

SCARE SHEET: GENETRIX

[SCARE sheet] Niobe Winslow

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To:



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Sir,

Though Genetrix ultimately proved herself brave and resourceful, she was never more than a pawn in the overall game. The main governmental interest in her was not her, herself, but the ace children she produced with astounding regularity and quickness and the promise that they could be made useful.

Now that she's married to Noel Matthews and her abilities can no longer be studied in detail, she's largely irrelevant. Though the fact that they produced a child—granted, with the help of prolonged fertility treatments at the Jokertown Clinic—is interesting. It might be a good idea to keep tabs on the child's development and see exactly what abilities it has, if any.

Jamal Norwood

SCARE operative

HISTORY

Niobe Winslow was born to a rich Connecticut family who are so embarrassed by her jokerhood that they claim she's the child of a distant cousin who they're only caring for. It doesn't help that she is physically unattractive, with short chestnut hair that looks as if it's been cut by a razor, an acne-scarred face, and a doughy and shapeless body. She does have attractive green eyes. Her least favorable feature is a long, thick tail that drags down to the floor and is gray with stiff bristles sticking out of it. It is also scarred from her near-fatal attempt to cut it off at age twenty-two in her despair after the death of her first clutch of children. This "tail" is actually the ovipositor with which she lays her eggs.

After the "suicide attempt" she is remitted to the Biological Internment and Confinement Center, in southern New Mexico, as a voluntary confinee. She undergoes almost two years worth of tests on her strange ace power, producing over fifty ephemeral children. Niobe isn't told that the purpose of the degrading tests isn't to cure her of her ace ability or even primarily to extend the lifespans of her children, but to produce a cadre of ace soldiers. When she discovers the government's plans for her and her offspring, she breaks out of the center, taking Drake Thomas (Little Fat Boy) with her before

the authorities could carry out their plan to euthanize Drake because of his uncontrolled and extremely dangerous power.

Drake, Niobe, and a succession of short-lived children go on a strange odyssey across southern New Mexico and deep into Texas, at one point fighting Billy Ray, Lady Black, and the Midnight Angel to a standstill (with the help of The Amazing Bubbles). Ultimately they come across British intelligence officer Noel Matthews (in his Lilith guise). Matthews knows all about Drake's awesome atomic-bomb powers. He nabs both of them to get them out of American hands and, ultimately, use Drake to further Britain's African schemes.

But Noel quickly bonds with them, especially Niobe, and finds he can't bring himself to use them as political pawns. Niobe tells him about her amazing reproductive powers. Noel has always wanted children, but "he" is actually a sterile hermaphrodite. But just the act of sex is enough for Niobe to produce children without a genetic contribution from her sex partner, and Niobe provides Noel with four children. Matthews is ecstatic.

Their moment in paradise is rudely interrupted by a raid by agents of the Silver Helix branch of British Intelligence. They kidnap Drake and kill Niobe and Matthews's children, which breaks the bonds of loyalty Matthews has had with the Helix,

NAME: NIOBE WINSLOW **WC NAME:** GENETRIX, THE BROOD MOTHER

OCCUPATION: TRUSTEE AT THE BIOLOGICAL ISOLATION AND CONTAINMENT CENTER, STAY-AT-HOME MOTHER

BASE: ORIGINALLY BICC. AFTER MARRYING NOEL MATTHEWS, CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND (ALTHOUGH SHE SPENDS AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME RECEIVING FERTILITY TREATMENTS AT THE JOKERTOWN CLINIC IN NEW YORK CITY)

WC STATUS: JOKER **ETHNICITY:** CAUCASIAN



resulting in all sorts of complications (see *SCARE Sheet: Noel Matthews*).

After what became known as the New Orleans affair is settled, Niobe and Matthews get married. They move to New York so Niobe can undergo extensive experimental fertility treatments at the Jokertown Clinic. After a year or so, forty-three zygotes that turn black queen *in vitro*, and three embryo implantation attempts that end in miscarriages, she delivers a son. She urges Matthews in the strongest terms possible to retire from the spy game. Since he's burned just about every bridge behind him, Matthews agrees—for now.

PERSONALITY

Niobe Winslow is a very caring person who exults in the lives of her multitude of children and suffers greatly upon their deaths. She is also rather naive at first, but when confronted with harsh realities is able to formulate and carry out effective plans to deal with them in a dogged, determined manner. She is quite sympathetic to children in general. Niobe never uses the codename pinned on her at BICC (Genetrix, "The Brood Mother") to refer to herself.

POWERS & ABILITIES

Niobe produces clutches of eggs (as many as five in a clutch, although two or three is more common) immediately after having sex that hatch within minutes. Her children can be aces, deuces, jokers, joker-aces, or black queens, although the normal nine-to-one ratio of black queens to aces is reversed. Sometimes Niobe's mental state or needs in the minutes before conception influence the outcome of the births; for example, deep depression leading to black queens, or a desire for privacy resulting in the birth of a sense-clouding ace child. They are small (at most three feet tall) and hatch fully grown and mentally developed, and in full possession of any special abilities they may have. She can communicate with her children telepathically.

ALLIES

Niobe isn't personally powerful, but she has made some very powerful friends, including Michelle Pond (The Amazing Bubbles), Noel Matthews, Thomas Drake, and of course her children.

ENEMIES

After her conflicts with BICC and SCARE are settled, Niobe has no enemies—at least not any willing to press the point.

GENETRIX

POWER LEVEL 4

STRENGTH	STAMINA	AGILITY	DEXTERITY	FIGHTING	INTELLECT	AWARENESS	PRESENCE
1	2	2	4	7	3	4	2
POWERS				DEFENSE			
Egg-Laying: Summon Ace Children 4 (60 points), Active, General Type, Heroic, Horde, Mental Link, Multiple Minions 2 (4 minions), Limited to after sexual intimacy, Limited to eggs which take minutes to hatch • 37 points				DODGE	3	FORTITUDE	4
				PARRY	2	TOUGHNESS	2
				WILL	4		
SKILLS				COMPLICATIONS			
Deception 2 (+4), Insight 4 (+5), Perception 2 (+3), Persuasion 2 (+4)				Motivation—Responsibility: Niobe’s first priority will always be to protect her own children, but that maternal instinct also extends to other endangered or exploited children.			
ADVANTAGES				Mortality: Although she can produce children almost immediately after having sex, they rarely live more than thirty days.			
None				Prejudice: Niobe is a visible and not particularly attractive joker, which leads her parents to shun her and others to feel they can freely exploit her.			
OFFENSE				Abilities 10 + Powers 37 + Advantages 0 + Skills 5 + Defenses 10 = 62			
INITIATIVE +0							
Unarmed +0		Close, Damage 0					

NIOBE'S CHILDREN

Niobe Winslow has had many children—possibly as many as 100. For the vast majority of them no details are available, but here's what is known about some of them:

- **AARON** (m) was a strongman, the first born from Niobe's first clutch of eggs. He and his clutch-mates were born in her family's home in Connecticut. The following clutches down to **ZOË**, **ZANE**, and **ZENOBIA** were born in the BICC.
- **CAMERON** (m) was a physical and mental healer.
- **GABRIELLA** (f) is remembered by her mother for her infectious laugh.
- **WYNN** (f) could seal away memories by folding origami paper cranes.
- **XERXES** (m) was a shapechanger, but his sister **XUE-MING** (f) and brother **XANDER'S** (m) abilities aren't known.
- **YVES** (m) was a wallrunner, **YVETTE** (f) was a mind-reader, and **YECTLI** (m) was a lightning-generator.
- **ZOË** (f) had the ability to project sounds, especially disrupting echoes, **ZANE** (m) had chameleon camouflage powers and could project invisibility, and **ZENOBIA** (f) could make herself or people and things she came into contact with intangible.
- **AVENDER** (m) and **AGATHA** (f), from the first clutch born after Niobe's escape from BICC, both drew black queens.
- **BENEDICT** (m) could consume any form of matter, **BAXTER** (m) could control electrical devices, and **BELIT** (f) was an acrobat.
- **GABRIEL** (m) could make flowers grow and bloom, **DELIA** (f) could teleport animals to her vicinity and make them tame, **BETHANY** (f) didn't exhibit any noticeable wild card talents, and **IOLANTHE** (f) was a tiny winged fairy who half-danced/half-flew (although not for any great distance). They were the first children born to Niobe and Noel Matthews.
- **JASPER** (m) is produced by Niobe and Noel through *in vitro* fertilization, instead of by way of her ace. With two wild carder parents, he should be a wild carder himself, but he hasn't displayed any special abilities so far.

Children spawned by Niobe's ace have 4 ranks of Permanent Shrinking (making them only three feet tall) and typically have some ace power; the GM should create them based on a total of 60 points and a power level of 6, although there are wide variations.

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