

Let's start this off with a disclaimer, being that I'm the author and the creator of Chris, I could totally be pushing what I **want**, and **hope** Chris comes off as on to all of you reading. There can be a general consensus that Chris is a whiny little bitch boy that 80% of you hate, but you'll find that I make him out to be the strongest character in this analysis/study. Totally possible, and I'm totally not gonna be phased by it. If one of you want to challenge me, then go ahead, I will scream into my hand as I silently read why you think I'm totally wrong.

I honestly just love doing character studies and looking way too deep into stuff. Plus, this kind of thing actually helps me with figuring out what I want to convey and where I'm going. So, this might be more for me than you, I'm just sharing it with you guys ... Lastly, I don't care about errors. I'm going to do my best to be grammatically correct but, FUCK! I want to be free, and so I'm going to type this like how I speak. So, ha Grammarly, suck it.

Let's begin.

## ORIGINS

Before we go to deep into Chris's character, his motivations, and why he believes that grease is a miracle tonic for his hair, let me tell you his past. This doesn't really come up in story because I don't like bringing up race unless it's fantasy or supernatural related. So, with that said, Chris is male, straight (or so he thinks), cis, and Caucasian. Chris knows this, Roe knows this, the gang knows this, we just don't talk about it. Chris knows he has privilege and was raised with it. Hate him or not, he didn't use his privilege for good or evil, when he benefited from it then that was just that, it benefited him. I'm saying this because a lot of Chris's history kinda revolves around the idea that he didn't have to work for some of the things he earned ... gained ... received??

Chris was born in a nice suburban neighborhood, in a middle-class conservative household. His dad liked his football, baseball, hunting and fishing trips, and beer. Cliché to the core and proud of it. His mom was a bit less cliché but frankly, she's not really important when it comes to Chris's story, ouch but what can one do? Cliché as well, right? The biggest figures in Chris's life was his father and his grandfather. Father wise, he loved Chris but there's no doubt that he wanted to live vicariously through Chris. He encouraged Chris to do sports, to get girls and break their heart, he cared about grades but not all that much. He wanted Chris to be everything he wished he could be when he was younger. He was racist, homophobic, xenophobic, and well, sexist. And when the man started drinking then his mouth never stopped running, he was definitely mentally abusive to Chris. So Chris definitely was privy to

every job that his dad made. He was raised to believe it and would probably be just like his father if it wasn't for his grandfather.

Chris's grandfather was a war veteran in the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Purple Heart and retired. He married his college sweetheart, but it was later found out by Chris that he was gay and had lost his actual lover in the Vietnam War. Chris spent as much time as he could around his grandfather, idolizing the man for his strength, humor, taste in music, and character in general. His grandfather got him into classic rock, encouraged Chris when no one else did and constantly reminded Chris that he was not his father and that his father was wrong on so many things. When he died, he left most, if not all of his stuff to Chris. The last thing he ever said to Chris was that Chris needed to go and start his own life. And that's what he did.

## INNER WORKINGS OF THE OUTSIDER

There are a few things one needs to know about Chris, which can be seen through the seasons.

1. He's a **creature of habit** first and foremost. He doesn't like change. He likes schedules and he likes routine. In season one, Chris is thrown into an entirely new world. He not only learns that fairytale creatures are alive and walking around him but he's suddenly being hunted. He goes from simple college student to fugitive on the run with a cambion, a small child like creature, and his best friend. Not to mention that he ends up tortured, traumatized, and almost turns into a cryptid. By the end of season one, Chris isn't exactly comfortable but he's far more comfortable than when he began. The routine to him now is wake up, kill monsters, eat, yell at Sydero, joke on Bradley, go to sleep. Season two throws yet another wrench into this plan, not only is his routine messed up again (also understand he's not used to his routine changing this dramatically, the man spent three years in college doing practically the same thing for goodness sake) but there's new elements. Which brings me to the next point ...
2. Chris is **loyal**. Blah if you don't like him, you can't tell me he's not loyal. This is the one point I will argue with all of you over, fight me! Roe is able to make a critical decision in Chris's story in S1-Ep2, get on the bus or tag along ... well that's if he's still alive. If Roe says come with us, then that's the indicator for Chris. If he wasn't loyal then he would've snorted and walked his ass right onto that bus. Now, of course, one would think he'd complain a little less. It's not like he didn't get a great demo of what this life would be like in that motel room, but hey, it's Chris. Roe isn't Chris's first friend, but they were currently his best friend. There is so much Chris would do for Roe, whether rival or friendly. Chris trusts Roe so much that when they say come with us, he goes.

He'd rather go with Roe because Roe is familiar (of course romance wise it's a bit more than that, but I'll speak more on that in the romance section). And to Chris, he believed that if Roe could survive then so could he ... NEXT POINT!

3. Chris **was highly unprepared**. Unlike Roe, Chris didn't have any childhood memories of strange things, in a way, Roe was already in this life. They were already traumatized and used to seeing things that shouldn't be there. They had both parents' die, a spirit figure that killed them, and remember being pulled down into some dark ass abyss because of it. Not to mention Roe bears the markings of that night as a constant reminder. I spoke about Chris's past, and you can see the differences. Normal versus 'dude I'm so sorry.' Chris is not Roe, and Roe damn sure isn't Chris. Roe's ability to mold themselves into this new person isn't just because of curiosity, it's because they already had a foot in the door. Chris isn't even in the same house as Roe, he's still on the street. Chris was not ready for this, though he thought he was, all because ...
4. He's used to **getting what he wants and surpassing**. His upbringing allowed Chris to barely work for things. This is not to say that everything Chris ever had was just handed to him, but he didn't have to work as hard as many. He put in work, but his life wasn't hard. If he wanted to do it, he did it and he did it well. So why should this life be any different? To Chris, Roe could do it, so why couldn't he? So, every time he freaks out and Roe keeps their cool, Chris is bothered. Every time he was bested, and Roe plays hero, Chris is bothered. Season one is literally Chris being bothered by the fact that he can't do what Roe can, that he's not adapting like Roe does. This bothers the living shit out of him. Why can't he do it! And ...
5. Why can't he just be **helpful**? No one wants to be on a team and not contribute, if you do then you're not really on the team. Chris is the weak link; everyone knows it but only Sydero really says it. Everything I stated before is still on Chris's mind, whether he accepts and knows it or not. How much different would it be if Chris entered this life because of something personal like supernaturals killed his parents? Or they directly came after him? He was brought in as a liability at the end of the day, and he knows it.
6. And lastly, Chris is handed a golden opportunity to go back to routine and a **sense of normalcy**, and he can't grab it. Remember how I said in season one Chris is struggling to find a rhythm, a routine? Well season two is all about having the temptation of going back to some kind of understanding dangled right in front of him, and not being able to take the bait. Imagine this ... you haven't eaten in days and someone comes along and offers you your favorite food, right there within reach. But the catch is that eating it is death, don't ask me why or how, that's the scenario I gave. Sydero is gone, Raum is gone, Petri and ~~Langston~~ are in the wind. Chris could 100% go back to either a normal life or at least his season one routine of just simple hunting. But what does his team

want to do? They want to travel to hell and get Sydero back. They're going left when his attention is on right. The road to the right has such temptation that it eats at him every second he's walking the other way. Add in the fact that his best friend, the best friend he came into this with is not a human, is something no one knows, and this scares the hell out of him. He's stepping on mines when the path to the right is telling him that if he came over there, he'll be safe. Everyone would be safe.

## FRIENDSHIP

I spoke about Chris's loyalty and friendship a bit. I'll try to wrap up any points and things I've seen recently that I might want to clear up.

- He complains too much.
  - Well ... yes, yes, he does. I actually have nothing to say in defense of him for this. He's a complainer, I'd say it's because he thinks things are stupid if he doesn't understand it but for the sake of others, he could do that quietly.
- Chris chose this.
  - Yes, yes, he did, but he did it for Roe. If you don't like Chris then that's you, I'm not upset, in fact I wouldn't want everyone to love him and think him some kind of hero. Having people who despise him and those who love him is great, it means he's human. He decided to stick around and to continue sticking around because of his faith in Roe. Despite them arguing, Roe is Chris's friend and he cares about them.
- Chris treats Roe like crap because they're not human.
  - I'm on the fence about this one. That's because, yes, Chris is acting differently and putting more space between Roe than when Roe was just human. And if this was realistic and I was Roe and had someone acting towards me the way Chris is, I'd be hurt and pissed off as well. Because, um, fuck you my guy, I just learned that I'm not human too and you're just adding to the bullshit plate.

With that being said, I also, as the writer, know where Chris is coming from. Harder to see with friendship than romance but Chris is not good with emotions. He feels them far too quickly and conveys them far too slow. For a guy that thinks he's all that, he can get pretty tongue tied and lost within his own mind. Chris keeps shit in, because he's trying to sort them out first before presenting to Roe or whomever, a jumbled-up mess. And so, this causes him to give the person the cold shoulder, not really helpful but it's Chris.

Now, imagine this for yourself. Your whole world is not the same, you've seen some fucked up stuff since entering this new world and almost had it swallow you. You don't show it, but you almost turned into an entire cryptid, you're traumatized whether you like it or not. Every supernatural you've met besides one (Faye) is pretty much either a psycho, an asshole, or just plain monstrous. Your best friend has a monster inside of them. A spirit that can bring them to their knees and you can't do shit about it. You can just watch. Now, you learn that that friend is also not human. They're not what's normal to you, they're one of those creatures.

Chris isn't racist?? Is that even the word to use here? Whatever ... He's not prejudice against supernaturals but he's also not the person to advocate for them. And he's definitely not wearing a 'I Love Supernaturals' t-shirt. This is all to say that he's seen and experienced what supernaturals can do, and you're one no one has ever seen. He's terrified, he's not just terrified, he's unsure and he's so far out his comfort zone that he doesn't even know what to do with himself. In season two he sees Roe lose control and he sees even more psycho supernaturals. There is nothing here telling him that this is going to be okay. He's scared for you, himself, and the team.

## ROMANCE

The area that you guys probably really care about. So far, this is written with both season one and two in mind. In season three Chris finally takes a turn for the better. This area is to try and explain Chris's attitude and what's going through his mind on a more emotional level ... emotions.

To understand Chris is to understand his past relationships. This is not an excuse but truthfully, Chris doesn't really know what love looks like. His parents didn't love each other, marriage was more of an ideal situation for both of them. His grandfather loved his grandmother but only in the way one would a really good friend. There were no other family members in his life and besides some high school friends ... well we all know that no one has romantic sense in high school, let's be honest. His concept of love mostly came from movies, watching movies that said if you were heroic then the girls would want you. And as the icing on the cake, when Chris did date, he brought most of his questions to his father. The same father that told him that a woman being mean to him or acting hard to get was a woman who wanted him. That encouraged him to have sex and then dump the girl because he was that desirable. The same dad that had no problem calling women 'hoes' or 'bitches'. This got even worse when

he no longer had his grandfather to turn to. (Note that this is in no way me saying 'boohoo Chris never knew how to treat people with respect and love.' He's a grown man, he knows right from wrong.)

So, for Chris, most if not all the girls he dated weren't serious relationships. His courting was kinda like this: see pretty girl, approach pretty girl, get pretty girl's number, take her on date, we're now dating, sex, some talking, eh that's it. I'm not saying that Chris used them for sex, but for him, having a friendship with these girls wasn't really a requirement. Did he like some of these girls? Of course, but for Chris, friendship and dating didn't go hand in hand.

Which brings us to the incredibly hard puzzle that is Roe.

Chris, for female Roe's, ends up getting a crush on them during sophomore year of college. Which goes against what he's used to. He doesn't befriend those he wants to date; not like how he did with Roe. And so, he decides to forego his own emotions and stick with friendship. This is new for Chris, he's never been friends with someone he likes, furthermore, he sees you (and I hate to do it to ya, Chris) as an actual person. Chris is no angel, and frankly my favorite squishy boy is an idiot when it comes to things, especially romance. For someone who thinks he's incredibly charming and a lady-killer, he's a dimwit that will flirt with someone in front of Roe and see nothing wrong with it.

Now, for any other gender of Roe, sorry but Chris **was** straight. Younger Chris didn't look at guys that way, at the most he'd say Ryan Reynolds was a total hottie but let's be honest, anyone who says he's not is just weird. And that's as far as that goes. It wasn't until Roe lets him in on the crush that they have that Chris even begins to start thinking that way and then doubting his own sexuality. Chris is even further confused about this because not only is this breaking his 'don't date friends' rule but he was raised to believe gays are horrific hell spawns. His dad did not mince words when it came to what he disliked. I'm not going to go into detail about this because I'm sure we can all imagine how much Chris replayed his dad words and had to fight with himself to get over it.

## **LESSON: ADAPT**

Each RO in Superstition has something to learn if you romance them. Something they have to get over internally that has less to do with Roe and more to do with them and who they are. Chris, he must learn to adapt.

There is no going back to that safe bubble of normalcy that lives in Chris's consciousness, still thriving only because Chris has hope. If you're romancing Chris, then he tells you that he wants a family. And since you've been talking, he saw that family with you. First, (and keep in

mind how much he likes routine) that dream shifts because, like Faye and Sydero said, there is really no getting out of this life. Next, the person he has a crush on has a malevolent spirit inside of them. What does that mean for them? How can Chris protect Roe from something he can't see or interact with? Thirdly, Roe is now not human. Chris did enough research to know that most supernatural creatures can only have offspring with others of the same species, or not at all. So, no more family. Of course you can adopt, but Chris dreamed of seeing his mini me and Roe running around. And lastly, something is happening to Roe. Chris is watching this and can do nothing about it, if anything he's the one in danger because Roe doesn't have full control of it. What if Roe kills him in his sleep? What if Roe kills someone else? What if Roe is lost and something else moves in?

That's Chris's headspace.

So, Chris is attempting so hard to be the man that he thinks Roe needs but also someone he's comfortable with and can recognize. Both can't happen. His safety bubble has to be popped and he has to be far more flexible and able to adapt to ever changing situations. Some may think this is easy, but for someone whose lived this way their entire life, it's not, at all.

Does Chris know he needs to learn this? Heck yea. Chris knows this but he's scared of it. He looks in the mirror and he doesn't recognize the person he sees, and that causes him to crawl back in. Even worse, his constant fighting with Roe isn't helping. He knows that, he's not completely stupid. But people do horrible and weird things when they're scared. And at the end of the day that's what Chris is, scared.

## CONCLUSION?

Chris is a loveable idiot that likes his routine and is terrified of the future.

I probably missed some things, but I think I hit the biggest topics. Again, I'm the writer, I literally created Chris. Though, if you know anything about character creation, then you know that after a while the characters start telling you who they are. Personally, Chris was one of the harder characters to write for me. Mostly because the Chris you guys are seeing isn't the Chris that I wanted to show you. That Chris is coming but I realized a while ago that Chris just becoming who I wanted him to be wasn't going to work or be normal. And so, you get this Chris.

There are probably things you guys noticed or can correct me on anyway, things that maybe I said in this but didn't convey in the writing. Totally fine, and I'm totally okay with that. But here you go, Chris Richardson, the Outsider.

# FUN CHRIS THINGS

Because why not.

- In canon, Chris actually dies.
- His personal song is: “The Show Must Go On” by Queens and his romance song is “Love of a Lifetime” by Firehouse
- Chris learned how to play the guitar from his mother and a romanced Chris actually will write a song for Roe. You gotta pressure him into sharing it when the time comes though.
- Chris is smart but definitely has his moments. Otherwise he’s an idiot.
- Though he plays tennis, Chris actually hates being athletic and mostly does it to keep his body on point.
- He was inducted into a fraternity but didn’t really enjoy it.
- Chris’s alcohol tolerance is actually pretty low for someone who drinks as much as he.
- A Chris that is sent away starts a new life in Texas, finishes college online, gets a job teaching music to elementary kids, and actually marries and have kids. He legally changes his name and the only thing the same from his old life is his birthdate.
- Chris dreams of traveling and visiting Thailand.
- Chris’s father, Ryan, wanted Chris to major in business, but Chris instead went for Music Theory. He’s always wanted to teach music.