

Daniel Raleigh

Backstory

Name: Dónall - the Gaelic equivalent of Daniel, which his very traditionalist parents called him in lieu of the more Anglised Daniel

Species: Human

Sex: ♂

Age: 35

Height: 6ft 1in

Weight: 220lbs

Siblings: 5 - brother named Ruaridh (pronounced 'Rory'; 2 years older), sister named Isabelle (2 years younger), sister named Mary (5 years younger), twins (a boy and girl named Darragh and Shannon; 12 years younger)



Daniel is an original character from the *Indicators* universe. He came from a large Irish Catholic family that he found quite toxic at times, but escaped enough to be able to come back from time to time. He's self-assured, confident, and happy to be one of the Directors of the business founded by his father.

Trust & Confidence

(newborn)

Daniel was born in Coolock, just north of Dublin, in the outskirts of the city, as Dónall in Ireland to an Irish family, the second of five children. His father came from a working-class background and worked hard to support his family, but from the very beginning he had a can-do attitude. That served him well: he built Kilverlay Technologies from the ground-up in England, and provided generously for his wife and children. Given the fact that Dónall was the second child, he was born in a favourable position in the family. His mother already had some experience of looking after a baby and he benefited from that. As a result, she dedicated herself to looking after him and he sensed this dedication. He felt well looked-after, safe, and secure in her care, and this contributed heavily to the pair developing a powerful and nourishing symbiosis.

Freedom & Self-Determination

(toddlerhood)

As Dónall grew into a toddler he became aware of the strong presence of his father in the household, and also of the fact that he had an older brother.

His name was Ruaridh.

Their father travelled regularly between Ireland and England, so there were times when he was around and times when he was absent. At this age Dónall had no idea why his dad kept disappearing and reappearing, but in practice it meant that he had a mix n' match set of carers. Sometimes he was with his mum and dad, and sometimes with his mum, grandma, and granddad.

He sensed something unpleasant about his grandparents, but couldn't tell what it was.

The relationship between Dónall and Ruaridh was somewhat unfriendly from the start. Ruaridh could get jealous of Dónall and take things from him out of spite, and Dónall learned to scream and clutch his toys to make sure Ruaridh didn't take them away. However, he wasn't terribly quick to do this and only started screaming if Ruaridh actually got his hands on whatever toy Dónall had at the time.

Dónall's mother was a stay-at-home mum, so neither Dónall nor his big brother had to deal with her being absent. As a happy result, Dónall felt that he could walk away from her to see what else the world had to offer, and could come back and expect her to be where he'd left her. This sense of security allowed him to develop a sense of self-assuredness that he took with him into his later years.

His self-assuredness also meant that he developed a benevolent approach to others, although given that he was still the baby of the family, he had little opportunity to exercise this for the moment.

Ambition

(young childhood)

Whenever Dónall's dad wasn't at home he was either at work or over in England, and when he wasn't at home Dónall's mother would need extra help with raising Ruaridh and

Dónall. This became all the truer when Dónall's first sister, Isabelle, was born when Dónall was 4.

There were times when his mother, who had her hands full to quite a degree with two energetic young boys, would threaten about what would happen when their father came home. This was an empty threat (Dónall's dad simply wasn't the type to dole out beatings), but it had a strong enough psychological impact that the boys tended to fall into line if she said it.

The grandparents were very traditional in their views. Dónall had no context for this - he was only 4, of course, so he assumed that all of this was normal enough - but from the very beginning they infused his experience of childhood with a lot of the beliefs and values of Catholicism. Dónall recognised that his grandparents were quite different from his parents, and this was his first experience of the 'otherness' of people who weren't his immediate family. Their 'otherness' included a gory attitude towards defending the Catholic faith and a strange eagerness to make sure he knew that he must be prepared to die for it.

Still, this wasn't Dónall's whole world - he started going to school, and when he did, his social net widened a little further. He instantly got along well with the other children and took the opportunity to enjoy it to the full. To him, it was a lot of fun. From the perspectives of the other children, Dónall had a certain energy that they enjoyed, and he often found himself the one playing leader in various games.

Dónall became more energetic but it wasn't just his body he exercised more, it was his imagination. In fantasy games he loved the idea of becoming a gajillionaire with a helicopter. Dónall asked his dad whether there were any gajillionaires yet, and his dad laughed and said no, but that if he wanted to go for it then he should! Sometimes Dónall liked the idea of being a king, with a golden crown, jewels, and all of his subjects to rule over - but he had the good social sense not to use this fantasy in a way that might put off his school-mates. He was a benevolent king, of course!

Ruaridh had childhood fantasies of his own, and while they wouldn't normally show up in another person's profile as they are about to, here, they're worth mentioning because of the way they interlocked with Dónall's. Ruaridh imagined himself as an airplane pilot. If asked, Ruaridh would likely have denied it, but notably Dónall wanted to either pilot or ride a flying machine; Ruaridh wanted to pilot a flying machine. Occasionally Dónall would play at flying his own helicopter, and if he did then when Ruaridh was around, he

would defend 'his' fantasy. The arguments these two could have were legendary, and all while sitting in a cardboard box together.

Isabelle was getting old enough to start toddling, and when she reached the age of 2 she got a bedroom of her own. That meant that Dónall had to give up his bedroom to her and move into Ruaridh's room. Ruaridh didn't want to have to share and at first they argued a great deal. This settled down but never quite became a happy arrangement.

Dónall and Ruaridh were both taught, even at this young age, that they should be able to stand up for themselves, physically if necessary, and were encouraged to fight. This didn't happen too often as this was a step too far, as far as the boys' parents were concerned, but just sometimes they still found themselves pitted against one another. If the grandparents weren't able to get them to physically fight, they would play the two off against each other and encourage toxic sibling rivalry. Being so young, the boys often fell for this. However, sometimes it was all blatant enough that Dónall saw through it and refused - although to say that that displeased his grandparents was an understatement.

Productivity

(older childhood)

Dónall came to specialise in anything at school that required leadership and teamwork. He loved Physical Education. He didn't particularly enjoy the sport itself, but he loved leading a team and achieving something tangible!

By contrast, Ruaridh still fancied the idea of becoming a pilot and he made a deliberate effort to aim for this in adulthood. He did well in maths because he knew that was needed to become a pilot. He also liked playing video games at home. While this wasn't a deliberate effort on his part to prepare himself, a lot of Amstrad games had themes that appealed to him so he played a lot of those, and they gave him excellent hand-eye coordination. As a knock-on effect in school he tended to do best with hands-on skills and anything that required spatial awareness or objective thinking.

When Dónall was 7 his mum had another baby. She gave birth to another girl, and called her Mary. As this new arrival came and Isabelle became a more active toddler, the grandparents offered more active help.

Dónall and Ruaridh may have disagreed about a lot but neither of them liked their grandparents much, so they teamed up and started spending a lot of time outside of the house together. In classic style Dónall led the way with this and initiated a lot of visits to friends' houses.

Ruaridh may have followed Dónall's lead a lot of the time, but Dónall secretly still saw Ruaridh as his big brother. He didn't "need" him there in order to go to another family's house, but he felt more confident with Ruaridh around.

When Dónall was 10, his dad took him and Ruaridh to England for the first time. This was a huge eye-opener for both of them: the culture felt instantly different and less oppressive, with a sense of potential and opportunity. That was reflected in their dad's behaviour. When they heard him talk about work (and even more so when they visited his business, Kilverlay Technologies), they saw him happy, unburdened, and able to use his full energy to do whatever needed to be done.

When they returned to Ireland, Dónall felt very aware that he was returning to a more oppressive, constricting culture. He wouldn't see this all in one trip to England, but he went there several times, and the more he went, the more he learned, and the more he became aware that his native culture wasn't really for him.

Child to Adult Transition

(adolescence)

Dónall's parents had another two children during his early teens, this time twins, named Darragh and Shannon. The house was becoming quite crowded. The parents talked privately and reached a decision: that they would move to a bigger house and that the dad would have a vasectomy in England, using a business trip to Kilverlay as cover while he spent a couple of weeks healing, so that their parents wouldn't know about it - a vasectomy would cause a family argument, or worse.

The more Dónall saw of the comparison between the cultures of England and Ireland, the more aware he became of the situation his sisters were in. His grandparents' attitudes and beliefs became more abhorrent to him, the more he saw and heard of them, and he began to feel guilty about leaving his sisters behind to travel to England.

Dónall was in his mid-teens when he realised that he was gay. At around the same time, Ruaridh came out to the family. Their dad went berserk. Dónall watched from the

sidelines, feeling unable to intervene given the incredibly high tension in the house. He decided against coming out to the family, himself.

Not long after this, Ruaridh found Dónall's stash of erotica. This didn't go down well: Ruaridh felt that it was unfair Dónall would get away without the trial-by-fire he'd been through, but he also couldn't bring himself to out Dónall. Instead he kept bitterly quiet about it, and this started a tense stand-off between the two brothers.

In a strange way this also encouraged the two to understand one another better: they both understood the depth of the unpleasantness their grandparents brought to the house, and how important it was to spare their sisters from that grief if they could. They made an unspoken agreement to protect their sisters by getting them out of the house as much as possible. Dónall wanted to show them England so that they could see how different life could be, but for the time being that was beyond his reach, so outdoors in their hometown had to do.

However, the situation was more of a reverse pincer-movement situation: given that Ruaridh had come out to the family, his parents and grandparents didn't trust him with his younger siblings, as if he might 'corrupt' them. So instead he and Dónall worked as a team: Dónall would leave the house with Isabelle and Mary, and Ruaridh would stay and keep an eye on Darragh and Shannon.

This was where the two brothers hit a wall. The culture they lived in, and their grandparents, were keen to impress on Isabelle, Mary, and Shannon, that as girls they were expected to stay close to the home, help out there, and generally settle into a life of domesticity. The boys, they taught the girls, had more freedom to leave the house, explore, and broaden their horizons - at least to a limited degree. With this in mind, Darragh was granted more freedom than Shannon was, although that still wasn't much while he was young.

Dónall always saw his dad as a role model, but having seen how he had over-reacted to Ruaridh's coming out, he began to take a more circumspect approach to his father. However, his dad was not the only role model Dónall had: he also took an interest in the business pages of the Irish newspapers for Irish entrepreneurs. The dot-com boom was in full swing and Irish businesspeople were as interested as anybody else in taking advantage. His childhood visits to KilTech had left an impression!

His visits to England had left an impression of their own, and Dónall began to wonder about moving permanently to England when he was old enough. As part of his

mulling-over about this, he decided that when he did, he would rename himself - to the more Anglicised "Daniel".

But that was for some time in the future. With so much going on, Dónall needed to relax sometimes. He preferred reading, particularly non-fiction that he felt he could use for future reference.

Closeness in Relationships

(young adulthood)

Dónall reached age 18, which meant freedom in a variety of ways. He was more than happy to take advantage. His dad had hinted in the past that he would give Dónall a job at KilTech, but at first that wasn't forthcoming. Instead his dad encouraged him to find a regular job, which Dónall did: he found a factory-line job.

This job demanded a combination of technical skills to achieve the task he'd been hired to do, and social skills. Dónall's easy-going yet enthusiastic attitude earned him his supervisor's respect, and in time he earned the supervisor role there. This wasn't an illustrious job by any means, and the staff turnover was high, but it gave Dónall a taste of leadership and its requirements. His dad was proud of him for this achievement.

Throughout the following few years Dónall learned how to lead, saved money, and prepared himself in any way he could for a life in England - including working towards independence from his family.

During this time Ruaridh was forging ahead in his search for independence too. Dónall noticed that he was very keen to get his own independence from the family. If anything, his hunger to get away seemed even stronger than Dónall's. Despite this shared goal the two did not get along well at all and Ruaridh generally avoided Dónall as much as he could.

When Dónall was 20, Ruaridh left the family. There was no warning. He simply moved out of the family house into a flat, and stopped returning calls.

Dónall's dad offered him a job with KilTech, which Dónall accepted. He prepared for the job itself and to move to England.

His first job at KilTech was as PA to Susanne Vale, one of the other Directors of KilTech along with Dónall's father. With support from both his dad and Susanne, he acclimatised to the role and learned what it took to be a Director.

He also legally changed his name to Daniel.

This is how he spent the next couple of years: as Susanne's PA, with Susanne and his dad both grooming him for a Directorship position at a pace that worked for Daniel himself.

Daniel periodically went back home to check on Isabelle, Mary, Darragh, and Shannon and make sure they were okay, and to visit his mum. During his siblings' birthdays, he often found Ruaridh there too. This was how they caught up with each other: three times a year, in overheard fragments of conversation with other members of the family, and in angry, hushed tones in the kitchen when everyone else was in a different room.

As far as things went with Isabelle, Mary, and Shannon, all three girls had been treated like untouchable princesses and this had meant that their childhoods had been far less violent than Daniel and Ruaridh's had been. As teenagers however, the girls had difficulty transitioning to a life where they weren't always prioritised over everyone else. Daniel didn't particularly take part in helping them to adjust to 'real' life, but he kept an eye on their progress.

In 2007, during Mary's 17th birthday, when Daniel was 22 and Ruaridh 24, he learned that Ruaridh had begun his training as a pilot for short-haul flights. He also learned that Ruaridh had moved out of his first flat and into a new one, but refused to tell anybody his new address.

For Daniel, this was unacceptable. He understood why Ruaridh had walked away from the family. After all, he had done the same himself, albeit a less extreme version. Both had found their grandparents' obsession with Catholicism unpleasant and stifling, and both had wanted to escape the homophobia inherent to their culture. But Daniel had made sure that his family - especially his sisters - could still reach him if they needed to. He worked for their father and his address was known to the family. Now that Ruaridh had revealed that he was keeping his home address secret, Daniel felt disgusted with him.

They had a bitter, whispered argument about this in a room away from the main celebrations of Mary's birthday, which culminated in Daniel accusing Ruaridh of learning

to fly only as another way to leave the family. With that said, Daniel was secretly impressed with Ruaridh's ambition, and this pushed him to keep working at being the best he could be in his own professional life.

When he wasn't at work, Daniel often sampled the night-life in Lancaster and beyond. He had many one night stands and short flings with other men.

When Daniel was 30, his father brought in another Director. This was an older man named Eric. Eric had been a manager at KilTech for a while, and had made suggestions to Daniel's dad, Susanne and Daniel, about how they might incorporate a manufacturing division to help KilTech grow. He was a manufacturing specialist and over the years he had proved himself to be so knowledgeable about this that he got a position as a Director.

Daniel had never liked Eric. He'd reminded him of his grandparents, but had never quite been able to identify why. He had always put this down to Eric's age, although Eric was a decade or two younger than his grandparents. When Eric got his share of the Directorship, he showed his true colours.

Eric revealed to Daniel's dad that he had seen Daniel going into one of Lancaster's gay clubs. It was a clear effort to discredit Daniel. Daniel's dad defended Daniel and Daniel got to keep his job, but his dad berated him about this when they had time in private.

After this, Eric mostly behaved, although he occasionally made clear his attitudes towards women in the workplace - especially women in positions of power. They weren't positive. Daniel defended Susanne whenever this came up and this only strengthened their bond.

Daniel kept an eye on Eric's behaviour, but he seemed to mostly stay in his proverbial lane after this.

Several years later when Daniel was 34, KilTech was subject to a security audit. He wasn't present for most of it but was able to attend a meeting to discuss the final report. He met, and slept with, a man named Kaiden the night before the meeting - and was shocked to attend the meeting only to see that Kaiden was one of the two auditors!

The audit report was full of security issues, not least an unexplained network spike in a room at KilTech that was supposed to have been closed and sealed long ago. The meeting was adjourned before the final verdict and Kaiden and Eric, among others, left

the room, presumably to stretch their legs. When Daniel went to do the same, he heard Eric's raised voice in an unused office. He entered to find out what was happening, and quickly learned that Eric had been trying to bribe Kaiden.

He made sure Kaiden felt no pressure to accept any such thing, and in the aftermath of this situation, investigated the concerns raised by Kaiden and his colleague himself. He learned that Eric had been ring-fencing portions of the company's resources to support a variety of right-wing organisations, and that some of his actions amounted to fraud. He reported it, and Eric lost his Directorship at KilTech, along with going to jail for four years.

In the aftermath of this, Daniel met up with Kaiden many more times. Their relationship didn't become fully-fledged and remained purely sexual, but Kaiden found this difficult as at around the same time he began a romantic, asexual relationship with the other auditor, Max.

Daniel never settled down into any long-term relationship, and has never generally taken to romantic relationships.

In March 2024 he offered Kay a job at KilTech, which Kay accepted. As a result of them spending more time together at work, they spent more time together outside of work hours too. This put strain on Kay's relationship with Max, and the two broke up.

Soon after this, Max happened to meet Ruaridh by chance and the two began dating. Daniel learned about this by chance some time after it first started happening.

Passing on Responsibilities

(older adulthood)

Daniel never had any children, so when he started looking at KilTech with a view to one day passing it on, he knew it would not be to his own kids. Instead he looked to his nieces and nephews for someone to pass on the proverbial torch, to.

The high salary afforded to him by KilTech meant that he was easily able to retire early. He did so, and enjoyed the hell out of his retirement!

End of Life

(old age)

Daniel never voiced his attitude towards death with anybody, but as a Catholic he was secretly terrified of it. At the time of writing he hasn't reached the end of his life but may have a distinctly uneasy time in his final weeks and days.

Credits

Based on theory by:

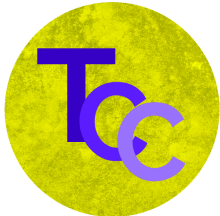
Erikson, E., (1951) 'Childhood and Society', W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. chapter 7.

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~ Hayley, Founder of The Character Consultancy

hello@thecharacterconsultancy.co.uk | thecharacterconsultancy.co.uk