

Character Design Assignment: Monsters Inc. By Alexis Larson

Character Keywords: Upper class, Snob, Fresh Faced Rookie, Stuck-in-his-ways

Design: Raven, Moray Eel, & Moth

Brief Story:

Arthur McPhearson (Nickname: Art, though he dislikes this nickname) is from a prominent "scaring" family, who puts a lot of pressure on Art to live up to the reputation. Art pushed himself hard, graduated with honors in scaring, and gets hired at Monster's Inc (a few years after the events of MI 1). His attitude towards others is quite snobbish, as he believes he deserves more and that he is a better scarer than his graduating class, (not realizing that the profession has changed significantly). Art struggles with adapting to MI's new direction of operation, because he was trained to be a scarer, not a comedian.

His story arc follows his conflict with Sully & Mike as mentors, how he butts heads with them, about his status & their methods. An adventure ensues in which Boo (now a few years older) returns to the MI dimension to get Sully's help when her baby brother disappears into his closet. The CDA (Child Detection Agency) recruit's Sully to locate Boo's brother (who they have had reports of is loose in the city), while Sully recruits Art to keep Boo hidden from the CDA. Art becomes a prime suspect of having brought Boo's brother into the MI dimension. He has to simultaneously hide Boo from the CDA, help Sully locate her brother & clear his name in order to not be disowned by his family. Art's attitude & opinion changes as he gets to know Boo, and helps her, Mike & Sully find her brother.

In Depth Story:

Arthur McPhearson is the only son of a prominent "scaring" family, who developed the technology of the dimensional doors used to visit the human world. As such, Arthur has a family image to uphold both in the realm of technology, and the field of scaring. Even though this reputation comes with a free pass into university, and following that, a career, Arthur still has to push himself to prove he can live up to the family name, and thus the story opens with Arthur pulling all nighters until he graduates with honors in scaring, just as the events of Monster's Inc (the original movie) are concluding.

With Watnoose locked away for his crimes, Arthur finds himself hitting road bumps for the first time in his life on the way to becoming a top scarer; he insists on handling it himself with no interference from his family. With the shift in operations and management, Arthur is too ashamed to admit that he didn't get a job with MI right out of university. He lies to his family and friends for a couple of years, leading them to believe that he works at MI, though in reality, he just leaves the house "for his shift" and goes to a town over to work a meager cashier job.

But Arthur is persistent and sends in applications constantly to MI, and finally he gets a job offer at MI. Starting out at his new job, Arthur's attitude towards the other scarers is quite snobbish; in his mind, he deserves this more than any of them. But, he hadn't realized the profession had significantly changed since the events after MI 1. He struggles with adapting to the new direction: he was trained to be a scarer, not a comedian!

After multiple incidents where Arthur stubbornly scares the children rather than making them laugh, his supervisor recruits Mike & Sully to mentor Arthur; They literally wrote the book on the new methodology of Monsters Inc's power generation practices. The trio butts heads as the training goes on; one evening after work hours Sully tries to explain to Arthur why the job changed. Arthur doesn't want to hear it, and storms away.

That same evening, an incident occurs at the MI facility, and a door is somehow opened from the human side. While still at the facility, Sully is trying to discuss with Mike how to deal with Arthur, when to his surprise, Boo (now a couple years older) sneaks into his office. There is a heartfelt reunion between them; though Mike is apprehensive. Boo explains that she was playing hide and seek with her baby brother, when she followed him into the monster dimension through his closet and she wants Sully's help to find him.

While this is happening, Arthur is packing up to leave for the evening, when he thinks he spots a human child in the MI facility, and he calls the CDA in a panic. Soon, the CDA's operatives bust into MI, but there doesn't seem to be a trace of a human in the locker room where Arthur claimed he saw the child. Mike arrives on the scene to find out what is going on. The CDA team asks to speak with Sully, and Mike has to lead the CDA team on a bit of goosechase while Sully sneaks Boo out of the facility in a terrible make-shift monster costume. Sully and Boo run into Arthur who is on his way out. Sully convinces Arthur to take Boo to his apartment while he deals with a "work emergency."

While the CDA is being run in circles by Mike, they do happen upon a mess that sets off their detection equipment as being from a child. This leads them to recruiting Mike, and Sully when he returns from the showers (his excuse for not being in his office and so he could clean off anything that might set off their sensors), to help in locating the escapee child. However, worried about Boo, Sully puts Mike in charge of working with the CDA, and excuses himself. The CDA's equipment goes nuts when in the locker room, leading them to Arthur's locker. Within, they find a strange device that looks like the tech that allows the dimensional doors to operate, but on a hand-held scale.

During this, Arthur has gone ahead with driving Boo to Sully's apartment; as it's dark inside, Boo is too nervous to enter on her own. Arthur goes to turn on the lights, but his tail catches on her poor disguise, pulling it off and revealing the human underneath. Sully arrives on the scene, to witness Arthur freak out, and try to scare Boo away from himself. After a tense argument, Sully is able to convince Arthur to not call the CDA, to help find Boo's brother, and to formulate a plan for the next day.

But, the next day, Arthur wakes up to a call from Sully, telling him that he cannot come into work. That the CDA was looking for him, and he is now the prime suspect of having allowed the dimensional door to be accessed from the human side (the hand-held door device pointing towards him). Sully offers Arthur to hide in his apartment, where Arthur can help by keeping Boo out of trouble. Arthur hesitantly agrees, but as he watches Boo, she tells him all she can remember of her first time in the monster dimension. They bond over their experiences of the MI facility, for him, it being a dream goal, and for her, a dream memory.

While Boo takes a nap, Arthur turns on the TV, where the new channels are reporting on a "door malfunction" at the Monster's Inc facility inducing the lockdown. He realizes that if word gets out, his family's reputation will be ruined. He cobbles together disguises for both Boo and

himself, and they sneak into the MI facility. They get to Sully's office, only to have someone drop from the ceiling onto Arthur from above. A scuffle ensues, as Arthur wrestles with whoever is attacking him and he is just able to come out of top, pinning down his assailant. The commotion brings Sully rushing over (while Mike distracts the CDA team) to see Arthur revealed from his disguise, and a raggedy, half-crazed Randall restrained beneath him.

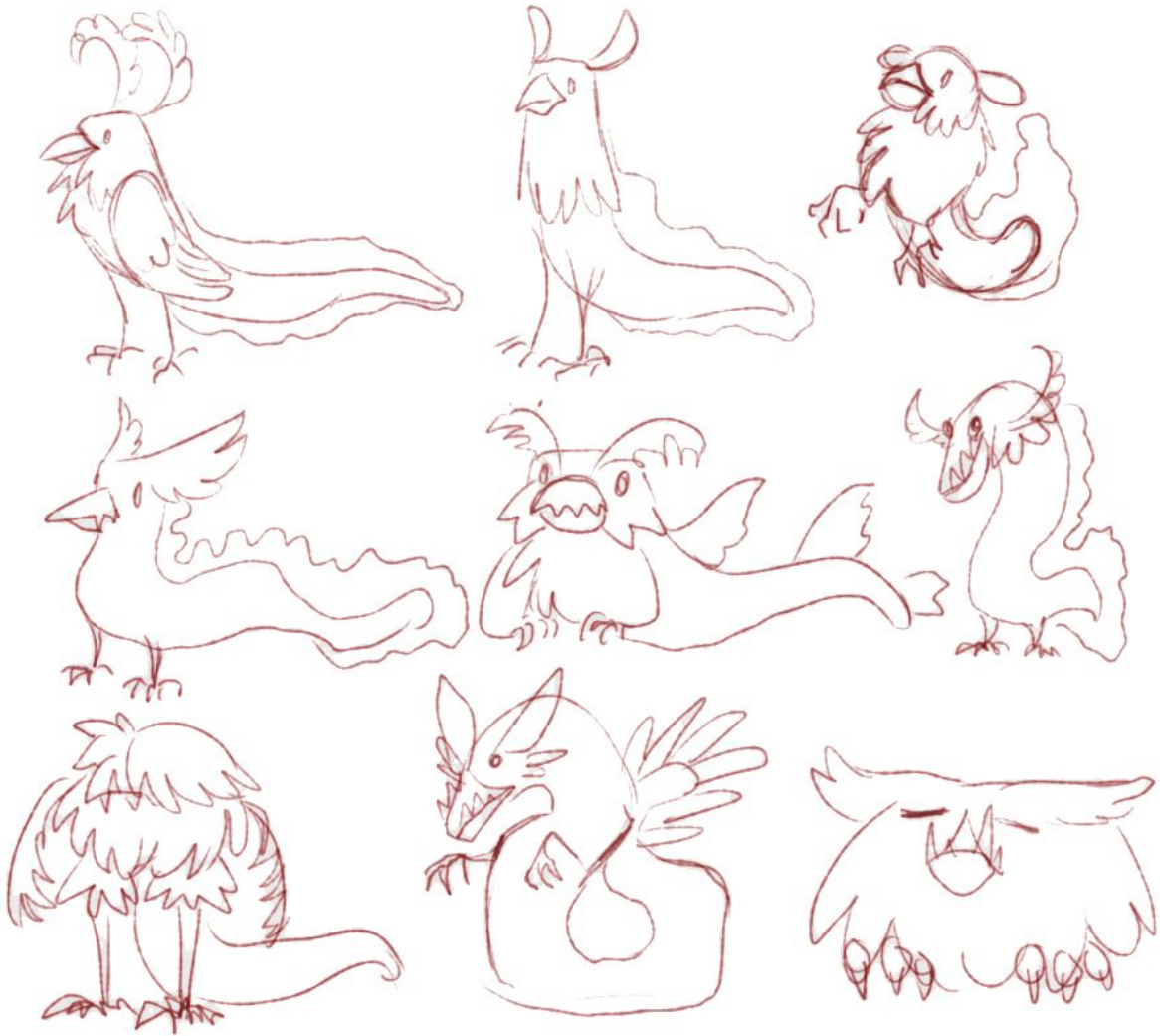
In a twist of events, Randall had spent the past few years tracking down Boo's home while also piecing together a trigger that could open the dimensional door from the human side. After becoming stuck on the human side, he had become fixated on the task he had tried to carry out in MI 1 (kidnapping children for scream extraction), and it was the only thing he could think about. So Randall had hid, unknowingly in her brother's closet rather than hers, and when he tried to lure her in, her baby brother had entered instead. After crossing the dimensional opening, Randall hid Boo's brother in the hidden rooms with the Scream Extractor. When he saw Sully had been promoted, he decided to hide in his office to exact revenge on him, at which point, Arthur had walked into his trap.

Sully trusses up Randall, promising to clear Arthur's name, while Arthur takes Boo to go find her brother. Sully hands Randall over to the authorities, claiming that he was the source of the contamination (expressly omitting the presence of any human children on the premises). The CDA takes Randall into custody, and begins a clean up operation of the MI facility.

Arthur and Boo make it down into the hidden passages, where they find her brother napping peacefully. As they approach, he wakes up and is frightened by Arthur's appearance. For the first time, Arthur feels regret for scaring a child, and he tries to calm Boo's brother. Boo joins in, showing that Arthur isn't scary, by booping Arthur's beak, and her brother's nose. They are able to calm him, and Arthur escorts the pair back through the tunnels, where Mike is waiting for them at the exit. Mike shepherds the trio to a cleaning closet, where he has Boo's pieced together door operational. Arthur ruffles Boo's hair as they say their farewells, but Boo is distracted, hoping to see Sully before she has to go. Mike doesn't like the idea of lingering, and tries to hurry the human children along their way. Arthur takes Boo's brother across the dimensional door first, depositing him in Boo's room. As he returns, he sees Sully arrive just in time to give Boo a good hug, and then allow Arthur to take her hand and lead her back to the human side.

The story wraps up with Sully calling Arthur in to dismantle Randall's handheld dimensional trigger, for which the CDA commends Arthur, allowing him to clear his name before his family can even find out he was a suspect of a crime. As Arthur starts the next day at work, he acknowledges to Sully and Mike that he finally "gets it" and he gets to work to make his assigned children laugh, ending each assignment with a boop on the nose.

Thumbnails:



Emphasizing Silhouette



Creatures:

- Raven
- Moray Eel
- Moth



Character Study:



Lineart Test:



Color Test:



In Progress 3D Test:

