to technological change? Or is he middle-of-the-road, waiting to see if things work but using them as soon as he's satisfied that they do?

4. Your character receives a mysterious package. There's no return address (or not one that he recognizes) and he wasn't expecting anything. What does he do?
   - The package is unusually heavy and the label is hand-lettered in a handwriting he doesn't recognize.
   - The package is a thin manila envelope with a printed label.
   - There seems to be a faint vibration coming from the package and it was left on his doorstep.
   - The package is large and was delivered through a reputable shipping service.

5. Does your character enjoy camping outdoors?

6. Does your character know how to hunt or fish? Is he good at it? Does he do it for recreation or for food?

7. What is the one major regret your character has about his life so far? Does he plan to do anything about it, and if so, what?

8. What one major thing does your character want to accomplish in his life to come?

9. How does your character want to live out his older years?

10. Overall, is your character satisfied with his childhood?

11. Your character has an award someone gave him sitting on a shelf. What is it for, and what are the circumstances under which he received it?
    - Is he proud of it or embarrassed by it?
    - Does he feel that he deserved it?

12. Has your character ever been arrested? For what? Did he deserve it? Does he feel that he deserved it?

13. Has your character ever struck someone in anger?

14. Has your character ever killed anyone?
15. Is your character adventurous when it comes to food? Does he like to try out new cuisines?
16. What is your character's idea of a perfect day?
17. What is your character's idea of a perfect meal?
18. Is your character an optimist or a pessimist?
19. What sort of sense of humor does your character have?
20. Is your character ambitious?
21. What makes your character proud?
22. What makes your character embarrassed?
23. Does your character look both ways before crossing the street?
24. What method of transportation does your character use? If he drives a car, for example, what kind of car does he drive?
25. Someone tries to rob your character on the street. What does he do? What is he carrying that the robbers might want? Is it a random incident or was he targeted?
26. Does your character keep in touch with childhood friends? Which ones and why?
27. Is there anything that can get a smile out of your character no matter how sad or upset he is?
28. Is there anything that can upset or anger your character no matter how happy he is?
29. What makes your character feel righteously angry?
30. What does your character most like to do to celebrate his birthday?
   • Pick your character's favorite birthday and write it up in narrative form.
   • Pick your character's least favorite birthday and write it up in narrative form.
July

1. What is your character's least favorite holiday or celebration?
2. For whom did your character buy birthday gifts last year? What did she get for them?
3. Does your character believe in ghosts, the occult, aliens, or the supernatural? If so, why?
4. Does your character believe she has had any personal encounters with ghosts, the occult, aliens, or the supernatural?
5. Does your character believe in astrology, palmistry, tarot, or other methods of divination?
   • Do a reading for your character and see what it suggests.
6. Has your character ever been to an astrologer, palmist, or other psychic? If so, what predictions were made for her? How does she feel about them, and have they come true?
7. How does your character feel about sex? What mores and morals does she apply to it?
8. What sort of relationship did (or does) your character have with her parents?
9. If someone asked your character what the most important rule to live by was, how would she answer?
10. What is the worst gift your character ever received?
11. Has your character ever deliberately set out to emotionally hurt someone?
12. Describe one unconscious drive, ambition or goal your character possesses that she would never consciously admit to herself or to others.
13. Detail one secret shame your character feels.
14. What is the best meal your character ever had?
15. Is there anyone your character despises?
16. Is there anyone your character would die to protect?
17. What is the worst news your character has ever received? How did she handle it?
18. Your character just received an envelope. Whatever it is, the idea of opening it fills her with dread. What is it? And what happens when she opens it?
19. How does your character feel about her government?
20. Does your character care about politics? How vehemently, and what are her views?
21. Is there any political issue that could motivate your character to violence?
22. List five things that could motivate your character to use violence.

23. List three things that could motivate your character to kill.

24. List several phrases your character is fond of uttering. Where did she pick them up?

25. How does your character feel about romantic relationships?

26. What is your character's romantic history?

27. What is the best romantic relationship your character has ever had?

28. What is the worst romantic relationship your character has ever had?

29. If your character hasn't yet settled down with someone, what could motivate her to do so? If she has, what could motivate her to change her mind again?

30. If your character has a romantic partner, would that person ever cheat on her?
   • Describe the circumstances under which your character's partner might cheat on her.
   • Describe the kind of person who could convince your character's partner to cheat on her.

31. Would your character ever cheat on a romantic partner?
   • Describe the circumstances under which your character might cheat on her partner.
   • Describe the kind of person who could convince your character to cheat on her partner.
August

1. If you had to characterize your character as an animal, what animal would you choose?

2. If your character were to characterize himself as an animal, what animal would he choose?

3. Is your character a follower, a rebel or a leader?

4. Your character wakes up in his home and smells smoke. What does he do?

5. What's the strangest thing your character ever did?

6. What social niche did your character fill as a child--bully, nerd, cool kid, something else?

7. What's the luckiest thing that ever happened to your character?

8. What's the worst stroke of fortune your character ever had?

9. If your character had nearly unlimited wealth, what would he spend it on?

10. Who's the craziest person your character has ever known, and what was their relationship like?

11. How does your character make a living and why did he choose that route?

12. If your character had a theme song, what would it be? (You can either pick a real song or make one up.)

13. If someone wrote love poetry to or about your character, how would it read? (Either describe or--go ahead--give it a shot and write some poetry. It doesn't have to be good.)

14. How would your character court the person of his dreams?

15. How does your character prefer to solve minor arguments with others?

16. What is the worst tragedy your character has ever personally witnessed?

17. If your character were a writer, what type of material would he write?

18. How healthy is your character?

19. How does your character feel about doctors?

20. If your character could be someone else, who would he want to be?

21. Does your character want power or authority of any kind?

22. Describe the nature and intensity of your character's religious feelings.
23. Pick three adjectives that best describe your character's inner nature.

24. Pick three adjectives that best describe your character's outer manner.

25. What is your character's view on basic human nature?

26. How does your character view animals—as pests, pets, workers or dangers? Are pets viewed more as family or as second-class citizens? How far would he go to protect or take care of an animal?

27. How generous is your character toward strangers?
   • With his time?
   • His money?
   • His aid in times of crisis?
   • His attitudes?
   • His emotional support?

28. How easily does your character relate to others?

29. Does your character prefer adventure or security?

30. Is your character a dreamer, or are his feet firmly planted on the ground?

31. What was the last medical problem your character had?
1. Close your eyes and picture a shelf in your character's library. List the titles of the books on that shelf.

2. How does your character prefer to celebrate her victories and successes?

3. What is your character's view on privacy--hers and others’?

4. What double standards does your character hold? How does she expect to be treated differently from the ways in which she treats others? Does she acknowledge this double standard or deny it?

5. What sort of legacy does your character wish to leave behind?

6. What would your character like to see written on her tombstone?

7. Write an obituary for your character.

8. Imagine that a local newspaper or alumni newsletter has chosen to spotlight your character this month. Write that article, or the interview held by the reporter.

9. What is the most shameful thing that ever happened to your character?

10. What is the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to your character?

11. Does your character hold any extremist political viewpoints?

12. If your character had to pick one popular saying to embody her philosophy toward life, what would it be?

13. In terms of romantic relationships, what is your character's "type”? What does she think her type is? Are these two things the same or different?

14. When was the last time your character took a vacation?

15. What person has most influenced your character's development as an adult?

16. Did your character have any heroes as a child?

17. Open up the cabinets in your character's bathroom and describe what you find there.

18. What is the best vacation your character has ever taken?

19. What is the most memorable romantic encounter your character has ever had?

20. What is the biggest lie your character has ever told?

21. What is the most cruel and hurtful thing your character has ever done?
22. Has your character ever broken any laws? Did she get caught?
23. Who was your character's best friend during childhood?
24. If your character were to paint the inside of her house, what color scheme would she use?
25. Who was your character's best friend during her teenage years?
26. Describe your character's dream home.
27. Who was your character's best friend during adolescence?
28. Describe your character's childhood home.
29. What is the most cruel and hurtful thing your character has ever said?
30. How good is your character at manipulating other people? To what end does she do it?
1. What is your character's attitude toward education and learning, either formal or informal?

2. Does your character like to read? If so, what does he like to read, when, and how?

3. What are your character's beliefs regarding death and the afterlife?

4. What does your character believe to be his purpose in life?

5. How does your character view the opposite sex?

6. What does your character consider to be the most beautiful thing he's ever seen?

7. What does your character consider to be the ugliest thing he's ever seen?

8. How does your character feel about the idea of owning his own home?

9. What does your character feel most confident about?

10. What does your character feel least confident about?

11. Your character wakes up to find a poisonous spider on his pillow next to his head. What does he do?  
   - How did it get there?

12. How far does your character believe he would go to achieve his most cherished goal? How far would he really go?

13. Someone cuts off your character in traffic, or grabs the last of something your character wants to purchase before he can pick it up. How does he respond?

14. What character trait most annoys your character when he experiences it in others?

15. What's the worst injury your character has ever received?

16. In what arena is your character most competitive?

17. Does your character feel responsible for anyone besides himself?

18. What does your character spend his money on?

19. What's the worst illness your character has ever experienced?

20. What's the worst illness your character has ever witnessed?

21. Has your character ever watched someone die?

22. Has your character ever been witness to a serious crime?
23. How does your character view minor violations of the law?

24. Does your character have a sense of "personal space"?

25. Does your character have any artistic talents, such as writing, painting, playing an instrument, or singing? Are they well developed or raw and untrained? Secret or public?

26. How well does your character handle change?

27. Does your character enjoy surprises?

28. Does your character tend to follow fads and trends? Does he studiously avoid them? Or does he do his own thing without worrying about it either way?


30. Does your character prefer to adopt the latest technological conveniences, or does he prefer to rely on tried-and-true methods?

31. What does your character do, if anything, to take care of and preserve his own health?
November

1. How does your character greet others?

2. Does your character have any speech habits (such as 'umm,' 'like,' or 'you know') that she repeats often while speaking?

3. Does your character swear?

4. Does your character have a large vocabulary? If so, does she like to use it in conversation?

5. How well does your character handle difficult or recalcitrant people?

6. How does your character deal with people who are angry with her?

7. How does your character respond when she is unjustly accused of something?

8. What sort of relationship does your character have with her boss?

9. Does your character supervise anyone? If so, how good is she at it? How does she handle problems?
   • If not, does she want to? Would she be good at it?

10. How does your character prefer to remember the important moments in her life? Does she talk about them to set them in her mind? Does she take photos? Does she write about them? Does she carefully commit them to memory?

11. How does your character respond when someone else takes credit for her work?

12. How does your character handle office politics? How bad are the office politics at her job?
   • Narrate an interesting incident of office politics at your character's job.

13. How does your character feel about protecting the environment? If she cares about it, what does she do about it? What doesn't she do that she knows she could?

14. What are your character's views on fame? Would she want to be famous if she isn't already?
   • Would she really like it if she became famous, or would it be too much for her?
   • If she is famous, how does she handle it?

15. Your character wakes up in a room and bed she doesn't recognize. What does she do?
   • Where is she?
   • How did she get here?

16. What are your character's views on the poor and destitute? What separates her from these people, if anything? How would she handle it (and how would her views change) if she became one of these people?
17. Does your character hold any beliefs or views that others would consider disturbing, distasteful, offensive, or sickening? What has resulted in these beliefs or views? Does your character understand that others would find these views disturbing?

18. When your character interacts with others in a social setting what does she most crave, psychologically speaking? Companionship? Attention? Approval? How does this affect her behavior?

19. Does your character enjoy shopping? Hate it? Tolerate it?

20. Does your character get along with her neighbors? Tolerate them? Feud with them? Avoid them?

21. How do your characters' neighbors view her and her living habits?

22. How much do your characters' neighbors know about her and her living habits?

23. Has anyone ever reported your character to the authorities for anything, legitimately or not?

24. How well does your character take care of her home and its surroundings?

25. Does your character like poetry?

26. What is your character's energy level like?

27. Has your character ever been truly, madly, deeply in love?

28. Has your character ever had a mentor?

29. Has your character ever been an inspiration to anyone? Has she ever wanted to be or thought that she was?

30. Has your character ever let someone down who was depending on her?
1. Where does your character fall on an order vs. chaos spectrum?

2. Where does your character fall on a good vs. evil spectrum?

3. Where does your character fall on a kindness vs. cruelty spectrum?

4. Where does your character fall on a cynicism vs. hopefulness spectrum?

5. In what ways does your character annoy others?

6. Make a "pet peeve" list for your character, either in general or with respect to a certain issue.

7. Pick an issue your character has an interest in and make a wish list from his point of view with respect to that issue.

8. Does your character have any responsibilities he feels he can't handle? Why did he take them on? What is he doing about them?

9. Does your character have any psychological hang-ups where money is concerned?

10. How does your character feel about different types of terrain--jungle, beaches, mountains, forest, plains, ocean, etc? Does he have a favorite and/or least favorite type? Does he associate any particularly pleasant or traumatic past events with any type of terrain?

11. A natural disaster traps your character on his way to an important destination. What does he do?
   - Where was he going and why?
   - What sort of disaster occurs?

12. Does your character enjoy the natural world, or is he a city boy through-and-through?

13. Does your character have a green thumb? If he doesn't, does he try to grow things anyway? How do they come out? What does he grow?

14. How does your character feel about water? Does he like to swim? Go boating? Is he afraid of the water?

15. Does your character have any interest in the past-- history, archaeology, anthropology, and so on?

16. Does your character have any interest in the human mind and how it works?

17. What sorts of dreams does your character typically have?

18. How does your character feel about the concepts of fate and destiny?

19. Under ordinary circumstances, what would your character consider to be a crisis?
20. Are there any beverages or foods that your character insists on having every day?

21. If someone told your character today that he was destined to fulfill a great prophecy, how would he react?

22. How would (or did) your character handle the deaths of his parents or siblings?

23. Is there anyone in his family your character refuses to speak to or have any contact with? If not, is there anyone else in his family who refuses to speak to or have any contact with someone else, and if so, how does your character feel about this?

24. Is there anyone whose welfare your character feels responsible for?

25. How strong is your character's sense of responsibility, and what kinds of things trigger it?

26. If your character saw someone drop a large sum of money and knew that he could probably take it without anyone noticing, what would he do?

27. Is there anyone whose forgiveness your character desires? What for?

28. Has your character ever hurt someone and secretly felt good about it?

29. Does your character carry or possess a weapon of any type?

30. The table is set for a romantic meal. Who set the table, and with whom is your character dining? What's the occasion?

31. Describe your character's soulmate.
Bonus Photo Questions

The photo above is a scene from your character's past or future. What's happening? How does your character feel about it? How is this impacting her life, for good or ill?

Imagine that your character walks into the room depicted above. Where is he? What's going on? Is this currently someone's home? Is it abandoned? How does this place make your character feel? What is he doing here and why?
The pool depicted above is a magical place in the story of your character's life, past, present or future. Why? What happened (or will happen) here? What is this pool?¹

Your character finds himself in a tropical paradise. What's going on? Is this a good or a bad place? What is and isn't as it seems? Why is he here?¹
Appendix: Image Acknowledgements and Resources

Random images from Nova Development's "Art Explosion 800,000"

¹Photos in the public domain from pdphoto.org--please visit it and check out the many more wonderful photographs for further inspiration.

Additional Resources

Visit Digital Blasphemy for many inspiring digital images: www.digitalblasphemy.com

Photo.net includes thousands of inspiring and truly beautiful photographs, many of which are of people who could easily act as the central characters for fantastic stories: www.photo.net

Burningvoid.com includes material for writers and roleplayers. BV has also added a Burning Epiphanies blog that presents near-daily writers' exercises and additional character questions: www.burningvoid.com/weblog/epiphany

And finally, a hard copy of this questionnaire is available through Cafepress, under the writing section of the BV store:
www.cafepress.com/burningvoid

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