



AND YOU WILL BECOME MORE THAN YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO BE.

# HIERONYMUS BOSCH.

20. TRANS MALE. TA. QUEER. HUMAN. HIEROPHANT. HERETIC.

❖ TAKE I.

**"you are a saviour."**

(fifteen and you're sitting in the principal's office, the shitty AC the only audience to your testimony. chem labs, fourth period, and you'd tackled a boy across the floor, eyes wide, acid spilling across his hands. the smell of burnt flesh is still engraved in your mind.

reckless endangerment, they said. and what were you supposed to say? what were you supposed to do? *hi, it's me, the fuck up who can see the future.* you were damned if you did, and damned if you don't. fate has laid down its cards, and perhaps, this was your punishment for attempting to gamble, to meddle with their plans.

you realize, heroes never do have happy endings.)

**"you are a martyr."**

(twelfth grade and you're bleeding, bleeding, for another chance to gamble with fate. stinging flesh meets the hot metal of a police cruiser, burning in the afternoon cali light and you feel silver manacles wrapping themselves around your wrists. you've failed, again, and your bloody lip tastes more like damnation than hope, and oh, how you wonder if this was how icarus felt, flying too close to the sun only to have it snatched away at the last moment, to sign the death, the decay of a life away with your desire to live, your desire for a tomorrow with someone, *anyone.*

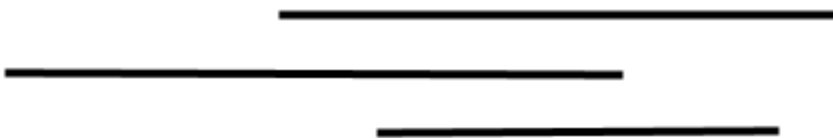
your mother's body stares at you. *i'm sorry, you say.*

she doesn't respond.)

**"you are a tragedy," they whisper. their hands are soft against your skin, and you wonder, briefly, if tragedies deserved such kindness. "carved in stone, but a monument to your failures."**

(the skeletons in your closet are warm, and you realize, with a sickening swallow, that it's always been you.)

*(it's always been you.)*





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## ❖ TAKE 2.

### HIEROPHANT

hieronymus possesses the ability of foresight, operating within two levels: a permanent foresight of events that will occur within a three to ten second range, and sporadic imagery of the future.

for the latter, these appear in visions, with the former being *innate knowledge*, rather than appearances. these visions can last anywhere from a few seconds (some literally flashing before his eyes), to up to five minutes in length. (he doesn't like speaking about those.)

the severity and length of these visions, as well as the time they appear before the actual event occurring, seem to be lengthened by the emotional impact they will have on their viewer.

they cannot alter the events that occur in their visions.

### PR. WEAPON

their fists.

### SKILLS

an uncannily quick mind and a wretched spirit.

## ❖ TAKE 3.

- **likes:** lock-picking, animals, lock-picking to save animals, thrift store novels and unprecedented arson.
- **dislikes:** humans, pedantics, the cream within oreos, incorrigibility, paying taxes and eight a.m. sunday mass.
- has two cats within his possession: a persian, *dominus noster petrus sabbatius iustinianus augustus* (dumpling) and a tabby, *empress theodora of the justinian byzantine empire* (pumpkin).
- one of the few people with knowledge of the crypts that run beneath the schools, with one such location being reserved for an underground fighting ring; which he is the head of.
- has known adolphe williams, a fellow teacher, for six years, and is attached at the hip, with few (usually malevolent) exceptions.

