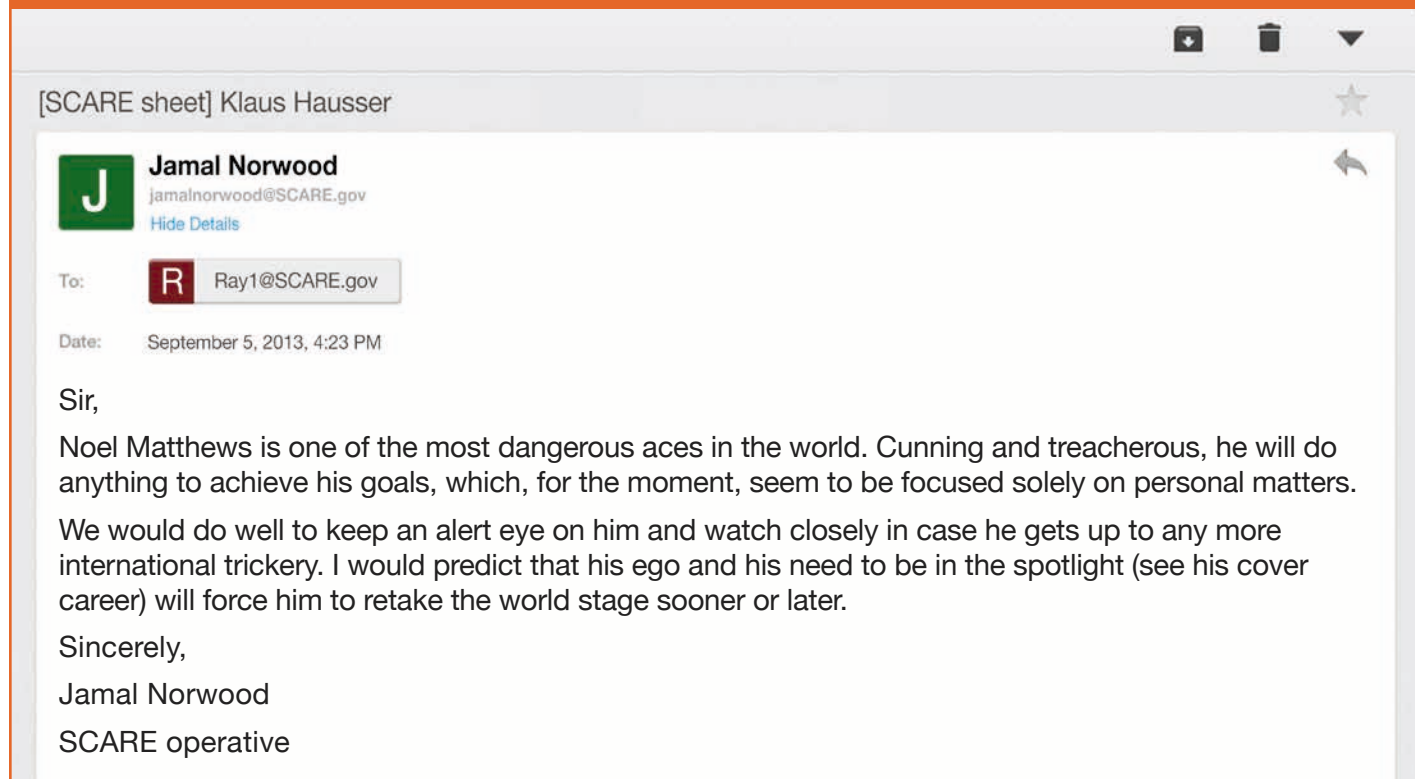


SCARE SHEET: NOEL MATTHEWS



HISTORY

Noel Matthews is a hermaphrodite, born with both male and female genitals. He is small in stature and has brown hair and blue eyes. He was raised male by his radical feminist mother, who spends all her time campaigning for women's causes, and his stay-at-home professorial father.

While studying at Cambridge, one of his house mates is a minor Jordanian prince named Siraj. After graduation Matthews maintains their friendship, especially as Siraj slowly becomes a powerful moderate voice in increasingly fundamentalist Arab politics.

Matthews becomes a world-famous stage magician who performs all his illusions through old-fashioned sleight of hand rather than with ace powers. While playing the magician, he dresses all in black, from his boots to his leather jacket and snap-brimmed fedora, relieved only by a diamond lapel pin in the shape of a comet.

His magician skills are authentic, but the job is mainly a cover for his real occupation: He's a secret agent for the British Order of the Silver Helix, who gave him the codename Double Helix that he refused under any circumstances to use. He has the power to teleport to any place he can clearly visualize and

he can shape his body into different forms (male ones during the day and female ones at night), enabling him to be a skillful spy and one of the Silver Helix's most accomplished assassins.

To use his teleportation powers at night, he must be Lilith, his female avatar. The 5'10" Lilith is incredibly beautiful and sexy, with waist-length black hair and silver eyes, dressed all in black. She carries blade sheaths on her thighs and the small of her back as well as at least one concealed pistol. Matthews often uses this avatar to seduce male targets. One of his immediate targets as Lilith is Lohengrin. Besides becoming Lohengrin's lover, Lilith also joins the Committee, so he has a source for inside information on the Committee's activities. She attempts, but surprisingly fails, to land Drummer Boy, but nonetheless manages to poison his mind against John Fortune by relating to him the biblical story of how David set Bathsheba's husband Uriah into the heat of battle so he would get Bathsheba for himself. The jealousy this creates serves to weaken the Committee, preventing it from becoming a threat to the Silver Helix. She also has a sexual encounter with Tom Weathers during one of his more lucid nights.

Matthews initial daytime avatar is Bahir, a short, muscular man who regularly wears a cloth-of-gold cloak fastened at his throat with green jade crescents. His skin is darkish, his eyes gold, his beard red-gold. His nickname is the Sword of Allah

because he usually uses a scimitar while working for the Nur al-Allah (but he's not above using guns if the situation calls for it). Officially, he's an agent of the Caliphate, but he also (simultaneously) works for Prince Siraj of Jordan, and, of course, the Silver Helix.

Bahir turns on the Nur when the time is right, and kills him. This puts the Nur's son, Abdul-Alim, at the head of the Caliphate. Abdul (known as "the Idiot") proves an unsuitable puppet for British needs, so Bahir gets rid of him and publicly calls for the more moderate and pragmatic Siraj of Transjordan to lead the Arab world.

Under British orders, Noel tries to assassinate Tom Weathers. He comes close, but the Radical is ultimately saved by Our Lady of Pain. Noel then goes to America at the behest of Siraj to kidnap Thomas Drake. There he meets and, improbably, falls in love with Niobe Winslow (Genetrix), a love spurred by the fact she could give him children, which until now has been impossible for him since he's sterile. He snatches Niobe and Drake away from a SCARE team and takes them to his estate on the Cam, where they meet his dying father, whom Matthews has been tenderly nursing through his final illness. They're all one big happy family, and Matthews decides to quit the spy business, but it's not that easy.

Genetrix's power trumps Matthew's inadequacies, and he fathers children with her. Soon thereafter Matthews (as Bahir) answers a summons from Siraj, and when he teleports in to the meeting barely escapes death. Siraj calls Matthews (as Matthews) while he's recovering in the hospital, revealing that he knows the two are the same. Because of their old friendship Siraj tells Matthews he's decided the shape-shifter is a danger to his plans and that Siraj is going to have him killed.

Realizing that it's about to hit the fan, Matthews rushes home only to find that the Silver Helix has already been

there. They've killed his children and kidnapped Drake, putting him in a big truck. Matthews tracks the Highwayman down and discovers he'd taken Drake to Nigeria (under Captain Flint's orders) and dumped him to explode at the head of a People's Paradise of Africa armored column.

Bahir attempts to rescue Drake from the PPA, but is stymied by Tom Weathers. Instead, he abducts Weathers' daughter, Sprout. Bahir implicates the Committee in the kidnaping so he'll have backup when he faces Weathers again for the hostage exchange. The exchange doesn't go entirely as planned, with Drake releasing a nuclear explosion in New Orleans, The Amazing Bubbles absorbing the blast and going into a coma, John Fortune losing his ace powers (again), Weathers leaving with Sprout, and all the remaining Committee members threatened with arrest by SCARE.

No longer trusting the Order of the Silver Helix, Matthews needs a strong Committee as a counterbalance, so he decides to let the rifts he'd caused in the organization to begin healing. The first step is to reveal his true identities to his Committee comrades (including the fact that as Lilith he'd been sleeping with Lohengrin), and then resign from the group.

Matthews comprehensively burns his bridges with the Silver Helix by emphatically resigning and blackmailing Flint into resigning as well by threatening to release Noel's meticulous records of his missions for the agency. (In the end, Flint's resignation isn't enough for Matthews, who ends up making some discreet statements to the World Court resulting in the arrest of Flint and the Highwayman for war crimes.)

Out of the spy game (for now), Matthews spends a lot of time in New York City while he and Niobe undergo *in vitro* reproduction treatments at the Jokertown Clinic. Over the Thanksgiving holiday, which they are uncomfortably spending with Niobe's family, he surprisingly gets another



call from Siraj. The Caliphate getting its clocks cleaned by the PPA. He begs Matthews for help, and also, just in case, threatens to release the dossier he has on Matthews/Bahir to Tom Weathers and the world.

What can Matthews do? He rejoins the conflict. And with Bahir's cover basically blown, he develops a new male avatar, Etienne Pelletier, who is clean-shaven, and taller and thinner than Bahir, and ostensibly French- (not Arabic-) speaking.

The PPA army is advancing and Matthews tells Siraj they need time. To get this time, he proposes a peace conference that world opinion will force PPA President-For Life Dr. Kitengi Nshombo to attend, and which will slow down the relentless march of his army. Nshombo does agree, and Matthews has time to concoct a maliciously cunning plan, as well as recruit a team of shady aces to carry it out. His plan involves, for a start, the liberation of the PPA's state treasury, which is largely in the form of gold bars.

In the meantime, the peace conference is set up for Paris. At a reception held at the Louvre, Jonathan Hive lets slip that Matthews is Lilith and Bahir both, and Tom Weathers, who's attending the conference in disguise, goes ballistic. The resulting battle leaves several Committee members dead, Lohengrin maimed, and no telling how many priceless artworks destroyed.

Matthews escapes, as usual, and the first thing he does is take his very pregnant wife to Old Egypt, which is protected by Thomas Drake and Sekhmet. Then he assembles his team to rob the PPA of its gold.

Less than a week after the disastrous Paris Peace Conference, Lohengrin calls Matthews and tells him that Jerusha Carter (Gardener) has a number of starving, sick, and injured kids in Tanzania who have to get to a hospital urgently. At first Matthews is indifferent to the request, but Lohengrin shames him into making the effort to rescue the dying children. Finding the number of children needing to be rescued to much for his own abilities, Matthews teleports Tesseract (one of the aces on Matthews' bank-heist team, who can create dimensional gates) to New York City where she can set up a gate between the Jokertown Clinic and Africa and rescue them all.

Matthews's team then pulls off their complicated caper, part of which results in depositing some of the gold into one of Matthews' safe houses, while another part implicates the Nshombos in the theft. Weathers, after learning that the missing gold is in the Nshombos's yacht, ignores the president-for-life's pleas and ends his term, brutally. The PPA's Chinese and Indian allies, viewing the future of the nation as a bad bet, pull out.

Tom Weathers is still on the loose, and he has a gigantic mad-on for Matthews. Noel teleports Gardener, Bugsy, and

NAME: NOEL MATTHEWS

WC NAME: NONE ; HIS AVATARS ARE NAMED LILITH, BAHIR, AND ETIENNE PELLETIER; THE ORDER GAVE HIM THE CODENAME DOUBLE HELIX

OCCUPATION: STAGE MAGICIAN, AGENT OF THE ORDER OF THE SILVER HELIX, COMMITTEE MEMBER, ASSASSIN

BASE: HIS ESTATE ON THE RIVER CAM, NEAR CAMBRIDGE, UNITED KINGDOM, BUT SINCE HE CAN TELEPORT, THE ENTIRE WORLD IS REALLY HIS OFFICE

WC STATUS: ACE

ETHNICITY: CAUCASIAN

Cameo to join Rustbelt in the final confrontation with the crazed ace at Bunia. When Cameo is injured, he snatches an artifact from Our Lady of Pain's public tomb in Kongoville so Cameo can channel her. Surprisingly, Cameo doesn't use the dead young woman's ace to heal herself, but instead to topple the undefeatable Tom Weathers, before dying herself.

Soon afterwards, freed of entanglements with the Committee, the Silver Helix, the Caliphate, and Tom Weathers, Noel's wife presents him with a healthy seven-pound, three-ounce baby boy.

PERSONALITY

Devious, manipulative, cunning, and supremely arrogant, Matthews is a stone cold killer who can have sex with you all night and slit your throat in the morning. He claims to be driven by crown and country and will do anything necessary to protect them, but realities force him to drop that rationalization. What he's really about is Noel Matthews, and he'll do anything to make himself feel good. *Never* trust him to act for someone else's benefit unless it's also in his self-interest.

POWERS & ABILITIES

Noel Matthews can teleport to any destination he can clearly visualize, but only during the day (in male avatar form) or night (in female avatar form)—not at dawn or dusk. He avoids teleporting to moving targets or places he's never seen in person or in reasonably detailed photographs.

He can shape-shift into other human forms, and while he's a hermaphrodite with malformed genitals in his normal form, his avatars are medically sound in all respects. He can at will create a new avatar of approximately the same mass and the appropriate gender, but it's a time-consuming process, while transforming into one of his regular avatars takes only a minute or so.

Matthews has a wide array of skills, including knife-fighting, unarmed combat, pistol use, sleight of hand, and the ability to speak a number of dialects of idiomatic French, German, and

NOEL MATTHEWS

POWER LEVEL 7

STRENGTH	STAMINA	AGILITY	DEXTERITY
1	2	2	4

FIGHTING	INTELLECT	AWARENESS	PRESENCE
7	3	4	2

POWERS

Avatars: Morph 2 (avatar forms), Continuous, Limited: Takes a minute to change form, Enhanced Advantage 1 (Attractive) • 11 points

Teleport: Teleport 13 (30 miles), Easy, Extended (8,000 miles), Increased Mass 4, Turnabout; Quirk: Only when in avatar form (–1 point) • 56 points

EQUIPMENT

Motorcycle (Medium size, Str 1, Tou 8, Def 0, Speed 6)

SKILLS

Acrobatics 4 (+6), Athletics 5 (+6), Deception 8 (+10), Expertise: Espionage 7 (+10), Insight 6 (+10), Intimidation 4 (+6), Investigation 6 (+9), Perception 6 (+8), Ranged Combat 3 (+7), Sleight of Hand 6 (+10), Stealth 6 (+8), Technology 3 (+6)

ADVANTAGES

Assessment, *Attractive*, Benefit 2 (Silver Helix agent, while it lasts), Connected, Contacts, Daze (Deception), Defensive Attack, Defensive Roll 3, Equipment 2 (usually weapons), Evasion, Fast Grab, Improved Defense, Improved Initiative, Languages 3 (Arabic, French, German, possibly others, English native), Taunt, Well-informed

OFFENSE

INITIATIVE +6

Unarmed +7 Close, Damage 1

DEFENSE

DODGE	7	FORTITUDE	5
PARRY	7	TOUGHNESS	5/2*
WILL	8	*Without Defensive Roll	

COMPLICATIONS

Motivation—Self-Interest: At various times he claims patriotism or *noblesse oblige* or thrill-seeking as the motivation for his actions, but in reality Noel Matthews is just in it for himself. Luckily, his own desires frequently lead him to the same end result as more noble drives lead others.

Disability: In his normal form, Matthews is a sterile hermaphrodite with malformed genitals. This has caused him much embarrassment over the years, leading (subconsciously) to his practice of using sex as a weapon against others.

Enemy: Matthews makes many enemies over his career, but only Siraj and Tom Weathers have both the desire and the ability to kill him and then seriously attempt to carry out their threats.

Identity: Until his covers are blown, Matthews has to take elaborate precautions to make sure nobody (even his supposed allies) discovers Lilith, Bahir, Etienne Pelletier, and Noel Matthews are the same person; for example, communicating with his various clients only by cellphone with each identity having a separate phone, and only changing from one form to another when he can be sure nobody can see him.

Power Loss: Matthews can't use any of his powers at twilight or dawn. To use his teleportation powers he must be in an avatar form.

Abilities 50 + Powers 67 + Advantages 21 + Skills 35 + Defenses 12 = 185

Arabic. He is particularly skilled in the art of seduction which, combined with the way he designed his avatars, makes him almost instantly attractive to most people of the opposite sex. It also often makes him just as rapidly disliked by those of the same gender as his avatar, who can sense the game he's playing even if his targets can't.

At twenty-eight, he's older than the contestants on *American Hero*—even his leader in the Committee, John Fortune, is still a teenager. With an extra decade's experience, Noel knows how to manipulate them psychologically without need of psychic powers.

ALLIES

After many betrayals, Matthews has few steadfast allies. At one time he could count on the entire Order of the Silver Helix, but eventually only a few personal friends within the group

are still willing to even talk to him. The remaining members of the Committee who will associate with him do so warily. Even his loving wife sometimes has her doubts about him.

ENEMIES

At one time or another just about everyone in the *Wild Cards* world is out of sorts with Matthews. Siraj, though, made a number of attempts on Matthews's life (in his various forms) and went the extra step of setting up a blackmail scheme with Matthews's death as the likely result of betrayal. And Tom Weathers sacrificed dozens of innocents just in hopes of luring Matthews into the open where he'd get a chance to kill him.

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