**Name:** Bradley James Freeman

**Date of Birth:** May 16, 1909

**Place of Birth:** Jerusalem, Rhode Island

**Current Residence:** Mactropolis

**Hair:** Black, straight, to his shoulder blades

**Eyes:** Dark green

**Background:** Brad was originally the younger of two children; his older sister, Mary Elizabeth, died when she contracted brain fever at the age of 14. Brad was 12 then. His father was a shift supervisor at a textile mill; his mother had been a teacher before she married, and she supplemented what she viewed as her children’s inadequate schooling. When Mary Elizabeth died, all the life went out of his mother. She died a couple of years later – she was hit by a car. It was ruled an accident, but Brad, now 15, suspected that she stepped in front of it deliberately, or at the very least had so little concern for her life that she didn’t care that she was out in the middle of the street. The idea that the smart, vibrant woman who had always yelled at him for just running out into the middle of the street wouldn’t look both ways before crossing just didn’t mesh.

Brad’s father started drinking around then. He was never a violent man, and he managed to hold onto his job because his boss pitied him, but it basically meant that Brad was the adult in the house. He tucked his father in at night, looked after him when he was drunk and cleaned up the vomit. Neighbors helped with the laundry and cooking, and Brad cleaned the house on top of attending to his schooling. He’d never cared much for education before his mother died, but he figured it was the only thing he could do for her now. He got a job to help out, working nights as a janitor at an all-night diner. Coffee became his life’s blood, so he could attend school, keep the house up, and keep his job. One of his regulars at the diner was a professor at Rhode Island State College and suggested he enroll. Hearing about his circumstances, the professor arranged a scholarship for Brad.

Brad had no idea what to take in college; he started with English classes and then, having been introduced to Shakespeare through those, moved into Drama. He was quickly recognized as a talented actor; he played Banquo in “Macbeth”, Mercutio in “Romeo & Juliet,” and Mark Antony in “Julius Caesar,” among many other roles. It was during his lead debut as Prince Hamlet that he caught the eye of Serena Romano, an Italian vampire. She pounced on him after the performance, taking him back to her hotel room, seducing him and turning him at the same time. He was 20 years old then. She kept him around for sex and private performances for a few years; he wasn’t allowed to leave. His father died when he choked on his own vomit after a night of drinking; Brad read about it in the paper. He wasn’t allowed to go back to college either, so technically flunked out. His friends were frantic; his friend from the diner was disappointed and confused. And of course he was fired from his job at the diner; Serena Romano wouldn’t let him go anywhere, keeping him for her own enjoyment.
And then one day, she was gone. After 5 years, she simply disappeared and left him to his own devices. He never found out where she’d gone or why; he was simply glad to have his freedom. He left Rhode Island and began traveling the country as best he could, but he still gravitates to colleges and universities. He tried to go back to college once, enrolling in Michigan State University, but soon discovered that going through the Drama department at most colleges meant actively seeking acting work – and, in some cases, actively being sought. His instructors were shocked that he didn’t want anything beyond local stock work and even that only for his own amusement. Eventually, he gave up on college.

His Sire did leave him the keys to a few different homes, and a car – all of them already paid for. He gets money by various intellectual odd jobs: occasionally doing commercials or acting in local theater productions; he goes to the auditions as himself and keeps altering his appearance until he finds the sort of look they’re going for with the character. He also works as a copywriter for various magazines and catalogs, typing up advertisements and marketing copy for products; his favorite job (besides acting) is to write up quickie book reviews for libraries and trade publications. Normally, this sort of work wouldn’t pay a good income, but since he’s been doing it for decades (under various names) and he’s been diligent about saving (and doesn’t have bills such as mortgage or car payments), so he has a tidy little sum stashed away. It’s nothing like what most vampires have, but it’s a nest egg, and it’s growing slowly but surely.

**Power:** Aside from an unusually keen nose for blood, Brad has the ability of Impersonation: he can look like anyone he wants, change individual features about himself, any sort of purely visual physical effect. He can’t change his voice (any more than you or I could), his scent, or anything except the way he looks. For an actor though, this is excellent.

**Favorites**

**Books:** Jane Eyre, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, Catch-22, Crime & Punishment

**Movies:** Kenneth Branagh’s Hamlet, Interview with the Vampire (it’s an ironic favorite), any decent historical fiction (Shogun, Last Samurai, Glory, Hidalgo)

**Plays:** anything Shakespeare, but esp. “Hamlet”; not fond of musicals because he doesn’t think he has much of a voice

**Poems:** “Auguries of Innocence” by William Blake; “The Garden of Proserpine” by Algernon Charles Swinburne; “Ulysses” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

**Color:** Green

**Food:** Anything sweet. Also fruit, so fruit-based desserts are a favorite.

**Drink:** Coffee. Loves it. Doesn’t drink much alcohol, which is just as well; he looks like he’s 20.

**Animal:** Horses. Especially in motion. He doesn’t actually OWN any; he wouldn’t know how to begin to take care of one. He just likes watching them.

Brad dislikes most poems, plays, and works of the Classical/Hellenic periods, as he was made to perform and recite them constantly by Serena Romano. He’s even fallen out of love with Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar” and “Antony and Cleopatra”; once proud to have played Antony in “Julius Caesar”, he now rarely mentions the part.

He’s prone to reciting Shakespeare when he needs to block something from his mind, though his mind picks passages at random. Aware of the image of vampires as suave, seductive and mysterious, he does his best at times to live up to it. This rarely, however, works. Brad is a sweet, kind guy, made a vampire against his will, without his knowledge. He’s just trying to get through his unlife as best he can.