

Keshayli

“..it is not by being richer or more powerful that a man becomes better; one is a matter of fortune, the other of virtue. Nor should she deem herself other than venal who weds a rich man rather than a poor, and desires more things in her husband than himself. Assuredly, whomsoever this concupiscence leads into marriage deserves payment rather than affection.”
The Letters of Abélard and Héloïse— *Héloïse*

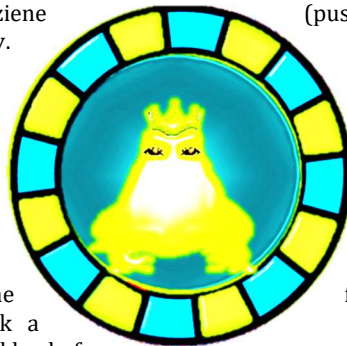
Quote: Well, it looks like you're about to have a beautiful bouncing baby boy. Don't worry, eat plenty of greens and you and he will be fine.

The Keshayli are a beautiful and Sanziene Vălvă (Seelie Kith), primal and otherworldly. All female, the name Keshayli means Spindles as in they work with the threads of one's lives. More specifically blessing the expectant mothers or their newborn babes. They are the fairy princesses of the Land beyond the Forest, but their story is a dark one.

The Keshayli are the remnants of an Old Romani story, in which the Ana the Queen of the Sanziene Vălvă undertook a sacred pact to end a war with the unnamed lord of the Loçolico, himself the king of the Iarnă Vălvă (Unseelie Kith) What was birthed from their union was all the sickness and disease that plagues the world. Distraught and disgusted with what they created, both the King and Queen created a new pact for the Romani Vălvă, in which the daughters of Ana and the sons of the Loçolico would be married instead, and their children needn't carry the curse of all the world's ills.

All the world's evils, springing from their mother Queen Ana and the Demon king of the Loçolico, are blood-relations to the Keshayli, and nothing will change that. It is the great fear of the poor princesses that they are forever marred by such blood-ties, and they work tirelessly in hopes of reneging those relationships.

Appearance: In both Scoartă (Mien), the Keshayli are alluring, small of body with light inviting expressions. The Om Scoartă (Mortal Mien) is pale-skinned and frail, a testament to their Dreaming nature. They are rarely over a meter and a half or so



(pushing 5 feet at the most) and slender of limb.

Their Feeric scoartă (Fae Mien) is that of beautiful, winged creature from another world. They have large eyes, long ears, and a small knowing smile Their hair is long and wavy, and even if they aren't conventionally attractive, there is something appealing about them. They are even shorter in this form, none surpassing a meter high (3 feet). Keep in mind, that the wings of a Keshayli don't necessarily ensure that she can fly...

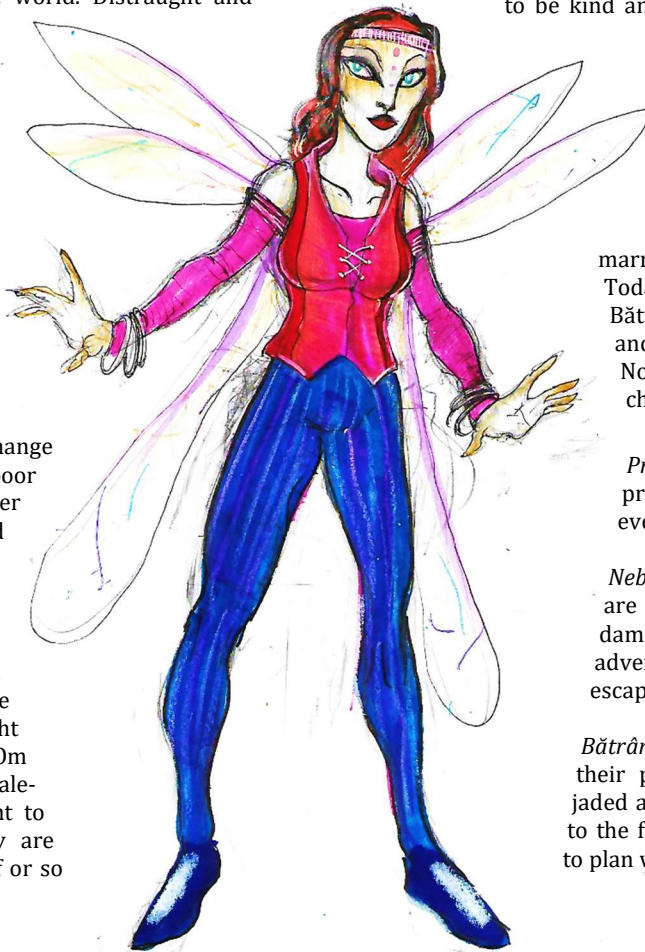
Lifestyle: The life of the Keshayli is one of expectations. They are expected to be wonderfully good (*and even if Iarnă, will be treated as Sanziene*). They are expected to be kind and gregarious, no matter how they really feel, and are expected to act like the Fairy princesses they are.

Worse is that they are expected to be married to the Loçolico. In the old days prior to the Changeling way, once they hit 999 years of age, the marriage would be ordained by Ana. Today, somewhere between Nebun and Bătrân age, the elders of both Loçolico and Keshayli Vălvă will arrange it. Nothing the Keshayli can do will change this arrangement.

Prunc Keshayli are delightful and precocious little sweethearts, acting every bit the little princesses they are.

Nebun Keshayli know that soon they are to be married to one of those damned Loçolico. Most use this time to adventure, to see if they can somehow escape their fate.

Bătrân Keshayli have either come to love their partner or have grown tired and jaded at what could have been. They look to the future of their two Vălvă and begin to plan weddings for the next generation.



Glamour Ways: Keshayli regain De Basm whenever they are immersed in activities where mortals uphold the traditions of the past, especially among their Romani Kinain. Songs, dances, festivities in which their cultural heritage is celebrated refuels their magic.

Unleashing: Cantrips cast by the Keshayli bring with them a heady perfumed smoke- a pinkish cloud that fuels the room. There is also an otherworldly music that comes from nowhere and eases the senses.

Affinity: Fae

Birthrights

Pretty Girls (*Fete Frumoase*): The Keshayli are some of the fairest creatures in the Lands Beyond the Forest and have abilities to match. At character creation, they gain an extra dot to Appearance, as well as 3 other free dots to allocate between the social attributes in any way that makes sense.

Blessings (*Binecuvântări*): The Keshayli are expected, near obligated, to help the good and virtuous. They can do so by blessings others with good luck. With a point of De Basm spent, and successful willpower roll (difficulty 7) an individual receives her blessings.

This usually manifests with the target of her blessings able to ignore all botches for a set amount of days (equal to the amounts of successes the Keshayli scored on the willpower roll). In the case of expectant mothers and their babes, however, it means that both the baby and mother receive extra health levels during the birth and recovery period (again equal to the amounts of successes the Keshayli scored on the willpower roll).

Frailties

Frail (*Firav*): The Keshayli may be fair of face, but they are frail of body. They can never have a Str rating higher than 1, and in addition, any rolls involving any physical attributes are always at a +1 difficulty.

Intended (*Logodnică*): There were two conditions between the Demon King and Ana- the first is that the Loçolico would leave the Keshayli alone as long as Ana was alive (which she still is somewhere) and second, that every Keshayli nymph having reached the age of 999 would be given away to the Loçolico. Today, the 999 is a moot conceit, but the union still holds. Every one of these two Vâlvă, somewhere between the ages of Wilder and Grump, will have an elaborate ceremony in which their two families are united once again. Stories abound of one or other of the families trying to supersede Fate and escape the marriage. All the stories end in despair, as the Dreaming of the Land itself, as well as some Rom supernatural protocol ensure the union. *What this means for the players of the storytellers has yet to be revealed but rest assured that there will be a wedding.*

Dudarka looks at white Dresses, forlornly and politely explains her position on the others,

Căpcăun: I am sure that they are supposed to be the villains, but I've had nothing but good experiences with the sweethearts.

Chuhaister: Giants? I'm afraid everybody is a giant when you are my size.

Dinsele: Such wonderful little kittens, I am a little jealous of their matrons.

Illyes: As I said, I am a little jealous. It would be nice to have someone love you so much.

Loçolico: I would prefer not to speak of such things.

Sárkány: Large, strong, fierce, and so very very kind. If only, no. I speak out of turn. Forgive me.

Zburător: Demons the whole lot of them. Wonderfully handsome and fun demons too.

Fext: They have no time for anything but their eternal battle. Still, it is important to have a hobby, yes?