

= Leon S. Kennedy =

Leon Scott Kennedy (??? ? S ? ???? , Reon Sukotto Kenedi) is a fictional character in the Resident Evil horror media franchise by Capcom . He debuted as one of the two playable protagonists of the video game Resident Evil 2 . Leon later returned as the main protagonist of Resident Evil 4 and as one of the six protagonists in Resident Evil 6 . The character was met with positive critical reception .

During the events of Resident Evil 2 , Leon is a rookie police officer who arrives in the doomed Raccoon City late for his first day on the job , only to confront a zombie outbreak first @-@ hand . During the course of the game , he teams up with civilian survivor Claire Redfield , rescues the young Sherry Birkin , and is aided by the mysterious Ada Wong . Six years later , in Resident Evil 4 , Leon returns as a secret agent for the U.S. federal government assigned to rescue the president 's daughter from a sinister cult . In Resident Evil 6 , he continues to work for the U.S. government and reunites with Ada and a grown @-@ up Sherry .

Leon also appears as a player character in several other video games , and has a leading role in two CG animated films : Resident Evil : Degeneration in 2008 and Resident Evil : Damnation in 2012 , in which he is a special agent for the government . The version of Leon in the live @-@ action film series is portrayed by Johann Urb in Resident Evil : Retribution .

= = Appearances = =

= = = In video games = = =

Leon debuted in Resident Evil 2 (1998) , as one of the game 's two protagonists alongside Claire Redfield . In the story , he is a police officer on his first day who arrives in the Midwestern United States town of Raccoon City just after a viral outbreak started . He meets Claire by chance as she is chased by zombies created by the T @-@ virus . Together , they flee towards the Raccoon City Police Department building but soon get separated and go on their own ways . They eventually meet again at the Umbrella Corporation underground research complex responsible for the viral outbreak . Along the way , Leon teams @-@ up with Ada Wong , a mysterious woman eventually revealed as a spy seeking a sample of the even more powerful G @-@ virus . During the final confrontation against the seemingly unstoppable T @-@ 103 Tyrant that constantly pursues the characters , Ada tosses Leon (or Claire , depending on the scenario) a rocket launcher to destroy the creature . In the end , Leon faces and kills the grotesquely mutated Umbrella scientist William Birkin , and escapes from the self @-@ destructing facility along with Claire and Birkin 's young daughter Sherry .

An epilogue obtained after completing Resident Evil 3 : Nemesis reveals that Leon later joined the U.S. federal government . In Resident Evil Code : Veronica (2000) , Claire contacts Leon to relay information to her brother Chris while stuck on Rockfort Island . Resident Evil : The Darkside Chronicles (2009) features re @-@ imaginings of Resident Evil 2 and Resident Evil : Code Veronica ; it also contains a new scenario set in 2002 that involves Leon and the soldier Jack Krauser on a mission to search for Javier Hidalgo , an ex @-@ drug lord who had been reported to do business with Umbrella .

Leon is the protagonist of Resident Evil 4 (2005) . In 2004 , he is a special agent assigned to rescue the U.S. president 's daughter Ashley Graham who is being held somewhere in Europe . Her kidnappers turn out to be part of an evil cult known as Los Illuminados , which has taken control of local villagers using parasites known as Las Plagas . As Leon searches for Ashley , he is captured and injected with the parasite . With help from Ada and the Illuminados researcher Luis Sera , Leon is able to remove Las Plagas from his body and to rescue Ashley while confronting the cult . At the climax of the game , Leon kills the cult leader Osmund Saddler , but is forced to give a Plagas sample to Ada , who escapes in a helicopter , leaving Leon and Ashley to escape on a watercraft .

Leon is one of the protagonists in Resident Evil 6 (2012) , alongside Chris Redfield and Jake

Muller . While the game has four player characters with different storylines , Leon was described as the " main main character " . In the game , he escapes from Tall Oaks , another American town overrun by zombies following a bioterrorist attack that killed the new U.S. president Adam Benford . Leon teams up with fellow survivor and President Benford 's bodyguard , the Secret Service agent Helena Harper , to expose the conspiracy that led to the incident . In the later parts of the game , Leon reunites with a grown @-@ up Sherry Birkin , who has become an operative for the U.S. government 's Division of Security Operations , and the once again returning Ada Wong , and works to save the world from a global outbreak .

Leon also appears in several non @-@ canonical games in the series . He stars alongside Barry Burton in the Game Boy Color @-@ only Resident Evil Gaiden (2001) . Along with Claire , Leon is one of two playable characters in the browser and mobile game Resident Evil : Zombie Busters . In the third @-@ person shooter Resident Evil : Operation Raccoon City (2012) revisiting the Raccoon City incident , the players control Umbrella operatives sent to kill any survivors , and certain actions can lead to Leon 's death . He is also a player character in the " Heroes " mode of this game .

= = = In films = = =

Leon teams up with Claire Redfield in the 2008 computer @-@ animated film Resident Evil : Degeneration in order to stop another outbreak of the T @-@ virus on American soil . He returns in the sequel to Degeneration , Resident Evil : Damnation , where he is sent to investigate the use of the T @-@ virus during a civil war in Eastern Europe . Unlike the live @-@ action film series , the animated films are canonically set in the same universe as the game series , serving as the prequels to Resident Evil 5 and Resident Evil 6 , respectively . Another computer @-@ animated film starring Leon S. Kennedy , Chris Redfield and Rebecca Chambers is slated for 2017 .

In the live @-@ action film Resident Evil : Apocalypse (2004) , a newspaper clipping during the credits stated that Leon was killed due to the actions of his partner Jill Valentine . However , in an interview , director Paul W. S. Anderson said that , if Resident Evil : Afterlife succeeds , he would do a fifth film and would like Leon to make an appearance in it . Leon then appeared as a major character in Resident Evil : Retribution (2012) , " poised to rumble with Bad Rain and the defected Jill Valentine " . The live @-@ action version of Leon is leader of a mercenary group working for Wesker who teams up with the film 's version of Ada to fight Umbrella , save Alice and rescue Jill . At the end of the film , he is one of the characters to survive . He is set to return in the sixth film , Resident Evil : The Final Chapter .

= = = Other appearances = = =

Leon is featured in the 1998 @-@ 1999 manhua Sh?nghuà W?ij? 2 (" Biological Crisis 2 ") . A romantic comedy retelling of the story of Resident Evil 2 , centered on Leon , Claire and Ada , was released in the Taiwanese two @-@ issue comic Èlíng G?b?o II in 1999 . Leon is also a character in the Image Comics comic book Resident Evil , and in the novels Resident Evil : City of the Dead and Resident Evil : Underworld by S. D. Perry . He is set to appear in the crossover video game Project X Zone 2 .

In 2004 , Capcom announced a series of outfits based on Leon 's clothing , called " Leon 's Collection " . Other Leon merchandise include two action figures by Hot Toys , three action figures by NECA , and more from several other manufacturers , including by Palisades Toys , ToyBiz , and Capcom itself . At Halloween Horror Nights 2013 held at Universal Orlando , Leon was featured as one of two main characters in a haunted house called " Resident Evil : Escape from Raccoon City " , based on Resident Evil 2 and Resident Evil 3 : Nemesis .

= = Design and portrayal = =

Leon was created by Hideki Kamiya as a contrast to Chris Redfield from the original Resident Evil ,

who he felt was the " blunt , tough @-@ guy type " . Though Kamiya admitted that while he was a fan of characters like Chris , as it had already been done , he opted to take Leon 's development in a different direction . He was surprised at how popular Leon had become , praising his later evolution into a " cool looking guy " for Resident Evil 4 and adding that he " fell in love all over again " . Leon was created for Resident Evil 2 as the staff wanted to use a character who had no experience with terrifying situations in contrast to using returning protagonists . While he was originally designed as a veteran police officer , he was changed to a rookie after the original version of Resident Evil 2 (popularly known as " Resident Evil 1 @.@ 5 ") had been scrapped . Leon 's design was inspired by the bloodhound of Capcom artist Isao Ohishi .

Leon was announced as Resident Evil 4 's protagonist in November 2002 . As the game was developed , it was intended that Leon would be infected with the Progenitor virus . This concept was expanded upon in 2004 , when Leon was meant to contract a bizarre disease in his fight against the game 's enemies . In a documentary explaining the conception of the game 's characters , it was stated that Leon was intended to " look tougher , but also cool " . His face in Resident Evil 4 was modeled after the game 's animation department director Christian Duerre .

During development of Resident Evil : Degeneration , producer Hiroyuki Kobayashi stated that he would like to make another game starring Leon as the main character . Resident Evil 5 's producer Jun Takeuchi said that the series ' fans " would really love " a video game featuring both Leon and Chris as the protagonists due to their popularity , and at the same time , it would be " pretty dramatic " if the two characters never met before the series would end . Resident Evil 6 's producer Kobayashi took a liking to Leon and decided to include him in the game since " he is central to the story " .

Leon is voiced by Paul Haddad in Resident Evil 2 , by Paul Mercier in Resident Evil 4 , Resident Evil : Degeneration and Resident Evil : The Darkside Chronicles , and by Matthew Mercer in Resident Evil 6 and Resident Evil : Damnation . Mercer described himself as a fan and friend of Mercier and said that he felt honored to take over as the voice of Leon . In an interview , he also detailed his interpretation of Leon and talked about the changes being made to the character . In the Resident Evil 2 commercial directed by George A. Romero , Leon was portrayed by Brad Renfro .

About Johann Urb 's casting in Resident Evil : Retribution , the film 's producer and director Paul W. S. Anderson said , " You have no idea how difficult it is to find someone with Leon Kennedy 's hair [who] has to be manly and has to have these long bangs , " adding that " if you put photographs of them side @-@ by @-@ side , it 's almost like he was manufactured by Capcom . " Anderson said that the decision to include Leon and other game characters in the film was " fan @-@ driven " . Urb mentioned that he learned the video game Leon 's mannerisms from watching clips posted on YouTube , commenting that " he doesn 't have a high @-@ pitched voice . I feel like he talks how I naturally talk , which is kind of slower . " Speaking about the relationship between Leon and Ada , Urb said : " It 's kind of like Mulder and Scully and an X @-@ Files type of deal , where you 're waiting for it to happen , but it never does . Maybe in the next one , I 'm hoping . "

= = Reception = =

Since his appearance in Resident Evil 2 , Leon has had a positive reception . In 2010 , Nintendo Power listed him as their 14th favorite Nintendo gaming hero , stating that he went from a " glorified meter maid with a bad haircut " to a tough guy . In 2009 , GameSpot chose him as one of the 64 characters to compete in their poll for the title " All Time Greatest Game Hero " . In a 2010 Famitsu poll , Leon was voted by readers as the 31st most popular video game character in Japan . In the Guinness World Records Gamer 's Edition from 2011 , he was voted as the 36th best video game character . In 2012 , GamesRadar ranked him as the 11th most " influential and badass " hero in video games . Empire also included Leon on their list of the 50 greatest video game characters , ranking him 44th .

IGN has featured Leon on the list of things they would like to see in Resident Evil 6 , calling him one of the two main characters of the series along with Chris Redfield , and describing him in the article about the best zombie fighters as the " straight @-@ laced hero " of Resident Evil . The IGN

character guide made another comparison between Chris and Leon , calling the latter the " determined guy clawing his way up the ladder " . Gameplanet 's Aylon Herbet wrote that if both Leon and Chris would share starring roles in a Resident Evil game it would be " awesome " , believing both of them to be the main protagonists of the series . In 2010 , GameDaily predicted that Leon , along with Claire Redfield , would be the protagonist of the next main Resident Evil title , citing the series ' pattern of alternating protagonists and Leon 's last such appearance in Resident Evil 4 . In 2013 , GamesRadar staff included Leon among the 30 best characters in the three decades of Capcom 's history , stating that " he 's been battling Chris Redfield for the top spot as resident Resident Evil lead , but to us there 's no contest between the cool , fashionable Leon and the bullish Chris . "

IGN also repeatedly named him a character they wished to see in the crossover fighting series Super Smash Bros. , describing him an " intimidating hero " , a " unique breed of ass kicker " and one of the best things to happen to the Resident Evil series . GamesRadar described Leon 's Resident Evil 4 design as " David Bowie piloting the Memphis Belle " , stating that , while it was appealing , the hairstyle required modifications for encounters in the games . In 2010 , Game Informer chose Leon as one of the 20 Capcom characters they would like to see in a rumored crossover fighting game titled Namco Vs Capcom , his Namco equivalent being Nightmare from the Soul series : " The only man with enough experience and courage to take out this mutated menace is none other than Leon S. Kennedy . We bet this fight ends with a rocket launcher . " In 2011 , Ryan Woo of Complex ranked Leon among the fourth most stylish video game character , opining he the best dressed person in the Resident Evil series and " Jill just looks goofy in comparison . "

Together with Ada Wong , Leon was featured in The Inquirer 's 2007 list of the most memorable video game love teams . In 2011 , " a highly dysfunctional [sic] relationship " between Leon and Ada was ranked the ninth top video game romance by James Hawkins of Joystick Division . According to PlayStation Universe 's Mike Harradence , " we 've seen Kennedy transition from likeable , wet @-@ behind @-@ the @-@ ears love @-@ sick puppy to a wise @-@ cracking , super smooth government agent . " In 2012 , Complex included him on a list of the 25 " douchiest " video game characters for " his sarcastic and moody attitude in RE4 " , adding that , while Leon " stepped it up in the series by maturing and becoming a true hero " , they " enjoyed the game more when Leon didn 't speak . " The character was one of the childhood crushes of MTV 's Kendra Beltran , who in 2013 wrote : " I still can 't forget the rate my heart raced when my eyes set on Leon . I 'm sure you felt and continue to feel the same . " In 2014 , La Nueva España included the " intelligent , quick @-@ drawing and strong " Leon among the top ten sexiest video game characters of both genders , describing him as a " reinforced concrete wall with a porcelain face . "