CHARACTER'S FEARS EXAMPLE

Fear is a great motivator. It drives behavior, spawns habits and quirks, and often is the "why" behind a character's main goal. As a result, identifying your character's biggest fear can help you create someone who makes sense and write him in a realistic fashion. To zero in on what your character fears most, consider the factors in the graphic below, which, combined, will point to an overarching fear. Once identified, this fear will add depth and realism to the hero, villain, sidekick, or any member of your story's cast. For an example of how this process works, see the sample below. Click here for your own blank template.

ONE STOP
FOR
WIRTHERS



Hearing a woman's scream in the barn one night and doing nothing

SITUATIONS THAT ONE AVOIDS

Refuses to return to one's hometown/see family because of the label "son of a serial killer"

GREATEST FAILURE, REGRET, OR MISTAKE

Covering for his father with police as a teen out of fear of what he would do

RELATIONSHIP ISSUES

Fears intimacy, avoids dating, struggles with interactions with women

GREATEST FEAR

That he will turn out to be just like his sadistic father

THE LIE THE CHARACTER BELIEVES

That he should have known what his father was doing and stopped the killing

WOUNDING EVENT

Discovering that his father was not only violent and abusive, but also a serial killer of women

EMOTIONS THAT RESULT IN PAIN

Love, Lust, Desire, Envy

DEEPEST WORRY

That someone will discover he's living under an assumed name