

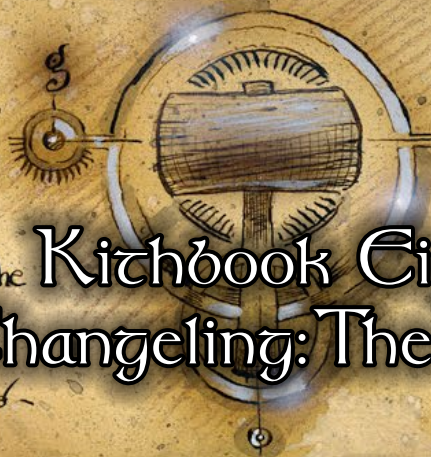
K I T H B O O K *fig 7: Boggans*

boggans



Handicrafts are Boggans' specialty; they are especially renowned for their carpentry, weaving and leatherwork.

These folk consider "hands on" work the only kind of honest labor that extends to their Musings & contrivances.



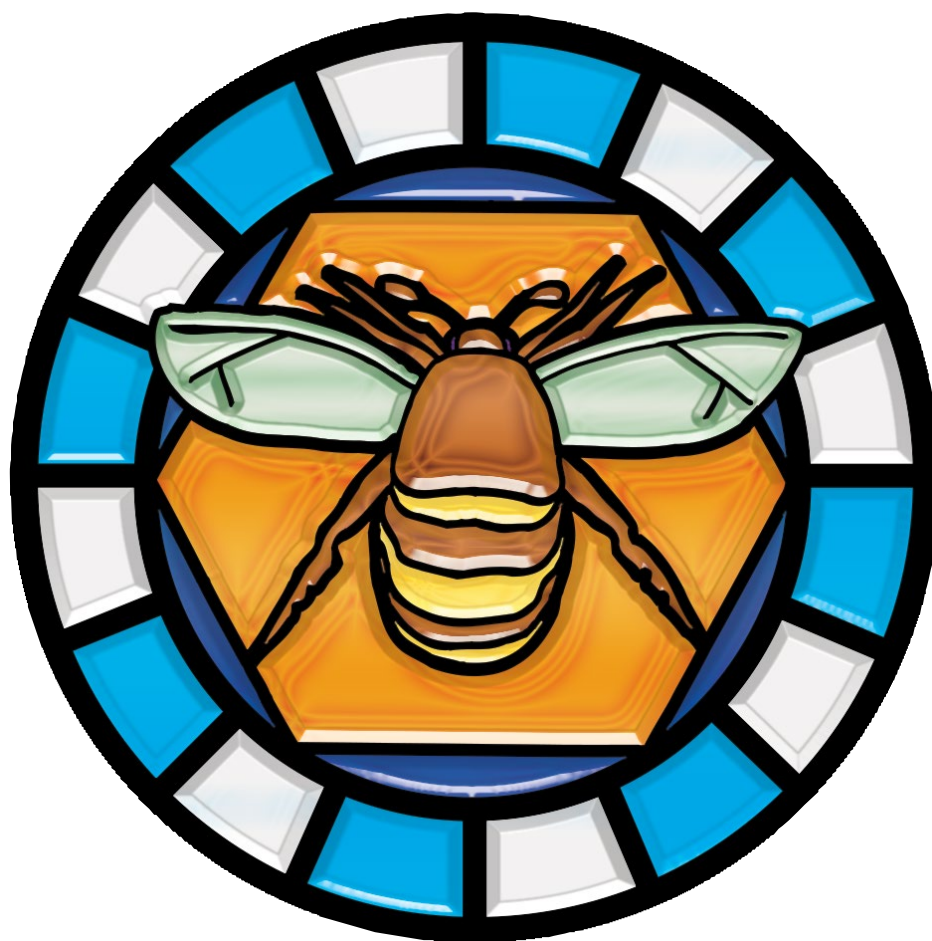
Rustic by nature, these changelings can be clannish and disdainful of outsiders.

Gossip is not a vice among them; it is an art form.

Kithbook Eight For Changeling: The Dreaming

excerpts from:
"My Time with Boggans"

K I T H B O O K
boggans



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dedication

This book is lovingly dedicated to all the boggans out there who - in true boggan fashion! - waited so patiently for your time in the sun. We'll see you all on Honeycombr!

Christine: For my mother, who patiently raised a daughter who's anything but a boggan; for Shelby and Jason, who always wait for tea time; and always for Sean, who has forever helped me follow my dreams.

Abigail: For Greg Gannaway.

Meg: For my parents, godparents, and family and their support of my weirdness; my mom for giving me a love of art; and my sweet eshu husband for loving me, dreaming with me, and spinning his tales for this little boggan heart.

Peter: For Saffie and Armstrong, for Prya and Dice, and most of all for Ben and Trish.



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K I T H B O O K

boggans

like clockwork 4

chapter one: a short history of boggans 9

The Mythic Age	9
The Sundering	10
The Middle Ages	10
The Shattering	11
The Sidhe Retreat	12
The Black Plague	12
The Interregnum	13
The Renaissance	13
Imperialism	16
The Industrial Revolution	17
The Women's Movement	18
Resurgence	19
Return of the Sidhe	19
The Accordance War	20
The New Camelot	20
The Evanescence	21
Rise of the Internet	21
Where We Are Now	22
Creative Overtaxing	22
Do-It-Yourself Culture	23

chapter two: upstairs, downstairs 25

Upstairs: Boggans in Society	26
Homespun lifestyles	26
From knitting Circles to Communes	26
Gossip	27
Household Traditions	28
Boggan Status	29
Emotional labor	30
Romance	31

Rest & Relaxation	32
The Good Fight	32
Downstairs:	
The Meaning of being a boggan	33
The Meaning of Work	33
The Banality of Debt	36
The Honor of Service	36
Gratitude	37
What is a Home?	37
Birthrights and Frailties	38

chapter three: beyond hearth and home 43

The Courts	43
The Escheat	44
Kiths	45
Clurichaun	45
Eshu	45
Nockers	45
Piskies	45
Pooka	46
Redcaps	46
Satyrs	46
Selkies	46
Arcadian Sidhe	46
Autumn Sidhe	46
Sluagh	47
Trolls	47
Houses	48
House Aesin	48
House Ailil	48
House Balor	48
House Beaumayn	49
House Daireann	49
House Danaan	50
House Dougal	50

House Eiluned	50
House Fiona	51
House Gwydion	51
House Leanhaun	51
House Liam	52
House Scathach	53
House Varich	53
Gallain	53
Chimera	53
Inanimae	54
Nunnehi	54
Hsien	54
Menehune	54
Autumn People	54
Thallain	55
Adhene	55
Dauntain	55
Prodigals	55
Vampires	56
Werewolves	56
Magi	56
Wraiths	57
Stranger Things	57

chapter four: faces in the firelight 59

Knowledge Keeper	60
Inquisitive Matchmaker	62
Behind-the-Scenes Drama Queen	64
Ex-boxer Barkeep	66

appendix: odds and ends 73

New Merits and flaws	73
New Oaths	75
New Treasures	76



Like Clockwork

"Mrs. Featherstone?" She knocked on the door again, juggling the items in her arms and trying not to drop anything as she reached for the doorknob. "Mrs. Featherstone, I'm coming in..."

"About time you got here, Rosey." The old woman's voice was brusque, but she greeted her guest with a smile. "You're late!"

The grandfather clock near the door began to chime just as she closed the door behind herself, and Rosey couldn't help but smile.

"Your clock says I'm on time."

"Bah. Damn things never right. Always fifteen minutes off." The old woman waved a dismissive hand, then winced, gingerly rubbing her wrist. Rosey's brow furrowed in concern as she laid out her cleaning supplies on the nearby counter.

"Is it bad today?"

"Weather's turning." Ms. Featherstone sighed, carefully flexing her fingers with a grimace. Arthritis had long since turned her once nimble fingers into stiff, gnarled things; unreliable and often pained. "Always makes it worse."

Rosey watched as she eased herself into her old chair, staring miserably at her traitorous hands. It always made her heart ache. She remembered watching her old friend tinkering in her lovingly cluttered basement workshop, deftly fixing, modifying, or constructing all manner of delicate sculptures and intricate machinery. Clockwork had always been the nocker's favorite, but as her hands betrayed her little by little, she'd lost her connection to the Dreaming. Her hair, stark white and kept long, matched her old fae mien now, but now it was really all she had left.

"I'm sorry, Mrs. Featherstone." Finished laying out her equipment, she picked up the little bottle of medicated lotion and crossed to the chair. "What needs my attention most today?"


"I tell you every time not to call me that."

"Betty." Rosey amended with a smile, gently rubbing the cream into the old woman's hands. "Just the usual routine?"

"If you think you can actually get anything clean today, I always find something you missed."

The boggan's smile turned just a little wry at the comment. "I'll do my best."

Betty snorted, mumbling profanity laden doubts under her breath as Rosey tucked a blanket over her lap. It was an old exchange between the two of them, going back years, and it was comforting in its familiarity. The old woman had a peculiar way of asking her to come back every week, but that's all the complaint really was.



"Going to natter on about your little fantasy stories like you always do?"

Setting happily about dusting and polishing the furniture, Rosey thought about all the recent goings on in the local court: once a weekly update to the reclusive nocker, now relegated to fantasy stories.

"Only if you want to hear it."

Muttering again, loathe to ever admit she was interested, Betty resumed studying her hands. Beneath her knitted brow though, her eyes gleamed with eager anticipation: Rosey always had the best stories. Smiling to herself, the boggan gladly shared the latest gossip, always happy to have an appreciative audience for the latest and juiciest updates. Betty didn't ask the same questions anymore, but she needed her all the same, keen on prying out every detail and analyzing them all. Her body may have begun to betray her, but the old woman's mind – and her tongue, for that matter – was just as sharp as it had always been.

"I don't get where you come up with all this nonsense," she said with a sigh when Rosey finished. "Never had a head for such stories myself."

"I do a lot of people watching. Helps, I guess. And I have a lot of time to think at work, since most people don't like to talk to the cleaning lady. Don't even want to see me, really, but that makes my job easier."

"Most people are rude as hell and can kiss my ass."

Rosey couldn't help but smile at that. Betty had a tough time coming out and saying anything appreciative clearly, but it wasn't hard to spot the emotion behind her words. They fell into a comfortable silence not long after, the drone of the radio giving Rosey something to hum along to as she worked her way through the living room and into the hall. She paused at the basement door, lingering as she dusted the frame and polished the doorknob. She eventually moved on, into the rooms further down the hall, pausing again only when she came to one that was occupied.

"Hello, Mr. Featherstone!"

Churl Featherstone turned in his chair, removing his glasses as she chirped her greeting. She watched with a bittersweet smile as he removed his customary red hat, brushing back what was left of his hair before settling his glasses on his forehead. He had intimidated her when they'd first met, but she'd quickly learned he was a rare member of the Seelie court for his kith, and more pleasant than she'd expected.

"How are you today, Rosey?"

"As well as always. I'm surprised you didn't come out to say hello when I came in."

He offered his own affable – if toothy – smile. "Figured I'd leave you to it and let you get it done quick. I knew you'd stop in here eventually."

"I appreciate it. Anything you want me to do in here?"

The old redcap glanced around his office, shrugging.


"Not much, no. You know I don't mind picking up after myself." He gestured for her to step inside, nodding at the door for her to close it. It shut with hardly a click, and she sat in the chair opposite.

"...How's it been going?"

He pinched the bridge of his nose, sighing. "It's been long enough now that I've...acclimated. There's so much of her that's the same, and that's... reassuring, in a way."

"Certainly still the spiffire she used to be."





There was pride in his eyes as he smiled, glancing in the direction of the living room where Betty was sitting. "Always a wilder, Elizabeth. Could never run her out of energy, even now. There's always something she's investigating."

"That's good!"

He nodded again, then turned to a little box on his desk. "I have something for you. I know it's difficult to come here and expose yourself to, well, what's happened."

"You don't need to—"

"No, I don't. But I want to thank you for it all the same." He offered her a tiny parcel wrapped in a soft black cloth, heavy for its size and cool even through the fabric. Unwrapping it, she found a golden filigree hummingbird, the gaps in the metal exterior showing the complex clockwork mechanisms inside.

"It's the last thing she finished," he said, as she admired it. "I thought you should have it. It flies, but it might not be best to turn it on here."

"Mr. Featherstone, I—I can't take this—"

"It's a gift. Not payment. She'd want you to have it." His voice was kind but firm. "She wanted it to sing, but grieved and scrapped it when she realized it wasn't shaped to be a songbird."

She stroked the delicate wing of the bird, speechless. A little Glamour and she had no doubt it would flit around just like a living one, but he was right: best not to do so here.

"I have a favor to ask, as well."

She looked up, carefully wrapping the piece up again. "Yes?"

"Could you take care of the workshop today?"

"Of course, Mr. Featherstone." She nodded, glancing to the little parcel again. "That's no problem at all."



"...None of them ever came out quite right."

Rosey turned, a little surprised by Betty's voice behind her, but given how her work had slowed, she had suspected she was no longer alone.


"What?"

The old woman's eyes scanned the shelves, wringing her hands as much as they would allow. "All of them, something always... the grain wouldn't match right, or a weld would stain wrong. Not enough that it wouldn't work, just... never quite right."

Rosey watched as Betty looked around the shelves in her workshop like she was seeing them for the first time, searching for meaning they'd once held and lost. To the changeling's eyes, some of the sculptures and knickknacks still glowed faintly with the Glamour they'd been infused with when Betty had made them: gossamer wings fluttered gently without a power source, clock faces glittered with magic, miniature fountains ran without ever needing to be refilled. She'd considered once or twice trying to enchant the nocker again, but in her heart, she knew it would never work. All the same, watching her friend grope for the magic that she'd once conjured so easily again brought the idea to her mind.

"They're so lovely, though."

"I don't know what I made them all for. Never wanted to sell anything, never wanted to make a living at it. Just wanted to *make*, I suppose."



"We are what makes us happy." Rosey smiled, holding up her dusting rag. "I like to clean. You like to build. Remember what you told me, once? They're like moving puzzles, you just have to listen to the pieces when they tell you where they fit."

She was surprised to see a tear roll from the corner of Betty's eye as the woman nodded, her lips a thin line. She stared down at her hands again, her voice quiet as she spoke. "I just never thought they'd stop talking."

Before Rosey could respond, the old nocker lifted her head with a sniff, stubbornly ignoring the tear. The steel back in her spine, she turned to the stairs.

"No use in dwelling on it. Can't do much about it anyway. Finish up down here and get back upstairs, you haven't even touched the dining room."

She was gone without another word, leaving the boggan to finish her dusting and cleaning alone.



"Are you finished yet?"

Rosey offered a sunny smile as she finished packing up the last of her supplies. "Just got done packing up. Anything I've missed, before I go?"

"I'm sure I'll find something tomorrow," Betty griped, looking around the room with a satisfied smile.

"Then I'll take care of it next week," Rosey answered, laughing softly and gathering up her things.

Betty walked with her to the door, shifting her weight and looking uncomfortable. Rosey paused, waiting to see what she wanted to say; prompting her, she knew, would only chase the moment away. Eventually, she spoke, addressing the floor. "Didn't mean to get all... uncomfortable before. In the basement."

"You could never make me uncomfortable, Mrs. Featherstone, Betty."

"I don't like this getting old business. Makes everything hurt or go foggy. Don't get old, girl. It's not worth it."

"I'll do my best," she says, smiling gently. "I like to think looking back makes it not so bad."

The woman rolled her eyes, coming back into herself a bit with a scoff. "I'll never understand you sentimental types. You and my husband both."

"Someone's got to be patient enough to put up with people like you."

Betty looked shocked for a moment, before her face split in a wide smile and she let out a loud, cackling laugh. "I never thought I'd see the day! Now you're getting it!" She steadied herself on the doorframe, quieting down. "I'll rub off on you yet. You'll be just like me when you're my age."


"I'll consider it an honor."

The clock next to the door chimed again, and Rosey hastily gathered her things up while Betty shook her head.

"Late to get here, late to go. At least I know you put all your time in, instead of shorting me." She squinted at the grandfather clock, rapping on the side of the handsome structure. "Maybe not accurate, but at least it's reliable. Just wish the damn thing ran on time."

Rosey couldn't help but smile at the old routine.

"I think it's perfect just the way it is."







chapter one: a short history of boggans

*"It is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay.
Small acts of kindness and love."*

– J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*

There's a little bit of boggan in everyone.


Everyone likes to learn a secret, or to tell one; even the freest of spirits needs a place to return to now and then between one journey and the next. Boggans thrive in these spaces, in the comfort of home and the bonds between friends. Dreams of an honest day's work and a cozy living provided by it, this kith has long enjoyed helping those who appreciate their efforts. Whether finishing a craftsman's work at the end of a long day, completing the chores of a busy housekeeper, or bringing together unlikely friendships and romances, tales of mysterious folk helping others are the heart and soul of boggan history.

While not exactly shy, boggans work best just out of notice. Tracing their history often involves looking just behind or to the side of the spotlight, but with a sufficiently practiced eye, picking out the patterns of a boggan's helping hand is easy. Humble creatures, they often prefer to highlight the efforts of others. They might not speak directly of their influence, but they are always eager to tell the story, and usually have it firsthand. Even if she isn't the main character of the story, there's usually a boggan in the room where it happened.

the mythic age

From their inception, boggans were among the fae who most regularly interacted with the mortals who had dreamt them into being. As humanity shifted away from serving their dark and hungry masters, they served to offer a new way of life. Though still one of service and hard work, rather than claiming tribute or subjugating the blossoming culture, boggans began as the embodiment of hope. More specifically, they stood for hope for a better life, one forged by the labor of one's own hands. Maybe not a glamorous life, but a free one, beholden to none.

Living free from the heavy yoke of the Fomorians, humanity could move ahead and better their lives, offering what they could and finally getting something useful in return. Content to help those who needed it, boggans also served as a reminder never to be as greedy as the Fomorians, withholding their help from those who began displaying the same greedy appetite as the dark fae. They patiently guided and coaxed humanity along, encouraging some behavior and stifling others who went against this new dream.



As the conflict between the Tuatha de Danaan and the Fomorians grew all-encompassing, boggans still did what they could to reach out to mortals from time to time. They fostered growing communities while regretfully abandoning those who clung to their place as servants of the Fomorians. It was a time of hard decisions and bittersweet partings, and one the boggans still recall somberly on a winter holiday known as the Night of the Embers. It begins with conventional revelry around a fire, but as the night goes on, they allow the fire to die down, and the stories turn wistful and melancholy by turns. Old loves, old homes, and old labors are dutifully recalled and saluted, until the last embers die and the party ends.

the sundering

As magic's hold on the world waned over the course of the Sundering, the children of the Dreaming took stock, consolidated their numbers, and gradually retreated from well-populated areas of the world. As contact with mortals grew more limited and less frequent, boggans split their forces. Those who served closely under influential sidhe remained closer to fae society, set out by their lords and ladies to smooth over any internal conflicts within the newly consolidated groups, while those with less courtly presence led efforts to keep an eye on mortal affairs and make sure the faerie strongholds wouldn't be discovered.

In time, mortals turned more and more to religions that spurned their old traditions, and life grew more dangerous for the fae looking to remain in contact with mortal society, driving a number of boggans to take on the Changeling Way before its widespread adoption after the Shattering. In order to maintain the relationships they had already forged, some going back generations, boggans especially needed protection against the Banality overtaking more and more of the world. While they ventured out to keep an eye on the mortals, they also kept a wary eye on the spread of Banality's influence, doing their best to understand this strange new threat as well as create and keep alive a travelers' network to spread news between friendly factions.

While humanity as whole forgot their oaths, promises, and relations with the fae, boggans did their best to preserve some kind of contact. While faith itself could be inspirational and wondrous, all too often the organized institutions that accompanied the rise of the new faiths were used as weapons against those who would not adopt new beliefs or conform to new roles. Combined with a newfound religious fear and distrust of magic influencing mortal culture, as well as the accompanying persecution of the practitioners of the old ways, living amongst mortals was a dangerous prospect for any fae who might attempt it.



the fomorian threat

Few Kithain stand as directly opposed to the Fomorians as boggans. Dreams of safety and stability, warmth and security, they are a quiet force, but one that flies in the face of the chaotic and violent nature of the Fomorians and their descendants: the Thallain and the Dark-Kin.

While rarely seen in conflicts, boggans maintained encampments across the Dreaming, helping their brothers and sisters to survive, giving their leaders, the Tuatha, hale and hearty armies in turn. Outposts between camps and hidden safehouses were maintained by boggans in wide webs across the Dreaming, providing shelter for retreating forces or spies in need of protection.

Throughout the conflict between the Fomorian and Tuathan forces, boggans drove back the forces of darkness and pain not with battalions and brigades, but stalwart faith in the dreams that birthed them. *You cannot pass here; you cannot win. Within these walls we are safe. We will not cower from the thunder and the rain, because we know it cannot harm us.*



It was an even more confusing and terrifying time for the first changelings born of mortal parents, and many discovered their fae nature only a short time before having their lives taken for displaying strange talents or uncanny insights. Less for the benefit of the mortals that were turning against them and more for their troubled brethren, boggans frequented mortal towns seeking out any of their own kind, looking to save them from the suffocating grasp of Banality or the deadly fear of their neighbors.

the middle ages

A turbulent time in the history of the world, to say nothing of the legends of the Kithain, modern scholars have begun pushing back against the long-held popular notion that the Middle Ages were largely a time of widespread ignorance, superstition, and barbarity before the shining dawn of the Renaissance. Of course, any boggan could have told them so long ago, but then, as boggans also know only too well, some things it's best for people to work out on their own.






the changeling way

Among changeling legends are tales of how boggans discovered the solution to the onslaught of Banality. Their mortal friends seemed relatively unfazed by its unrelenting march; certainly, they felt a certain chill when it came near, but not nearly as keenly as the fae. It didn't take long for the struggling Kithain to turn to what seemed like the most obvious solution: enlist mortals to help shield themselves from the forces that wore them down.

The decision to cloak themselves in mortal flesh was not made lightly, but certainly made of necessity, and only after all of their less-invasive ideas had failed. It was an imperfect art to say the least, discovering the proper method for tying a fae soul to a human body, one that took a good amount of (thankfully harmless) trial and error. Finding the proper way to execute such long-lasting magic required the efforts of many, all working together to fuel the switch over from fae to changelings.

With their experience dealing with mortals, and their intimate knowledge of how they interacted with the fae and with magic, it was a boggan who finally cracked the code. Weakened as she was by Banality, it required her entire household to successfully bind her to a mortal form, with ancient and long-forgotten magics. Though the original ritual of the Changeling Way has been lost to time, scholars studying the process have a number of theories about its implementation. Some have turned to the study of Time to seek answers, and regard it as the first step to unravelling the process, as it seems to follow the rules of cantrips cast with the realm, resetting and recasting itself with every life cycle.

Once the Shattering barred all access to Arcadia, many theorize the Dreaming itself lent a helping hand, perpetuating the cycle of rebirth as each of a changeling's lives ended; it's a widely accepted truth that it must have acted in some way to spread the successful method of the Way across the entire population of fae in a quick and efficient manner.



While there certainly were horrors in those days, and the Shattering would soon cast a pall over the time in the

eyes of Kithain historians, just as the Black Death did for mortal ones, the Middle Ages had their wonders as well. Boggans savored new spices from the Middle East and north Africa, admired the craftsmanship of exotic goods carried back from far-off Asia, and of course immersed themselves in mortal and Kithain courtly gossip as political intrigue blossomed across Europe and beyond. For homebodies such as boggans, the rapidly increasing level of connection to faraway lands was a precious gift, and they treasured every scrap of it.

Which made what came next, of course, all the more painful.

the shattering

As Banality marched steadily on, freeholds became scarcer, causing many Kithain to flee the world in desperation, while those who remained all too often warred with each other over the precious few places left for them to inhabit. Beyond even the Sundering, the Shattering remains the darkest time in the memory of boggans, for while the Sundering divided the mortal Realm and the Dreaming, the Shattering divided the fae themselves. Friends turned against each other and limited resources were divided by favoritism, instead of given to those who would need them most. Anyone sliding into Banality's grip found themselves a leper among the fae, who often refused to associate with those even barely caught in its grip, for fear of losing themselves as well.

Among groups who had strongholds in the Dreaming and could still access them, leaders would pick their closest friends to hole up inside, and would frequently ask boggans to fill any additional space with the most 'useful' individuals. Forced to weigh and measure their companions against each other and decide their fates, a sizable number of boggans did their best to refuse, or nominated candidates who wouldn't necessarily benefit the group so much as they required them to help themselves.

Though they managed mostly only small acts of defiance against the picking and choosing of worth, boggans did their best to ensure the survival of everyone, as opposed to only a select few. As populations divided, those with the resources to survive either demanded unreasonable prices for security, or simply denied others when they had resources to spare simply to secure their own comfort, boggans did everything they could to maintain the comfort of the less fortunate. Staunch champions of the Changeling Way, they did their best to persuade others to consider the option of protecting themselves in the Autumn World, instead of desperately trying to prove their worth to those who considered them lesser.



the sidhe retreat

As the sidhe fled to Arcadia, the commoners they left behind galvanized in their abandonment. Though everyone left behind felt the sting of their leaders' abdication, boggans — usually close seconds-in-command — were among those most personally affected by the mass exodus. Many considered their lords and ladies to be close companions, and were greatly disheartened by the way they tossed their most loyal and devoted aides aside in favor of self-righteous self-preservation.

In the time directly after the sidhe left, boggans found themselves thrust into the spotlight. Commoners looking for sense in the chaos turned to those who knew most about leadership, and boggans, with their natural ability with people and close proximity to the sidhe, were a natural group to turn to. While a number demurred, finding more outgoing partners with whom to work, others stepped up to being leaders themselves, organizing the frantic commoners left behind. While others were furious with Houses Liam and Scathach, the boggans turned to the few sidhe who stayed behind, beseeching them to lead as they always had. A number of boggans previously pledged to other Houses converted to

better serve their remaining leaders, but the majority chose instead to represent the Houses to which they had originally pledged, to better serve the Kithain who likewise preferred to retain their titles.

While the ceasefire between the Courts was a practical necessity in the turmoil following the loss of the gateways and trods, it was largely negotiated by boggans in the Seelie Court, usually with their closest Unseelie counterparts, the slugh. Concerted efforts on both sides allowed the conflict to come to its indefinite suspension, allowing newly minted changelings everywhere the much-needed time to adapt to their new reality; one without much of the stability they had known before. While the Sundering had brought unease, the Shattering upended life as everyone had known it, leaving changelings nothing to do but pick up the scraps as best as they could and continue on.

the black plague

As the fae grew ever more elitist and separatist in the wake of Banality's spread, swaths of magical populations the world over fended for themselves. As the sidhe departed and left their subjects behind, the darkness of the Autumn World only deepened for fae, changelings, and mortals alike,



households and balefires

As balefires and freeholds slowly faded and died, pockets of fae and changelings drew closer and closer together around the few that were left. Those abandoned in ‘dead’ sections of the Autumn by closing trods could do little more than band together and hunker down wherever they could, carefully guarding what little they had left. Those abandoned by their leaders – or those in the Houses that had sidhe willing to stay behind – fortified whatever remained of their balefires, and maintained the Households as they had always been run.

Though they wouldn’t solidify for a time, those left without their leaders – or who were disgusted by their selfish ways – gathered in motleys. Wherever sidhe were absent, boggans became the organizing forces behind the first mews. These groups, created and governed by commoners alone, became the backbone for changeling society once all the gateways closed. While usually not the loudest or strongest of a group, changelings newly adopting the Way turned to boggans for their quiet confidence in the face of turmoil, looking to their experience for where to go next.

As changelings everywhere gathered in Households and the early mews, the balefires they huddled around steadied. Though diminished from their initial splendor, their persistence gave hope to the suffering population, who had already seen far too many fires gutter out in the face of Banality.



as the bubonic plague swept the eastern and western worlds. While largely regarded as a broken promise between mortals and the Dreaming, boggan scholars share their opinions in mere whispers, refusing – especially now, with the return of the sidhe who vanished around the time of the plague – to spread their thoughts too widely.

While the Escheat is one of the few fae agreements not backed directly by the Dreaming or enforced by Glamour, such forces occasionally act when its tenets are egregiously broken. It is an agreement between fae, after all, which in and of itself loans the oath significant power.

When the sidhe clamored through the gates first, leaving the commoners they were sworn to protect to fend for

themselves and to scramble in chaos as gateways slammed shut, they abandoned their brethren to the Autumn and to Banality, violating one of the tenets only recently laid out. In the wake of their Autumnal isolation and the defiance of the Right of Rescue, the Black Plague struck, devastated the population, doing the worst of its damage in under a decade. Some even go so far as to theorize that the Dauntain, who also came of the widespread adoption of the Changeling Way, are an extension of the backlash, a contained chimerical side-effect of the plague that sank deep into fae souls.

the interregnum

One of the largest stretches of time in changeling history, the Interregnum marks a period of tenuous hope but widespread uncertainty for those related to the fae. Small surges of Glamour began stabilizing the encroaching of Banality, but every time the balance seemed set to tip in Glamour’s favor, some cataclysmic event rocked the Autumn World, sending shockwaves of Banality through changeling communities everywhere. Persisting in the face of wars, depressions, imperialism, and industrialization, boggans continued to be the glue behind the changeling communities in the absence of the sidhe. Either working with the remaining leaders from Houses Gwydion and Liam, or heading up commoner communities (or allowing others to take that place), boggans made it their duty to protect anyone awakening in contentious times, foster the Dreamers who kept all changelings alive, and to remind everyone of the dawn that comes even after the longest, darkest night.

the renaissance

With the Renaissance came a peculiar time for changelings the world over. While mortals were inspired more than ever, creating some of the most lasting and well-renowned pieces of art even to this day, their source of inspiration was at the time the most banal of them all: religion. Their previously most reliable source of Glamour now inverted against them, empty of anything that could sustain them. The Renaissance was a time of confusion and uncertainty that saw another consolidation of the fae population, as they all drew together to fight the endless march of religion, and behind it, Banality.

Boggans in this period shone behind the laborers tasked with building some of the greatest architectural achievements of the age. Not necessarily motivated by the religious fervor of the time, they nonetheless dedicated themselves to the artistry and complexity of their tasks, finding solutions and developing new techniques to support the grand cathedrals of the time. The indirect connection to religion, as well as the down-to-earth, methodical, and hands-on work of building also made a perfect hotbed for boggan Revelry, and a number

everything stops for tea

From the sharing of a casual cup of tea with an afternoon visitor to the highly specialized rituals of a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, all manner of cultures rely on coming together over a cup of something warm and bonding over the experience. Whether it's ingrained as a part of everyday life or something to be saved for a special occasion, the act of preparing and serving tea always has a note of comfort to it, a gesture of care and the invitation to speak whatever's on one's mind.

As casual as it can seem, everything about tea is significant to a boggan, as well as those guests who know how to look. Use of the fine china and best teapot is a mark of great respect and affection; chipped china, on the other hand, conveys a clear message that a guest isn't wanted. Sipping tea naturally covers reactions to startling or unpleasant news, as well as allows a polite span of time to formulate a proper reply without feeling rushed. A spread of snacks indicates an invitation for a longer visit, while a simple cup means one is welcome but there's likely work that needs attending to not long after. Even if it's not actually tea — though that remains far and away the most popular beverage for

this tradition — there's a lot that can be learned from observing how a boggan prepares and serves it.

Boggans have known the mysterious power of gathering over a beverage for as long as they can remember, before the Changeling Way and even before the Sundering. They welcomed mortals into their circles, leading the eager ones into their homes in the Dreaming, told them to stay; and their new friends did, often returning after weeks to find that no time had passed since their leaving, or spending a single night and returning to their lives ten years later. Thus began the rumor that you should never eat or drink anything the fae offered, lest they keep you too long!

Once the final trods shut and the Kithain found themselves orphaned in the Autumn world, it was a natural first thing for boggans everywhere to pull their brothers and sisters together. *We'll be alright, they whispered, as long as we have each other. Sit by the fire, with everyone else. The kettle's about to boil. Here we are together. We'll make it our new home. A cup of tea tonight.*

We'll work out the rest tomorrow.

of projects that were completed ahead of schedule is due directly to the influence and aide of such industrious folk.

Changelings awakening throughout the Renaissance were especially precious to Kithain everywhere, bringing vital surges in Glamour as they left their Chrysalises. Boggans awakening in this time were quickly taken on as apprentices to master crafters (themselves usually boggans keeping a careful eye out for new changelings), allowing them an outlet for their natural inclinations and helping them avoid persecution for their 'fantastic' ways. In turn, the childlings often made incredible breakthroughs designing or building, quickly adopting and adapting the crafts their masters taught them.

science and fashion

Though they may not appear to have much in common, boggans gravitated toward both topics during the Renaissance. As science moved forward, and its adherents were willing to persevere in spite of the church, new discoveries and methods became viable sources of inspiration, bringing small surges of

Glamour into the world and allowing a number of boggans to work closely with their Dreamers. Fashion provided hands-on work and allowed boggans' natural creativity to flourish. As fashions changed, and the wealthy adorned themselves in ever-more ornate clothing, boggans found a place to shine and truly flex their skills in their crafts. A bright spot in the otherwise uncertain landscape, any boggans awakening during the Tudor period especially were quickly whisked into apprenticeships as tailors and seamstresses, where they could flourish, and in turn inspire the others around them.

Though they may not have known it, nearly every noble house of the time had at least one boggan on retainer to craft their decadent wardrobes. Though they would often share tips and tricks and teach each other new techniques, a number remained in playful competition with each other, seeking to be on the cutting-edge of new trends or produce the most lavish, talked-about outfits.

The blend of science and art delighted a number of changelings during the Renaissance, but the inspiration

behind advances in math and science, and the determined study of such subjects as astronomy and alchemy were of most interest to boggans. While nockers to this day appreciate things like da Vinci's journals, boggans instead keep careful libraries of debunked sciences and theories, still cherishing the time and devotion that went into their study.

Some even continue to carry out experiments, particularly toying with how their magic interacts with alchemy and its contemporary field, chemistry. Working closely with nockers – or as closely as the nockers would allow, anyway – a small group known in Kithain circles as the Philosopher's Society has cropped up, seeking a way to transmute or otherwise change the properties of cold iron to render it inert, instead of harmful to changelings and fae. That no results have been forthcoming for centuries does not deter them; as they're quick to point out, even a small breakthrough in this area could be revolutionary for the Kithain, and that alone makes it worth pursuing despite seemingly endless dead ends.

the gutenber press

With the invention and widespread adoption of printing presses and mass-production of literature, most boggans were torn. On one hand, it led to an increase in

literacy and, ultimately, quality of life, as education became more accessible; on the other, the drop in production of such incredible items as illustrated manuscripts and careful calligraphy of hand-written books meant the few that remained were increasingly hoarded in personal collections kept by the wealthy.

Most boggans of the time appreciated the necessary labor and artistry that went into early works from printing presses – mostly careful and laborious woodblock carving – and the physical process of inking, rolling, pressing, and binding that was still necessary for production. Many grew excited with the spread of easily reproduced items of wonder, while still appreciating the innovation that went into the invention and spread of presses in the first place. The perfection of moveable type as a means of improving presses became one of the greatest innovations of the era, spearheaded by the now-famous Gutenberg. While he was not one of their own, every boggan knew, or knew of, someone who worked with him or knew him while he was working.

An unexpected silver lining of the Gutenberg Bibles was the loosening of the stranglehold of the church. While the texts themselves were obviously religious, their printing in a commonly known language, rather than the traditional but restrictive Latin, allowed the common folk to take their



connecting with dreamers

Once trapped forever in the flesh and blood of mortals, changelings needed a way to adapt and regain the Glamour that maintained their existence. The way boggans tell it, they were the first ones to discover how they could use the minds of mortals in order to fuel their faerie halves. Their long history of engaging with mortals gave them plenty of insight into the way they worked, and the way the dreams of humanity had a way of shaping the chimerical space around them.

Once safely ensconced in mortal bodies, boggans everywhere strove to maintain themselves and their collective identity. They drew together, inviting their new changeling brethren to stay with them while the Kithain worked to find their new place in the world. Wherever boggans established themselves, Kithain were welcome to stop in and stay when they needed support, advice, or simply some time around others like them. They carried bits and pieces of their lives with them, the scraps of Glamour and dross they could gather, and left what they could as way of thanks.

In time, as the Kithain made connections with mortals, they would bring their friends with them when they stopped in, and word began to spread; all manner of travelers knew they could find solace in the homes that displayed the symbol of the bumblebee.

As boggan households grew into bustling inns, more and more craftsmen found themselves drawn to a boggan's hearth, instead of a standard inn. Aside from being welcoming, staying within a boggan household often meant their work would be appraised and appreciated, or that they would pick up a helpful hint or two during their stay. Even though their hosts demanded no payment, they would often leave pieces behind as tokens of appreciation. As they passed through the same towns and cities again and again, they would bring raw

materials, finding their favorite place to stay was often where they would be struck by the most vivid inspiration.

The story goes that one night, weary after a long day's travel, a woodcarver arrived on the doorstep of just one such boggan's home. It was a place he had visited a number of times before, enough that he had befriended the old woman that opened her home to any weary traveler. Despite the late hour, he found her awake, and before he settled in for the night, the two shared a late meal.

Despite his exhaustion, as the two talked late into the night, he found his hands itching to work. The longer they talked, the clearer his idea grew. When they finally parted, he stayed up until the early hours of dawn, feverishly coaxing the form in his head out of the wood. He managed to finish in a single night what should have taken him days, and in the morning he proudly showed off his work to the old woman.

To her surprise, it overflowed with Glamour, which still clung to him. He professed that their conversation had led him to such work, and that he had hardly ever felt as driven to create as he had that night, and so, the first Dreamer was inspired to Reverie.

Each time he returned, he created something new after they spoke. She told the story to every changeling who passed through her door, asking the piskies and the eshu to tell the tale far and wide, the sluagh to whisper it into their dark corners, the clurichauns and satyrs to proclaim it to whomever they met. It became common knowledge that mortals, after making connections with Kithain, could create the Glamour that would sustain changelings in those uncertain times just after the split of the Arcadia and the Autumn.


-Bryn fitzLeodhas, Boggan Scholar

faith into their own hands. No longer needing to rely on the clergy to dictate to the masses, leading eventually to less extreme practices and the waning of persecution as time went on, allowing changelings the world over to breathe a collective sigh of relief. As printing became more widespread, it was also a perfect go-to for boggans, who enjoyed

the quiet bustle of a printer's workshop and the attention to detail that came with setting type for print.

imperialism

There are few things boggans enjoy more than sharing stories and creature comforts, and as such, it's with anguish



that they watch the fall of one culture to another's grasping hands. Upending someone's entire life, first with conflict and then by forcing them to live in an entirely new and confusing way, cuts deep into the soul of any boggan; thus, ages of conquest are uneasy for the group as a whole, on either side of the experience. Throughout the many periods where empires extended their reach, boggans were at the forefront of preserving the cultures that would be assimilated, either digging their heels in with their mortal community to maintain their own ways, or working with the overtaken group to ensure their customs would survive, if only in furtive whispers and clandestine gatherings.

Where conquerors would take artifacts or items to keep in a personal collection, boggans would seek to return such items to their rightful owners; where mortal scholars would record their own opinions formed by observation of the community, boggans sought to understand the 'alien' practices of other cultures. Anthropology remains to this day a popular field of study among the more outgoing and adventurous boggans, as they strive to better relate to those around them. Preferring cultural exchange to homogenization, they enjoy respectfully learning about diverse cultures and their habits and customs. Not only does it make them a better host to a wider audience, it can also, on occasion, pull up memories from their fae soul's earlier incarnations and reconnect them to old friends.

Indeed, the general cheerful willingness of boggans to experiment with new practices and incorporate parts of new cultures often surprises more adventurous kith such as eshu or satyrs, who assume that boggans' homebody nature means they must also be provincial in their outlook as well. For their part, boggans simply maintain that an open door is a sign of an open mind, and their homes are more or less always open.

the industrial revolution


Although it certainly had its shining moments, by and large the industrial revolution struck terror into the hearts of Kithain everywhere. Metal objects produced easily on a massive scale brought some to hysterics, certain that humanity would manage to create and mass-produce cold iron. Though such fears proved unfounded, another more insidious threat soon emerged: the death of so-called cottage industry and the skilled individual craftsmen who comprised its labor force.

Perhaps no one felt this tragedy more closely than boggans, who might well be considered the literal embodiment of the term itself. The kith was torn. On the one hand, factories



indentured servitude, serfs, and slavery

Human history is no stranger to backbreaking labor, repetitive tasks, and unpleasant but necessary jobs. Unfortunately for most of its history, and even into the present day, exploited parties do a great deal of this labor. While it's easy to write off boggans as the patron saints of such underprivileged individuals, boggans *were* often at the forefront of movements to liberate those 'owned' by others. They also fought to improve the lifestyles of those either locked in oppressive caste systems or victims of governments that perpetually disenfranchise certain populations. Nowadays, boggans seek to be the best allies and activists they can, but usually avoid being the very center of attention. Most often they organize events, finding the best avenues and most appropriate voices to convey the messages of whatever inequalities still persist.



made it possible to increase the production of necessary goods and drive down prices on certain essentials. And industry was often quite ingenious in itself, with inspired inventors creating amazing new machines and processes to deliver ever more fantastic inventions for the ease and comfort of modern life.

On the other, however, the repetitive factory work and miserable conditions that often accompanied it were abhorrent, not just maiming and killing workers but often crushing the dreams out of others through the sheer, monotonous Banality of the never-ending labor and cruelty. For boggans, they watched their dream of happy productivity warped into a nightmare, and they fought hard against it, by advocating for labor laws and safety standards that protected the workers just trying to make a living. It was a brutal and often disheartening struggle, pitting masses of laborers against wealthy owners and private armies hired to break strikes and prevent workers from organizing. Those who spoke out could be arrested, blacklisted, driven out of town, or labeled as dangerous subversives, and were routinely subjected to violence.

Boggans are nothing if not persistent, however, and pushed ceaselessly both publicly and privately for reform, not to mention acting as organizers and offering shelter and comfort for activists on the run from owners and corrupt authorities. It is a battle that many of this kith are



still fighting, in fact, as the modern world has by no means become a beacon of perfect labor practices. No matter what, however, boggans will keep fighting, because beyond the politics and figures of any given moment, at the core of the labor movement is a truth that resonates deep in the collective soul of the kith:

No one should ever be compelled against their will to work, and those who work should be fairly compensated and fairly treated for their labor.


This kith fully realizes it is likely to be a cause without end, merely discovering more battlegrounds and more battles to fight on them, but as is typical, they take it in stride. Boggans understand better than most that many things in life are not about achieving some fabled ultimate victory, but more about taking those wins you can get while doing your best to minimize the impact of the losses that inevitably stack up as well.

the women's movement

Every kith has their causes, the issues that ignite passion and fury deep within their souls. While boggans are known for working quietly behind the scenes when it comes to social reform, there are still causes that will get them out into the

streets and protesting with a voice to make any revolutionary proud. As mentioned previously, one is the labor movement and related causes such as ending slavery and human trafficking. Just as dear to boggan hearts, however, is the cause of women's rights.

The Kithain have a long history of pushing for women's rights, a natural outgrowth of the tendency of changeling women attacked throughout history as witches and monsters because of their strange gifts and strong wills, and facing prejudice and violence as a result. The cause is especially dear to boggans, however, since they were acutely aware of the hardships and tribulations that women suffered given that their strong ties to home and hearth. Boggans did not and still do not view these facets of life as being exclusively feminine, especially if doing so restricts women's freedom and ridicules men who enjoy them, the mortal cultures around them were typically far less enlightened. Boggans witnessed the results of this pigeonholing firsthand and regularly pushed for reforms, not to mention saw to it that tyrants and abusers were shamed and undermined whenever possible. Even if it was unlikely that actual laws would change, they reasoned, that didn't mean social pressure couldn't achieve many of the same results, and failing that, there were always other ways to try to balance the scales.



As mass-organized social and political movements began to take on their modern form and importance, boggans saw their chance to finally push for genuine legal and cultural reform in the area of women's rights. Instead of the mixed bag of freedoms that existed in many nations where boggans lived, they could push for more universal reforms and hold every country to the same standards. It was a risky and often unpopular proposition, but they could see that its time had come, so the kith collectively threw everything they had into it. Untold favors, some several lifetimes old, were cashed in, and whole networks of boggans organized and energized their fellow Kithain, their Kinain relatives, and anyone else they could recruit to the cause.

Even then, reform did not happen overnight, nor did it sweep as one great wave around the world as they might have hoped. But victories were achieved that had been unthinkable in the past, which paved the way for greater equality and further reforms down the road.

Though it surprises some who view them as, by nature, a more conservative kith, boggans tend to be staunch proponents of feminism as well. For millennia they saw all too clearly how both men and women were stifled by being restricted to the banality of set roles rather than allowed to pursue their passions, and as a result they firmly believe in legal and cultural equality so that everyone could pursue the kind of work that they were truly born to undertake.

resurgence

After not one but two world wars, compounded by the horror of nuclear devastation and the ensuing Cold War, many Kithain began to worry that the Autumn World really might be coming to an end. For the first time in history, humanity held the means to destroy itself in one horrifying exchange, and changelings could only watch in horror as the looming threat of nuclear holocaust warped and twisted the minds of Dreamers all over the world. Rather than give in, though, the Kithain rallied, determined to turn humanity away from the darkness that threatened to consume mortal and fae alike.

Boggans made their mark – perhaps too strongly, some kith scholars have noted ruefully – in the culture by working hard to promote so-called as “nuclear families” (pun not intended). Although mortal society insisted on saddling the arrangement with increasingly outdated gender roles, which was a constant source of frustration for this kith, the emphasis on family and togetherness was nevertheless one big way boggans pushed back against the specter of annihilation. In their eyes, recognition of family and community grounded people and reminded them that they weren't facing the horrors

of the world alone. It also served to remind decision-makers on both sides of the Cold War that the people they too often saw as implacable, inhuman monsters were really just people with families and dreams not unlike their own.


This kith also flourished in the post-war ‘can-do’ spirit found in the middle of the twentieth century, in everything from scientific innovation – you didn't hear it from me, but punch card computers develop a lot more quickly when it only takes a third of the time to make the cards – to the explosion of handicrafts as hobbyist culture and social activity. Though the shadow of the military-industrial complex loomed over many industries and even some leisure activities throughout this period, boggans worked steadily to keep innovation and industry in the light as much as possible. They may not have been involved with the growing counter-culture as some other kiths were, but even beatniks and hippies need a place to crash, and once again boggans became the ‘den mothers’ of their more openly rebellious friends. Their support wasn't as glamorous, perhaps, but allowed the arts to flourish and the social movements to keep going, and that was just fine with them.

return of the sidhe

The return of the Arcadian sidhe and the resulting surge in power and prominence of the noble houses was a double-edged sword for many Kithain, but perhaps few other than the trolls really understood the impact on society as well as boggans did. Sure, some Autumn sidhe had remained behind, for which boggans give them great credit and greater loyalty, but they were always relatively few in number. Which meant after the Arcadian sidhe fled, the reality was that trolls and boggans most often ran Kithain society, in function if not in title. Trolls took up most of the leadership, planning, and public-facing roles the sidhe had occupied, while boggans worked behind the scenes to keep communities together and run the necessary day-to-day operations that kept Dreamers dreaming and bonfires burning.

So, when the Arcadian sidhe returned and demanded what amounted to the restoration of everything they had left behind, boggans balked. They did their best to welcome and acknowledge these new arrivals, however, there are few things that sour boggans on someone faster than that person demanding a reward they have not earned. Even when the newcomers made some appreciative noises to the trolls and Autumn sidhe for keeping things up while they were away, they generally overlooked the contributions of boggans and other common kiths entirely. That would be bad enough, but it also wasn't hard to read between the lines of what the Arcadians were saying and find their true meaning:

“Your betters have arrived, so step aside, be quiet, and do as you're told.”



For the first time in their history, boggans were split on whether they should respect the nobility the Dreaming urged them to recognize. Some did, of course, with fervor, believing the Arcadians to be saviors who heralded a new Spring, but most of the kith reserved their judgment. It simply did not sit right with them that, after centuries of labor and sacrifice and shared pain, these strangers would waltz in and take over. It made it even worse that they seemed to expect everyone to ignore the fact that they had slammed the gates of Arcadia behind them when they had fled.

Other kiths soon picked up on this unusual uncertainty and used it to fan the flames of resistance; after all, if a more conservative and loyal kith like the *boggans* aren't on board with the new nobility, how great can the Arcadian sidhe really be? Most boggans tried to downplay this initial reluctance, writing it off as the shock of the arrival, but it was a transparent ruse at best. Truthfully, they didn't know what to do, and that meant upheaval was inevitable.

the accordance war

Bring up the topic of the Accordance War, and most boggans just turn pale and sorrowful and shake their heads. Even those who didn't live through that awful time have heard the tales from the other boggans in their circles. While this kith doesn't lack for heart when called upon, open warfare has never sat well with them, especially when compared to many other Kithain. To make matters worse, the Accordance War brought back vivid and terrible memories of the chaos of the Shattering, when the fae tore each other apart. War is terrible enough on its own; when it pits family against each other that is beyond what this kindhearted kith can bear.

Boggans also found themselves in a highly uncomfortable and often untenable position as the Accordance War began; as perhaps one of the most quintessentially "commoner" of the commoner kiths, they felt obligated to speak up for the communities they had built, cherished, and shepherded during the long absence of the Arcadian nobility. At the same time, the principle of goodly service runs deep in this kith, and given the natural tendency of boggans to follow the notion of "a place for everything and everything in its place" as a community-sustaining mantra it is hard to argue against the natural leadership of the sidhe. After all, the Dreaming seemed to back their claims, and much as they might dislike the arrogance of these new arrivals that simply could not be ignored.

This meant that many boggans found themselves in the unpleasant position of arguing for commoner rights and

the cause of the Autumn nobility to the returning Arcadian sidhe, while at the same time making a case for recognizing the status of those same exiled sidhe to skeptical or down-right hostile freeholds full of scared and angry commoners. Finding the good in everyone and always seeking common ground between feuding parties are noble traits and natural talents for boggans, but as the tensions and later violence escalated, all too often this approach backfired. Boggans found themselves isolated and distrusted by both sides, and as few things wound this kith more deeply than being distrusted by those they care about, the memories of the Accordance War carry an extra level of pain.

the new camelot

Although boggans are sometimes viewed as brown-nosers by their fellow commoners due to their general willingness to swear fealty and follow orders in the wake of the Accordance War, for boggans it's not a question of kissing up or lacking spine. It's simply a recognition that everything works best when the entire system is functioning at its peak capacity, and everyone is where they can do the most good. The sidhe are made to take charge, anyone who's met one can see it, so why not acknowledge that and let them do what they do best? Besides, boggans are champions of changing systems from within, so why not bend the knee if it means being close enough to those in power to produce real change?

The rise and subsequent early rule of Concordia's own High King David Ardry ap Gwydion has turned into a lesson in both the strengths and weaknesses of this philosophy. When David first took the throne, Caliburn in hand, most boggans honestly breathed a sigh of relief. Those who didn't like him still admitted that the young king seemed to have both a good heart and a good head on his shoulders. His early actions to mend fences and foster healing between previously warring factions certainly went a long way to win even the most reluctant boggans over, and a large number of their kith gladly swore fealty to the High King and his nobility.

For a time, it seemed like the fantasy of a true Good King who would rule wisely and well was actually coming to life. Concordia was no flawless paradise, of course, but under High King David – and with the quiet aid of quite a few boggan servants and seneschals – there were real reforms that enshrined certain commoner rights, which was no easy feat after the bitterness of the war. These changes were echoed in courts around the world, and it even seemed that his reign would have a classic love story as well, something this diehard romantic kith always celebrates.

The trouble with chasing a dream of Camelot, however, is that even in its own legends, Camelot always falls. Over time, his court grew increasingly fraught with paranoia and

politicking as true believers were forced out and opportunists came to the fore, and David himself disappeared for a time, only to return in grand fashion. The euphoria of his return was short-lived, however, as High King David's response to the mounting evidence of coming Winter and discontent among his subjects has been to spend increasingly more time in freeholds, putting him both literally and figuratively out of touch with reality. This has been a source of alternating denial, sorrow, frustration, and mounting terror in the boggan community.

They are watching their beloved monarch collapse, with the kingdom showing increasing signs of stress and tension as a result, but they have no idea what to do about it. Boggans excel at quiet suggestions, confidential conversations, polite proposals, and when called for, some exceedingly discrete subterfuge and sabotage, but what good are those tools when a monarch not only won't listen but can't even hear them through his fantasies anymore?

the evanescence

Since the turn of the millennium, the Kithain have felt the currents of the Dreaming changing course yet again. A time of great promise and wonder — the literal dawning of a new age — was quickly plunged into chaos and uncertainty. Fear arose as the predominant emotion of this era; whether it was fear of war, or terrorism, or plague, or environmental collapse, it seemed like terror's icy grip only grew tighter with every news story.

Faced with dwindling Glamour and guttering balefires, boggans once again turned to the mortals they cherished to help them find a way to pull both humanity and the Kithain back from the brink, not of nuclear holocaust, but simply drowning in their own bad dreams. After all, it's during the darkest times when the hearth burns brightest.

rise of the internet

With the rise of the internet, people could connect with one another in unprecedented ways, something the internet continues to improve and refine even today. Though some entered the digital age with trepidation, for changelings of all kinds, the worldwide web brought with it a rush of Glamour. A scientific and technological breakthrough on such a scale wasn't quite comparable to the moon landing that sparked the Resurgence, but has remained a stronger influence over time.

While the applications for business, commerce, and spread of information were impressive, it was the social aspect that most drew the attention of boggans. Touching base with friends, family, and acquaintances; finding communities; and



social media

It's worth noting that like many modern individuals, boggans have a bit of a love/hate relationship with social media. Now that so many exchanges take place online it can be very frustrating for these observant kith when they're unable to apply their Social Dynamics to online communities and interactions. Though a rare few seem to be adapting to this new reality; without it they feel like they're "flying blind" in online conversations. At the same time, well, the potential for gossip and conversation is essentially limitless, and that's often too much of a temptation to give up. With that in mind, it's not uncommon for boggans to be the sort of people who dive into online life, spend a great deal of time in it, get overwhelmed, swear they're going to delete the social media apps from their phone, do exactly that, and then hastily re-install the same apps a few days later after finding out they missed a juicy exchange or an epic meltdown.

Oh, reports of Honeycombr, a boggan-exclusive, invite-only private messaging app visible only to enchanted eyes are, of course, just scurrilous gossip. And if it did exist, you've *definitely* never been mentioned on it. (Well, maybe once). If it existed. Which it certainly doesn't. That you know of, anyway. Ahem.


... need an invite?



bringing people together from the far-flung corners of the earth was something of a minor miracle, one that boggans rejoiced in and embraced. Many quickly became leaders of digital communities, hosting fan sites, moderating forum boards, nurturing the communities and friends they found online, and making the flat white glare of a computer screen just a little warmer. To this day, they run the friendliest of gaming guilds, trendiest self-care blogs, and generate all manner of tutorials and tips, shared in every format online to foster the creativity of others.

The rare Unseelie boggan is the kind to wield the anonymity of the internet with laser precision, enacting their personal brand of vigilante justice on those who prefer to tear down others and torment undeserving targets. While they can't — and don't — deny the existence of darker places





on the web, Seelie boggans do what they can to thwart or subvert the aggressive and harmful actions of others within their own communities. Many do their best to shine a light into the darkest areas, scattering their inhabitants like roaches. The favorite weapon in boggan communities is a plea to TOS violations, using explicitly stated company standards against users to get actively hurtful sites taken down and harmful members of communities banned, while keeping themselves and their friends and followers out of direct conflict.

the dark web

On the other side of the internet coin sits the Dark Web, the criminal underbelly of the digital community. Most don't venture here, and not all boggans can even stomach the thought of it. Those who take the plunge do so as a way to protect others. Boggans sifting through the worst humanity has to offer do so most often as part of law enforcement jobs, combining their fae compulsion to comfort and protect with a mortal career that allows them to do the same. Championing the idea that Unseelie doesn't always equal bad, it's usually members of the darker court that are willing to wade through the unsavory offerings of the dark web in order to bust human trafficking rings, child pornography distributors, and predators of all stripes. While they rarely interact with any perpetrators, any task force with a boggan on board always has the best contacts to assess and rehabilitate victims of trafficking schemes and other crimes; usually, of course, due to other boggans in therapeutic professions.

where we are now

Although the Evanescence did not begin as anyone might have hoped for, boggans refuse to give up on it just as they refused to give up in the face of every other momentous shift in Kithain history, from the Sundering on down through the ages. Trolls and sidhe may have held the titles when trouble arose, more often than not, but boggans were the ones who actually held the community together. Just because the definition of community is shifting along with the currents of society, doesn't mean boggans won't stick it out and set up shop wherever it takes them.

creative overtaxing


Obviously not opposed to pursuing creative endeavors, and even profiting from using creative skills, boggans the world over stand united in staunch opposition to one increasingly common practice in a number of fields: mandatory crunch. While they aren't strangers to losing themselves down the rabbit hole of a project, they believe that enthusiasm should



crowdsourcing

As far as boggans are concerned, one of the most exciting developments in recent history is the rise of crowdsourcing. While the actual practice of gathering a community to support someone or pull off a feat too big for a single person to accomplish is certainly not new: boggans point to everything from megalithic structures to Amish barn-raising as proof, the jolt of fresh interest and capability it has received in recent years makes them giddy. Boggans work well as teams and have always been fans of pulling a community together to help, not to mention helping others realize their dreams, so these platforms are a natural fit for them.

There's even talk of starting a Kithain-oriented crowdfunding service to help struggling changelings get back on their feet or fund a dream project, though it's currently still just an idea kicking around in the boggan community. If it takes off, though, it could change both fae and mortal society in a big way. Putting money and magic and a lot of hard work together in one place, along with some of the most team-minded enchanted beings on the planet? Yeah, you'd better believe that will shake things up.



drive any such endeavors, not the looming specter of unemployment or punitive action. Expecting employees to put in eighty to ninety-hour work weeks, sleep at their desks, and otherwise deprive themselves of healthy living in the name of 'crunch time' flies in the very face of what boggans hold most dear: comfort, relaxation, and the satisfaction of a job well done.

To a boggan, work completed under 'crunch' feels hollow and melancholy, especially because most often, there isn't even the catharsis of having finished the project after such toil. They point most venomously at the video game industry, where 'good enough' products are shuffled off on an intended release date and frequently patched, overhauled, or otherwise fixed later. Creating so much undue stress and strife in the lives of employees just to deliver a subpar product is appalling to boggans, and any who managed to survive the surprising Banality of the industry become champions for changing the practice.

Most boggans are happier busying themselves with smaller, independent projects that allow for more creative

risks than most large companies are willing to take, and usually have more humane working conditions. Nevertheless, they don't shy from helping their brethren upturn the expectations of the larger companies, either directly or by using their portfolios as proof of concept that such practices are cruel and unnecessary. Hard work is one thing; working too hard, under duress, is another entirely, and something they simply can't abide by.

do-it-yourself culture

While some Kithain search for a way back to fabled Arcadia despite the tales of its fall, and others research some eldritch rite or long-lost treasure they believe will turn back the tide of Banality and save the Autumn world, boggans as a whole have a much simpler plan:

Believe in people again.

Specifically, boggans look at the rising tide of maker culture, DIY instructionals, handicraft sites, and other personal creative outlets and see a world where anyone can learn to make almost anything they want, and where artisans can get tips from the masters, advice from their peers, and feedback from fans all without leaving their workshop. They see the cottage industry they loved so much returning in force, reforged in digital fire, and are doing all they can to encourage it to grow in healthy and productive ways. They don't need to dream of this world, either; it's already taking shape, and its rise has given boggans a burst of Glamour and hopeful energy.

To this industrious kith, this cultural trend goes beyond the sale of homemade goods and the creation of video tutorials. Those are nice, of course, but ultimately they're just the outward expressions of what's really going on: humanity is awakening from the sleep of relying solely on mass production and remembering its own individual creative power once more. In a world where anyone can write or draw or craft with their own two hands, find an audience to appreciate their work, as well as possibly even a means to support themselves doing it, people have mastery over their own creative destinies again. And that's worth fighting for.

Of course, boggans aren't blind to the risks of maker culture, of course, and some less savory members of the kith are already scheming about ways to turn it to their advantage. There are very real dangers in giving everyone the means to produce most anything their heart desires, and much as it pains them to admit it, they know it will be used for evil at times. Until then, however, boggans fight to keep it as positive as possible, because on the whole, they truly believe that people are basically good by nature, mortal and Kithain alike. What's more, they believe that if such goodness is fostered and encouraged, it *will* win out over wickedness.

Others may laugh and call them naïve or soft-hearted, tell them they're wasting their time betting on arts and crafts to save the world, but boggans don't mind. They've always known the best and oldest magic is right there in the home. Let everyone else run around hunting for glory and salvation in grand and flashy quests.

After all, boggans do their best work when nobody's watching.





Billy Shakes

BILLY SHAKES



FRAN



chapter two: upstairs, downstairs

*“Find yourself a cup; the teapot is behind you.
Now tell me about hundreds of things.”*

-Saki (H.H.Munro), “Tea”

Boggans are the normal folk of the magical world.

To others, anyway, boggans are like background characters. Supporting roles. They’re the townsfolk who cheer when the hero arrives. The shopkeep at the store where you adventurers buy your questing provisions. You see them everywhere, but you usually don’t really *see* them, because to heroes with their eyes on glory, such folk are just part of the scenery, the background to their triumph.

Boggans are among the most common kith, because their dream is universal. Every time a weary jet-setter stares blearily at airport departures and thinks of her family, every time an introvert closes the door behind her and sighs with delight, every time a homesick child cries, the part of the Dreaming that fosters boggans grows stronger.

And like so many common things, boggans tend to be undervalued. What boring dreams! You could be a dream of exploration, glory, or mystery. Why be a dream of something as dull and normal as a home? As a hearth?

But to travel, you must have a home to return to. To fight, you must have something worth fighting for. The very essence of mystery is bound up in its contrast to the

familiar. People understand that boggans are the very essence of the common folk. They do not understand boggans are fundamental. When humanity shivered in shadows cast by the dawn of civilization, their first dreams were very simple ones. Warmth. Shelter. Enough to eat. Company they could trust. Everything else is built upon that.

And just as their dream supports all other dreams, the boggans themselves support all of changeling society. They do the basic but essential craftwork that nockers disdain: making everything from broomsticks to breadboxes to circuit breakers. They perform the constant emotional labor of empathy, lending a sympathetic ear or a shoulder to cry on to anyone in need. They feed everyone, from the tiniest sparrow pooka, to the most massive giant of a troll. They make the beds that weary changelings return to after long days full of adventure.

They make homes.

Every refugee knows: you can’t understand how important your home is until you lose it. It is the sacred mission of every boggan to make sure their family and friends never need suffer that harsh realization.



upstairs: boggans in society

homespun lifestyles

Boggans are found throughout Kithain society, in commoner motleys and noble households and hermit cottages at the edge of the woods; they are the essential foundation that supports everything else. Their professions are innumerable, but most boggans are drawn to roles that fall into one of four categories.

There are the homemakers – boggans who take administrative positions and organize the daily affairs of a household or organization. They can manage something as large as a duchy, or as small as a café. Normal housewives and househusbands fall into this category, but also innkeepers, hotel managers, restaurant owners, and stewards of freeholds. While the places these boggans manage don't necessarily fall into the category of 'home', the name endures because any place a boggan invests time and effort in tends to start feeling like a home.

There are the crafters – boggans who specialize in creating some sort of product. Expert cobblers and neighborhood bakers. They compete directly with nockers in this vocation, but the differences between the kiths are many. Boggans are more practical than nockers in their vocations, and usually more devoted to one craft rather than a dabbling in a range of interests. Also their products tend to, you know, reliably work.

There are the servants – boggans who specialize in performing services. The loyal squire to a knight errant. The personal chef who sweeps in in the wake of culinary disaster and saves Thanksgiving. The empathetic psychologist who understands you better than you understand yourself. They can be boggans in the service industry who cater to society in general, like a cleaning service or repair person. Or they can dedicate themselves to a particular person or group. Such servants, as a group, are not particularly servile, and tend to be picky about the customers/masters to whom they devote their time and effort. They, more than any other group, require gratitude and appreciation for their work and are quick to remove themselves from situations where they are taken for granted.

And lastly there are the hermits – boggans who choose solitary labor and secluded homes. The strange old woman in the woods who keeps an herb garden like a jungle and cooks the most amazing gingerbread that only the bravest children sample. The man who keeps a lighthouse lit through any storm to guide ships and dreamers safely home. Hermits tend to serve a higher purpose rather than a person. The work they dedicate themselves to can be both

important and difficult to understand. They are often the most eccentric members of the kith. Many blame this on their solitude, observing that to be alone is an unnatural state for a people who empathize so easily and thrive on gossip. Hermits pay this observation no mind. They know themselves, and that is enough.

from knitting circles to communes

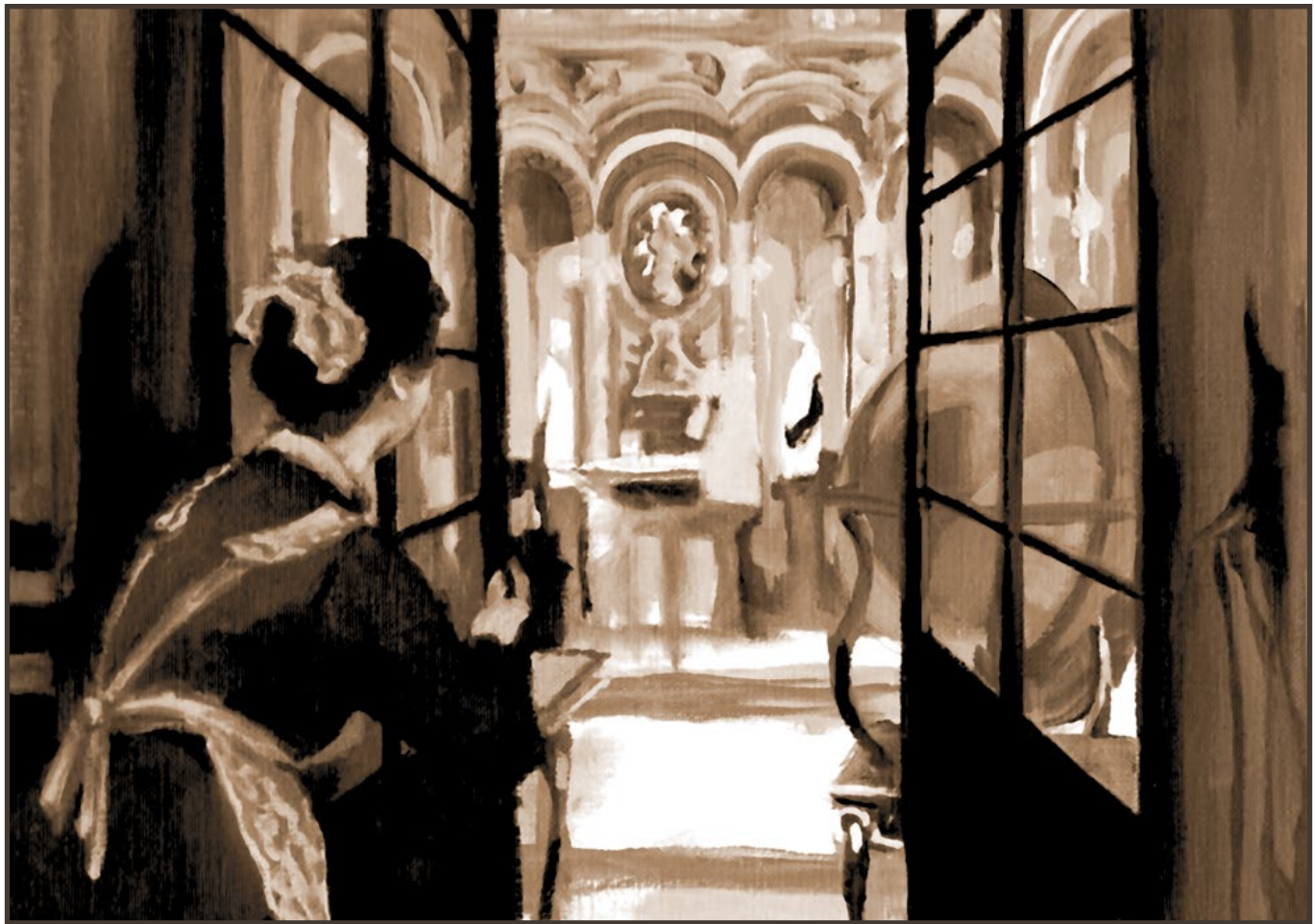
Boggans are by nature a highly social kith, both among their own kind as well as with other fae and the mortals around them. They love to talk as they toil, and firmly believe that many hands makes light work, not to mention that the more mouths there are around the more likely you are to hear an interesting tidbit of gossip. They are also blessed by their birthright to be expert social engineers, so it's no surprise that boggans come together to work and play in a number of different and practical configurations.

A popular form of casual motley is called a knitting circle. Groups of boggans come together to accomplish some task, but the task is really just something to occupy their hands while they do the real work: sharing gossip. Despite the name, these circles don't necessarily involve knitting. They can just as easily focus on whittling or car repair. Younger, more tech-savvy boggans often enjoy circling up in hackerspaces to talk over half-assembled desktop computers.

Knitting circles are loose and welcoming. Members can change from week to week, and newcomers are cherished as fresh sources of news. That being said, it can be difficult for outsiders, particularly non-boggans to understand everything that goes on in a circle. Below the surface level conversation there is a language of subtle social cues that boggans read easily due to their birthright, but can be incomprehensible to others. Half of the information exchanged in these meetings is communicated over this channel – often the more interesting half.

As complex as they can be, knitting circles are casual recreation. When a group of boggans really want to get something done, they will take on the roles of a chef and her staff. The high-stress environment of a professional kitchen is a crucible that requires discipline and coordination. Boggans emulate a kitchen staff's formation when they want to bring the full force of their coordinated work ethic down on important matters, like warfare or home renovation.

The chef is the *de facto* leader of the crew. Their word is law. They assign all other responsibilities and are the final arbiter of all difficult decisions. The sous chef is the chef's second-in-command, in charge when the chef is not around to decide. The crew itself is divided into smaller groups called lines: named for whatever responsibility or specialty they cover.



Small crews with only one line are called squads. They are still led by chefs, but come together for one very specific purpose. There are birthday squads for when boggans suddenly realize someone is having a birthday and need to whip up a celebration in short order. Flu squads visit the ill with medicine, hot drinks, and blankets and sanitize all doorknobs before they leave. Forgotten anniversary squads descend *deus ex machina* style with flowers, poetry, and candles to save the night from hurt feelings.

Moving on to more permanent kinds of groups, all-boggan freeholds are relatively common because they tend to cooperate and live together easily and with more stability than many other kiths. A freehold can easily have too large a population of pooka, or one more redcap than is truly comfortable, but never enough boggans. Such boggan holdings have a long history, dating back to the Shattering when refugees from broken noble houses clustered together in panic and despair and carved out new homes despite their loss.

All-boggan motleys or freeholds are often called communes. Boggans have been interested in, and in many instances instinctively manifesting, socialism long before its modern definition coalesced in the 1860s. During the

Interregnum it became a commonly accepted way for many commoner outposts to organize themselves, prompting many boggans, particularly members of the Shadow Court, to respond to the Resurgence with the question: “Why exactly do we need monarchy again?”


Boggan communes work *very* well. They lack the common problem of certain members not pulling their weight. They often have the more unique problem of certain members infringing on the responsibilities of others. There have been known to be fights over certain busybodies doing the dishes when it wasn’t their turn.

However stable they might normally be, communes, crews, and knitting circles, are perpetually haunted by potential disaster. A cataclysmic event that can be as ruinous as a hurricane to the stability of a household. This sword of Damocles that hangs over any group that contains an excess of boggans is called a Gossip Implosion.

These natural disasters are discussed further in the next section.

gossip

Gratitude is the first great unspecified payment that boggans expect for their work; it doesn’t have to be tremen-



dous, just some acknowledgment of their efforts. However, juicy bits of gossip are definitely the second.

Boggan interest in gossip is a natural consequence of their interest in people. They understand how people tick and how groups interact, so seeing the daily drama of emotions play out is endlessly interesting. Whether taking part themselves or simply observing, boggans just can't get enough of the details of others' lives.

Their professions give them incidental opportunity to gather gossip. A lot of conversation happens over meals and in rooms that sharp-eared servants have many excuses to wander in and out of. And their ability to understand the nuances of social relations let them pick up more information from these conversations than other idle observers. Even Seelie gossips rarely independently check their information before excitedly reporting it to others, trusting their ability to read others as enough evidence of truth (if truth is required).

Boggans can take advantage of the "I'm just scenery" aspect of being a servant or helper to blend into the background while people around them discuss important things. This tactic works better with mortals or Prodigals, though, since the boggan reputation as gossip-mongers is widespread and so Kithain with information worth having check specifically for members of this gabbing kith before opening their mouths. Also, a boggan's enthusiasm for eavesdropping can get in the way of their efficacy of their duties. When you're trying to listen in on a conversation and end up leaning between the two speakers to catch every detail, plausible dependability is hard to maintain.

Seelie boggan gossip is generally well-meaning, though that does not mean it is always harmless. They tend towards positive subjects, delighting in news of births, impending marriages, promotions, courtly rumors, and birthdays. Birthdays are very particular for boggans – the one thing they are always careful to get accurate. Newly arriving boggans often receive an information dump upon arrival and it always contains a comprehensive list of the birthdays of every inhabitant; the newcomer is expected to update it with their own and the birthdays of their companions.

Stereotypes to the contrary, Unseelie boggans are not careless scandalmongers. In fact, if anything, they are sometimes more careful than their Seelie kin, although it's less from a desire to avoid harm than a desire to use the gossip they know to get exactly what they want. Whether that means a *quid pro quo* exchange of information, a favor to be named later, or simply to cause problems for those they dislike, Unseelie boggans are well aware of how to use information.

Boggans of both courts can also be seduced by scandal, and a really juicy secret is one thing that can cause these

normally calm fae to lose their composure. Seelie boggans do try to be discreet about harmful gossip, while Unseelie boggans use it to get leverage, but everyone has difficulty resisting spreading such interesting rumors. Sluagh disdain Boggan attempts at whispering, seeing them as clumsy and obvious compared to their rarified circles, though they will still sift boggan gossip for useful information from time to time.

Most boggan communities maintain a stable economy of gossip, but sometimes dangerous incidents called Gossip Implosions can still happen, especially in crowded territories. Gossip Implosions are difficult to anticipate and tend to start small, with a few misunderstandings and hurt feelings. They end up with people gossiping about someone gossiping about someone else's gossip, friendships ending, and open combat between pantry and scullery. Matters can escalate rapidly as dirty laundry and embarrassing secrets long withheld get dug up and put into play as different sides trade shots, and the results are devastating not just to the boggans involved but others drawn in by the rumors and gossip being shared.

It is difficult to end a Gossip Implosion because it quickly becomes impossible to discern what the actual problem is. It's a 'he said, she said, he said she said, she said to him, but he said to that other her', and by the time it's rolling everyone has forgotten the original incident, and it really doesn't matter anymore. Wise stewards keep an eye out for snarls of confusing and emotionally hurtful gossip in their keeps and head off implosions by getting the upset parties together in a room to talk things out directly. The best, possibly only, way to stop an implosion is to catch it early.


According to kith legend, in fact, Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* was actually a true story. Every character was a boggan, except for Don Pedro, who is remembered with honor as one of the few sidhe to successfully guide a boggan Gossip Implosion to a happy conclusion. Does that mean Shakespeare was one of the fae? Well, it depends on who you ask, but according to rumor...

household traditions

Most boggan traditions center on celebrating the home, building community, and getting things done. They tend to have useful, often edible, byproducts and have a prominent social aspect; while they may not be the glittering affairs of the sidhe and their courts, unless it's a boggans-only affair, other kith know it will always be worthwhile to drop in for the good drink, great food, and even better conversation.

house warming

The christening of a new house as a home is a very meaningful, almost spiritual event for boggans. It is super



special extra meaningful if that house is also a freehold, of course, but even if they're just breaking in a regular old apartment, they like to make a party of it. A house-warming with boggans is very similar to a normal housewarming party: they gather in the new place to eat food and compliment the decor. The important distinction is that guests never bring gifts. Instead the invited fae leave a mote of Glamour in the hearth, or in most modern residences the heating system.

Performed properly, for the next year the Glamour will warm the house with no need for a fire or furnace. In old times, this tradition would see a new household through even the harshest winter, giving the family a chance to get their legs under them. Nowadays, it saves an entire year off your heating bill. Maybe not quite so critical, but still a nice perk.

labor day

Boggans have been deeply involved in the labor movement long before it had a proper name, and were delighted when Oregon recognized a public holiday in its honor in 1887. It is tradition in Kithain territories with sizable boggan communities to crib the mortal practice of holding a celebratory parade. Boggans organize by vocation and make floats, competing to have the most crowd-pleasing entries.

There are baker floats, which give out free samples as they go by. There are carpentry floats, which are masterpieces of engraved and inlaid patterns and always nice enough to help out with the bases for the other floats. There are basket-weaving floats, plumbing floats, and electronics repair floats, all as elaborate as crafty boggans can make them, and often enchanted. There are marching bands of maids that dance with their brooms and leave the street spotless in their wake.

Some boggans enjoy celebrating a subtler interpretation of Labor Day and take it as a day of rest, directly enjoying the fruits of their labors among unions. They strictly do not permit themselves to perform any work. This often proves surprisingly challenging, but is generally regarded as a refreshing change and leaves one raring to go the next day.

spring cleaning

Spring is an exciting time for Boggans because it means spring cleaning is coming! Boggan housekeepers mark their calendar and count the days until the spring equinox, the traditional time of renewal, rebirth, and cleansing.

It is tradition to try and get it done all in one week, or even one day if you live in a small household. Boggans will plan extensively in advance, organize into crews, assign chefs and sous chefs, re-weave brooms and stock up on soap. Then, at dawn, they will tear through their homes, hurricanes of coordinated effort, spraying, sweeping, and scouring. Dusting every corner and turning every mattress. Nothing is safe and other kiths run for cover until it's over,

lest they find themselves tidied and neatly put away in a linen closet somewhere.

The ritual of spring cleaning has very powerful mystical ramifications. It is a purifying force. Legend has it that it can lift or ameliorate curses and even breathe new life into flickering balefires. It focuses on the location cleaned, but can have an effect on the inhabitants as well. Rumor has it an enchanted prince was once saved from eternal slumber by his loyal butler who organized the castle staff to scrub the offending magic into nothingness. And it worked.

Spring cleaning is traditionally ended with a cleansing of the self. After long days of hard work, sweaty and sore Boggans will retire to take long, warm baths where they clean themselves from top to toe.

harvest festival

Harvest time is another important occasion for boggans. The focus is on food: the pleasure of preparing it, the security of having plenty, the necessity of preserving that plenty through the long cold winter. There is plenty to do, and once all the work is finished, it is important to celebrate a job well done, and to give thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year.


Giving thanks is a particularly important act for boggans, who so venerate the act of gratitude. Going around the table and saying what you're thankful for is never just a token gesture, and boggans can expound for long minutes, enumerating their various blessings and contentedly reveling in them. It can take a while, but it's hard to get bored listening to such genuine happiness.

Boggans look askance at the association of pilgrims and colonialism with their autumnal celebrations. They were celebrating the harvest since long before pilgrims landed in Plymouth, and do not think that the pilgrims were especially well-behaved guests on arriving in America, to put it *very* mildly.

boggan status

This kith is so essential to the functioning of other Kithain organizations that they derive most of their ideas of status from them. Even Unseelie boggans honor the notion of the nobility, recognizing knights and bowing to ladies. Though whether they truly respect those individuals is a matter to be discussed behind closed scullery doors, they still respect the title itself.

Boggans seldom chase noble titles. Gratitude is all well and good, but beyond that recognition is secondary to getting the job done well, and sometimes even to be avoided as a distraction. Grand titles tend to bring with them busywork and pointless distractions that only get in the way of real work, and there is a special honor to anonymity that most



nobles don't seem to understand. After all, anyone can work hard if they will be rewarded on a big stage for an adoring crowd; it takes a different type of spirit to work hard for little more than a job well done and a grateful smile.

Status within the kith is not a formal thing, but everyone has a reputation that is kept updated in the endlessly cycling network of boggan gossip. Those who regularly contribute useful labor or entertaining gossip earn regard, while others who take more than they give suffer in the eyes of their peers. Recognition in this arena is less related to the particular nature of the work being done and more related to the apparent dedication of the worker. The rumor that one is a good worker is the highest praise and will be reliably carried far and wide by kith proclivities.

Of course it can be hard to measure dedication. This occasionally leads to boggans pursuing busywork: pointless activities accomplished with the goal of looking busy rather than getting things done. Busywork is not true work as it lacks purpose, and it's a great embarrassment to a boggan to be exposed as a busyworker. Chronic busyworkers have earned the derisive nickname of 'blind bees': boggans who have lost sense of purpose.

emotional labor

*"Not now, I'm working. I said I'm working. Yes, I am talking to Emma, but there's no 'just' about it. Kindly take your patriarchal assumptions about the value of what I'm doing and stuff them up your ass over on **that** side of the room so that you're no longer interrupting us."*

– Sally Thistledown, Boggan Social Worker of House Liam

The boggan kith's ability to empathize and natural desire to help makes them amazing at various forms of emotional labor. They are extremely good at seeing themselves in others, understanding what people are going through, and discerning how best to be supportive. They are active listeners who look at you while you talk and ask questions to let you know they're listening before prompting you to go on. It's a common saying that talking to a boggan will leave you feeling thoroughly listened to.

A boggan's fuzzy ears are sharp to sighs and strange tones of voice that come after bad days and they are quick to make sure their friends know they are loved and cared for. Boggans themselves tend to appreciate and offer acts of service when being comforted, but they understand that people understand affection differently, and take pains to communicate support and love in ways that their friends will particularly understand. A boggan will cuddle her satyr friend to take his mind off a bad day, bake a cake for a redcap going through a rough time, then make some tea and a quiet social call with

her slough friend to make sure they feel supported, even if they don't feel like talking about their (secret) troubles.

A boggan's ability to trace social dynamics make it possible to anticipate social problems with seemingly precognitive clarity; they constantly observe their constellations of friends and can't help but notice when some stars flicker or dim. The gossip network lets them disseminate that information far and wide, letting them find ways to help if they personally are unqualified. This means that if you're heading towards a rough time, you're likely to come home to a troupe of boggans armed with cookies, tea, and blankets.

These skills prompt many boggans to become social workers, psychologists, school counselors, or bartenders. However they tend to avoid other professions that require shallow emotional management, such as waitressing. Few boggans last long in retail because they have trouble tolerating the current culture. The expectation of constant cheer from storefront workers strikes them as unnatural and smacks of being taken for granted.

A boggan's mastery of empathy comes with other surprising consequences. Because of their expertise, boggans sometimes get stuck doing the lion's share of emotional labor in a relationship. They end up tiptoeing around friends with issues that the boggan can see clearly, but the friend isn't managing well. They get into the habit of providing constant emotional support, because they can see that people need it, but not receiving any in return, because their friends aren't as sensitive to their needs. They wind up being the one prompting all the difficult conversations they know need to happen to maintain a relationship, and so start feeling like a nag.

Because you have to be emotionally aware to notice the value of all these things that boggans do, it's easy for others to take boggans' efforts for granted, which is anathema to them and one of a short list of things that gets them very upset very quickly. The problem is that because people are blind to this kind of work, they are surprised when their boggan friends are angry, or feel confused and unaccountably abandoned when suddenly the boggan won't sit up and listen to them complain until 2 A.M.

Some boggans are burned by the oppressive and unsteady demands of emotional labor and vacillate in the other direction, becoming prickly and goal-oriented, blocking out the signals they get about others' feelings, or using them without concern or coddling. This is not a Seelie or Unseelie question, but one of appreciation. Most boggans do their best to educate their friends about the reality and importance of emotional labor. It's not their responsibility, but when an important job needs to get done, they are collectively inclined to do it.

romance

Boggan love is usually born of deep awareness. They're highly emotionally intelligent by nature, and bring that to the realm of romance with quiet but immensely successful results. They are very diligent about communication and, in contrast to some more flighty and fanciful kiths, they recognize that real relationships require real work, much like anything else. Boggans enjoy some of the most stable and longest lasting romantic relationships in history, sometimes spanning multiple lifetimes. Lovers from past incarnations meet and discover they somehow know all the movements of cooking and cleaning together.

This isn't to say that boggan romance is all work and long-term planning. While they are discreet, they are not prudish at all, and usually more than happy to accept gratitude from a well fed satyr in the form of physical favors. However their flings are clearly delineated: Boggans see them for what they are and make sure all parties involved understand what's going on and what everyone is expecting from the dalliance.


Boggans make diligent and thoughtful lovers. They are attentive to emotions, able to skillfully navigate anything

from a private rendezvous to a full-on Kithain orgy using their awareness of social dynamics. And when they have a job to do, they perform it skillfully and thoroughly, particularly when that job is the pleasure of someone they adore.

Boggans tend to express and recognize affection through acts of service. It's just how they're wired. They tend to do things for their intended paramours, which can make it a little difficult for outsiders to discern whether a boggan has a crush or is just being helpful as is the wont of their kith. And while, once in the relationship, Boggans are champion communicators, it can be difficult to communicate their intentions at the beginning. The challenge is one of perspective. A boggan, who reads social signals like others read road-maps, will think he's sending very clear signals to his intended. Whereas his intended may have no idea they're being courted at all.

More Machiavellian boggans often like to turn their skills in the realm of romance to matchmaking. Naturally they tend to be really good at it, if sometimes a little overenthusiastic. If a boggan says two people are perfect for each other, it's not just idle speculation. It's a very deliberate and well thought out analysis of their compatibility and





social standings within the context of the larger communities. Boggans not only see these details, but often feel an obligation to act on them too.

Some matchmakers are boisterous and overt, giving advice and contriving for their intended pairings to get locked in rooms together. Other matchmakers are subtle as any slugh. They reach out to touch the delicate web of relationships around them, gently guiding them to greater happiness (or perhaps the boggan's greater advantage). These relationship crafters are highly sought by all freeholds because they don't only manage lovers. They facilitate friendships, business relationships, healthy rivalries, and make everything around them better. Boggans take pride in everything they build, and some boggans build relationships, taking great pride in strong friendships and happy couples they helped bring together.

rest & relaxation

What is the point of working hard if you're not working towards something? What is the point of accruing laurels if you can't spend a lazy summer afternoon resting on them every now and then? There is a reason that "content as a boggan at a hearth" is an old phrase for describing true happiness. Boggans enjoy working, but they also enjoy the fruits of their labors.

Fruit itself is a good place to start. Apple pie. Berry tarts. Glazed pears. There's a reason boggans tend toward generous bellies, and that's because, as a kith, they love to eat. They have a general preference for baked goods, chocolate chip cookies being a kith favorite. They like variety, trying new recipes, tasting a bit of everything. Baking is something many boggans do to relax after other, more strenuous jobs. And when they cook, they usually share. Good food and good company is a little slice of heaven.

A lot of boggan recreation involves casual creation, often in the form of activities they perform while doing other things like talking or watching movies with friends, things they make just for fun, like interesting knitting projects, sketching, whittling, or watercolor. Many boggans would blush at the word artistry, but there's no other definition for many of the delightful objects they craft in the name of fun. They're also more likely to produce chimera when just fooling around with arts and crafts. Sweater voile are a particularly common byproduct of knitting boggans preparing for Christmas.

If the kith has a vice in this realm, it's smoking. Carving and smoking pipes is a traditional and popular pastime. Now that the practice has been identified as such a health risk there is disagreement in the kith community about what to do with this form of recreation. Do they just abandon generation-old smoke-ring blowing contests and throw

out exquisitely carved antique pipes? Some boggans split the difference and find non-tobacco substitutes to smoke, while more ambitious gardeners in the kith experiment with harmless but satisfying chimerical plants. Not a perfect solution, but what to do about this difficult tradition is an ongoing question.

Many boggans are avid readers as well. It's the most comfortable way to go on an adventure, and the joy of a well-kept library is a reward as well. Their deep capacity for empathy easily lets them completely lose themselves in the perspective of the protagonist. They can put themselves' in someone else's shoes to understand different perspectives. They are easily entranced by good stories, part of why they happily maintain symbiotic relationships with wandering eshu – trading comfortable rest-stops for stories.

And of course there is incandescent pleasure to be had in just resting. In standing with your hands on your hips surveying a well-tilled field. In idly running your fingers over your latest wooden masterpiece while staring into the middle distance with a faint smile. The meditative contentment of just having cleaned. Resting on the couch and surveying your clean, or perhaps homily cluttered, home. Bliss. Boggans may have a hard time stopping work, but when they do, the cessation is total and thoroughly enjoyed, all the more for its brevity.

the good fight

The most common mistake people make with boggans is underestimating them. It's a chronic problem, though one many in the kith actively encourage. They don't need to be known as the biggest and baddest threat in the room. Leave that to the redcaps and the trolls. If the world continuously fails to understand how dangerous super-fast, super-skilled craftsmen who are also born social manipulators can be, then the world will just continue to get sucker-punched when that kith gets angry.

From a strictly martial standpoint, boggans are frightening because of how quickly they can go from normal to battle-ready. Craftwork allows them to forge weapons almost as fast as some people draw them. They can put up instant battlements and homesteads can be made into forts in a twinkling. Boggans don't shift to a war footing lightly, but when they do, they don't hold back. Their trades shift down a dark road. A tailor grabs her awl and some leather and becomes an armorer. An herbalist a poisoner. A pharmacist a bomber. A creative mind can turn almost any innocent-seeming profession into a crucible of violence.

In the midst of combat, one boggan is vulnerable, but a group is a force to be reckoned with. Boggans naturally organize into crews, oriented around a head chef, and they learn to work together with terrifying rapidity, social

awareness of the dynamics of the group expanding with every member to the point where complex ideas can be communicated by a single gesture or a shared glance. After minimal drilling, they can execute squad tactics with precision that shames seasoned armies. And god forbid they're given a job to do, like sabotage.

Off the literal battlefield, unhappy boggans still have many subtler weapons at their disposal. Gossip is a big one. The cheerful, mostly positive chatter of the kith hides darker aspects that serve devastating purposes. The simplest form this retaliation takes is the local blacklist. Gossip keeps most boggans abreast of who is and who isn't pleasant to work for, but truly problematic masters, ones known for cruelty or ingratitude, are put on the blacklist.

It's not a formal list. It doesn't need to be. Everyone just always keeps talking about what scum these people are, and no one within reach of the local gossip network ever serves them — or if they do, they subtly sabotage and build backdoors into their work — allowing them to be brought down later. Given that boggans contribute to almost every aspect of changeling society this can be a crippling inconvenience.

There's a step beyond the blacklist: vengeance squads. While most boggans will just leave if unappreciated, some can become vindictive and seek revenge on those they consider criminally ungrateful. This treatment is also applied to powerful individuals who can work around being blacklisted. Vengeance squads either operate socially, slandering their victim's name all over town, or through vandalism. A group of boggans bent on destruction and armed with power tools can demolish a building or strip a beloved car to its frame in short order. However, vengeance squads will almost always target workplaces. They will very rarely stoop to damaging or attacking people in their homes.

Beyond these grim tactics there is naturally a dark underbelly to boggan gossip that few take advantage of, but the ones who do are scary. Ruthless boggans can become successful and powerful information brokers, wielding blackmail and selective truths with skillful surety to control vast networks of victims. This is not an Unseelie problem, either. Seelie boggans who are convinced they "know best" can be just as ruthless in managing a community as the sleaziest Unseelie blackmailer. Other boggans usually shun those who follow this path, but it can be difficult to stop them without getting drawn into their web.

There is also their dream to consider. Every dream has a dark side, triggered by trauma or the onset of Bedlam. It's easier to see in other kiths. The dark side of a troll's dedication to duty is stagnation and the fanaticism on the far side of honor. The dark side of a pooka's flighty tricks is a degradation from play to malice and the maze of distance and mistrust that comes from living too much of the lie. But

boggans are dreams of home and charity. How can those things be turned bad? It's not as easy, boggans tend to be stable and trend hard in the Seelie direction. But when it happens, it's disturbing.

It can take the form of an obsession with safety. Agoraphobia. The boggan refuses to leave his home and lives in terror of the outside world. He keeps his rooms meticulously clean and ordered and screams at any disturbances while he boards up the windows.

Boggans who follow charity too far can lose their sense of self. Focus too much on other people for no care for themselves, first they'll become worn out and haggard in the conventional way. Then they'll seem thinner and fainter. Almost transparent in bright light. They'll stop using personal pronouns, referring to themselves in the third person. Then one day they'll do something for someone and receive no thanks and just fade away.

Boggans can take the act of service itself too far. Remember the tale of Barthis, loyal servant to the house of a Sidhe Baroness. He cared so deeply for his mistress he locked her up in the castle dungeon, never to escape, perfectly safe in the home he made for her.

downstairs: the meaning of being a boggan the meaning of work

Charity is the cardinal virtue of the boggan kith. Not only do they work, they work often without asking for compensation. On first hearing this, some unscrupulous individuals might think this kith to be easy to take advantage of. Nothing could be further from the truth, because the one thing boggans value more highly than charity, is freedom.

Boggans will not be forced into labor, nor will they force others. Slavery is anathema to them. They were one of the first communities to outlaw the practice among themselves and they still fight it wherever they find it. On a less extreme scale, boggans are vigilant for signs of exploitation. They are the instigators and the backbone of many unions and strikes throughout history. Rumor has it that it was a boggan who idly suggested the concept of a 'weekend' to Henry Ford in the early 1900s. Their vehemence on this subject is born of the fact that it is a violation of their dream: you cannot enjoy work if you are forced into it.

And boggans *enjoy* work. For this kith, it is a joyful thing to do a necessary job well. And it doesn't seem to matter much what they're doing. Many boggans have a preference



for a particular vocation like cooking, or woodworking, or milkshake making, or fashion design. But they all share a fervent desire to do what needs doing, and do it well.

The reason that boggans derive pleasure from almost any form of work is because of their precise definition of work. Work is two things: Purpose and choice.

Purpose means that you are doing something that needs to be done. Whether you're working to provide for your

motley, support a noble house that you believe in, or just to make yourself a nice meal, you have a good reason to do what you're doing. And that reason needs to be positive – you should be working because you want something to happen, not because you're afraid of something happening. If you're working because you're afraid of starving otherwise, that's not work in a boggan's eyes. That's little more than slavery, at best.



And that links in to the second aspect: Choice. Work has to be something that you choose to do. The freedom of choice is essential. If you feel pressured into work, then even if it's the greatest job in the world, you will derive no joy from it. But if you choose to work, then any job automatically becomes the best job in the world.

the retail resistance

Boggans *really* hate big box stores.

It's not only the corporate Banality of these faceless institutions. No changeling likes that. Boggans particularly loathe these stores because they are, by the boggan work definition, little more than slavers. While the odd one might be beneficial to a community, as a rule they set themselves up as the only option in small towns, driving out all other business. Even if they didn't tend to treat their employees abysmally, they would still be on the naughty list.

The kith feels similarly about a number of corporate retailers and wage a careful war against them. Careful because the trouble with these businesses is that they employ many people who have no other options, and using cantrips to close the stores would put a lot of below-the-poverty-line people out on the street.

Boggans fight by organizing unions, supporting local businesses, and stopping by break-rooms with home-cooked meals. House Dougal has an order called the Black Friday Squad, a guerrilla organization of boggans that gathers in crews after every Thanksgiving and deploy to department stores across the country. They re-fold clothing, pick up litter, repair displays, and buy nothing. It's their way of supporting the workers but denying the stores their business.

Unseelie boggans have been known to brave the Banality extremes and insinuate themselves into corporate structures in order to sabotage the businesses from the inside, or at least keep their new chains far away from changeling communities.

This is the true meaning of work to boggans. Some of them are consciously aware of the concepts and will debate the details of the theory around cozy hearths as the most genuine of armchair philosophers. Some just understand this truth intuitively and act on it without ever really having to learn or voice it. But it is a key part of the dream that animates each and every one of them.



the banality of debt

It may seem strange that the idea of debt is so important to a kith whose guiding principle is charity, but if you understand their definition of work, it makes perfect sense.

Being in debt means that you have lost the freedom of choice. You have to perform labor. Maybe you can have a say in the how or the when of paying off the debt, but you are bound to do it. A boggan working off a debt is not engaged in true work. It is drudgery and it wears on them, even if the debtor is well meaning.

Because of this, boggans tend to be more aware than other kiths of the danger of accepting favors and striking binding bargains. This can manifest in frugality, caution, common sense, or a homebody tendency to prefer a nice night at home rather than gallivanting about the dreaming on adventures that often results in gambling with goblins or trading favors with the Night Queen.

This won't necessarily stop them from such gallivanting altogether, but may be the reason that you occasionally need a wizard and a whole troop of dwarves to pry a boggan out of their cozy home and into an adventure.

It must be made clear that there is a huge difference between becoming indebted and accepting responsibility. Boggans will freely swear themselves to serve houses and join motleys with none of the hesitation that they feel around the subject of debts. This is because dedicating yourself to a group or cause is a positive thing — something done willingly — not coerced. Joining one of these groups is much like joining a household, and there is nothing more natural for a boggan than that. Mutually beneficial bargains and oaths better everyone's lives.

There are legends that tell of old scars and deeper meanings to the kith's wariness of debt. Old stories about a time when choice was not a possibility, when their drive to work was not an inclination to help the needy, but a yoke that drove them without mercy. In a time when all dreams lived in their simplest, basest forms and boggans were little more than creatures, barely able to think of anything but toil and dressed in rags because only people wore clothes.

These are ancient tales, much in doubt and rarely told because they are a pile of painful and dangerous secrets with only one scrap of light in the pile of misery, like hope crouched at the bottom of Pandora's box. That light is a fairy tale, known in several variations in different cultures, but most often called "The Elves and the Shoemaker."

In the story a poor shoemaker is blessed with nighttime visitors that craft masterwork shoes out of his raw materials. After becoming prosperous off their craftsmanship, he discovers that his benefactors are naked fairies, shivering in the cold as they work. Filled with sympathy, he and his

wife sewed clothes for them. On discovering the gift, the creatures dressed and vanished, never to return.

If these mythic tales are true, that story is the turning point — the first moment when these craven servants were shown gratitude. The gift of clothes was like the gift of personhood, and transformed them from servile automatons into the true ancestors of the kith. If this story is in any way true, the ancestors of boggans were slaves of debt, and charity freed them. And deep down, they have never forgotten this.

Also, worth considering, humans freed them and gave them the lives they lead now. Which might explain the kith's age old tradition of helping and protecting the homes of humans — a tradition as old as the farmers' tradition of putting saucers of milk out for kind fairies.

the honor of service

"Trolls have honor. Boggans have integrity. Integrity is basically honor, only cozier."

— Oliver Peltier of the Princeton Tigers motley

In addition to understanding work as the most personally enjoyable and fulfilling thing in the world, boggans also consider it the most honorable activity to which one can devote one's life. The fact that the act which makes them happiest is the best possible thing for them to do from a moral standpoint is seen as closely related. A delightful chicken and egg situation that produces, in the end, a glorious fried cutlet and omelet. You can have your cake and eat it too, provided you baked that cake yourself.

This rather socialist philosophy is born of utilitarian logic. The best way to maximize happiness in the world is to enjoy yourself, and do nice things for people. Boggans have discovered the secret of joyful work, so they can enjoy the process of doing nice things for people. They look at selfish people with a certain amount of pity. If only the self-centered realized that greed isolates them, and that bottomless bucket of need they struggle to fill with money and power could be easily mended by a little loving labor for others.

It's funny to them, and a little sad, when people seem confused about why they work so willingly and ask for so little. The goodness of their approach to life seems so obvious and elemental to them, it's basically too simple to explain to someone who doesn't see it.

The subject of payment, as related to honor and service, is one of much contention among boggans. Some believe that accepting payment diminishes one's integrity and reduces the meaningfulness of work performed. Others argue that pure charity is impractical, you need money to buy raw materials, and requesting material payment prompts others to value the work they do, and that that's an important part of encouraging gratitude.

Gratitude is of course, the greatest of all payments. It is often unstated, but absolutely required by any boggan.

gratitude

While boggans do not necessarily need to be paid for their work, they absolutely must be appreciated. The fastest way to lose a boggan as a servant or friend is to start taking them for granted.

This is a reasonable requirement that can be taken to strange extremes. Taciturn nobles have lost entire households to their inability to express appreciation. Despots have stayed in power for shocking lengths of time by regularly giving speeches about how much they value the boggans in their service. As long as the sentiment is sincere, gratitude can blind a boggan to many flaws in their masters. This is related to the kith's compulsion to help anyone in need.

Sages of the kith will say that requiring gratitude is in itself an act of further charity. Being grateful for the blessings in one's life is the surest path to happiness, and by rewarding that quality with friendship and assistance they teach the world to be happier. Some occultists even theorize that boggans derive power from gratitude. That it sustains them, giving them their rosy complexions and

feeding their portly frames, and when denied it they will become wan and frail.

Most normal boggans just say that it just sucks to work for someone who doesn't appreciate you. So they won't.

what is a home?

A home is stability. The place that welcomes you back after the hurricane of the workday. The place where your glasses and book are always where you left them. A place where the worn dent where the doorknob knocks against the wall greets you like an old friend. A place full of blankets, and maybe someone to bring you cookies and tea.

A home is safety. Four walls that stand tall and firm against the dangers of the world. Family who has your back, who will fight tooth and nail and blood and bone for this space you have created and consecrated with the word home. Know that the threshold of a true home is a mystic force far more powerful than the parlor tricks of the supernatural.

A home is love. People who understand you. People who know your name and say it with that soft lilt of affection that makes you feel like your soul is being hugged. Home is a place where the presence of that love, of a thousand good mornings, of a thousand laughs, a thousand tears



household gods

Do you have any idea how many gods there are of the home? Hestia, Vesta, Berehynia, Gabija, Frigg, Kamui Fuchi, Zao Jun, Bes, just to name a few. Not to mention household spirits: Domovoi, Brownie, Nisse, Tomte, Tonttu, Monaciello, Cofgodas, Gashin, Lares, Lutin, Heinzelmännchen, Hob.

These lists span the globe. These lists are small samplings of a cultural bedrock shared by all cultures. Household gods were not worshiped in temples, but in homes. With shrines in rich houses and idols in poor houses. It did not matter the status. Every home was also a temple.

The sanctity of the house and home. The power of the threshold. These are ancient ideas. Changeling magic is tied to belief, desire, and dream. And the desire to be safe in one's home is something most primal. In its shallower shapes, this magic takes the form of wards and blessings. The depths of its power is reflected in legends about monsters being unable to cross the threshold of a home simply because it is a home.

rolling off a thousand shoulders has sunk into the walls and stained the woodwork with the most profound sort of joy that accepts and shines out even through sadness.

Know Hestia, called Vesta. Ancient goddess, honored with lamb's blood on the untrodden threshold of this place now called home. Know that she hid her power from the other gods so that they did not become afraid. Know that she lives on through a humble kith, that she consecrates each home they bless with their presence, and that her wrath flows through them towards whomever would dare defile this place that is most sacred.

When you stumble exhausted through the dark and the cold, all other desires fall away before one fervent need. One essential dream: a warm place to sleep.

A home is the first thing. Once you have a home, you have a safe place to dream, all other dreams are then born.

birthrights and frailties

It's perhaps unsurprising that other Kithain overlook boggan capabilities as much as they overlook boggans

themselves. Yet their talents go far beyond merely working quickly and being good with people, just as their frailties aren't simply overly soft hearts.

craftwork

Boggans enjoy nothing more than good, honest work. Their reputation for being consummate craftspeople is well earned. While unobserved, boggans can accomplish any task involving physical labor or craftsmanship in one third of the time. Other boggans can be present, but they cannot be observed by anyone else.


Freely offering service to those in need is an honorable act. But because honest work is fun, and because working for free is the ultimate act of choice, charitable service is elevated to an almost religious experience for most boggans. When you combine all that with acting anonymously, so that those you serve won't even know it was you, that leads to the elevated state of awareness that lets boggans get things done so quickly. They are one with the Tao. Knitting with cosmic superstrings. Dusting really, *really* fast.

Boggans call this meditative state Craftwork, with a clearly audible capital "C", so named because it expresses the kith's mastery of the very act of work. Craftwork is one of the reasons that boggan-only groups are so common. When they really need to get stuff done, other kiths quite literally slow them down on a mystical level. Sometimes that's a desirable thing, as other kiths offer different and valuable perspectives and it's nice to enjoy the process of work. But when something is unpleasant or really needs to get done fast, boggans will buckle down by themselves.

There is an eternal and sometimes difficult question that chases this birthright about: what qualifies as work? The boggans' oft discussed and intuitively understood "Meaning of Work" is a measure of what boggans themselves consider true and optimal work, but the Craftwork birthright will still kick in when a boggan is engaged in purposeless busywork, or when he is being forced into some labor against his will. So what is work? Cleaning is work. Is combing your hair work? Brushing your teeth? Building a building is work. What about building a sand castle? Is that work or play?

The way most boggans figure out whether something qualifies as work is they try doing it, and if they can do it really fast, it's work. It's not a completely reliable thing — nothing chimerical ever is (except possibly trolls). Sometimes whether these edge cases work just depends on what mood the Dreaming is in, or whether the boggan is putting in honest effort as opposed to trying to cheat the system, so to speak.

Boggans can hurt themselves badly doing Craftwork. Botches on Craftwork related rolls are usually sprains or brutally stubbed fingers from a hand going 25 mph. Injuries



most commonly happen when a boggan surprises herself by engaging in involuntary Craftwork, though sometimes simple exhaustion sets in if a boggan pushes too long too hard. When you work three times as fast as most folks, it can be easy to lose track of time.

Boggans sometimes engage in Craftwork without meaning to, which is called involuntary Craftwork. This usually happens when they're trying to make art, or settling down to make something for fun, then all the sudden it's over and done with because their birthright kicked in. When you enjoy knitting, after all, it can be quite aggravating to suddenly have a pile of socks and no yarn left.

Not all boggans are created equal. Just as some people are faster than others, some boggans are quicker workers. When boggans get going Craftwork-fast the differences can be so slight as to be measured in microseconds, but it's still noticeable enough to have spawned elaborate, boggan-centered sporting events called the Craftlympics.

The Craftlympics are casual tournaments held all over the world, usually in the spring after annual cleaning when everything is sorted and they have some free time. Events include butter churning, house painting, doing laundry (machines are cheating), and many more. Things that people have been leaving off for a while tend to get done during a Craftlympics. Previously they were recorded on an oak stump in Ireland, but nowadays there's a website that different freeholds can sign up on to log their best times.

Sometimes Craftwork gets in the way of the boggan's other great love: socializing. Working alone is lonely, even if you're doing it at super speeds. And sometimes it's sad to complete pleasant tasks too quickly-involuntary Craftwork is generally an unpleasant experience for the boggan caught up in it. Boggan groups will go out of their way to recruit other kiths to help them trim Christmas trees or decorate gingerbread houses to make sure these lovely endeavors aren't over in the blink of an eye. Boggan-heavy freeholds have been known to enchant mortals for the express purpose of having someone around to break speed loops. This is typically a sweet deal for the mortal involved: freeholds with enough Boggans to need this are super convenient places to live.

Craftwork produces an excess of free time. People often underestimate just how much time is saved when all your chores take a third of the normal time. This can actually lead to boredom. Boggans sometimes make the more elaborate cleaning rituals or try more complex recipes just to take more time. Did you put color coded labels on everything in the garage, including the dog? Yes I did. Is that entire ballgown hand stitched? Yes it is. Did you carve 'contains nuts' on the shell of every pistachio in this jar? Don't judge me.

Boggans will judge you. That's busywork. But it's also part of why they're so generous with their time. They can afford it.

Well, they can afford to be most of the time. Boggans struggle mightily with the modern corporate convention to reward competence with more work. Boggans in corporate jobs are either seen as bad workers, because they do all their work in an hour in the morning and then don't look as busy, or they try to work up to their potential and become trapped in hamster wheels of increasing demands until their souls wither and die. The lesson here is that boggans rarely belong in offices.

social dynamics


Boggans are keen observers of social interactions, and their inherently unobtrusive nature allows them to witness things that might otherwise remain hidden. A successful Perception + Empathy (or Subterfuge) roll allows a boggan to puzzle out a group's social dynamics. The difficulty can range from 5 (for a small dinner party) to 9 (for a ducal freehold). This might result in lower difficulties on future Social rolls or additional pieces of information that the player would find useful.

A boggan's ability to puzzle out and understand the various aspects of any social situation is a powerful tool, often underestimated because it lacks the flashiness of many other birthrights, but even more useful for its subtlety.

Their ability to understand relationships, seemingly at a glance, is based on the kith's profound capacity for empathy. They will never botch an Empathy roll, and that's because of their innate skill in imagining themselves in other people's positions. They derive this skill from a variety of sources: because of their role as servants they have a lot of opportunity to spend time with and observe people and are motivated to understand them to better serve their masters.

The gossip they enjoy is a perpetual class on social dynamics with constant professional peer review. This skill is the foundation for this birthright, their desire to help people through charitable work, and it can be used in a variety of situations. Boggans can puzzle out the relationships in a new adventuring group and figure out how they fit in. They can discern the political factions and power levels in a cutthroat court. They can figure out who is bullying who in a schoolyard, and put a stop to it. It is, unsurprisingly, extremely useful politically.

It is also the true reason many nobles choose boggans as their stewards. Sure they can clean fast, but they can also smooth all the disruptive relationships in the household and give good odds on who's planning a seduction — or an assassination attempt. Canny nobles often take boggan advisors to meet new delegations to gain insight into the



groups they're dealing with, or on difficult diplomatic missions to ferret out weaknesses and chances for compromise.

The two traits that can be used for this sort of situation, Empathy and Subterfuge, represent divergent methods of analysis, and the information derived from each approach is distinct. When examining people with Empathy a boggan will discover information about their feelings and motivations: a better understanding of them as a person. Examining them via Subterfuge reveal their secrets and facades: a better understanding of how to manipulate them. Empathy reveals what is unsaid and Subterfuge reveals what is hidden. It is a small but absolutely crucial distinction.

Understanding the social landscape is useful in itself, but often this investigation is just a precursor to action. A foundation for manipulation, so that boggans can deploy their considerable social skills to alter that landscape. There are also two approaches to be taken here. They can move surreptitiously—influencing people with off-handed comments so that the others they influence think the changes are their own ideas. Or they can smack people in the face with brute force empathy and understanding, often backed up by a helpful network of cheerful and well-meaning gossipers.

This proactive use of Empathy and Social Dynamics allows boggans to mold social situations to serve them as well as they serve others. To them, seating charts are tools of state, decorations set the tone for negotiation, and food is the ultimate peacemaker. Breaking bread is a classic way of brokering deals and boggans can whip up meals that end wars. They can also start wars with a poor appetizer delivered to a foul tempered delegate at just the right time. Despite all this power, boggans have remained shockingly underestimated as political figures. Many surreptitious Machiavelli-types consider this part of their genius.

There are a number of kith-wide social engineering projects currently going on that take advantage of this birthright. Boggans examine problems they care about, such as devaluing emotional labor, abuse of workers, and income inequality. They are working on the largest grassroots manipulation of Social Dynamics in history. They are behind movements to raise the minimum wage, companies with employees as investors, the development of credit unions, and the concept of the pluralist commonwealth.

call of the needy

Boggans are inherently helpful, and cannot resist offering aid when it is needed. When they encounter someone who is legitimately in need of help, the player must make a Willpower roll (difficulty 8) to resist helping them in some way. This does not apply to a sworn enemy.

A boggan struggling with crippling debt will still empty his pockets for a panhandler. A boggan with a flu and hundred degree fever will get out of bed to pick up the package you really need. A boggan will be there for you when you need a babysitter, even when they really should be searching the Dungeons of Moondrake for the lost baron.

Call of the Needy is the other side of empathy. A drive to assist others regardless of personal cost, it can be emotionally painful to resist. More than anything it represents an issue of prioritization. Boggans are driven to solve the problem in front of them. They respond powerfully, due to their great empathy, to pain they can see. That drive can make them forget other, important but distant issues that deserve their attention more.

The most common victim of this urge is their own well-being. They will sacrifice mental and physical health to satisfy this frailty. They will neglect their own goals and desires in favor of what other people want, which is poison to long term relationships from romances to business partnerships. But in addition to devastating the boggan in question, this frailty can also be a friendship-breaker, and not just with the friend who's always in need. Quieter friends who don't advertise their need will fall to the wayside if a boggan is forced by compulsion to focus on someone particularly needy.

Particularly needy friends who do not check their requests can suck a boggan dry of happiness and vitality, leaving a husk of a person, sometimes even Undone. The saddest part of this situation is that the friend in question usually doesn't have malicious intent. Boggans can tell when people are trying to consciously take advantage of them. But they aren't so sensitive to the thoughtless requests of the chronically pathetic.

Boggans are usually happy to help others, but Call of the Needy is why boggans are so invested in gratitude and wary about debt. They know what it's like to be taken advantage of, and how easy it is to get trapped in it. They can feel their vulnerability to others' needs, prickling against their skull like a geas, forcing them to help even against their will.

Call of the Needy, though inconvenient and at times damaging, is an important part of boggans for what it truly represents. It is the extreme end of their inherent drive to give. A charitable impulse of such force that it must be reined in with discipline in order to preserve the health and sanity of the bearer. But in struggling against that enslaving force inside their head, the boggans become the best in themselves.

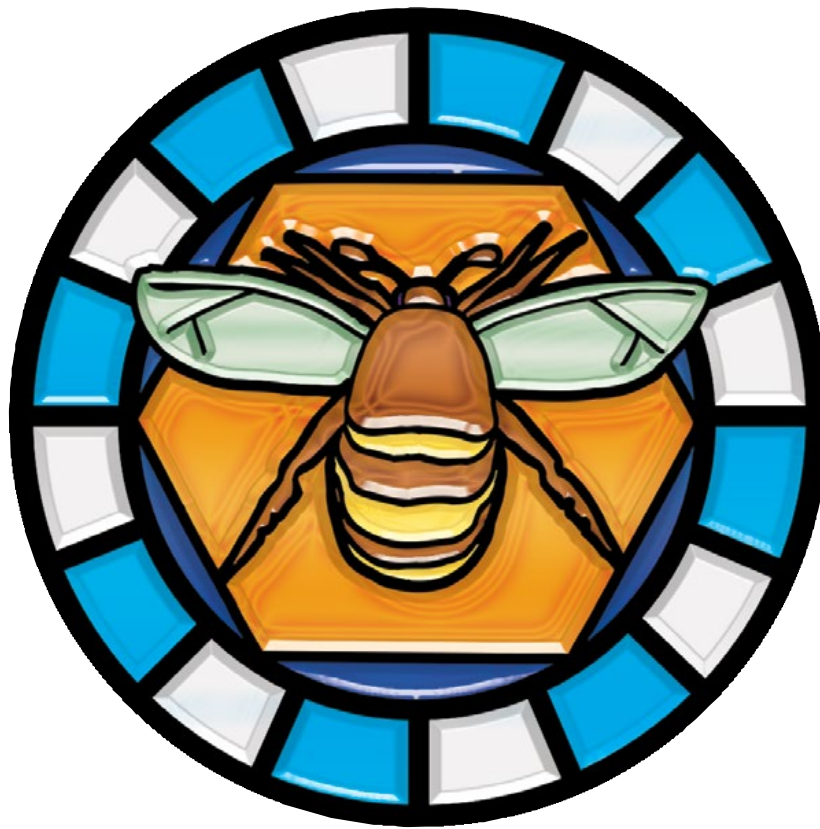
This constant slight irritation at the back of their minds is what keeps boggans from resting by the fire with a pipe and book. It's what keeps them going out into the dark to soup kitchens and dark forests. The calls to adventure

that lure these homebodies out onto the field of battle are made out of a pure desire to help someone. This frailty is the extreme end of the fundamental thing that makes boggans such good people.

A last thing to be aware of when considering the Call of the Needy is the meaning of the term “sworn enemy.” There are obvious cases: an enemy in a war is a sworn enemy or a villain who has tried to poison your Duke. But is a rival cook a sworn enemy? How about if she’s a really, really, *really* big jerk? The Dreaming is, as always, the last arbiter of what an enemy is, but a general rule of thumb is that the less trust there is between an individual and a boggan, the less likely Call of the Needy is to trigger. Trust is

the fundamental ingredient that makes friends, and it’s not hate or loathing, but lack of trust that most easily identifies enemies. At least as far as this frailty is concerned.

Even when dealing with a clearly untrustworthy and formally oathsworn enemy, hiccups do happen. Boggans have saved enemy combatants about to teeter off the edge of the wet cliff they’re dueling on. Boggans have slipped extra ingredients to sworn rivals so that they have a fighting chance to compete at Craftlympics contests. Boggans have smuggled food to imprisoned despots. Those hiccups, bursts of pure charity in a situation barren of such care, can be the seeds that grow into friendship and healing.





BRIAN
LEBANC



chapter three: beyond hearth and home

*"Oh, that clock! Old killjoy. I hear you! 'Come on, get up,' you say.
'Time to start another day.' Even he orders me around. Well there's one thing.
They can't order me to stop dreaming!"*

– Cinderella, Cinderella (1950)


For such a soft-spoken and unobtrusive group, boggans have strong opinions that aren't always readily apparent from their genial nature. Boggans have perfected the art of friendly civility, preferring to kill with kindness than show outright aggression. Of course, they have tempers just like anyone else, but prefer to take their anger out in a number of ways more frustrating than harmful. Anyone that's part of a boggan's gossip circle knows just how passive-aggressive this 'harmless' kith can be, and just how much the wrong word in the right ear can affect whomever has earned their ire.

While boggans are always willing to assume the best in anyone and offer third and even fourth chances, once someone has landed on their bad side, she learns just how much boggans influence the world around them. Never as conspicuous as the sidhe who tend to hold lofty titles, or as eager to enact change as the commoner firebrands who rally against them, boggans still quietly move politics along with their careful game of he-said-she-said, spreading gossip and doling out rumors with remarkably effective foresight and acuity.

the courts

Far and away, boggans lean toward the Seelie Court. They prefer to help others and offer support wherever it's needed, finding pleasure in humble tasks others overlook or disdain. They don't ask much, if anything, in return; they can sense the appreciation in every smile and contented sigh, and measure their success in how many people they can help. Seelie boggans are consummate hosts or houseguests, always leaving things cleaner than they found them, making sure no one could conceive of going hungry, and that the hearth is always lit to greet anyone returning home. They exude comfort and coziness, easily anticipating the needs of others and striving to meet them. Quite happy to simply make others happy, they rarely make requests, let alone demands, remaining content to improve everything around for their own enjoyment.

Unseelie boggans still thoroughly enjoy such tasks as housekeeping and crafting, yet take a more pragmatic view. Nothing comes free from those boggans in the Unseelie Court; they believe firmly that you get what you pay for. Unseelie boggans run some of the most luxurious boarding



houses and make the most beautiful furniture and instruments; they also understand that a smile won't pay for anything they need to live comfortably, and as such, take their natural inclinations and use them to turn a profit. Their gossip is often more scandalous and shared more widely; when an Unseelie boggan gossips, she seeks to stir the pot and make waves that will return more juicy tidbits to her.

Though she may show her face in freeholds run by nobles from time to time and pay lip service to the social structures around her, an Unseelie boggan is more at home in a freehold run by commoners, where she doesn't have to answer to any nobles and isn't expected to jump to service every time someone asks. On the surface, they are just as welcoming as anyone else, and genuinely do enjoy helping others. Their affiliation with the Unseelie Court means they tend to have a more jaded world view and don't appreciate being underestimated or walked all over on the assumption that all they want is to help others and never ask for anything in return.

Most Unseelie boggans have limited knowledge of the Shadow Court. Their largely Seelie nature makes members of the Shadow Court wary of even the most Unseelie boggans, and their preference for mediation and talk over action makes them sub-par foot soldiers for the Court's causes. If they ever have any exposure to members of the Court, Seelie boggans do their best to act as mediators, trying to find the root of the problems the Shadow Court cites and negotiate ways to improve them; Unseelie are more willing to take the position of go-between and use it to spy on court politics, and perhaps establish places for themselves when the dust clears.

the escheat

Being largely a Seelie kith, boggans are some of the staunchest proponents of the Escheat, adhering strictly to the Rights laid out in it. Unseelie boggans, by contrast, prefer to see these laws as malleable, and are often highly skilled in escaping consequences and justifying their actions as lawful. Of course, if talk fails, they can always resort to blackmail — gossips know the juiciest secrets, after all — and boggans love to listen in on conversations they shouldn't. The most ardent Unseelie boggans still see the basic sense in rules of the Escheat, however, even if they feel it shouldn't always apply to them in particular, and prefer to bend these rules rather than outright break them.

Or to put it another way, both Seelie and Unseelie boggans will typically abide by the Escheat, with Seelie boggans doing it because it's the right thing, while Unseelie boggans may apply more self-serving interpretations or seek some *quid pro quo* in exchange for 'favors' like rescuing others or helping keep Kithain society hidden from mortal eyes.

The Right to Demesne: Seelie boggans are happy to support the nobles who rule over a domain. They act as mediators in heated conflicts, serve as advisors or voices of the people, and make sure the most pertinent information reaches the ears it needs to reach. Quiet types, they don't necessarily aspire to become nobles themselves, preferring to serve in their own unobtrusive ways and remaining the soft-spoken figures at the edges of a room, providing comfort to weary souls, and using their own inconspicuous natures to learn everything they can in the meantime.

Unseelie boggans love to insinuate themselves into rival domains, acting as spies against the nobles to whom they swear fealty. They use their abilities to stir things up instead of fostering peace and comfort, riling up the populace and fanning the flames of volatile situations. While they also enjoy spreading information, instead of offering it to helpful hands, they bring it to those who will retaliate without thinking. They don't often seek to uproot or take down established rulers, but keeping them distracted with the clamoring of their people allows these boggans to pursue their own desires with less interference.


The Right to Dream: All boggans carefully protect and care for their Dreamers, quietly making themselves a part of their lives. Seelie boggans prefer to inspire their Dreamers to improve their lives on their own, and are willing to be the catalyst that sparks a move toward better things. Their drive and work ethic only grows stronger when Glamour is wanting, and they defend their Dreamers to the best of their abilities.

Unseelie boggans are also likely to have a small group of Dreamers they hold close, but if they find themselves strapped for Glamour rather than hunker down and foster these Dreamers, those in the Unseelie Court are more likely to lash out and find another Dreamer to Ravage in order to get a fix.

The Right of Ignorance: Seelie boggans are most likely to adhere to this Right most strictly. The risk inherent in humanity discovering the truth about changelings is too dire for her, and it's a rare mortal who will intrigue her enough to be shown the truth of her dual existence. Once she has opened that mortal's eyes, though, they will remain open unless someone else acts to close them.

Unseelie boggans are far more likely to indulge in short-term experiences. They are the boggans who believe any dull life can be improved by even momentary exposure to the truly magical, and though a mortal will forget about his experience once no longer enchanted, he will still be forever changed. Not all changelings agree, but Unseelie boggans insist it's merely their own brand of hospitality.

The Right of Rescue: There are no boggans who would even entertain arguments against this Right. Seelie and Unseelie alike feel the grinding march of Banality's approach, and their compulsion to care for others means they will never



turn away any soul in need of rescue, and will do everything in their power to help. (Whether or not such rescue comes with strings attached is really the only point of contention.) Seelie boggans are more likely to try and save any chimera they come across, but Unseelie boggans are only interested in lesser chimera if they can also benefit from saving it.

The Right of Safe Haven: Seelie boggans are always willing to provide refuge to the weary traveler, and fight fiercely to provide for all in the freeholds in which they reside. Unseelie boggans are likely to seek some kind of recompense for hosting wanderers in their safe havens, but are still among the most willing to welcome those in need.

The Right of Life: Boggans as a whole avoid outright violence and hostility, and rarely, if ever, defy this Right, even when acting in self-defense. Harming others goes against everything boggans stand for and enjoy. They spend enough time caring for others in mourning to ever consider forcing it upon others.

kiths

Agreeable and easygoing folk, boggans can find the good in nearly everyone. Most of their relationships with their cousins are friendly ones, though they place their trust more carefully than their goodwill. Willing to overlook the general reputation a kith carries (even if they're even more willing to continue spreading it to others), boggans will offer refuge to anyone who seeks it. Some of the unlikeliest friendships start with an unanticipated stay as a boggan's guest, and their endless generosity, open hearts, and quiet, yet unshakable loyalty, make them excellent companions.

clurichaun

Clurichauns are generally welcome among boggans, though the latter are significantly quieter on the whole. The rambunctious nature of clurichauns is entertaining in small doses, but some boggans, especially those of advanced mortal age, can tire quickly while in the company of such rowdy fellows. Leave it to a clurichaun to find the limits of a boggan's seemingly endless patience; leave it to the same one to also deliver a heartfelt and meaningful (if still slightly overwhelming) apology. With similar abilities to read people quickly and accurately, boggans and clurichauns function well together as long as they make concerted efforts to accommodate the others' personality quirks. Those who have managed it often stay tight friends and excellent housemates, while those who can't reconcile their wildly differing energy levels tolerate each other in their own ways. For the boggan, this often means simply fading into a corner and waiting until the clurichaun is gone, much in the way a cozy housecat would rather hide from an overenthusiastic puppy than entertain him.

eshu

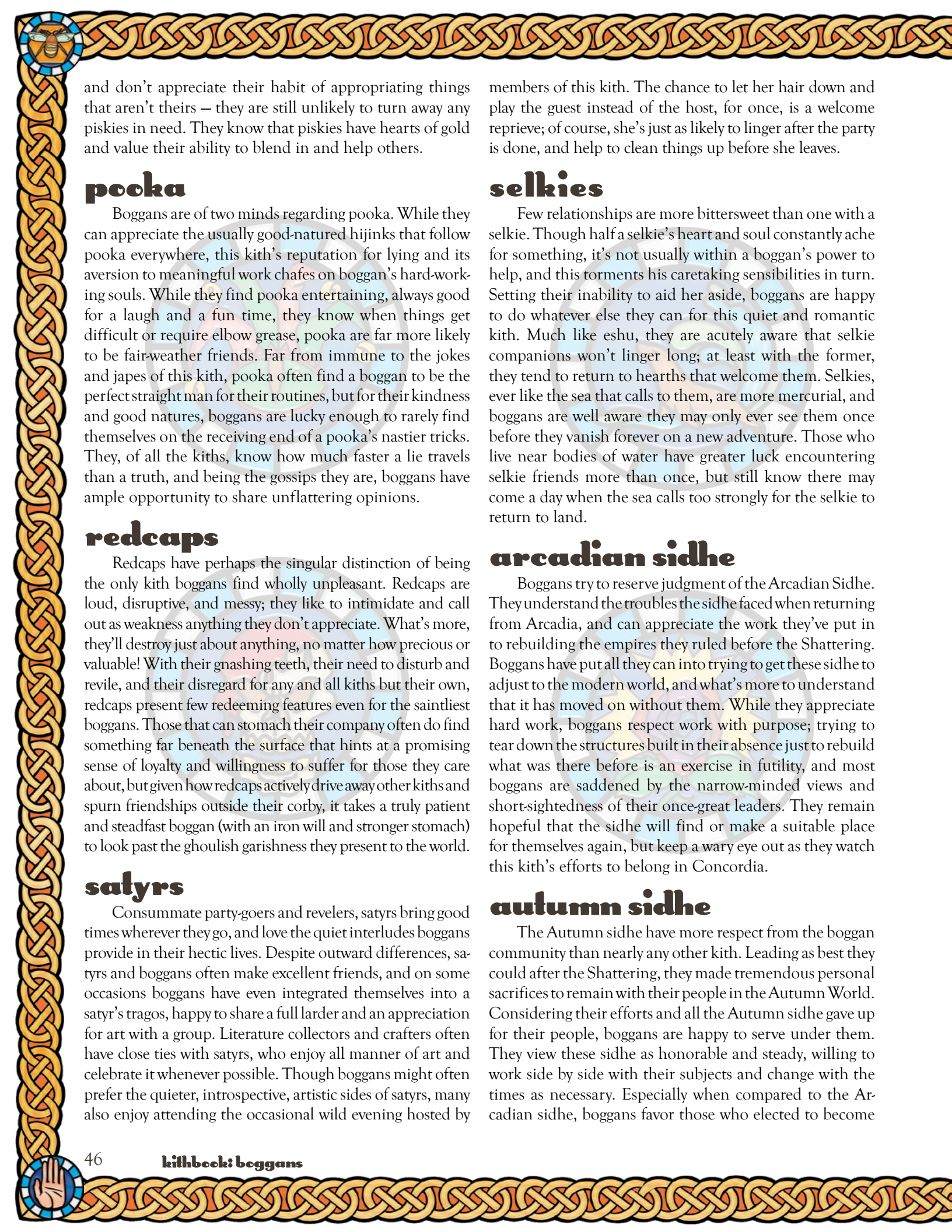
Boggans find eshu to be welcome entertainers and lively distractions from their daily routine. Knowing these enigmatic figures rarely stay put for long, boggans are more enthusiastic about hosting eshu than almost any other kith. Though an eshu's stay is almost always brief, boggans are willing to make her as comfortable as possible for however long she chooses to linger. For their part, eshu appreciate a captive audience and the deep well of hospitality and support that boggans offer. Boggans enjoy stories and gossip as much as the next person, and a friendship between members of these kiths often revolves around trading stories; the eshu sharing news from afar and the boggan offering local threads for the eshu to chase down in pursuit of her own tales. If an eshu disrespects or insults a boggan, he can expect that he will be featured in her gossip circles for weeks to come, and the memory of his slight will linger long after he's gone.

nockers

Boggans and nockers exist on opposite sides of a field: where boggans are acutely aware of the social dynamics around them, nockers often have difficulty puzzling out such arbitrary things as 'feelings'. While boggans can find the work and company of nockers to be fascinating, it's rare that the nocker feels the same, and rarely does he feel shy about sharing such an opinion. Thus, boggans often admire this kith and their inventions from afar, or help in ways the nocker is unaware of. Nockers with boggan companions find their workplaces are often kept immaculate, and can't always figure out why things get so messy when their friend isn't around. Boggans can be wounded by the brusque manner of nockers, and can get bored with conversations that revolve solely around whatever project has captured the nocker's attention, but even if the two kiths don't have much in common, they share a mutual respect as far as work ethic is concerned.

piskies

Piskies and boggans have a unique relationship. While boggans are more capable than most at identifying a piskie no matter the face she wears, they are also most likely to notice when a piskie pockets something that isn't hers. The enthusiasm piskies display over any of their momentary fascinations are a delight for boggans to witness, especially as they sometimes gravitate toward hobbies that boggans themselves enjoy. While they often feel the need to take careful stock of their more valuable belongings, boggans also thoroughly enjoy teaching eager piskies anything and everything about whatever task the piskie is looking to learn. While boggans regard piskies as immature and flighty –



and don't appreciate their habit of appropriating things that aren't theirs – they are still unlikely to turn away any piskies in need. They know that piskies have hearts of gold and value their ability to blend in and help others.

pooka

Boggans are of two minds regarding pooka. While they can appreciate the usually good-natured hijinks that follow pooka everywhere, this kith's reputation for lying and its aversion to meaningful work chafes on boggan's hard-working souls. While they find pooka entertaining, always good for a laugh and a fun time, they know when things get difficult or require elbow grease, pooka are far more likely to be fair-weather friends. Far from immune to the jokes and japes of this kith, pooka often find a boggan to be the perfect straight man for their routines, but for their kindness and good natures, boggans are lucky enough to rarely find themselves on the receiving end of a pooka's nastier tricks. They, of all the kiths, know how much faster a lie travels than a truth, and being the gossips they are, boggans have ample opportunity to share unflattering opinions.

redcaps

Redcaps have perhaps the singular distinction of being the only kith boggans find wholly unpleasant. Redcaps are loud, disruptive, and messy; they like to intimidate and call out as weakness anything they don't appreciate. What's more, they'll destroy just about anything, no matter how precious or valuable! With their gnashing teeth, their need to disturb and revile, and their disregard for any and all kiths but their own, redcaps present few redeeming features even for the saintliest boggans. Those that can stomach their company often do find something far beneath the surface that hints at a promising sense of loyalty and willingness to suffer for those they care about, but given how redcaps actively drive away other kiths and spurn friendships outside their corby, it takes a truly patient and steadfast boggan (with an iron will and stronger stomach) to look past the ghoulish garishness they present to the world.

satyrs

Consummate party-goers and revelers, satyrs bring good times wherever they go, and love the quiet interludes boggans provide in their hectic lives. Despite outward differences, satyrs and boggans often make excellent friends, and on some occasions boggans have even integrated themselves into a satyr's tragos, happy to share a full larder and an appreciation for art with a group. Literature collectors and crafters often have close ties with satyrs, who enjoy all manner of art and celebrate it whenever possible. Though boggans might often prefer the quieter, introspective, artistic sides of satyrs, many also enjoy attending the occasional wild evening hosted by

members of this kith. The chance to let her hair down and play the guest instead of the host, for once, is a welcome reprieve; of course, she's just as likely to linger after the party is done, and help to clean things up before she leaves.

selkies

Few relationships are more bittersweet than one with a selkie. Though half a selkie's heart and soul constantly ache for something, it's not usually within a boggan's power to help, and this torments his caretaking sensibilities in turn. Setting their inability to aid her aside, boggans are happy to do whatever else they can for this quiet and romantic kith. Much like eshu, they are acutely aware that selkie companions won't linger long; at least with the former, they tend to return to hearths that welcome them. Selkies, ever like the sea that calls to them, are more mercurial, and boggans are well aware they may only ever see them once before they vanish forever on a new adventure. Those who live near bodies of water have greater luck encountering selkie friends more than once, but still know there may come a day when the sea calls too strongly for the selkie to return to land.

arcadian sidhe

Boggans try to reserve judgment of the Arcadian Sidhe. They understand the troubles the sidhe faced when returning from Arcadia, and can appreciate the work they've put in to rebuilding the empires they ruled before the Shattering. Boggans have put all they can into trying to get these sidhe to adjust to the modern world, and what's more to understand that it has moved on without them. While they appreciate hard work, boggans respect work with purpose; trying to tear down the structures built in their absence just to rebuild what was there before is an exercise in futility, and most boggans are saddened by the narrow-minded views and short-sightedness of their once-great leaders. They remain hopeful that the sidhe will find or make a suitable place for themselves again, but keep a wary eye out as they watch this kith's efforts to belong in Concordia.

autumn sidhe

The Autumn sidhe have more respect from the boggan community than nearly any other kith. Leading as best they could after the Shattering, they made tremendous personal sacrifices to remain with their people in the Autumn World. Considering their efforts and all the Autumn sidhe gave up for their people, boggans are happy to serve under them. They view these sidhe as honorable and steady, willing to work side by side with their subjects and change with the times as necessary. Especially when compared to the Arcadian sidhe, boggans favor those who elected to become



changelings like the rest of the kiths and fight to preserve the communities they are a part of. No boggan will argue with the Autumn sidhe's assertion that they have earned their place as rulers, and especially more so than the Arcadian sidhe who fled and expected to come back to either ashes or open arms.

sluagh

Boggans appreciate peace and quiet and keeping busy, and appreciate the sluagh for their vast collections of knowledge and quiet temperaments. Boggans know people, sluagh know things, and working together the two can discover all sorts of very beneficial arrangements. When sluagh leave their quiet havens to spend time with other changelings, boggans are all too happy to stay by their sides; they can easily sense when the sluagh is uncomfortable or overwhelmed and can whisk them out of unpleasant situations without leaving any hurt feelings. Befriending a sluagh also usually means a gold mine of information for the boggan, as sluagh collect all manner of literature, from shopping lists to discarded love letters and everything in between. As long as the stream of information flows both ways, boggans and sluagh share long and lasting friendships, but sluagh

sometimes get prickly when they feel things aren't mutual. As an Unseelie kith, this is especially true for sluagh who serve as advisors for their Court, and are unwilling to give up more than they feel they receive; though it's less likely to lead to a tumultuous argument as a jab here or there to bring the unbalance to light and prompt its correction.

trolls

Boggans appreciate the duty-bound and honorable trolls and the quiet intelligence they bring to the courts, as well as their tireless efforts to protect their fellow Kithain from more direct threats. While some find trolls boring or easily manipulated by the oaths they must keep at all costs, boggans respect their devotion to the ones they swear to. It helps that trolls are often quite appreciative of the efforts boggans make to serve or aid others, and are happy to host or board with a boggan, protecting her in exchange for the range of comforts afforded to them by the kith's nature. Boggans in turn, are perfectly happy to have a troll nearby, though they rarely appreciate an Unseelie troll's tendency for grudges and rages. They won't turn them away, but often have rules that forbid them to bring their aggressive tendencies into the peace of the boggan's home.



houses

The natural habit of boggans to favor the Seelie Court means they gravitate largely toward the Seelie Houses. However, just as Unseelie boggans exist, so do those who prefer the beliefs of any given House, even if it appears to go against their Court. If a boggan believes she can do good with the help of a House, she will find a way to feel welcome among its members, knowing they will come to accept her in time. While most boggans don't aspire to be the ones running the show, they are popular and sought after as advisors, household staff, and even spies, as their ability to blend into any situation and learn all manner of secrets implies.

house aesin

The stalwart protectors of the Dreaming don't always see many boggans in their number. While even Seelie boggans can see the purpose behind what this House stands for, their methods aren't always something boggans condone. The House Flaw is one that only rare boggans suffer from. From the outside looking in, most consider it unfortunate that the sidhe who make up the majority of this House feel so diminished by their mortal bodies. While they are certainly an affectation taken on out of necessity, most boggans don't feel particularly disconnected from their hosts, and certainly don't believe needing to protect themselves from Banality diminishes them in any way. As such, their advice to the nobles often glosses over this discomfort, or dismisses it entirely.

Unseelie boggans are more likely to join ranks with Aesin, especially any that are treated unfairly by nobles of other Houses or written off as useless beyond menial tasks. As only jaded or ambitious boggans are likely to turn to the Unseelie Court in the first place, the Unseelie House of Aesin is a welcome place for those looking to serve a noble purpose, perhaps to spite those who underestimated them in the first place.

Boon: The company of animals suits boggans well, and the ability to speak to less common creatures mean they regularly extend their notion of care and hospitality to nearby wildlife, as well as travelers. Boggans of House Aesin prefer to dwell near nature preserves to protect their borders and the animals within.

Flaw: The Aesin view of humans is precisely why many boggans don't feel entirely at home in the House. Those that do fall in line the House Aesin don't appreciate being relegated to the same roles as mortals solely because they enjoy and excel at tasks typically given to servants.

Exile: Boggans are happy to take their place as advisors and mediators to serve their purpose and restore fae society. Any boggan in House Aesin has the ear of the Virtue Council.

house ailil

As with many of the Unseelie Houses, the number of boggans in House Ailil is directly proportionate to the number of Unseelie boggans. While they don't make up much of the population, the rare boggan that ties herself to House Ailil is frighteningly effective in her post. She can rise quickly through the ranks, but avoids being the person at the very top of the pile; why wear a target when there's always someone else who wants to draw fire?

Seelie boggans abhor the way House Ailil twists their natural hospitality and intuition into something to be used purely for selfish gain. Though they respect the House's adherence to their oaths, their narrow-mindedness drives all but the most Unseelie away. Those who do join House Ailil are usually sent out as spies, taking advantage of the exceedingly rare intersection of this kith and House, and the boggan's natural ability to go unnoticed while noticing everything. Boggan agents who pledge to this House often prove subtle but astoundingly capable members, as their drive for perfection helps them craft airtight oaths and perfect political traps.

Boon: Boggans outside of this House can never quite pin any scandal on its members, no matter how they try. Those within it revel in their gossip never coming back to haunt them, watching as the egg intended for them lands on other faces.

Flaw: While their uncanny insight into other's emotions makes it easy for them to deliver a properly crushing final word, those who do fall to the Ailil flaw have a difficult time coming back from the 'loss'. Boggans outside of the House also have a grand time playing on this Flaw, knowing just the way to needle members of House Ailil into losing their composure and leaving them sputtering for a snappy comeback.

Exile: Boggans cast a wary eye at all of House Ailil; they don't deny they were exiled for rising against the rulers in Arcadia, and still to this day seek to place themselves at the top of the political pyramid. They serve only themselves – what will become of everyone else should they succeed?

house balor

Even Unseelie boggans avoid House Balor. The harsh and brutal members of the House sniff out and destroy anything they consider to be weakness, and few, if any, value the creature comforts and small kindnesses boggans are most comfortable providing. Boggans don't trust Fomororian influence of any kind, even turning their backs on their

Thallain cousins, and those changelings who welcome such association can't be up to any good.

For all their dislike of the Blooded, any boggans living in a community where they are common finds a nearly endless source of information to spread as they desire. Boggans may not consider House Balor trustworthy, but they know the House consists of more than bullies and sycophants, and just because they don't often show their faces in courtly gatherings doesn't mean they aren't moving pieces behind the scenes. It's the quiet nature of such a loud group that catches boggans' attentions, as they seek the motives behind such strange and obviously confused individuals. Their close ties to Shadow Court do nothing to assuage the deeply rooted suspicions boggans carry.

Boon: It's deeply unsettling to nearly everyone that the Blooded can shake off even the effects of cold iron, betraying their twisted roots. Their willingness to cross any and every line is something that makes a boggan's skin crawl.

Flaw: The outward manifestation of House Balor's past ties is even more discomfiting than their abilities. Boggans instinctively avoid anyone with the hallmarks of attachment to this House, relying on their ability to go unnoticed when forced to share spaces with them.

Exile: The wrong side of history is an unwelcoming place. House Balor's desire to strangle Arcadia and command all the Glamour of the Autumn World deeply unsettles most boggans, who faithfully served the sidhe. While they don't live in fear of the day that House Balor reigns, boggans certainly keep a wary eye on their machinations and dutifully report everything they learn to those they serve.

house beaumayn

Boggans in House Beaumayn aren't exactly rare, but as the Dark Stars hunt down Thallain, it isn't always their first choice. Those who do join House Beaumayn tend to take the role of lore keepers, stockpiling information in elaborate libraries. They meticulously maintain any artifacts collected by other members of the House and record the details of the Thallain discovered and taken down by the Dark Stars. Though it's not unheard of for childling or wilder boggans to hunt down Thallain or other dark creatures, their calmer natures mean they're better suited for studying the intricacies of the Shadow Court or guiding their fellow housemates by helping them interpret their visions when they aren't clear.

Boon: Boggans in House Beaumayn tend not to be as active in the field as other kiths, but their insight into social matters means their ability to parse out the prophecies is uncanny. A boggan can attempt not only to understand the visions she receives herself, but may attempt to discern

the meaning behind visions other members of the House share with her.

Flaw: Beaumayn boggans prefer to remain safely within their homesteads for a number of reasons, but chief among them is the insulation it gives them against the Shadow Court and Thallain that seek to harry and harass them at every turn. Even those with an interest in more active roles soon learn the comfort and safety of a well-protected home.

Exile: The tale of House Beaumayn's imprisonment isn't lost on its members. In addition to keeping close eyes out for Thallain and Shadow Court, the House carefully polices itself for signs of whatever strange corruption seized Duke Geremin. Boggans are among the most vigilant at this task, able to pick up on changes in personality far more quickly than others, and alert others of any house member in danger of losing her way.

house daireann


While they once would have been happy to join the house of hospitality, the dark turn in House Daireann's nature after the Shattering makes kind-hearted boggans wince. Such a lovely and lively group they had once been, now twisted almost beyond recognition by their leader's grief. To have a general law of a house is one thing, but the Hosts have such a strict, codified regime — and how can anyone truly be comfortable if they fear their host?

Still, more "traditional" Unseelie boggans still flock to this House, where their talents are in demand and services are fairly compensated. They frequently prefer to be 'paid' in rumors and information, gleefully passing the gossip and secrets along once the guest has ended their stay. Of course, any unfortunates who truly insult her learn exactly what it means to cross their most gracious caretakers. She's rarely involved directly in the inevitable payback, but she knows precisely who to tell to ensure her inconsiderate guest learns her lesson.

Boon: At least it's easier for them to take care of others; pity it's also easy enough for them to 'correct' bad behavior. The Unseelie boggans are absolutely the most attentive and generous hosts in the House, and for all the luxuries they offer, they naturally charge the highest prices.

Flaw: While boggans usually feel no compulsion to help those who are most abhorrent to them, those of this House learn to grit their teeth and smile while the ones they hate impose upon them. At the very least, the Unseelie reason, they will get something out of it in the end.

Exile: Who would go so far as to sully their names further by adding lies? Truly, for all their warm appearances, this house runs deep as a viper pit, and certainly exceeds it in venom. The truth will out, or so the saying goes, and



everyone is eager to see what kind of secret may have sealed Daireann's fate outside of Arcadia.

house danaan

Despite its nominal alignment with the Unseelie Court, the newly-arrived House Danaan has attracted boggan childlings and wilders with surprising frequency. Though not everyone vetted by the Pathfinders joins the House, a not-inconsiderable number of more open-minded boggans do eventually take to the pathways leading away from the Autumn World. They seek homes in new places, or to find new tales to bring back to their less-adventurous friends. While the overwhelming curiosity of childling and wilder boggans drives them to explore, the grumps of this house prefer to maintain the strongholds and keep precise records of the places discovered by their fellow wanderers.

Despite most of House Danaan seeking ever to find new places ever further from everything they know, boggans stand out as those who venture out with the goal of finding something new to tell the stories of to those who stay behind.

Boon: What better knack to have than always knowing the way home! And what better way to learn all sorts of new and wonderful things than talking to those who know best. The boggan's natural ability to parse social norms also means she finds this boon particularly effective.

Flaw: The reason boggans return to home so often relates particularly to the House Danaan flaw. They don't enjoy grasping at straws for simple information, finding it uniquely annoying as it undermines their hospitality. What kind of host can't remember the names of her most favorite guests – or if she put the kettle on or not for their arrival? It's frustrating to no end, and so Danaan boggans keep journals to help them remember, and to allow them to refresh their memories when they leave to explore. Despite all their precautions, however, something always seems to slip through the cracks.

house dougal

As a rule, boggans find members of House Dougal to be pleasant, upstanding folk. They heartily appreciate the Smith's beliefs about hard work and their honest, open ways. Supporting and encouraging Dreamers is paramount to boggans as well, who similarly adore the recent DIY movement and humanity's renewed appreciation in things made with their own two hands. Some are driven away by the way members of House Dougal constantly seek to 'perfect' themselves with artificial replacements, while others appreciate the artistry that goes into each and every piece, considering every high-ranking member of the House a living work of art.

Those boggans who busy themselves with crafting are drawn to this house above all others, where they can learn their trade and share their expertise with other talented hands. They, of course, always have impeccable workshops – and those who work closely with them might also find theirs well-kept as well.

Boon: Losing himself in his work comes easily to a boggan, and they are well-suited to taking all advantage of House Dougal's boon. Boggan wilders know most intimately the quiet frenzy that is absolute focus on a project, and exactly how calming or exciting such an experience can be, while grumps are masters of knowing exactly when to put in the extra effort to really make this boon pay off.

Flaw: Why not show your work off everywhere you go? Even those commoner boggans without titles of their own appreciate the artistry that goes into the intricate replacements the nobles wear, but they remain keenly aware of how alienating replacing too much of yourself can be. It creates a rare conundrum for boggans, as even they find it difficult to relate to those who have replaced too much of themselves. Nonetheless, they do everything they can to accommodate their more alien friends.

Exile: To be cast out simply because of an interest in technology? The shoe seem to be on the other foot now, as those re-entering the Autumn World from Arcadia need to learn to fit in amongst greater technological feats than they could have ever imagined. House Dougal will be there to show them the way, just as they always have been.

house eiluned

Despite their sometimes inscrutable Court allegiance, House Eiluned is home to a number of scholarly boggans. They explore all manner of secrets, and encourage other Sorcerers to do the same; the naturally curious boggans spend their lives uncovering secrets, whether they really mean to or not, and fit in well among the magically gifted Eiluned. The collections of grumps often hold useful secrets known to but the few who choose to spend the time investigating their libraries.

All boggans have a knack for learning things about other people, and are happy to use that information to improve unfair situations; however, boggans of House Eiluned learn over time to play their cards closer to the chest and be a little more discerning with whom they share the secrets they learn. Unseelie boggans of House Eiluned are absolute masters at using information as currency, and the House's accepted Seelie alignment makes it easy for them to hide in plain sight.

Boon: Boggans discover the boon of House Eiluned as an extension of their natural capabilities, or otherwise simply being exposed to so much magic and so many se-

crets of the Dreaming. Their habit of collecting a library of magical tomes makes it plain why they might have an easier time identifying magical effects otherwise.

Flaw: Naturally curious, boggans fall almost more quickly than other members of the House to their Flaw. They love to learn every little thing about the people they interact with, and always have an excuse as to why they're getting involved.

Exile: Secrets are secrets are secrets, and by now, nobody really knows the truth. Talk about all the rumors you want, but there's really no way to say what might have happened or didn't.

house fiona

The passionate House Fiona has its fair share of epicurean boggan members, who thoroughly enjoy indulging in their passions and sharing them with others. Boggans of House Fiona have the best food and drink, the coziest of homes where everything is lush and decadent, and, of course, the most torrid and complicated love-lives. They don't so much live in the lap of luxury as become it themselves, throwing themselves into everything they enjoy with relish and abandon. The homes of Fiona boggans are rarely, if ever, empty, always hosting parties and at least two or three long-term guests.

With their penchant for ill-fated romance, boggans in particular take after Fiona herself and welcome mortals and prodigals into their homes, enchanting them more often than not to offer them the best of everything. Like the rest of their House, they do nothing halfway. If her heart isn't it, expect nothing to be done, but capture her interest for even a moment, and Lion will follow anyone to the ends of the earth and beyond.

Boon: What's to be afraid of when everything is so lovely... or when you're too drunk to notice any danger? Boggans of this House tend to become more outgoing over time, emboldened by their House ties and able to laugh in the face of nearly all danger. Those used to more cautious, moderate boggans are quite astonished to meet these rowdy rebels, a fact such members gladly use to their advantage.

Flaw: Especially in wilders, who are already perfectionists at heart, boggans fall easily to the House flaw and its habit of leading to obsession. While their preferences don't always lean to more dangerous habits, the bravado and devotion of the Lions means that they very nearly can't turn down a challenge of any kind. To win flawlessly despite all circumstances is a tough demand for such a modest kith.

Exile: Standing in solidarity is of course how House Fiona stands where it is now. What other reason could there be? They support those they love absolutely, in sickness and in health, to death do we part. Anything less simply won't do.

house gwydion

A House of those who consider themselves duty-bound to lead, Gwydion is a solid choice for those who want to help the people by steering the hand of those in charge. Boggans in House Gwydion make excellent seneschals and advisors, especially in those fiefdoms where the nobles are more receptive to giving a voice to their people and allowing their participation in courtly affairs. Those boggans who greeted the sidhe after the Resurgence and offered to help them acclimate to the reality of the changes that occurred in their absence are among the most trusted by both nobles and commoners.

Acting as go-betweens when necessary, they are among the most capable at enacting change from the ground up, and they always seem to know the most effective means to implement new policies or petition for change.

Boon: The boon of House Gwydion becomes exceptionally useful for boggans, who can already parse social scenes with astounding accuracy. Advisors and commoners alike use their boon in a number of shred ways, sometimes letting lies go 'undetected' and waiting for the proper turn to make a power play. They are, after all, still a house of politics.

Flaw: What's the use in getting mad? Everyone knows it's so much better to get even. Even boggans have tempers, and while managing to cross one is no easy task, rest assured they will exact their revenge with just as much prejudice as anyone else in the House. Knowing the best way to provide someone comfort also means they are acutely aware of how to spread discomfort, though boggans often do their best to hide the darker side of their kind and caring nature.

Exile: House Gwydion has its pride and doesn't appreciate when it's challenged; that said, they also have their obligations, and will always see them through. Under the old ways or the new, they do our best to serve and protect their people. If that means the time for change is at hand, they will do their best.

house leanhaun

As ardent supporters of many creative communities, there are perhaps a surprising number of boggans in House Leanhaun, despite its Unseelie allegiance. Those who understand the inner workings and goals of the House often attempt to subvert their more insidious schemes, giving voice to those messages the rest of the House might want prefer to remain silent. Unseelie boggans are entirely at home among the Muses, carefully picking and choosing who to inspire and who to quietly bury, though they are often also happy to tip those scales the other way in exchange for suitable compensation.



While Seelie boggans are the respectable ‘face’ of the House to the rest of fae society, their Unseelie brethren are among the major movers and shakers of the House, carefully guiding and gauging the perception and reactions of society, pinpointing the apex of their Dreamers’ careers and quietly detaching before becoming collateral in the inevitable crash. Although they are more likely to help soften the blow of a fall from grace, they always make sure they can extricate themselves from the situation, or at least arrange things in a way that ensures a more dignified end to their careers in the spotlight.

Boon: All part of being a good friend! Of course they know what you want, how you want it, and when; they know the right words to lift you up when you need it and bring you back down if you fly too high. They know the words that will crush your spirit, too, but it’s alright. You won’t hear those. Not directly.

Flaw: A boggan without her Dreamers and guests is nothing, and so they feel the flaw of House Leanhaun keenly while also remaining somewhat insulated from it. Isolation from their Dreamers and lack of Glamour is tortuous, especially as they have a habit of housing those they’ve inspired, making the inevitable loss that much harder.

Exile: Though they tend not to admit it aloud, House Leanhaun firmly believes they weren’t exiled – they merely saw what was coming and avoided it. If they means they should lead now, having had a head start, so be it.

house liam

Despite its checkered history and relatively small holdings, a small but dedicated group of boggans steadfastly pledge themselves to House Liam. Much like their founder, they believe Glamour can come from any source. Any source of reprieve and comfort does wonders for the soul, and even if such sources don’t do much to produce Glamour directly, a weary soul won’t be able to do so on its own. Boggans in House Liam appreciate the world mortals have built, and seek to foster their unique perspectives and beliefs. They rarely take a strong hand in inspiring mortals, preferring to watch what they come up with on their own, satisfying themselves with providing comfort to those weary souls who need it and protecting mortals from the more predatory aspects of fae society.

Even more so than usual, boggans of House Liam have the most humbly comforting homes, which they offer to anyone in need. Their mortal companions are some of their closest friends, and they seek to do everything they can to improve the lives of those creative individuals they find.

Boon: House Liam exists to stave off the bleak forces of the Autumn World, to ensure everyone is comfortable

and cared for and enjoying themselves. They take seriously their ability to reduce the strain on others, and help them keep themselves just a little while longer.

Flaw: Nothing is without a price, and House Liam pays up front. It's a small price, all told, but a meaningful one.

Exile: Forever fascinated with mortals, this House has long been comfortable in the mortal world. They are always willing to help those less at home, much to the chagrin of those who drove them out.

house scathach

Very few boggans choose to throw in with the Grey Walkers. The lives of those in House Scathach are solitary, militaristic, and nomadic, which put them at odds with most everything boggans enjoy. While they have no particular interest in joining up with the House, boggans still appreciate the duties they have chosen for themselves, and members of the nominally Seelie house always have a bed waiting in any boggan's home, where they may find a hot meal and a good night's sleep before continuing on their everlasting journey. Their quiet natures make them oddities among changeling culture, and as such, boggans love to poke and prod them for stories of any kind.

Little is known about their House, as they prefer not to hold lands or participate in politics, so anyone in House Scathach who finds herself in the company of a boggan is likely to face their full force of their curiosity, in addition to their hospitality.

Boon: Stealth is a boon, indeed, but hardly useful if all it's good for is fighting.

Flaw: While boggans don't agree that 'they were there, so they did it' is the best way to determine guilt, they know the rumors. They may not be the best company, but that's no reason to turn them away outright.

Exile: It's hardly surprising that the House reviled by most of Kithain society has little interest in Arcadia in the first place.

house varich

If there was ever a house full of busybodies, no doubt all Kithain society would expect boggans to be at its center; yet no one is particularly surprised most boggans studiously avoid House Varich. Even boggans who favor the Unseelie Court aren't usually so jaded as to join their number; they are, almost by definition, warm and inviting individuals, where the Weavers are cold and distant, trusting hardly anyone but themselves. Where boggans analyze and interpret to understand and accommodate, Weavers do so to subjugate and 'win' any given interaction, making even small talk a battle and the most trusting souls wary of dealing with them. Boggans, who generally aid any and all without

ulterior motives, have a way of stymieing Weavers; where is the satisfaction in a game when your opponent *wants* you to win? More often than not, their bitter hearts aren't sure what to do with a boggan's open-heartedness and warmth, and as such, they tend to avoid the kith as a whole.

On the rare occasion that an Unseelie boggan feels House Varich is the lot for him, he is often the most detached and calculating member of the group, able to predict other's motives and methods with alarming accuracy and manipulate even the most shrewd and savvy politicians. Boggans driven to join the Weavers have suffered some kind of tremendous loss or breach of trust, enough so to fundamentally alter their view of the world and their role in it.

Boon: While knowing everything in advance is perhaps useful, boggans find it rather boring. Having all the answers defeats the purpose of curiosity.

Flaw: Boggans mourn the loss of love perhaps more than its own members do. From where else does compassion flow?

Exile: If House Varich is to be believed, they orchestrated everything to work in their favor. Of course, the House would likely say that about absolutely everything.

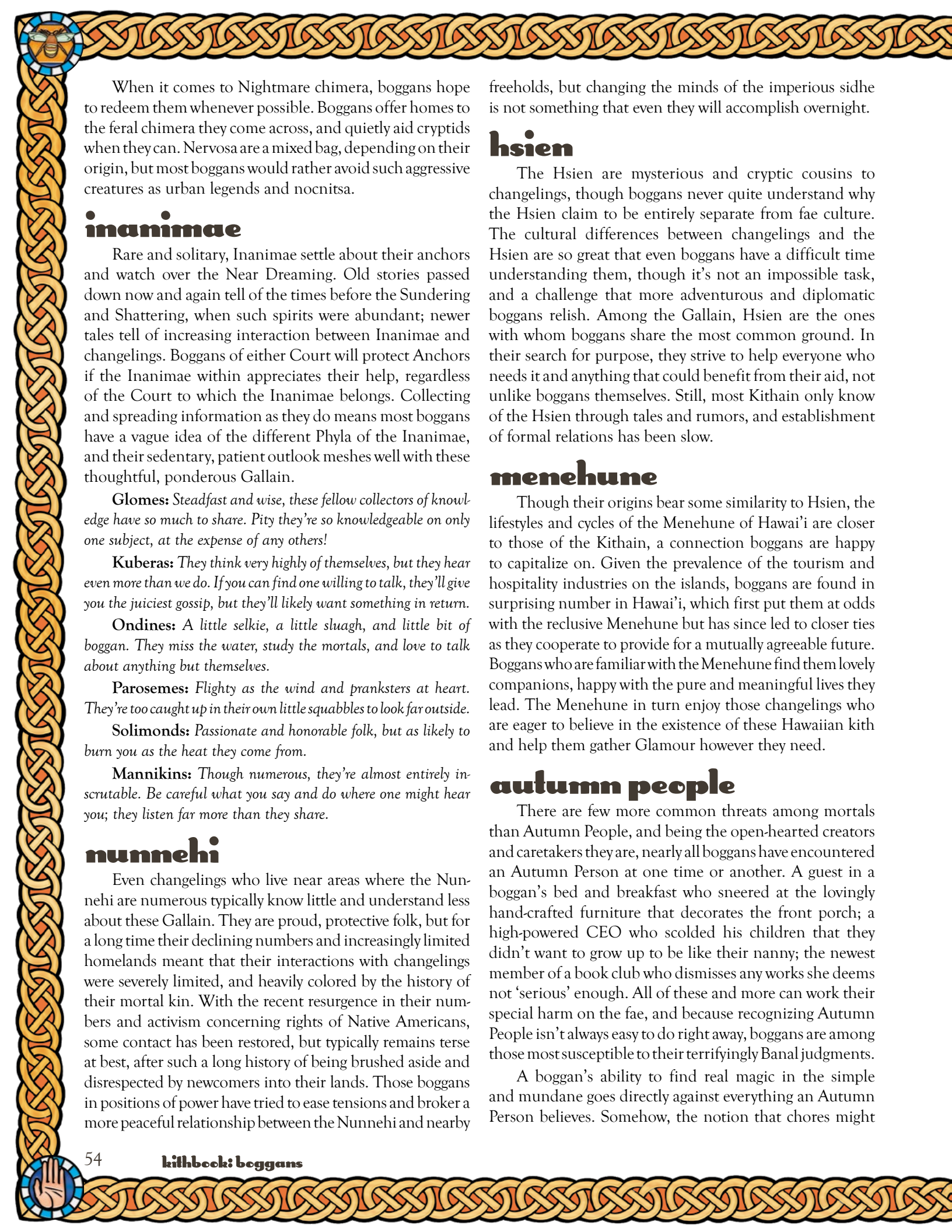
gallain

As the world shrank and contact with the once-mysterious Gallain became more regular, boggans flourished in their roles as peacekeepers and advisors. Nobles dealing with unfamiliar cultures like to bring a boggan along, to help parse out customs and convey intentions properly between two potentially clashing cultures. Their uncanny insight allows them to pick up on many things others would miss or misunderstand, making them valuable diplomatic envoys.

Of course, not all things that are alien to the Kithain are friendly. Encountering creatures they have no ability to help is always hard on a boggan, but such cases do arise, especially outside the kiths they are familiar with. Regardless, any creature that shows something other than outright hostility is one that could benefit from a boggan's presence, and until they are driven away they will do their best to comfort and comprehend whatever oddities they come across.

chimera

Like most changelings, boggans are happy to harbor and help friendly chimera. Many keep some form of chimerical pet or another, and usually spoil and cater to their companion's whims. Boggans have no preference between sentient and non-sentient, animate and inanimate. Any and all are welcome in a boggan's homes and collections; these can range from appearing as the most mundane to the most fantastic, comprised of whatever has come into her possession over time.



When it comes to Nightmare chimera, boggans hope to redeem them whenever possible. Boggans offer homes to the feral chimera they come across, and quietly aid cryptids when they can. Nervosa are a mixed bag, depending on their origin, but most boggans would rather avoid such aggressive creatures as urban legends and nocnitsa.

inanimae

Rare and solitary, Inanimae settle about their anchors and watch over the Near Dreaming. Old stories passed down now and again tell of the times before the Sundering and Shattering, when such spirits were abundant; newer tales tell of increasing interaction between Inanimae and changelings. Boggans of either Court will protect Anchors if the Inanimae within appreciates their help, regardless of the Court to which the Inanimae belongs. Collecting and spreading information as they do means most boggans have a vague idea of the different Phyla of the Inanimae, and their sedentary, patient outlook meshes well with these thoughtful, ponderous Gallain.

Glomes: *Steadfast and wise, these fellow collectors of knowledge have so much to share. Pity they're so knowledgeable on only one subject, at the expense of any others!*

Kuberas: *They think very highly of themselves, but they hear even more than we do. If you can find one willing to talk, they'll give you the juiciest gossip, but they'll likely want something in return.*

Ondines: *A little selkie, a little sluagh, and little bit of boggan. They miss the water, study the mortals, and love to talk about anything but themselves.*

Parosemes: *Flighty as the wind and pranksters at heart. They're too caught up in their own little squabbles to look far outside.*

Solimonds: *Passionate and honorable folk, but as likely to burn you as the heat they come from.*

Mannikins: *Though numerous, they're almost entirely inscrutable. Be careful what you say and do where one might hear you; they listen far more than they share.*

nunnehi

Even changelings who live near areas where the Nunnehi are numerous typically know little and understand less about these Gallain. They are proud, protective folk, but for a long time their declining numbers and increasingly limited homelands meant that their interactions with changelings were severely limited, and heavily colored by the history of their mortal kin. With the recent resurgence in their numbers and activism concerning rights of Native Americans, some contact has been restored, but typically remains terse at best, after such a long history of being brushed aside and disrespected by newcomers into their lands. Those boggans in positions of power have tried to ease tensions and broker a more peaceful relationship between the Nunnehi and nearby

freeholds, but changing the minds of the imperious sidhe is not something that even they will accomplish overnight.

hsien

The Hsien are mysterious and cryptic cousins to changelings, though boggans never quite understand why the Hsien claim to be entirely separate from fae culture. The cultural differences between changelings and the Hsien are so great that even boggans have a difficult time understanding them, though it's not an impossible task, and a challenge that more adventurous and diplomatic boggans relish. Among the Gallain, Hsien are the ones with whom boggans share the most common ground. In their search for purpose, they strive to help everyone who needs it and anything that could benefit from their aid, not unlike boggans themselves. Still, most Kithain only know of the Hsien through tales and rumors, and establishment of formal relations has been slow.

menehune

Though their origins bear some similarity to Hsien, the lifestyles and cycles of the Menehune of Hawai'i are closer to those of the Kithain, a connection boggans are happy to capitalize on. Given the prevalence of the tourism and hospitality industries on the islands, boggans are found in surprising number in Hawai'i, which first put them at odds with the reclusive Menehune but has since led to closer ties as they cooperate to provide for a mutually agreeable future. Boggans who are familiar with the Menehune find them lovely companions, happy with the pure and meaningful lives they lead. The Menehune in turn enjoy those changelings who are eager to believe in the existence of these Hawaiian kith and help them gather Glamour however they need.

autumn people

There are few more common threats among mortals than Autumn People, and being the open-hearted creators and caretakers they are, nearly all boggans have encountered an Autumn Person at one time or another. A guest in a boggan's bed and breakfast who sneered at the lovingly hand-crafted furniture that decorates the front porch; a high-powered CEO who scolded his children that they didn't want to grow up to be like their nanny; the newest member of a book club who dismisses any works she deems not 'serious' enough. All of these and more can work their special harm on the fae, and because recognizing Autumn People isn't always easy to do right away, boggans are among those most susceptible to their terrifyingly Banal judgments.

A boggan's ability to find real magic in the simple and mundane goes directly against everything an Autumn Person believes. Somehow, the notion that chores might

on boggarts

Boggans loathe their Thallain cousins, and can identify boggarts at a glance. If boggans are the warmth of a cozy fire, boggarts are the shock of being dropped in Arctic waters. As the two kiths are hard for others to tell apart, boggarts can do a lot of damage to the reputation of boggans, which causes their Kithain cousins no end of frustration and grief. This loathing also stems from the boggarts' mastery of manipulation, which has dragged many a boggan into a boggart's schemes, fearing the consequences if they don't go along with what is demanded of them.

In contrast to the modest dignity of boggans, nothing is too far or too shameless for a boggart, and they frequently threaten loved ones and Dreamers to get their way. Their slipshod methods and nasty ways grate on everything a boggan is, and bring out unprecedented levels of hatred and vitriol in such ordinarily pleasant folks.

be enjoyable or beneficial to anyone is more an affront to the Autumn Person's senses than flagrant belief in such fantastical things as dragons and faeries. Though many try, most boggans come to understand quickly that there is no saving the Autumn People; they are too far gone to learn anything of magic anymore. Boggans will, however, do everything they can to foster the creativity of anyone cursed with the presence of an Autumn Person in her life.

thallain

Though they were once long-forgotten, changelings are becoming ever more aware of the Nightmare kiths that trickled in over time, before the floodgates opened after the Evanescence. Even the warm and welcoming boggans feel nothing but disdain and disgust for these warped reflections of the Dreaming, and seek to avoid them at all costs. Nothing is so abhorrent as the Thallain's desire to destroy everything built by the Tuatha and bring the world back into the chaos of the Fomorian Dream. The comfort of home and the peace of mind that comes from having a safe haven is paramount to boggans, and they can't imagine a world in which they've been destroyed by these Nightmare creatures.

adhene

Not many boggans have experience with Dark-Kin, or Denizens, the creatures that elected to flee further into the Dreaming as the Sundering ripped it from the Autumn World. Nothing about the Denizens are familiar, from their lack of adherence to the Courts to their ever-shifting and mercurial personalities. Boggans have the easiest time identifying that, as any given Denizen have multiple states that affect not only their personalities, but even their appearances. While some appear to be benign and even friendly, others are destructive and aggressive, and so it is best to

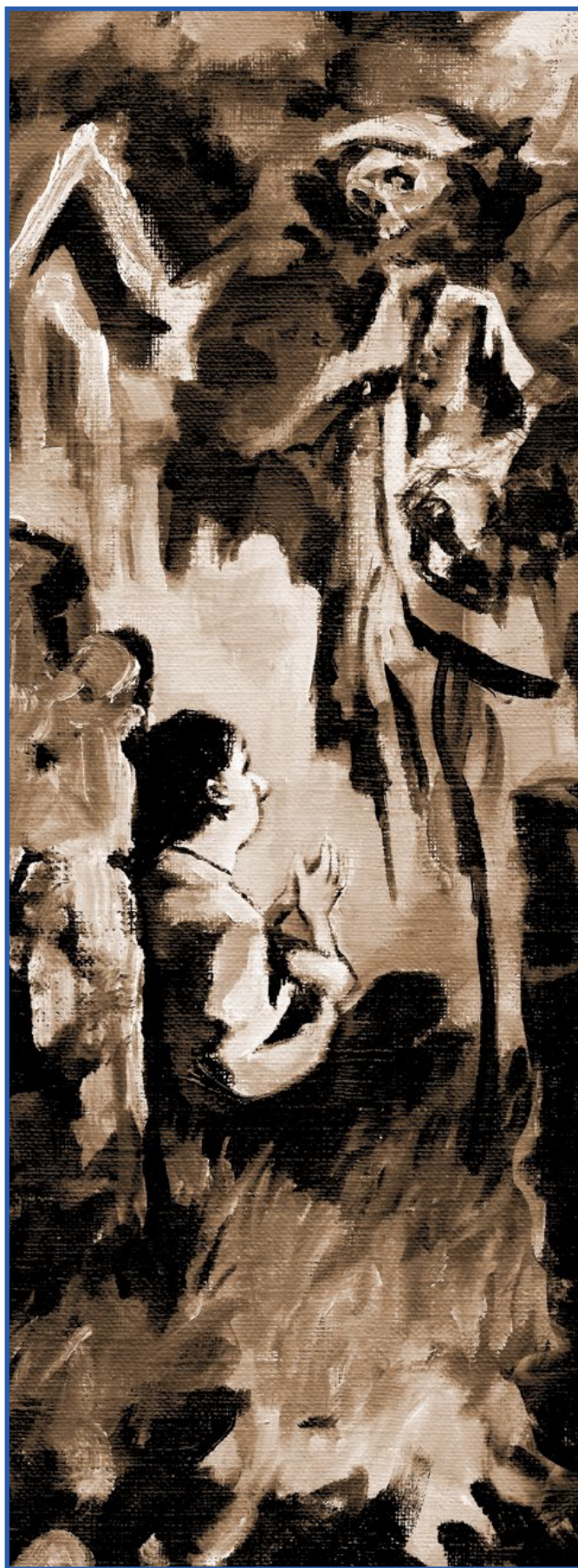
tread carefully, as the Adhene have the capability to exhibit both extremes within a remarkably brief period of time.

dauntain

Dauntain are among the most tragic figures for boggans to encounter. Their hearts go out to these creatures so twisted and apparently abandoned by the Dreaming, but even the consummate caretakers know better than to interact with these broken individuals. On very rare occasions, one will retain enough of themselves to seek a way to one day become whole again, but as subjects of such pervasive fear in Kithain society, even the most coherent of Dauntain will have a hard time finding help. The *Lost*, the *Cursed*, and the *Apostates* are among those who are easier to deal with, but the less obvious their Brand, the more insidious their actions. Even boggans cannot stand the Dauntain's use of Ruin, and cannot fathom why any creature of the Dreaming would want so badly to destroy the Glamour that maintains their lives. Some stories exist of the softest-hearted boggans successfully rescuing lost and confused Dauntain from their terrible fate, but in reality, such tales typically end in tragedy.

prodigals

While boggans tend to remain most active within their local court and Kithain communities, their open doors and hearts mean they can find themselves involved with more exotic beings as well, sometimes quite by accident. As best they can, boggans seek to accommodate and lift the spirits of everyone they meet, regardless of background or nature. Of course, they still seek to protect themselves, and therefore approach interactions with their Prodigal cousins with a measure of caution.



vampires

With their insidious plans, callous selfishness, and perpetual in-fighting, vampires are among the Prodigals that boggans seek most to avoid. Even the most Seelie fae can recognize abusive behavior, and to serve under a vampire or choose to host one only means slow, painful death in one form or another. If they don't literally drain their hosts to the point of death, their mere presence is widely believed to be among the most Banal of things, sucking the warmth and cheer from a room with their deceptively quiet, looming presence. Their hearts are as cold as their skin, and they always seek to subjugate and manipulate everyone into furthering their own schemes.

Unselie boggans are wary of interacting with vampires for just that reason; they have no desire to be a patsy in someone else's scheme, and if they do involve a vampire in their plans, they make very sure to leave no trail back to themselves in the process.

Perhaps the most frustrating thing for boggans is that they'd be perfectly willing to help, if vampires would just ask *nice*ly.

werewolves

If the pooka are to be believed and werewolves are close cousins to changelings, they are to be treated in the same way that the other kiths are. Boggans are more than willing to engage with friendly werewolf packs, often helping broker peace treaties over disputed territories or smoothing out old tensions before they can erupt. Shifters seem to them to be a peculiar but effective combination of pooka and trolls: like the pooka, they use their animal affinity and changing form to best suit whatever trials they face, yet they fight for noble causes and protect those around them, much like trolls.

Of course, pushing a werewolf too far means they fly into an uncontrollable rage – and their tempers are worse than any other's. While they don't appreciate the risks entailed in dealing with such intense aggression, boggans are willing to put this concern in the back of their minds for short dealings with these volatile Prodigals.

magi

Boggans find mages unpredictable and – peculiarly for them – a very hard group to read. While changelings and mortals vary wildly in personalities and temperaments, mages run the gamut from wellsprings of raw Glamour to walking fields of Banality. They are even more mercurial than the water-loving selkies and more unreachable than the most aloof sidhe. True to their nature, boggans will offer help if they run across mages in need, but are acute-



ly aware of the warnings that mages have the potential to drain all of the Glamour out of changelings and freeholds.

Boggans have generous hearts, but they are ultimately practical people, and mages can exist without drawing on Glamour. Unseelie boggans especially will close ranks when they feel a mage has overstayed their welcome, but even those in the Seelie Court will defend their own over helping an outsider if the mage poses a serious threat to the supply of Glamour. When dealing with mages directly, boggans are most content to do what they do best; go quietly about their business and wait for useful pieces of information to come their way.

wraiths

Wraiths and boggans have an unusual history. Without the natural ability of the sluagh to perceive ghosts, boggans have no means of seeking out wraiths to help them, yet at the same time their habits of crafting and cleaning give them a high chance of interacting with a wraith's Fetters, their homebody nature means they often know of local Haunts, and their social tendencies can bring them into contact with Passions. As boggans tend to be cheery folk, wraiths may hang around them, unnoticed, and feed on the positive emotions they foster in those nearby.

Even if she cannot directly perceive a wraith, a boggan's intuitive nature makes it easy for her to sense areas where Spectres dwell, as their dark natures negatively impact everything around them, and make them uncomfortable for such a generally cozy kith. When boggans and wraiths do interact, there's a good chance for them to form tight relationships, with the boggan protecting one or more of the wraith's Fetters or Passions, while the wraith's inherent lack of Banality provides insulation for the boggan.

stranger things

Boggans don't often have dealing with the more common Prodigals, and even more rarely so with those that

have all but fallen into myth. However, being the curious folk they are, boggans may run into such strange things every now and then. Tales of mummies and demons come to boggans mostly through the stories of eshu, or old tomes kept by the sidhe in their libraries. Unseelie boggans may know some member of House Balor, who can tell more detailed stories, but Seelie boggans prefer to avoid such dark acquaintances, and take all their tales with a grain of salt.

Mummies are sources of great rumors and stories, especially when heard from the Arcadian Sidhe who once, long ago, may have had direct experiences with these Prodigals. Eshu legend tells that mummies were once mortals who have since merged with the Dreaming, and now serve Arcadians in an effort to harness their chimerical powers. Their role in preserving balance and ability to heal others means that any mummy who encounters a boggan is likely to have a fast friend.

Demons, on the other hand, are a force most boggans would be perfectly happy never once encountering. Their largely Seelie tendencies and kind hearts make these violent creatures especially abhorrent, the moreso because demons take advantage of exactly those qualities whenever possible. While boggans usually seek to help everyone they encounter, demons are an absolute exception; they twist words and intentions and seek to subjugate everyone they encounter, and can't be trusted.

When it comes to hunters, boggans find a double-edged sword. While they destroy real risks in the world, they can also pose a threat to Dreamers and chimera. Therefore all hunters are approached with caution, and carefully steered away from harmless changelings communities.

The most dangerous of mortals for all changelings are Autumn People, those who carry Banality within them and spread it wherever they go. Boggans have no love for these people, but do have pity. Most know better than to interact with such harbingers of Banality, but more than one has been Undone in a misplaced attempt to help.





chapter four: faces in the firelight

*"If we lay a strong enough foundation, we'll pass it on to you,
we'll give the world to you. And you'll blow us all away."*

– Lin-Manuel Miranda, Hamilton: An American Musical

Although as a rule boggans spurn the spotlight, preferring to work behind the scenes where they feel they can be most effective (not to mention best employ their Birthrights), celebrities still rise from the ranks of this unassuming kith. Predictably enough, boggans themselves are divided on whether or not this is a good thing.

Some argue that fame is a good thing because it means they can inspire others by example, as well as ensure that boggans receive the gratitude and recognition that so often pass them by. Other boggans disagree, pointing out that they work best when they aren't the center of attention, and that actively seeking acclaim is anathema to their duty to help others for its own sake.

Philosophical debates about the wider world aside, however, boggans are not shy about giving credit and acclaim within their own community. It's still considered good manners for the recipient to humbly wave off such praise, naturally, but all the same boggans enjoy celebrating the achievements of their fellows. They just don't advertise it to anyone else, which means being invited to such an event is a sign of great trust and respect indeed.

What follows are a selection of ready-made boggan characters that players can use to jumpstart a character for a game session, as well as a survey of some famous boggans of the past as well as some current movers and shakers among the kith.

knowledge keeper

Quote: Ah, tea's ready! Did you know that Percy Shelley cheated on his wife, Mary Shelley, the author of "Frankenstein," with her step-sister, Claire Clairmont? I know, right? What a cad! So, have you heard anything interesting lately?

Background: You were a bit of a contradiction as a child. You loved to be with your extended family and community, but you were happiest sitting at home with your books. You grew up an only child on a small farm in the hills, surrounded by woods. Your parents both had day jobs and ran the tiny farm. At night you would listen to your mother speak about art and beauty or your father discuss math, machines, and history. You had two favorite places on your small farm: on top of the barn's roof and your parents' library.

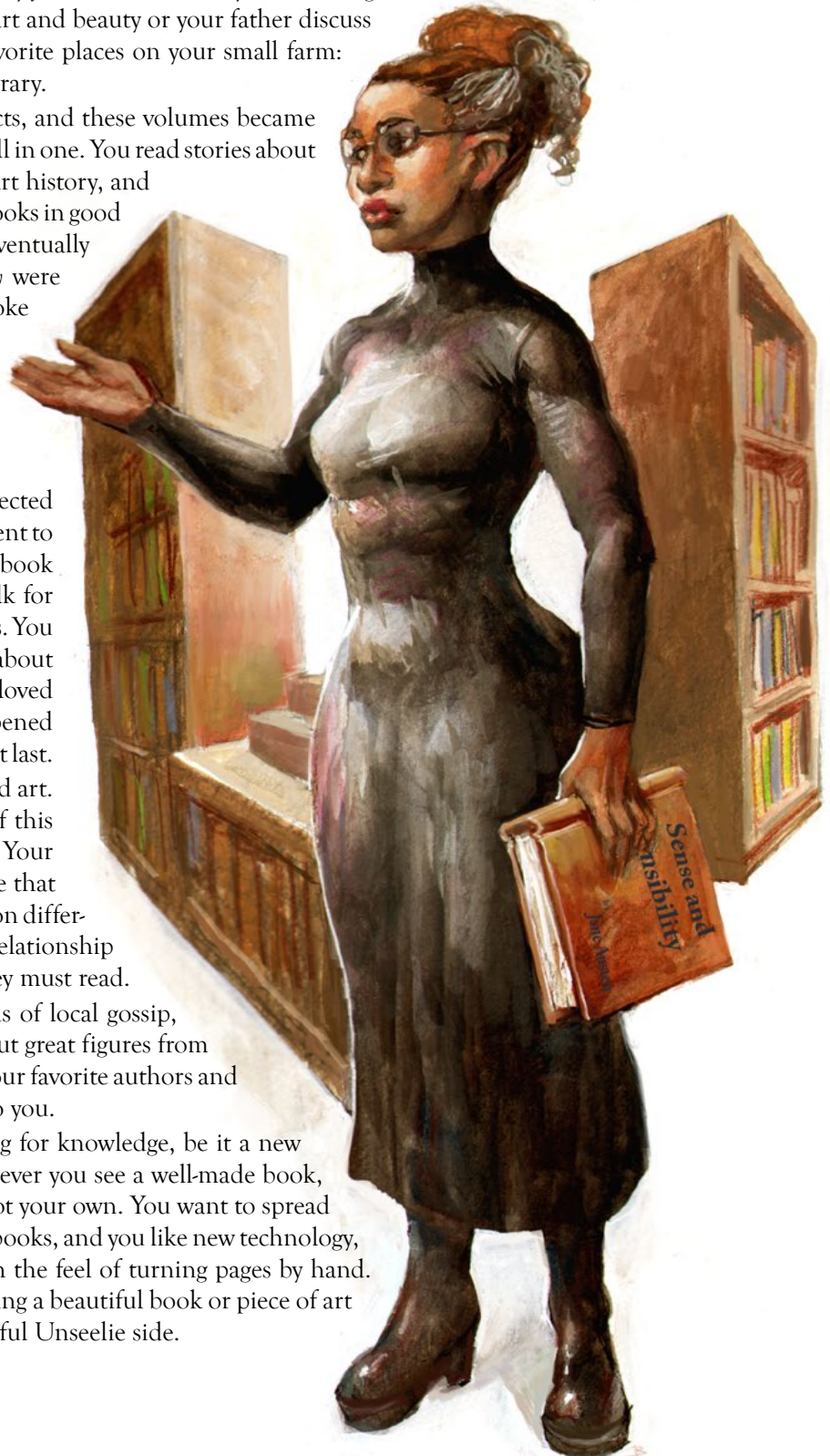
The library was full of books on all subjects, and these volumes became your companions, inspiration, and education all in one. You read stories about King Arthur, the Greek gods, Beowulf, wars, art history, and classic literature. You took pains to keep your books in good shape, but still the front cover of *The Hobbit* eventually tore off, and the pages of *Bulfinch's Mythology* were stained and bent. After your Chrysalis, you woke up to a world that you saw reflect in books and art, and you knew that it was the universe answering you. It did not surprise you at all that there were others like you; it had all been written in those beloved books.

Your passion was always more deeply connected to books, so as soon as graduated college, you went to work restoring book at museums and antique book dealers. You found your people. You could talk for hours about books, their authors, and their lives. You love to gossip about the latest thing you read about the fifteenth-century painter and his once-beloved model; it was just scandalous! When you opened your own bookstore, you knew you were home at last.

Concept: You sincerely love knowledge and art. Books and their restoration is an extension of this love. You love and embrace your grump nature. Your bookstore is the center of your world. You love that people come to have tea with you to ask advice on different subjects. You are famous for giving a piece relationship advice, along with giving them a book that they must read.

Gossip: Your tea time brings you all kinds of local gossip, but you are always looking to share tidbits about great figures from the past. Your most cherished gossip is about your favorite authors and painters, because they are real, living people to you.

Roleplaying Hints: You are always seeking for knowledge, be it a new book or juicy piece of historical gossip. Whenever you see a well-made book, you want to touch it and read it, even if it is not your own. You want to spread love of knowledge and art as you can. You love books, and you like new technology, though you still think nothing will ever match the feel of turning pages by hand. About the only thing that really riles you is seeing a beautiful book or piece of art mistreated; that can bring out your more spiteful Unseelie side.



Name:

Court: Seelie

Seeming: Grump

Player:

Legacies: Sage/Pandora

Kith: Boggan

Chronicle:

House:

Modley:

attributes

Physical

Strength _____ ●●○○○
 Dexterity _____ ●●○○○
 Stamina _____ ●●○○○

Social

Charisma _____ ●●●○○
 Manipulation _____ ●●○○○
 Appearance _____ ●●●○○

Mental

Perception _____ ●●●○○
 Intelligence Scholarly Recall _____ ●●●○○
 Wits _____ ●●●○○

abilities

Talents

Alertness _____ ●○○○○
 Athletics _____ ○○○○○
 Brawl _____ ○○○○○
 Empathy _____ ●●○○○
 Expression _____ ●●○○○
 Intimidation _____ ○○○○○
 Kenning _____ ●●●○○
 Leadership _____ ●○○○○
 Streetwise _____ ○○○○○
 Subterfuge _____ ●○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○

Skills

Animal Ken _____ ●○○○○
 Crafts _____ ○○○○○
 Drive _____ ○○○○○
 Etiquette _____ ●●○○○
 Firearms _____ ○○○○○
 Larceny _____ ○○○○○
 Melee _____ ○○○○○
 Performance _____ ○○○○○
 Stealth _____ ●○○○○
 Survival _____ ○○○○○
 Professional Skill (Book Restoration) _____ ●●○○○

Knowledges

Academics Linguistics _____ ●●●○○
 Computer _____ ●○○○○
 Enigmas _____ ●●○○○
 Gremayre Past Lives _____ ●●●○○
 Investigation _____ ●●○○○
 Law _____ ○○○○○
 Medicine _____ ○○○○○
 Politics _____ ●○○○○
 Science _____ ●○○○○
 Technology _____ ●○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○

advantages

Backgrounds

Holdings _____ ●○○○○
 Dreamers _____ ●●○○○
 Resources _____ ●●○○○
 Remembrance _____ ●●●○○
 _____ ○○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○

Arts

Soothsay _____ ●○○○○
 Chronos _____ ●○○○○
 Naming _____ ●○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○

Realms

Actor _____ ●○○○○
 Fae _____ ●●○○○
 Nature _____ ○○○○○
 Prop _____ ●●●○○
 Scene _____ ○○○○○
 Time _____ ○○○○○

Birtheright/Frailty

Craftwork (Cannot both Crafts rolls) _____
 Social Dynamics _____
 - Roll Perception + Empathy/Subterfuge to
 learn relationships between group members. _____

Call of the Needy _____
 - Willpower roll (difficulty 8) to not lend help. _____

Antithesis

Destroying Part of the Past _____

Experience

Glamour

● ● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Willpower

● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Nightmare

Banalitv

● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Health

		Real	Chimerical
Bruised		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hurt	-1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Injured	-1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wounded	-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mauled	-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crippled	-5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incapacitated		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ravaging/Using Threshold

Create Calm

inquisitive matchmaker

Quote: *I am so sorry to hear about your break-up. Ah, so, it happened a while ago. I have this friend you should meet, and I'm throwing a dinner party next week. Do you want to come?*

Background: You were always good at reading people. Even at an early age, you surprised your parents when they told you that your beloved hamster had gone to a happy farm in the country and you replied gently that they didn't need to lie. You already knew he was dead, and you comforted them about it instead. You have always loved to help people with your abilities.

In high school, your best friend asked her to help her woo the girl of her dreams. After some snooping to learn some of her favorite things, you proceeded to throw them the best night of their lives. You borrowed a friend's place while his parents were out, came up with a menu, and baked a delicious dessert. You set the atmosphere, bought the flowers, and helped your friend get her hair and dress and makeup just right. In your capacity as their chef and "waitress" for that magical date, you watched the two of them fall in love right before your eyes. In that moment, you found not just a purpose, but a Chrysalis too.

Although you went to culinary school and have worked in a number of kitchens, something didn't quite fit, at least not until you wound up talking to a customer about private investigation work and something clicked into place. You got your PI license and set up shop, specializing in finding missing relatives or reconnecting people with those they thought they'd lost forever. You do some divorce work too, though strangely enough it always seems like your cli-

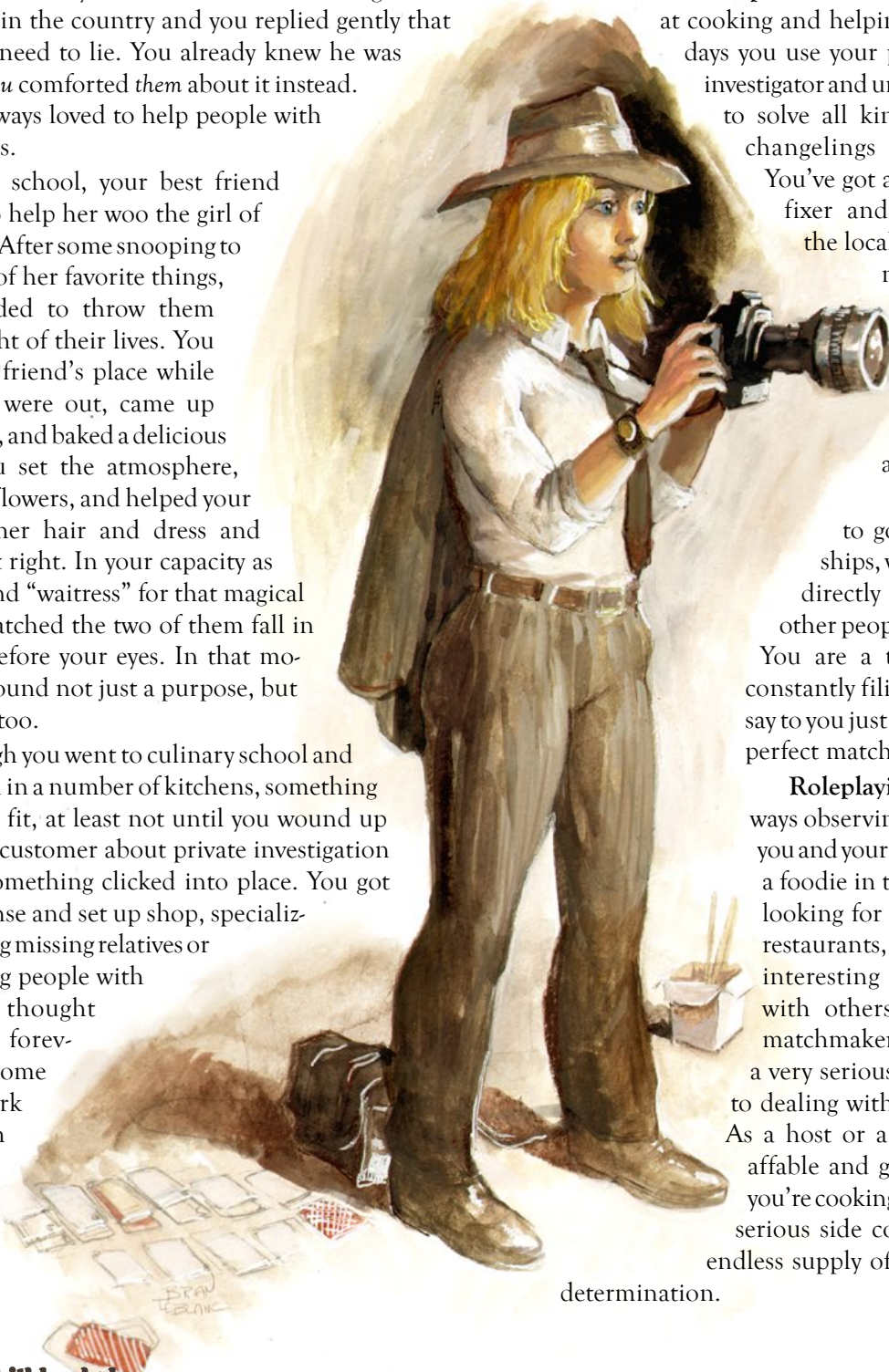
ents end up with someone who's better and healthier for them. You still love to cook and your inventively themed dinner parties are major social events for the local Kithain ... and if these events also tend to lead to new romances, well, what's so wrong with that?

Concept: You have always been good at cooking and helping people, and these days you use your position as a private investigator and unofficial matchmaker to solve all kinds of problems for changelings and mortals alike.

You've got a rep as a resourceful fixer and favorite host with the local Kithain, while your mortal friends and clients appreciate your uncanny ability to find missing loved ones or set them with absolutely amazing partners.

Gossip: You love to gossip about relationships, whether giving advice directly or gossiping about other people's romantic affairs. You are a truly active listener, constantly filing away what people say to you just in case you find their perfect match.

Roleplaying Hints: You are always observing the people around you and your surroundings. You're a foodie in the best sense, always looking for new dishes and new restaurants, and you often bring interesting food just to share with others. You love to play matchmaker, but you also have a very serious side when it comes to dealing with difficult situations. As a host or a matchmaker you're affable and gregarious, but while you're cooking or investigating your serious side comes out. You've an endless supply of quiet but relentless determination.



Name:

Court: Seelie

Seeming: Wilder

Player:

Legacies: Panderer/Rogue

Kith: Boggan

Chronicle:

House:

Clotey:

attributes

Physical

Strength _____ ●●●●●
 Dexterity _____ ●●●●●
 Stamina _____ ●●●●●

Social

Charisma _____ ●●●●●
 Manipulation Matchmaking _____ ●●●●●
 Appearance _____ ●●●●●

Mental

Perception Personal Quirks _____ ●●●●●
 Intelligence _____ ●●●●●
 Wits _____ ●●●●●

abilities

Talents

Alertness _____ ●●●●●
 Athletics _____ ●●●●●
 Brawl _____ ●●●●●
 Empathy _____ ●●●●●
 Expression _____ ○○○○○
 Intimidation _____ ●●●●●
 Kenning _____ ●●●●●
 Leadership _____ ○○○○○
 Streetwise _____ ●●●●●
 Subterfuge _____ ●●●●●
 _____ ○○○○○

Skills

Animal Ken _____ ○○○○○
 Crafts _____ ○○○○○
 Drive _____ ●●●●●
 Etiquette _____ ○○○○○
 Firearms _____ ●●●●●
 Larceny _____ ●●●●●
 Melee _____ ○○○○○
 Performance _____ ○○○○○
 Stealth _____ ●●●●●
 Survival _____ ○○○○○
 Professional Skill (Cooking) _____ ●●●●●

Knowledges

Academics _____ ○○○○○
 Computer _____ ●●●●●
 Enigmas _____ ●●●●●
 Gremayre _____ ○○○○○
 Investigation _____ ●●●●●
 Law _____ ●●●●●
 Medicine _____ ○○○○○
 Politics _____ ○○○○○
 Science _____ ○○○○○
 Technology _____ ○○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○

advantages

Backgrounds

Contacts _____ ●●●●●
 Resources _____ ●●●●●
 Chimera (Barry the Pug) _____ ●●●●●
 Allies _____ ●●●●●
 _____ ○○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○

Arts

Summer _____ ●●●●●
 _____ ○○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○
 _____ ○○○○○

Realms

Actor _____ ●●●●●
 Fae _____ ●●●●●
 Nature _____ ○○○○○
 Prop _____ ○○○○○
 Scene _____ ○○○○○
 Time _____ ○○○○○

Birthright/Frailty

Craftwork (Cannot both Crafts rolls) _____
 Social Dynamics _____
 - Roll Perception + Empathy/Subterfuge to
 learn relationships between group members. _____

Call of the Needy _____
 - Willpower roll (difficulty 8) to not lend help. _____

Antithesis

Walking Away from True Happiness _____

Experience

Glamour

● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Willpower

● ● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Nightmare

Banalicy

● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Health

		Real	Chimerical
Bruised		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hurt	-1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Injured	-1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wounded	-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mauled	-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crippled	-5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incapacitated		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ravaging/Clotey Threshold

Create Love

behind-the-scenes drama queen

Quote: *You know the one that's really pushing about recruiting in Court? Rydderch ap Ailil, that's the one. He keeps telling me I belong with his people, won't take no for an answer... I finally told him I have all the friends I need in Leanhaun, and I'm better connected for them anyway. I'm not pledging myself any one group, least of all to his.*

Background: You realized early on in your life that people liked to tell you things. They confided their secrets in you, their wildest dreams and most fanciful aspirations, and you realized there was real power in being the one who could make them happen. Your life was still mundane magic until your first year of high school, however.

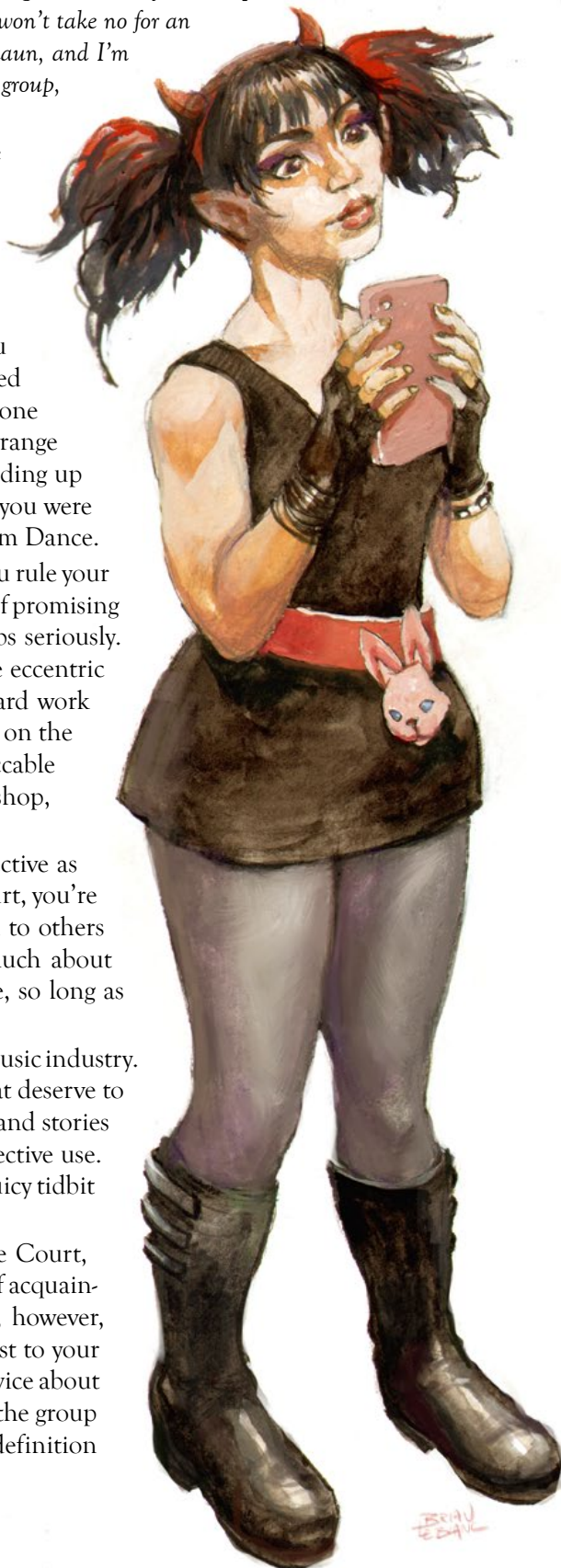
Accepted as the protege of the chicest clique in school, you found yourself thrust into spotlight for the first time and voted Homecoming royalty – an upset from the expected win by one of your new friends amongst the upper-class students. The strange sensations you'd been chalking up to nerves in the days leading up to the parade and the dance itself all burst forth at once as you were crowned, and your Chrysalis broke as you entered the Dream Dance.

These days you run a small empire from just offstage. You rule your domain with an iron fist, using it to propel the meteoric rise of promising new talent or to beat down those who fail to take their jobs seriously. You understand better than most the fine line between the eccentric creative and the gifted layabout, and firmly believe that hard work beats talent if talent won't work hard. Your reputation rests on the people you represent, and anyone who tarnishes your impeccable record will find it difficult to play the open house at a coffee shop, much less arena tours.

Concept: You've always found yourself to be most effective as someone's right hand. As a rare boggan in the Unseelie Court, you're more guarded than most of your kith; you'll happily listen to others talk about themselves, but it isn't often that you share much about yourself. You're happy to let someone else get the headline, so long as your empire grows in the process.

Gossip: You devour anything and everything about the music industry. The fallings-out, the insufferable divas, the opening acts that deserve to headline (and the ones that really, *really* don't), the rumors and stories all find you some way or another, and you put them to effective use. Sure, most of the time you hear it first, but someone with a juicy tidbit you didn't know definitely gets your full attention.

Roleplaying Hints: You might be part of the Unseelie Court, but that doesn't mean you're *evil*. You have a large number of acquaintances, but few close friends. The ones you are closest to, however, you'll do anything for, no strings attached – a sharp contrast to your public persona. In your job as a promoter, you won't think twice about pushing the newest rising star into the spotlight or burying the group looking to get rich and famous for the 'wrong' reasons. The definition of 'wrong' is, of course, entirely up to you.



ex-boxer barkeep

Quote: *Sit where you like. Game's on in that corner, fight's on behind the bar. I'll bring your usual over in a minute. First one's on the house. My nose? Well, since you're the only one here. Broke it a few times boxing. S'why I always have the fights on – never really leaves you, you know?*

Background: From your earliest childhood, you enjoyed a good roughhouse. Never aggressive enough to hurt your playmates, you nevertheless enjoyed a rather rough-and-tumble style of play, and fell very quickly into organized sports. Most kids gravitated toward martial arts, but boxing hooked you – the tradition, the elegance, the demands all spoke to you, and you dove in without hesitation.

Your claim to fame isn't in how many matches, titles, or competitions you've won, but in how many matches you've had against boxers who went on to be some of the biggest names in the sport. Though you didn't quite know why then, your competitive spirit was enough to keep you in the sport, but never so intense that you felt the need to rise to the top. It was only later in life, when you started moving into booking matches and setting cards that your Dream Dance truly began, and you awakened to the world of the Kithain.

Nowadays, you've settled into a quieter life than your fighting days, running a local bar with a cozy and inviting atmosphere. You frequently have whatever assortment of sporting events are happening playing in the different corners of the room, and are never so happy as when the place is alive with the chatter of your patrons and the thrum of busy energy that only comes from a room of happy people, full of good food and drink.

Concept: While you never had a particularly notable career, you spent your adolescence and most of your young adulthood in the professional boxing circuit. You were a sought-after sparring partner, training some of the best up-and-comers. When you finally left the business for good, you settled into the life of a barkeep. You own your place, a quiet blend of the local pub and a sports bar. Sometimes you miss the thrill of pitting yourself against an opponent, but mostly you're enjoying your retirement.

Gossip: While you've settled into life behind a bar, your passion still lies in the world of sports. You enjoy listening to your patrons talk stats and share the latest they've heard about their favorite teams and players. Part of your social circle and how you share your information comes from the various fantasy leagues and discreet betting pools you run with your regulars.

Roleplaying Hints: You are a boggan of few words, but you choose them carefully and wisely. From your job as a barkeep, you've become familiar with people pouring their troubles out when they talk to you, and like the rest of your kith, you usually have something encouraging to say. You don't mind patiently prodding away at a stubborn problem until it finally untangles itself. You are still more than capable of handling yourself, as more than one unruly troll or rowdy redcap has learned to their dismay, and while you prefer not to fight, you can't deny there's still joy in a proper scrap.



Name:

Court: Seelie

Seeming: Grump

Player:

Legacies: Sage/Beast

Kith: Boggan

Chronicle:

House:

Dotley:

attributes

Physical

Strength Strong Arms ●●●●○
 Dexterity ●●●●○
 Stamina Second Wind ●●●●○

Social

Charisma ●●●●○
 Manipulation ●○○○○
 Appearance ●●○○○

Mental

Perception ●●●●○
 Intelligence ●●●○○
 Wits ●●●○○

abilities

Talents

Alertness ●●○○○
 Athletics ●●●○○
 Brawl Boxing ●●●●○
 Empathy ●●○○○
 Expression ○○○○○
 Intimidation ●○○○○
 Kenning ●●○○○
 Leadership ○○○○○
 Streetwise ●○○○○
 Subterfuge ○○○○○
 ○○○○○

Skills

Animal Ken ○○○○○
 Crafts ○○○○○
 Drive ●●○○○
 Etiquette ●●○○○
 Firearms ○○○○○
 Larceny ○○○○○
 Melee ●●○○○
 Performance ○○○○○
 Stealth ●○○○○
 Survival ○○○○○
 Professional Skill (Brewing) ●●○○○

Knowledges

Academics ○○○○○
 Computer ○○○○○
 Enigmas ○○○○○
 Gremayre ●○○○○
 Investigation ○○○○○
 Law ●○○○○
 Medicine ●○○○○
 Politics ●○○○○
 Science ○○○○○
 Technology ●○○○○
 ○○○○○

advantages

Backgrounds

Holdings ●●○○○
 Allies ●●●○○
 Contacts ●●○○○
 Resources ●●○○○
 ○○○○○
 ○○○○○

Arts

Dragon's Ire ●●●○○
 ○○○○○
 ○○○○○
 ○○○○○
 ○○○○○
 ○○○○○

Realms

Actor ●●○○○
 Fae ●○○○○
 Nature ○○○○○
 Prop ●●○○○
 Scene ○○○○○
 Time ○○○○○

Birthright/Frailty

Craftwork (Cannot both Crafts rolls)
 Social Dynamics
 - Roll Perception + Empathy/Subterfuge to learn relationships between group members.

Call of the Needy
 - Willpower roll (difficulty 8) to not lend help.

Antithesis

Taking A Dive

Experience

Glamour

● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Willpower

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Nightmare

Banalities

● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Health

		Real	Chimerical
Bruised		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hurt	-1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Injured	-1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wounded	-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mauled	-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crippled	-5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incapacitated		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ravaging/Using Threshold

Foster Dreams



duchess prya ap dougal

One of the few confirmed Siochain, changelings who have achieved immortality by perfectly balancing their mortal and fae natures, if even half the stories about her are true Duchess Prya must be far and away the oldest of that already rarified company. Kithain historians have found mentions of someone fitting her description going back beyond the Shattering, and a common but unsubstantiated rumor claims she was the first commoner ever granted a title by House Dougal. For her part, the quiet boggan gives a small smile of non-denial when such questions are raised, but smoothly changes the subject to current events and her latest causes, claiming she's much more interested in the good yet to be done than in the mists of history.

If her past remains mysterious, however, no one questions the good she's done. The duchess travels the world speaking about various human rights causes in her mortal guise while kindling and tending to balefires she encounters, and is considered the foremost Kithain authority on the nature of these vital fonts of Glamour. She has nursed ailing balefires back to life when no one believed it possible and kindled new ones in places no one imagined it could work, and in the process made friends in freeholds around

the world. More than one Kithain community owes its continued existence to her magical aptitude and affinity for the flames, giving her a wide network of contacts who keep her up-to-date on current events.

The only reason she's not more widely known and celebrated is simply because she doesn't ask for much in the way of recognition for her deeds; this is not only due to her natural humility, but also because the demand for her assistance is already more than even the dedicated boggan is able to keep up with despite her demanding schedule. Indeed, the duchess has recently started an as-yet unofficial group called the Hearthfire Keepers, consisting of commoners and nobles interested in the state of all balefires they come across. Membership in this group is open to any diligent potential balefire researcher, amateur or otherwise. Currently the duchess is overseeing the Keepers' most ambitious project to date: mapping every active balefire known to the Kithain. It's a great deal of work, but could provide invaluable data on how these precious resources are faring around the world.

Duchess Prya has adopted many faces – and many surnames – over her long life, often adopting the appearance of the natives in the lands where she's travelling as a way of putting locals at ease, but of late she has reverted to what she calls her original appearance, that of a short, pleasantly plump, middle-aged Indian woman with long black hair, who dresses in saris of beautiful autumn colors, a brilliantly crafted crest of House Dougal worn as a clasp. While she enjoys all manner of gossip, she is especially fond of trivia about historical figures, often gossiping about individuals centuries gone as if they were old friends (or rivals). Who knows... perhaps they even were!

old finney

A grizzled, grey-haired grump whose battered face bears the broken nose and faded battle scars of his brawler youth, Finney Fallon is a legend in both Kithain and organized-crime circles. The tenacious boggan followed an unusual path from petty enforcer to mob accountant to consigliere over the course of almost fifty bloody years in the 'family business'. While these days he uses his age to project the image of a kindly (if reserved) grandfather, anyone who looks into his slate-gray eyes has no illusions about how dangerous he really is.

Under his careful supervision the Worcester Knights rose from a ragtag street gang of Kithain hooligans with a few Kinain and mortal hangers-on to become one of the most disciplined, most fearsome organized crime syndicates on the East coast. In recent years they started satellite operations in Chicago, New Orleans, Seattle, and San Francisco, and even begun groundwork to establish networks overseas, particularly in Dublin and Glasgow.



The Knights have their bloody mitts on everything from loan sharking and numbers rackets to hijacking and hiring out contract killers to the highest bidder. There are only two things the Knights won't touch: human trafficking and hard drugs. Old Finney despises the first as barbaric and the second due to personal distaste with what he considers a chaotic and overly high-profile market. Knights who go against orders and dabble in those areas end up missing fingers, if they don't just go missing period. Finney's careful nature and some judicious cantrips have kept any charges from sticking to him over the years, and while he prefers to make deals and talk business when possible, his fists are as hard as ever.

For his part, Old Finney has been offered the top spot in the organization on multiple occasions but always declines, preferring to act as kingmaker and consigliere while watching over the day-to-day operations with a merciless eye for detail. Although these days, most of the syndicate's rank and file members are mortals with no idea of the group's magical roots, there are still quite a few changeling soldiers and captains, and the top positions are almost exclusively held by Kithain or their close Kinain relatives. The current boss of bosses, a shrewd redcap named Rosie McIntyre, started as the old man's driver and came up through the ranks under

his tutelage. Last year the two of them had a very public falling out and are now prone to fierce bickering, but in truth it's all an act, designed to draw out the duplicitous and potentially disloyal.

Perhaps the biggest shock for many Kithain is learning that Old Finney is staunchly Seelie, but those familiar with the old boggan's rigid sense of honor — if only among thieves — and reverence for traditions like hospitality and the “old way of doing things” aren't terribly surprised. Aside from a taste for a pipe and some fine scotch, the only indulgence Old Finney allows himself is sports gossip; he reads sports magazines constantly and listens incessantly to sports talk radio. He has even had some of his younger employees teach him how to use a smartphone just to make use of several sports news apps. Anyone who can offer him a suitably juicy tidbit he didn't already know about one of his beloved New England teams (or their hated rivals) can earn significant favor with the old man.

alysoun, the wife of bath

Students of literature know her as the outspoken and controversial woman behind one of the most famous of Chaucer's tales of Canterbury, but to the boggan kith in general and boggan women in particular, Alysoun, better known to most as the Wife of Bath, is much more than a literary figure. Indeed, over the centuries since she first inspired Chaucer to pick up his quill, she's become something between a cultural icon and a revered ancestor for her kith, and is even honored with her own day of celebrations. Originally known as the Festival of Alysoun, and more recently simply as Shipping Day, it's a bawdy and rambunctious holiday in late spring when boggans gather with an array of sweets and share the latest relationship gossip, then diagram elaborate interpersonal webs as they attempt to match their friends and relatives. Sometimes it's taken seriously, a real mission to nurture true love or heal a broken heart, while sometimes it's just to have fun imagining possible OTPs for the local lord.

Despite their reputation as a soft-spoken kith that spends their lives around the edges, a number of boggans are outspoken and rather enjoy commanding a room and attracting attention — so long as it's not while they're working. Alysoun has a reputation among boggans for precisely all those things. Proud of her handiwork, unafraid to be bold in both speech and habit in a time when women were punished for such deeds, and confident in everything she said and did, the Wife of Bath has become a more popular figure than ever in contemporary times. After all, women around the world have been making moves for years to be heard, to be unapologetic, and to take up space in a world they are told continually doesn't belong to them. Boggans especially look to Alysoun and say boldly to the world that it simply isn't true. Her legacy lives on today in the bold strides



taken everywhere in the name of the self, and in those who don't merely flout the patriarchy but tear it down with every assured step.

While an advocate for self-identity, Alysoun also has a reputation among boggans as one of their most prolific and successful matchmakers. Supposedly she was responsible for some of the most productive and politically powerful matches of her time, in addition to countless less political arrangements, and according to kith lore, both nobles and commoners would wait for months in order to have a seat in her parlor and lay out their lives for her to match with another. It's even rumored that she made matches for the mortal nobility of her time, with nobles taking on disguises to appear in a humble merchant's home. It's a tale too good to subject to the discourtesy of research, and boggans still treasure the stories of her clever antics as she mended broken hearts and delivered poetic justice to wicked and unfaithful lovers.

Such was Alysoun's impact, in fact, that her fellow boggans actively tracked her soul as it reincarnated – typically announced by the flurry of amazing matches and bawdy adventures that accompanied her appearance in a given lifetime – but she hasn't had a confirmed reincarnation since the early twentieth century, and some are worried

this means a dark fate befell her. Anyone who could sort the mystery would certainly earn a lot of goodwill from the kith, especially if they can show she's alive and happy again. Even in her absence, boggans particularly gifted in bringing people together are often said to be touched by her, and those who enjoy making themselves heard and bringing out the confidence in others are said to share her fire. Whenever a group of such outspoken boggans are together, and especially a gathering of boggan women, she's usually left a place and considered to be there in spirit.

And if she is out there now, boggans know it's only a matter of time before she makes her mark once again.

dame cona kinane

Oona is at first glance a typical-looking boggan. She's on the short side, with wavy, light-brown hair, and a dimpled smile. She's partial to stripes and waistcoats. Her manner is friendly and welcoming. None of this is an act, exactly, but still her true nature often comes as a surprise.

Oona hunts monsters.

When Oona was a little girl of about 7, she made a new best friend who lived next door. When Greg started coming into school looking tired and jumpy, she pressed him to find out why. Turned out, there was Something under his bed. Something that his parents didn't see or believe. Something that wanted his heart.

Well, that wasn't going to happen to her friend. So one night, she packed a bag with everything she thought she'd need, including her binkie and her policeman father's nightstick. She crept over to Greg's house and snuck in the back door that was never locked. When she got to Greg's room, he was huddled in the middle of the bed, shaking, and she could see the Something reaching long fingers out from under the bed. She threw the binkie over what she hoped was its head, and battered it with the nightstick until it stopped moving. That night, Greg slept undisturbed.

Since then, Oona has gone from a childling menace to those smaller, ill-meaning Chimera, to a genuine threat as a wilder. In her fae seeming, the skull pin on her jacket grows to a pauldron made from the skull of a true Nightmare, her biggest kill to-date. The collapsible nightstick in her bag of anything necessary grows into a massive two-handed sword almost taller than her.

The binkie is also still in the bag.

She has become somewhat of a wanderer, and acquired quite a few Kithain followers on social media who like to track her exploits as well as send requests for help from all over. Often seen in train stations and bus depots, she guards the restless sleep of travelers from nasty Somethings. It's not even a bad living; her crafting skills produce valuable skins and trophies from her kills, and after one especially



memorable showdown she was knighted by House Dougal in recognition of her talent for crafting tools to hunt dangerous chimera.

Although the satisfaction of helping and protecting is a powerful incentive, Oona's Unseelie side still surfaces from time to time, and when it does she takes a great deal of pleasure in the hunt, and being a monster's monster. It's just as well the bloodthirst is tied to the helpful busy soul of a boggan, or more than chimera would learn to fear her approach.

saffron

Raised in a rural community, Saffie still has a farm-girl's tomboy temperament, but long ago left the bucolic town where she grew up in order to seek a more exciting, fast-paced life. Her Chrysalis came while she was studying fashion and enjoying the party life in New York City, and at first she simply parlayed her new perspective into the creation that became a wildly popular DIY fashion and cosplay streaming channel. Her innovative designs, clever material use, and self-deprecating wit earned her thousands of followers and provided a small but comfortable income for the vivacious young boggan. She also became one of the

first Kithain pioneers of gathering Glamour from Dreamer followers who interacted with her online.

Saffie won't say what caused her to turn to the Shadow Court, but it's known that she fled New York immediately after graduation and hasn't gone back since. She bounced around for a while, even joining the household of two Liam nobles whose pro-commoner policies she respected, but the knowledge that others suffered under crueler nobles keep her up at night. Then inspiration struck. While she kept up her DIY fashion stream for her mortal followers, she started another channel for Kithain eyes only, full of images that only make sense to enchanted eyes; anyone else just sees random pictures and meaningless junk.

Saffie used this new platform to connect with others who shared her desire for greater justice and equality in Concordia, and though it didn't grow as fast as her fashion channel had, it still grew. Indeed, it proved particularly useful because so many of the traditionalist nobles they were organizing against didn't understand or monitor modern technology and so the stream was a perfect way to plan disobedience right under their noses. Despite her efforts to keep her identity secret, eventually her mortal persona and her Shadow Court channel were connected, and Saffie became something of a revolutionary celebrity. This isn't without its risks, of course, but she's more



than willing to bear them if it means advocating for commoner rights and equal treatment.

An irrepressible troublemaker and pot-stirrer, Saffie is now a fixer for her local court by day and an unlikely social media champion of the Shadow Court by night. Together with her oathmate and nominal moral compass, an old Seelie eshu punk rocker named Jimmy Armstrong, the sly wilder travels frequently to raise awareness of injustices committed by the nobility, organizing protests and even more direct actions when gentler efforts to effect change fail. She still maintains her status as a DIY streaming darling among mortals and fellow Kithain, her travels only broadening her appeal. If she learned of the existence of the Black Court and how they use the Shadow Court for their own nefarious ends, it would shake her faith, but in the end only stir her into more direct action to rid it of such wicked masters and make the organization the political entity she feels the world needs.

Saffie is a petite, eternally youthful wilder who dresses in a dizzying array of styles; if she's not actually wearing one of her many cosplays, she's mixing everything from vintage rockabilly to punk rock to club kid to steampunk, often with a hint of country girl. No matter how unlikely it is, somehow she always makes it work. Saffie makes a lot of her clothing and jewelry and is perpetually dyeing her short hair, so it's rarely the same color from one meeting to the next. She always has an ear out for the latest gossip in the maker community, whether it's who's got the newest hot techniques or newest tech or which creators have been hooking up lately. She also collects rumors about the bad behavior of various nobles, but that's more business than pleasure.

greg gannaway

Born to Kithain parents and raised among Seelie traditionalists in Bright Keep, a staunchly conservative Seelie freehold on the Delaware coast, Greg experienced his Chrysalis exceptionally young and learned his court's tenets alongside his numbers and the alphabet. He discovered a knack for desserts after a joyful and quite messy childhood, and decided early on he wanted to continue making people happy and bringing them together through the metaphorical – and in his case, literal – magic of ice cream. Greg's protective parents reluctantly agreed to let him attend a nearby culinary school after home-schooling him most of his life, but even though he enjoyed the courses and learning how to combine ingredients in new and interesting ways, it still felt like something was missing.

Then Greg took a road trip with some of his classmates and came across his first food truck, and everything snapped into place.

It took all his savings and a loan from his skeptical, but supportive, parents, but as soon as Greg bought his first



food truck it was a hit almost instantly. Now his Shake-speare-themed, pun-filled milkshake wagon, "BillyShakes", is a familiar sight at a number of shore towns, and Greg has even started fielding offers from other drivers looking to buy a franchise. He was also surprised to find himself viewed as one of the founders of a new group emerging from the Kithain community, a cadre of talented chefs and confectioners who have embraced the gourmet food truck trend as mobile Glamour stations. Calling themselves the Epicurean Caravan, these innovative entrepreneurial Kithain are a rambling community that share tips, drive tongue-in-cheek rivalries, and settle territory disputes through a social media.

Despite his status as a budding celerity – or perhaps *because* of it – Greg is shy and soft-spoken in person, quick with a self-deprecating remark and obviously uncomfortable receiving praise. He comes out of his shell when discussing the joys of ice cream, however, as well as telling tales of strange adventures from the road. He has a mop of thick, curly brown hair and glasses that he's constantly adjusting as he works, and no matter how hard he tries, his clothes always seemed to be stained with ice cream or flecked with the latest toppings he's trying as experiments.



appendix: odds and ends

“Cakes are healthy too. You just need a small slice.”

– Mary Berry, “The Great British Bake Off”

While boggans share many things with their fellow Kithain, there are some traits that are unique to this pleasant, hardworking kith. Unless otherwise noted, these new traits may only be purchased by boggans, though rumor has it some boggarts occasionally display them too.

new merits and flaws

giantslayer (1pt. physical merit)


Boggans tend to the small end of the size spectrum, and even those of average stature typically project such a nonthreatening demeanor they’re dismissed as serious threats in combat. However, you’ve learned how to turn these factors to your advantage. Subtract -1 from the difficulty of related combat rolls against enemies more than 6” taller, 50 pounds heavier, or otherwise substantially larger than you. If you possess the Short Flaw, this Merit bonus increases to -2 difficulty. The benefits of this Merit apply only the first time you fight particular enemy – they’re not going to underestimate you after that!

back of house hero (1pt. social merit)

You have a natural affinity with the people who work behind the scenes, whether it’s in the hospitality business, the entertainment industry, event services, or similar fields. You know just how to endear yourself to these overworked, overlooked, and underappreciated individuals. You subtract -2 from the difficulty of all Social rolls involving making friends, gathering information, or asking favors from any such employees, though this benefit does not apply to hostile rolls such as Intimidation. This Merit applies even if you encounter such employees away from work, so long as your rolls are somehow connected to their work experience.

digital dreamers (1-3pt. social merit)

In the age of YouTube stars, Pinterest darlings, and other internet celebrities, boggans have found it easier than ever to connect with and inspire Dreamers. With this Merit, boggans can regain Glamour from their fans and followers without needing to meet them face-to-face. While not as effective as



personal contact, it's a regular way to gain small amounts of Glamour. As anyone following your blog, pins, or tutorials has sought you out, you do not need to roll to initiate Reverie, but because the connection is less direct, it only pays off in dribs and drabs. Of course, you must take steps to maintain your popularity or this Merit may begin to diminish.

- ☺ You have a small following, which generates one point of Glamour every other week.
- ☺☺ You have a dedicated group of fans, generating one point of Glamour every week.
- ☺☺☺ You have an expansive fanbase, generating two points of Glamour per week.

finger on the pulse (2pt. social merit)

With their proclivity for gossip, boggans have an easy time finding out whatever they need to. While they all enjoy gossip of any kind, there's always one topic that fascinates them far more than the rest. This Merit reduces the difficulty of any Contacts roll related to a boggan's favorite subject by 2.

perfect manners (3pt. social merit)

Even among boggans, your aptitude for courtesies is something to behold. You cannot botch Etiquette rolls. In addition, if you have a chance to use Social Dynamics on a group, you subtract -1 from the difficulty of all Etiquette rolls involving that group for the rest of the session.

loose lips (1pt. social flaw)

All boggans have an addiction to gossip, but most of them have a good sense of when to share what they've learned and when to stay silent. Unfortunately, you're not nearly as good at deciding when it's appropriate to share, and have a bad habit spilling gossip to the wrong people at the wrong time. Any time it would be a particularly bad idea to share gossip you possess, you must make a Willpower roll (difficulty 8). Failure means that you let something crucial or damaging slip, even though you really shouldn't. Naturally, this can cause a lot of problems in the social circles you're part of, and other boggans tend to view you with suspicion.

work ethic (1pt. mental merit)

Hard work has never bothered you; in fact, you thrive on it. Whenever you work for four hours in a hospitality, crafting, or service business, or a full eight hours in another sort of job, you regain 1 Willpower point, up to your normal maximum.

alison's blessing (3pt. or 5pt. supernatural merit)

You're a natural matchmaker with an eye for spotting romantic interest and a talent at bringing lovers together despite all manner of obstacles. As a three-point Merit, you may look at a target and spend a Willpower point to determine if they feel romantic or sexual desire for anyone else present, and if so how strong those feelings are, from casual interest to consuming passion. You do not automatically know whom those feelings are directed at, though a successful follow-up use of Social Dynamics can often point to the of their desires. In addition, you subtract -2 from the difficulty of all Social rolls related to creating romantic connections.

At five points, you can also spend 1 Glamour per target to encourage the Dreaming to create a 'meet-cute' scene for two or more potential romantic or sexual partners in your presence. Essentially, barring direct outside intervention, the Dreaming will subtly nudge events in benign romantic-comedy fashion so that these individuals will hit it off well and have a really good, memorable time with each other. The difficulty of all friendly Social rolls with each other is reduced by 3 for the rest of the scene, and they cannot botch Empathy or Etiquette rolls with their matches during this time either. Targets are not compelled to stay, much less interact with each other, but assuming their feelings are compatible and nothing dangerous or urgent comes up it's likely they will at least enjoy each other's company for the duration of the scene.

Where this potential relationship goes from there is up to the matches themselves, but this Merit certainly gives them an ideal start. Note that this Merit does not create feelings where none exist, nor does it compel romantic or sexual behavior. It simply creates an opportunity for such feelings to flourish. Attempting to use this Merit for nefarious purposes such as setting up an ambush or robbing someone of their consent simply fail outright; while things can get a bit steamy and scandalous with this Merit's help, it will not take away anyone's will or cause someone to force themselves on another.

everything stops for tea (5pt. supernatural merit)

Boggans know that while all homes have their quarrels, ultimately the hearth brings everyone together. You have a supernatural blessing for defusing hostile situations, or at least delaying conflict long enough for innocents to get out of the line of fire. Provided you do not make threatening moves and have not already taken violent or aggressive action in the current scene, you may spend 1 Glamour and roll Charisma + Empathy (difficulty 7).

For each success, no one present can initiate combat or use harmful supernatural powers for one turn, including you. You may spend Willpower points to extend this time at a cost of one per point per additional round, but only if you scored at least one success on the roll. You may only use this Merit once per scene, and language is not a barrier to this Merit.

A botch on this roll indicates that things get much worse; if actual fighting doesn't immediately commence – and it very well might – all attempts at peaceful negotiation or diplomacy suffer a +2 difficulty penalty. You may still take actions while this Merit is in effect: offering a nice cup of tea and a place to sit and chat is traditional, of course, but really any non-violent, non-aggressive action is fine.

While a potent gift, the Dreaming also watches over this blessing and ensures it is not abused. Attempting to use the delay to maneuver an enemy into harm's way, ready a trap, launch a surprise attack, or otherwise use the time to ready some act of violence or aggression as opposed to making peace (or at least trying to) immediately negates this Merit's effects. For shame!

second life (2pt. supernatural merit)

Some of your kithmates see you as an aberration, while others consider you a harbinger of changes to come, but regardless of your origins you have a special gift. Unlike most boggans, you can use your Social Dynamics Birthright to assess a group's relationships with each other not just by personal observation, but also through pictures, video, or even online conversation. Doing so requires spending 1 Glamour and increases the difficulty of the Perception + Empathy/Subterfuge roll to at least 7 for video, 8 for online interaction, and 9 for still photos.

While this Merit is potentially quite useful, it has some notable limitations. For one, active conversation or other direct interaction is still necessary; posed pictures typically don't work, but candid shots will. For another, you can only read people who are directly interacting with each other: people in the background of a picture or movie or lurking on a comment thread and not posting aren't part of the social web and can't be read in this fashion. Lastly, it is worth noting that a successful use of your Birthright only reveals how people feel about each other, it doesn't reveal true identities or other personal information not already provided.

who, me? (3pt. supernatural merit)

You have an uncanny knack for blending in. By spending 1 Glamour and adopting a nondescript appearance

that suits the situation in question, no one will question whether or not you belong in a particular location. You are not actually invisible, so much as everyone just assumes you belong there in some sort of service or subordinate capacity: intern, delivery guy, waitress, junior executive, etc. You can talk to people and take simple actions, but cannot give orders or make requests beyond the sort that service staff or the most junior members could make. Violence, theft, bizarre behavior, attempting to access restricted areas or information, or otherwise calling attention to yourself immediately cancels this Merit.

This Merit does not fool Kithain or Prodigals – you need Arts for that – but it does work on suspicious mortals and even Kinain.

minimus of spite (5pt. supernatural flaw)

All boggans despise ingratitude, but tend to address it swiftly and move on. Provided the offender apologizes and mends their ways, boggans are usually equally quick to forgive them. (Maybe not forget, but still, forgive.) Not you, though. When you feel genuinely insulted, or that someone is taking you for granted, or simply that a person is not sufficiently grateful for your help, you get bitter. Really bitter, deep down into your soul.

Until you exact sufficiently vicious revenge on the culprit for their real or imagined slight, you cannot regain Willpower, nor does your Social Dynamics reveal anything positive about people; all you get are their negative feelings, which can lead to distorted or misleading impressions. Exactly what counts as sufficiently vicious revenge depends on the original offense: a snub at a party might require sabotaging their big moment at a similar social event, while finding out a mooching 'friend' has played you for a sap for months will likely send you into a revenge spiral until you've taken their life apart just as much as they've dismantled your sense of trust.

If the offender sincerely apologizes, you can spend 1-5 Willpower points to accept the apology and let the vendetta drop, with the Storyteller setting the cost depending on the severity of the offense. Otherwise, though, even a sincere apology doesn't stop your need to get even.

new oaths **oath of the open door**

"Today I take you into my shop, and my trust. My hidden labors become our shared secrets, my projects our dreams, my work our shared passion. I welcome you as my helper, my hearthmate, my joy."

how crafty!

Although the Craftwork Birthright only specifies the Crafts Skill, many Professional Skills and some Hobby Talents also represent the sort of tasks that boggans are famous for: sewing, cooking, cleaning, etc. Provided these Abilities represent manual craftsmanship or cleaning labor, the Storyteller should allow the Craftwork Birthright to apply normally.

“Today I enter your shop, and your trust. May I always treasure the secrets I see there and never share your skills without your leave, and may the Mists keep the secrets I cannot.”

This deceptively simple oath is one of the best kept secrets of the boggan kith, for it allows them to use their Craftwork birthright in front of the oathmate as though she were another boggan. On the surface, the extreme secrecy surrounding these vows seems bizarre to those rare outsiders who learn of it; after all, what’s the harm in getting a little extra help? However, the simple fact remains that boggans are far, far more likely to swear oaths of friendship or even true love before offering this vow to another.

The roots of this secrecy and reluctance go deep into boggan hearts. Simply put, the isolation required by their Craftwork birthright is not just a way of ensuring they can work as they please, but also allows them to create in a space free of the judgment of others who aren’t like them. That’s no small matter for this humble, often overlooked kith. After all, if all your life you’ve primarily worked and created alone, or with others very much like you, suddenly having an audience – even an audience of one – who is *different* is a tremendous change.

A boggan may only swear one Oath of the Open Door at a time, and it can only ever be offered to one other person at a time; it cannot be shared with a group. Offering it to another recipient without dissolving the first ends the existing oath immediately, and the old recipient is immediately aware of it. Even with this vow, mortals and Prodigals must be enchanted for the Craftwork birthright to be usable in their presence. However, provided the boggan spends the majority of their time working, an enchantment on their oathmate lasts as long as the work requires, even if the Glamour would normally fade sooner.

Oh, and there’s one more thing to know about this oath; asking a boggan for it is considered an incredibly insensitive *faux pas*. This is unlikely, given how closely guarded this oath’s existence is among the kith, but if you know, just... don’t do it. Trust me.

new treasures

underhill tea service (1-5pt. treasure)

The work of master boggan crafters at the famed Longwood Arboretum freehold, only a few original sets of this beautiful porcelain tea service remain. They are highly sought after by collectors, not just for their antique value but also for the subtle enchantments woven into the pieces. For each original piece of the service you possess (and point spent on this Background), you may select one of the benefits listed below. Activating a benefit requires 1 Glamour for the scene.

- ☉ Tea is always the perfect temperature and flavor for everyone, so much so that a group who sits down and shares a nice cup of tea with this service subtracts -1 from the difficulty of all their teamwork actions for the rest of the chapter.
- ☉ Tea served is so distractingly delicious, anyone but the owner who drinks from this service must succeed at a Willpower roll (difficulty of the owner’s Glamour rating + 3, max 10) each time they wish to tell a lie for the rest of the scene.
- ☉ The boggan sees the floral patterns shift on a target’s cup shift to reveal their mood, as per the language of flowers. Subtract -2 from the difficulty of Empathy rolls involving the target for the rest of the scene. Only the owner sees this change.
- ☉ Tea from this service sustains and invigorates, counting the same as a full meal and allowing a target to get by on only two-hours sleep per night, provided they drink at least three cups during the day.
- ☉ Tea builds bridges. While taking tea with someone else, the owner receives the benefits of the Scholar of Others Merit regarding that subject and others like him. If more than one other person is drinking tea at the same time, only one can be chosen for this benefit. This effect lasts for the rest of the scene.

K I T H B O O K

boggans

the dreaming's unsung heroes

Sometimes it's the little things that make the biggest differences in life, and nowhere is this more evident than the boggan kith. Although they have preferred to let others glory in the spotlight, this industrious kith has worked its own subtle and patient magic over the centuries, drawing power from dreams of hearth and comfort and becoming no less than the bedrock of Kithain society. Even heroes need homes to return to, after all.

For the first time ever, the secrets and gossip of the boggan kith are being shared with outsiders. So pull your chair closer to the fire, take up a fresh cup of tea, and listen carefully, because the real truth about these unsung heroes is finally coming to light.

Kithbook: Boggans features:

- ☉ A history of this unassuming yet vital kith, and how they've subtly shaped the Dreaming.
- ☉ Insight into boggan nature combined with advice for bringing boggan characters to life.
- ☉ Ready-made characters for quick play, and profiles of famous boggans past and present.
- ☉ New Treasures, Merits, and Flaws for boggan characters.

