

CHARACTER SKETCHES



To My Kind Publishers,

I received your request for more information on the Baudelaire orphans and on the dreaded Count Olaf, in order to provide a more complete picture for booksellers, members of the press, and other interested parties. In the case of the Baudelaire children, at least, I am more than happy to oblige.



VIOLET BAUDELAIRE is fourteen years old, and in my opinion, one of the greatest inventors of her time. If you ever see her with her hair tied up in a ribbon to keep it out of her eyes, it means that the gears and levers of her inventing mind are whirring at full force and that soon a spectacular invention will appear. It is unfortunate that so much of her inventing energy has been spent rescuing the three Baudelaire children from harm, rather than, say, producing a helicopter that runs on the power of rubberbands, but that is the way the story goes.

KLAUS BAUDELAIRE, the middle child, wears glasses, which gives the impression that he is quite bookish. This impression is entirely correct. Stored in this remarkable young man's mind is the information contained in hundreds and hundreds of books, and even the destruction of the enormous library in his parents' home has not stopped him from continuing his literary education. I often wish he was by my side, to assist me in my own research, but his skills are usually spent cooking up plans to undo Count Olaf's treachery.



SUNNY BAUDELAIRE is an infant and thus the youngest of the three orphans. Because she is an infant, she has not had the opportunity to accomplish as much as her siblings, but she has a number of personal attributes that are likely to be of interest to readers. The first four attributes that come to mind are her very sharp teeth, which she likes to use at every opportunity. These teeth are so sharp that they can serve as weapons, and I'm sorry to say that she has been forced to use them as such. Please note that Sunny tends to speak in curious syllables that are sometimes difficult to understand, so I have endeavored to translate them as best I can in the text of these books.

Lastly, there is **COUNT OLAF**, and I have no interest in saying anything at all about this revolting man. He is filthy, he is treacherous, and all he thinks about is the enormous fortune that the Baudelaire parents left behind. He has only one eyebrow, which would normally make him easy to spot, but he tends to disguise himself as he chases after the three children, hatching more and more dastardly plans, and you can see why I am not going to waste any time discussing him at all. As for his comrades—a revolting crew of employees, including a hook-handed man, two women who have powder-white faces, a sinister bald man with a long nose, and an enormous creature who looks like neither man nor woman—the less said about them the better.



I hope that you find this information useful. Remember, you are my last hope that the tales of the Baudelaire orphans can finally be told to the general public.

With all due respect,
Lemony Snicket