

Cly Harwer

“A talented musician who values his music more than his life.”

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1. Character Summary

Role: The Protagonist- A junior year student in Kaizen Gakuen who is compelled to play a piano that is off limits to students no matter the consequences.

Bio:

Cly is a musician who enrolled in Kaizen as a 9th grader with the dream of graduating and reaching ‘the new world’ where he could find and mentor under greater masters of his craft. With his work smarter not harder philosophy and his ability to beguile and subtly control others with his charm and wit, Cly has done extremely well at the school graduating two full grades within the span of 4 years. Under the surface, however, Cly has slowly grown unnerved and depressed. His life lacks music and as the melodies continue to pile up in him, he is frustrated by his inability to express them, creating a tension in his psyche that lingers like a note unresolved.

Reassured by the belief that he will be able to graduate in a few years, Cly has so far managed to repress his urges. However, upon hearing the seductive sounds of a world class piano, which has appeared at the school temporarily for a government concert, his quiet desires have erupted, tearing through the surface of his complacent façade and metamorphosing into an unrelenting obsession. Now, in order to restore his sanity and reclaim a sense of peace, Cly seeks to play that forbidden piano, even if it costs him his life...

2. Character Profile

Full Name: Cly Harwer

Age: 22

Gender: Male

Build: Tall, Average Build

Personality: Charmer with a twist (thinks on his feet, out for fulfillment, lives in the moment, but not so absent minded as to not be capable of planning things out in advance, fairly good at dealing with people, captivated by beauty/music, manipulative.)

Ability/Skills: Good at controlling people (misdirection and influencing people's decisions, affecting their emotions) he can always highlight the bright side and benefits of things and get people to agree. He is a musical genius in terms of raw skill and experimental composition, but has only ever had access to dated pianos and wants to expand his ability and style.

Likes: Toying with people.

Dislikes: Feels sorry for truly naïve people, dislike authority

Diction: He's never quite speaking to people directly, but instead is commenting on the situation or things around him. It's obvious to the person that he's speaking around that he's talking to them or about them, but the things he says are spoken in such a roundabout way, they have to be interpreted. People can seldom get a straight answer from Cly and this irritates and frustrates them. He likes it that way as it keeps people off balanced and vulnerable.

Relationships: His 3 school mates

Character Theme: Self-Expression is critically important. It's one-to-one with freedom and liberty and is worth dying for. At the prison school, even though Cly's personal freedom (of body) has been taken, he feels that if he loses his ability to express himself, then he is truly dead.

3. Backstory:

Before Kaizen

Cly came from a moderate income family in lower society. He was constantly scolded and looked upon as a lazy by his parents. He was often forced out of the house to play or do something useful. He resented his parents and their superior attitudes. Cly's disdain for authority and the need to superficially appease people starts here.

He was a very lonely and depressed child who discovered music and found that it somehow soothed his ills (boredom, restlessness, rebelliousness). He became interested in the piano when he found one in a junk yard while playing with friends. His friends were impressed by his music even though he was just fooling around. He practiced more and more, playing every day he could. When the piano was finally trashed, he sought out a new one, finding it finally at a café pub in the nearby neighborhood. The owner there would allow him to play around after dark and even started teaching him a few things as he was impressed with Cly's interest and creativity (He could hear music well, but just needed some technique).

Cly eventually started to play publicly at the pub and became very popular in the local community. His talent and reputation grew and he was asked to play at other places around the city. As he traveled, he learned new styles and methods of playing and worked on incorporating them into his own style. One day Cly was given a taste of "the new world" music and became captivated by its advanced structure and melodies. From that moment on, Cly was determined to reach to that level of playing and in order to do so entered the Kaizen school with the intent of graduating and reaching the surface world to find greater school and mentors in music.

In Kaizen

Cly entered Kaizen at age 18. He entered the school at the ninth grade level and was, of course, shocked by the conditions he had to undergo in order to get by in the school. His first year was rough, but he was determined to do what it took to graduate. The second year he met a group who worked together across various grade levels to help each other graduate. He soon gained their trust and became a member of their group (one senior age 22, one 9th grader age 21, one 6th grader age 17).

For the next 3 years they all made steady progress towards graduating. He had moved up 2 whole grades and their senior looked to be sure to graduate this time around (the 9th grader moved up 2 grades and the 6th grader 1 grade).

He had been away from music for 4 years and even though his passion to graduate the school remained strong, he hadn't played music during this time. Every craving he had up to this point had been suppressed to realize the greater goal.

Now, moving towards the final few days of graduation for the year, his desire to play is triggered by the very sounds that compelled him to the school in the first place. The allure is so strong that he is willing to risk it all, just to get an opportunity to play once more.

4. Character Objectives, Conflicts, Motivation, and Resolution

Story Objective: To play the grand piano held in the auditorium of the school.

Conflict: The piano and the auditorium is off-limits to students. If he breaks the rules, he could be sent to detention (which would critically damage his chances of graduating)

Motivation/Values: Self-Actualization Needs

The reason Cly needs to play is because self expression is the most important thing for him. For years he's had to hold back in his most basic and instinctive impulses to create music. He needs to express himself or he will die inside and become an empty shell of himself.

Fears and Desires:

Fears

- Confusion or not knowing what is going on and how to control or manipulate the situation.
- Losing the ability to express himself musically.

Desires

- Perfection (in music)
- Beauty (to be around it)
- Ultimate self-expression through music

Character Arc / Resolution

- Starts off cool and in control and throughout the story he slowly starts to get anxious, and then depressed and finally becomes desperate near the end of the story.
- He is usually aware of the situation or at least knows where it's going and has a bag of tricks to deal with unexpected events, but once he's been lulled in by the sound of that graceful piano, something snaps in him. All the creative urges that he had been suppressing for years suddenly and violently swelled up in him. He can't stop obsessing about playing again at this point and will do anything he can, including sacrificing his graduation (and his life), in order to play.

5. Personality Traits, Quirks, and Mannerisms

Traits

- Clever and Manipulative: He is clever far beyond the average person, capable of assessing people's motivations and personalities in an instant. He can see what the end results of things will be at the start of a situation. He is also excellent at controlling the flow of people's emotions and reactions, using charming, humorous, or unsettling imagery and words to get people into a certain mood, which leads them, unknowingly, to act just like he wants or expects.
- Creative: Cly has an extreme connection to beauty (music, arts, people), things that are impressive or well above the average, and unique or creative acts. He constantly feels the need to create something of beauty himself; hence he feels bored at Kaizen and turns his creativity towards playing with people for kicks (manipulating and confusing them). Things of beauty are the only thing he will get obsessive and serious about (i.e. he might defend someone who creates great things or become upset when someone can't appreciate something's worth. This can make him depressed, volatile, or fierce). He doesn't hate the mediocre or normal, he just really appreciates things that surpass it.
- Lax: Can appear somewhat lazy and frivolous, but his way of thinking about things tends to make him smarter and more effective in situations than most (i.e. He knows all the shortcuts to take on tests). His logic is more intuitive than based on the hard facts.

He's so far ahead of everyone that he's already bored of situations in advance and knows how they will play out, that's why he seems to be so distant and lax about whatever is going on (most of the time).

- Sarcastic: Has a biting wit. His tongue is an invisible weapon that everyone can feel, but no one can blame him for wielding because his words appear harmless and their true meaning is only apparent through context

Quirks

- Loves Indirect Fighting: Cly likes to manipulate people into "beating him up" both verbally and physically as a form of indirection so that he can pursue or reach another goal. (i.e. in the first scene, as he is blocked by the guard from getting to the auditorium with the piano, he acts meager, while at the same time talking down to the chief guard so that the guard roughs him up in front of the senior principle. This causes the guard to embarrass himself and the principle. Cly uses a similar tactic to steal the keys to the auditorium from the vice teacher later on).

6. Research and References

Character Design Reference

- These are just general image references to give an idea about what Cly's character might be drawn like:



