

Novigrad, this is the city that I lived in, is a dark and eerie city, oppressed by the king and his enormous wealth. Yet this is where I lived. It was kind of fitting because I was an assassin and a freak.

I am a changeling, a shapeshifter or, as the city go'ers call me - mutant. They don't know the meaning of that word for I am not mutated, I am something different. I was not born by normal means. Instead I was conceived in a lab, by a man whose mysterious agenda I do not know. His name is Olgierd. He forced me into his bidding by putting a curse on my soul. The curse says:

"You will not feel full, feel satisfied until your task is complete, your sentenced served."

When I came of age, he sent me into the world, with only a name 'Argyle' and a house. All that I can remember now is me sitting in the corner cowering in fear.

I did not know how long I stayed there, it must have been a long time, then out of the blue I heard a – KNOCK on the door. It was a package for – me.

After 20 years, I was a self-trained assassin and a loner. Just waiting and waiting in this place I called home, for an assignment. I was 34 and the year was 1347, what a boring year it was so far, I haven't gotten any assignments yet.

Until one gloomy Friday morning, I awoke with the mailman playing my door like a marimba, loud and very irritating. So, I treaded carefully toward the door, there was a package on the steps just as grotesque and frail looking like the other ones. I felt the same feeling of satisfaction that pushed me to comply, to finish the task. So, I brought it inside.

On the inside it said:

"You will infiltrate Acornwell manner and find the missing scroll. When the scroll is found and returned to the Novigrad post go back to the manor and finish the deed, kill Boethurs. He is the owner of the land, the father of the family. The deadline is one week."

"Finally, a task," I exclaimed to the wall.

I took a needed nap, then I prepared to go outside. At that time, I did not have a bounty on my head, even if I did, I could just change into a different person. I went outside and started to ask around about Acornwell. I quickly found a generous pumpkin farmer who pointed me in the right direction.

I later realized that I had forgotten my horse. My horse was named Otus, he was a nice and speedy mount. He can always get me to my destination in record time and he was brave, he saved my life on many occasions.

I went on my horse, to the dirt path that heads toward Acornwell. The first half of the trail wasn't as scenic as I thought it would be because it was in the east of the town where all the rich ambassadors and diplomats lived.

The house was 5 kilometers out on the path, the houses started to get better as I got farther away from the city. There were huge houses with a manor of beautiful embellishments, that took my eyes off the trail as I swept past them.

As I started to get close, I dismounted and went on forward. I rushed past the main gate and found a convenient hiding spot to consider my options.

My usual strategy for this kind of work was to hide out until I find a guest leaving the estate (it happens more often than you think), afterwards I would take their appearance and enter with the pretense that I had forgotten a valuable. When I go off looking, I subsequently find a janitor or a housemaid, thereon I change into them. Finally, I find the info and retrieve it.

Awhile later I found a content looking older man leaving the estate, so I started my routine. I followed him until I got a thorough look at him. He was wearing a dark bearskin jacket and black dress pants and had long flowing brown hair. A big blue book and a set of keys were cradled in his hands.

I quickly changed into him and sneaked around till I got to the front gate. There was a guard standing in a booth. I slowly approached. My entrance went as so:

I said to the guard with a phony posh accent "I am sorry for the inconvenience; I might have lost my precious keys on the way out this splendid manor."

"No problem Sir. Bucktrap I will be very pleased to help you find your belongings," said a man behind the guard wearing an expensive tuxedo.

"You might remember me from before, I am the majordomo of this manor. I have served with many royal families before my time here at Acornwell; the *Kniebihly family*, and *admiral Rompally* to name a few. My name Basil Archambault," said the Majordomo as we walked inside.

"That deal you made with Sir. Boethurs was quite generous of you it will help so many people in this world," said Basil

"Thanks, can you remind me of that certain deal, I am very busy and getting old," said Argyle disguised.

"Ohh—kay. You traded a scroll you acquired, the scroll of the earth. It was previously held by a man the people call *DarkedSmith*, a man as old as time itself. He created many evil contraptions and experimented on people. He was said to be the one that took the scroll from mother earth herself. That act of evil rotted the ground underneath Novigrad and made the city the murky, gloomy city it is today," said Basil.

The Changeling

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