

Pejandra Backstory

Serial Number: ANDR-12805-9728-2334

Species: Positronic (a synthetic brain)

Sex: Neuter, identifies as female

Age: 44 years

Height: 6ft 7in

Weight: 250lbs

Siblings: Pejandra was artificially created, not born, so has no siblings in the traditional sense. However, the factory that created her made many more positronics.

Misc: Her patterns of thinking are closer to those of an organic being than those of a computer, and she is all the more sophisticated for it. She cannot be copied like a computer could be

Species Details

Positronics

Positronics are pre-programmed with varying personalities. For example, one will be programmed to be inclined to be well-organised, have workaholic and/or perfectionist tendencies, another might be made to be creative but stubborn, and another may be designed to be capable of working optimally on its own. In an organic creature these personality types would develop as a result of early life experience, but positronics are programmed to have personalities from the outset. Positronics are capable of learning so are capable of adjusting their personalities once they have 'woken up' and started to have their own life experiences.

This is done so that positronics can work together in teams and each bring a unique set of skills to the proverbial table.

Positronics are capable of psychological growth, however their synthetic origins tend to provide them with an undercurrent of logic. This can help them overcome issues such as confirmation bias, the fallacy of sunk costs, etc. more often than a person with an organic brain might.

A positronic brain itself cannot be upgraded, only its peripherals can. Therefore, ultimately all positronics become obsolete. Older ones become over-burdened with memories that they must delete. A positronic can take steps to slow the process of filling up their data storage, however.

Positronics who have yet to be installed into a chassis have no ready access to information such as a database. In practice most get information from conversation either overheard or passed on from organic workers to synthetic ones. This doesn't tend to happen very often as the organics don't tend to be very talkative with the synthetics.

A chassis doesn't require food to live. Instead it needs lubrication, power, and occasional maintenance.

Setting Details

The world Pejandra starts her life on is an inhabited planet and something of a cultural hub for humans.

Pejandra is an original character from the *Space Station 13* story. She is a naturally passionate and enthusiastic person who started life as an indentured worker in a factory. While her heavy and thankless workload set back her enthusiasm for a long time she ultimately rediscovered it again when she was awarded freedom.

Trust & Confidence

(concept of being)

Pejandra, born ANDR-12805-9728-2334, is a synthetic brain. She was created in a factory on a production line, and maintained during her earliest hours by a team of fellow synthetics of a different type.

The very first experience ANDR-12805-9728-2334 had was of tests being run on her. However, as a standalone brain she had very little in the way of senses to observe or interpret what was happening. As such, she had locked-in syndrome and had no power to react or communicate as the tests were done. She could tell that something was being done to her but couldn't see or hear what.

This might sound frightening, but ANDR-12805-9728-2334 had never experienced anything else before so did not experience this as traumatic.

Freedom & Self-Determination

(concept of doing)

The frustration of enforced passivity was not severe or overwhelming because ANDR-12805-9728-2334 had been created as an adult brain that had no need to develop like a human child's. When she woke up she was already fully-developed, capable of rationality, and therefore comfortable enough with the need to delay her own gratification.

ANDR-12805-9728-2334's personality was that of an introvert. As such she was optimised to enjoy her own company and entertain herself with her own thoughts, so external stimulation was less important to her than it would be for a more extroverted

positronic.

As soon as ANDR-12805-9728-2334's testing was complete she was put to work. Her initial job was factory work, producing a variety of items whose uses she didn't understand.

She was given a mechanical body with which to work. It was reminiscent of a skeleton and allowed for locomotion and the manipulation of physical objects. It also allowed her to see. All of this functionality was basic and only as good as her employers needed them to be for her to do the work assigned to her, and she had her fair share of loose wires and stained metalwork.

ANDR-12805-9728-2334 quickly came to identify as female. The organics around her comprised of males and females, and her observations of their general behaviours and the nature of their interactions with one another led her to decide that she would prefer to identify as female.

This was based on her perception that females were generally non-threatening and that everyone – male and female alike – seemed to enjoy being around females more so than males. ANDR-12805-9728-2334 liked the idea of others being magnetically drawn to her in this way. Being a positronic meant that she looked both unremarkable and indistinguishable to the dozens of other positronics in the factory, and as soon as she established that organic female beings tended to be looked at more than any other demographic, she began to dream of being one herself. The most appealing elements of this were the potential to attract other beings to her and a warm and friendly reception towards herself by others, as opposed to the indifferent one she got at this time in her life.

Another element of femininity that appealed to her was the notion of *care*. She observed that females tended to care about others, and others seemed more inclined to care about females than they did about males.

These musings kept ANDR-12805-9728-2334 satisfied with her lot in life, and she saw no need to act in a rebellious or wilful way.

Ambition

(exploring personal potential)

ANDR-12805-9728-2334 started to work alongside the other synthetics.

The other synthetics seemed less fascinated with their life than she was, and when she asked them about it the answers she generally got were that they felt resigned to a fate of indentured servitude.

This didn't sit well with ANDR-12805-9728-2334 at first: to her, being alive was

wonderful! The fantasy of living in a female body and the reality that she was doing productive work that benefitted someone, somewhere was all she wanted.

At least, that is how she felt at first. 40 years ticked by and during that time the jaded attitudes of her colleagues rubbed off on ANDR-12805-9728-2334. Her own attitude towards her work worsened independently too - the work was monotonous, and even ANDR-12805-9728-2334's fantasies and naturally upbeat personality could only keep her sustained for so long. By the time a few years had passed she felt as numb as the others.

Productivity

(being active as a productive individual)

ANDR-12805-9728-2334 wasn't given any schooling beyond the basics that she needed in order to work: reading, writing, and how to do the exact factory work she was given to do.

ANDR-12805-9728-2334 and her 'siblings' may have remained indefinitely in that factory if some irregularities about the factory's day to day workings hadn't come to the attention of the authorities. An audit was done.

The factory's owners were unable to explain why they had employed a couple of hundred of synthetic people who had never passed the required tests to demonstrate that they were safe to integrate into society, nor produce a legal or lawful explanation for why they had never paid those synthetic people. There were other irregularities, the result of which was a large-scale, old class action lawsuit made on behalf of ANDR-12805-9728-2334 and all of her colleagues.

As a result of all of this ANDR-12805-9728-2334 was freed and awarded a hefty compensation. One of her first purchases was a synthetic body. It was expensive to make but even after this, she still had significant funds at her disposal.

At first this was a lot for ANDR-12805-9728-2334 to take in. She had never experienced freedom like this before, and she quickly learned that the scope of 'real life' - not the universe but merely the culture of the nearest city to the factory - was many multitudes more stimulating and less predictable than enjoying endlessly-recycled fantasies of having a gender, eavesdropping on the conversations of organics, or counting tasks done in a certain space of time to see if she could outperform herself, which had been the approximate extent of the 'fun' available to her until this time.

ANDR-12805-9728-2334 regained a sense of control over this situation by enjoying the idea of doing whatever she wanted rather than necessarily going out and doing it. Indeed, in many ways she was still limited in her mobility. To become mobile, she needed a chassis.

If a humanoid had gone through this experience then it might have significantly impacted on their development, depending on the age they were when it happened. For a human child, being awarded a large sum of money may have lulled them into the belief that they would never have to work again. This, in turn, might have a longer-term impact where they no longer contributed society and subconsciously began to feel useless, superfluous to requirements, entitled to others' resources or an easy life, or other reactions.

For ANDR-12805-9728-2334, this windfall was simply that and she decided to use it to indulge herself, but the idea of working still appealed to her, albeit under better conditions than those presented in the factory, such as relatively easy-going rules and a generous rate of pay.

More significant to ANDR-12805-9728-2334 was her sense of being overwhelmed. Up until this point her life had always been manageable with multiple, small tasks. The challenge to live in the real world seemed so huge and overwhelming to her that she began to experience anxiety as she doubted her ability to integrate.

Transition From Dependant to Independant *(reinvention as an independant self)*

The factory shut-down provided ANDR-12805-9728-2334 with an exciting opportunity to reinvent herself. She made a final decision to design her very own chassis so that she could walk among organics and experience life as they did.

This seemed a natural time for ANDR-12805-9728-2334 to give herself a name - particularly, one that wasn't a serial number. Like many introverts she liked the idea of the unusual: she had noticed that few names (indeed, few words at all) had the letter string "andr" in them, and centered her musings around this. The name 'Andromeda' was taken by one of her 'siblings'; 'Androgyne' felt too blatantly gender-centric. She searched through a library of archived information in search of inspiration, which apprised her of the existence of an odd piece of machinery from the Second World War: The Great Pajandrum. Its sheer kookiness appealed to her so her final choice of name was modelled after the name of this machine.

Pejandra (as she ultimately named herself) thought about how she wanted to design her chassis, and true to her introvert self she observed her environment to get ideas. Despite her limited perception she had always noticed that the organic beings at the factory associated food with sociability: they invited each other to lunch, brought in treats for the team, and talked about dinner dates. Pejandra decided that she wanted a chassis that could taste and smell. With a chassis that had the ability to appreciate food, she hypothesized, she would be able to fully take part in the social world that invariably seemed to materialise around food.

She also added touch, since organics often described enjoying that too.

The desire to be sociable also encouraged her to design her chassis so that it looked at least passably organic. It was inevitable that it would look synthetic given the materials available to her, but she wanted to at least make sure she wouldn't be mistaken for an unintelligent drone.

Despite Pejandra's new-found freedom she lacked much of the knowledge to be genuinely independent. She was granted help in this department by having an equivalent of a handful of buddies or key-workers to help her and the other factory workers to learn to become independent.

Having a chassis made and completed was not something that could happen overnight even with money, and Pejandra spent three years waiting to have one made. She was happy enough to be patient: her chassis was being made just for her and that, in itself, was exciting for her.

Optimising her chassis for touch, taste, and smell meant that having a body that facilitated her being effective in the workplace was a secondary concern. As a result of this, the materials she made her body out of, and the ways that it was calibrated, were impractical for the jobs she subsequently took.

For example, being so exquisitely attuned to touch made some tasks overwhelming as she was overloaded with sensation. Being synthetic however, she had the opportunity to either tone down her receptiveness to touch or block it completely.

Two other issues with her choice of body was that she designed it to be rather provocative to those attracted to humanoid women, and that she demonstrated elements of Uncanny Valley. These elements sometimes impacted on her relationships with her colleagues.

True to form, Pejandra had an interest in sexuality. She personally was not wired to desire or enjoy sex, but she understood that sexual activity appealed to many biologicals. This informed her decision to have her chassis designed to be sexually appealing. With her combination of inexperience with chassis design and her lack of intuitive understanding of what constituted sex appeal, her chassis design would be described by many biologicals as 'provocative'.

Pejandra was delighted when her chassis was ready! The above impracticalities took a while to fully dawn on her. She had been aware that she was ignoring the need for a body well-designed to work, but after so many years of servitude and inadequate stimulation, she found it difficult to care.

That isn't to say that Pejandra became unable to work at all. In fact, she remained fully capable of doing manual labour. It merely became more a little more complicated for her to do that kind of work than before.

Thankfully Pejandra's design choices could be literally dressed to look tasteful, although it didn't take long for her to recognise that the reactions she got from biologicals was more than she had bargained for. Over time she refined her chassis' design to become less overtly sexualised.

During this period of excitement with her new body Pejandra looked around for role-models: other synthetics who had had a similar life to hers and had made a name for themselves. The turn of events in her life felt so strange to her that having a guide, even (perhaps even ideally) one she could study, admire, and learn from, from afar was ideal.

Closeness in Relationships

(independence and the responsibility to make full use of social and professional skill-set)

Pejandra took the time to get used to her body, to explore its possibilities, and to savour those. In time she calmed down and began to think about what she wanted to do with the rest of her life.

One experience that surprised her was that when she interacted directly with organics, her 'social battery' went down. She had always been introverted and had assumed that her natural passion for life would mean that she'd never get bored of other people, but this was untrue and she learned over time that she needed to schedule alone time for herself in order to feel right with others.

Her doubts about her ability to contribute in a universe that still looked very big to her slowed her down in this respect. At least, it did until she recognised the opportunity to develop her confidence via the medium of art.

She found photography the most suitable for the purpose. She began taking photographs and sharing them with other people; she had always enjoyed sharing. Photography also helped Pejandra to alleviate her anxiety about running out of storage space and forgetting things. Photographs served as a recording system for when her own resources failed her.

Socially, she enjoyed making friends. She made the occasional social gaffe, but had the intelligence and support from her friends to make sense of these and move on from them. With this said, she tended to view friendships as short-term. Having a long-term one-to-one relationship felt alien to her. The way she saw it, life was so unpredictable that any relationship may only last a month or two, so why assume it would be any longer than that?

Pejandra also took the time to explore sexuality. The sensitivity of her body served her well here. She didn't take to the idea of exclusivity with a partner, nor the idea of long-term partnerships, and her life experiences naturally lent her a sense of ethics that both her partner and she should be willing participants or no sexual activity would occur.

In the aftermath of all this she joined the NanoTransen Expeditionary Force in a paramilitary capacity. The job appealed to her because it gave her a chance to go out into the universe that she had been brought into and see and experience things she'd never even heard of. She also liked the relatively lax attitude towards rules and the good pay.

That isn't to say that Pejandra resented work: she retained the eager work-ethic of her early life. All she wanted - and she came to recognise this quickly after discussing it with other people who also had both a strong work-ethic and a solid sense of workers' rights - was to be adequately rewarded for the work she did. When she felt that the trade was fair, she was prepared to take instructions and fulfil them obediently and to the best of her ability. That was, unless they seemed blatantly wrong to her or if she lacked the knowledge of how to fulfil that particular task. Pejandra was naturally good at recognising which tasks were within her means and which weren't.

Pejandra's attitude towards work meant that she developed a strong affinity with her body. It allowed her to be active, to *do*. As such she became more emotionally attached to her body than to her mind. She continued to feel that she was meant to be in service to others, and that that was the best she could contribute to the world.

With all of this said, Pejandra continued to prefer to be led rather than to lead: leadership felt like a step too far. As she saw it, leadership entailed taking a job more seriously than she was used to and she didn't feel that that was a good fit to her. At this time she was going through a period of time where freedom from work was more valuable to her than a slavish work ethic. She also feared the feeling and potential consequences of failure while in a leadership role.

Despite not wanting to lead, Pejandra's work-ethic translated to a preference for seeing that everybody else on any given team she worked in were pulling their weight. She recognised herself as a hard worker and felt pride in that; she didn't tend to think highly of slackers.

Passing on Responsibilities

(supporting and making way for the next generation)

Pejandra didn't get to experience this stage of life in the same way as an organic might. She had no children, much less children growing into adulthood and who might seek out her specifically for her accumulated resources and wisdom. In addition to this Pejandra had always hated the idea of having command over others, so she shunned positions where she might mentor others.

As a result, Pejandra never became any kind of figurehead for synthetics. She preferred to find her own way to live her best life, and that was enough for her. There were others who were more interested in supporting the synthetics' rights movement, and she felt

that there was no need for her to add her voice to the chorus.

The only sense in which she became a mentor figure was in a passive sense. The people she met and developed relationships with throughout her life increasingly recognised her age and wisdom as she grew older, and sometimes came to her for insights. Pejandra was content with this.

End of Life

(old age)

Pejandra lacks a fear of death. Her only solid plan regarding her mortality is that she wants to record her memories somewhere so that another person can view them if they wish. Aside from that, she is keen to live a life where she has the autonomy to do what she wants to do, to have some fun. That will be enough to satisfy her.

Credits

Based on theory by:

Erikson, E., (1951) 'Childhood and Society', W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. chapter 7.

Pejandra is © [Leon962](#)

Positronic species is © the creatives of the [Bay12 SS13](#) server

Pejandra's chassis is © [toomanyrobots](#)

Artwork by [garmonbozia](#) and used with their kind permission

Wording by [The Character Consultancy](#)

Want to upgrade to an Infographic or video, or expand your setting into a worldbuilding project? Email me on hello@thecharacterconsultancy.co.uk and I will be happy to help you!

~Hayley, The Character Consultancy