

Songbird (II)



In the somewhat jaundiced opinion of Leah Blade, the most amazing thing about **her mother** being a superhero is the way that she managed to keep it a secret from her only daughter right up until the day that she died. Making her debut in the awful year of 1982, the original Songbird kept right on fighting the good fight all the way through the eighties and the nineties, only taking a short break to give birth to Leah in 1989 before diving right in. **Her father** looked after her, initially, before that travelling man moved on when she was seven. After that, she was mostly cared for by "friends" of her mother.

Leah formed a lot of crazy ideas about "the job" that seemed to be the most important thing to her mother. Ironically, superhero was never one of her guesses, even after the second wave of the capes and body-stocking crowd started. She was more inclined to guess "secret agent", or "underworld fixer", or even "high-class call girl" in her most cynical moments. Sometimes she thought that there was no job, that whenever her mother got a phone call from anybody, she would just drop whatever she was doing and go out to have fun, leaving Leah alone with her questions.

And then, one day, Leah saw her mother on the news with the announcement that the mysterious Songbird had finally been identified as one Sarah Blade, age forty-nine ... in the wake of her murder by persons unknown.

At the funeral, Leah cut through the trembling condolences of **Earl Mason**, the most recent of "frend" of her mother, to ask him directly if he was the Golden Archer. When his face gave the answer away, she laid into him as a convenient scapegoat for all her anger and grief about the absence of her mother in her life, both in the past and the way that it was now permanent, blaming him for all that had happened. He just stood there and took it, which only made her

angrier and angrier, and she finally screamed so loudly that he was flung back several feet. Until that moment, she had not known that she had super-powers.

She did not really see much point to it, but Leah still finished her high school education, and then officially joined a band with some of her friends. Her ulterior motive in becoming a singer was that it would let her spend a lot of time practicing with her voice, ensuring that it would never get out of control like that again. She came to enjoy performing but dealing with the sort of people who were interested in hiring the band was not the sort of thing she relished. But all jobs have their downsides, right?

Then one of the murderers of her mother was released from prison early. Well, technically, he had not been tried for murder, having weaseled out of that charge by testifying against his fellow pieces of crap, so he had only gotten eight years for various associated charges, and shown enough good behavior to be out in six. Leah suppressed yet another scream, and reminded herself that his testimony had gotten life without parole for the rest of them, and so as long as he stayed the hell out of her way, she could live with the situation.

Of course, he promptly showed up at her latest gig, laughing with his good buddies about how big he had felt when that <racial slur> <anti-super slur> <misogynist term> had coughed out her last breath, *right in front of her*. So she let out that scream she had been suppressing, and that was the end of that particular watering hole. Also, her membership in the band.

Leah is fairly sure someone set her up, but it hardly matters anymore. She had long since lost any illusions that she was ever going to make it big as a singer, and letting go of that coasting lifestyle was not much of a loss. Fighting crime and ensuring that all the crap that happened to her never happens to anyone else affords her much more satisfaction, anyway. And unlike **a certain person**, she has no need to wear a mask or the same set of clothes all the time!

She's slow to trust people, understandably given all that has happened, but tends to trust absolutely when she does. (It took most of four years for Leah to trust **Xenia**, for example.) Her scream is the most unreliable weapon in her arsenal, so she tends to rely on her hand-to-hand skills more than that. Making it more reliable is something she would like to do, but that would require her to seek help from experts in the field, none of whom she knows or regards as trustworthy. Consequently, she is not likely to develop any of the cool tricks that her mother could do anytime soon. *Que sera, sera*.

Songbird -- PL 8

Abilities:

STR 2 | STA 2 | AGL 4 | DEX 3 | FGT 10 | INT 1 | AWE 3 | PRE 4

Powers:

Vocal Blast: Cone Area 2 Damage 8, Tiring - 16 points

Advantages:

Agile Feint, Defensive Attack, Defensive Roll, Equipment 2, Evasion, Extraordinary Effort, Grabbing Finesse, Improved Defense, Improved Disarm, Improved Initiative, Improvised Weapon, Inspire, Instant Up, Interpose, Leadership, Move-by Action, Power Attack, Redirect, Set-up, Takedown.

Equipment:

Motorcycle - 10 points

Skills:

Acrobatics 5 (+9), Athletics 6 (+7), Close Combat: Unarmed 3 (+13), Expertise: Performance 8 (+12), Expertise: Streetwise 6 (+7), Insight 5 (+8), Intimidation 6 (+10), Perception 8 (+11), Stealth 4 (+8), Vehicles 5 (+8).

Offense:

Initiative +9

Unarmed +14 (Close Damage 2)

Vocal Blast -- (Cone Area Damage 8)

Defense:

Dodge 10, Parry 12, Fortitude 6, Toughness 4/2, Will 8.

Totals:

Abilities 58 + Powers 16 + Advantages 19 + Skills 28 + Defenses 17 = 138 points

Offensive PL: 8

Defensive PL: 8

Resistance PL: 7

Skill PL: 7

Complications:

Legacy--Motivation. Relationship (Xenia Latham). **Suspicious. Temper. Wanted by Police.**

Update 2021: Leah has recently discovered the role that **Spectra** played in the death of her mother, and brought her to what she has decided to pretend is justice. Subsequently, she has achieved greater mastery of her Vocal Blast (remove its Tiring flaw.)

Update 2022: The removal of Spectra and her influence, and some additional influence by **Marc Bolton**, has resulted in the end of her outlaw status in Portland; remove **Wanted by Police** from

her complications, but Songbird still has a **Reputation**. She turned down the invitation from Bolton to join **the Magnificent Seven**, preferring to focus on Portland and its issues. More recently yet, Leah was contacted by **Amari** who wanted to set up some sort of meeting. Mystified, she agreed ... and so learned that Abidemi Sowande is her sister and that their father has been alive all this time, just hiding. She was understandably infuriated by this, and much shouting occurred. However, she eventually decided to forgive him for this, since she realized he had not intended for any of the shit he went through to happen, and chose to stay in touch in the future. (Her training has raised her to PL 9; increase her STA to 3, her Dodge to 11 and Parry to 13. She recently power stunted Cone Area 2 Affliction 8 (Resisted by Fortitude; Dazed & Hearing Impaired, Stunned & Hearing Disabled, Stunned & Hearing Unaware), Extra Condition, Limited to One Sense.)