

# BACKGROUND - AMORAL PRODIGY

You are better at something than almost anyone else you've ever met. You might be great at alchemy, fantastic at playing an instrument, or peerless at blacksmithing. This has brought you a lot of positive attention. Attention which has distracted from your lack of empathy. Some consider you a talented eccentric while others might never see past the facade of your excellence. It is likely that the opinions of others, while expected, may not drive you much at all, except as a cover for your less than savory secret life.

While this background implies an evil alignment, it is entirely possible that a person of lawful good alignment could also lack empathy, and merely seek to do good and obey orders to please others, while going off to pursue untowards hobbies like corpse collection. An lawful good amoral prodigy may likely rationalize these acts as not evil, but for the benefit of man. Consult with your game master about how best to implement this background, and if it is appropriate for the campaign.

**Skill Proficiencies.** Deception, Stealth

**Tool Proficiencies.** Any one tool. Your proficiency with this tool is always doubled. This benefit is not compatible with other abilities that double proficiency.

**Equipment.** An appropriate tool or tool kit, two sets of forged documents meant for creating a new identity, an award related to the tool proficiency, 15 gold, and a black cloak.

## FEATURE: PRESUMED ECCENTRIC/TALENT

You are often given the benefit of the doubt when it comes to your activities and lifestyle. This does not absolve you of suspicion for crimes committed out in the open, but it does deter general suspicion about your personal life. Authorities tend not to search you

or your possessions, and neighbors or acquaintances describe you as odd but harmless. Your appeals to authority over any presumed guilt are more likely to be heard, and your sentences are generally shorter than normal. You also benefit from a higher level of trust, and can often vouch for the innocence of others in cases where evidence is less than clear cut.

A function of this feature is also your prodigious talent, which allows the doubling of your tool proficiency, as noted above.

## SUGGESTED CHARACTERISTICS

Your presence goes largely unnoticed, but you have manifested odd traits as a result of having a lack of empathy. While you may exhibit obviously bad traits behind closed doors, you are adept at keeping those behaviors hidden from others.

### D8 Personality Trait

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | I am impeccably neat, and take great pains to maintain this neatness.            |
| 2 | I only smile when I am practicing my specialty.                                  |
| 3 | I like to whistle eerie little tunes of my own creation.                         |
| 4 | Maintaining eye contact is an issue for me (either too intense, or none at all). |
| 5 | I speak softly and without conviction unless I am by myself.                     |
| 6 | I read as often as possible, usually about my field of specialty.                |
| 7 | I enjoy knife games.   |
| 8 | I am an avid collector of something unusual, such as the toenails of monsters.   |

## D6 Ideal

- 1 Self. I would do anything to be the best at what I do. (Any)
- 2 Knowledge. I would do anything to advance my field of study. (Any)
- 3 Charity. I would kill to improve the lot of my chosen cause. (Neutral)
- 4 Tranquility. Only through hard work can I drown out the noise in my head. (Any)
- 5 Duty. I go the extra mile with my work for the betterment of society. (Lawful)
- 6 Disruption. I strive to upend the system, as it has failed me and my life's work. (Chaotic)

## D6 Bond

- 1 My tools are everything to me, and I can't live without them.
- 2 If I do my work properly, I may be able to see that special someone again.
- 3 The community will love what I do, once they can understand the scope.
- 4 I have a rival who is nearly as good as I am. I'd love to show them up and gain their respect.
- 5 I owe fealty to an authority or greater power, and do my work for them.
- 6 My mentor continues to be impressed with my progress.

## D6 Flaw

- 1 I detest physical contact due to scientific reasons.
- 2 I venerate a god that doesn't exist. I only share this belief with trusted allies.
- 3 I lack moral clarity in moments of anger.
- 4 The world is beneath me, and so is morality. I know I'm hurting others, but they aren't worth the consideration.
- 5 My excellence is derived from a dark arcane secret.
- 6 I am fanatically driven by revenge against one or more people or groups.



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