Characters Background Template

*[Delete this section and save the template to your files – Below you will find a blank template to use for yourself. Add any sections you see fit, but I feel these give enough information to build your character background. You will also find a filled in version for inspiration if you are struggling with what to include in your own]*

[NAME]

**Role in Story**

**Goal**

**Physical Description**

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NEL

**Role in Story**

Nel serves as the protagonist in "The Tale of Ashflower White," navigating the complex political landscape of the Obsidian Court. Her unique curse of truth-seeing makes her both a critical asset and a potential threat, as she is drawn into Prince Kaelen's plans to expose courtly deceit. Nel's journey involves uncovering the Puppeteer's dark schemes while grappling with her own internal conflicts and growing feelings for Kaelen, positioning her as a pivotal figure in preventing Valenduril's downfall.

**Goal**

By the end of the story, Nel's primary goal is to thwart the Puppeteer's dark designs and prevent the impending chaos that threatens to engulf Valenduril. She seeks to use her truth-seeing abilities to unravel the web of deceit within the Obsidian Court, ultimately aiming to protect those she cares about while asserting her independence from those who would manipulate her gift for their own ends.

**Physical Description**

Auburn hair falls in waves past her shoulders, catching red highlights in even the faintest light. Her eyes are sharp and penetrating, carrying the weight of seeing too many deaths too young. Slender but strong, she moves with deliberate grace that suggests constant awareness of her surroundings. Often wears a dark steel circlet that marks her status while serving as subtle armour. Her expressions shift quickly between wry amusement and intense focus, though she rarely allows herself to appear truly vulnerable in public.

**Personality**

Fiercely independent and sharp-tongued, Nel wields her wit like armour against a world that fears her gifts. Her compulsion to speak truth makes her both admired and dangerous in court circles. While loyal to those who earn her trust, she can be reckless with both her safety and others' feelings when pursuing what she believes is right. Her isolation has left her with a streak of bitter defiance, though she maintains a dark sense of humour about her circumstances. Struggles with intimacy due to her ability to see others' deaths, leading to a tendency to push people away even as she desperately craves connection.

**Occupation**

Valenduril has many citizen’s with occupations, but Nel is a runaway, and therefore doesn’t have an occupation.

**Habits/Mannerisms**

Nel's speech patterns reflect her inability to lie - direct and often cutting, though she's learned to dance around truths when necessary. Favors sharp wit and sarcasm as defensive weapons, particularly when uncomfortable. Can shift between formal court language and casual banter, but always with an underlying edge of honesty that makes others uneasy. Her voice carries authority despite her youth, though it sometimes cracks when forced to speak particularly painful truths.

**Background**

Born under the Ashflower Moon, Nel was marked as an Oathborn - cursed to see death and speak only truth. Raised in the Court of Darkness until her powers manifested fully on her twenty-first birthday, she fled rather than be used as a weapon. Found unexpected friendship with Ahryn and Essi while wandering, before being arrested in Thalorian for allegedly speaking plague into existence. Now caught between her growing feelings for Crown Prince Kaelen and her fear of being controlled by those in power.

**Internal Conflicts**

Nel grapples with the burden of her truth-seeing gift, which isolates her from others and makes her a target for manipulation. Her longing for connection is constantly at odds with her fear of intimacy, driven by the knowledge of others' deaths. She struggles with the tension between her desire to forge her own path and the pressure to use her abilities for others' agendas, particularly as her feelings for Prince Kaelen deepen.

**External Conflicts**

Nel faces the external conflict of navigating the treacherous politics of the Obsidian Court, where her truth-seeing abilities make her both a valuable asset and a dangerous liability. Her presence threatens the stability of the court as she uncovers lies and betrayals, drawing the ire of those who wish to maintain their power through deception. Additionally, she must contend with the Puppeteer's machinations, which threaten to plunge Valenduril into chaos, forcing her to balance her survival with the need to expose the sinister forces at play.

**Notes**