

# Senior Librarian Siris

You thought that your shame and failure was over. Your experiment was ruined, you were dying far from home with no escape, but at least you could die with dignity in peace. But now Habibah's letting off this awful racket, and all these weird humans are showing up. So you guess you're doomed to die in shame and chaos.

It all started so well. You were the foremost researcher in world magicks among the Speculoids, pushing the field to new heights. You had plans for your most daring experiment yet: splitting an isolated world into two mirrored copies, introducing different magic into each, and then monitor the effects. You found the perfect world, full of simple-minded, ordinary humans, and set up a Library to observe from. You carried out your plan. And for hundreds of years, everything went swimmingly. You gathered so much interesting data. You published paper after paper.

But the experiment was going so well, you didn't want to abandon it, and you were getting old. Before too long, you'd need to give up your mobility and root. So you looked for an apprentice. The two top candidates were Reinier and Habibah. Reinier had the better grades, but talking to their professors, there were some concerns about temperament and ethical commitment. So you chose Habibah, and they came along to assist you.

Everything went well for the first 60 years or so. You rooted, put out branches, melded with the wood of the library shelves, continued your analysis. Habibah took over a lot of the day-to-day activities and errands to Specuceps. But then, about 125 years ago, disaster struck! Somehow, someone used forbidden magics to twist the giant mirror that took you back to Specuceps into a gateway between the two parallel worlds! Armies were marching from Shady Springs to Sleepy Valley! The worlds were no longer isolated! Your experiment was ruined! Oh, and people were dying, you guess.

This was no accident, you know. Because behind the lines of the armies, you recognized one Speculoid among the humans. Reinier, the untrustworthy student you'd rejected.

There was a partial recovery, of a sort. Somehow, the mages of Sleepy Valley figured out some powerful technique to shatter the mirror gateway, leaving only a small connection joining the library between the two parallel worlds. The invasion was halted. But, unfortunately, this significantly damaged the Library itself. Not only was it completely cut off from Specuceps, leaving yourself and Habibah stranded with no way home, but also losing that connection cut off the supply of magic the Library depends on. There was only one source of magic that you had access to that would help. The Stones of Renewal that could be found in the lakes at the edge of each of the Connected Worlds. Gathering the Stones would give the Library enough magic to last 5 more years. So, you sent Habibah to gather them, a journey of but several days in each world. And this worked fine, for more than a hundred years.

But eventually, about 16 years ago, Habibah grew old, and they too needed to root. So they recruited a human, the hero Kendall Rodgers, to do this for them. The first two times, it went swimmingly. But this last time, they were late. The deadline was days ago. The library is falling apart. And you expected to die with it, after all this.

## *Fading Lights - Character Sheet*

You thought when the Hungry Void arose earlier today due to your crumbling dimensional magics destabilizing the library's position in the firmament, everything was over. But no, the library's not enough to draw it, it's going to end up in one of the worlds, cause devastation and corruption. Even in your dying breath, your experiment gets further ruined.

But now Habibah's pulled something, and all these people are showing up. Maybe there's some way they can help.

But wait. Among the people Habibah summoned, you recognize one face. Reinier. This is all their fault. Well, at least if you die, maybe you can take that traitor down with you.

## Notes

- You're rooted in place, but are remarkably flexible and have branches that reach all throughout the library. As a player you can talk and move about freely.
- While rooted, you can't leave the Library, even if a ritual would otherwise let you do so.
- Normally, you have some ability to control the small portals that connect the worlds to the library, but the Library's magic reserves are so low these portals don't function at all.

## Goals

- Find a way to save the library. Could any of these people have what you need?
- Find a way to live with honor or die with dignity.
- Learn as much as you can, since knowledge is still the highest calling.

## People You Know

- Librarian Habibah: Your apprentice who has served you well over the years, even if they are being a bit undignified this very moment.
- Reinier: A Speculoid that sabotaged your experiment and doomed you to die using forbidden magic, apparently in revenge after you rejected them.
- Kendall Rodgers: The hero that should've brought the Stones of Renewal that would've saved the library for another 5 years.

## Items and Sheets

- The "Renewal of the Library" Ritual. It would save the Library, if you had the Stones of Renewal.
- A Shard. Your last memento of the mirror that once took you home to Specuceps.
- Some Runes.
- "Specuceps" bluesheet.

# Renewal of the Library



*This ritual will renew the Library and the portals that bind it to the worlds of Sleepy Valley and Shady Springs. It must be performed every 5 years, preferably not at the very last minute, or the Library will cease to exist. It seems like this ritual would reduce the impact of the Hungry Void.*

This ritual requires 4 participants, at least one of whom is a Librarian.

This ritual requires 2 Stones of Renewal, one from each of the two worlds (consumed).

This ritual uses 1 ritual flashlight and the Magic Mirror.

- (1) Designate one participant (a Librarian) as the **Leader**. One participant will be the **Shiner**. A third participant will be the **Renewer**. The final participant will be the **Reflector**.
- (2) The Reflector will hold the Magic Mirror, the Shiner will hold the flashlight, and the Renewer will hold the Stones of Renewal. The participants should stand in a line, Shiner then Renewer then Reflector then Leader.
- (3) The Leader says, "We wish to preserve this place."
- (4) The Renewer says, "We have traveled to the ends of the worlds to this end."
- (5) The Reflector says, "We have gathered here to this end." and lowers the Mirror to the ground.
- (6) The Shiner says, "And may the light shine on." and turns on the flashlight, pointing it at the mirror. The Shiner and the Reflector adjust so that the light hits the leader after bouncing off the mirror near/on ground.
- (7) The Renewer says "Let the Power of Renewal reach this place." and drops each stone through the light, one by one. The Shadow rises through the Leader, representing renewal.
- (8) All participants say in unison, "May the Library live on."

If this ritual is completed, notify a GM immediately.

# Specuceps

Specuceps is a world of science, a world of logic, a world of magic, and a world of mirrors. In Specuceps, there are wonders and technology that far outpaces what the humans know. In Specuceps, everyone follows rules and principles to ensure that society functions efficiently for everyone. Speculoid technology and magic ensures that everyone in Specuceps enjoys a comfortable standard of living.

Specuceps values knowledge above all, and thus scientists, researchers, and librarians are the most prestigious roles. People study for years at universities in hopes to be impressive enough to be accepted as an apprentice to a leading researcher.

Since research in many other fields has been exhausted, one of the leading fields among the Speculoids is the creation and manipulation of parallel universes. Speculoid researchers observe other universes from artificial pocket realms and perform controlled tests on them, seeing how societies evolve differently when given corn instead of wheat, or given fire magic instead of ice magic.

Speculoids themselves undergo a life cycle that may seem strange to humans. When they are born, Speculoids are akin to tadpoles, confined to water. As they develop, they grow legs and arms and become humanoid, able to move easily out of water, use tools, and interact much as humans do. However, unlike humans they do not die of old age. When a Speculoid grows old, they instead take root and progress into a tree-like form, still able to talk and to manipulate objects with prehensile branches but no longer able to walk around. Since transplanting a rooted Speculoid is a delicate and risky operation, Speculoids choose where to root with great care. Tree-form Speculoids are immortal if not killed as long as they have access to the magic of Specuceps for nourishment. Elder treeform Speculoids can be important sources of knowledge and history.

There are various forms of magic that have been declared forbidden for the betterment of Speculoid society. These include:

- Magic that would allow non-Speculoids to move between universes
- Magic that would allow tree-form Speculoids to return to being able to walk around

This Library was one observation realm, designed to monitor two mirrored parallel worlds full of humans, one of which received the Power of Shadows and one of which received the Divination of Dreams. Normally, it has a small connection to each of the mirrored worlds enough to allow some travel between them and the Library. The Library's low magic levels seem to have made these connections stop functioning.

In addition, the Library was once connected to Specuceps. However, the connection of this observation realm to Specuceps has been severed, both preventing physical travel between it and Specuceps and cutting off its power source. Thus the Library's store of Specuceps magic has been running out, which seems likely to cause it to entirely collapse into the void between universes. This collapse has been repeatedly stalled with the Renewal ritual, but now it seems imminent.