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The Orphan Welfare Society
Head Office - Ankh Morpork
Quirm Division

Miss Eulalie Butts, Headmistress
Quirm College For Young Ladies
Quirm.

Esteemed colleague,

Regarding the child, Susan Sto Helit, recently referred to our Quirm office, please find enclosed an expert report as requested.

As indicated in your correspondence, it is unusual for us to intervene for a non-destitute orphan, however we were delighted to bring to bear our wide experience pertaining to these children in this very interesting case. From our standpoint her needs appear to be classic even if the manifestation of them is a tad unusual.

We found her to be a very interesting young lady with considerable potential. All credit to your education. Polite to a fault, gifted, self reliant, if a little evasive. We regret that our report could not be fuller.

We will waive our fee in memory of the greatly esteemed Duke and Duchess of Sto Helit and in gratitude to the Quirm College for Young Ladies Old Girls Association for their continued generosity to our vital cause.

Sincerely yours etc

What ho! Lulu old thing,

What fun, back in touch.

Jolly right, too much nose to the grindstone, not enough play. Must get together for a cuppa cha and a chinwag. Didn't get to Bunt's little "do" either, beaverin' away. Don't know what they'll do without us when we kick the bucket, Youth of today, no sense of duty!

Goodlepip, Lollypop.

***The Orphan Welfare Society
Head Office - Ankh Morpork
Quirm Division***

Social Enquiry Report

Title :	- Duchess
Name :	- Susan
Surname :	- Sto Helit
Age :	-16 years
Next of Kin	- None
Parents	- deceased in early childhood
Maternal family	- unknown. No guild records of a foundling of that name and age.
Paternal family	- grandparents deceased - family, numerous. Lezek's, Sheepsridge, Octarine Grass Country. Reannual Wine Growers. No recent contact.

Reason for referral - absenteeism in class due to invisibility

Medical report (according to school records) :

Age	-16 years.
Sex	- Female.
Height and weight	- within averages for her age.
Development	- apparently normal.
Physical activity	- banned from sports due to excessive use of force in hockey
Physical examination	- not possible.

Life History :

Born in Sto Helit, Susan has a limited knowledge of parents and wider family due to early bereavement. She has substantial gaps in her knowledge and shows little curiosity. No continuing ties with kin group or community of birth.

Continuously educated at Quirm College for Young Ladies from an early age Susan has little life experience beyond its esteemed walls.

Interview. Key points :

- Courteous, to a fault.
- Defensive replies to all questions.
- Demonstrates avoidant coping strategies, fading during conversation, evasive answers.
- Has some low level generalised anger and hostility.
- Poor regard for other pupils.
- No known friendships within her species, cause of some perplexity.
- Fosters some level of friendship with a Dwarf and a Troll.
- Proud of her abilities in Logic, Maths and Hockey. Can't be drawn on other subjects.
- Clearly a brilliant mind in her own areas of interest.
- May have some childish traits, age inappropriate use of the words stupid and soppy.
- On the subject of invisibility Susan showed considerable reluctance to discuss. She indicated that she has not received a diagnosis, information or counselling. She believes there may be others who can be invisible but was reluctant to open up on the subject and has not spoken with anyone about it. She appears to have considerable prejudice and judgemental attitudes towards them, disbelieving their existence, reflecting modern attitudes on the subject.

Conclusions :

Superficially Susan does not see her invisibility as a problem, it suits her to use it when she wishes to. However we believe that her recourse to such avoidance tactics may be contributing to other problems.

Due to very early residential status and poor socialisation beyond the confines of the school, Susan Sto Helit may have some institutionalisation issues, affecting her socialisation, maturation, and identity development.

Lack of grieving behaviour, poor integration with human peers, little show of emotion beyond persistent underlying anger could point to a masked depression.

Judgemental, critical, supercilious attitudes to others could be a natural consequence of the isolation of her breeding and education and may not be considered problematic in her milieu but may limit her social integration beyond the hallowed walls.

Her evident excellence in certain subjects but indifference to others leading to an unnatural absenteeism in certain classes merits further investigation. Careful questioning by a trusted adult in a non-threatening environment could reveal whether this is simply a symptom of boredom, not uncommon in gifted children, or Dissociative behaviour due to Reactive Attachment Disorder.

Recommendations

Due to her brittle and avoidant behaviour caution is advisable when tackling any subject directly with Susan. Regarding -

Invisibility :

- We would strongly recommend that a consultation with a local wizard or the Unseen University be sought at the first opportunity.
- Invisibility should not be socially stigmatised or a source of embarrassment. It is frequently found in conjunction with other symptoms, some of which she may not have even identified herself.
- School staff should be briefed on this subject, dispelling taboo and taught to recognise her triggers.

Distanciation from her own roots and identity :

- We would be willing to offer regular meetings with one of our social workers to do "Life Story" work. This is normally conducted prior to adoption proceedings but could be adapted in the case of this young lady. From the brief interview she allowed us we received the impression she has little or no knowledge of the remarkable diplomatic

work of her parents negotiating peace across the states of the Sto Plains and the resulting dramatic reduction in orphan creation. Their death was a tragic loss to us all. We assume that if she is frequently absent in history she may not be au courant. In view of her avoidant behaviour it could be that personal investigation might be a more acceptable way of discovering her heritage.

- We would strongly suggest that efforts be made to contact any surviving paternal relatives. Firstly, because even small amounts of kin contact can help with the creation of identity and getting in touch with realities beyond the educational establishment. Secondly we note that the Octarine Grass Country has a high level of background magic. It should therefore be considered whether there is a familial predisposition for magical symptoms.

Poor sociability and mood regulation :

- We regret that alternative arrangements to full time permanent year round boarding were not sought at a younger more amenable age, with a view to reestablishing stable affective ties and attachment bonds. We would advise that although lodging with a foster family would have been highly advisable when she was younger, we feel that she is now too old, independent and withdrawn to be willing to accept such a proposition.
- Due to long term inadequate affective proximity to adults we would suggest alternative ways of increasing trust building contact outside the classroom, for example regular one to one meetings with a respectable member of the community to discuss any subject of mutual interest in a neutral setting, e.g. a pavement café, public square, or walk in the park.
- It could be that work experience as a governess might give her access to observe normal family life which she has hitherto missed.
- Some socially withdrawn individuals can find contact with animals easier than humans at first, in which case perhaps volunteering at the Quirm Branch of the Sunshine Sanctuary for Sick Dragons could be envisaged.
- We suggest that as a highly gifted child in certain areas, namely logic, contact with other similarly gifted people could be arranged through the Quirm Debating Society. Although it is unusual for females to be admitted to their membership it could be that, with an accompanying chaperone, they might be willing to make an exception due to her status as duchess and the high regard all still have of the work of her father, the late Duke of Sto Helit.

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