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You grew up in a mundane, middle-class family. The most exciting thing that happened was when you got a new cat and the biggest problem you ever had to face was algebra. Then you met Chris and discovered a whole other world that you had barely known about.

Here on the street the world is real. On the street the world grabs your head and rubs your nose in reality. You see the dark side, the starving people and the crazy ones, but there is also great struggle and epic stories. Despite its gritty edge, the street is a place of romance and history. Epic battles take place between gangs, old tramps have seen everything and will tell you amazing stories, and even a prostitute can be a fair lady in distress or the heroine of her own tale.

You refuse to surrender yourself to the trap of middle class life. The world will suck out everything that makes you unique and interesting. All the mundane world cares about is how much money you can make and how well you conform. You will make your own path!

Chris is a traveling bard of the underworld. Chris has collected stories from tramps, hobos and whores all over this country. You would love to travel like that and learn these stories. You have a few stories of your own, but you need more. Chris is a great place to start. You would love to travel with Chris and learn the sources and the stories. Of course, your parents would probably send the police after you. They get really pissed at you when you get home after midnight. They don't understand what's really important.

Tonight you were able to sneak away and join the fire. You brought some meat for the stewpot (swiped from your family's freezer) and a story. You're hoping that you can use this story to impress Chris. You even got the story from a perfect source.

Down by the docks, you found an old man named Bill. He grew up in a small, poor fishing town. When he was young, he learned how to fish from his father. They fished out in small boats off the coast. The pickings were never rich, but they made a decent living. The wholesalers bought their fish and shipped it to canneries or to the city.

Then the tourists started coming in. At first, this was a great stroke of luck. The tourists loved the fresh fish, right off the dock. Bill's wife opened up a little restaurant selling simple, fresh fish: fried, baked or in stews. It was exactly the sort of simple, rustic place that the tourists wanted to see, and they just ate it up. However, as the tourists came in with their yachts and their sport boats, the fish started getting farther and farther from the coast. Big trawlers fished the open waters, and Bill started getting trapped between the open water where he couldn't compete and the empty waters of the shore.

He stopped selling commercially, and just brought in enough for the restaurant, but soon even that started getting tight. His wife began buying from other sources and money got even tighter. Her restaurant was still doing well, but Bill's fishing was costing more than it brought in. Finally, she decided that Bill was just dead weight. She divorced him and moved in with a tourist who had decided to stay.

Bill got in his boat and left the only home he had ever known. He thought that, somewhere he would find better fish, but the fisheries around here are almost all gone. Now he lives down on the dock, catching fish illegally. No one stops him because he doesn't sell his fish to markets and the water is too polluted there for anyone to compete. If you know to ask, however, he'll still sell you a fish, and there are quite a few poor

families that have come to depend on his cheap fish these days. No one knows what's in that water, but it kills you more slowly than starving.

Now that's a story. If that doesn't get Chris's attention, you don't know what will.

You're here to learn new stories and tell as many as you can come up with. You don't have as many stories as Chris, but you're learning. You have that one good story that you think will impress Chris, but the more stories you can tell, the better. You don't manage to get to Mel's fire nearly often enough, and there are too many people whose stories you haven't heard. Particularly you want to get more stories from Chris and you want to hear Sarah's story. She's so pretty and so young, there must be some reason she's alone on the streets.

Who you know:

Misty: She's managed to make it through all these years. There is living proof of the beauty of real living.

Rich: Here's a perfect example of what the "real world" does to people. It chews them up and spits them out, without so much as a thank you.

Chris: Chris has lived an amazing life. You want to get as many stories as you can from Chris. You would love to travel with Chris for a while.

Hetty: Is anything she says actually true?

Sarah: She's really pretty. She's barely older than you and she has been living here for a year. You want to find out more about her story. You also wouldn't mind spending some time with her. Maybe you could get her to travel with you.

Alfred: You don't trust the government, but Alfred may be going a little too far. Alien visitors? Maybe. Aliens in most of the high positions of government? Probably not.

Manny: Poor Manny. That's what happens when you turn your life over to someone else's goals.

Flash: Are any of Flash's claims actually true? Not that it really matters: Flash is a great source of stories either way.

Jack: You've gotten some nice pot and E from Jack. You're not sure about anything else Jack sells. Tomorrow one of your friends from school is having a party and you're hoping to get some pot from Jack. Jack has better stuff for less money than the dealers that hang around middle-class high schools.

Toni: Toni is a pretty good musician who has just started showing up around here.

Corvus: You're not sure about magic, but Corvus has some interesting ideas.

Mel: This is Mel's bit of the world. When you can get away from your parents, this is your favorite place to spend evenings. There are always great stories around Mel's fire.

Rose: Rose is a pretty prostitute about your age. You're not sure what her story is, but you would love to find out. She was dating Corvus, but they broke up about a week ago and you haven't seen her since.