

Cawl Winter

The search for true haven

Mystery of the Heavens

The sun began its final descent, slipping away over the horizon and into the depths. Out working late, still tending the fields of berries, Cawl watched the final rays fade into darkness. One by one the stars above appeared from hiding, as if they were afraid of the sun's light. The night sky was clear, without a cloud in sight. Turning back to her work, Cawl looked away from the night sky.

The ground gently trembled, a low-pitched thrum barely audible. Becoming aware of a rising brightness, she looked back up at the sky. A bright pin-prick, brighter and larger than any of the others above, had appeared above. A new star, an omen, a sign from the deities above.

Cawl observed the star for a moment as it continued to get brighter and larger. Before long the ground was shaking violently, the noise of ripping air filling the land. A severe wind picked up, adding the noise of violently rustling plant life to the cacophony. The ground lit up as if the sun had returned, and Cawl gasped helplessly as the intense heat and force of the meteor bore down upon her.

Curse of Tongues

Awaking, Cawl found herself lying in the fields, surrounded by her fellow Tengu workers. It was still night. She remembered a bright light, an intense heat, and flashes of wondrous structures, fields of cloud and light, gleaming marble occupied by beings of energy, and something important, something that she had seen that was of great importance to the world.

The memory slipped away as Cawl was pulled to her feet by the concerned crowd. They asked her again and again, "What was that light?", "Are you okay?", "What happened?". Replying, Cawl described what she had seen – the clouds, the buildings, the beings.

Those around her looked back and forth, confused. She tried again. Their expressions

turned from confusion to horror. "She speaks in tongues! She is possessed!", "Summon the clergy!". Cawl gaped in astonishment, unable to understand what they meant – she was speaking in perfect Tengu! Fearful of the rapidly turning crowd, Cawl broke free of their grasp and ran away into the fields.

The Menagerie

Years passed as Cawl struggled with what she had experienced. Slowly she was able to recover her speech, learning the intricacies of language, but even so in times of stress she found herself slipping back into the abyssal tongue.

Her inability to speak with those she met isolated her. Needing gold and time to pursue her investigations into what happened that evening, what it all meant, Cawl joined up to a travelling menagerie of attractions and freaks as a psychic fortune teller.

Backstory

Questions

Why did you join?

Needing gold, somewhere to stay, and time to pursue her studies, Cawl joined up with the menagerie to seek answers to that mysterious evening.

Do you have friends, or family outside of the Menagerie? If so, where?

What was your life like before you joined?

Born, raised, and living in the Tengu village of Yai, Cawl had friends and family living there. She used to work the berry fields, which is also where the events of that evening took place.

What is your special "talent"?

Cawl is a psychic. Whatever happened that evening, she gained an insight into the workings of the future and the past, the living and the dead. Most believe it to be an act, but for Cawl the connection is too real.

After the events of that evening Cawl found herself with a strange celestial connection. Time, study, and practice, has allowed her to unlock some of the mysteries of her power, but no clue as to what it all means, or why.

Do you enjoy being with the Menagerie?

While Cawl certainly never sought a life like this, the acceptance she finds among her peers is comforting. It also offers her a way to live and study in reasonable comfort.

Is this just a means to an end, or a way of life?

Cawl is content to remain in the menagerie for as long as it takes to uncover the mysteries of that evening. Whatever happened gave her a connection to the heavens, and if she ever uncovered a truth about that evening, she would leave to pursue it.