**CHARACTER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:**

**Part 1: Background**

**What is your full name?**

Where and when were you born?

Where have you lived?

Where do you live now and with whom?

Who are/were your parents? (names, occupations, personalities, when and where were they born)

What do you think of your father? What do you hate and love about him? (What influence - literal or imagined - did the character’s father have?)

What do you think of your mother? What do you hate and love about her? (What influence - literal or imagined - did the mother have?)

Did you have brothers, sisters? When and where were they born? What did you like about them? Why? What did you despise about your siblings? What annoys you the most? Which brother/sister did you get along with the most? The least?

Which of your buttons does your mother, father (sister, brother, son, wife, girlfriend, etc.) like to push that sets you off?

What type of discipline were you subjected to at home? Strict? Lenient?

Were you overprotected as a child? Sheltered?

Did you feel rejection or affection as a child?

What is your occupation?

Write a full physical description of yourself. You might want to consider factors such as: height, weight, race, hair and eye color, style of dress, and any tattoos, scars, or distinguishing marks. Are you right or left handed?

What does your voice sound like? Pitch? Strength? Tempo and rhythm of speech? Pronunciation? Accent?

Observe your character’s posture. What’s it like? Typical posture: \_\_\_Stiff and rigid

\_\_\_ Stands straight but not stiffly\_\_\_ Average, varies with mood\_\_\_ Slumped and defeated

\_\_\_ Slouchy, careless\_\_\_ Relaxed

How are your character's gestures? Vigorous? Weak? Controlled? Compulsive? Energetic? Sluggish?

What are his/her prevailing facial expressions during the interview? Sour? Cheerful? Dominating?

Do you have any allergies, diseases, or other physical weaknesses?

What social class/economic status do you belong to? Have you always belonged to this social class?

What words/phrases do you use frequently? (How does your character’s education and intelligence – or lack thereof - reflect in their speech pattern, vocabulary, and pronunciations?)

Do you have any quirks, strange mannerisms, annoying habits, or other defining characteristics?

**Part 2: Growing Up**

How would you describe your childhood in general?

What is your earliest memory?

What places have you visited on vacation?

Did you travel for any other reasons other than for vacation (for example, work, family emergencies). Where? Why? When?

What did you discover in your travels, and what do you remember about these trips?

How much schooling have you had?

Did you enjoy school? Your teachers? Schoolmates?

Were you involved at school? Sports? Clubs? Debate?

Who did you take to the prom in high school?

Did you graduate? High-School? College? Do you have a PHD? A GED?

Do you see yourself as smart, as intelligent, uneducated? (Is your character street-smart, book-smart, intelligent, intellectual, slow-witted?)

Where did you learn most of your skills and other abilities?

While growing up, did you have any role models? If so, describe them.

While growing up, how did you get along with the other members of your family?

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

As a child, what were your favorite activities?

As a child, what kinds of personality traits did you display?

As a child, were you popular? Who were your friends, and what were they like?

When and with whom was your first kiss?

What jobs have you held and what years? (What does your resume look like?)

What is the first major historical event you remember? (The Great Depression, Kennedy’s assassination, the moon landing, September 11th)?

If you are a supernatural being (i.e. mage, werewolf, vampire), tell the story of how you became what you are or first learned of your own abilities. If you are just a normal human, describe any influences in your past that led you to do the things you do today.

**Part 3: Past Influences**

What do you consider the most important event of your life so far?

Who has had the most influence on you?

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

What is your greatest regret?

What is the most evil thing you have ever done?

Do you have a criminal record of any kind? If so, what have you been arrested for?

When was the time you were the most frightened?

What is the most embarrassing thing ever to happen to you?

If you could change one thing from your past, what would it be, and why?

What is your best memory?

What is your worst memory?

**Part 4: Beliefs And Opinions**

Are you basically optimistic or pessimistic?

What is your greatest fear?

What are your religious views?

What are your political views?

What are your views on sex?

Are you able to kill? Under what circumstances do you find killing to be acceptable or unacceptable?

Who or what, if anything, would you die for (or otherwise go to extremes for)?

In your opinion, what is the most evil thing any human being could do?

Do you believe in the existence of soul mates and/or true love?

What do you believe makes a successful life?

How honest are you about your thoughts and feelings (i.e. do you hide your true self from others, and in what way)?

Do you have any biases or prejudices? (race, culture, sexuality, religion, etc.)

Is there anything you absolutely refuse to do under any circumstances? Why do you refuse to do it?

**Part 5: Relationships With Others**

Who was your best friend as a child?

Who was your best friend in high school?

Who was your best friend in college?

Who are all of the people whom you have dated?

Why did your relationship with each person you dated not work out?

In general, how do you treat others (politely, rudely, by keeping them at a distance, etc.)? Does your treatment of them change depending on how well you know them, and if so, how?

Who is the most important person in your life, and why?

Who is the person you respect the most, and why?

Who are your friends? Do you have a best friend? Describe these people.

What do you like best about your best friend?

What do you like least about your best friend?

What do you think other people think of you?

Teachers:

Other kids:

Best friends:

Parents:

Siblings:

Other family members:

Have you ever been in love? If so, describe what happened.

How do you fall in love? At first sight? Over a long period?

What parts of loving come easy for you? Hard?

What do you look for in a potential boyfriend/girlfriend/companion/spouse/lover? Who would your ideal partner be?

How do you decide if you can trust someone? Experience with others? with this person? First impressions? Intuition? Do you test the person somehow? Or are you just generally disposed to trust or not to trust?

Is there anyone in your life that you are attracted to?

What scares you about this person?

Do you have a spouse or significant other? If so, describe this person. How did you meet your current significant other?

Do you have children? Describe them. How do feel about being a parent? How do feel toward each of your children? How do your children feel toward you?

If you don’t have children, why don’t you? Are you not ready? Are you struggling to conceive? Are you choosing not to have children?

How close are you to your family?

How do you feel about your family, now that you’re an adult?

In your relationship with others, how are you different with family than you are with friends? Why?

Who would you turn to if you were in desperate need of help?

Do you trust anyone to protect you? Who, and why?

If you died or went missing, who would miss you? Who would come to your funeral?

Who important to you has died in your life and how did you cope with their deaths?

Who is the person you despise the most, and why?

Do you tend to argue with people, or avoid conflict?

Who would you really like to tell off?

Do you tend to take on leadership roles in social situations?

Do you like interacting with large groups of people? Why or why not?

Do you care what others think of you?

What do they want from a partner? What do they think and feel about sex?

What social groups and activities does your character attend? What role do they like to play? What role do they actually play, usually?

Who is the person you most misunderstand or misjudge?

Who is the person who most misunderstands or misjudges you?

Have you lost touch with anyone who was once significant in your life? If so, why?

Tell me about the worst end of a relationship (could be friend, romantic, colleague...)

Whom do you most rely on for practical advice?

Whom do you most rely on for emotional support?

Which person in your life would you most want to emulate?

Which person in your life would you least want to emulate?

You’re having lunch with three people you respect and admire. They all start criticizing a close friend of yours, not knowing she is your friend. The criticism is distasteful and unjustified. What do you do?

**Part 6: Likes And Dislikes**

What is/are your favorite hobbies and pastimes?

What is your most treasured possession?

What is your favorite color?

What is your favorite food?

What do you love? Have any of your recent actions openly expressed this love?

What, if anything, do you like to read?

What is your idea of good entertainment (consider music, movies, art, etc.)?

Do you smoke, drink, or use drugs? If so, why? Do you want to quit?

How do you spend a typical Saturday night?

What makes you laugh?

What, if anything, shocks or offends you?

What would you do if you had insomnia and had to find something to do to amuse yourself?

How do you deal with stress?

Are you spontaneous, or do you always need to have a plan?

What are your pet peeves?

What do you like to ridicule? What do you find stupid?

Do you like to suffer? Like to see other people suffering?

**Part 7: Self Image, Personality Etc.**

Describe the routine of a normal day for you. How do you feel when this routine is disrupted?

What is your greatest strength as a person?

What is your greatest weakness?

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Are you generally introverted or extroverted?

Are you generally organized or messy?

Name three things you consider yourself to be very good at, and three things you consider yourself to be very bad at.

Do you like yourself?

What goal do you most want to accomplish in your lifetime?

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

If you could choose, how would you want to die?

If you knew you were going to die in 24 hours, name three things you would do in the time you had left.

What is the one thing for which you would most like to be remembered after your death?

What three words best describe your personality?

What three words would others probably use to describe you?

(Does your character sound self-righteous? Revengeful? Contemptuous?)

What are your character's manners like?

How do they relate to their appearance?

Do you think first before acting? Responsible? All action? A visionary? Passionate?

How does your character react to stress situations? Defensively? Aggressively? Evasively?

Do you drink? Take drugs? What about your health?

Do you rationalize errors? How do you accept disasters and failures?

Are you basically negative when facing new things or do you have a positive attitude? Suspicious? Hostile? Scared? Enthusiastic?

How is your sense of humor? Do you have one?

What is one physical attribute you are proud of?

Is one sense more highly developed than another? (Are you more visual, or audial, etc, or do you rely on the famous sixth sense?)

What one physical attribute would you change?

What do you consider your special talent?

What do you *wish* your special talent was?

If you could describe yourself in one sentence, what would you say?

If your (best friend, wife, daughter, boss, neighbor etc.) were to describe you in one sentence, what do you think he/she would say?

**Part 8 Interview:**

What do you have in your pockets right now?

What are your deepest disillusions in life?

In what situation is your self esteem most at risk?

What are you keeping a secret?

What are you lying to yourself about? To others?

What do you think you can do that no one else can?

When you walk into a room what do you notice first? Second?

How would you change the world? The things around you? The people around you?

How do you learn best?

What are you most afraid of?

If you had one wish, what would it be?

What do you like best about yourself?

What do you like least about yourself?

What’s your greatest source of frustration?

What’s your greatest source of joy?

What are you especially proud of in your life?

If you could change anything about your life what would it be?

Which is worse, failing or never trying?

When it’s all said and done, will you have said more than you’ve done?

Are you doing what you believe in, or are you settling for what you are doing?

If the average human life span was 40 years, how would you live your life differently?

To what degree have you actually controlled the course your life has taken?

Are you more worried about doing things right, or doing the right things?

If you could offer a newborn child only one piece of advice, what would it be?

Would you break the law to save a loved one?

What’s something you know you do differently than most people?

How come the things that make you happy don’t make everyone happy?

What one thing have you not done that you really want to do? [What’s holding you back?](http://www.marcandangel.com/2009/04/20/when-our-stories-hold-us-back/)

Are you holding onto something you need to let go of?

If you had to move to a state or country besides the one you currently live in, where would you move and why?

Do you push the elevator button more than once? Do you really believe it makes the elevator faster?

Would you rather be a worried genius or a joyful simpleton?

Have you been the kind of friend you want as a friend?

Which is worse, when a good friend moves away, or losing touch with a good friend who lives right near you?

What are you most grateful for?

Would you rather lose all of your old memories, or never be able to make new ones?

Is it possible to know the truth without challenging it first?

At what time in your recent past have you felt most passionate and alive?

Have you ever [been with someone](http://www.marcandangel.com/2009/06/01/the-art-of-being-naked/), said nothing, and walked away feeling like you just had the best conversation ever?

Is it possible to know, without a doubt, what is good and what is evil?

Would you rather have less work to do, or more work you actually enjoy doing?

If you knew that everyone you know was going to die tomorrow, who would you visit today?

Would you be willing to reduce your life expectancy by 10 years to become extremely attractive or famous?

What is the difference between being alive and [truly living](http://www.marcandangel.com/2009/04/13/how-to-live-life/)?

If we learn from our mistakes, why are we always so afraid to make a mistake?

What would you do differently if you knew nobody would judge you?

Decisions are being made right now. The question is: Are you making them for yourself, or are you letting others make them for you?

How badly do you want to obtain their life objectives? How do you pursue them?

Would you describe yourself as an imaginative person? Do you daydream a lot? Do you worry most of the time? Do you live in your memories?

How do you feel about your life right now? What, if anything, would you like to change?

What really moves you, or touches you to the soul?

What's the one thing you have always wanted to do but didn't/couldn't/wouldn't? What would happen if you *did* do it?

Is there anything you've always wanted to do but haven't done? What would happen if you did it?

Who would you lay down your life for?

What are your spending habits?

Do you enjoy hot weather, or do you prefer colder temperatures?

Do you believe it’s okay to tell a lie and under what circumstances?

What is your wildest fantasy?

Do you have a catchphrase you live by? (Examples: “What goes  around comes around.” “Live fast, die young, and leave a beautiful corpse.”  etc.):

If you were to die and come back as a person or thing, what do you think it would be?

**Part 9: Character Reactions**

How would your character react to:

Inheriting $1 million.

The death of a loved one.

A natural disaster: hurricane/earthquake, etc.

Being fired.

Meeting an old friend (or enemy) not seen for years.

Having or raising children.

An unexpected kindness or compliment.

A serious illness such as AIDS or cancer.

A flat tire on the expressway.

An interracial relationship.

Five minutes on local or national TV.

If your character were to die this evening with no opportunity to communicate with anyone, what would they most regret not having told someone? Why haven’t they told them yet?

Would your character accept $1,000,000 to leave the county and never set foot in it again?

Your character is given the power to kill people simply by thinking of their deaths  and twice repeating the word “goodbye.” People would die a natural death and nobody would suspect them. Are there any situations in which they would use this power? (If  they can imagine themselves killing someone indirectly, could they still see doing it if  they had to look into the person’s eyes and stab the person to death? Have they ever genuinely wanted to kill someone or wished them dead?)

What would constitute a “perfect” evening for your character?

Would your character rather be extremely successful professionally and have a tolerable yet unexciting private life, or have an extremely happy private life and only a tolerable and uninspiring professional life? (Since so many people place great emphasis on  a happy private life, why do people often wind up putting more energy into their professional lives? If you feel that a private life is more important to your  character, do their priorities support this? Are they simply unwilling to admit that work  is more important? Do they use work as a substitute? Do they hope professional success  will somehow magically lead to personal happiness?)

If your character could wake up tomorrow having gained any one ability or quality, what would it be?

Your character has the chance to meet someone with whom they can have the most satisfying love imaginable — the stuff of dreams. Sadly, they know that in six months the person will die. Knowing that pain that would follow, would they still want to meet  that person and fall in love? What if they knew their lover would not die, but instead would betray them? [In love, is intensity or permanence more important to them? How much do they expect from someone who loves them? What would make them feel more betrayed: Their mate’s indifference? Dishonesty? Infidelity?]

Does your character prefer being around men or women? Do their closest friends tend to be men or women?

Would your character be willing to murder an innocent person if it would end hunger in the world? [Would it torment them more to have the blood of an innocent person on their hands or to know they let millions of people die? What do they think of people who achieve great things by compromising their principles? Many are willing to give their own lives but  not to take the life of another; is anything so important they would sacrifice their very  soul for it?]

If your character knew there would be a nuclear war in one week, what would they do?

What is the greatest accomplishment of your character’s life? Is there anything they hope to do that is even better?

What would be the one material item your character would save during a fire?

Your character is offered $1,000,000 for the following act: before them are ten  pistols only one of which is loaded. They must pick up one of the pistols, point it  at their forehead, and pull the trigger. If they can walk away they do so a millionaire.  Would they accept the risk?

If your character could choose the manner of their death, what would it be? [Would they die a hero’s death, die a martyr to some great cause, die in a natural catastrophe, or die peacefully? Why is it so tempting to have death catch us in our sleep?]

How forgiving is your character?

When your character tells a story, do they often exaggerate or embellish it? If so, why?

How much does your character feel in control of the course of their life?

Is it easy for your character to ask for help when they need it? Will they ask for help?

Would your character like to be famous? In what way?

What are your character’s most compulsive habits? Do they regularly struggle to break those habits?

What does your character strive for most in their life: accomplishment, security, love, power, excitement, knowledge, or something else?

How easily embarrassed is your character?

Does the fact that your character has never done something before increase or decrease its appeal to them?