

# Rafael Lacoste

Rafael Adrian Lacoste is the son of Elise Lacoste and Henri Lacoste and a Grade 10 student at Pine Mountain Academy.

## Appearance

Rafael is of average height and weight, but people have said that his limbs look slightly longer than they should and that he has a slightly alien look about him. You can tell something is *off*, but can't quite put your finger on it. Oddness aside, he's not unattractive. His skin is very pale, and he has no birthmarks. His hair is naturally inky matte black, thick, wavy and styled long-ish, but neat with a long fringe of varying length that's longer in the centre (the longest pieces reaching the bridge of his nose). His irises are black. His most prominent feature is his wings, all black feathers similar to a great horned owl. He conceals them using a binder.

## Personality

Rafael is extremely quiet, he often scares people by accidentally sneaking up on them. He prefers to observe, sometimes not contributing anything to conversations, but listening intently, though he often appears not to be listening. Other times his stare can be intense. He keeps his thoughts to himself unless asked but if prompted, will be completely (in some cases brutally) honest. He's very polite when speaking, but he always says exactly what he thinks and means. He's very observant. His sense of humour is good, but things often get lost between his thoughts and speech. He can joke about

### Rafael Lacoste



**Also known as**

- Rafi (by Elise & Quinn)
- Rafeya (by Skora)
- Raf (by Henri)

**Gender** Male (He/Him)

**Species** Great Horned Owl  
Hybrid-Witch (Remnant)

**Ethnicity** Extraworlder

**Nationality** Canadian

**Status** Alive

#### Personal Details

**Born** 10th January 20XX

**Age** 16

things but doesn't always know when/if others are making jokes, and when he tries it himself, people think he's serious because of his flat expressions. He's a kind boy with uncharacteristically volatile magic.

# Biography

**Trigger Warning:** SPOILERS, mentions of bullying, sexual assault and religion

## Background

The “Extraworld” is the colloquial name for the magickal pocket dimension where the earth keeps magickal creatures. A few of the original witches live there. One of those is Elise’s mother, only allowed to have a child with the express purpose of training her to be the next witch so she could die, was naturally extremely protective of Elise because if something happened to Elise she’d have to keep living. But Elise had always been curious about the Original Domain. Witches are immortal and can’t have children (because it is forbidden by the magic that was given to them thousands of years ago), but Elise wanted a family just like humans could have. When she was biologically 19 (time passes differently in the Extraworld and witches age differently, even in the Original Domain, which is to say very slowly until they reach their prime of about 25. Some witches can change their form and choose to look older to garner more respect and authority, as Elise’s mother) wanted a child so badly that she tried to make one out of clay. Her mother found out and destroyed it, citing that the creation of beings by those besides Earth was wrong. She was devastated and ran away, taking the ashes with her.

Height	177 cm (5' 10")
Hair	Black
Eyes	Black Grey (post cleansing)
Occupation	Student at Pine Mountain Academy
Parents	Elise Lacoste (née n/a) Henri Lacoste
Spouse	N/A
Signature	<i>Rafael Lacoste</i>
Personality Types	
Alignment	
MBTI	ISTJ
Enneagram	
Zodiac	Capricorn
Etc.	
Pet(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lulu (Chocolate Labrador)</li><li>Verity (Wolf Dog)</li><li>Artemis (Silver Somali Cat)</li></ul>
Language(s)	French, English, Latin
Love Language(s)	Words of Affirmation, Giving Gifts
Aesthetic	Goth Prep/Dark Academia

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In the forest, she sat down to weep and was approached by a spirit. She did not know it was evil and so she agreed when it promised to make her a child. It fulfilled its promise and using the ashes, an owl feather that happened to be on the ground, and a drop of Elise's blood, Rafael was born. Elise's mother was furious, warning Elise of the consequences of her actions and casting her out of the family, wanting none of the darkness in her house. Elise wandered for days until accidentally stumbling upon the entrance to the Original Domain. The spirits began chasing her then because they were never intending for Elise to keep Rafael much past early childhood. The Spirits intended for Rafael to be a vessel and they were trying to track him down. It was then that Elise realised what she had done. Elise's entrance to the human world was violent. She appeared in the middle of the road and caused a car accident.

She was too weak, her magic too depleted, to go back and knew that even if she did she'd be killed. The Original Domain is safe for now because The Spirits aren't yet strong enough to cross the boundary.

With a heavy heart, Elise altered Rafael's memories but she did it in a hurry, and memory tampering wasn't her forte, so she messed up a bit, making him forget some things he wasn't supposed to. He forgot about magic. Because of Elise's blood, he's a witch specialising in animal communication and control, but because of The Spirits, he has an affinity for dark magic and communicating with evil spirits. Elise decided it would be safer to hide this from him because it would make it easier to blend in with humans.

She enchanted a rune onto him and always has him wear black because it's the easiest colour to infuse with her magic and hide him from the spirits. She hides him by dumping her Light magic into him to counter/cancel out the dark magic create an absence of magic and make him appear to be a human. The infusion drains her because the dark magic sucks her Light magic out of her.

Rafael is aware of magic (Elise had to tell him something because of the dreams) but doesn't know about Extraworld or that he has any abilities beyond that of being a Great Horned Owl hybrid.

Elise settled the two of them in a small neighbourhood of North Quebec called Montserrat Mountain and now works at the local cafe/bakery.

## Early Life

Rafael was brought into the world on 10th January 20XX in Montreal, the first and only son of Elise Lacoste. He was named a full day after his birthday using the names Elise found in a newspaper she saw when she passed a newsstand (which happened to be Henri's because of the car accident, which was big news in the small town). He was homeschooled until Grade 5 when Elise decided that he should have the "Human School Experience" as she calls

## Religion

Rafael's religion is complicated, not his feelings about it, but the way one might try to describe it. Up until his 16th year, Elise kept him in the dark about the Extraworld, but that does not mean that it wasn't always an important part of his existence. Taking that Extraworld into account, magic is inextricable from both science and religion because it has to do with Earth saving its evolutionary dead ends with magic, and then eventually granting magic to select humans to protect the secrecy of these creatures. There is, in this universe (at least among witches and other magical humanoids), concrete evidence for the existence of Earth as a higher, somewhat sentient being. There is no evidence for any gods; the closest thing is Earth. Rafael is

aware of this because Elise hasn't told him about the Extraworld.

Elise, like all witches, "worships" Earth (though witch worship is very different from Judeo-Christian worship in the sense that Earth is more like a boss than a god), but she thought that joining the local religious community would be a good way to learn about humans, integrate into the Original Domain and avoid suspicion.

Religion is an easy way to avoid suspicion in a small conservative town. It's safety in numbers, a sort of automatic common ground. As you may imagine, Elise hasn't always been successful in this endeavour because of her choice of religion. She picked Judaism over Christianity because she had heard many of the horrible things the Church had done over the centuries from her mother in the Extraworld and couldn't stomach being a part of it.

Henri is a former Catholic and went to a Catholic Boarding School in France for eight years, from age eleven to nineteen, before leaving his family and their ties to the Church during a trip home, the winter holiday of his senior year. Henri does not talk much about his time with the Church and even then only to Elise. Rafael is unaware of it.

For what Rafael believes, he doesn't believe in one god but agrees with the religious principles of highly respecting yourself and those around you and living accordingly. He, like Elise, is a pacifist.

The Lacostes do not keep kosher but are pescatarian because Elise can't bear the thought of supporting Industrial Meat. They try to buy as sustainably sourced fish as they can. Rafael has no objection to this. Elise wants to get a greenhouse to have a garden and start raising chickens, for eggs, not for meat. Rafael likes this idea because it means Elise might let him get a cat to keep

sts out of the chicken feed.

## urrent

currently attends Pine Mountain Academy, a K-12 private school and is a member of the Jewish Culture Club, PRISM Club, and the Boys 9 - 10 football m.

## urity's Return & Lulu's Adoption

*Main article: Insert event 1 link here*

When Rafael was 8, Verity showed up. Verity had been Elise's childhood familiar but was left behind when Elise crossed over into the Original Domain. She was supposed to be loyal to Elise's mother as her own mother was, and she always respected and obeyed Elise's mother as her own mother wanted her to, until Elise's mother banished Elise. Saddened and concerned, the determined canine-esque creature found a way to reunite with her owner. Elise was shocked at the dog's appearance. At first, she worried that the barrier had been broken, but Verity assured her that wasn't the case. Verity's loyalty was not surprising because of the distaste Verity had always shown for Elise's disobedience towards her mother in childhood. Elise adopted Lulu in an effort to teach Verity to act more like a normal dog. Verity doesn't adore Lulu, treating her rather like one would a very small, naive toddler they've been forced to babysit.

Rafael dislikes regular dogs because of the way they smell and sound and the fact that they always barked at him like they could sense something wasn't quite right, but he made peace with Verity because she did none of these things. Lulu, however, is as dog-like as, well, a dog, and while he doesn't hate her, she is by no means his favourite. This is mostly because she bites at his brothers and is hostile towards the Remnant.

## ning Pine Mountain Academy

*Main article: [Pine Mountain Academy \(Montreal\)](#)*

When Rafael came of middle school age, at 10, Elise decided that he should have the “Human School Experience” and enrolled him in the local private school. Though the tuition was a stretch, financial aid and the favour of the headmaster who favoured Elise (perhaps a bit too much), Rafael was able to stay in.

Rafael did very well academically, far ahead of most of his classmates due to homeschooling, but things were harder on the social front. At one point he was placed in a Speech Therapy class because of how little he spoke and/or stuttered. This only created a greater distance between him and the other students most of whom had been at Pine Mountain since Kindergarten. They were not very welcoming and Rafael struggled to form connections even after joining the cross-country and track teams. This combined with the principal's rejection for Elise made the situation rather unpleasant for all parties involved.

## Elise's Marriage to Henri

*Main article: [Insert event 1 link here](#)*

After Rafael started school, Elise began to get involved in the PTA. She got many questions about the relatively small age gap between her and Rafael (she was 31 and he was 12) and the lack of a husband. She thought she ought to find one, as it would also help with the situation with the principal.

Elise wanted the most Original human man she could find and one who wouldn't ask too many questions. In a small town, this was harder than one could think. Most people made their livelihoods on being nosy and the

available men were either far too old or young.

At last, an opportunity presented itself in the form of Henri Lacoste, a detective inspector at the local police station and the same man whose car accident she witnessed 12 years ago. He was not looking for a wife, but as a generous person he figured his income could help cover the costs of Rafael's schooling and the arrangement would calm some of the comments about him being a workaholic.

After a few appearances, he moved into their house and is now sleeping in the spare bedroom across the corridor from Elise.

Rafael found his presence strange at first, but seeing that he made Elise happy, he didn't make a fuss.

## Diagnosis

*Main article:*

In Grade 9, at the suggestion of multiple teachers and the school counsellor, Rafael was evaluated for Depression and Alexithymia due to his social and emotional distance from his peers. The evaluations ruled out depression and Alexithymia, but were very stressful for Rafael and was very expensive for Elise who was working as a cleaner for hire at the time because all the appointments were cutting into her working hours which meant less pay (Elise is not technically a legal resident of Canada and thus does not have Medicare\*), so Elise discontinued them. As the results stand, the psychiatrist they saw suggested he is likely on the autism spectrum. Elise and Henri, after much research of their own, agree. (\*Henri is a legal resident and thus does have Medicare, but it does not extend to Elise or Rafael because they don't legally exist and thus cannot be tied to him. He cannot legally marry Elise nor legally adopt Rafael.)



## Illying

*Main article:*

Meanwhile, the principal's son was angry about his parents' failing marriage and blamed Rafael and his mother, making a point to mess with Rafael. Many days, Rafael was sent to the nurse's office or even sent home early. Some teachers even suggested to Elise that he leave because the "school wasn't equipped to handle *someone like him*".

At first, Elise ignored the comments, knowing that Rafael would probably benefit from an Original education later in life, but soon things got worse. Rafael remained neutral to the aggression, refusing to fight back because he didn't see the point, which only angered the principal's son further.

## Escalation to Physical Violence

*Main article:*

Meanwhile, the principal was still trying to pursue the oblivious Elise, with increasingly brash attempts and things between the two boys escalated. There was a physical altercation and Rafael accidentally used some of his magic to defend himself. Though it was easy to cover up, Elise knew she couldn't let it happen again. When the principal escalated, the police had to get involved. The principal was arrested. Mortified, the school agreed to waive Rafael's tuition for the year completely, but Elise still wanted to leave. However, she knew they had to stay, nowhere else was close enough and had a low enough tuition. The compromise was made that Rafael would have a student body for the following year. Then, in the Spring Semester, the perfect opportunity came in the form of Quinn.

## Meeting Quinn

*Main article:* [Quinn Jones](#)

20XX, during early January of 9th grade, Quinn joined Pine Mountain Academy. Due to the unique situation, they were assigned a student buddy, Rafael. He found Quinn pleasant because they didn't ask a lot of stupid questions or try to make irrelevant small talk. Rafael enjoyed their presence and saw that Quinn was sad, but that his companionship seemed to cheer him up.

## Meeting Other Friends

*Main article:* [Quinn Jones](#)

The buzz of a new student, a foreign one at that, drew a lot of the students who normally kept to themselves out drawn out of Pine Mountain's woodworks. Skora had already befriended Rafael, and even though Mio hardly ever talked to Skora or Rafael. Sakura followed Mio. Quinn's arrival drew Neo and Ziggy to him. Rafael grew closer with Ziggy in orchestra (they sit behind him and Skora but had never talked before) and thus Neo.

## Activation of the Beacon

*Main article:*

Now stronger, the Spirits activate their Beacon so they can ground themselves permanently in the Original Domain and this results in great pain to Rafael. After the breaking of the barrier to his magic, it is much easier for them to track him (resulting in the attack on Pine Mountain) He slowly becomes more and more Spirit, until he begins looking something like a Fractured. He hides it, even from his mother at first, because he knows that Elise is already draining herself doing everything she can to protect him. He doesn't know what to do,

he knows he has to keep it a secret at all costs, so he suffers in silence. It begins with external changes. His skin slowly grows paler, his nails and teeth become sharper, his voice becomes distorted, his wings begin to moult into something more draconic, and small horns begin to grow. The only one he tells Quinn who he comes to out of desperation and another feeling he doesn't understand (love). Quinn helps him hide his transformation from the group, other students, teachers and Elise and Henri.

## Transfer

*Main article: [Insert event 2 link here](#)*

Rafael is made partially of a spirit. While it's not sentient, its presence is dangerous after being identified by Matsuyuki Watanabe as the Beacon, it was recognised by the magical community that it needed to be neutralised. Some suggested removing the Spirit entirely, thus rendering him a Fractured but Elise and some others protested as that would kill him.

After much protesting from Elise, Henri and other sympathisers, another idea was proposed: a complicated procedure to move his consciousness to another vessel (made of clay much like the original vessel Elise attempted 16 years ago) without his magical core. The theory was that his consciousness would fill the new vessel and morph it back into a copy of his original body except now as an original.

The procedure (performed by Dr. Catia, M. Watanabe and I. Solanaceae) was successful and he remained whole, but all of the Light Magic Elise had filled her body with to keep his Dark Magick at bay was gone. As best scientists could tell, it was not absorbed back into Earth during the transfer (whilst the Spirit remained trapped in the Original Domain). This left Elise completely drained of magic. It felt as if she'd never have it again and would probably die sooner rather

n later. It was considered a punishment for attempting to create magickal without Earth's permission in the first place. Few had sympathy for her, feeling that she's allowed the Spirits to anchor themselves on this plane.

## he as an Original

*Main article: [Insert event 2 link here](#)*

e Transfer left Rafael well but not whole as the very core of his being had been stripped away. What the doctors didn't realise was that he was not a person in spite of the Spirit in him but that the Spirit in him a large part of what held him together (the Original equivalent might be a "soul"). Post-Transfer, due to the removal of a significant part of his being, Rafael became completely emotionless.

Because of his natural demeanor, most people didn't notice the change, but Quinn, Skora and later Skora (then the rest of the friend group) did and it devastated them.

At first, he seemed perfectly healthy but as his consciousness tried to sustain itself without Magick, Rafael suffered symptoms such as confusion and hallucinations. In his unfeeling state, he didn't care much, but this was very concerning for others.

Rafael's family and friends felt that they'd killed him and that Rafael was now a shell of his former self and that this was no proper way for him to live. People argued they didn't notice a change. Supporters of the decision to Fracture him claimed, ironically, that others shouldn't decide how Rafael should live (even though they'd argued in favour of his murder) and that this was their reasoning why it would have been better to just kill him and get it over with despite the fact that no one knew (or had any way of knowing) this would happen.

ere was a case made at The Foundation and it was decided that at the  
ment, Rafael was incapable of deciding what he wanted. By this point there  
re more sympathisers in the magickal community, so the decision was made  
majority vote to restore Rafael's consciousness to his original body and put  
Spirit Remnant back into him (as they had not yet found a way to destroy it)

## **xorcism"**

*Main article: [Insert event 2 link here](#)*

soon as Rafael's consciousness was put back into his original body and the  
pirit was placed back into his magickal core, he was restored to his regular  
te (albeit with a gap in his memory). In the end, it was decided that they  
uld remove the spirit but at the same time, Elise would pour what little  
nained of her Light magic into him as a sort of substitute to keep him whole.  
ere was still a high likelihood he would die, but for the greater good, and  
k of other options Elise was forced to agree.

ring the process, it seemed he was Fracturing. Kintsugi-like cracks  
beared all over his body as the spirit was drained from him. Against all odds,  
worked. The process was successful because his magickal core was left  
act, the overall shape of it unchanged, but filled with different magick. The  
cedure could be likened to a blood transfusion as his body now produces  
own magic which is a new category now known as Grey Magic. It is  
ctionally Light magic (predominantly used for healing and divination) but  
naves like Dark magic (aggressive and offensive).

ere were some changes to her appearance as well. His are also now grey,  
e Elise's, the black iris having been a characteristic of the Spirit Remnant. He  
o has a white streak in his hair similar to the other Fractureds that when

ed with Elise's remaining Light magic darkened to greyish brown. It works because it's the same colour as Henri's hair.

a reward for her sacrifice, Earth restored her magic.

## uture

### ux-Love Triangle and Misunderstandings

*Main article: [Insert event 2 link here](#)*

Skora's friend, Rafael and she were often close. Though neither particularly enjoys casual physical touch, they were close enough that a rumour that they're dating got started. Skora actually started the rumor herself to help Rafael because Sakura had been pursuing him intensely since they met. This was bad for Quinn and Matsume who liked Rafael and Skora respectively. At first, it was a bit difficult for Rafael, as he wasn't sure how much of a "boyfriend" he was supposed to act, but Skora quickly assured him that he didn't have to do anything, but hold hands and let her sit on his lap in public. Rafael ended the arrangement with Skora after a few months when he began to develop feelings for Quinn whom he asked out two weeks later.

### ating Quinn

*Main article: [Insert event 2 link here](#)*

Quinn was very surprised that Rafael returned their feelings because of his non-traditional ways of showing affection, now that they're together it isn't a problem. Even though Quinn is a physically affectionate person, they don't mind refraining if Rafael isn't in a cuddly mood. In the year the two have known each other, Quinn has gotten much better at reading Rafael, and at this point, they're the only person besides Skora who can.

# Relationships

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Rafael is an extremely private person, but values connection deeply.

## His Mother

Rafael loves his mother very much, the two are very close as it was just them for many years. They cook together among other things. When he was young they often danced around the house, did handcrafts, went on outdoor adventures, and read together.

## Henri Lacoste

It took him a while to warm up but deep down he sees Henri as a father though Henri doesn't always show it externally.

## Ziggy Weiss

Ziggy was Rafael's first friend at Pine Mountain. They were pursuing Neo's challenge for them to make one friend without him before the end of term, and they were attracted towards Rafael for his quiet calm demeanor and logically driven decision-making. Rafael's logic helps Ziggy out of their spiral. However being friends with "Zany Ziggy" did not help Rafael's social credit any.

## Neo Lee-Talete

Rafael already knew Neo a bit because Ziggy was hardly ever apart from him. He got to know Neo better through Quinn on the football team.

## Mio Hayashi

Rafael also met Mio through Ziggy.

## **Skora Andriovich**

Skora and Rafael became friends sitting next to one another in Orchestra. They'd sat next to each other since 5th grade, (Ziggy sits directly behind them) because they were both very reserved neither talked. They began to talk after when Rafael made friends with Ziggy. When Quinn joined though, Skora was curious (about a fellow European) and began to ask Rafael about them. They became friends quickly. Skora was the one who encouraged Rafael to make the first move in his relationship with Quinn because she knew they would be too anxious and shy to do it.

## **Matsume Takagi**

Rafael and Matsume aren't very close, only interacting mostly because of Skora. Matsume was jealous of him for a time when she thought he was dating Skora, but that isn't the case anymore.

## **Quinn Bhat**

When Quinn joined Pine Mountain Academy midway through the first semester of 9th Grade, Rafael found solace in them. He liked their demeanour and accent (a colour he'd never heard before). At first, Rafael worried about being overbearing even with his meagre responsibilities as Quinn's student buddy because Quinn seemed standoffish, but this misunderstanding was cleared up quickly, Quinn fit into his friend group easily because they'd already met Neo and thus knew a bit about Ziggy).



## Sakura Ishikawa

Sakura began to show interest in Rafael from the moment he came to Pine Mountain Academy. At the end of the first term, the theatre was doing a production of [As You Like It](#). Rafael was cast as Orlando, and Sakura as Rosalind. Rafael didn't want to do the role with Sakura but kept his mouth shut. They tortured themselves over the kiss scene, each agonising privately. Sakura kept insisting they practise it and Rafael kept saying no, he even started to hiding from her. They were getting nowhere. Eventually, Rafael confesses his situation to Skora who tells him to be more harsh with her and that she'll eventually get over it. (This was after she suggested they let Sakura "catch" them making out, an idea Rafael vehemently opposed.) Wanting to do the role well and knowing he couldn't without practice, Rafael gritted his teeth and scolded Sakura. After the harsh rejection, Sakura broke down. She tried to run away but tripped. Rafael caught her and helped her get her bearings. He was very confused as to why she was so upset and tried to find the source of her upset and help her fix it. Seeing he really did want to help her solve the problem, she told the truth, admitting why she wanted to kiss him so badly. It was because she wanted to be absolutely, completely, totally sure she didn't regret it. She began to sob over how much she wanted to like it and begged him to tell her what it's like to which Rafael admitted that he's never kissed anyone before and let her kiss him. Neither of the two feels anything and agrees not to do it again. They come to an agreement that he'll just kiss her cheeks, hands and forehead.

## Skills and Abilities

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- football
- Viola
- Studying

- Cooking (not baking)

## Notable Items

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- List
- List
- List

## likes

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- His mother
- Henri
- Quinn
- Viola
- football
- His wings
- Music
- Skora
- Reading

## islikes

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- Sakura Ishikawa (formerly)

# Quotations

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- List of characters' quotations and famous sayings
- List

# Trivia

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- Rafael is Autistic and has synesthesia for sound and touch to colour.
- Because of his obliviousness to social cues, he has no idea that Henri is simply playing along with his and his mum's pretending to be Original. (Henri is fully aware they're magical, even if not knowing the exact details. He just doesn't mind.)
- Rafael doesn't often show emotions outwardly; it's not intentional, that's just how he is. Once someone gets to know him, his minute facial cues can be learnt.
- Due to a lifetime of mimicking the facial expressions and actions of others, he's picked up a bit of Quinn's accent. Quinn thinks it's adorable. Rafael is a bit embarrassed by it even though he knows he's not doing it on purpose.
- His wings also show his emotion, much like a cat's tail and ears.
- He's kind of like a bulldozer, he thinks he can get through any problem with logic. Thankfully, living with emotional Elise has helped a bit with that.
- When he was young his emotional reactions were disproportionate. He'd get upset by small things like the table being set wrong or his thing being moved, but big things, like a fire in the house next door, didn't bother him.
- It takes a hell of a lot to get him angry, but when he is angry, he gets super mean. It's kind of like a shield to get people away from him so he can calm down, but it always scares people around him.
- He has a very very very old mobile phone, which he uses to text and call his

mother and occasionally Henri. It isn't that Elise won't let him have a modern phone, but that neither of them sees the point.

**OVERVIEW:** Rafael's most prominent feature is his wings, all black feathers similar to a great horned owl. He conceals them using a binder. The wings are not part of his Spirit makeup/the remnant; they come from his being a Great Horned Owl hybrid.

His wings, when in the shoulder position, reflect emotions similar to the way a cat's tail and ears do (ex: tucking in, flapping, splaying out).

**SHOULDER-POSITION:** Rafael's wings default as traditional angel-style wings stemming from his shoulder blades. They are black instead of the usual white. They have a hollow bone structure, allowing them to maintain a low weight.

**ARM- POSITION:** The wings can shift into arm-style wings, like a bird's, where the wings functionally are the arms and there are no hands. This is unlike angels, who are portrayed with wings protruding from their shoulders as well as human arms with hands.

**REACHING THE ARM-POSITION:** The wings fold into his back, and the bones, muscles and ligaments shift down his arms. The process takes about 30 seconds and feels like "cracking" a joint (like knuckles). The motion is visible beneath the skin. When in arm position, there are the typical bones (humerus, radius and ulna) as well as the sub-skeletal bones from the wings, which are hollow. It ends with a second set of bones filling the arms and feathers adorning the skin from the neck past the shoulder down to the wrist. Rafael still has human hands when his wings are in arm position.

The arm position is the most natural and comfortable position because it keeps the weight off his shoulders and distributes it. This position has to be reached with intent, meaning his wings can't accidentally fall into this position (unless, for whatever reason, his body locks up completely ie, a seizure or great fear). To reach the arm position, the shift must be kick-started by rolling, clicking or popping his shoulder joints. Once this has happened, the wings move into the arm position.

#### **EXCERPT from *The Extraworld* Ch. 13:**

*"I could never be prepared for what happens next. The binder falls away, and underneath his chest is flat, the dark tendrils of infection spreading upwards as I'd guessed, but that doesn't hold my attention. At his back, the black masses have exploded open into two massive black wings.*

*What. The. Fuck?*

*The wings flap aggressively in time to the beat made by his hands.*

*Lulu barks like she's gone rabid.*

*I almost miss when they start to shift. But there's no mistaking it when joints pop, and*

*skin squirms like something's been trapped underneath. I can see bones grinding together near the surface. In seconds, the floor is a wreckage of feathers. All I can do is wait for it to stop.*

*It feels like a long time before it does, but the clock says it's been only a minute. I wouldn't be able to tell. The change is drastic. The wings now sit less like angel wings on his shoulders and more like a bird's wings attached to his arms as if they'd always been there.*

*And he's... beautiful.*

*I mean, he's always been beautiful, but he looks- the best I can describe it is more complete.*

*And I want to touch them so badly. But I won't, not unless he asks me to. I really want to, though. They look so soft, like his hair. I want to touch that too."*

**FINAL FORM (TBD):** In his final form, Rafael's wings shift from their shoulder blade position to the arm position, but instead of sitting side-by-side within them arm, they fuse/combine so that the wings overtake the arms until they are completely like bird wings and no human hands are present.

He does have elbows, but they are like bird elbows, which are held in a flexed position at rest and do not have the same degree of rotation as human elbows. The relative movement of the radius and ulna is crucial for effective flight, according to a 2017 study. The elbow and wrist joints work together in a coordinated manner to control the wing's movement, with most of the wing's rotation originating from the more mobile shoulder joint

## **WHAT TYPE OF WINGS DOES HE HAVE?**

Great horned owls have **broad, rounded wings** that allow for **silent flight** due to **specialised feathers**. The leading edges of their primary flight feathers have a **serrated, comb-like structure that breaks up air turbulence**, while the **feathers are soft to deaden sound**, and a **fringe on the trailing edge further muffles noise**, enabling stealthy hunting.

**Owls have elliptical wings**, a trait that enables their characteristic silent, slow, and highly manoeuvrable flight, which is crucial for hunting prey without being detected. These rounded, broad wings provide a large surface area relative to their body weight, allowing for effortless gliding and quiet flight, unlike high-speed or soaring wings.

## **Wing Features and Function**

- **Shape and Size:**  
Great horned owl wings are broad and rounded at the tips.
- **Silent Flight:**  
The most distinctive characteristic of these wings is their ability to produce

virtually silent flight.

- **Serrated Leading Edges:**

The front edges of the primary flight feathers are serrated like a bread knife, which disrupts air turbulence and reduces the "whooshing" sound of flight.

- **Soft Feathers:**

The feathers are soft and have a soft, velvety texture, which helps to absorb and dampen the noise of wingbeats.

- **Trailing Fringe:**

A fringe on the trailing edge of the flight feathers further breaks up sound, ensuring the owl remains undetected by its prey.

### **Why elliptical wings are ideal for owls:**

- **Silent flight:**

The elliptical shape and specialised feathers, such as serrations on the leading edge, help to reduce noise during flight by breaking up turbulent air into micro-turbulence.

- **Maneuverability:**

The short, broad, and rounded design of elliptical wings is excellent for flying through dense environments like forests, allowing owls to navigate trees and catch their prey.

- **Low wing loading:**

Elliptical wings provide a large surface area relative to the owl's body mass (low wing loading), which allows for slow, buoyant flight and gliding with minimal flapping, saving energy.

- **Effortless flight:**

The combination of large wings and a low wing loading allows owls to fly with little effort, gliding almost noiselessly for extended periods.

These adaptations allow the great horned owl to fly with incredible stealth, which is crucial for its ability to hunt by ambushing unsuspecting prey, such as rodents and other birds.

### **WING UNDER CLOTHES REFS**

- [https://www.reddit.com/r/tumblr/comments/13v2pgi/wings\\_and\\_shirts/#lightbox](https://www.reddit.com/r/tumblr/comments/13v2pgi/wings_and_shirts/#lightbox)
- <https://lookatwings.tumblr.com/post/127658294513/angels-furniture-by-squidlifecrisis>

- **A/N:** Rafael was actually born of a very distant iteration of my OC Matsuyuki, my second OC after Makiko and the first one I wrote an original story for. He was the second of the group of 14-16 year old OCs to be made, after Quinn. His name was always Rafael, but in the very first iteration/concept, his surname was

“Mikan”. His hair was originally blond. He played the violin instead of the viola. He was a STEM kid as opposed to a liberal arts kid. A mobile was also listed in what he’s always carrying, as opposed to him not having one in the current canon. When I first developed these characters (Rafael & Quinn) I was in 6th grade (so about 12) \*cringe\* so I dumped all my junior high trauma into them (mainly Quinn T-T). I let them rot for ~2 years and then found them in my drafts again sometime between 7th and 8th grade. After I found them all these details were changed fairly quickly as I fleshed them out more. I did consider giving Rafael He/They pronouns, but decided it didn’t fit him.

- **A/N:** Though he does have issues with connection to being human, due to his hybridism, magic (which he’s unaware of) and autism and probably fits into the demiboy category of gender, he’s fine with using He/Him and has never thought much about it otherwise. He’s always thought of himself as a boy when he thinks about his human part. It’s like this: hybrid first, then human boy. He equated the feeling of being *other/something else* more with his hybridism than being a non-binary human. Please DO NOT EVER refer to him as “it” though.
- **A/N:** An interesting thing about the way I write Rafael that you may have noticed is that (at least when in his perspective) his shutdowns aren’t described in much detail. This isn’t because I want to avoid the subject but rather because I’m not sure how to describe them. Even when I have meltdowns I can’t fully articulate what’s going on. It’s more an absence of something than a negative presence of anything. For me, it mostly feels like my desire and ability to communicate has turned off. I often have less internal dialogue and there’s just this quiet sinking feeling in my stomach. I don’t look any different on the outside (maybe because I have a very blank resting expression) In some ways, at some specific times, it can almost be reassuring. I don’t have to worry about what anyone says to me because I already know I’m not going to reply. It can, though, make it hard to explain what’s going on or assure people I’m not just ignoring them if I “shut off”

suddenly and it can make it harder to ask for what I need. Because this is my experience and I don't live in anyone else's head this is how I imagine Rafael's shutdowns to feel but I'm still not sure how to translate that well into the written word.

Category	
Characters	Lorem • Ipsum • Character Name
Teens	Lorem • Ipsum
Boys	Lorem • Ipsum
Summerville Students	Lorem • Ipsum
Boys' 9-10 football Team	Lorem • Ipsum



# Lacoste

## Family Tree

