

If we're going to use one word to describe Stone, it would be stolid. A good second word is conscientious.

He's Old Faithful personified.

He's calm and composed; he thinks before he reacts. He doesn't allow emotions to sway him and often acts as a stabilizer for those that have a tendency for high drama and reactivity. He makes solid decisions. He's dependable, keeps his cool in difficult situations and always has a backup plan.

He's driven by a strong sense of morality and fairness, a need to see justice done. He has rock solid core values and he sticks to his principles. He will choose what's right over what's easy every time. He sees the needs of others and he does something about it. He believes strongly in accountability for actions, both his own actions and the actions of others. He's self-disciplined, keeps his promises and doesn't make excuses.

He's a conflicted Catholic; he isn't staunchly religious but he goes to mass and confession and the only piece of jewelry he wears is a small, golden crucifix around his neck — practices that are born more out of habit and guilt than anything else. He does have a somewhat morbid curiosity about death and wonders about the afterlife. He's a natural worrier.

He keeps his circle very small: his parents, his younger sister, Emily. He has maybe two friends. Giacomo "Jack" Falconeri and another sidekick (tentatively named Curtis). He has a hard time in social situations and doesn't connect with or trust people easily. He doesn't find it easy to express his emotions and can be somewhat inhibited (they call him Stone because his facial expression almost never changes). Thus, he's something of a loner. And also a bonafide workaholic, which is maybe eighty percent due to the fact that he loves his work and is good at it, and twenty percent to distract him from how lonely he is. He both craves contact and shies away from it and this manifests itself for him as pursuing solitary activities that let him feel like he's a part of something without having to actually engage: people watching, eavesdropping. And this is how he developed such sharp powers of observation. He reads people well, notices patterns and can accurately assess what he's observing.

He's alert and highly intelligent, pays close attention to his surroundings, and he trusts his instincts. He's naturally curious, nosy even. He notices details others miss. He's highly analytical and able to quickly assess a given situation. He can see deeper into a problem than most people.

He's also patient. He takes his time to make decisions and he speaks in an unrushed manner.

When he's working a case, he's single-minded to the point of becoming obsessed, refusing to let go unless every possibility is explored. He thrives under this type of stress and is always moving. He enjoys mysteries and puzzles.

His personal life suffers because of this. He finds it difficult to relax, and because he's always in his head, connecting with people on a meaningful level is a challenge for him. He tends to be reserved. He hates small talk and is never gregarious with strangers. He prefers one-on-one encounters in which he can offer the full benefit of his sharp insights and discerning opinions. That's also where people discover how perceptive, charming and witty he can actually be. He hates surprises and is somewhat averse to trying new things. If too many factors are unknown, he is often unable to commit. This resistance to change makes him predictable.

He gives an impression of being in firm control of his emotions but this is sometimes just a disguise. At times there is even a surface quality of untouchableness about him, but this is an expression of his self-containment. Because he does not find it easy to express his own deep feelings (he does, however, have a way of making his dissatisfactions known — he can be demanding and fault-finding), he is often attracted to women who are effusive and vivacious. Yet he tries to avoid getting embroiled in tempestuous scenes and angry tantrums. Emotionality upsets him, but because he is both attracted to it and disturbed by it, his love life never runs as smoothly as he'd like. This should make for some interesting scenes when he eventually crosses paths with Mercedes, who is a younger and less hardened version of herself than we've seen up to now — much more sensual than cerebral and prone to melodrama.

Backstory: I'm thinking that maybe at some point Stone wanted to be an actual police officer. Or maybe that's something his father wanted for him. He may have even gotten as far as the Academy (with Falconeri), but something happened (not sure what yet) and it didn't pan out. In the end, it works out for him because he doubts he would have been able to operate within the structure and rules of the NYPD anyway.

One other thing I haven't figured out. Stone needs a "thing." He needs a vice, a personal demon, or a deep dark secret of some sort. Something to struggle with. Something that put him in direct conflict with his usual calm and measured nature. I have a few ideas about what that thing might be, but I haven't landed on anything yet.

Date of Birth: September 8, 1959 | Virgo (Moon in Scorpio, Gemini rising, Mercury and Venus in Virgo)

Born: Hell's Kitchen

Lives: Hell's Kitchen

Birth Cards: Temperance, The Hierophant

Year Card (1983): The High Priestess

Zodiac Card: The Hermit

Positive Traits: alerts, analytical, cautious, calm, efficient, focused, intelligent, meticulous, observant, patient, perceptive

Negative Traits: inhibited, morbid, obsessive, stubborn, superstitious, workaholic