

# NIGHT SCHOOL

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*The world has its share of problems, and its share of heroes as well. Once, and sometimes still, considered vigilantes, they now often work in conjunction with law enforcement. They try their best to remain secret, though tabloids and reports do their worst to uncover them at the same time. Powers originate from many things, and the world has now accepted them if not necessarily the people who have them.*

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[soundtrack: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OA5kiQtf2-M> ]

The words were hard to find. They always were at times like these. It had been a while since the halls were used for their originally intended purposes, a while since the professors, instructors and assistants could look forward, with anticipation or dread as the case may be, another session filled with mishaps and revelations. True, it might have just been a year for them, after the incident happened, but many felt it seemed longer (and to at least two and a half staff or senior students it was longer, but that's another only marginally story that's not likely to be told) and all were anxious.

The air was a buzz with an almost tactile tension, even to those who didn't have the exotic ability to sense those things. What more did you expect from a large group of people, young, old and in between, many new to powers, some new to hidden facets recently revealed, others just around to further refine skills base the point self training could provide. There were just under four score students gathered in the large auditorium gymnasium for the Peter Morgan Program's orientation session.

Some were looknig around with intense curiosity at the people around them, gazing at the boths around the room, at the banners on the wall, some showcasing the crests, sheilds and logos of heroes associated with the Peter Morgan Program, a few odd ones like the one that read 'Accorded Neutral Grounds' and a booth over to one side advertising ATA testing.

others were chatting amicably and enthusiastically, others relishing the chance to stretch arms, legs and other assort non-standard body parts. It was more of a wine mixer feel to it than a ceremony, the informal air making things a little easier.

It was still ariot of smells and sounds and sensations. There were some signs scattered about the room, tall poles about twelve feet tall, each topped with a number.

"Good morning everyone," a pleasant sounding voice said. It could be easily traced to man with a warm skin tone and wearing a tan suit over a plain shirt. "I am Jay Smith, provost for the Peter Morgan Program. Through this special school, you will be learn more about the world many overlook and walk past alongside the more common classes, and more about yourself as well. In short, welcome to Night School."

[OOOC that I might fluff: there is a marshalling card in your orientation package, instructing you to meet at the sign matching the number on your card. In the groups case, it's sign 7

Ids:

2455913 - Guy

2455421 - Eve

2451023 - Alice

2454339 - Sol

2454815 - Yuri

2457939 - Mar

2452997 - Fen]

Alice brushed some hair out of her eyes and perked up. Unlike a lot of teens and young adults, she wanted to be here and would make sure that she stayed on top of everything. This was a job, not an excuse to go partying everyday or whatever the others did. Her attention focused solely on the speaker up front.

The school did in fact look different this day. Marius had come to the school just the year before with the information that this would be a place where he could learn and grow in his craft. Unfortunately there was some kind of issue and he was not able to learn in the area that he wanted to. He instead worked on a degree that would allow him access to employment once he was done. You could yield all the power in the world but you still needed to pay the water bill and housing costs. He had started on all the mandatory classes that were supposed to help him become well rounded. Speech, writing, and science classes that he would most likely never use again. It did get him closer to a degree so it wasn't all for not.

The walls had banners for a number of things that he didn't know. He knew a few of the banners for the heroes. The most important banner to him was the Unseelie Accords. This was neutral ground for him which allowed him peace of mind. Well peace of mind for those that signed on to it and, with his ending his apprenticeship, he was now under it as well. This is one of the reasons he picked to come here. To learn more and become a productive member of society.

His fellow classmates were milling around and conversing with each other. He saw something things that were pretty interesting as some of the students let their glamors down since this would be an accepting group. None came over to talk to him though. It could be the fact that he held a five foot black maple staff in his left hand. It didn't really matter in the end as the Provost introduced himself and told them that they were to look for their card. He pulled his out of his pocket and saw that he was given a number: 2457939 and was to go to sign seven. He headed that way. Figuring that he should get going in case there were more directions coming.

All the sights -strange people, strange appearances doing strange things, it was almost like a crowded circus; the sounds, all the varied chattering and little clicks and clacks and buzzes, and then the scents, oh the scents.

For the reasonably normal-appearing blond in the coat and red scarf, she had to suppress a sneeze or two but was otherwise a touch in awe at the sheer variety of... well... everything,

here. Then again, it wasn't like she went many places, as she was either at the family den or here, pretty much, so perhaps she was just viewing this all from the eyes of a sheltered soul.

As much as it was interesting on some level though, she kept having that nagging feeling at the back of her mind, still wondering exactly why father insisted on sending her here of all places. After all those speeches about how superior their kind was, he had seemed awfully certain that Solana should gather some hard-earned grit-experience in the harsh and volatile world out there.

What was a super predator supposed to be doing at some center of learning? She thought her kind was more suited to learning in the wilderness and the like -more natural methods.

But... it was far from her place to complain or question her elders, being not just the youngest but also the most different -relatively speaking.

With nothing left to do, Solana just took a deep breath through her scarf and strode off towards the sign indicated from her card with all the numbers.

Unlike her adopted sister, Evelyn fluttered to and fro checking out the area and the people. She said hi to a few other students, her soundsuit was switched on to the indoor conversation level setting. She had invented that a year ago with the help of her father. It included a miniature microphone and speaker set up. The fabric was just a base for the rest of the surprisingly simple device. She finished her fluttering by landing on her younger sister's shoulder. She sat down on her shoulder. "Excited for your first day?", she asked Alice.

Alice shrugged. "Mostly just excited to learn how to control my powers." She replied.

*[i]I'm so excited! That I just can't hide it![/i]* Guy sang to himself, bobbing his head and grinning like a madman, his tail and ears twitching in said excitement. *[i]I know, I know, I know, I know, I know I like it![/i]* Truth be told, he would have been a bit uneasy if it wasn't for that excitement. The previously mentioned tail and ears? Only noticeable because his glamour wasn't going at the moment. Honestly, there were only a handful of people he'd ever dropped it around. And that was mostly family. There was a certain... thrill doing it around this many people.

He kept his feet on the ground though. It had started when he was about eight, the whole 'floating off the ground when excited' thing. Generally only happened when he was very excited, so he avoided parties and sporting events and concerts. Stuff like that.

**Greykit** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 16

**mew711**: "All part of being a giant spider I guess, sis...whats it like having 4 left feet", evelyn joked.

"You ask this every time I shift." Alice commented.

"You avoid answering so I feel the need to ask again", evelyn said, "though yeah, its not like you ask me about whats it like being 7 inches tall."

"What IS it like being only seven inches tall?" Alice countered. "It's not something I can really explain."

``I am not someone who gives long speeches, so I will turn you over to your TLs. I look forward to a productive year from you all.`` And on that note, Jay Smith left the mic and off the stage's side entrance.

Station Seven, Station Seven... Guy hopped a little to look over the shoulder of a tall guy ahead of him. That was 4... that one was 10... There! Ha! Still, there were like a hundred people in the place... He grinned, then darted behind someone and did his little fade out trick, becoming first translucent then totally invisible. For an instant, it was just his clothes moving empty before he stripped them into his mists and started running through and [i]through[/i] the crowd.

**Greykit** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 6 +6 12 notice

Evelyn recalled her id number. "We're at sign seven", she said to her sister and flew towards the sign that read 7 signalling alice to follow.

Alice got off her spot hugging the wall and went with the crowd, following her sister. The word 'pixy' flashed through her mind as it often did.

Guy pulled his clothes back out of the mists as he made himself visible again a few feet from the sign and covered the rest of the distance with a light jog. There were seven chairs set in a loose circle around the base of the sign, and one other guy already there. He had a pretty cool looking staff with him for whatever reason. The image of the man hitting someone over the top of their head with it made his smile ever so slightly.

**Greykit** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 12

"Uh, Hi," Guy said in a somewhat reserved manner. "Are you the TL person?"

Marius looked at the cat thing coming toward him. He had seen some weird things in his time but it was all in a sliding scale. Marius shook his head.

"No, I am student. My card said that I was supposed to come to this sign. You also a group seven member?" Marius responded.

"Yep," Guy said, extending a hand towards Marius. He could sense the spiciness he had learn to equate with magic coming from the guy. Honestly, aside from the dabbling he'd encountered. "I'm Guy Tennant. Nice to meet you."

Marius accepted the hand and shook it. "Marius. Pleasure to meet you. So, this is an interesting place. A lot of . . . interesting people around." Marius was having a hard time not staring at that the tail of Guy. He had not met a person with a tail before. Then again he didn't know if this was a person at all. It would require more research.

Guy cocked his head to one side slightly, giving Marius a curious look, which in turn set the tail that was startling him so waving some more. "Something wrong?"

"Sorry, never shook hands with something with a tail before. It is a first for me." Marius was acting like a complete backwater townie at this point. He tried to steer the conversation back to something that was a little less embarrassing. "Looks like there are going to be more people joining us soon. I wonder how they are grouping us."

"Never met anyone else with a tail either," Guy admitted. Then he decided to expand a bit on that. "Aside from my sister and parents. But no one else."

Evelyn only just arrived at the sign. "You're group 7 too?", Evelyn asked the new guy...the odd cat boy. She hovered nearby the sign then fluttered to one of the chairs. He had a tail, that was actually kinda cute.

"Okay... see?" Guy said after taking a moment to blink at the little person with wings. Now that was something you didn't see every day. She was the size of... of a cell phone. "See... that's something that's more remark worthy than just a tail. Hi Pixie."

"Um...hi...", Evelyn said to him, "I dunno if I'm that remark worthy really..." Then again unlike most people here, she was less than a foot tall.

"A faerie. Interesting that you would be at this school. What court are you part of?" Marius asked as he saw the wee folk.

"Wait... you really are a wizard? Subtle to anger and all that?" Guy interjected. "And the courts? Those things are real?"

"Faerie? Oh no...I'm not really a faerie...that does sound like fun though...guess I could be a faerie.", Evelyn giggled.

"That I am. Card carrying member and all. And the courts are very real and be careful of what you say since there are things out there that might grant that. Courts are always looking for new members." Marius stated. It was true that you had to be careful around the fae. What you saw and just how you say it.

"This is my sister," Alice said neutrally. "Alice Locke." She said offering her hand to the new person she walked up to.

"Oh...um...alright...(she turned to her sister) hi sis...", Evelyn said. This guy was taking the gandalf impression a little too seriously. What if he was actually a wizard...wouldn't that be a hoot. She could still hear the high pitched hum of her wings...ultrasonic frequency her father had said. She was able to tune it out most of the time, it usually only required that frequency

The ultrasonic buzz was the reason why Guy's ears were twitching a lot. He didn't have the life to get used to it. And ultrasonics weren't all that common. Still... a real wizard... he could separate fact from fiction with him... get the straight answer his parents refused to give... But that was seriously unimportant at the moment. "You two are... sisters?"

"I'm adopted." Alice said simply.

And that boogled him. He looked at the pixie then back at Alice. He help his fingers apart and looked at the two girls through them. "Ooooookay..."

Considering where she was heading already had a gathering, most of Solana's attention was focused there thus she overheard a good deal of it while she approached, double-checking she was in the right place before properly moving up to the gathering to stand adjacent to them. For the moment she just stood and observed, half of her attention wandering back to the crowds whilst the other half got a better look at those in her group -there was lots of interesting things around here, she didn't intend on missing anything if she could help it.

Alice tilted her head at the strange person that still hadn't given her his name. Instead, she stopped talking and kept an eye on her surroundings.

Well... awkward silences. Guy scratched at his neck, just under the lengths of his locks. Well... they really did quickly run out of thinks to talk about. There was only one other person hanging around, the rest having wandered off to their own groups. Which meant... Guy waved at the woman in a all concealing style outfit he recognized. "Hi!"

"Hello," Solana said politely with a curt bow of her head, offering a handshake as she continued, "I'm Solana Veronisi."

"Hello everyone" Marius said to all the people that have come to gather under banner seven.

"That sounds... Italian," Guy said after a moments reflection. "Guy."

"Italian...? Isn't that food or something?" Solana said with a bit of puzzlement, blinking a few times in confusion, "And guy is slang for a male right?"

So, Guy was the man's name and Solana was another. Not that that helped Alice much since she couldn't see her face. Maybe it was a fashion statment or something. Alice paid it no heed, instead continuing to keep her eyes and ears open.

"Italian as in Italy, the country," Guy said. "They do have awesome food though," he acknowledged. "And my name is Guy."

"Oh... my apologies; I must say I'm rather unfamiliar with the outside world," Solana said a touch sheepishly, scratching the back of her neck and glancing off to the side, "It's a pleasure to meet you."

This did catch Alice's attention on the other hand. "Outside world?" she asked. "What do you mean?"

"I spent most of my life on my family's estate," Solana clarified with a slight shrug.

"I was homeschooled since I was 12, I think I understand.", Evelyn remarked, "By the way, I'm Evelyn."

"Interesting. Well it's nice to meet you, Solana." Alice said.

"I was in public school," Guy said, in the spirit of sharing. Still, all three of the ladies were home schooled. That was some weird odds there. He looked over at the wizard. "Were you home schooled too?"

"My public education took place in public schools. Might not have been as good a private one but it got me what I wanted. Though private places have some great programs from what I hear." Marius replied. He had managed to work his way through one year of schooling at this university but he had met a few that went to private school and they did have a leg up.

Guy grinned at the wizard (self proclaimed). Shared bond through the experience of public school. Okay, very tenuous bond, but in the sea of home schooled estrogen, it was a life preserver he was willing to grasp.

"I doubt I would have lasted long due to um...the size difference...it was hard enough moving around the house before my wings came in.", Evelyn said to the boys.

Alice didn't say anything, just kept monitoring the situation and looking for an opportunity to speak up with a relatable experience.

"Father didn't exactly approve of the notion of me learning the basics amongst the mundanes," Solana said a little awkwardly, "It makes sense I guess, but this is all kind of a first for me now."

"Were are you from?" Guy asked, curious.

"Um... I'm not sure, father carried me to the area, I think we flew over some water?" Solana said, again a little awkward and attempting to shrink a little this time.

"You can fly?" Guy asked excitedly, tail twitching. He'd never met someone else who could fly. To be honest, he hadn't met anyone else with powers. And his skills were for some reason much more than what his sister and parents had.

"What!? I -no, I... um... damn it," Solana sputtered at first, but sighed in defeat, realizing she'd spoken before thinking properly, "I'm not very good at this... my family prizes subtlety..."

"Have to say, flight is impressive. I'd like to be able to do that," Alice chimed in. "As it is, I just climb walls."

"You're not very good at flying?" Guy asked. He soft contemplative sound of remark and gave her a quizzically raised eyebrow. "I dunno... I very really found it hard..."

"I only got good at flying since it was my only reliable way of moving around...short of improvised grappling hooks, miniature RC cars and lots of time...stairs were horrible.", Evelyn said. She didn't like remembering the hell year. The 2 years her body stopped shrinking but her wings didn't come in yet.

Marius listened as all the people talked about ways they could fly or climb walls. He wasn't able to do any of that. Seems like this group was going to be very interesting. The things he would find out about his fellow group mates should be interesting.

An average looking guy, brown skin, wearing frameless glasses and a jacket over his plain collared shirt hurried up, leading another student, this one even more cat like. The man had a distinctly harried and apologetic look. "Hello! I'm Lazarus King. Sorry, was running a bit late this morning and got caught up... with a thing."

"I am not a thing," Yuri growled and said in a reply. One may wonder if his clothing is black not because of dye... With his messy look in general, at least, suggesting it.

"King?" Solana echoed in a bit of surprise, before looking at the student this King brought with him and throwing some comparative glances between him and a dozen others in the room, "...thing?"

Considering the situation, 'thing' seemed like what you'd call practically everywhere here, so Solana was a little confused but only let a touch of it show.

"I slept in and missed my bus so I had to bike, then there was a man who fainted and I had to take to the hospital, but the direct route was blocked because of an accident and an overturned mail van..." Lazarus sighed. "It was a busy morning."

"You took a man to the hospital?" Guy echoed slowly. "On your bicycle?"

"I couldn't just leave him there, and the traffic was too thick for a car," Lazarus shrugged. "It isn't important. I am the Team Leader for this group."

"That was very noble," Solana remarked with a nod, a little impressed -though probably not for the reasons one would think, "Why are we in groups anyway?"

"Conviniece?", Evelyn suggested.

"That is part of it, but it is more a privacy subject," Lazarus said, too much of a gentleman to take one of the chairs that the group had been ignoring. Not with women still standing. "While this might seem like a large number of preternatural students, it's still a small subset of the student body. The groups work well for setting up classes and activities."

"Can't imagine many group activities I can really do at this size.", Evelyn said.

"Ah, I was wondering; there didn't seem to be any sort of method behind group composition," Solana remarked, looking around the room again curiously.



"The provost and the board determines the groups. Generally, they are mixed. Like this one is," Lazarus said.

Yuri looked around at people that were around. He should probably introduce himself at some point... Maybe later.

"Glad to meet you all.", Evelyn smiled, "Good to have friends..."

"That sounds cool," Guy said, casting glances at the new person. He had expected this place to be filled with all kinds, and it wasn't disappointing. The two sisters, one that was a wasp and the other than smelled like a spider, the wizard, the strange girl that could fly, now this one that was an all out cat-person. This really was going to be an interesting year. "What sort of things do we get to do?"

"Aside from classes, the different groups also participate together in the school events and competitions, and generally do their community service together as well. Each group shares a dorm as well," Lazarus said, listing the general things. He pulled a notebook from his inner pocket. "We still seem to be missing someone..."

Alice nodded when Lazarus was announced as team leader, but didn't say much. She was a real barrel of laughs at times. She stood attention though, ramrod straight and ready for instructions.

Yuri meanwhile stood and tapped his tail on the ground, looking around as if impatiently waiting for something for too long.

Evelyn then landed on one of the chairs, and sat on the edge. "What are you waiting for?", Evelyn asked.

There would be school events and competitions? Marius looked at Lazarus with a bit of a confused look on his face. "What do you mean competitions?"

"Sporting events between houses, the end of semester scoring, projects and so on," Lazarus said. "There was talk of bringing back the Interhouse Quizes this year... And the Knitting Marathon and Culinary Wars always have supporters..."

Solana blinked several times at that last part, doing a bit of a double-take: "Wait... what?"

"So we're graded on this just as any other classes?", Evelyn asked.

"Each class is different, but yes, they tend to produce a weightable grade," Lazarus said. "The Knitting and Culinary competitions are interesting. The winner of the last one, not held here, could operate four pairs of needles telekinetically. The winner in the general fashion used his prehensile hair to stitch and weave. I beleive it was a pyromancer and her cryomancer sibling that won the last regional culinary war." He shifted a chair so Solana could get better access to it. "Would you like a seat?"

Part of Solana was fascinated by such ideas, but the other part of her kept thinking of the practices she'd seen family members perform and things she'd read about, the ideas sort of clashed. And then the offering of the chair sort of tipped her off balance, throwing furtive and uncertain glances at the others and all around the room, at the chair and at King before awkwardly moving over to delicately take a seat.

She had perfect posture and her back didn't touch the backrest, hands composed neatly on her lap as she took up a patient disposition.

[http://30.media.tumblr.com/tumblr\\_lnpesWL7y1qir083o1\\_400.gif](http://30.media.tumblr.com/tumblr_lnpesWL7y1qir083o1_400.gif)

"I can feel my GPA dropping already." Marius said grumpily. He was pretty sure that he could burn water while trying to boil it. He could move energy around sure but he wasn't about to use it to knit a pair of socks.

"Stuff to do aside from the classes? Really?" Guy whined, not all that enthused about that prospect.

"Extracurricular activities contribute to personal growth," Lazarus pointed out. He frowned at his notes. "Do you all mind introducing yourself so I can have the names right?"

"Evelyn Locke", came the sound from the 7 inch girl in the room.

"Solana Veronisi," Solana reiterated.

"Marius Larren." Said Marius Larren.

"I'm Tennant," The fae child said with a slight grin and the manner of a certain british secret agent. "Guy, Tennant,"

"Yura," Yuri replied.

"I have a Yu[i]ri[i] Stokhanov here," Lazarus said, not even stumbling on the foriegn surname.

"That's how people at my home used to call me. Yuri is a full name," Yuri explained *"You'd think he figure that part out."* he thought to himself.

"Alice Locke." the blue haired werespider replied.

"Isn't Yura a girl's name?" Guy asked.

Yuri glared at Guy and just said, "No." But the helluva his glare was. It was like "Say this again, and you'd probably get something way worse than a glare."

**Yuri** rolled a die to intimidate Guy with 20 sides. The die showed:  $16 + 5 = 21$ .

"Dude, it's a comment. You wanna fight someone over that?" Guy not-quite-a-glared back at Yuri.

**Guy** rolled a die with 20 sides for counter-intimidation. The die showed: 18 +7 (Intimidate)

"No," Yuri replied without the said glare anymore, and less pissed and more nervous tone. He started to think that going over here, back to the people was one of the worst ideas since his failed fall attempt.

Alice watched as Yuri and Guy bickered, not intervening. Not unless the two were coming to blows.

"Both of you, calm down," Lazarus instructed. "You will be house mates starting tomorrow, and you will need to be civil about it."

It seemed like their housing situation was going to get interesting with these two already going at it. They were doing this when they first met can you imagine how it would be once you have been living with each other. Some one was going to die. He felt that he was going to need to protect his room as much as possible if things got out of hand. A spat between roommates could be bad. Throw powers in to the mix and these would get worst.

"Speaking of housing where are we going to be staying?" Marius inquired.

"Are we all going to be housed in the same building?", Evelyn asked.

"Do we get our own rooms?" Guy pried on the tail of Evelyn's question. That was something of a pressing question for him. He'd shared a room with his sister for a long while.

Michael shows up, saying it was traffic that got in the way.

"We were assigned the Saunders House," Lazarus said.

Living with strangers... that would be a new experience for the young blond woman covered to the ears; up until now she'd pretty much only ever had her family for whatever may have come. These people were far from her kind, it'd no doubt be one of the more awkward things she'd have to endure.

As such, Solana was unable to fully mask her uncertainty as she gave a second glance to each member of the group -she wasn't even sure how to explain it, it just felt a bit eerie of sorts. Like she'd have to keep her guard up all the time now, which was an unpleasant notion.

"So, private rooms?" Yuri asked.

"Hope so." Michael said somewhat cheerfully.

[Insert a temporal shift of a few minutes no more than thirty seven and no less than fifteen as they locate an appropriate vessel of transportation, load said vessel with luggage and pilot it towards the beautiful and picturesque Saunders House]

<http://imagizer.imageshack.us/v2/800x600q90/844/mgqk.jpg>

It was a pleasant day. One of those that reminded you of the heat of summer without being too muggy or swealtering, the wind have just a hint of crispness to it, remind you that fall was starting in just a few weeks, but far from enough to warrant any form of shivers. The house was framed by trees, providing privacy covertly, adding to the allure of the older building.

It was aged, but in a good way, carrying it's years with pride and dignity. Many of the original windows had been replaced, newer modern fixings sitting within the panelled sides of the building. Wooden stairs led up to a porch that wrapped half way around the building, the entrance way just waiting to admit the new tennants.

The chirping of the birds was momentarily joined by the sound of the vehicle door closing behind Lazarus. "Welcome to your new home."

The house looked a lot nicer then he thought it would have. Multiple floors with a porch and enough rooms for all of them. He was excited to see what would be inside. Would they have their own rooms or bunk with another? This was a lot nicer then the places he had stayed in. the failed roommate situation or the normal dorms that had him with the roommate that wanted to know what he was up to all the time. He was glad to be in such a nice place. It would be interesting to see how things work out here.

"So, are there assigned rooms or is it first come first server?" Marius asked.

"This looks like a very nice place...very spacious.", Evelyn said. The place really was nicer than the government compound. She wondered if she was going to get a full sized room.

Lazarus consulted his notes again as he top the six or so steps upto the porch and headed to the door as he responded. "It's a historic place. Built about 1910[? Maybe? Random date. Might look into it] for Bartholemew Saunders. There should be enough rooms for everyone easily. And I planned a draw for the rooms."

A good century home. That meant that is was build strong and not one of these new copy houses that were popping up in new developments. This house would have seen a lot in that time. He would need to look into the first owner to see if he raised any children here or how long it was a student house. These things did in fact matter.

"So what kind of draw for the rooms did you have in mind? And how long has this been used for student housing?" Marius asked. He might as well pick Lazarus' brain while he had the chance.

Alice as usual didn't say much. The house looked good and tht was already stated so why would she need to say it as well? She hoped that there was some decent soundproofing at least. The last thing she wanted was to be woken up by some party in the middle of the night or someone hearing her changing forms.

"So this place is over one hundred years old?" Guy asked with much less approval than Marius. He didn't have the same rooting in magic so he didn't see the potential. He just saw an old, though cool looking house.

"The regular kind," Lazarus said. "Pulling numbers from the hat corresponding with the rooms." There was a small keybox, the kind real estaters used, hanging from the door handle. It was a lever handle door. In a few moments, he had the code matched and the door opened. Inside smelled slightly of lemons and febreze.

Evelyn sat on Alice's shoulder and waited to enter the house. She didn't need to be flying around just yet.

Marius walked the steps to the large house once the door had been opened. He looked at Lazarus and then the house.

"Are we allowed to enter for the house tour? " Marius asked.

Alice smiled when she felt Evelyn perch on her shoulder and headed inside to explore.

Lazarus flicked a light switch, not 100% neccessary, but still. The door opened into a slightly conventional mudroom, the textured window letting in light without being an easy looking glass in, outdoor tiles on the floor. A second key opened it into the actual building.

Inside was better than Guy expected. Despite the age of the building, it was actually pretty nice inside. They worked a balance between sensible modernity will still keeping enough of the original look without being tacky.

The hall had two paths, one that continued on the first floor to a door that was only partially open, another door on the right and a doorway into another room further door. On the left was a stairway up the stairs with stained wood rails, another door and a doorway.

"You will need to," Lazarus said in response to Marius. There was a row of hooks off to the right, and a bag hanging off it. He grabbed it. "You will need a set of keys though." The bag made faint clinking and shuffling sounds. "Blind draw?"

"Blind draw? For what?" Guy asked, ducking to peer up the stairs.

"Rooms. There are sets of room an house keys in this," Lazarus said. "The most fair method is just to pick blindly."

"Sounds like a plan. Draw before we see them and can't be upset over it." Marius reached into the bag and fished out a key. It was almost like winning the lottery.

It was a small bunch. Three keys on it, each with a little bit of scotch tape attacked and a bit of writing. attacked. (from right to left: front D., House, 204)

[http://wwwdelivery.superstock.com/WI/223/1647/PreviewComp/SuperStock\\_1647R-128633.jpg](http://wwwdelivery.superstock.com/WI/223/1647/PreviewComp/SuperStock_1647R-128633.jpg)

Evelyn liked the interior. She looked around from her perch on her sister's shoulder as Alice followed the group. She was about to select a key. Though notably she was about the size of the bag the keys were in. She wasn't as concerned as she could have been about that.

Guy, ever the invasive and inquisitive one, looked to see what Marius got and with groped for the bag with his hand. "Cool. What room did you get?"

Evelyn flew over to the bag.

Marius looked at the key ring he pulled out. He thought he was getting one key but he now had three. "Let's see. Front door, House and room 204 if I am right. I guess this is hotel style and I am on the second floor." Marius replied looking at the keys.

Lazarus was obliging and held the bag where Guy could get his hand into it. Which, considering the fact that he didn't have his gloves on, what a bad thing and he quickly pulled back, hissing, a narrow black stripe on his finger tips. A key did drop out though, even as he yelped and sucked on his finger tip.

Marius looked the keys he had in his hands. Ah that is why.  
knoweldge arcana **necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $15 + 10 = 25$

"Guy, The key ring is iron. Here." Marius handed a tissue to Guy. He kept the things in his pockets because one must be prepared. That and he refused to use his sleeve.

Alice reached in, shifted her fingers sifting around randomly selecting a key and pulling it out when Guy was done. She tilted her head a little, but otherwise said nothing as she examined her key. [same look basically, room 208]

"What's wrong Guy? It's not like the key was on fire.", Evelyn said. Once Alice was done, Evelyn flew into the bag to retrieve her key. She exited a moment later clutching three keys that were each about a third of her height.

"Thanks," Guy muttered, taking the tissue and picked up the keys. "Forgot... I got a brass one I use..."

Lazarus, having seen the profiles, wasn't all that taken aback, and was more occupied with Evelyn. "A room might be a bit big for you," he commented to her.

"So?", Evelyn said sarcastically.

"I'll see you in my room." Alice said and excused herself from the group, heading to room 208 as was on the key. She also didn't want to be involved in any potential confrontations if she could avoid it.

"Bye sis.", Evelyn said, "And what's wrong Lazarus?", she asked.

"You're a pixie," Guy said, in something of an ill bearing. "You can't even hold the keys."

"I can hold the key just fine dude.", Evelyn said to him, a little annoyed.

"You look ridiculous with it," Guy countered. "It's like toddler sized to you." He alternatively sucked on his finger, spoke and checked the key. 207.

"What do you mean toddler sized?", Evelyn asked.

"Enough you two," Lazarus said, mediating between the two. "No need for conflict the first five minutes in. How are your fingers?"

"Fine," Guy said, surly.

Evelyn's really tiny bag was fairly light. After all, she just had a few things in it just a few minor tools...all improvised from bits of metal and string. Come to think of it, it was rare she was ever off the government compound without an escort. She didn't like large crowds and valued her privacy. Regardless, "So do I get a room like everyone else?", she said cautiously.

Seeing Guy get in a second spat with a room mate was giving Marius the feeling that the fae would be trouble to live with. This group was going to be rough while working together. Perhaps there will be some kind of team building the first day. Marius could only hope as he walked by Lazarus giving him a look.

Marius went back to their vehicle and grabbed his bag. It was only of the large bags you can buy at a military surplus store. It held most of his possessions. He snagged the backpack that held the rest of them. Carrying both he headed inside to drop off his stuff in his new room.

[it was surprisingly spacious. A bed, chest of drawers/highboy (which ever you call it), dresser and closets. There was also a small desk and a chair. The walls were a light tan colour. The window didn't have curtains though, just a shade to draw down.]

Well, it appeared to be Michael's turn since no one else was going for it right this second. So he goes for the hat and draws out a keyring. [house, door, 205]

Michael nods, so he has second floor, "Works for me."

"The two first floor rooms were repurposed a few years ago," Lazarus said, "one into a study, the other into a library. It's been two years since it was last occupied though."

"I guess I'll take one of those rooms then...I could use the extra space...or...", Evelyn said to Lazarus, "Or better yet, I can just stay in my sister's room...my stuff doesn't take up that much space anyway...After all my old room was essentially a repurposed doll house."

"Can't we just make up a space or something?" Guy asked. "She's tiny and stuff... There's got to be space somewhere we can fix up. Like those home renovation shows."

"I wouldn't need that much space for a tiny bed and furnishings.", Evelyn said, "Most of what I need can be improvised if needed...say a makeshift doll box for a dresser...they make a number of accessories I can work with..ah...maybe I can get Alice to weave me a hammock or something with spidersilk...Hmm is there a dresser, cupboard or closet or something we can renovate for me?", she asked, while it wasn't her favorite place, she figured it could work for living arrangements.

Michael was clearly looking at the little pixie, ".....If all else fails... would a doll house work?" He seemed serious enough.

Lazarus smiled slightly as they started working things out on their own.

"So we just got to find places then," Guy said. He looked down at his key, then figured he could check out the room later. There was a lot of house to look at. And his luggage was with him, so he didn't have anything to lug from outside either.

Alice entered her room and took a look around, seeing what it had to offer her. The room was pretty good overall. Pretty much everything she'd need and the space was also good enough that she could shift forms without needing to worry about fitting in the room still.

[it was surprisingly spacious. A bed, chest of drawers/highboy (which ever you call it), dresser and closets. There was also a small desk and a chair. The walls were a light tan colour. The window didn't have curtains though, just a shade to draw down.]

Marius put his bag and backpack down on the floor. This was a very nice sized room. He put his staff next to the door then opened the backpack. He pulled out a ten inch rod and put it in his pants pocket. It would stick out enough so that he could pull it out if it was needed. With his things in order he went back down stairs to poke around in the house.

Yuri meanwhile split off from group as he got the key; he'd see his room anyway, might as well do it when he had lonely time, and instead went down to see the other rooms the place might have, such as library.

[It was a regular type library. Lots of books, a couple soft chairs, a table in the center of the room with chairs set around it.]

Marius started off in the kitchen. Looking in the draws and the fridge seeing if there was anything there or if they would need to make a shopping trip later in the day. He looked around in the pantry as well.

search **necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $20 + 8 = 28$

[The kitchen was lacking in the food department. Very lacking. As in little to no food at all. There were three boxes of macaroni and a few bottles of water in the fridge. They were leaving stocking everything to the new residents it seemed. At least there were a few cleaning supplies. Some dish soap, some cleaning clothes and sponges, tile cleaner and three other bottles. There were a full set of pans, pots, plates, utensils and other such cutlery and such.]

Evelyn flew around on the first floor searching for a suitable cupboard or closet to renovate. She wasn't picky but living in the kitchen didn't seem like such a good idea, so she focused on finding



a closet. She hoped she could convince Alice to make her a hammock. Despite what the project tried to make her do, Alice was better at sewing than soldiering according to Evelyn.

Search: **mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $4 + 4 = 8$  crap  
[nothing of real not.]

Alice scratched at her arm, her weekly schedule saying that her change was today. Shrugging, she made sure the door was locked. that done, she sheaded her clothing and began the shift to her spider form. To those with careful ears, cracks, pops, crunches, and other sounds of the transformation could be heard. Finally, her underside hit the floor with a thud as she recovered her strength.

Toughness: <http://orokos.com/roll/161386> 26

For his part, Guy didn't bother with a detailed search of any one place, instead just moving from door to door, checking to see were they lead. "Two bathrooms. Nice..." He didn't spend much time in the laundry room, not wanting to test what metal they were encased in,

**Greykit** rolled a die for general search with 20 sides. The die showed:  $18+3$

Looked like they would need to go shopping after all if they didn't want to starve. This place was very nice though. Had a lot of the items they would need in cooking and cleaning. Now to check the rest of the house. He started from one room and would go to the next opening things and looking around.

search checks

**necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $17 + 8 = 25$  for living room

**necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $14 + 8 = 22$  for dining room

**necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $16 + 8 = 24$  for lounge

**necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $12 + 8 = 20$  for library

**necar** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $3 + 8 = 11$  for laundry

Evelyn continued her search moving from room to room, floor to floor, her stuff she left hidden in the lounge while she searched.

**mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $16 + 4 = 20$  for lounge

**mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $15 + 4 = 19$  for living room

**mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $1 + 4 = 5$  for dining room

**mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $12 + 4 = 16$  for library

**mew77** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed:  $15 + 4 = 19$  for second floor

Michael happily started to look around the place. This place looks pretty nice.

<http://invisiblecastle.com/roller/view/4375213/> Search rolls.

After recovering, Alice mostly just waited until the right ammount of time passed when she could change back. She instead shifted her weight some and began to spin some webs. It was a hobby she did and enjoyed, though more so in human form since she could see what she was doing without having to constantly turn around.

Meanwhile Yuri decided to go and check the basement, since the people started get too common out there in library. [description above]

The house had many of the things that they would need already. It just needed the consumables for their needs. Food, soap, and what ever they needed. The place already had a lot of furniture so they wouldn't need to worry about supplying any of that. He wondered if this place would be covered in the student housing or if they had to pay rent for it. He had scholarships that would cover student housing and school expenses but renting a house was going to come out of his pocket. He would need to ask. Which is something he could do now since he just investigated the whole house.

Guy's checks were more along the lines of open door, glance around, move on. It at least let him know where the rooms were in the house. And which closets made the most sense. He discarded the first floor closets, then skipped up to the second. There were a set of doors right before the stairs. Linen closet. Seemed decent sized. Still... that was just his opinion. He would need a second voice. There was movement in the room just next door, and leaning to take a peek, he could see the 208 tag on the door. Evelyn's sister was the only one to head to her room right away...

He knocked on the door, then opened it without waiting for a response. "Hey, um... Alice!" Like wonderland.

Alice froze, knowing that she had locked the door and was shocked. She turned to face it, unsure of what to do. Part of her considered rearing and swatting at the intruder with her many legs or pouncing on him as best she could... Or jsut simply staying there to watch him. In the end, she did rear up, but more as a threat and a warning. Fangs out, she swatted the air with her pedipalps.

Guy screamed in a high pitched distinctly lacking in testosterone manner losing 5 man points as a result (he gained that much for staring down Yuri). Rather than stick around, he dropped, phasing through the floor and dropping into the room below, which turned out to be the kitchen. The started falling the moment his head and arms cleared the roof, and failed to start floating in time to catch himself, then failed to land properly, so he was

**Greykit** rolled a die for flying with 20 sides. The die showed: *8+1 fail*

**Greykit** rolled a die for acrobatic with 20 sides. The die showed: *2+4 -2 feet*

**Greykit** rolled a die for toughness with 20 sides. The die showed: *17 pass*

Alice shuddered from the noise and went back to all eights. Carefully, she maneuvered her pedipalps to close the door and braced it from opening with her body. (assuming the door opens inward from the prepective of going into the room)

Evelyn could hear a high pitched girlish scream from upstairs. Someone must have done something they shouldn't have.

Meanwhile Yuri decided that the best place in this whole building was the basement. Dunno why. If they'd add dim lights there and a food stash, and a mattress probably, that wouldn't be too different from the place he managed to house himself in for the third week (that's when his looks

became creepy enough to scare off hobos living in basements but not too creepy to get pitchforks from all the townsfolk). Eh, he was supposed to be having a proper room. Oh, and probably a proper shower. He decided to check out the bathroom, maybe it'd have something interesting inside.

[just a half bathroom. Sink and toilet.]

Yuri grumbled. Well, at least he can wash his face and has a source of water. Eh. Maybe there are better bathrooms upstairs. "I'll call you... Snow. Ye, basement, that's your name now." he said and sighed. He didn't want to leave this, but, probably that'd add to awkwardness. He walked up out and searched around for a bathroom.

### **Lazarus and the Wizard**

Marius went looking for Lazarus. Finding the man checking on things Marius asked him a few questions.

"Hey Lazarus, is this place under student boarding or is there rent that we need to worry about? And what ever happened to the old owner? A place this nice I figure would go to his family."

Lazarus was examining the circuit breaker in the laundry room and, after shining his pocket flashlight at one last corner, closed it and gave Marius his full attention. "The actual rent is mostly covered through your tuition fees, those there are some extra costs that you would have to cover yourself. Food for one. And in a manner of speaking, the house was left to his family. Bartholemew Saunders was one of the first super heros of the modern age. And one of the founders of the school."

"Thank you, that covers that. I didn't know how everything was going to be split if there was rent involved. Food is easier to cover. So is everything ready? I see you checking everything out. Did something happen here that we don't know about?" Marius asked. He knew that there was a reason that the school was not opened for the supernatural last year but people were pretty closed lip about it. Perhaps Lazarus knew something more.

"It's been a few years since the house was used. Maintenance did do a full inspection last week, but I am just making second checks myself," Lazarus responded.

"Enrollment must be up then. Which is good for the school. Is there a bus stop near this place?" Marius continued to inquire.

"About a five minutes walk away," Lazarus started to reponse, which was around the time someone screamed and Guy fell through the ceiling.

There was a scream and Guy fell through the floor. That was something new. He had not seen a person fall through the floor before. His mind was racing to make sense of things. his hand though followed a mind of its own. His rod was snatched and pointed at the cat. The tip glowing white and a high pitched sound coming from it.

"What was that?" Marius questioned Guy.

"Ah-ah... G-giant spider! U-u-upstair!" Guy managed. He didn't like spiders. Not fear or anything, just didn't like them. They were creepy. Eight eyes, spindly legs. Ugh. Giant ones were abominations since they just made everything bigger.

"A giant spider? Where? I looked over most of this house and didn't see anything that would point to a large spider." Marius point the rod away from Guy. "Show me."

Giant spider...uh oh...Evelyn had warned her sister about her compulsive need to shift once a day, but Alice was nothing if not a creature of habit. "Both of you, there's no need to be alarmed!", Evelyn said to Marius and Guy as she flew into the room.

"Guy thinks that there is a giant spider upstairs which made him fall through the ceiling. I want to see how big this thing could be." Marius said standing there with his rod. It seemed that their house had a bug problem.

"It was a tactical retreat!" Guy said, getting to his feet.

"This thing is my sister.", Evelyn said with a little chuckle, "Let me guess, huge bluish tarantula, scared ya shitless." Evelyn giggled a little, though she knew the first time she saw her sister shift she was freaking out as well. Then again she was only 9 years old at the time. Alice was always so dedicated. She just wanted father to make some sort of spider to human translator.

"Oh, it completely slipped my mind to ask for it's entomology and where it got's it's hair done. Should I have tried that before or after it threatened to attack me?" Guy asked with sweet sweet sarcasm.

"Alice values her privacy, I mean a lot, um I presume the door was locked...which begs a further question...how did you get in?", Evelyn asked, she was curious. And her sister's habits were well known. Fortunately she herself was too quick to get swatted by a clumsy giant blue spider.

"So there is a giant blue spider up there and you are related to it. This just keeps getting better and better." Marius said shaking his head.

"She's adopted, and please don't call her it...it's not very nice, don't worry she'll change back eventually, best to leave her alone for now...and Guy...you still didn't explain, how did you get in if the door was locked.", Evelyn asked.

"Warning! Warning would be very useful if you plan to turn into a giant spider ten minutes into a new house!" Guy said. Jeeze. What if he'd wet his pants or something? And why would pixies adopt a giant spider?

"That doesn't answer my question...and can we please talk about something other than giant spiders.", Evelyn said.

"But giant spiders don't happen very often. Seems like we might want to have a house meeting on this topic. Powers and rules. We need to go over both."

"See that's more civil, yes let's do that...", Evelyn said, "Though I don't mind hearing Guy squeal like that..."

"We were [i]supposed[/i] to be looking for a room for the pixie, not turning into giant spiders," Guy scowled.

"So far the dining room cupboard or living room would work...is there a closet upstairs you think would work?", Evelyn reported her findings.

"There's a linen closet at the top of the stairs," Guy said grumpily.

"There are a lot of closets in this house and I doubt that we have that much stuff to fill them. I am sure that one of them would work. We also need to make a shopping trip unless one of you have the power to produce food."

"Fortunately I eat proportionally less than you guys...in any case show me the linen closet...I think that would be the best.", Evelyn said.

Michael pops up from the basement since he was looking through that at the time, "Let me guess; one of us is a shapeshifter and he or she decided it'd be fun to turn into a giant spider?"

"That's what I just said. What's your name?", Evelyn asked.

"I'm Michael." He walks up to the group, "Come to think about it I didn't get anyone's name since I was late."

"Their isn't any food? All I have is some snacks and candy," Guy half whined at Marius. Which was also a wierd claim since he hadn't shown up with anything like luggage with him. Not even a daypack. Conversations diverged like that.

"I figure that we will need to take a trip to a store this afternoon. There is a bus stop about five minutes from here. I know that I will be heading out there today. We should set up a time that we can have a talk about rules and what not of the house. That way we can have house chores and everyone will have input. So we don't invade someones space or hurt someone. Like a talk about your iron adversion." Marius said.

"It's not like I can help it..." Guy muttered, self-consciously rubbing the finger that got burned against his palm. At least it tended to pass quickly enough. "Do we shop first or rules first? Rules might help figure out what not to buy."

"Never thought about that. I guess that there might be food that could harm people as well. Oh, man. I hope no one has a peanut allergy."

"Yeah..." Guy said, knowing how bad that could be.

Alice kept bracing the door with all eight legs, sighing mentally as she knew she'd have to explain just what she was. She wasn't ashamed of it, but it was just annoying.

Notice: <http://orokos.com/roll/160925> 12

It was about then that there was some mild crashing and clunking as Solana arrived to the party with a huge suitcase in each hand, one clearly heavier than the other as she blundered along to the group.

"Sorry, I was a bit busy with stuff," Solana said, dropping her suitcases and pulling back her hood with a breath of relief.

Guy jumped slightly when the suitcases were dropped and almost pulled out a baseball (or cricket) bat to defend himself with. He pressed a hand over his chest and exhaled through his teeth. "Gums... Was that really called for?"

Solana merely gave Guy a look of slight confusion.

"The noise and the dropping and the clunking..." Guy scowled.

"...Sorry?" Solana offered, still a little confused but not all that concerned.

"Just..." Guy let out about puff of frustrated air. "Look, we are working on shopping list. Are you allergic to anything?"

"Allergic?" Solana queried, still a little confused but a touch alarmed this time.

"Groceries. There's no food," Guy reiterated.

"Oh!" Solana blurted out in sudden realization -never before actually having to buy or eat food kind of made it unintuitive for her, "No that's alright, I brought my own food." She patted the heavier suitcase assuringly.

"Hello...", Evelyn asked. She did not extend a hand for a handshake, given that her hand was the size of most people's pinkie fingers she figured people would understand. "Sorry what was your name again?", she asked embarrassed.

"Solana Veronisi," Solana introduced once more with a respectful nod of her head.

"I'm sorry...so many new faces at once...I just forgot.", Evelyn said.

"There's no need to apologize," Solana assured with a smile, though her scarf concealed most of it.

Guy blew hard in Evelyn's direction to gently move her out of the way (he might hurt her if he pushed). "Yes, yes, introductions and all. Fun stuff. Anyway. Having food for the moment is fine and dandy. We're doing a general house rule on shopping."

Evelyn was pushed aside with a light breeze...foul though. "Breath mint guy?", she asked him.

"Oh..." Solana remarked once again, "Well you need not worry about me."

"... why?" Guy asked.

Lazarus choose that moment to offer Solana a set of keys [house, door, 203] in an unobtrusive manner.

Solana took the keys first with a nod and mouthed word of thanks before furtively looking at Guy again.

"Be...cause... I get my own food?" Solana said a little awkwardly as she picked up her suitcases again and attempted to discretely vacate the vicinity to locate her place of rest.

"Hey! We're supposed to be rooming together!" Guy protested. "And there's a giant spider thing up there!"

Solana paused for a moment at that, though less in surprise than one might expect.

"...I thought I heard that was Evelyn's sister?" Solana queried.

"Unsubstantiated claims," Guy grumped dismissively. "And I though you were outside during all that?"

Solana's gaze obviously found the opposite wall somewhat interesting coincidentally, and it was probably a good thing her hands were occupied carrying suitcases as she had an overwhelming urge to adjust her hair to make sure her ears were still sort of covered.

So with no actual reply, Solana attempted to continue discretely moving away.

"A-tatah!" Guy said under his breath. "Giant spiders, pixies, mysterious 'I don't need food' people.... what is with you girls and the weirdness?" Of course. Guy really wasn't one to talk, but whatever.

Michael simply laughed, "I am normal as far as this house goes!" Anyways... "But really, whats with the girls being strange here?"

"So that is one person who does eat. Don't know how that works but ok. Anyone else have food restrictions?" Marius asked.

"I don't like ham," Guy offered.

"Ok, I take it that no one has anything really to worry about. So that is easy to work through. Should we worry about house rules before or after shopping?" Marius inquired.

"I'm not going to call Spidergirl down, are you?" Guy grumbled.

"I think her sister can do that." Marius said looking at the small insect girl hovering around.

"I can help you with the shopping," Guy offered. He pulled out a pair of casual leather gloves.  
"See? All prepared."

"Sounds good. Though I figure the others are buying their own stuff. Still trying to figure out when we would discuss house rules. I fear that someone is going to get injured if we don't lay down some ground rules here."

"It was an honest accident," Guy said.

"At the very least we all should know what everyone can do." Michael said in reply to Marius,  
"So Guy doesn't do whatever I missed again." He chuckles.

"Well, here is an idea. How about we unpack our stuff and meet in the library in thirty minutes. We can get settled in and then talk about all that stuff. Sound ok to everyone else?" Marius offered.

"Works for me." With that, Michael makes his way upstairs to his room.

"Sounds good.", Evelyn said to Marius.

"Sure, sure," Guy said. He considered making a dramatic exit, something he was pretty good at, admittedly, but figured those could wait till later. So he just walked his way upstairs, casting few suspicious glances at the room the spider was in before heading off to his own.

Sparse, but nicely furnished. Pretty cool, all being said. Unpacking... wasn't hard at all. He just dumped his suitcase out of storage beside the bed. Most of his small stuff and a good portion of his clothes he kept in storage though. Always good for quick wardrobe changes.

Someone was taking a shower for some reason that eluded him. He sighed and set about making the room his. He organized his drawers in his regular sense. Underwear at the top, shirts in the middle, pants on the bottom. For now, he stashed towels and sheets and such in the dresser, keeping one out and roughly spreading the bed. Which equated to putting on the fitted sheet and just tossing the top sheet and the pillows on it.

Solana's first order of business upon entering her room and firmly locking the door behind her, was to carefully apply the heavy black draping fabric to all sources of outside light, built with a white backing to protect the black cloth from the sun.

Once her room was shrouded in proper darkness barely lit from light from under the door, Solana went about unzipping and unbuckling her suitcases with a few easy clicks, one she tossed on the bed and the heavier one she paid a little more attention to.



As she popped open the suitcase, it pretty much fell away as a thin covering for a suitcase-sized refrigeration unit, which she immediately set up inside a closet the best she could and plugged it in.

From there she could proceed normally in dressing her bed and filling drawers, like a normal person would -just lacking any real sort of light.

Trinkets were next. Little things like a family picture, a little wooden carving, a few plastic big cats and his personal hygiene stuff. It was hard to come up with enough knickknacks when he tended to keep most his stuff in storage, and when he was just started. For now, he dumped his notebooks and such on the desk, as well as the old printer he brought with him and his laptop. That done, he shoved the suitcase under the bed to be forgotten, locked his door and stored the keys.

Since he was curious as he made his way back to the stairs, he noticed that one door didn't have any light shining from under it. "Curious..." he murmured to himself. Meh. Nothing to lose. He stepped into a drift and floated over to the door (because he could) and rapped on it. \*Tap-tapa-tap-tap, tap-tap\*  
[Solana's door]

Solana's little game of constantly rearranging things on her bedside tables and such was interrupted by said knocking, more out of a confusion since she wasn't sure who it'd be. She picked herself up and walked over to the door, slowly unlocking it and gradually easing it open far enough to peer at least one eye around the door to see who it was.

Guy gave her a winning and disarming smile and a cheerful wave, cocking his head slightly to one side. "Hi!"

The one little glowing red eye in the darkness just glanced around in slight confusion for a moment, locking onto Guy again with a puzzled look.  
"...Hi..." Solana responded awkwardly.

"Whacha doing?" He asked innocently. What? Guy could be innocent. He totally could.

The awkwardness persisted, as Solana just stared blankly at Guy for a moment.  
"...Unpacking...?" Solana replied.

Guy peeked into what little he could see behind her. "In the... dark?"

Solana reflexively attempted to close the door further whilst still allowing her some measure of seeing Guy, though her eyes narrowed a little suspiciously, not saying anything.

"What? Not talking to me all of a sudden?" Guy asked.

"You ask a lot of questions..." Solana said a little poutingly, "I don't know you..."

"I don't know you either, that's why I ask questions," Guy smiled brightly. "Questions give answers that give knowledge and Bob's your Uncle, we know each other. You're less scary than the giant spider, anyway." Guy paused, tail twitching uncertainly. "Um... you don't turn into a bug too, do you?"

"I do not, though I would have thought knowing she was a spider would make it easier to be less afraid," Solana replied, eyeing Guy carefully, "And Bob is not my uncle's name."

"It's just a... um... what do they call it... um..." Guy scratched his head thoughtfully. "Says or whatever. Vernacular thing?"

"Okay..." Solana said passively, "I... assume you don't transform into a bug either?"

"Yeek, no," Guy said, slightly appalled by that idea. Jeeze. He did not want to imagine turning into a bug. Giant or otherwise. He shuddered inwardly at that thought. "No, just me."

"Okay... well I guess that's one less thing we both have to worry about," Solana reasoned, still looking at Guy a little nervously.

"So.... why do you look like you're scared of me?" Guy asked, sounding a bit hurt.

"Be...cause... I still don't know you?" Solana sort of repeated, "We live in a world where anything is possible; that's kind of scary."

"So should I be afraid of you then?" Guy asked.

Solana glanced off to the side and down, as though a touch ashamed, unable meet a gaze.

"...Maybe..." Solana half-mumbled, holding the door a little more protectively, "...Perhaps not yet... I don't know..."

Guy tilted his head so he could see her even as she closed the door ever so slowly. Solana was weird. And not in the normal type of weird either. "How much fun are you gonna have if you're constantly afraid of your roommates?"

These questions were getting rather deep, Solana was shrinking as her mind was put through the wringer trying to find answers, still staring at the floor.

"I don't know... I don't know what I'm doing here, Papa told me I had to be here..." Solana was on the verge of whispering at this point.

Now Guy felt like a jerk. She sounded like she was going to cry or something. That was far from what he intended. And he didn't want to be the roommate who made people cry. He bit his lip.

"Uh... sorry... do you... do you want a hug?"

"...what?" Solana said with a bit of alarm, straightening up again; an offer of comfort from a stranger was a bit out of the left field for someone like her. To be perfectly honest, she kind of

[i]did[/i] want a hug, but not from a stranger -that train of thought was more the kind of thing that led to her thinking about food.

"Uhm... no... I'm fine," Solana said as courteously as she could, taking in a deep breath to rejuvenate herself and properly straighten her posture, easing the door a bit for comfort, "Was I needed for anything?"

"If you're sure," Guy said. He shrugged slightly at it, feeling a bit awkward by it all. "I guy that's all... Marius called a House Meeting in about fifteen, so there's that."

"Very well, I shall see you in fifteen minutes then; have a nice day, Guy," Solana said with a nod of her head before gently closing the door.

"Huh..." Guy said to the closed door. He thought about it. About checking in on her, that is. The Curiosity sprite won that shoulder angel fight and he faded, going invisible and storing the clothes that hand on his unseen body, misting then phasing through the door.

**Curiosity Save** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 6+4 fail  
//it's a bad habit, I know.

Solana was just sitting next to her bed on the floor, hugging her knees with her head drooped forward, lost in thought, feeling sorry for herself and kind of wanting to cry, but felt it childish and shameful for this. She just wanted to go home.

The invisible mist drifted gently, not that he could really see anything in the near total darkness. He could see some... Meh.

**Greykit** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 16+6 22

[Solana's room is very minimal, with little more than a neatly dressed bed and random bits and pieces on tables, it's practically empty]

Michael arrives to his room (Yes, he took time to get luggage) and drops his luggage on the bed. He took some time to examine the room before putting his stuff where they'd belong here. Nothing too special; changes of clothes that'd last a week so long as laundry is done, electric razor shaving kit, tooth brush and paste \*insert more essential items here\*, etc etc. School supplies in a backpack with extras on the desk. His laptop goes on the desk too. The discrete earbuds are placed (Where else?)

Marius went to his room once everyone was told about the house meeting. He unloaded the bag on the floor and sorted through the items quickly. Clothes went into the dresser and his lighter coat went into the closet. He had a sweater or two hat and gloves on the very bottom. The last thing taken out was a deep red robe that he hung up as well. You never knew when you were going to be called for a meeting.

The side pockets of the large bag held his shaving kit that had all his bathroom equipment. A plastic bag held his shampoo so that it would not leak into other areas and mess his stuff up. A second pair of shoes were there as well along with some other odds and ends.

His back pack held some of the items that wouldn't fit in the bag. A small iron and his alarm clock were in one of the compartments. A mess of pens, pencils, chalk, crayons and markers were in a side pouch. He had a few books in the backpack that didn't look like they belonged in a college student's bag. They were leather and well worn. Gifts from his master once he started off. Books on runes and general magic information. He had used these a lot in his time with his master. He had put some of it to use with his rod and had started work on the staff. There was a small notebook that held all of his own information that he had gathered. This written down so that he would not need to work it all out again. The bottom of the bag held a number of candles, a mirror, a couple bags of marbles and some Play-Doh™. All very important wizarding stuff. His master had always said that magic is in the mind and will not in the pocket.

Evelyn gathered her things in her small purse. Well small for regular sized folks. After a good bit of searching, she found the linen closet Guy was referring to. She arranged her stuff up on the top shelf where the beddings were neatly folded. In a corner she hung her clothes. Her clothes were a mix of treated spidersilk garments from her sister and doll clothes. She had modified a doll box so she could use it as a tiny wardrobe. She set that up where the bed linens weren't and hung her clothes on the tiny paperclip hangers inside the box. So much of her stuff had to be improvised. She was still a little concerned that she could still fit inside the box. While amusing to pretend to be a doll in a box when she was younger it got significantly less amusing when there were other people in the area.

When enough time had passed, Alice shifted to her human form, got dressed once again and headed out in a slightly foul mood. She usually had more time in her spider form to get used to it, but she needed to have a word with Guy. Unable to find him, she gritted her teeth. "Guy!" she called. "We need to talk! NOW!" she yelled. If Evelyn heard it, she would know something was wrong as Alice almost never yelled.

Toughness: <http://orokos.com/roll/161390> 17

Guy figured Solana was going to be okay, so he sank down through the floor boards, mist form and all, going through the slightly disorienting transition of light-dark and the sensation of being in the same place as something solid, the pressure... He was more or less used to it so it passed quickly. The gathered himself together, pooling his mist body into his regular physical form, garbing himself as he did, in a different outfit that he was in before. Cargo pants and a dark grey hoodie with a red slightly chaotic pattern on the front.

Someone was yelling. His name, going by the context and not just looking for a random male. Since he didn't recognize the voice, it was likely spider girl. She was the only person who didn't talk since they all met. Also, he was in the lounge. So the lounge was under Solana's room. Cool. But, back to matter. He grumbled, planted his feet on the ground and stuck his head out into the main hallway. "Hi-ho?"

Alice gave Guy a glare. "There you are." Alice said. "Look, I admit, I don't know much about who you are or where you come from and it could well be my fault. Different homes, different customs and things like that. Thing is, I don't like people seeing me in my spider form. People don't like spiders. Fine, I get that. So I hide my spider form, but to do that--"

"Okay, stop right there," Guy said, jabbing a finger in her direction. "You turn into a spider. Fine. Creepy, slightly cool, but fine. We've been in this house for ten minutes. Well... twenty now. About. But you wander off and don't tell people anything. The people you're gonna be living with before they even have a chance to properly talk to each other. In a strange house they've never been in before. Then a giant spider turns up without warning. What do you think would happen? Marius pulled out his magic wand and was going to blast you with it! You're lucky your sister was here!"

"Fair enough, it was my fault. I admit that." Alice said calming down. Maybe her powers were growing... and this was a territory instinct emerging. "Though just for the future, if the door is locked, chances are, I'm either turning into or am in my spider form. And yes, I turn into a spider."

"Still creepy..." Guy acknowledged. "Slightly cool, but more on the creepy side. Tell me one thing though... how does being adopted by pixies' work?"

"Again with the pixie thing... Evelyn isn't a pixy, why do you keep saying that?"

"She's tiny, she has four little wings, she's shaped like a human, she flies around. Pixie. What else would she be?" Guy asked.

"A human with some mutated DNA? Much like me except she wasn't genetically engineered. Which is how I was created." Alice said.

"Yeah... that's so much more likely than Pixie..." Guy muttered.

"DNA can do strange things when unobserved. My father and mother had some latent DNA in them and they passed it on to Evelyn. Me meanwhile, I was grown in a lab and found that I liked my dad. He adopted me since I would need a father figure. Or he thought I did. Plus the fact that I clinged to his leg more than a few times when he tried to leave." Alice said.

"Grown... in a lab?" Guy echoed. Once again; the girls here were very weird.

"The egg cell was harvested from a willing donor, emptied of the base genetics and left refrigerated until a sperm donor could be found. They harvested his sperm, emptied it of the genetic material and inserted a stabilized version of human and spider DNA inside it. Custom designed, meant to incorporate the best parts of some spider species. Fertilization happened, the zygote was left to grow for a little in a petri dish then implanted in a willing surrogate mother who carried me until I was born." Alice recited.

"And... that SERIOUSLY just leads to more questions..." Guy said after a long moment.

"It's that hard to understand?" Alice asked, tilting her head. "How so?"

Meanwhile, Yuri already finished with his shower (what a shame he couldn't get a proper cleaning chemical out there, so his tongue had to be used AGAIN. Except for one part that he

didn't really like to lick. Ew. So water mostly went down to remove the stuff from his tongue, but he still knew that he was going to get hairballs. Whatever. He should totally figure out how to make soap.

And then he didn't have a towel, so he was just a wet kitty (even after trying to shake most of it off). Yeah, whatever. At least he had a hairbrush in his BP. At least something. Although... He'd probably have to leave out the fur for brushing... damnit. At least he got a nice session in a warm water. His clothes will be soaked if he'd get them on now... Facepalming at his (another) case of idiocy, he just stood there for a while, hoping for water to leave his fur at least somewhat.

"Lab experiment, spiders, living with pixies, sperm donors," Guy waved his hands vague in the air. "Not to mention the fact that you're... forget it," he sighed.

"Evelyn isn't a pixie, she's a human with mutations," Alice said patiently. "But fine." She shrugged. "Anyways, back to the issue on doors: If it's locked, knock. If I don't answer, leave me be. If I want to talk, it'll be open or unlocked."

"Fine," Guy muttered. "I won't mess with your door."

"I appreciate it." Alice said and went to the kitchen to get something to eat.

"Hey, where you heading to?" Guy asked as she started to walk off.

"The kitchen. I'm hungry." Alice replied.

"The Kitchen. It's empty," Guy replied, matching her beat, but not tone. "Besides, we're having a house meeting. So people don't go turning into bugs without notice again. In," he checked his watch, "About five minutes."

**Φαιόσαλη** rolled a die with 20 sides. The die showed: 2

"Lovely. Suppose I'll have to go out and get some food then.

"Besides, we're having a house meeting." Guy continued as if she hadn't said anything. He gave her a smirk. "So people don't go turning into bugs without notice again. In," he checked his watch, "About five minutes."

"Don't worry about that, it hurts too much to try it more than twice a week." Alice said.

"Sure it does," Guy grinned. "You didn't look at the library? Or anywhere, for that matter," he said.

"I'll get to it, I'm sure." Alice said. "Probably in my rare times off."

"No, I mean," Guy pointed to the door just off to the side from them, "the library. You didn't even look around and you went to turn into a bug?"

"Spider, and yes." Alice said.

"Still a bug and bad idea much?" Guy countered.

"Possibly." Alice shrugged. "though nothing happened and now that you, and soon everyone else, know I do that it won't happen again."

Evelyn was too busy flying around the place to really stop and assist Alice in this conversation.

Finally, the fur/hair got dry enough for Yuri to put his clothes back on and he, grumbling, left the bathroom, trying to walk out back to library in a way no one would notice him. He really believed people wouldn't go there first... But there were a couple of people there so he decided to change his path to longue instead, hoping that no one will really mind if he'd pass nearby.

"Hey, huh...Sasa... Remind me of you name again," Guy said as the cat anthro person came up. It had been a long day. And he was the other person that just ran of without saying anything to anyone.

**Guy** rolled a die for memory with 20 sides. The die showed: 8+1 fail.

Yuri's ear twitched as he walked past, and he glanced at Guy, but seeing that he was talking with someone else, and his talk with him on the name was quite memorable, dismissed the question as not for him and walked past by.

"... Why does no one here want to talk to me?" Guy sighed. "Granted, he's kinda rude..."  
[Yuri's taking ten on notice: 15]

Yuri heard that even though he moved quite a bit into room. [i]"I am rude? Yeah, whatever,"[/i] he thought, not noticing how he growled a bit and had his tail sway from side to side as he slowed down his movement through the room. After a while he noticed that and stopped showing his irritation and just went over to get to a closest sitting/lying spot.

"Oh, you allergic to anything?" Guy called over to him.

After several seconds of consideration, he figured that it might be to him at the moment. Well, let's keep up the 1 word per sentence limit now. "No," he replied covering up irritation that might have showed in his voice.

**Yuri** rolled a die for bluff with 20 sides. The die showed: 16+3

"Thank you! And get to the library in five minutes or so," Guy called back. He pulled out a notebook and jotted that down. "No... allergies... What about you spidergirl?"

"Not that I know of." Alice said. "Why do you ask?"

"There's no food in the house, remember," Guy said, making the book and pen disappear.

"Marius and I are gonna make a grocery run later. After the meeting. Oh... um... do you have money?"

"I do, yes." Alice said. "If you like, I can go with you."

Guy just shrugged, drifting backwards slightly, dragging his feet lighting on the floorboards.

Yuri fell down on one of the sofas, considering a nap. He wrapped his tail around him after stretching and yawning, letting his claws slide out for a moment and then relaxed in an awkward pose, closing his eyes, but keeping his ears on guard duty.