

Evan



Floura Casuella

Character File: Physical Description

As a small child Floura Casuella had very big helpless eyes, but that has definitely changed. Floura is now a 36 year old woman whose eyes are fiery with spirit. They are the color of a wild mustangs' chestnut hair. Her eyes have a lonesome depth to them, as if they alone contain her soul and spirit. Her dark brown eyes are emphasized by the light eye shadow that she uses all the time, but eye shadow is not the only make-up used by Floura. She also uses dark lipstick on her full lips, and many different hair products.

Floura has thick hair that falls down to her shoulders, and her hair is so dark it seems to define the word black. She has long bangs that come down to her chin; they make her look like a mad woman when she lets them fall down. She has no split ends, and she makes sure of that. She always uses three or four moisturizing shampoos.

Floura loves to play around with hair styles. Her bathroom is covered with products, as a snake is covered with scales, and hair gel is precious to her. She showers every morning and sometimes at night. It can take Floura over thirty minutes to lather herself up with multiple gels, shampoos, and many other hair products. If she's being casual or lazy, Floura usually lets her hair down, or puts it in a bun.

Floura loves her jewelry. She usually wears a necklace or two, although for special occasions she does herself up using three or more necklaces. She especially loves the semi-precious violet gem, Amethyst. The purple reminds her of her dead mother who had lived in a purple house with purple furniture, lots of purple clothes, and lots of purple jewelry.

Floura likes other jewels and jewelry too and still wears the ring that her best friend gave to her in college. The ring is 14k gold and big with a large polished garnet in the middle. This ring is very important to Floura because her friend died in a car crash a few days after she gave Floura the ring. Floura was in the car, but only suffered a mild concussion and a scar on her right forearm. Her wedding ring is even more precious to her than the ring from college, and she protects it like a newborn child.

Floura has many bracelets. Floura gets so many bracelets as gifts it's completely crazy. When someone thinks about a birthday present, souvenir, or other gift for Floura, they come up with a bracelet. Some of her favorite

bracelets are a gold bracelet with five cut diamonds embedded in it, a silver bracelet with a gold clasp, another gold bracelet with semi-precious stones set in it, and a friendship bracelet made by her son, Jeremy when he was six.

Floura is not especially tall. She is 5' 6" and weighs 143 pounds, but was over 180 pounds in her early twenties. She went on a diet, and was very careful about food and exercise for a year or two. Now she is back to a reasonable weight.

Floura's skin is a dark brown in shadow, but most of her body is a lighter brown. Her skin is a light bronze color in the light, and she keeps it that way with light sun block, and many moisturizers and skin lotions.

Floura is very healthy, but has always had asthma. She's very used to the asthma by now, but it has always kept her from being too active. She always has to exercise a little bit at a time, and can't play sports with her energetic son as she wishes she could. She does a lot of yoga, and stretches, and enjoys working out, but she is confined a little by her asthma.

Floura has countless pairs of shoes. She has many pairs of shiny black high heels that she uses for dressing up. She has a pair of beat up white Reebok sneakers that she wears for casual outings and for work. She has a pair of red high heels for special occasions, and a pair of black dance shoes for her hobby; flamenco dancing. Floura wears her Reeboks to work every day because she gets dirty working with snakes.

Fashion is very important to Floura, so clothing is a big deal. She has many different colored clothing, and many different kind of clothing. Some of her favorite shirts are a white lacy shirt, a purple sweater that her mother made for her, a light blue spaghetti strap shirt that comes down to her belly button, and a long sleeve red shirt with horizontal orange stripes. For work she wears one of her six battered white shirts. Some of her favorite pants are a pair of short jean sorts, a pair of nylon pants with blue and white stripes down the sides, a pair of olive green corduroy cargo shorts, and a pair of red bell bottoms. For work she wears blue jeans or black jeans. Floura has a ton of socks that fill two entire drawers. Her favorites are a pair of multicolored toe socks, a pair of blue socks with flowery patterns on them, a pair of white socks with little snakes and lizards on them, and a pair of yellow ankle socks with random little patterns on them. Her favorite hat is a thin white hat with a wide rim on the edge.

Character File: Personality Description of Floura Casuella

Floura Casuella seems shy at first, but if you get to know her you'll come to realize she's very outgoing. That's why she has such a busy social life. Floura loves to go to parties and dinners with old and new friends. If someone has recently moved into the area, she is the first to bring them a pie and a little present. The only times that Floura isn't craving social time is when she's just come home from a particularly hard work day, or she's been taking her son to his soccer games. She loves to do hands-on work with dirty things that might gross out other people. This could be why she -- not her husband -- changed her son's diapers when he was a baby.

Floura is very risk-taking. That's pretty obvious when you look at her line of work: she works with some of the most dangerous snakes on the face of the earth. Floura is almost never negative and a little bit of excitement seems to follow her around, making her a very fun person to be with.

Through the years Floura has become less and less shy, and more and more social. She has always loved animals. That hasn't changed; since she started her current job at the age of 29 she has become more and more attached to animals, especially snakes. When Floura was in Kindergarten she was the one who liked to touch worms, snakes, frogs, and other little critters. When her mother saw a spider and screamed, five-year-old Floura was there to carefully pick up the spider and put it in a terrarium. Floura's father gave her a terrarium for her fifth birthday, and whenever Floura found a little creature she looked it up in her field guide. Floura would put the creature in the terrarium, put in what the field guide said they eat, and keep it as a pet for a while. Her two brothers always teased her, saying not to worry about such tiny animals, but little, strong-willed Floura didn't care what they said. Floura cared about the little body she was saving. Floura is still strong-willed and devoted to animals. That definitely hasn't changed.

As a small child, all of Floura's classmates were her friends, as it is with most little kids. By 3rd grade the girls and boys had all divided and by 6th or 7th grade they were dating. Floura had a lot of boyfriends through middle school and high school, and she was quite popular with the girls too. At this age she was on the phone about 3 1/2 hours a day. She was talking to girls most of the time, and when she was talking to a boy she was usually calling to dump him.

Floura's 12th grade science teacher was the one who really motivated Floura. His name was Mr. Kinkus. He gave a big lecture to the class, and he saw Floura as a very talented person. The lecture he gave really got Floura thinking about science as a career. After this incident Floura started to try

really hard in science class. She turned in her homework on time, took good notes, and took everything her teacher said into consideration. When it came time to start thinking about college Floura decided she wanted to go to a good college, get a good job, and maintain a good life. She applied for Harvard University, and got a full scholarship. She worked harder than she had ever worked before, still finding time for the occasional party. In college she made a few new friends, but her best friend was named Jessica. This is the girl who gave Floura a fancy ring before dying in a car crash. Floura had been very close to Jessica. They had had lots of arguments, but they had been like sisters.

After she graduated from Harvard University she began graduate studies at Tufts University in 1989. Floura met her husband-to-be when she was at the supermarket buying groceries. He saw her in town one day and they talked. The next night they went out to dinner. They kept seeing each other, and about a year after their first date Floura moved in with him. He proposed about six months after Floura moved in, and they were married on July 27, 1993. Floura was 25 years old and Roy was 30. They have been married for almost 11 years.

Floura was very close to her mother, who died of cancer in 1992. Floura didn't get along very well with her father; he was a big tough guy, and was always critical – of her schoolwork, her friends, and her behavior. Her brothers are four and seven years older than she and teased a lot. Even though they teased her sometimes, they always played with her, letting her climb on their backs and wrestle with them. Her family was not in contact with very many relatives. Her grandfather and grandmother on both sides of her family died before she was born, but her uncle lives about an hour away from her house. She has always liked her uncle; he took her and her brothers fishing on Saturday mornings every week when she was a child.

Although Floura does not have much free time she enjoys reading and looking outside for snakes. She loves the wilderness and likes to go alone for long walks around the pond behind her house. Sometimes she and her husband go out to the pond; Roy likes to fish and she enjoys playing with her son in the water. In the winter Floura, Roy, and Jeremy go ice skating on the pond. Roy plays hockey with Jeremy while Floura skates around the rink. She likes watching the hockey game and the rest of her family likes to watch her with her nice figure skating. Although she likes all of these things very much her real hobby is dance. She is a Flamenco dancer, and she's very good. Her neighbor when she was seven was a ballerina; her name was Alice and she taught Floura bits and pieces of ballet. This is what started Floura off; Floura even uses some moves from ballet, which is what makes her style so special.

Floura is not the same at work as she is with her family; it's the same for most people. As soon as her car enters the big parking lot in front of the

building her personality morphs. She was such a kind, loving, and happy person at home, but at work she's driven and focused. She argues with her boss, and the only time in her work day that she's not angry and crazed is when she works hands-on with the snakes themselves. Working with the snakes is a chance for Floura to calm down. Although it is still work and she is still inspecting them for scientific purposes, it is a chance get paid without being stressed. If it was not for the time she spends with the snakes Floura probably wouldn't work where she does.

Character File: Career Description of Floura Casuella

Floura Casuella is a herpetologist who specializes in the behavior of constricting snakes such as Boas, Anacondas, and Pythons. In particular, she studies their reaction to changes in habitat. She has always enjoyed animals; snakes in particular. She loves their grace and dignity as they climb through trees, slither through undergrowth, or glide through water.

Floura Casuella grew up in Santa Fe, NM and attended Elementary, Junior, and High School there. Her 12th grade science teacher, Mr. Kinkus got her really motivated with a speech about science as a job. When she was 19 she decided to go to Harvard University and take some courses in biology. She got in with a full scholarship, which was a good thing considering the amount of money her family had at the time. Her parents were very proud of her, and she was a little bit too proud of herself.

At the age of 22, Floura started her graduate work at Tufts University in Boston. While going to school there Floura enrolled in a program at the Franklin Park Zoo. She worked with the reptile house zookeeper, Randy Sullivan. She helped feed the snakes, clean their cages, and other minor jobs. Apart from working she took time to study the animals and get to know the species.

While she was in graduate school, Floura found a snake that had never been seen before. She was doing a survey on local snake species and thought it was a Garter Snake or Ribbon Snake, but then she noticed that the pattern on its back included a red line down the spine. This unique characteristic was not that of a Garter Snake or a Ribbon Snake. She put it in a net and brought it back to her teacher, Mr. Fielding. They looked through many books and finally came to the conclusion that it was a new species.

Floura and Mr. Fielding traveled around the country to go to press conferences, meetings, and speeches. They took two international trips related to Floura's find: One to Hong Kong for a meeting with 10 interested herpetologists and one to Brazil for another meeting with some other herpetologists. After a few months of craze, it was declared a new species. It was called an Eastern Red-bellied Garter Snake. Its scientific name was *Thamnophis Marcilis*. Floura continued to go on trips with Mr. Fielding for about a month after the snake was pronounced a new species. After that they had only a few interviews and meetings.

After graduating, Floura moved to New Mexico to work in the Biology Department at the University of New Mexico, where she now conducts experiments to test the intelligence and behavior of constricting snakes. She works primarily in the lab, but also gets to travel around the world to observe the snakes she works with in their natural habitats. In the past few years, she's been to Brazil, Africa, and Peru. She really enjoys her job. If she didn't she probably wouldn't have stayed there for 6 years.

Floura is responsible for not only her own work, but the work of 3 graduate students. Floura doesn't like to work alone. This is another reason her current job suits her; she works alongside 5 other scientists. On the average work day Floura executes a few simple experiments to discover what happens to the snake when its climate or habitat is changed. For example, she has recently conducted an experiment to examine a Boa Constrictor's reaction to common noises made by humans. Floura used engine noises, construction site noises, loud music, etc. Many of her experiments relate to the snakes' reaction to interaction with unnatural sounds, sights, smells, etc. like these.

Floura has written and published one book called, "Where Has it Gone: The Loss of Habitats and its Effect on Animals." It is about worldwide problems due to human development, and how animals react to it.

Character File: Floura Casuella's Family Description

Floura's father, Pablo Casuella was a big tough guy who seemed to hold a frown at all times; her mother, Salena Orbes, on the contrary, was a very kind woman with whom she was very close. Pablo grew up in a tough neighborhood with his many siblings. Most of his brothers and sisters are dead. His brother, Alfonzo was killed by a mugger at the age of 19; and Pablo's other brother, Mario who had started smoking before the age of 11, died from lung cancer at the age of 53. Christina commit suicide at the age of 46 in the late 1980s. Pablo was killed by a drunk driver at the age of 57. Salena died 9 years later at the age of 60 from a stroke.

Floura's twin brothers, Juan and Roberto teased her a lot, but they were never mean to her. They were and still are really fun people. This is why Floura's son, Jeremy always loves seeing his uncles. Whenever he gets together with one of his uncles they play sports, go fishing, play cards, wrestle, and do other fun stuff like that. Juan is single, and Roberto is gay and with his partner, Oliver Johnson who he has been with for over 6 years. Roberto and Juan adopted a 2-year-old boy named Chen Ling and his twin sister, Chang from Korea in 1999. The children's mother had died giving birth and the father ran off before the mother gave birth. Chen and Chang are both 7 years old and are doing fine.

Floura's husband is named Roy Stewarts; they have a son named Jeremy Stewarts. Jeremy is very athletic and likes soccer and baseball. Roy and Jeremy often play catch together. One time they were playing catch and the ball fell into the pond behind the house. Jeremy was so strong-willed that he jumped into the water in his shorts and tee-shirt and got the ball that was on the bottom of the pond. Floura met Roy at a Big Y supermarket while buying some groceries. She dropped some change on the floor and he helped her gather it up. Their eyes met and some might call it love at first sight. A few days later, Roy saw Floura in a woman's clothing store where Roy was buying an anniversary gift for his mother who had been married to Roy's father for 35 years.

Roy's parents were often invited to big parties and meeting that were usually related to Joseph's job. Joseph worked for a shoemaking company called, "Kenton Shoes," where he was vice president of the corporation. Roy's mother was a bank teller. Roy and Thomas often got off the school bus to find a note telling them that their parents would be back around 10:00, and there was some meatloaf in the refrigerator. Life for the Stewarts was anything but calm.

Character File: Personal History of Floura Casuella

- April 12th, 1968 Floura is born.
- Sept. 6th, 1973 Floura begins Kindergarten and meets her best friend, Kathy, who Floura remains friends with for a very long time.
- June 15th, 1978 Floura graduates from Elementary School (5th grade).
Sept. 9th, 1978 Floura befriends a new kid named Amy, and they become best friends.
- October 3rd, 1979 Floura gets her first boyfriend. His name is Mike and he is a year older than Floura.
- June 16th, 1980 Floura leaves 7th grade on honor roll.
July 22nd, 1980 Floura goes to sleep away camp for the first time. This is her first time being away from her parents for more than a few days.
- June 16th, 1981 Floura graduates from Junior High with a 3.85 GPA.
June 17th, 1981 Floura's brothers graduate from High School.
August 3rd, 1981 Floura's friend Kathy moves to North Carolina due to career opportunities for her parents.
- Sept. 4th, 1981 Floura starts 9th grade.
Feb. 29th, 1982 Floura goes for a jog through the neighborhood, slips on the icy sidewalk, and dislocates her right elbow.
- Sept. 19th, 1982 Floura joins an after school advanced science club as she continues with straight A's.
- April 27th, 1984 Floura is invited to the Senior Prom by Chris Johnson (C.J.) and they continue to date until Floura goes away to college.
- May 1st, 1984 Floura receives notification of her full scholarship to Harvard University in Cambridge.
- June 15th, 1984 Floura graduates high school with straight A's.
August 28th, 1985 Floura takes a plane from California to Boston.
Sept. 1st, 1985 Floura starts classes.
October 5th, 1985 Floura is assigned Jessica Olsen, her best friend through most of college, as a lab partner in chemistry.
- March 13th, 1986 Floura meets Todd Cropsey, her boyfriend for the next 2 years.
- June 9th, 1986 Floura gets a summer job at a Mexican restaurant in Boston. She works there every summer until she graduates from Harvard.
- Feb. 22nd, 1987 Floura's father, Pablo is killed by a drunk driver in an SUV.

- Dec. 18th, 1988 Floura's best friend, Jessica, dies in a car crash.
- May 18th, 1989 Floura graduates from Harvard with a B.S. in biology.
- Sept. 5th, 1989 Floura begins graduate school at Tufts University in Boston.
- October 11th, 1989 Floura enrolls in a work study program at the Franklin Park Zoo where she maintains employment during the summers while in graduate school.
- Dec. 3rd, 1990 Floura discovers a new species of snake called an Eastern Red-Bellied Garter Snake. *Thamnophis Marcilis*.
- May 16th, 1991 Floura receives her M.S. in zoology from Tufts.
- Sept. 4th, 1991 Floura continues her studies at Tufts to gain her PhD.
- October 12th, 1992 Floura meets her husband-to-be, Roy Stewarts.
- July 27th, 1993 Floura and Roy are married.
- May 28th, 1994 Floura and Roy's son Jeremy is born.
- May 16th, 1995 Floura receives her PhD in herpetology.
- January 4th, 1996 Floura's mother dies from a bad stroke while visiting her sister in Tennessee.
- June 25th, 1997 Floura and her family move to New Mexico where she has accepted a job as a research scientist in the biology department of the University of New Mexico.
- 2004 Floura is currently conducting experiments with constricting snakes at the University of New Mexico. She lives with her husband, 10-year-old son, and pet Boa Constrictor. They live in a nice house in a suburban area in New Mexico.