

= Nathan Drake (character) =

Nathan " Nate " Drake (born Nathan Morgan) is the protagonist of the Uncharted video game series , developed by Naughty Dog . He appears in all five games : Uncharted : Drake 's Fortune , Uncharted 2 : Among Thieves , Uncharted 3 : Drake 's Deception , Uncharted : Golden Abyss , and Uncharted 4 : A Thief 's End . He also appears in the motion comic prequel series Uncharted : Eye of Indra . He is played by actor Nolan North , who influenced Drake 's personality by adding segments of the character 's dialogue .

Naughty Dog based Drake 's appearance and personality on daredevil Johnny Knoxville , actor Harrison Ford , and the heroes of pulp magazines , novels and films . To make him relatable , the character was dressed in jeans and a T-shirt , and given an everyman persona ; he is strong-willed , and often jokes and quips . The designers focused on giving him realistic reactions to his environment ; for example , he stumbles while running , barely clears objects during leaps , and recognizes the absurdity of the situations in which he finds himself .

The design and personality of Drake have drawn comparisons to other video game and film characters , such as Lara Croft and Indiana Jones . Many reviewers have called Drake a likable and believable character , and have noted that he is a rare example of a physically attractive character who is not over-sexualized .

= = Character design = =

Illustrator and designer Kory Heinzen worked on pre-visualization , concept and character design on the video game Uncharted : Drake 's Fortune , developed by Naughty Dog . Heinzen 's initial concept differed from the finished character . The production staff drew inspiration from the pulp adventure genre when creating the video games in the Uncharted series , and based Drake on the stereotypical characters of adventure films and novels , giving him wit , resourcefulness , and strong principles . Naughty Dog wanted to highlight Drake 's personality through his interactions with the environment during gameplay . To do this , they developed a wide range of animations for Drake , allowing him to display reactions and his snarky disposition in context . These animations were designed to be fluid and believable ; they removed any animation that did not promote this fluidity or took a large amount of time to execute . The blended animation system in the game , with more than 30 animations comprising one movement , was implemented to make Drake a more relatable character .

The Naughty Dog staff looked to several sources in creating Drake . His appearance and charisma were based on actor and daredevil Johnny Knoxville . Lead game designer Richard Lemarchand wanted Drake to reflect the " coolness and goodness " he saw in Knoxville . Series writer Amy Hennig described Drake as a gritty , charming mixture of actors Harrison Ford and Bruce Willis , with additional influence coming from romantic action-adventure heroes , including Cary Grant :

... we even went back to the earliest movie serials , movies from the ' 30s and the ' 50s , and the more recent revivals of the action-adventure genre in the ' 80s , and even recently with movies like National Treasure . There are certain traits that a lot of those characters have in common ? that irreverent , roguish sense of humor , that charm .

Lemarchand listed comic characters Doc Savage and Tintin , as well as Die Hard protagonist John McClane , as inspirations for the character . Drake 's physical prowess was modeled on that of Savage , and his personality inspired by the vibrant color and globetrotting identity of Tintin .

Naughty Dog wanted Drake to embody the everyman archetype . E. Daniel Arey , former Naughty Dog creative director , stated that " there is a fine line between jerk and lovable rogue " , and that they developed Drake to be more human and accessible . " If a hero constantly shows their human side , " said Arey , " we relate and forgive any seeming overconfidence because we 've all been there . " Neil Druckmann , lead designer of Uncharted 2 : Among Thieves , explained that Drake was meant to react to situations in the manner that the average player might . Hennig commented :

... when we set out to do Uncharted , we decided we wanted to tackle one of these beloved action-adventure games in the spirit of this whole tradition . We knew that in order to pull it off , we

had to have a hero who was completely relatable , just a regular guy . So when people saw him and said " Why do I want to play a guy in t @-@ shirt and jeans " that was a deliberate move on our part , to say look , he 's just a guy . He 's just like you and me .

Josh Scherr , leader of the Drake 's Fortune story sequence team , said that they created Drake as an " ordinary guy " with no special powers . Instead , Drake became visibly nervous at times , barely cleared objects while jumping , and stumbled while running . The characterizations were meant to show Drake as a frail character . He is not a master of hand @-@ to @-@ hand combat , and throws punches without style or skill . Sam Thompson , producer of Among Thieves , described Drake 's martial arts abilities as " fallible . " Sony Entertainment of America line producer Sam Thompson mused that Naughty Dog had created iconic characters before , including Crash Bandicoot . With Nathan Drake , however , the company wanted to produce a more average character , one who did not possess the same amount of confidence and who was more realistic and humble .

Nolan North , the voice actor who played Drake , had a large role in defining the character 's physical and vocal reactions . He speaks in a newengland accent . In the Uncharted series , the actors were used for motion capture , and acted as if performing in a movie . Motion capture was done on a soundstage , and the dialog recorded during this process was used in the game . North was allowed to ad @-@ lib dialog and insert aspects of his own personality into the character . In naming the character , the development team considered many different choices , including Ethan , Samuel , and John . Matthew Drake was seriously contemplated , but received a poor reaction from those it was presented to . Eventually , Naughty Dog settled on the name Nathan for its ability to be shortened to Nate , and the perception that it sounded historical . Drake 's character design changed little between Drake 's Fortune and Among Thieves .

= = Attributes = =

= = = Personality = = =

Drake has a distinct personality , as the creators did not want him to appear as a caricature or " cardboard cutout " . Hennig constantly elaborated Drake 's personality through in @-@ game dialogue and interactions with other characters , rather than exclusively through cutaway scenes . Drake reacts to events in a human @-@ like way , often commenting and complaining on the absurdity or difficulty of his situation . While traveling through chapters , Drake frequently makes sarcastic quips and taunts . Self @-@ educated in history and various languages , Drake is also highly intelligent . Matt Casamassina of IGN commented on the character 's interactions during gameplay that reveal Drake 's nature : " it 's lighthearted and amusing , but it also demonstrates that Nate is aware of how absurd his predicaments sometimes are . It 's a small , unimportant communication , but it makes sense that the two would behave exactly as they do . "

Drake says what he is thinking aloud , a feature designed to correlate with the likely thoughts and reactions of the player . Amy Hennig called Drake a " Die Hard guy that gets in there and just takes care of the situation ; ' the fly in the ointment ' . " Drake 's voice actor North was instructed to imbue his own personality into the character .

= = = Outward appearance = = =

Drake 's outward appearance is fairly generic , consisting of a simple white shirt and blue jeans and a gun holster on his back in the first game , and a brown henley in the second . He was deliberately costumed in a simple shirt and jeans to provide a " blank slate " on which the everyman persona could be imposed . The programmers designed a layered @-@ animation system to make Drake 's motions realistic by blending multiple poses and reactions together . This allowed a complex facial and wrinkle mapping system , which provided Drake more human emotional reactions . Drake 's physique is fairly fit , but not overly muscular . Drake 's appearance underwent minor changes in

Uncharted 2 : Among Thieves . Hennig stated that Drake was skinnier than intended in the first game , and thus the designers bulked him up for the second .

Drake 's shirt is always tucked into his pants on only one side , an attribute which commentators have labeled the " half @-@ tuck " . The term , first coined by video game designer Tim Schafer , led to Naughty Dog altering Drake 's appearance to have his shirt almost tucked in from the front , and half tucked in at the back , an inside joke Naughty Dog co @-@ president Evan Wells labeled a " three @-@ quarters @-@ tuck . " The half @-@ tuck was part of a larger effort to ensure Drake 's design was asymmetrical . Tim Schafer commented " It was all super next @-@ gen , but the most next @-@ gen thing about it to me was Drake 's shirt . Check it out : Somehow it 's tucked in , and yet not tucked in , at the very same time . Of all the technical marvels contained in Uncharted , this was the one that really mystified me . "

= = Appearances = =

= = = Main series = = =

= = = = Uncharted : Drake 's Fortune = = = =

In the 2007 video game Uncharted : Drake 's Fortune , Drake tracks a treasure located on a remote tropical island . As the game opens , Drake , accompanied by reporter Elena Fisher , recovers the coffin of his (then assumed) ancestor Sir Francis Drake , which he located from coordinates inscribed on a family heirloom : a ring Drake wears around his neck . The coffin contains Sir Francis Drake 's diary , which gives the location of El Dorado . Pirates attack and destroy Drake 's boat , but Drake 's friend Victor Sullivan rescues the two . When Sully and Drake follow the diary to the indicated spot , they learn that El Dorado is a large golden idol that the Spanish had tried to remove from the island centuries ago . After finding a U @-@ boat , mercenaries led by Gabriel Roman intercept Drake , Fisher and Sully . Sully is shot but Drake manages to escape to an island where Sir Francis Drake 's diary claims the idol is located . On the way to the island , anti @-@ aircraft fire forces Elena and Drake to bail out of the airplane and they are separated . Drake heads toward an old Spanish fort to find Elena . Though briefly captured , Drake and Elena reunite and flee to the old customs house on the island . There they find that Sully has survived his gunshot wound . Drake discovers that the idol is located near the custom house , and finds and rescues Sully . Drake realizes that the idol is cursed , and that it turned the Spanish and Kriegsmarine searching for it into zombified monsters . Drake attempts to stop Roman from removing the idol from the island , and arrives in time to see Atoq Navarro , a man hired by Roman , find the statue . Navarro tricks Roman into becoming cursed . Drake then jumps onto the statue and rides it as it is airlifted onto a boat in the bay . There he defeats Navarro and manages to sink the idol to the bottom of the ocean . Sully arrives and Elena and Drake leave the island with several chests of treasure , after displaying affection towards each other .

= = = = Uncharted 2 : Among Thieves = = = =

Drake returns as the protagonist of Uncharted 2 : Among Thieves in 2009 . A wealthy benefactor hires Drake , Harry Flynn , and Chloe Frazer to steal a small lamp from a Turkish museum . Drake and Chloe , having dated in the past , renew their romance behind Flynn 's back . Once in the museum , Flynn betrays Drake and Drake is imprisoned . Drake theorizes that the true goal of the theft was to discover the location of Marco Polo 's lost fleet . Flynn brings the information obtained from resin found in the lamp to his employer , war criminal Zoran Lazarevic , who seeks the Cintamani Stone that the fleet was supposedly transporting . Once Chloe and Sully secure Drake 's release , Drake follows Lazarevic , and discovers that the fleet did not possess the stone , but had clues to the location of Shambhala . Drake travels to Nepal to find the next clue , although Lazarevic

has initiated a civil war in the region in order to find the temple containing the clue . In the city , he finds Elena and her cameraman Jeff , the latter of which is executed by Lazarevic . Drake pursues Lazarevic and then discovers the key to Shambhala , but the train they are traveling on explodes , leaving Drake stranded . Drake loses consciousness after finding the key (a K?la) and awakens in a Tibetan village . Here , he finds Karl Schäfer , an SS officer who had led an Ahnenerbe expedition to Shambhala , though he had killed them all to stop the Nazis from obtaining the power in the city . Tenzin , a man who speaks no English , leads Drake through an ice cave , where they are attacked by giant horned monsters . Lazaravic attacks the village , kidnapping Schäfer . Drake and Elena track Lazaravic to a monastery , where they find the entrance to Shambhala . Once inside , they discover that the monsters are guardians of the city . Drake and Elena are apprehended by Lazaravic but escape him when the guardians attack . Drake confronts Lazaravic at the Tree of Life , the sap of which comprises the Cintamani stone . Drake wounds Lazaravic , leaving the guardians to kill him , and returns to the village , where he and Elena kiss and begin a relationship .

== = Uncharted 3 : Drake 's Deception == =

2011 's third installment of the franchise , Uncharted 3 : Drake 's Deception , has Drake searching for the lost city of Iram of the Pillars , located in the Rub ' al Khali Desert . During the gap between the two games , Drake and Elena married , but then became estranged and are now separated . It is revealed in this game that Drake 's past is more mysterious than the player is led to believe . It eventually transpires that Drake is not his real last name (his real last name , Morgan , is not revealed until Uncharted 4) and he was raised in a Catholic orphanage from the age of five . His mother committed suicide and his father handed the child over to the state . He ran away from the orphanage and travelled to Colombia , where , at the age of 14 , he acquired Francis Drake 's ring (which he has referred to as a family heirloom in the first game) by stealing it from a museum . This led to him teaming up with Victor Sullivan for the first time . With the assistance of Sully , Chloe , and Charlie Cutter , Nate steals valuable historical clues from a mysterious organization led by Katherine Marlowe and her assistant Talbot . They travel to France and Syria where they find clues leading them to Yemen , where Drake reluctantly enlists the help of Elena . They find a celestial map that shows the location of Iram . However , Sully is kidnapped by Marlowe and Talbot , prompting Drake to save him by boarding one of Marlowe 's cargo planes . The plane crashes in the Rub ' al Khali after a shoot @-@ out ensues but Drake survives . After wandering the desert for days , a group of horsemen , led by Salim , rescue Drake and take him back to their encampment . Salim explains to Drake they must stop Marlowe and Talbot from reaching the lost city so they will not get their hands on the hallucinogenic power of the Djinn . Drake and Salim rescue Sully from Marlowe 's caravan and reach the city . Drake and Sully destroy the winch pulling the brass vessel containing the Djinn from the waters causing the whole city to collapse . Marlowe is killed in quicksand and Drake shoots Talbot before he can stab Sully . Drake and Sully escape the sinking city and reunite with Elena back at Yemen . Drake and Elena appear to resolve their marriage and they fly back home on their new sea plane .

== = Uncharted 4 : A Thief 's End == =

The fourth and final entry in the Uncharted series , Uncharted 4 : A Thief 's End , was showcased at E3 2014 , during Sony 's press conference . A trailer features a wounded Drake washing ashore an island . He rises , grabs his gun , and checks its ammo before walking into a jungle @-@ like area , as the camera pans to show hanging cages with skeletons inside . The trailer also features a conversation between Drake and Sully , where Drake asks for Sully 's help , having seemingly just laid out a plan . Sully warns Nate against it , but Nate responds that he has no choice , and asks if he can count on Sully one last time , who confirms that he can . A Thief 's End takes place three years after the events of Drake 's Deception . Drake has retired from fortune hunting , and is seemingly still married to Elena , as he still wears his ring in the trailer , but is dragged back into the profession by his estranged older brother , Sam Drake (voiced by Troy Baker) , after the latter

discovers a lead to the semi @-@ mythical anarchist colony of Libertalia and with it , the possible location of the treasure stolen by the legendary pirate captain Henry Avery .

= = = Other games = = =

Drake stars in 2012 's Uncharted : Golden Abyss , which is released on Sony 's PlayStation Vita . The game 's events take place sometime before those of Drake 's Fortune , though developers have stated that it is not a prequel to Drake 's Fortune but rather a separate original story . Nathan Drake was also on the shortlist for being a guest character in Street Fighter x Tekken , however the idea was scrapped .

Drake is a playable character in PlayStation All @-@ Stars Battle Royale . Nathan 's rival in the game is Sly Cooper , the reason being that Drake found pages of Sly 's book the Thievious Racoonus and at the start of his storyline was on a desert island with Sully similar to that found on Uncharted 2 : Among Thieves . When Drake reaches the boss arena , he starts to decipher the pages of the Thievious Racoonus , then Sly appears and explains he 's the rightful owner of the pages that Nathan possesses . Drake refuses and Sly mocks his abilities in an attempt to intimidate him , as a result Drake responds insultingly and the two battle . After defeating the boss in the game , Nathan returns to the same island as before and using the All @-@ Star Power he obtained from the boss , he greatly enhanced Sully 's plane , as the screen turns to black , Drake randomly says ' I punched a chicken ' .

= = = In other media = = =

Uncharted : Eye of Indra is a 2009 prequel series of motion comics . Their events occur before the first game , but the series was released after the second . In order to raise the money to find Sir Francis Drake 's coffin , Nathan Drake works for an American turned Indonesian crime boss named Daniel Pinkerton . Drake seeks the fabled Eye of Indra in India , where he meets Eddy Raja ? who appears in the first game ? and Drake becomes romantically involved with Raja 's sister , Rika Raja .

= = Merchandise and promotion = =

In 2007 , Sony placed promotional material in Empire stressing Drake 's everyman personality and showcasing his similarity to adventure film characters . Naughty Dog released an airsoft replica of Nathan Drake 's gun , a Beretta 92FS .

Shortly before the 2009 release of Uncharted 2 : Among Thieves , four urban vinyl toys based on Nathan Drake were released . Erick Scarecrow , founder of ESC Toys , designed the dolls in a number of colors ; only 2500 were released worldwide . Reviewers were not enthusiastic about the design , and Luke Plunkett of Kotaku commented , " while none of them have names , it appears there 's Drake , Hellboy Drake , Berlin Nightclub Drake and Radioactive Drake . "

In February 2016 , Naughty Dog announced the release of a 7 @-@ inch Nathan Drake action with articulated joints and an arsenal of gear and accessories . This action figure is being made by the toy company National Entertainment Collectibles Association , also known as NECA .

= = Reception = =

Nathan Drake has attracted mainly positive reviews , many focusing on his likability . Tom Cross of Gamasutra called Drake a " lovable jerk " who is " light , flippant , and just plain fun " , calling him a perfect caricature of a scoundrel . Stephen Totilo of Kotaku remarked that : " the short take is that Nathan Drake has attitude without being a jerk , and he cheerfully but woefully gets in over his head . This helps make him charming rather than annoying . " Comparing Drake to a similar character , Matt Casamassina at IGN claimed : " Nathan Drake , the hero in Naughty Dog 's Uncharted 2 , is more realistic , funny , charming , likable and altogether human in 30 minutes than Leon S. Kennedy

is through an entire career of Resident Evil games . " Rush Frushtick at UGO admitted that Drake may appear to be " a dick " , but that he was " a likable dick " . GamesRadar listed Nathan as one of the 25 best new characters of the decade , contrasting him with characters like Halo protagonist Master Chief and Marcus Fenix of the Gears of War series in that unlike them , Drake is never in control of the situation . Empire also included Drake on their list of the 50 greatest video game characters , ranking him as 22nd . Nathan Drake is also seen as a PlayStation mascot .

Commenting on Drake 's " everyman " persona , Tom Hoggins of the Daily Telegraph called the character 's vulnerability " endearing " , while Chad Sapieha of The Globe and Mail labeled him " one of the most expressive video game characters ever created . " However , Ben Kuchera of Ars Technica criticized the " everyman " persona , stating that Drake was like numerous other characters , and lacked individuality . Develop 's Owain Bennallack further criticized Drake 's blandness , doubting whether a player could adequately describe him as a character . Dan Hsu of Bitmob wrote that , though other characters like Master Chief may stand out more , Drake came across as an " old pal " .

Drake 's physical attractiveness has been another area of commentary , with at least one reviewer declaring a man crush for him . Drake has been described as " dreamy " , and a " handsome , charismatic hero . " Claudia Black , voice of Chloe Frazer from Uncharted 2 : Among Thieves , admitted having a crush on Drake as well . Drake has been cited as an example of a male character who , while attractive , is not over @-@ masculine . One commentator pointed out : " Very few of our protagonists (Nathan Drake and Alan Wake to name a few exceptions) depict men in what I would call a non @-@ degrading manner . " Steve McGarvey of GameSpy wrote that Drake was : " hardly oozing with machismo compared to the likes of most gaming protagonists " . Drake 's attractiveness drew criticism from Meagan Marie of Game Informer , who stated that he did not : " stand out much among the crowd of other ideally proportioned and intentionally unblemished gaming icons . " GameDaily named Drake the third greatest gaming hunk . GamesRadar named Drake " Mister 2007 " , stating that he was not picked just because they could " stare at his ass for hours on end " , but because he is heroic and has a " winning attitude " . In 2014 , La Nueva España included him the top ten sexiest video game characters of both genders .

The good sales of the Uncharted series and the growing identification of Drake with the PlayStation 3 console have led some to claim he is now a de facto mascot for the PlayStation 3 . Adam Hartley at TechRadar UK claimed , that : " throaty @-@ voiced protagonist Nathan Drake is the rightful heir to the ' PlayStation Hero ' crown " , while Now Gamer claimed Drake as the new PlayStation 3 poster boy . Drake was nominated for the " Most Compelling Character " award at the 2009 Inside Gaming Awards .

= = = Comparisons to other characters = = =

Nathan Drake has been compared to several other video game and film characters , most notably video game adventurer Lara Croft from the Tomb Raider franchise and film character Indiana Jones , due to the similarities between the characters and the narratives they appear in . Johnny Minkley of Eurogamer and Lee Ferran of ABC News called these associations " obvious " and " unavoidable " . In fact , Drake has been called a mixture of the two characters . Drake was hailed as the " new Lara Croft " after the Uncharted series sold well , and his similarity to Croft has earned him the moniker " bloke- " or " dude @-@ raider " . Michael Owen @-@ Brown of the The Advertiser remarked that Drake distinguished himself from Croft with his wit , while director of the Uncharted series Bruce Straley claimed that Drake had equaled Croft in popularity . CBS drew a strict distinction between Indiana Jones and Drake , pointing out that while Jones acts altruistically , Drake is in it for the profits . Avi Arad , producer of a planned Uncharted film , drew a similar conclusion , remarking that while Jones was always good , Drake is not necessarily the good guy . Designer Neil Druckmann stated that he believes Drake stands apart from Jones and Croft . Other reviewers have compared Drake to different characters , including Jack Colton from the film Romancing the Stone . North , who plays Drake , also voices The Prince in the 2008 video game Prince of Persia , and comparisons have been made between the two characters . The Prince has been described as a

rougher , more abrasive form of Nathan Drake .

= = = Comparisons to living people = = =

An article published by Vice Media , which told of the then upcoming release of Uncharted 4 : A Thief 's End , included a lengthy interview with Dr. E. Lee Spence , who was described as " a pioneer in the field of underwater archaeology , a world @-@ renowned treasure hunter , and just about as close to an actual living , breathing Nathan Drake as you 're ever going to find . " In its URL Vice.com billed Spence as the " real Nathan Drake . "