

ROOTS-OF-LIFE

Smolder Application

Polite and a good listener.
@peeperonipip

ROOTS-OF-LIFE



NAME
SMOLDER

GENDER
FEMALE

COLONY
HIDDEN

RANK
OUTRIDER



About

Name	Smolder
Name meaning	After her grandmother
Nicknames	None
Gender	Female
Pronouns	She/her
Sex	Male
Sexuality	Pansexual Panromantic
Age	15 months
Colony	Hidden Colony
Rank	Outrider

Appearance

Appearance	Red mackerel tabby molly
Scars	Smolder has scars on her chin, belly, and back.

Impairments	None
Accessories	A woven necklace made of rosemary, daisies, evening primrose, juniper needles, pot marigold, dandelion, and a copper butterfly wing.
Genotype	Ll XOY blbl Dd Aa Mcmc spsp tata

Personality

Smolder's apparent confidence, mysterious thoughts and expressions, and incredible listening skills make her an alluring cat. She's always present, watchful of others and quick to act. Though her quick reactions make it seem like she's driven by impulse, Smolder is deliberate with the way she speaks and acts. Her thoughtfulness makes her decisive, so she often knows exactly where she stands in a situation. She's willing to poke her nose where it doesn't belong if she needs more context, but she's careful to not get herself into danger.

Smolder can be the glue to hold everyone together. She equally listens to those with voices that trail off and those who raise them, believing that, when making a new friend, all that matters is the connection that they desire. Thus Smolder looks past appearances to try and understand what a cat is driven by. Her dedication to others makes her a great mediator as it means she truly has everyone's best interests in mind as she settles on a resolution. She believes that logic and emotion are intertwined; one can't exist without the other.

Smolder struggles to slow down. She's always thinking about something and these thoughts bring about many questions that Smolder is determined to find an answer to. She thinks she has to act fast—to find all the answers as soon as possible, to find an immediate fix, to protect others. She can be overcommitted but not tiringly so, if anything she finds it relieving to be hard at work. She wants to feel accomplished and helpful, and along with the responsibility she feels to the Hidden Colony, she can get caught up in her belief that others won't deliver the same results that she does.

Smolder has a complicated sense of belonging. Her biological parents held possibilities she'll never know of, and while she's happy to have the family she has now, they do complicate her identity. She is a result of their nurturing: cats who were once lonely outsiders, then Web Colony, then Hidden Colony, all fragments of belonging that Smolder now carries with her. She guards this mixed identity with a sense of pride, and to be proud, you must understand what you identify with. Thus Smolder is constantly questioning her values and everything that predates yet defines her. She understands what she's protecting and why, which adds an unexpected layer of fierce protection to her.

Family

Beaver • Adoptive mother • @peeperonipip

Fluffy classic brown tabby-solid black chimera bicolor molly with a manx tail

Alouette • Adoptive parent • @peeperonipip

Sleek, long-furred gray silver classic tabby bicolor

Vervain • Biological mother • NPC

Cinnamon tortoiseshell molly

Clary • Biological father • NPC

Cinnamon classic tabby tom with white

Twilight • Sister • @hawkthespork

Cinnamon classic tabby molly

Juniper • Brother • @doodle

Fawn classic tabby tom

Marigold • Sister • @sn0wspark

Cinnamon classic torbie molly

• Extended Family •

History

Early Life (CW: grief)

Twilight, Juniper, Smolder, and Marigold were born under mysterious circumstances. Left behind by their biological parents, they were soon taken in by a Hidden Colony couple, Beaver and Alouette. For the time being, the surrogate of their peers could wet-nurse them.

Alouette and Beaver saw some unusual behaviors in their litter, whereas Pigeon's kittens were hitting most developmental milestones. They attributed it to the pasts of their kittens, considering that they'd been abandoned by their biological parents. Indeed, Smolder was dealing with the loss of his loved ones; even if the logical side of him didn't know it, his instincts did. He soothed himself whenever he was upset and behaved quiet and distant from his parents. After all, within the time he'd spent away from his biological parents' sides, he'd gotten used to taking care of himself any way he could.

Smolder initially acted awkward around Pigeon's litter, but with time, he'd completely warmed up to them. Smolder took a strong liking to all of his siblings as well as Moonpenny, Grove, and Shale. He also grew up feeling a closeness to "Auntie" Persephone and "Grandma" Poppy, often asking them and his parents things like how to tell good stories, where the best spots for hide-and-seek were, what various things around camp did, and how to read the weather. He enjoyed bringing all that knowledge back to his siblings and Pigeon's litter. Because he shared everything he knew and often mended conflicts between everyone, he was seen by his parents as the glue that held everyone together.

Smolder asked about his differences from a young age. Understanding what being adopted meant put some of his fears into perspective; he hadn't known why he felt so hollow, but now he did. Alouette especially understood that Smolder was missing his biological parents and that he wanted to know what happened. Frustratingly, there wasn't much they could tell him about his biological parents, as he and his siblings had been found alone.

The possibilities of why they'd been left behind and what his parents were like were limitless, though Smolder instinctively latched onto the idea he'd been abandoned for being a bad child. Smolder had gotten better at reading others, but he didn't want that, because the guilt in Beaver and Alouette's gazes saddened him whenever he lashed out. He was relieved when Alouette told him it was okay to feel upset about it, and when both of his parents told him they were sad about what happened too, even if they were glad that they ended up together. Touched by his parents' words, he extended that sentiment to his siblings, telling them he was happy to have them too.

Beaver and Alouette taught Smolder and his siblings that they were raised by them, which meant they could teach them everything about their *adoptive* extended family. Smolder was amazed to learn about his grandma whom he'd been named after. Through those stories, he learned his parents used to be outsiders before they joined the Web Colony and then moved to the Hidden Colony. They told him he'd carry their stories with him, and then he'd make his own memories in the Hidden Colony. He would *always* belong and connect. He didn't feel like he had an identity yet, so he was curious about what in those stories he identified with and why.

Smolder was thankful for the times he'd be led out of camp, as spending most of his time in camp during the winter

left few options for play. The days he'd climb down the territory and run through the snowy fields with his friends and family was his favorite. After each outing, he'd share a big, warm meal with his loved ones and give them some of the mementos he'd picked up along the way. He was content to fall asleep by their sides, with the stars shining above them.

Smolder and his peers were now trainees. Smolder was sure he wanted to be an Outrider, and someday, the Sage! His peers teased him for setting his expectations so high and they'd laugh it off together, though he was seriously excited to go far in life. He was eager to help everyone out around camp and doubly eager to learn how to provide and fight for them. Smolder thrived with friendly competition, as seen in their training practice and when he'd make up challenges for his peers. He was very perceptive and used what he saw in their techniques to improve upon himself and help others do the same.

One day, Smolder returned after training to hear that nobody had seen Evangeline in a while. Most of the Hidden Colony cats had a bad feeling about it, so they sent search parties to find her. It took a long time, in Smolder's eyes, to find traces of her. Those traces told the Hidden Colony cats that she'd been in a struggle with another cat. Days dragged on without any other sign of her; Evangeline was gone.

Smolder had never seen his parents—or everyone in the Hidden Colony—so afraid. Smolder thought he'd gotten over some of the pain in his early life, but he didn't expect the sobering truth that life wouldn't *stay* steady for him. His heart hurt over the idea of his family being taken away like Evangeline had been, all while he was still trying to catch up to Evangeline herself being gone. He felt like he'd been too harsh toward her, believing as a kitten that she was too unsure of herself. He didn't want to remember her that way when everyone was experiencing a loss. He soon found out that he wasn't feeling okay about it either, when he realized how surreal it felt to never see her around.

Smolder was in the camp when he heard a huge crash and was ushered away by older Hidden Colony cats. Land from above had been falling into the Hidden Colony's camp, and then a river of mud began to spew. Smolder surprisingly kept a cool head throughout the ordeal as he helped others out and away from camp. He only began to panic when he'd been running for a long time and could still see the mud and debris running through their territory, completely destroying it. He heard yelps from the cats who'd been hit by it and helped where he could, managing to catch them until it was Copper drifting away. After catching Copper being washed away in the blink of an eye, he pushed on in a desperate attempt to save them—a futile endeavor that almost got him killed. He came to the safe, lower point of the territory bleeding and limping, more focused on reporting what had happened than receiving aid.

Alouette and Persephone kept him from monitoring the damage with the others, which led them to see an old side of him: his fearful and angry self. He felt even more helpless when they disallowed everyone from searching for Copper, as much of the territory was dangerous to navigate. He calmed down over the days he spent recovering. Some would frequently see him quietly and pensively staring at his newly received scars.

Jade and Bast stepped down as the Sage and Lightbringer respectively, leaving Alouette to step up. Alouette told Smolder about their decision before they stepped into their position as Sage, though it was still a fast change that Smolder would have to get used to. He thought it'd be a lot of pressure for Alouette, but he encouraged them. He felt bad that he'd disrespected them the days prior and swore that he trusted them to lead the colony. Alouette accepted Smolder's apologies, clearly focused on more pressing matters.

Alouette sought the input of their colonymates regarding their colony's future. If they stayed in the Hidden Colony's territory, they could face starvation and other resource issues. They could also disband the Hidden Colony, seek a new territory, or merge with another colony. Smolder desperately wanted everyone to stay in one place— they were all he'd ever known. But... he also wanted them to decide for themselves what their future would be. Many cats were as mixed as he was. Alouette started communications with their neighboring colonies, requesting their help.

Smolder was still in a touchy mood as the Hidden Colony cats sorted out what to do. He couldn't be there for his peers when he was scared and recovering, which made him seem unlike himself. But he felt more hopeful when Alouette returned with news that the Sky, Cavern, and Clover Colonies were receptive to making deals. They'd found out that Evangeline was likely kidnapped by the Flytrap Colony, and because the other colonies were angry to have their own cats kidnapped, they were readying themselves for a war. The Cavern and Sky Colonies wanted the Hidden Colony cats to fight for them in exchange for land, land that would save them from all of the unpleasant alternatives the Hidden Colony cats had been mulling over.

The mudflows had ceased, meaning the Hidden Colony cats could return to their camp. Smolder felt devastated when he laid eyes on it, but he tried to be hopeful, knowing that the Clover Colony travelers would be coming to repair the camp soon. Maybe a little change would be good for them. Soon after, they welcomed the Clover Colony travelers: Sunshine, Quill, Snowshoe, and Admiral, as well as an outsider from Beaver and Alouette's past, Spider. Smolder was surprised to see Spider tagging along; was he really the Overlord from their stories?

Alouette and Persephone agreed that the Hidden Colony cats had to undergo training in preparation for the war. Smolder did his best to help the others with their training, finding some enjoyment in it when he ignored why they were doing it. Though he was unhappy thinking about it, he wouldn't have been able to make any other choice if he were in Alouette's position. These deals were the only way to preserve the Hidden Colony. A part of him feared losing that identity and many of the cats he'd grown so familiar with, if they had chosen to split or move territories instead. Knowing there was nothing else to do about it, he worked hard and put on a brave smile for the others.

There was relief from the chaos. Smolder had fun adventuring the new piece of land the Hidden Colony had gotten from their deal with the Sky Colony, exploring it right alongside his peers. The Hidden Colony also created a shrine to appreciate what they had... or once had, which gave Smolder peace of mind. Lastly, Smolder was enjoying the company of the Clover Colony travelers. Smolder tried to learn about them whenever he got a break from training. He just had to be careful about giving away too much information, since they didn't want any rumors of their colony's involvement getting back to the Flytrap Colony.

Communications with their neighboring colonies led to Alouette hearing about the attacks on outside colony cats, allegedly carried out by the Flytrap Colony cats. Smolder could see the pressure this news put on Alouette as they seemed to wonder if the Hidden Colony would be ready to uphold their deals. Also, cats began joining the Hidden Colony as they became more visible to the outside world, which gave everyone more to adjust to. Smolder was curious and friendly toward the newcomers, though not everyone else was, and Smolder himself started to feel an itch that something was wrong socially.

Smolder found a friend in Sunshine, one of the Clover Colony travelers, and Cora, a new resident. Cora was a joy to be around while Sunshine was serious-looking. Because Sunshine understood a lot of what Smolder was going through and gave him good input, Smolder felt comfortable sharing some of his worries with her. It was exactly

around this time that Smolder realized why he'd been feeling so awkward around all of these strangers and new friends; they didn't understand his identity like the cats he grew up with.

Smolder thought he might've wanted to be a molly. There were signs here and there throughout his past, though he hadn't lingered on them, with everything else going on in his life. There wasn't much at stake if he told an outsider like Sunshine, he figured. She accepted him without question and he felt happy. After thinking about it, he decided to let others know, pushing past the overwhelming nervousness he felt. He... *she*, didn't want to be misunderstood if the situation in the Hidden Colony got more dire.

Smolder came out to her family and friends rather casually and, of course, they accepted this change. They all got around to sharing accessories sometime after, with Smolder crafting herself a necklace with the others. She made something to remember the cats she grew up with, including Copper. Remembering Copper still hurt a little. It wasn't long after that Moonpenny returned with a scar, which Smolder deduced she'd acquired from searching for Copper.

Adulthood

Smolder was now an Outrider. She celebrated her and her peers' rank-ups with them, sharing her hopes for the Hidden Colony as they moved forward. They went about their usual routine in the Hidden Colony—training themselves 'til they were sore, in anticipation of their fight with the Flytrap Colony. Smolder didn't know what their future would bring.

Having repaired the Hidden Colony's camp and territory, it was time for the Clover Colony travelers to leave. Smolder waved them off happily, holding onto all of the good times they spent together. A bittersweet feeling crept in as Smolder wondered when, if ever, she'd see them again.

Trivia

Interests

- ♥ Cloudwatching
- ♥ Competition
- ♥ Climbing and traveling
- ✕ Indecisiveness

Beliefs

- Nobody is ever alone, they carry pieces of others with them
- There is no feeling of being alive without a sense of identity
- "Today" is the most precious possession

- ✕ Pettiness
- ✕ Ignorance

- Emotion and logic are intertwined
- It is her responsibility to make a positive impact

Other

- Smolder enjoys cloudwatching over stargazing because of how the shapes can be interpreted
- She often wonders what her biological parents were like
- Wants to make a good impression, so she makes sure she's well-groomed
- Tends to mumble and repeat things that she needs to remember
- Enjoys making up milestones and challenges to prove herself
- References past conversations a lot, showing that she listens very well
- Loves to coach others with whatever they need help with
- Has some spring allergies
- Learned crafting and cloudwatching as a way to take things more slowly

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