

D&D WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS

**ABILITIES
RACES
CLASSES
SKILLS
BACKGROUND**



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CHARACTER ABILITY SCORES & SKILLS

PHYSICAL ABILITIES

STRENGTH

DEXTERITY

CONSTITUTION

MENTAL ABILITIES

INTELLIGENCE

WISDOM

CHARISMA



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CHARACTER RACES

DWARF
ELF
HALFLING
HUMAN
DRAGONBORN
GNOME
HALF-ELF
HALF-ORC
TIEFLING



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DWARF



CONSTITUTION +2
SPEED 25 FT, MEDIUM SIZE
DARKVISION
POISON RESISTANCE
EXPERT ABOUT STONEMWORK

HILL DWARF

MOUNTAIN DWARF

WIS +1
MORE HP

STR +2
MORE ARMOR CHOICE

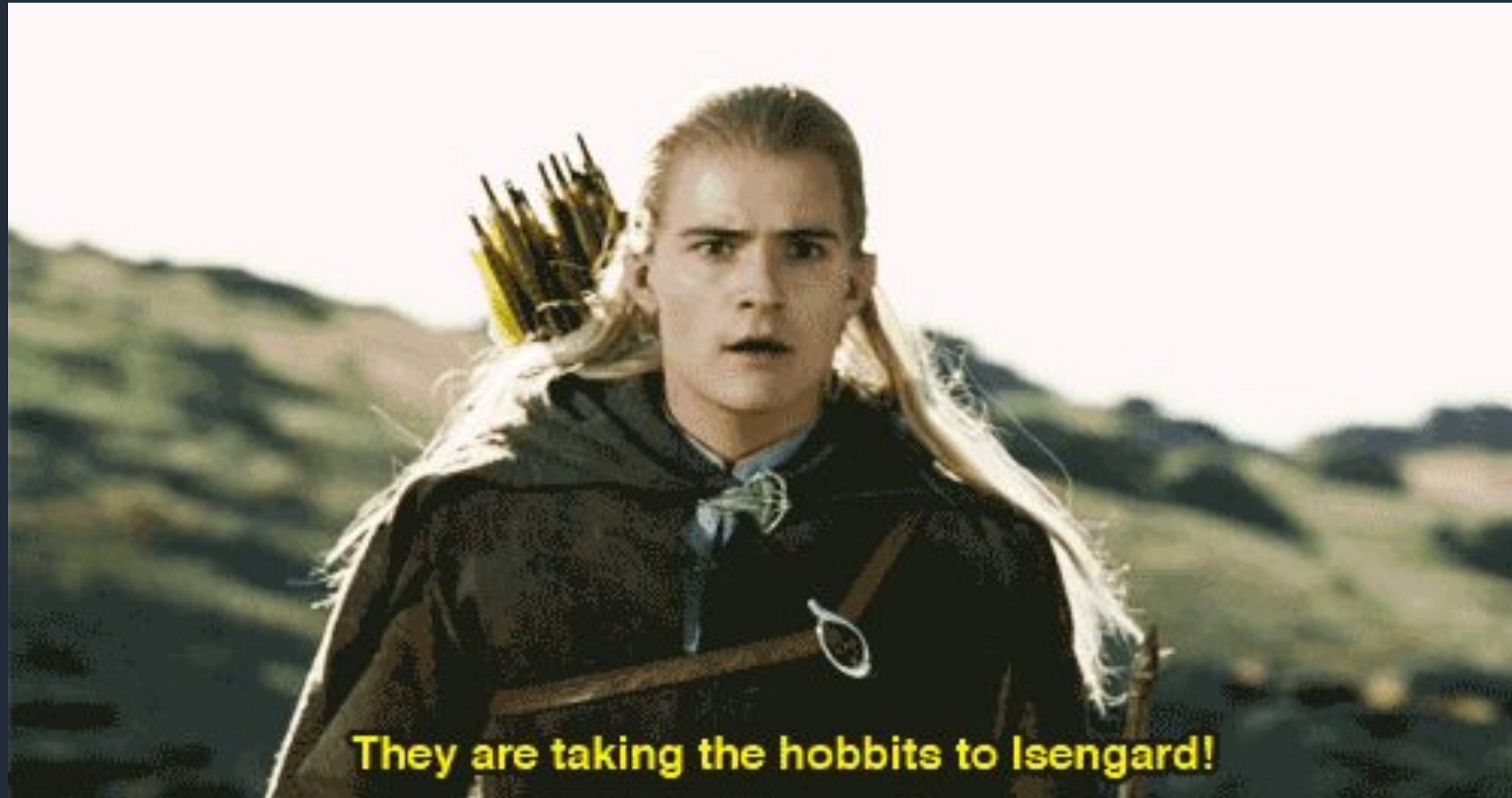


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ELF



DEXTERITY +2
SPEED 30 FT, MEDIUM SIZE
DARKVISION
BETTER PERCEPTION
CANNOT BE CHARMED, DOESN'T SLEEP

HIGH ELF

INT +1
FREE MAGIC
MORE LANGUAGES

WOOD ELF

WIS +1
SPEED 35 FT
HIDES EASILY

DARK ELF

CHA +1
BETTER DARK VISION
FREE MAGIC
HATES SUNLIGHT



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HUMAN



EVERYTHING +1
SPEED 30 FT, MEDIUM SIZE



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DRAGONBORN



STRENGTH +2, CHARISMA +1
SPEED 30 FT, MEDIUM SIZE
DAMAGE TYPE BASED ON ANCESTRY
BREATH WEAPON
MORE RESISTANT TO DAMAGE

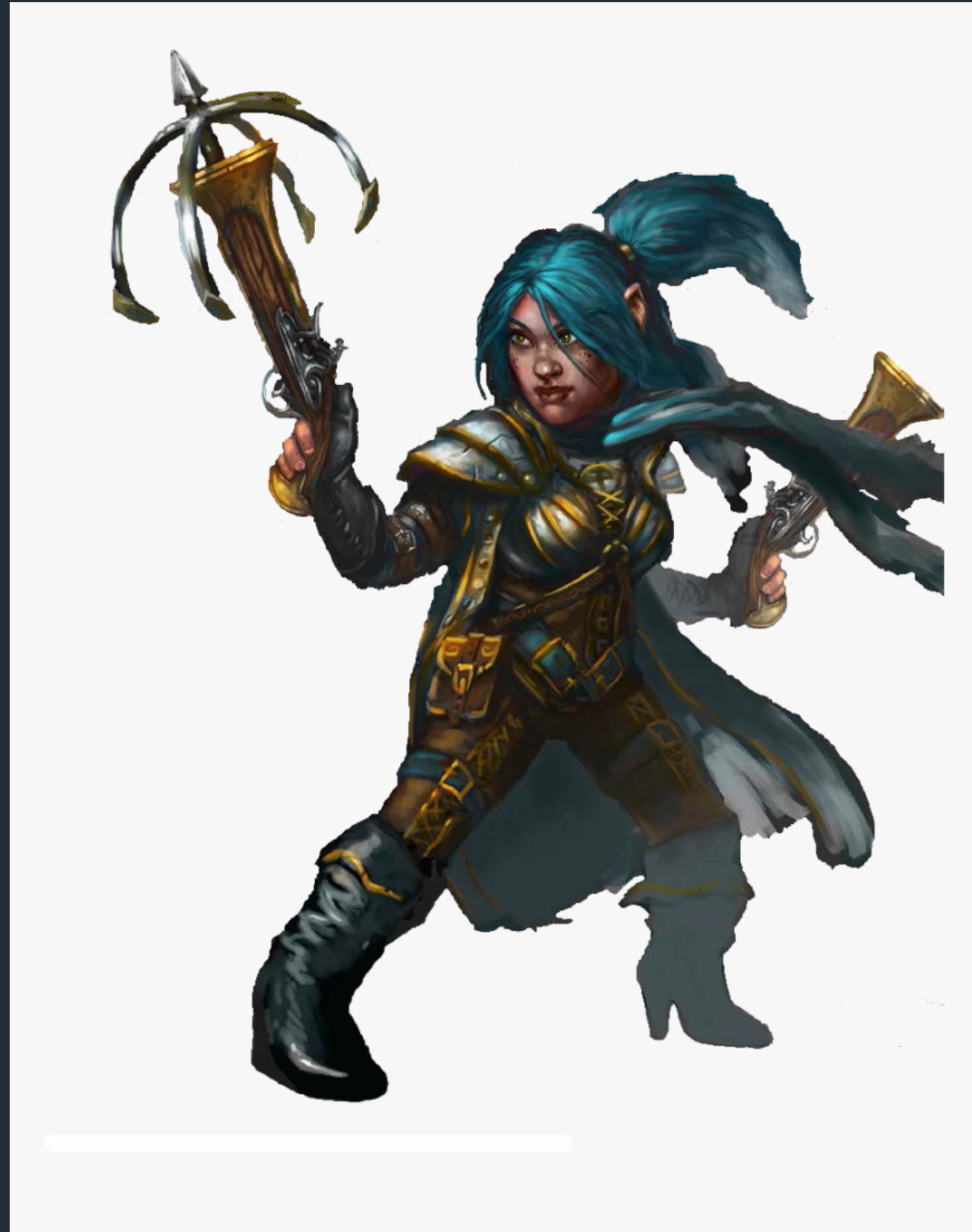


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GNOME



INTELLIGENCE +2
SPEED 25 FT, SMALL SIZE
DARKVISION
MENTAL MAGIC RESISTANCE

FOREST GNOME

DEX +1
FREE MAGIC
SPEAK WITH BEASTS

ROCK GNOME

CON +1
ARTIFICER EXPERT
TINKERER



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HALF-ELF



**CHARISMA +2, ANY TWO +1
SPEED 30 FT, MEDIUM SIZE
DARKVISION
CANNOT BE CHARMED
MORE SKILLED**

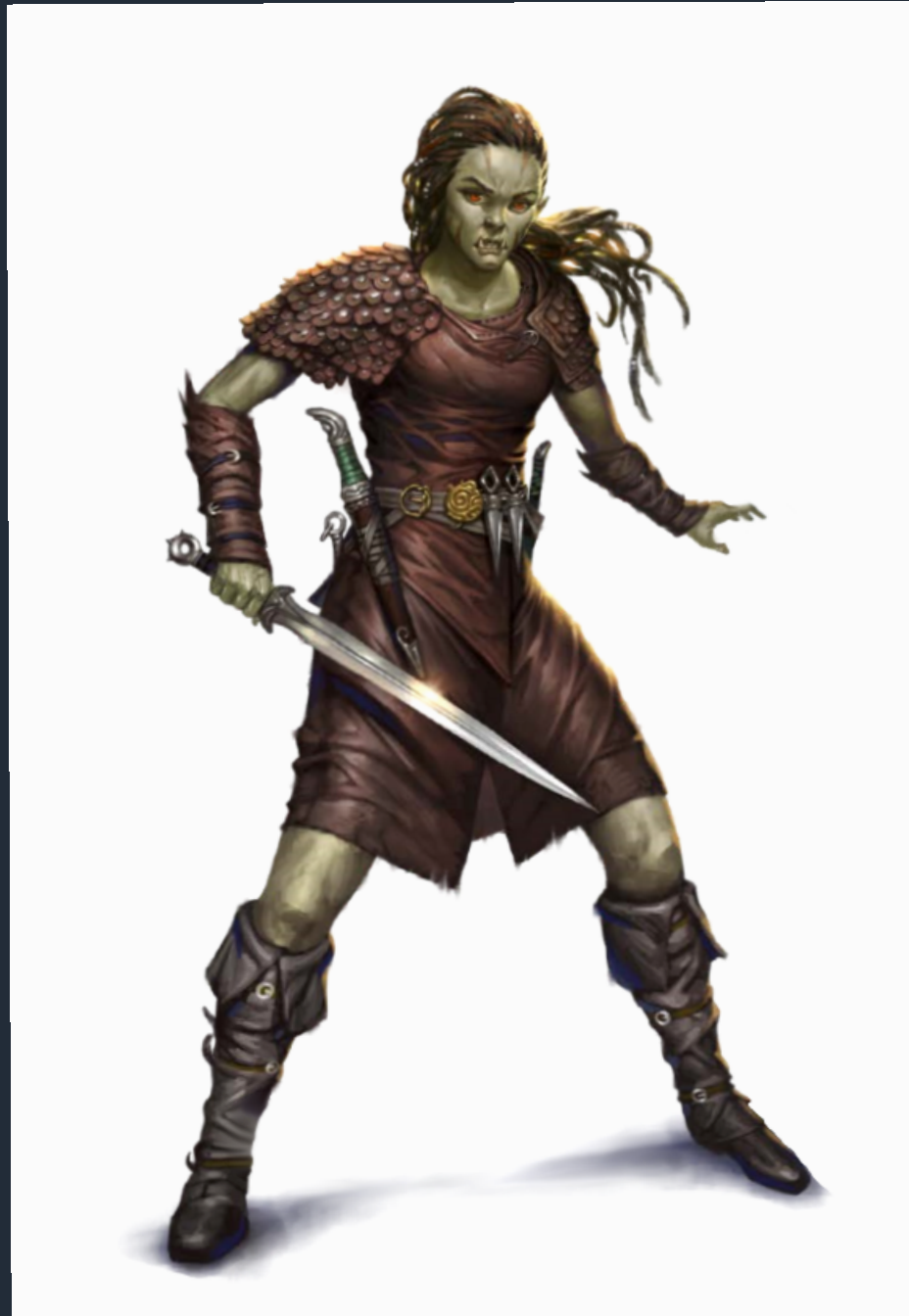


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HALFORC



STRENGTH +2, CONSTITUTION +1
SPEED 30 FT, MEDIUM SIZE
DARKVISION
INTIMIDATING
HARD TO KILL
HITS REALLY HARD



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TIEFLING



INTELLIGENCE +1, CHARISMA +2
SPEED 30 FT, MEDIUM SIZE
DARKVISION
RESISTANT TO FIRE
INNATE INFERNAL MAGIC



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CLASSES

BARBARIAN

BARD

CLERIC

DRUID

FIGHTER

MONK

PALADIN

RANGER

ROGUE

SORCERER

WARLOCK

WIZARD



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BARBARIAN



**RESISTANT TO DAMAGE
HITS HARD**

BASED ON STR & CON



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BARD



**CHARMING AND PERSUASIVE
FULL SPELL CASTER
JACK OF ALL TRADES**

BASED ON CHA & DEX



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CLERIC



**PRIESTLY CHAMPION OF A GOD
FULL SPELL CASTER
PROFICIENT WITH WEAPONS, ARMORS
AND TOOLS**

BASED ON WIS & CHA (CON/STR)



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DRUID



**WIELDS THE POWER OF NATURE
CAN TRANSFORM INTO BEASTS
FULL SPELL CASTER**

BASED ON WIS & INT (CON/DEX)



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FIGHTER



**EXPERT COMBATANT
LOTS OF FIGHTING FEATURES
CAN BE MELEE AND RANGED**

BASED ON STR/DEX & CON



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MONK



**LOTS OF ATTACKS PER TURN
CAN WALK ON WALLS AND STUN
CAN HAVE BASIC MAGIC**

BASED ON DEX & WIS



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PALADIN



**STICKS TO THEIR OATH
CHAMPION OF A GOD USUALLY
HALF SPELL CASTER**

BASED ON CHA & STR/CON



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RANGER



**EXCELLENT RANGED CHARACTER
GOOD WITH SWORDS TOO
GOOD WITH BEASTS
HALF SPELL CASTER**

BASED ON DEX & WIS



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ROGUE



SNEAKY
HIGH DAMAGE IN ONE HIT
CAN AVOID DAMAGE EASILY

BASED ON DEX & CON/INT



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SORCERER



**BORN WITH POWERS
USES A POINTS TO EMPOWER MAGIC
FULL SPELL CASTER**

BASED ON CHA & CON/DEX



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WARLOCK



**GETS POWERS FROM ANOTHER BEING
RECOVERS ON SHORT RESTS
FULL SPELL CASTER**

BASED ON CHA & CON/DEX



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WIZARD



**GETS POWERS BY STUDYING
CAN LEARN SPELLS FROM BOOKS/SCROLLS
FULL SPELL CASTER**

BASED ON INT & CON/DEX



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CHARACTER ABILITY SCORES & SKILLS

ACROBATICS (DEX)
ANIMAL HANDLING (WIS)
ARCANA (INT)
ATHLETICS (STR)
DECEPTION (CHA)
HISTORY (INT)
INSIGHT (WIS)
INTIMIDATION (CHA)
INVESTIGATION (INT)

MEDICINE (WIS)
NATURE (INT)
PERCEPTION (WIS)
PERFORMANCE (CHA)
PERSUASION (CHA)
RELIGION (INT)
SLEIGHT OF HAND (DEX)
SURVIVAL (DEX)



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CHARACTER BACKSTORY



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DO & DO NOT

DO

MAKE SENSE IN THE WORLD YOU'RE IN
MAKE SENSE WITH THE CHOICES YOU MADE
TELL YOUR PAST SHORTLY
WRITE TELEGRAPHICALLY
USE PUNCTUATION AND LINE BREAKS
BE CLEAR WITH YOUR GOALS
CREATE LORE
KILL YOUR PARENTS
BE CREDIBLE
HAVE AN OPEN ENDING

DO NOT

WRITE AN ESSAY
BE EPIC
WRITE EVERYTHING IN ONE PARAGRAPH
BE A LONE WOLF
KILL YOUR PARENTS
HAVE A CLOSED ENDING
ADD CONTENT TO JUSTIFY CHARACTER CHOICES



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**WHERE ARE YOU BORN?
WHO ARE YOUR PARENTS? ARE THEY ALIVE?
WHERE DO YOU LIVE NOW?**



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**WHAT HARDSHIP DID YOU GO THROUGH, IF
ANY?
LOST YOUR PARENTS? SURVIVED WAR? BEEN
A SLAVE? MADE AN ARCHENEMY?**



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**HOW DID THIS HARDSHIP CHANGE YOUR
CHARACTER?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR VENGEANCE?
REDEMPTION? FORTUNE? LOVE?**



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**WHO HAS AN INTEREST IN YOU? A FRIEND? A
LOVER? A FAMILY MEMBER? AN ENEMY?**



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**WHAT IS YOUR END-GOAL? WHY ARE YOU
ADVENTURING AND WHAT DO YOU WANT TO
ACHIEVE BY THE END OF THE GAME?**



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EXAMPLE OF BAD BACKSTORY

MY ROGUE IS KNOWN AS BALTHAZAR. HIS HAIR IS RED LIKE THE BLOOD, AND HIS EYES BLACK LIKE HIS SOUL. BALTHAZAR IS THE ONLY-SON OF THE KING. HE HAS BEEN GIVEN COMMAND OF THE ENTIRE ARMY TO PROVE HIS WORTH, BUT DURING THE BATTLE OF THE MOUNTAIN PASS, HE FAILED HIS FATHER, SENDING 200.000 MEN TO THEIR DEATH AGAINST THE ORCS WHO WERE AMBUSHING THEM IN THE MOUNTAIN PASS. BALTHAZAR COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE HAD DONE. HIS FATHER, THE KING, PUNISHED HIM BY EXILING HIM INTO THE UNDER DARK OF THE KINGDOM, NEVER TO RETURN. BUT BALTHAZAR RETURNED! HE KILLED THE KING AND THE QUEEN AND GOT HIS VENGEANCE. THE GUARDS CHASED HIM DOWN BUT HE MANAGED TO FLEE THE CASTLE AND THE LAND. HE'S NOW WANDERING THIS WORLD LOOKING FOR A FUTURE. HE MADE MONEY BEING A MERCENARY, KILLING A DRAGON IN THE VILLAGE OF BLACKWATER, AND DESTROYING AN HAG COVEN ALL BY HIMSELF IN DRIFTWOOD. HE'S RENOWN BY THE LOCALS AS... THE BLACK BLADE.



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LET'S REWRITE IT

MY NAME IS BALTHAZAR, RED HAIR, DARK EYES.

I'M THE ONLY-SON OF THE LOCAL MAYOR AND I'VE BEEN SENT TO THE GUARD POST TO LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MAN, AS FATHER SAYS.

WE WENT ON A PATROL WITH OTHER GUARDS, WE GOT ATTACKED BY 3 BEARS. EVERYONE DIED, EXCEPT ME. I WAS A COWARD. I HID AND FLED THE BLOODBATH WHILE MY FRIENDS WERE BEING EATEN ALIVE.

FATHER COULDN'T FORGIVE ME AND DISOWNED ME. I KISSED GOODBYE TO MY MOTHER AND LEFT MY HOMETOWN IN TEARS.

I NOW WANDER THIS CONTINENT IN SEARCH OF REDEMPTION FOR THE MISTAKES OF MY YOUTH. MAYBE ONE DAY MY FATHER WILL TAKE ME BACK.

I SURVIVE BY DOING SMALL JOBS FOR LOCALS. I ACCEPT ANYTHING, EVEN IF ILLEGAL. I NEED GOLD, I AM HUNGRY.



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EXAMPLE OF BAD BACKSTORY

I AM NORSENTH, A FIGHTER GOLIATH FROM THE NORTH. I AM THE LEADER OF A SMALL CLAN OF FIERCE GOLIATHS WHO FIGHT FOR THEIR OWN GLORY ONLY.

I HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED BY ONE OF THE CLAN MEMBERS AND I HAVE KILLED HIM. I HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED AGAIN, AND KILLED AGAIN. AND AGAIN. AND AGAIN. UNTIL NONE OF THE CLAN MEMBERS WERE ALIVE EXCEPT ME.

I NOW LIVE IN THE CAPITAL.



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LET'S REWRITE IT

I AM NORSENTH, A FIGHTER GOLIATH FROM ICEWIND DALE. I AM THE LEADER OF A SMALL CLAN OF FIERCE GOLIATHS WHO FIGHT FOR THEIR OWN GLORY. THE CLAN'S NAME IS "ICE BREAKERS".

I HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED BY ONE OF THE CLAN MEMBERS, VURLOK, AND I HAVE KILLED HIM. A FEW OTHERS CHALLENGED ME, BUT NONE OF THEM WON. I KEPT CONTROL OF THE CLAN, UNTIL ONE DAY, WHILE MOVING OUR VILLAGE FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO THE HILL, A SNOW SLIDE SURPRISED US.

I WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR. I TRAVELED TO THE CAPITAL, FEARING THE MOUNTAIN AND THE HARSH CLIMATE OF ICEWIND DALE.

I NOW SEARCH FOR PEACE AND QUITE AS AN UNARMED FIGHTING TEACHER. UNTIL ONE DAY, A LITTLE MAN CAME TO MY DOOR, TELLING THAT HE WAS RECOMMEND TO TALK TO ME. HE WAS LOOKING FOR A GUIDE TO THE NORTH. I FELT JOY WHEN I SAW THE OPPORTUNITY OF GOING BACK HOME, AND I KNEW THAT I HAD TO TAKE THIS JOB. SO I DID, AND MET THE REST OF THE PARTY THAT WAS TRAVELING WITH THIS MAN. WE ARE NOW ON THE WAY TO ICE WIND DALE.

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MY HOME AGAIN.



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EXAMPLE OF GOOD SHORT BACKSTORY

I AM A KOBOLD WHO LIVES IN AVERNUS. I AM THE LOYAL SERVANT OF ARKHAN THE CRUEL, PALADIN OF TIAMAT. ONE DAY I HOPE TO BECOME LIKE HIM AND BE THE RIGHT HAND OF TIAMAT.

I HAVE BEEN SENT ON A LITTLE QUEST TO PROVE MYSELF GATHERING SOULS FOR OUR QUEEN AND SAVIOR TIAMAT THE GREAT. I DECIDED TO START A CHURCH OF KOBOLDS WHILE WORKING ON MY QUEST. I AM SURE THAT MY QUEEN WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE THAT I AM SPREADING HER WORD WITH ALL THESE PEASANTS. MAYBE IT ALSO ATTRACTS SOME MORE KIDS SO THAT I CAN GET THEIR SOULS.

MY NAME IS NORTON AND I AM AN ORC MEDIC, CLERIC OF LIFE. I ONLY USE NATURAL METHODS, LIKE AMPUTATION AND POISONS. NONE OF MY CLIENT EVER COMPLAINED.

I AM ON A FIELD TRIP TO LEARN NEW TECHNIQUES FROM THE HUMANS. THE ORC CHIEFTAIN SAYS I MIGHT BE A BIT TOO VIOLENT WITH MY CLIENTS, SO HE WANTS ME TO LEARN SOME SOFTER TECHNIQUES AND THEN COME BACK TO HELP THE CLAN.



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THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

QUESTIONS?



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