

UNDER THE SUN – CHARACTER MOTIVATION REVIEW

--

PILOT EPISODE BREAKDOWN:

ACT 1 – SCENE 1

(page 1)

- CHARACTER: Fay
 - WANT: To help her mother (Rio) explore the abandoned scientific facility
 - FLAW: Rio makes her wait outside with an important key
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: She's visibly nervous as they approach the facility, resistant when Rio asks her to wait outside by herself, and eager to follow the rat when it shows her a different way inside
 - NEED: To keep the key safe at all costs

SCENE 2

(page 3)

- CHARACTER: Fay
 - WANT: To help her mother escape the facility
 - FLAW: Rio is trapped inside a locked glass chamber
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: She frantically searches the facility after seeing Arnold drop dead in front of her and desperately runs toward Rio upon seeing her
 - NEED: To avoid the deadly black cloud emanating from a machine in the facility

SCENE 3

(page 4)

- CHARACTER: Fay
 - WANT: To save her mother
 - FLAW: The black cloud has exploded into a massive storm that's surrounding the facility with purple lightning
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: She tries running back to the facility but is knocked back by the lightning and only decides to run when the rat tugs on her sleeve
 - NEED: To escape and find help

SCENE 4

(page 5)

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To get ready for her day unbothered
 - FLAW: Two other guards (Li and Ward) try to get Layla to join their conversation
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: She tries her best to ignore Li and Ward when they enter the locker-room and speaks to them coldly when they ask her a direct question
 - NEED: To get through a very difficult day for her (anniversary of her daughter's disappearance) without falling apart

SCENE 5

(page 7)

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To avoid talking about her daughter's disappearance with Captain Fields and make a good impression with Governor Ramos
 - FLAW: She is skeptical when Gov Ramos explains there might be more sources of water for them to make use of out in the desert wilds
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: She pretends to not know what Captain Fields is talking about when she confronts Layla about the significance of the day and is immediately suspicious when Gov Ramos mentions he has a solution for the water shortage
 - NEED: To take up this opportunity to keep her mind off her troubles

ACT 2 – SCENE 1

(page 10)

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To find and speak with Red Quill
 - FLAW: City Guards traditionally are not allowed inside Red's bar
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: The bouncer outside the bar stops Layla as she approaches the door
 - NEED: To get inside and ask about Cyd Greers

SCENE 2

(page 10)

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To get Red to tell her where she can find Cyd
 - FLAW: Red blames Layla for the huge amount of his fellow Blue Faction members that have been banished over the past few years
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: The tension between Layla and Red builds as they talk inside the bar and Red refuses to give her Cyd's location until Layla reminds Red of how he owes her some information, on account of not helping Layla find her daughter all those years ago
 - NEED: To promise Red that Cyd won't be banished if Layla can find him

SCENE 3

(page 13)

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To find Cyd without drawing too much attention
 - FLAW: Cyd panics and causes a scene
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Cyd threatens the lives of civilians and leads Layla on a chase through a food market
 - NEED: To calm him down and talk to him before other guards get involved

SCENE 4

(page 15)

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To catch Cyd and retrieve the coordinates for the water sources Gov Ramos found
 - FLAW: Cyd clearly doesn't trust Layla and will do whatever it takes to get away
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Cyd is willing to try to shoot Layla while her hard-light shield is malfunctioning even though she hasn't attacked once
 - NEED: To get out of this situation

SCENE 5

(page 16)

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To figure out how the governor found her and Cyd at the distillery and ensure he won't banish Cyd for his crimes
 - FLAW: Governor Ramos is a tight lipped and suspicious man who wants to see Cyd banished as soon as possible
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Gov Ramos never answers any of Layla's questions directly and snaps when Layla suggests banishing Cyd should not be their top priority
 - NEED: To be careful around Gov Ramos as he does not seem to be a forgiving man

SCENE 6

(page 19)

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To end the day in peace
 - FLAW: A sound from her daughter's old bedroom forces her to face the memories she's been trying to avoid for a long time
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: She's hesitant to open the door but when she does, we see dust covering every surface and a tablet that's been knocked over by a rat
 - NEED: To enter the room to help the scared rat get back outside

SCENE 7

(page 21)

- This scene follows the rat along the rooftops as he heads for the city walls, so I don't think I have to do the whole process for this scene
- The point of this scene is to make it clear to audiences that people in this city believe it is impossible to live outside the walls; but also, suggest maybe that's not true
- HOW IT'S SHOWN: The rat passes above Li and Ward in the guard tower who are talking about how nobody survives out in the desert wilds. The rat then runs along a cable leading outside the city

ACT 3 – SCENE 1

(page 22)

- CHARACTER: Layla

- WANT: To get through the banishment ceremony without facing Red or Gov Ramos
- FLAW: Gov Ramos is waiting for her and asks Layla to escort Cyd to the gate
- HOW IT'S SHOWN: The governor calls Layla over to him as soon as he sees her and suggests Layla perform the banishment since she is the one responsible for capturing Cyd
- NEED: To not get on the governor's bad side

SCENE 2

(page 23)

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: Do as the governor says and avoid Red
 - FLAW: Red is there and takes notice of Layla's direct involvement in this ceremony
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: She looks into the crowd as she rides down Gov Ramos' personal elevator and makes eye contact with Red, who just stares at her
 - NEED: To decide who is more of a threat, Red or Gov Ramos

SCENE 3

(page 24)

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To stay on the governor's good side and worry about Red later
 - FLAW: Red helps Cyd escape when an intruder (Fay) runs into the city through the open gate
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: The guards scramble to catch the intruder and Red throws a bottle at Layla's head while she's distracted
 - NEED: To catch the intruder to make up for losing Cyd

--

FULL SEASON BREAKDOWN:

EPISODE 1 (inciting action)

A young girl named Fay accompanies her mother and a group of fellow expeditioners on a journey to an ancient scientific facility where they hope to change the fate of their home. When their discovery takes a turn for the worse, Fay is forced to leave her mother behind, keep the key she was trusted with safe, and search for help. Meanwhile, a veteran city guard named Layla is tasked with a job that forces her to confront a part of her past she wishes she could forget, her daughter's disappearance. As this case unfolds Layla begins to question what is more important, remaining loyal to those above her, or protecting the people of her city.

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To fulfill her guard duties without thinking too much about the anniversary of her daughter's disappearance

- **FLAW:** In order to impress Governor Ramos, Layla agrees to take on a case that will force her to face her past and ultimately strain the ties she has with most of her remaining personal and professional relationships
 - **HOW IT'S SHOWN:** Layla avoids talking about her daughter's disappearance until she absolutely has to. While on this job, she's not only forced to bring up the day her daughter left, she also ends up pissing off both the people her daughter used to be associated with as well as the governor
 - **NEED:** To satisfy the governor's requests without endangering the life of another Blue Faction member
- **CHARACTER: Fay**
- **WANT:** To escape the dangers of the storm and find help so she can rescue her mother
 - **FLAW:** Fay is woefully unaware of the city of Gaia's rules as she has spent her entire life roaming the desert wilds with her mother and their tribe
 - **HOW IT'S SHOWN:** Fay is present when the storm is activated and can see her mother trapped inside the facility it originates from. She runs away and eventually reaches Layla's city, only to be met with a wall of guards who are not keen to welcome an intruder
 - **NEED:** To find someone she can trust

EPISODE 2 (act 1 break)

When Layla and Fay's worlds collide, the two of them must realize their interests align. Fay finds herself captured by the city's governor after trespassing during a banishment ceremony and Layla discovers Fay's claims of a mysterious evil on the horizon are in fact true when she comes face to face with a manifestation of it. Even if it goes against what they've grown to understand Fay and Layla will have to learn to trust each other to escape the walls of the city and protect what's important to them.

- **CHARACTER: Layla**
- **WANT:** To protect herself by finding Cyd again so Governor Ramos doesn't punish her for letting him escape
 - **FLAW:** Layla cannot complete her task because she is attacked by one of the storm's sentries, a black crystalline monster. After seeing proof of the storm's existence, Layla's loyalties in the governor fade
 - **HOW IT'S SHOWN:** Layla tries to help Fay escape from her cell so she can find the help she needs. When the two of them end up cornered by the governor's personal security, she turns herself in so Fay can run away
 - **NEED:** To realize Governor Ramos is hiding something and escape from the city with Fay
- **CHARACTER: Fay**
- **WANT:** To convince someone the storm is coming and that parts of it may already be in the city
 - **FLAW:** Governor Ramos convinces Layla that Fay's claims about this storm and crystal monsters are the unfortunate ramblings of someone whose mind has been broken by extended periods of sun exposure. No one will listen to her

- HOW IT'S SHOWN: After capturing Fay, Layla appears hesitant to treat her as a criminal, but the governor is quick to treat Fay as unwelcome scum. Layla's mind changes after she's attacked by one of the monsters Fay described.
- NEED: To trust Layla and escape the city with her

EPISODE 3

Layla finds herself in a difficult situation as she endures the harsh environment of the desert wilds for the first time in her life. Her hubris and Fay's lack of confidence leads the two of them into a dangerous encounter with a mutated beast. Layla learns firsthand that she is wholly unprepared for this journey.

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To survive the harsh conditions of the desert wilds
 - FLAW: Layla has no experience outside of the city and has a hard time admitting Fay knows more than she does about how to live out here
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Layla ignores Fay's advice and tries to take shelter in a mutated beast's lair. Fay helps Layla escape, but Layla is injured in the incident
 - NEED: To set aside her pride and trust Fay to help her survive in this unknown environment
- CHARACTER: Fay
 - WANT: To quickly return to the facility so she and Layla can set her mother free
 - FLAW: Layla seems to think she should lead because of her age but ends up getting attacked by a mutated beast. Fay also has no real plan for how they're going to get her mother out of the storm
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Layla undermines every suggestion Fay makes regarding where they should take shelter for the night. Fay tries to argue with Layla, but stays quiet after Layla points out that Fay has no plan for how they're going to stop the storm
 - NEED: To stand up for herself and work with Layla to figure out what their next move should be

EPISODE 4:

Layla is injured after the encounter with the beast and must deal with her wound before it gets any worse. Fay begins leading Layla back to her home encampment, but paranoia begins to sneak into Layla's mind. Is someone following them? Or is Layla's mind beginning to succumb to the force of the sun. After all, she's never been exposed to the sun's rays for this long before and it won't be long before the madness starts to creep in.

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To deal with her injury before it gets any worse
 - FLAW: Layla starts to suspect someone is following them
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Layla notices tiny details like the sound of sand shuffling behind her or a reflection of light briefly shining in the distance. However, Fay's stories about what she's seen sun exposure do to people's minds makes Layla think her paranoia might be the first sign that she's going insane

- NEED: To trust her instincts and remember that Governor Ramos will stop at nothing to get what he wants.
- CHARACTER: Fay
 - WANT: To find her tribe again so Layla's injury can be dealt with and so she can hopefully find more people to help her save her mom
 - FLAW: A bounty hunter is trying to kill her and Layla. Fay is caught off guard as Layla did not reveal any of her suspicions to Fay. They have to abandon their vehicle to avoid being shot
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Fay is almost killed as the bounty hunter's sniper shot barely misses her head. Layla's quick reactions save her at the last second, but the two of them end up pinned down until they can find a way to lose him
 - NEED: To the last place she remembered her tribe was camped before the bounty hunter kills either her or Layla

EPISODE 5 (mid-point):

Fay's home is empty aside from two individuals who shouldn't be here in the first place, Cyd Greers and Red Quil, members of the Blue Faction who Layla accidentally betrayed while working on her last case for the governor. The two Blue Faction members subdue Layla but Fay manages to slip away to investigate the camp. While speaking with the Cyd and Red, Layla learns the Blue Faction may not be the criminals she has always been told they are, and why her daughter chose to dedicate her life to the cause. Fay manages to find her mother's journals and suddenly a plan for how to stop the storm unfolds in front of her. But that's not all Fay learns and this final discovery will change Fay and Layla's relationship forever.

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To know why Cyd Greers and Red Quil are camped where Fay's tribe used to be
 - FLAW: Red is hostile towards Layla
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Cyd drives off the bounty hunter but Red takes advantage of Layla's injury and subdues her. He refuses to let her go until he knows she's not working for Ramos
 - NEED: To learn the truth about the Blue Faction, her daughter's involvement in it, and that Fay is her granddaughter
- CHARACTER: Fay
 - WANT: To find something that will help her rescue her mother from the facility
 - FLAW: The camp remains, but her tribe is nowhere to be found. The only two people at the camp now seem to have no idea where anyone else is.
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Everyone seems to have left their belongings behind. Nothing is packed up and it almost looks like the place has been ransacked. Fay sees her mother's tent has been nearly torn apart
 - NEED: To find the journal hidden in her mother's tent and show it to Cyd, Red, and Layla

EPISODE 6:

Layla tries to keep Fay safe by leaving her with Cyd and Red, but Fay does not appreciate suddenly being treated like a helpless child. As the two of them argue about who is more capable of stopping the storm and saving the woman they love (Fay's mother/Layla's daughter) they are ambushed by more creatures like the one Layla encountered in the city.

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To get back to the vehicle she and Fay had to leave behind so they can reach the facility as soon as possible. She must save her daughter (also Fay's mother)
 - FLAW: The storm has expanded and now it can't be stopped without the two other shutdown keys (in addition to the one around Fay's neck). Traversing the desert wilds is also more dangerous now that the storm has reached them
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Cyd explains that the storm has entered its second phase which means in order to stop it, they'll need the 2 other shutdown keys which should be located at each of the aquifers he stole the coordinates for in the first episode. While heading to their vehicle, Layla and Fay are attacked by more crystalline beasts
 - NEED: To keep a level head and work with the people around her in order to save her daughter
- CHARACTER: Fay
 - WANT: To prove to Layla she can help save her mother (also Layla's daughter)
 - FLAW: Layla insists Fay stay behind with Cyd and Red to stay out of trouble. Fay doesn't listen and distracts Layla when she's caught
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: After learning Fay is her granddaughter, Layla tells Cyd and Red to keep her safe while she goes to collect the remaining keys herself. Fay sneaks away from Cyd and Red to follow Layla. When Layla notices Fay following her, she stops paying attention to her surroundings for only a moment, which is exactly when the crystalline beasts attack
 - NEED: To be confident in herself regardless of what the adults in her life think

EPISODE 7:

Layla and Fay must retrieve the first shut down key for the storm, but their constant bickering puts them at a disadvantage. The two of them must work together to pass a series of obstacles and retrieve the shutdown key but unfortunately, they aren't the only ones looking for it.

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To get the first key from the aquifer
 - FLAW: She is upset with Fay for disobeying her and the bounty hunter is following them again
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Layla and Fay argue nearly the entire time they're navigating the first aquifer facility causing them to run into several obstacles along the way, including the bounty hunter from earlier
 - NEED: To work with Fay to successfully get through the facility and retrieve the first key.
- CHARACTER: Fay
 - WANT: To get the first key from the aquifer

- FLAW: Fay is impatient and the more she worries about her mother, the more reckless she gets
- HOW IT'S SHOWN: Fay tries to run ahead, but the rusted metal of the facility collapses behind her, forcing Layla to have to take a different, but parallel path. Certain obstacles force them to work together without being able to see what the other person is doing
- NEED: To set her fears aside and work with Layla to approach this dangerous situation more carefully

EPISODE 8 (low-point)

Layla's been captured by the governor's bounty hunter and now finds herself trapped back in the city. While the governor tries to show Layla that his plan for the storm is justified, Fay works with Cyd and Red to break back into the city and help Layla escape.

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To convince Governor Ramos to let her go so she can stop the storm and save her daughter
 - FLAW: Governor Ramos wants the storm to expand. He orchestrated the plan to activate it
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: After getting captured by the bounty hunter at the end of the previous episode, Layla is trapped in a cell back in Gaia where the governor plans to hold her until the storm has reached it's third and final phase
 - NEED: To keep the governor's attention until Fay, Red, and Cyd can help her escape
- CHARACTER: Fay
 - WANT: To help Layla escape from the governor
 - FLAW: The city has heightened its security immensely since Fay and Layla broke out
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Vehicles like the one Fay and Layla used to escape now drive around the perimeter of the city to patrol the gates. More floodlights now light up the area of the desert surrounding the city. Guard numbers have increased
 - NEED: To accept she knows nothing about the city and let Cyd and Red guide her inside without being caught

EPISODE 9

Layla is free from her cell, but she and Fay don't have a way out of the city. Fay searches the governor's office for a way out while Layla fights off the crystalline beasts that found their way into the city. Fay discovers something intriguing about the shutdown keys and the key given to her by her mother, but soon finds her path blocked by the governor himself.

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: To steal the last shut down key from Governor Ramos' office and start heading toward the storm facility
 - FLAW: The crystalline beasts followed Fay, Red, and Cyd into the city and they're attacking civilians
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: After Fay helps Layla escape her cell, the two of them have the opportunity to get to the governor's office while the guards are distracted by the beasts,

but Layla decides to defend the civilians of Gaia before heading toward the storm facility. However, there are too many beasts, and she is overwhelmed

- NEED: To trap the beasts somewhere and buy them some more time to get to the storm facility and shut it down
- CHARACTER: Fay
 - WANT: To steal the last shut down key from Governor Ramos' office and start heading toward the storm facility
 - FLAW: The governor traps Fay in his office and tries to kill her himself
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: Fay is confused when she finds 2 shut down keys in the governor's office, meaning the one around her neck is not part of the same set. While reading the governor's files about the storm facility, the door to the office slams shut and the governor stands in her path, holding one of the antique weapons he displays on his wall.
 - NEED: To subdue Governor Ramos and get to Layla so they can both start heading toward the storm facility

EPISODE 10 (climax)

Layla and Fay push their way through the storm to reach the center, where the ancient facility lies. Inside they find Fay's mother/Layla's daughter has been possessed by the storm and the rest of Fay's tribe is being held hostage. When Layla begins to use the shutdown keys, the storm makes it clear that at this point the keys are useless. Fay has another plan, and with Layla's help, it might just work.

- CHARACTER: Layla
 - WANT: Stop the storm and save her daughter
 - FLAW: The storm has reached its final phase, making the shutdown keys useless
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: As Layla and Fay are heading toward the facility, a thick black cloud emanates from the facility and completely covers the desert wilds. Inside the facility, the storm apprehends Layla as she tries to insert the last key and laughs at her for trying something so futile
 - NEED: To trust Fay's plan will work
- CHARACTER: Fay
 - WANT: To save her mother and stop the storm by using the root access key her mother gave her
 - FLAW: All the members of her tribe are being held hostage by the storm and the storm has completely overtaken her mother
 - HOW IT'S SHOWN: When Layla and Fay enter the facility, Fay sees that the walls are lined by the members of her tribe, being held in place by black crystals. At the center of the facility, is her mother, with eyes as black as the cloud above them
 - NEED: To trick the storm into inserting the access key itself so Fay can immediately reverse its functions before the storm realizes what's happening