

[Early] Backstory:

Perne was born a daughter of the Holy See to Reauneaux Alderic de Archevauliere and Nolene de Sauveterre. Reauneaux served as a member of Ishgard's military in his younger years before he began a family with Nolene, who had aspirations to study thaumaturgy, plans that were later put aside for the sake of social duties expected of her. Before Perne, they had sons—Cyril, Asheaux, and Dion. Perne was the last of their children, with no plans for any additional, leaving much in the way of expectation upon their youngest.

Ishgard being rooted in tradition, involved outdated concepts such as common gender roles, transparent social castes, religious persecution, and an impressive history of war and bloodletting. Growing up in that kind of world, Perne was given expectations that varied greatly from those offered to her elder siblings. Where her brothers were permitted to chase glory with the squadrons of the militia and aspire to follow in the footsteps of legendary dragoons, Perne was largely sheltered from the world that lingered outside of the Archevauliere estate. She was given private tutelage on a number of subjects that were deemed appropriate, such as Ishgardian history, social diction, reading, writing, and music—specifically harp, flute, and performance. All of this was done in an effort to make Perne seem appealing enough that her family could betroth her to another minor house and secure legacy and amass fortune. She was raised and groomed to believe that her worth was only what she could ultimately provide for her family, which was meant to be her foremost and only priority.

Often left to her solitude when she wasn't pursuing studies, Perne developed both an admiration and an envy for her brothers, and she too wanted to join them in their excursions. Although it wasn't permitted, her youngest brother, Dion, took to the habit of teaching and training Perne in secret, even going so far as to procure her a custom-made set of armour that she could train in. This continued for a couple of years, but was eventually discovered by the two retainers (guardians) that Reauneaux had assigned to look after Perne in his absence. Both Dion and Perne faced punishment, and Perne's armour was confiscated.

In Perne's blooming adolescence about the sixteenth winter, Nolene and Reauneaux began to scout for potential families that Archevauliere could be tied to. The Archevauliere history had been serving and supporting House Dzemael, which had something of a reputation for being a bit underhanded and deceptive (yet to be fair, such behaviour came to be considered a bit commonplace in Ishgard's social circles). Perne served as a ward to the same house along with a number of her cousins and the stigma against House Dzemael, those who supported it, and Perne's own personal behaviour served as obstacles in securing her a betrothal. While she had no lack of options to her disposal, Perne had very little interest in marrying and was still more fanatically obsessed with wanting to be like her brothers, in spite of what her household's defined focus for her was supposed to be.

Her paths crossed with an aspiring dragoon named Aubrent Lemelle, an acquaintance of her brothers', some years her senior, and fellow soldier of the militia when he made visit for home. Perne found in him a confidant and a refreshing mind that wasn't set on following traditions of old. He supported Perne's desires to be more than what her family tried to mould her into and regaled her with [likely] embellished tales of his travels both in and out of the company of his squadron. It was through him that she learned more of the patron deities scattered across Eorzea, religious theory, and that even an Ishgardian could follow the beliefs of someone other than the Fury, though in doing so, it made that individual a heretic in the eyes of the Holy See Inquisition as defined by the Orthodox Church, which was represented and its notions upheld by the Knights of the Heavensward. Aubrent was a follower of Oschon, the Wanderer and in merely spending time with the man, Perne was rather inspired to do the same. Where she found in herself restriction and confinement, she found in Aubrent liberation and the ability to follow heart's pursuits.

Over the years that followed as Perne's affections for Aubrent birthed, grew, and deepened, the Inquisition's efforts to quell heresy and to silence those that would speak out against them intensified. Heresy became more than simply religious intolerance, but rather any opinion differentiating from what the Archbishop Thordan VII demanded of his people. Aubrent meant to serve as a self-proclaimed vigilante of justice, offering refuge to those accused of heretical support or affiliation, in addition to silencing the voices of the Inquisition's representatives. Agreeing with his perception of Ishgard deeply in need of social and religious reformation, Perne chose to join him, despite the concept that she had never seen true combat and had very little real knowledge on the world's hardships that existed outside of the Holy See's luxuries and comforts. It could be argued that due to Ishgard's history, every elezen within its gates was susceptible to the use of force and Perne's ability to stand at Aubrent's side even knowing that they would pursue justice by way of violent means implied that even she was not immune to the history of their people. Through affiliates of the growing 'resistance' movement, Aubrent and Perne succeeded in escorting a trivially low number of individuals facing (or fearing) potential execution from the gates of the Holy See. Perne's hands did not escape unscathed, however, and in time she was stained by both her actions and the voices they had to silence infinitely in the midst of delivering their liberation.

Their efforts did not last long. In less than a cycle, Aubrent's motives were discovered by an unnamed man hired to hunt him down on charges of heresy. Perne was found alongside Aubrent and both were charged with heretical conduct and obstruction to the church's justice. It was only by the showering of coin and a great deal of bribery that Perne managed to escape execution herself, though in doing so, House Archevauliere suffered deeply for the payment of the church's silence. Had it not been for Reauneaux's years of devoted service and allegiance to the city-state, his words would have fallen on deaf ears and Perne's story would have ended rather abruptly. Convinced she had been wrongfully influenced by Aubrent's presence and not actually a heretic herself, Reauneaux forced her into quarantine once more. Aubrent was said to have not been so fortunate. News delivered of his gruesome execution passed the doorstep of the Archevauliere estate and Perne was forbidden from further association with the man or his

family name, issuing her a lack of closure as she was shoved back toward the purpose her father had chosen for her.

As Ishgard's evolution and the grasp of its Inquisition reached a height and climax, the cries for revolution grew. Not simply for reformation, tolerance, and alliance with the great dragons, but for Ishgard as a whole, to change with the world that changed outside of it. In order to continue thriving, Ishgard's only option was to adapt or crumble, while acknowledging its faults of the past and making effort to turn away from older, outdated traditions. To put a bloody end to the long-standing war with the dragons, the Holy See opened its gates to outsiders, formerly having been an utterly nomadic city-state. Although Perne had heard the tales of a great saviour who lent assistance to the revolution's efforts, her personal knowledge was sparse and her participation nonexistent as her family kept her from being involved, concerned that events of the past would somehow pave way toward repetition. With the eventual fall of the corrupt Heavensward knight collective, the primal King Thordan, and Archbishop, his illegitimate son, Aymeric de Borel, responsible for much of the revolution's growth, took up the mantle of leadership (though mayhaps a bit reluctantly), and took the reins to turn Ishgard toward a new future and potential providence for its people.

In spite of the way Ishgard slowly began to move in a progressive direction, Perne's family and many others of older tradition, remained tied to habits difficult to break. Although nothing stopped her from leaving the Holy See, Perne's lack of worldly knowledge and fear of losing her inheritance kept her rooted to Ishgard, considering it was the only world and lifestyle she'd known. Begrudgingly, she tolerated her family's antics.

Looking for a constructive and healthy way to spend her free time that did not involve dreams of glory and battle with weapons of the polearm family, word reached her ear of an operatic theatre company looking for investors and patrons located in oceanic region of La Noscea. While granted leave with escort to investigate the possibilities of supporting the arts and expanding her family's name, it was only done under the pretence that Perne agree to the most recent match directed toward her—Raffael Prideaux, a man of the cloth and dedicated to the older ways of the Orthodox Church. With little to contest against it and her parents unwilling to hear her repetitious excuses, Perne finally acquiesced, and gained something akin to freedom. Within extent.

In La Noscea, she found one Oleandre Torchier, executive of the opera house in question, the Palazzo Aldenard. Upfront about her intentions, it was as he questioned her background that he decided she would be of more use to him as a direct hand rather than a patron, and with some convincing, he extended to her an offer that was both practical and would allow her a reprieve from the life that awaited her back at the estate. Perhaps it was simply intuition of his, or he found himself sympathetic to her cause. Whatever the reason and whatever his motives, Oleandre hired her then and there on the spot to serve as a member of the opera house staff, in means of both performance and a member of his staff.

With word from one of two escorts sent along with her, she issued response to her family, making a promise that she would remain honourable and uphold her portion of the agreement, but that she would take up temporary residence in La Noscea to stay near Oleandre and the opera house. Thinking her time better spent in La Noscea than daydreaming about squadrons and the fallen Aubrent Lemelle, Reauneaux allowed her the privilege of her request, provided that his retainers remain with her that they might report back to the Archevauliere estate his daughter's progress until she was recalled for her eternal bonding ceremony.

Personality:

Perne is an individual with whom it is likely wisest to assume that there is more than what she displays. She would define herself as a labyrinth of complexities, and quite likely not worth the time or the effort it would take to begin unravelling such mysteries. As such is the case, she is disinclined to offer much information about herself and her history unless it's on a need-to-know basis, and even then, such a basis is defined *by her for her*. This makes it difficult to grow close to her, at times frustratingly so, and understandably tests the patience of those who would seek to have her company.

At the very core of herself, Perne is an oft insecure woman, missing confidence in many aspects of her life due to her upbringing and lack of general encouragement and praise from her parents. Much of the truth of this is concealed beneath her obsessive desire to be perceived as a strong and sometimes infallible individual. Even should she not believe she will be successful in her endeavours, Perne tries to carry an air of nonchalance or falsified stability to portray otherwise in the presence of others.

Having grown up under intense scrutiny and rather excessively sheltering parents, much of Perne's social world has lingered in books. While she possesses quite the love affair for written works such as historical tales, hymns, and poetry, she didn't acquire a lot of the necessary social skills that others outside of Ishgard would be privy to. Her colloquial mannerisms reflect this in vocabulary she uses as well as transparent body language when it comes to others in her personal space. Not a good conversationalist by any means, she *does* possess the ability to take initiative and at least make an attempt, poorly-done as it may end up being.

As she has been privileged enough that most things have been handed to her, the idea of 'hard-earned coin' is one lost on Perne. She's never had to perform manual labour or get a job or make something of herself, because she was essentially told that her mere existence already made her something of value in the eyes of her father. Consequently, Perne can occasionally come across as entitled, spoiled, and petulant, though she doesn't seem to recognise any of those traits in herself, appears to know no better, and hasn't been properly educated to remedy that behaviour.

Given that the socio-political world of Ishgard requires its citizens to often be manipulative and deceitful, Perne has been surrounded by people who are capable of putting on masterful charades and facades. This skill too, has been acquired over time, allowing her to play the part of a role rather than to act sincere or genuine. Having done this for so long, however, Perne can't claim to know if she has been fooled by her own masquerade, or if a portion of the *true* her even remains. This has become a consistent source of inner turmoil while she faces the potential of self-discovery and denial.

Believing that words can often demonstrate a sharper edge than a blade, Perne's preference in nigh all situations is to approach it with diplomacy and a publicly portrayed good-will and intention. Beneath this seemingly charitable and altruistic performance, Perne's interests are largely self-serving and self-indulgent, given that she has been raised in a culture that doesn't necessarily promote the actions to serve others. As with many things, exceptions do apply. Perne's dedication to those she would label 'friend' or emotionally close is unquestionable. She believes in concepts like loyalty and integrity, which can sometimes contrast with what she's been raised to believe is the proper course of action.

She is most comfortable when she is considered to be inconsequential or rather 'plain,' and truly believes that in the sea of her people, she is both of those things. As such, she does not handle attention or recognition well, preferring to remain an individual that most would define as unsuspecting. While this could also be a facade for the sake of achieving her own goals without fear of interjection or discovery, many times Perne's inability to handle such attention with grace is sincere and not, in fact, a charade at all for ulterior motive.

Due to the traditions upheld in Ishgard that she was born into, she is remarkably jaded, oftentimes cynical, and not terribly gifted with a sense of humour though capable of sarcasm and dry wit. She requires mental engagement, stimulation, and intrigue in order to be impressed by others or to consider them worthwhile presences. Many of the people in her homeland are drawn to materialistic value and other superficial concepts, which she finds no favour with and thus is more inclined to be drawn toward others who are unlike Ishgardian custom and history.

Curious about the histories, traditions, and religious practises of other peoples, Perne is surprisingly open-minded. Not with the intent to be influenced by others, but rather in her own degree of tolerance and desire for knowledge, something that is likely to be attributed to the Orthodox Church's lack thereof. This same demeanour is what allows her to own the sentiments she possesses when it comes to people being mistreated or unfairly persecuted. With her personal investment as a true 'heretic' of Ishgard, Perne cannot find herself judging others without labelling such thoughts as unfair and hypocritical. In this aspect, Perne is a genuinely kind and understanding person, making her a good listening ear for objectivity.