

Reinier

It's not fair. None of your plans ever goes how you want it to. Is it really your fault that your desires outstrip your reach?

You are, of course, a Speculoid, though in this stage of your life you look the same as a human. You originally wanted nothing more than to learn the ways of science and Mirror Magick, and you did well enough in your university studies back on Specuceps. When you heard the great Librarian and Mage Siris was looking for an apprentice, you applied right away. No one would at all compare, it would be a dream come true. But then Siris passed you over for that numbskill Habibah. Habibah didn't have half your GPA and their thesis was a load of bad statistics and wishful thinking. The indignity of it!

You may, not, quite... have taken it in a professional manner. And that may, perhaps... have lead to difficulties in finding another mentor. But that doesn't matter. No one else was a worthy mentor for you! You found a different way. You eschewed the formal hierarchy of mages and found a secret society, the Vampires of Iron, that taught the forbidden world-bending magics. They taught you skills and techniques you'd never dreamed of. Techniques for not just observing and manipulating other worlds, but visiting them. The potential was extreme. You could get your revenge and explore unknown realms in a single stroke!

See, Siris had this experiment going observing two parallel worlds that were mirror images except for the introductions of different magic. They'd been working for centuries to document the effects of their meddling. So, 60 short years after the snub, you used your forbidden techniques to sneak into the library they were observing from, and from there to one of the worlds. There, in the village of Shady Springs, you found the Order of the Shadowy Text, which worshipped a divine figure called the Librarian. It was a simple matter to use your magic to pass yourself off as the Librarian, and then get them to help you open up a big portal between the parallel worlds using the giant mirror that connected the Library to Specuceps. Then, you convinced them to gather a huge army and invade the other world! It was chaos! Centuries of Siris's work was ruined, there was chaos and excitement everywhere, and messing with these humans was such fun!

Unfortunately, it didn't end the way you wanted. The people in Sleepy Valley should've been easy pickings, ambushed without warning. But despite the invasions initial success, somehow the humans in Sleepy Valley managed to figure out a powerful Mirror Magick technique, gather the Stones of Renewal, and shatter your mirror, cutting you and the Order off from your armies and cutting Specuceps off entirely. Had Siris helped them? You don't know. What you do know is you were trapped in the world of Shady Springs without the materials you need for your most powerful forbidden magicks and no way home. You still had the Order of the Shadowy Text, but somehow it was less fun to impress them after they'd seen your failure.

Fading Lights - Character Sheet

That was 124 years ago. You haven't been able to return to the Library. But given that it's cut off from Specuceps, and it's not like Siris or their apprentices would help you, you haven't been trying too hard. But you've been learning what you can of the world you're trapped in, building your contacts with the Order, and following any mystical leads you can find. You do know a ritual that'd let you get back home, but you haven't been able to find the necessary supplies. And you're nearing the end of your mobile life; soon you'll need to put down roots and become a tree, and you really don't want to be stuck among humans forever.

Of course, none of that is what brought you here. No, the magic that summoned you definitely originated here, in the Library. But your old approach wasn't getting you anywhere. Maybe this actually your chance.

Of course, this place does seem to be falling apart. But hopefully you'll be long gone by then.

Notes

- Most of your magic takes significant preparation. Aside from your "Mirror Portal" ritual, you don't have anything major ready.
- You've been passing yourself off as human but you're not terribly well-disguised, you wouldn't be surprised if Speculoids could recognize you.

People You Know

- Senior Librarian Siris: The Speculoid mage who snubbed you a century and a half ago and created the parallel worlds experiment.
- Librarian Habibah: The apprentice that Siris picked over you.
- Quinn Anthony: The head of the Order of the Shadowy Text, who thinks of you as the divine Librarian.

Goals

- Find a way to carry out your Mirror Portal ritual and return home.
- Failing that, figure out a better place to put down roots than here.
- Find out who's to blame for your invasion failing.
- Show up Siris and get your revenge. Well, additional revenge.

Items and Sheets

- The "Mirror Portal" Ritual
- A shard of the mirror that got shattered in your failed invasion
- Some Runes
- The "Specuceps" bluesheet
- The "Shady Springs" bluesheet