



NICKNAMES : Ana, Ana Jo, AJ, Applejack

AGE / DOB : Twenty-six / April Twelfth

GENDER : Cisgender Female
PRONOUNS : She/Her
ORIENTATION : Pansexual

MORALS : Lawful Good

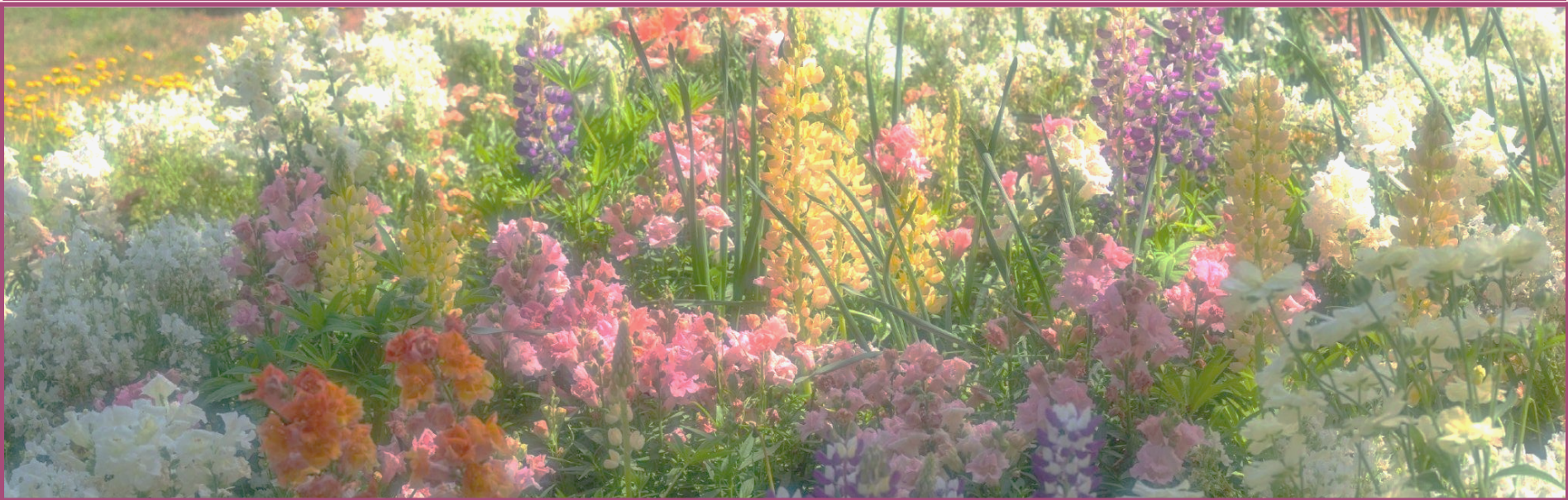
NATIONALITY : American
ETHNICITY : Irish/Mexican
LANGUAGES : English/Spanish

PLACE OF BIRTH : Jordan, Montana

OTHER : Made it big as a professional ballerina in NYC with a face on many posters. Her father has fallen ill and, despite their misgivings, she has returned home to help him in his time of need.

PRIZED POSSESSIONS : Her mother’s gold locket. It is, no matter what, lain across her neck, except for shows. During shows, it stays in a carrying case on her vanity or in her bag.

AMBITIONS : Ana has only ever wanted to make it big in NYC and continue dancing for as long as she can. She has found her place under the spotlight with a deep passion for music and rhythm, though deep beneath that is blood, sweat, and tears that got her there.



Hair

Ana has jet black hair that streaks down her back to her thighs. It both catches and swallows up the light when it hits it.

Eyes

Ana has hazel eyes framed by long, thick lashes. They sparkle in the light and certainly have an uncanny ability to charm and flatter.

Skin

Ana is on the lighter side, but has sweet notes of caramel skin that she got from her mama, and a light dusting of freckles from her time horseback riding as a child.

Blemishes

Ana has practically flawless skin. She takes care of it for the stage, though she tends to be

Appearance

Usually bathed in the spotlight and a camera flash, Anastasia is New York City’s current up-and-coming darling of the dance. Having attended ballet school in New York City and danced for many years, Anastasia has the body of a typical ballerina. Agile and lithe, she has strong calves and thighs that know how to pirouette like lungs know how to breathe. She keeps in good shape to maintain the proper physique needed for such a physically demanding career, one she has fully accepted as her fate. Her shoulders, though not at all broad, also maintain a certain level of lean muscle to keep those graceful angles as she performs onstage. Like many other ballerinas, Anastasia is about average height, though with such a lean build, she can appear rather petite. When not in her ballet costumes or practice gear, she can appear to be quite curvy, with an ample bust and a capable build. Behind thick eyelashes are hazel eyes colored like a wildflower field, sweet and gentle in a way that makes it hard to avoid or pull away from. They’re just as engaging as she is in words and conversation, charming like a cup of tea on a calm spring morning. Anastasia keeps a well-maintained appearance down to the small details, with soft skin and glossy, inky hair. She has dimples in each cheek that play peek-a-boo when she smiles; however, when it comes to her being stubborn, she takes after her father, with a stern, unrelenting gaze.

Clothing Style

Living in New York City as a well-known ballerina certainly changed Ana’s wardrobe, introducing some designer items and all, but she never could shake the habits of a good thrift from her childhood days with her mama. In the city, she was often seen in flowy skirts, with lace and ruffles and sweet little bows. But it wasn’t *girly*, really; it was *classy*. Ana wore it well and could, with grace, bring attention to herself in the room when she entered it. However, since arriving back home, she’s traded the skirts and dresses for denim blue boot cut jeans and plain t-shirts, usually black, that seem to hug her a little too well. Now, she blends back in with the townfolk, looking just like any other hard worker from around the county.



PERSONALITY

Anastasia is like a breath of fresh air on a spring morning, with a beautiful field of flowers just waiting to be walked through. There is something calm about her presence, quiet like a birdsong, yet bubbly like butterflies flitting around for blooming milkweed. Anastasia has always been the **life of the party**, with a laugh that could be heard halfway across a mansion. She was always quick to join in for a dance or a game, and it wasn’t all too surprising considering how comfortable she was onstage. Anastasia is someone people like to have around once they get to know her, and she can light up a room, be it at a house party with friends or an after-party with New York City socialites. However, do something she isn’t too fond of, and she can be a bit of a **hothead**. Though Anastasia isn’t one to say words she doesn’t mean, she doesn’t hesitate to say what is on her mind and be **straight to the point**, sometimes even **blunt**. Her sweet smile can turn to a sour scowl in an instant. Though Ana is willing to give people a chance, even known to sit back quietly and watch things play out for a while, she’s known to put people in their place once she gets a gut full of something she’s grown sick and tired of. Anastasia is **not afraid to stand her ground** on things she believes in or feels strongly about, but because of that, she tends to be **stubborn**, just like her daddy. Anastasia is not quick to ask for help, and sometimes an issue can bubble beneath her smiles for quite some time before anyone knows there was an issue to begin with. Yet, despite this, Anastasia has a sweet charm about her. When in quiet conversation with her, she tends to be **soft-spoken**, though quite the talker with a tender smile that flashes those dimples she tends to be a bit shy about.

*social butterfly – bubbly – blunt – independent
hotheaded – ambitious – stubborn – conversational
confident – perfectionist – secretive*

OTHER — Ana loves a good wildflower bouquet more than anything a store might have. She also has a major soft spot for stray animals along the road and will want to stop and pick up the critter. Don’t let her look at roadkill, or else she might get teary-eyed.



HOW THEY ARE PERCEIVED — Anastasia is well-known by her friends as being a “girl’s girl” who is well dressed and always ready to go out on the town or out for a drink or bite to eat if she has the time. If there is ever a partner needed for a task, Anastasia is your girl. However, her friends know well that she keeps secrets about her past and does not speak much about where she came from or any family that she has. All they know is that she is no longer on speaking terms with her father.

FEARS — Anastasia is afraid of **becoming callous like her father** and being **tied down** by those she loves. Anastasia is very open about the things she loves as well as her dreams, but there is a deeply-seated fear that what she has might crumble despite working so hard for it. Furthermore, though she has had flings here and there, none of them have ever lasted long, because she witnessed what a loss of love did to her father.

TRAITS

STRENGTHS

Ana’s **determination** is what got her into top dance schools and, ultimately, the New York City Ballet, a world-renowned troupe. Her **independence** is what pushed her into the unknown, and because of that, she **knows how to take initiative** when it comes to getting work done.

Determination • Independent • Audacious • Tenacious

WEAKNESSES

Ana’s high standards lead her to be a bit of a **perfectionist**, which leads her to be very hard on herself and create impossibly difficult goals for herself. Because of her father’s emotional unavailability in her later teens, Ana learned to do things on her own, so much so that she is **unwilling to ask for help**, even when she needs it, oftentimes keeping her problems a secret. This leads her to become **easily overwhelmed** by her own problems.

Perfectionist • Reticent • Secretive • Avoidant • Reserved

LIKES

Anastasia deeply enjoys **a warm cup of tea in the morning with exactly one sugar cube and a splash of cream** and a **well-made breakfast**. She also enjoys **a morning dance practice** in her at-home studio, even on her off days, and **practicing the piano** like her mother taught her. Though she has tried to bury the past behind her, Anastasia still misses and adores **a horseback ride** through her father’s property back home.

DISLIKES

Anastasia dislikes **being held back** by something. Be it a late subway car, getting ill, or even losing her keys, anything that puts a dent in her schedule or plans tends to get on her nerves. Ana is also deeply upset when she **makes mistakes in a dance routine**, as she tends to be a perfectionist to a heavy fault.

CONNECTIONS

 NAME — Beau Bennett AGE — 52 CONNECTION — As hardworking as he is hardheaded. Ana’s stubborn father. Became emotionally distant and spiraled into alcoholism following the death of his wife, Itzél. His alcoholism has led to him having a weak liver and recently suffering a stroke, which has greatly hindered his ability to work, thus requiring outside help and for Ana to return home.	 NAME — Itzél Bennett (Montaño) AGE — 41 (deceased) CONNECTION — Witty yet gentle. Ana’s mother, who has begun to feel more like a myth than a mother. She met Beau when they were in college and, after a successful albeit short ballet career, moved to Montana to be with him and start a family. There, she began a small dance studio for the area, where she taught children ballet until she died in a car crash at 41.	 NAME — Diane Wilson AGE — 26 CONNECTION — Quiet and a bit standoffish, she’s been Ana’s best friend since they were in diapers. Though Ana moved away to New York City, she and Diane never lost contact, even as they made new friends and went their separate paths. Since Ana’s return to Montana, she and Diane have reconnected and spent much of their time together when Diane isn’t working at the local coffee shop, and Ana isn’t working around the house.	 NAME — Levi Abbott AGE — 27 CONNECTION — Ana’s high school sweetheart. Dates to all the school dances, seen walking hand in hand always, but there was something about Levi that just never fully clicked with Ana. They broke up amicably around the end of senior year, but Levi has been consistently running into Ana since she’s been back. Like he’s been wanting to tell her something.
 NAME — Miguel Montaño AGE — 24 CONNECTION — One of Ana’s many cousins, but one of the ones she’s closest with. Beau cut much contact with Itzél’s family after her death, but Miguel stuck around despite Beau’s cranky demeanor. Ana and Miguel grew closer around the time of her mother’s death.. He was in search of work around the time Ana graduated college and, despite not having returned home in quite some time, managed to get a good word in at the local auto shop. He works as a mechanic in town and is currently “talking” with Diane.	 NAME — Prince AGE — 14 CONNECTION — Prince was gifted to Ana on her 12th birthday when he was just a colt. Since receiving him, Prince has been Ana’s companion horse for riding and rodeo competitions. They were quite the duo, lovingly given the moniker of royalty with both their names tied to monarchy. Prince is a bit of a show-off for a stallion, and notoriously pushes away anyone who isn’t Ana trying to saddle him up. It broke Ana’s heart to leave him, but she did what was necessary to find happiness. However, since her return, Ana has taken him for rides just about every day, making up for all the lost time.	 NAME — Molly AGE — 5 CONNECTION — Ana’s beloved cat. She adopted Molly when she was just a kitten a few months after moving into her first apartment in NYC. Molly is a bit of a high-maintenance cat, but is adored entirely by Ana. Comfortable with being cuddled and held and usually seen with a pink bow around her neck, Molly is usually found snoozing by Ana’s feet on a sunny afternoon, or by the windowsill, or next to Ana at night. She is weary of strangers, and usually runs away before slowly warming up. Since moving back to Montana, Molly has been more sneaky than usual, typically found beneath Ana’s bed more than anything.	NAME —? AGE — ? CONNECTION ?



BACKSTORY

Born to two loving parents, Anastasia Joanne Bennet has been a force to be reckoned with since the day she could walk.

Lovingly named after her Grandmother Joanne, Ana Jo grew up an only child to Beau and Itzél Bennet on a homestead in Montana. Her parents were deeply in love, having experienced a romance like a fairytale. Beau saw Itzél for the first time as a ballerina onstage for a free university performance, and during a brief pause in music, Itzél saw him in the crowd. Though they were from entirely different worlds, with Beau studying agriculture and Itzél studying dance, they were like two opposite halves of a whole, their relationship entirely magnetic. They maintained a long-distance relationship, where Itzél had her ballet career in New York City, and Beau went home to establish a home for them. When Beau bought a house for the two of them, Itzél retired from professional dance for good and returned to start a family.

Out came Ana Jo, both a burst of sparkle and a ball of fire. A bubble of laughter and joy, Ana Jo was raised on late nights in the fields, riding horses, and helping her daddy outside. However, she was also her mother’s child. Homesteading couldn’t pay all the bills, and Itzél could never set aside ballet forever. Beau had built her a dance studio with his own hands beside the house and, rather than keep it to herself, Itzél opened up her own dance studio for children of all ages to learn how to do ballet. Ana Jo was in every single one of them, standing beside her mother learning how to pirouette and passé, or in the after hours when her mother played piano for her to dance to. It was in these moments that Ana found her passion for ballet, and a dream for the stage was born.

Life could be described as almost perfect for Ana Jo. She had friends, loving parents, a loving, safe home, and a place where her heart could roam free. Though she certainly loved her pink ribbons and bows, Ana Jo was no stranger to running outside and getting brambles stuck in her hair or her hands dirty. But that perfect balance, that perfect life all came crashing down one fateful night, when her father suddenly called her, right after her mother had dropped her off at a party. Her father was on the other end, sobbing and crying, explaining that her mother had gotten into a car crash, mere minutes after she had been dropped off. Ana knew the way on foot, and, despite it being dark and raining, she sprinted down the country road. It wasn’t long before she found the taped-off intersection, her lungs burning from sprinting, laying eyes on the grim remains of two cars: metal carcasses with glass strewn across the tarmac like crystal rain, a bloodied hand hanging from her mother’s vehicle, and one drunk, bumbling idiot being detained by the police.



Everything after that was a blur that Ana can’t or flat-out refuses to remember. Aunts and uncles from both sides of the family came by to help, all while she watched her father spiral into alcoholism, the same thing that had ripped her mother away from her. There was little that Ana could do to save her father, who shut her out so easily now that their mother was gone. Their relationship only continued to suffer as time went on.

Ana dove deeper into ballet as her father fell deeper into alcohol. Beau resented her for dreaming beyond the borders of their town, and it soon became apparent that Ana was too much like her mother for Beau to be the father Ana needed. A tragedy, really, as “*Applejack*” turned to just Ana Jo to her father. The dynamic duo crumbled.

The final two years of high school passed quickly. She maintained her friendships, her grades, all her hard work. Levi, whom she had known since junior high, was a strong pillar during the death of her mother, and they remained close to one another. So too did Diane and Miguel, and high school played out as expected. However, senior year arrived, and things changed as they started planning their lives to go on different paths. Ana and Levi broke up, on good terms at least, and Ana was sending audition reels to every dance school she could think of in New York. Any way to get away from home.

When an acceptance letter arrived from the School of American Ballet in New York, Ana was quick to begin packing her things to head on out. She left with a quick goodbye to her father, and tearful ones to friends and other family. It was strained. It was scary. But it was everything Ana wanted.

Years again flew by, ones full of the beauty of music, rhythm, dance, and the ugliness of blood, sweat, and tears. Ana met new friends, new contacts, had her own place in the Big Apple, and soon landed her spot in the New York City Ballet, one of the best dance companies in the States. Starting from humble beginnings, Ana was just a girl in a tiny farming town, practicing in her mother’s dance studio from before she was even tall enough to reach the ballet barre. Somehow, despite everything, she had achieved everything her mother had and more, sitting pretty in her ribbons and bows and sparkle in a top-rated ballet company.

At first, it was just sparkling amongst the chorus, watching as friends and colleagues took the stage as soloists. However, not a day went by that Ana did not dance, that she did not cry or bleed, insisting that she was to be better, that she was to be in the spotlight. After the endless hours of practice late into the night, perfecting her spins and her arches, it eventually paid off, and she was the face of *The Nutcracker*. Diane and Miguel both flew out to see her dance. Though there were two important people missing from the crowd, Ana did not let it get to her. For the first time in her life, as the applause rumbled in her ears, Ana realized what freedom felt like.

But eventually, the music has to stop sometime. Ana got a phone call.

It was Miguel, telling her that her father had a stroke.

