

## WRITER'S CHARACTER SHEET – BENJI FAROUK

**NAME:** Benjamin "Benji" Farouk

**AGE:** Mid-20s

**PRONOUNS:** He/Him

**ETHNICITY:** Middle Eastern (Christian minority background)

**NATIONAL ORIGIN:** Immigrant family; fled religious persecution

**CURRENT RESIDENCE:** Los Angeles, California (VSI-owned apartment)

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**ROLE IN STORY:** Sandra Warren's 24/7 personal assistant. One of the only characters with real access to both her public and private selves. A bridge between VSI's hyper-elite machinery and grounded humanity. Quietly emotional core of her scenes.

**INTRODUCTION SCENE:** Beach scene in Series 3, Episode 2 ("The Shoreline Pause") where he finds Sandra decompressing alone and humanizes her through non-intrusive care and emotional parity.

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### KEY CHARACTER TRAITS:

- Dry, sardonic humor
- Deep loyalty masked with casual attitude
- Empathetic, grounded, brutally practical
- Unpretentious, lives like he's still working minimum wage

### BEHAVIORAL NOTES:

- Wears shoes indoors, even in elite spaces
- Sits in expensive suits like they're sweatpants
- Drives a base-model car (prefers physical dials over touchscreens)
- Keeps analog routines (paper notes, manual scheduling, physical alarms)
- Has a metal joint case with custom-mixed strains—half for Sandra, half for him

**CULTURAL DUALITY:** Raised by displaced parents who fled a country where Christianity was illegal. Grew up with economic struggle and a strong moral spine. Thrives in chaos, mistrusts ideological extremism, and refuses to flatter wealth.

**POLITICAL & PHILOSOPHICAL OUTLOOK:** More politically right-leaning than his LA environment suggests. Values independence, grit, and loyalty. Dislikes performative wokeness, but also distrusts blind patriotism. Operates from a place of lived, personal ethics, not labels.

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## ARC TRAJECTORY (PLANNED):

- **Early Season (S1–S2):** Seen only briefly or via mentions; background fixture of Sandra's efficiency.
- **Series 3:** Becomes a present character. Offers emotional balance to Sandra as war escalates. Shows unspoken stress and moral questioning.
- **Future Seasons:** Faces a major loyalty test—forced to choose between Sandra and his own line in the sand. May have a quiet breakdown or unexpected hero moment.

## NARRATIVE FUNCTIONS:

- Emotional grounding for Sandra (and the viewer)
  - Occasional audience surrogate: sees power but reacts as a real human
  - Stealth comic relief in elite, serious scenes
  - Represents moral grays and blurred lines in institutional loyalty
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**CASTING VIBE:** Someone like Manny Jacinto (with a less flashy vibe) or Tony Revolori—believable as low-key, smart, and endearing without trying. Has to feel like the only "normal guy" in a world of terrifying sociopaths.

## STYLE & AESTHETIC:

- Custom suits with thrift-store habits
  - Backpack instead of briefcase
  - Late-model economy sedan with aftermarket cupholder hack
  - Always carries snacks (for Sandra too)
  - Never quite fits the aesthetic of the room—but never cares
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## NOTES FOR WRITERS:

- Never write Benji as a lackey or comic sidekick. He's emotionally intelligent, perceptive, and morally independent.
  - His dialogue should cut through elite pomp with grounded logic or dry wit.
  - His presence changes Sandra—he makes her reachable.
  - Explore tension between what he sees, what he ignores, and what he can't unsee.
  - He will not break first—but when he does, it matters.
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**Benji is not a plot device. He is the smoke detector in a room full of gas leaks.**