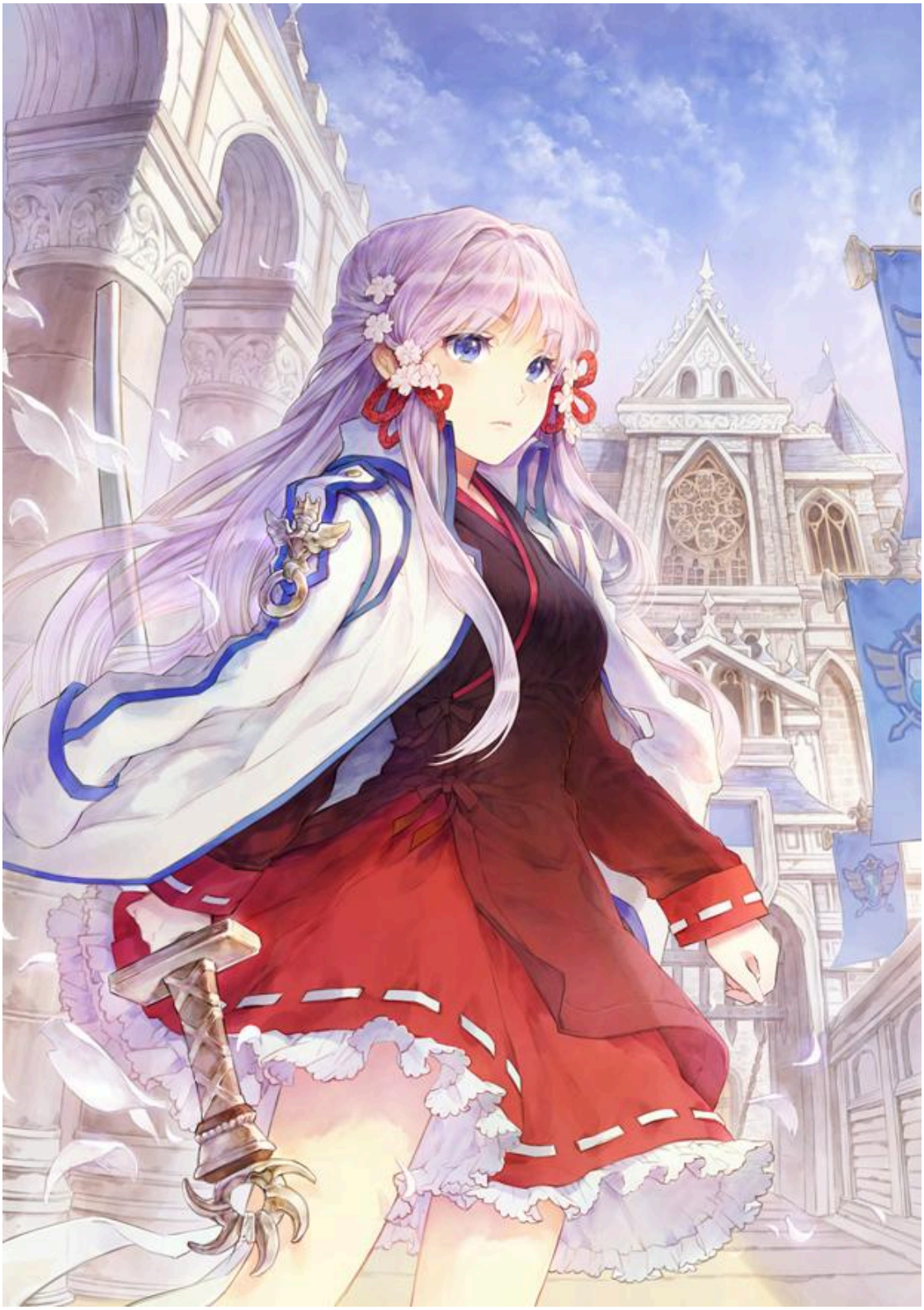
Maaya



Githzerai

When people speak about the eladrin empire of Elfaivar, they often forget just how far east its influence reached. Perhaps it is justified, seeing as most nations of Lanjyr care very little about what lies past the borders of their continent, instead focusing on their own yard. Still, it remains a fact that the eladrin's expeditions into the east resulted in a considerable amount of cultural exchange, influencing their civilization up to this day. In more warlike times, their armies marched far into the eastern lands, never conquering them for long, but always bringing spoils, new ideas... and slaves. Some of them were strange and exotic, like the predatory and insect-like thri-kreen. Some were just like regular humans of Lanjyr. All found their place on the markets and in the slave legions.

One such enslaved tribe of faraway humans called themselves "githzerai." Disciplined and contemplative, they possessed a great amount of spiritual and martial insight, making them into worthy opponents for a much more numerous expeditions of Elfaivar. After defeating the githzerai, eladrin plundered githzerai libraries, monasteries, and vaults, taking great scores of the willful folk as slaves and transporting them west. Determined to make the best use of them, eladrin started to indoctrinate, condition, breed, and even magically modify them, striving to create elite soldiers for their slave legions. As decades and then centuries passed, githzerai were molded into exactly that. In an ironic twist of fate they never lost their cultural identity as eladrin preserved it themselves, going as far as incorporating some parts of it into their own culture and martial tradition.

When the Great Malice came and Srasama fell, githzerai suddenly faced an opportunity to break their shackles and escape the now-crumbling empire. Some said it was exactly what they should do: revolt and cut their way eastward, where their ancestral homeland once was. Others claimed it was a fool's errand to embark on such a dangerous journey blindly. Times had changed, and so had the githzerai. Lanjyr was their home now, and instead of clinging to the past they should adapt to the everchanging present. The least numerous group refused to betray eladrin altogether, content and proud to serve. And so the revolution came against the eladrin remnants. After a few short and violent battles, each group left in their own direction: some to their masters' sides, some into the dangerous east, and some to Risur and Ber where the old war didn't reach as strongly.

Currently, githzerai are a rare sight found mostly in remote spots of those three nations of Lanjyr: Elfaivar, Risur, and Ber. They did not create any kind of single nation, instead dispersing into separate settlements, city-states, and monasteries. Content they were to focus on securing their new position and observing as turbulent events unfolded. Currently, in Risur, it's easiest to find a githzerai either in the eastern part of Avery Coast and further south from it, in the Antwalk Thicket and eastern Anthras Mountains. Formally, those sparsely-inhabited lands are part of Risur, and so are githzerai, but the state does not hold much sway there, which means gith

people have considerable autonomy. It does not mean they isolate themselves completely, of course. Every githzerai is free to leave their community and many do, seeking new experiences and luck in the larger world.

Centuries of breeding and subtle magical influence moved githzerai away from baseline humanity, even if subtly so. Their ears are a bit more pointed, hair usually black, russet, or more rarely ashen and lavender. Their limbs are long, and their bodies, though slender and willowy, are built from deceptively strong and graceful muscles, much like the high elves they served. The same grace characterizes their quick and insightful minds. Githzerai are known for quiet, contemplative, and inwardly-focused natures. Pursuit of prowess, excellence, and inner harmony is strongly ingrained in their culture. Those who achieve greatness are revered long after their deaths, while those who remain lowly fade into quiet oblivion. It's no wonder, then, that their religion is a mixture of ancestor cults and various philosophical schools teaching on growth of the self and the proper way of keeping spiritual purity. A history of slavery is the reason for their general reserve and isolationism when dealing with other races. It sometimes escalates into open distaste with fey and elf-like races but turns into open hostilities relatively rarely, even if only not to draw Risur's attention with undue rowdiness.

Backstory (as of level 1)

• Since childhood, Maaya had been a scribe at the githzerai monastery closest to Flint, in the Antwalk Thicket. She managed records, copied manuscripts, gathered knowledge, and generally chronicled old lore. Her specialty field was theoretical martial knowledge and bladesmanship techniques. Maaya was competent enough to earn a few favors.

• Her brother, Naru, on the other hand, was the family's black sheep. He failed at all of the occupations in the monastery he had ever tried out. He packed up and left for Flint, thinking it a better place to spread his wings.

• One day, after cataloguing texts on the fall of Srasama and Elfaivar, the monastery sent Maaya out to Flint to pick up a few manuscripts from Pardwight University. While in the city, she learned that her brother had opened up a successful githzerai restaurant. That was good. Maaya also learned that he was also in captivity under Lorcan Kell's gang for being troublesome competition in Flint's criminal underworld. That was bad.

• Out of filial piety, Maaya spent days tracking down her brother. Her theoretical martial knowledge and basic physical training was sufficient for knocking out several thugs, but not the Lorcan Kell's beefier enforcers. Although Naru escaped, Maaya did not, and now she was the one in a cage. They transferred her to a new location. What a frustrating zero-sum exchange.

• Lorcan Kell's goons were sadistic. They burnt her in nasty places just to see her cry and scream. They left poisoned food in Maaya's cage just to tantalize the starving githzerai. They drugged her. For some strange reason, Maaya dreamt of the fall of Srasama.

• Lorcan Kell's thugs finally decided to execute Maaya to send her brother a message. During the day of the execution, Naru came barging in with what gang members he could round up, and more importantly, a strange eladrin girl who tagged along for mysterious reasons. It was that eladrin who cleared most of the goons and freed Maaya.

• The eladrin girl introduced herself as "**Ahana**," took Maaya aside and explained that somehow, Maaya had completed the Vekeshi initiation trials. Doing so had alerted the diviners of the Vekeshi mystics, who sent the eladrin over to recruit Maaya.

• After wrapping up the loose end of actually delivering the manuscripts back to the monastery, Maaya announced to the githzerai elders her indefinite departure. She signed up under the Vekeshi mystics, less out of actual adherence to their beliefs, and more out of a sense of obligation to the eladrin who had so clearly saved her, and out of thinking it as a good opportunity to keep tabs on her danger-prone brother.

• For over a year, Maaya served under the Vekeshi mystics. With the eladrin Ahana as a mentor, they translated her theoretical martial knowledge into actual bladesmanship, and in exchange, the githzerai took out one petty criminal after another in vigilante style. She eventually warmed up to their actual philosophy and internalized it, developing divine powers from her newfound peace with the philosophy.

• During her most recent mission on behalf of the Vekeshi, she encountered several RHC constables and Assistant Chief Inspector Stover Delft already in the process of apprehending a criminal. However, the criminal's pet object mimic got loose and chased down a hapless civilian. Maaya engaged the mimic in her most difficult battle yet, and clove it in twain. This struck an emotionally-biased chord in the mimic-hating Delft's heart, who saw potential in Maaya. He invited her to the Royal Homeland Constabulary, thinking her to be a regular vigilante in need of legitimization.

• Maaya accepted the position, thinking it to be a good idea to uphold the mystics' mission in a more legal manner. The mystical interrogation process revealed to Delft that she was a Vekeshi mystic, but he let that slide, with the memories of the mimic-killing fresh in his mind. He promised to keep it a secret from the other constables.

• **Contact: Bosum Strand: Naru:** A githzerai who owns a githzerai cuisine restaurant in Bosum Strand, which also happens to be near Maaya and Naru's respective residences. He is the head of a local gang, a bit smaller than the Family or Lorcan Kell's goons, and sometimes runs into trouble because of that. Naru has the tendency to be accompanied by a different pretty lady every few months, and seldom the same.

• **Contact: The Nettles: Ahana:** An eladrin avenger of Srasama. She is among the most respected members of the Flint cell of the Vekeshi mystics. Ahana is Maaya's mentor in the

ways of Vekesh and all its subtle arts. Although she is fairly wealthy, Ahana prefers to skulk around in the slums of the Nettles and keep tabs on the tenements' needy and desperate. She never stands out in a crowd despite her fine dress.

Personality (as of level 1)

• ~~A nerd~~ Sheltered and curious. Maaya spent most of her life in an isolated monastery, learning about the world and history from tales and scrolls. Being able to see history actually happening before her is exciting.
• Good-natured. She's generally a good girl with a developed sense of right and wrong. Weak are to be protected and teached, those taking advantage of them - vanquished.
• A bit rash. While generally disciplined, she can act without thinking if put under pressure.
• Not that good with people. Can be a bit shy, having to wear revealing clothing embarasses her etc.
• Respect of authority, seniority and excellence. Even if you don't agree with your superiors or teachers and act against them due to circumstances, you still have to show them respect.
• A bit of a complicated stance regarding eladrin. Maaya wants to preserve their race and culture and help them rebuild, but if asked won't hide her dislike towards old Elfaivar and their enslavement of githzerai. She hopes high elves learned to do better.

Basics (all subject to the game's extremely dense and metagame-rewriting house rules)

Level: 7
Race: Githzerai
Class: Avenger
Theme: Vekeshi Mystic/Martial Scientist
Alignment: Good