

Naines

by Neil Taylor

Characteristics: Int +2, Per +1, Pre 0, Com +2, Str -1, Sta +1, Dex 0, Qik 0

Size: -1

Age: 26

Decrepitude: 0

Warping Score: 0 (0)

Confidence Score: 1 (3)

Virtues and Flaws: Covenfolk; Book Learner, Educated, Good Teacher, Small Frame; Transvestite; Obsessed: be accepted as a scholar

Personality Traits: Brave +3, Secretive +2, Devious +1

Combat: *Fist:* Init +0, Attack +3, Defense +3, Damage -1

Soak: +1

Fatigue levels: OK, -1, -3, -5, Unconscious

Wound Penalties: -1 (1-4), -3 (5-8), -5 (9-12), Incapacitated (13-16)

Abilities: Own Language 5 (vocabulary), Artes Liberales 5 (logic), Awareness 1 (search), Bargain 1 (tuition fees), Brawl 2 (fist), Carouse 1 (student songs), Chirurgy 0 (2) (first aid), Civil & Canon Law 3 (France), Concentration 0 (1) (distractions), Etiquette 0 (1) (nobles), Folk Ken 2 (townsfolk), Guile 4 (disguise), Home town lore 2 (places), Latin 5 (academic usage), Music 0 (1) (sing gruffly), Paris Lore 1 (streets & taverns), Philosophiae 5 (Natural Philosophy), Ride 1 (donkey), Teaching 3 (private tuition)

Equipment: (men's) clothing, parchment & ink, teaching materials (wax tablets, etc.) and such

Encumbrance: 0

Naines — a scholar, slight of build, young, with scarcely a wisp of beard yet on his chin. Or, underneath the clothes and bandages, a young woman determined to make her way despite society around her. She has an obsessive determination to prove herself as a scholar in her own right. (An easy path would have been to enter a nunnery, but she never met that opportunity.)

Isabelle, as she was christened, was the last in a large family, mostly boys, and some years younger than the others. Her mother died when she was 8, and though her father was moderately wealthy he was too busy to pay detailed attention to his family, which allowed Isabelle to slip away from home and (in clothing stolen from her brothers) take a place at the cathedral school. The teachers approved of their bright lad, quick with answers... little knowing "his" secret.

Her father disciplined her a few times, but assumed she would learn and grow out of it. By the time she was a young woman, her ways growing excessive even for home, she fled with a sum of money, and made her way to Paris. There she managed to join the University, funding herself by teaching merchants offspring to read, but before she finished her studies she was discovered and forced to flee again. Since then she has sought employ as tutor to nobles and their offspring, but has become increasingly cautious about discovery — choosing flight first when she senses she might be unmasked. As such, she has managed to acquire some genuine letters of reference to bring to new employment.

She recently arrived at the Covenant, not realising who or what they represent, seeking her sort of employment. They have taken her in and she is finding a special place, outside the normal bounds of Medieval Society, a place where the genuinely odd can find freedom to be themselves.