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Reshka

Reshka is a rock pigeon, the most respected bird of South-City who owns Bluequill tavern and is co-leader of homonymous band. If anyone in the town had a problem, they always knew who to ask for help.



General info

Full name: Reshka Marceleovich Venzel' (Решка Марселевич Вензель)

Species: Rock dove [*Columba livia*]

Gender: Male

Age: Adult (from 20 to 40 years by human standards during the main actions)

Hatchdate: March 8

Occupation: Co-leader of the Bluequill band and owner of homonymous tavern

Residence: South-City, Lenina 20 (the center) → Bluequill tavern

Role: Main character

Appearance

Reshka has a very swift and slim silhouette, with sleek well-preened feathers. He's agile and fast, moving and spinning around sort of like a parrot.

Colours: Unlike regular pigeons, his colours are slightly lighter, softer and have a brownish tint. Head and dorsal tail are grey, the rest of the body and eye markings are light grey. Wing tips, tail tips, secondary coverts and beak are brown. Eyelids, legs and cere are pink. Chest's iridescent feathers have a pink-orange gradient.

Eyes: Blue.

Accessories: Reshka is almost always wearing a black bowler hat. Sometimes he also wears a blue-and-white striped sailor vest, and a black coat.

Personality

Cheerful and easy-going, Reshka doesn't like making enemies. He tries to be helpful for everyone, but at the same time manages to not let anyone manipulate him. He's very cunning and if he wants to get something, he will always find a way.

Reshka has a big passion for music; his intellectual parents always wanted him to have a “better” future, but for Reshka, the best future wasn't about higher education and well-paid job, but about spreading the music and fun around the streets. Even if he didn't become what his parents expected, he still earns a lot of money because he knows how to do it well.

Reshka is full of joy and positivity, it seems like he can never feel sad. If he doesn't like something, he will gather the courage in a fist and go fix it. He manages to find a common language with all birds, thus everyone in the city respects him. He's also good at solving conflicts between his friends.

Sometimes his choices aren't exactly lawful, but he plans everything ahead and tries to make sure he won't get in trouble; Reshka sets his own law and knows how to find a loophole to achieve what he wants.

Likes summer, peaceful weather, sea and beach, Eastern Europe, cities, trains, when everyone is happy.

Dislikes strong wind, quiet mornings, aggressive birds of prey, bird racism, when someone is fighting.

Relations

Family

Mother: Rina

Father: Marcel

Siblings: WIP

Spouse: Sophia

Offspring: WIP

Friends & enemies

Friends: Benedikt, Butch, Sandor, Sophia, Zoe, Iza, Alex, Larissa, WIP

Enemies: WIP

Close relations

Sandor: Out of all Bluequill members, Sandor is Reshka's closest friend. As co-leaders, they are ready to back up each other in every situation. Together they play guitars, sing, write poems and arrange the orchestra. They fly around the city and get involved into various shenanigans, sometimes getting into trouble and strengthening their bond once they get out of it. For Sandor, Reshka's tavern is free.

Butch: They have pretty good relations, but Reshka often gets pissed and embarrassed by Butch's obnoxious behaviour. He keeps him in line, so his jokes don't go too far and he doesn't get in trouble.

Benedikt: Out of all band mates, Ben trusts Reshka the most, because he makes him feel worthy. He never harmed him, but only supported him in difficult times - for example, when Ben escaped from parents, Reshka let him live in his room. If Ben needs help, he knows who to ask.

Sophia: They understand each other without saying a word, and Sophia, as someone who has a lot of connections from a greater theatre, always helps Reshka with his work.

Zoe: They have good relations. Whenever Zoe needs a job, Reshka always finds something for her to do.

Iza: They have quite good relations, even though Reshka tries his best to avoid conflict with Iza. He knows how to talk to her without accidentally making her angry.

Alex: Sometimes Reshka struggles with talking to Alex, as he seems to not have that spirit. Still, Reshka tries to be understanding.

Larissa: Reshka welcomes Larissa in the city and gladly shows her everything around. Just like Sandor, he's happy to see her at any time.

More characters will be added

Biography

Introduction

Reshka is a musician who owns a tavern and is one of the most respected pigeons in the city. He has a big family and a lot of friends.

He's co-leader of a Ukrainian klezmer-chanson band called Bluequill, consisting of another pigeon, a seagull, a crow, a magpie and a stork. He usually plays the guitar.

Unlike his highly intelligent and educated parents, Reshka never yearned for the fancy life, he rather spent the youth on the streets hanging out with stray birds, getting into fights and cheering up the neighbours by playing guitar.

Reshka is respected a lot by many local birds, but he is not exactly lawful - he was actually involved into criminality, but whenever someone has a problem, they would always turn to Reshka, even if the solution won't be so legal.

Lifestory

Reshka was born in a big prosperous family, where his parents were known as important intellectuals - mother was a doctor, and father was a teacher. They were doing their best to raise the young pigeons to be able to fend for themselves, outsmart any bird of prey and be ahead of others. Reshka, however, was different - he didn't yearn for the books, he yearned for street adventures, and eventually he got a guitar and started playing it all day.

When he graduated, parents sent him to London to study economics. There he had distant relatives, who let him live in their house. Day after day, Reshka felt like he was wasting life, he didn't like what he was forced to do, and the "temporary parents" were overly strict to him; eventually he had enough and decided to escape and find a way back home, because he knew that pigeons always know how to return.

It was late November, and he was completely alone in a big city. He decided to go east, towards the sea, where he would get back on the continent and eventually catch a train that will bring him home. Reshka was trying to get help from other pigeons, but everyone avoided him. He played a guitar to earn some extra coins. One day he stumbled into an injured parrot, who couldn't fly. It was a rose-ringed parakeet named Caligo, a pet who chose freedom and became feral - but then got attacked by a falcon, and miraculously survived. He asked Reshka to take him to the shelter, which was located under a bridge. He was a little bit obnoxious, so Reshka decided that he will leave him as soon as he finishes the job - but when he arrived, he saw that there was a whole community of outcasts.

There were pigeons, crows, and even rats. Their leader, a wise old swift named Monsoon who lost his flock and was motionlessly perching on a pole for entire days, predicted that this year's winter will be exceptionally harsh - so everyone started preparing wood for the fire. Reshka was allowed to stay, but he told them that he will return home soon; suddenly a kestrel named Mila appeared and warned him

about the Talons (Wip name) that were spotted nearby and rumours that they are coworking with Stormwings now. She told him a whole backstory, how she investigated one of their bases and met rats that told her all the secrets. Talons treated rats and small birds as a currency, not living beings, so when they got opportunity, they escaped with the help of Mila and settled in this place. Furious predators wanted to take revenge on kestrel, but she was too fast and elusive, so she was never caught.

Reshka and birds spent some more time together, preparing their shelter for winter, but one night Reshka said that his time has come and he needs to go home.

They were slightly disappointed - but it was his choice. He set off on a journey to the sea, he flew and flew, but suddenly a snowstorm caught him off guard and led astray. In the distance he saw a lonely tree by the pond, and decided that it's a good place to wait out the bad weather. He rushed towards the tree, and unexpectedly met a familiar bird - Caligo came here too. They were incredibly happy to meet each other again, and Caligo explained that he just decided to go to continent as well, because he got inspired by Reshka and wanted to return to native India. Suddenly, their joy was interrupted by another unexpected bird - falcon. That one falcon, who once hurt Caligo, appeared again. He said that he had been watching them for a long time, and then he attacked. Reshka tried to defend Caligo, but both got knocked out.

They weren't killed though - falcon had other intentions. They woke up in a cage, and falcon immediately started interrogation. He wanted to know where was Mila, who rescued the captives; where was Monsoon, who led them into a storm and caused their equipment to be destroyed; and other birds from the shelter, who did trouble to Talons. He said that he will let Caligo live, if he gives up the shelter location. They two left, and Reshka ended up all alone in a cage. He knew that he had no value, no secrets to reveal, he was just a food to them, so he decided to play smart and simply pretend to be dead. It worked: when another hawk walked in, he got confused, so he released the pigeon. Reshka immediately broke free, but there was a problem - he had no idea where he was going. The area was big and had no windows or signs of exit, so he was going blind. Eventually he found a small gap and ended up in the vent. He started climbing around in search of exit, and in one room he heard some voices, talking about arrival of Stormwings. Rumours were true.

As soon as he found the exit, he found a feather of a parakeet and immediately knew what direction they went. He followed the signs and managed to track the falcon down without revealing himself. It was a long way, but in the end, the places started looking familiar. Caligo, despite feeling the deadly claws of a falcon behind his back, felt guilty when he saw the bridge, so he desperately tried to escape, dodging into different direction. Unfortunately, the falcon was faster and more maneuverable, so he quickly caught and pinned the parrot down to ground.

Reshka saw this and decided to act fast: first he came back to the bridge and told everyone to hide, then he dashed high into the skies and used his own enemy's tactic - diving, to hit the falcon at high speed and make him dizzy. It caught the villain off guard and made him dizzy for a while, so Caligo managed to escape. Him and Reshka started chaotically circling around the falcon to disorient him, but in the end he saw the tips of their tails slipping into a gap in the sewers. The furious predator, in all its glory, appeared in front the whole group. The birds were scared, but they didn't run - it was a cold night, everyone was huddling together and they were too exhausted to fight. What first seemed like a golden mine for falcon, suddenly made him freeze. He stared at them silently for a minute, hesitating to attack. Everyone who ever did a trouble for Talons and deserved revenge was here, in one place, yet suddenly he realised that they were just normal birds with an unlucky fate, and the only villain here was him. For the first time in his life, falcon felt guilty. He silently left the sewers and perched on a pole, where Monsoon used to sit. Unknown amount of time passed until all birds quietly poked out of their hiding. They all ducked back in when they saw that the falcon was still there, everyone except Reshka and Caligo. When Reshka asked, why falcon stopped the hunt, he answered "I was meant to be a carnivore, not a monster". He told them that his name was Arbalest and confessed that Talons ruined his life and his identity. The sight of innocent birds who never deserved such fate were a breaking point for falcon, he took off his Talons leg bands and threw them out of the river, announcing the end of it.

There wasn't much that Arbalest could do to redeem himself, but he decided to help Caligo and Reshka reach the port. Mila, Monsoon and others decided to support them as well, so they all went together. After a long road, they were finally there. Reshka and came on board and said goodbye to their friends. Caligo decided to stay for a bit more time, but he promised that he will visit Reshka someday.

It was a new chapter for Reshka's long way home. Winter got much harsher, and he had no chance to survive if he didn't play smart. And so he decided to start playing the guitar again to earn some money. The weather was too bad to continue the journey, so Reshka, waiting to hit the road as soon as it gets better, got stuck in this place for another long month. Unfortunately he had to flee sooner, when the Stormwings, united with Talons, appeared. Now Reshka had no idea where he was and how much left he had until home, but he knew only one thing - it was located somewhere southeast. He flew and flew, day by day, not completely sure if he was doing it right. He stumbled into an avian village, but it was abandoned after the Talons raid.

He continued the journey and stumbled into a big city, but was too exhausted to fly, so he was just hopelessly walking into nowhere. Suddenly a cat appeared in front of him, clearly with hunting intentions. She playfully hopped around the pigeon and expected him to fly away in panic, but surprisingly, he was indifferent and just continued walking. No matter how cat insisted, pigeon ignored her like a ghost, so she finally dared to ask what's wrong. Then she let him come in the house, where

her owner lived. He kept some carrier pigeons and cat told Reshka their long story and how pigeons always return home. It motivated Reshka to continue going, so after he regained strength, he continued the journey. He started seeing familiar flags and signs, so he realised that he was already very close, and after many thunders and blizzards, he saw the first flowers. He was in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by forest and field. Realising that it's finally spring, Reshka just lied on ground and stared at sky, crying from happiness that he made it to spring. He was brought to reality by sounds of horse hooves and a dog face blocking out the sun. The dog took Reshka to the carriage, that was carried by the horse and brought him up to date. When Reshka asked if he knows where South-City is, the dog pointed straight on horizon.

Reshka was finally home. He met the parents and told them everything that happened. He thought that he will finally get some rest, but there was a new problem: rooks. Gang of bandits, that caused chaos here and there. Reshka was brought up to date by his best friend Butch, and together they developed a revenge plan with crows by stealing some weapons and convincing a flock of pigeons to join. It all ended with a huge fight, and they won - rooks left the city and that night, the city slept peacefully. Reshka's story became famous, but most famous thing about him was ability to stay cheerful and bright after all he went through. He started a music band called Bluequill and opened a homonymous tavern, becoming the most respected bird in the city. He married pigeon Sophia and they had a lot of children.

Development and design

Reshka was based on a real pigeon that I tamed back in 2018. I wasn't creative with names, so I just randomly named him Reshka because I thought about the show "Orel i Reshka" which means "Heads and Tails" in Russian. Orel means eagle, so I thought that reshka was supposed to mean the opposite of eagle. He was mentioned as original character in May 2024 and got his first design and lore a year later, and another year later, on June 6 2026, a complete story rewrite.