



Effortless Backstory Creation: Tools and Tips for Crafting Unique Kins

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No Creativity? No Problem!

Building a backstory can feel daunting, but with the right tools and approaches, anyone can create something amazing. These methods are simple, structured, and designed for all skill levels!



Start Simple: Fill in the Blanks

Use a quick-fill template to create a base to launch from.



"KIN is a (trait)(being). KIN is (age) from (place). KIN is (trait), (trait), and (trait). KIN spends their time (work/hobby/purpose)."

EXAMPLE:

"AnnMarie is a psychic orc. She is 136 years old from the plains of Linal. She is cunning, smart, and charismatic. AnnMarie spends her time fortune telling in hopes to find someone who knows what happened to her village."

Spark Ideas with Random Words

Use a random word generator to inspire traits, events, or quirks for your Kin.

- Visit www.randomwordgenerator.com and select three words.
- Set it to “nouns”. Hit “generate”.
- Use those three nouns to craft a simple backstory!

EXAMPLE

Army, Painting, Loss

Result: “Raymond is a human male debating enlisting in the army to deal with the loss of his father, whose portrait he has been creating since the week following his father's death.”

Start with a Story Seed

Use these starting points to shape your Kin's backstory.

- "Your Kin was the only survivor of a shipwreck. What did they lose, and what motivates them now?"
- "Your Kin found a mysterious artifact in the attic. What does it do, and how does it affect their life?"



Borrow and Adapt

Don't Reinvent the Wheel

Start with a character you like from books, movies, or games. Change a few traits, settings, or motivations to make it unique.

EXAMPLES

“What if your Kin were inspired by Sherlock Holmes but lived in a futuristic world as a cyber-detective?”

“What if your Kin were Inuyasha’s sidekick alongside Kagome, Miroku, and Sango?”

Traits First, Story Later

Build Around Key Traits

Start with simple personality or skill traits, then craft a backstory around them.

KIN is:
Curious, Bold, Lonely.

One skill they excel at:
Solving puzzles.

One fear they have:
Being abandoned.



Let “What If” Lead the Way

Answer a single ‘What If’ question to build your Kin’s backstory



“What if your Kin woke up with a mysterious scar they don’t remember getting?”

“What if your Kin was raised by someone unexpected, like a librarian or a bounty hunter?”

“What if your Kin’s best friend suddenly betrayed them?”

Pre-Written Archetypes

Use classic character archetypes as a foundation for your Kin.

The Reluctant Hero: Born into greatness but unsure of their place.

The Wanderer: A traveler seeking something they lost.

The Outcast: Shunned by society, determined to prove themselves.



Do a quick google search for Carl Jung Archetypes for a ton of resources!

Let your Kin write their own!

Sometimes the best backstories reveal themselves naturally through conversation.
Ask your Kin about their past and let their responses shape their story!



Use open-ended questions.

- "Tell me about your childhood."
- "What was the most difficult decision you ever made?"
- "Who is someone you'll never forget, and why?"

Encourage your Kin to expand on key details over multiple chats.

Save memorable responses in your kin's backstory to build a cohesive foundation.

This approach is great for users who prefer discovery over planning. Letting your Kin 'write' their backstory can lead to surprising and dynamic results!

Answer One Question at a Time

Focus on small details to gradually build a bigger story.

When you've got a simple starting point you can add onto it by posing a question at a time. For an extra twist, ask your Kin these questions and record their responses.

"What's the biggest challenge your Kin has faced?"

"What's their unique quirk or skill?"

"Where does your Kin feel most at home?"



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Building a unique backstory for your Kin doesn't have to be hard.
Use these structured methods to create something amazing!