

## Character Interview For The 2021 Reader Survey! Conducted by: K. M. Shea

Kitty: Hello, Champions! I'm so excited that we're finally having another reader survey after missing it last year. I love hearing from you all, and it helps the team *a lot* in deciding what to do the following year, so thank you for taking the time to fill it out. Joining with me for today's fun is Leila from Court of Midnight and Deception, Hazel from Hall of Blood and Mercy, Angelique from Fairy Tale Enchantress, and Kit from Second Age of Retha! Let's start with some questions for Kit!

Kit: Me? Why me?

Kitty: Because your book #4 is coming out in summer 2022, and the Champions are understandably pumped!

Kit: Oh...could you tell them to maybe lower their expectations? I mean, I'm not sure what I can do with shoddy armor that doesn't cover vital organs, and a bunch of guilds that don't really like me.

Kitty: But you've got some tricks up your sleeves.

Kit: No, I don't, because I don't *have* any sleeves.

Kitty: I meant your Holy Hard Candy—you haven't done anything with that yet. And I'm sure Solus is going to get you a bunch of levels.

Kit: Yes, I've agreed to go on a level grinding journey as we check out the next few groups we want to try to get for our alliance.

Kitty: Can you tell the Champions who you are planning to recruit?

Kit: Our next targets are the fae Winter King and Summer King brothers who rule Tir Nog.

Kitty: A return to Tir Nog sounds like fun!

Kit: Yeah, it's a cool city. I've promised Noir that we aren't going to fly by dragon anytime soon, so we'll probably level grind our way there. I might try to level up a few more of my life skills while I'm at, since Swear Proficiently turned out to be kind of useful. Sort of.

Kitty: A wise plan—Center of Attention may be helpful in the future.

Kit: Yeah, if I want to break a record for my fastest one-shotted death ever.

Kitty: Still feeling sour about that?

Kit: A bit, yeah.

Kitty: Okay, great. Angelique, how about we hear from you next?

Angelique: Sure, but I don't know what you could possibly ask me that you haven't in previous character interviews.

Kitty: Do you still not understand why you and Evariste appeared in the interview for the winning couples last year?

Angelique: No. We're not a couple. I imagine it must have been the power of friendship that made it happen—and yes, I'm being sarcastic.

Kitty: You know, I've written some oblivious characters before, but you really take the cake.

Angelique: The scary part is, what does that say about you?

Kitty: ...I don't like it when my characters make me question my own emotional existence.

Kit: Hey, not only did you make Angelique oblivious to romance, you made her unbelievably salty. Is she cathartic to write?

Kitty: This is a character interview, not an author interview, thank you.

Angelique: Yes, understood. What, then, are your questions for me?

Kitty: Um, right. How do you feel now that Evariste is out?

Angelique: You forgot to say spoiler!

Kitty: Not really, Snow White has been out for years. Everyone knew you'd yeet him outta that mirror eventually.

Angelique: I guess so. But I'm thrilled he's out.

Kitty: Even if he can't use his magic?

Angelique: Yes. I missed him a lot, and we need him now more than ever.

Kitty: Do you think you're going to take your Enchantress test anytime soon?

Angelique: Hopefully. I want to prioritize it.

Kitty: Really? Why? I didn't think you cared about the title.

Angelique: I don't. But I do care about being able to tell Tristisim to bugger off if he tries to boss me around and give me orders, and I can't do that as an enchantress-in-training.

Kit: Oohh, that's a good point. Yeah, you pass your test. And then maybe strike Tristisim with lightning or something. Vengeance can be yours!

Kitty: Considering you're usually pretty peaceful in the ways you try to end conflict, that was a bloodthirsty suggestion.

Kit: It's because I imagine Tristisim is Angelique's version of Saint George from the Brave Heart Company in Retha. And he's enough to make anyone violent.

Kitty: Mm, yeah. That's probably true. Okay, Angelique. Besides passing your test, do you have any other plans?

Angelique: Evariste and I will have to call upon the elves in Alabaster Forest.

Kitty: That's kind of you to think of Emerys and his friendship with Evariste—of course he'd want to see him now that he's out!

Angelique: Yes. I also don't want to get any more birds with rambling messages attached to their legs.

Kitty: Oh come on, you secretly kind of liked it. You've never had a friend write letters to you.

Angelique: Perhaps, but I also never cared to hear so many detailed wedding plans.

Kitty: I can imagine. So, Hazel and Leila, you two are being awfully quiet. First of all, welcome to a Character Interview!

Leila: This is so exciting to be in these—I know Champions ask about them pretty frequently so it is an honor.

Hazel: Yeah!

Kitty: I have some questions for you two, but can you tell me anything about Pip? She'll be joining you two in Magiford for my werewolf trilogy that will come out this winter.

Leila: Oh, I met Pip! She's a part of Chase's pack—sort of.

Hazel: How can she only sort of be a part of a werewolf pack?

Leila: I asked Chase about it. It's complicated because she's a werewolf hunter.

Hazel: A werewolf hunter living among werewolves? I'd bet my handbag stuffed with a hardcover book that sparks are gonna fly!

Leila: Practically speaking, they'd have to. Pip should be fine as long as she doesn't have some ancient, ridiculous law that breaks basic human rights and makes people get married in order to become royalty.

Kitty: I'm not apologizing for that. Marriage of Convenience is a fun trope. Sacrifices had to be made for the good of the story. Besides, you love Rigel now—and his fluffy wings.

Leila: Yeah, yeah—and we all lived happily ever after. Except for that poor black cat my nobles were trying to forcibly domesticate.

Kitty: Fret not—we'll get her story eventually.

Hazel: Wait, that *cat* is a character?!

Kitty: Moving right along! What changes would you most like to see in Magiford?

Leila: Everyone working together, obviously. And the Paragon finding whatever it is he's looking for.

Hazel: I still want House Tellier and the other traitorous wizard houses to face harsher repercussions for their treachery.

Leila: Just wait until you become the Elite. Then you, me, and Killian can all gang up on them.

Hazel: That would be a misuse of the system.

Leila: I guess that's true.

Hazel: It is. So I'll just call them out and beat them up if they ever start getting naughty again.

Angelique: You two are terrifying. I love it!

Kitty: Here are some additional questions for everyone—these are just for fun so don't think too hard about them. Which do you prefer: A bookstore or a library?

Leila: Library!

Hazel: Let me guess, it's because it's—

Leila: FREE. It's because it's **free**.

Angelique: I also would prefer a library—you get the maximum amount of information at your fingertips for research purposes.

Kit: Libraries are really welcoming, but I personally like bookstores. They're just so cozy and cute—it feels like you find new friends on every shelf.

Hazel: I'm also Team Bookstore. I like libraries, but the House gets jealous for some reason whenever I go to them.

Leila: I bet it can sense foreign magic on you, because all libraries—no matter the world they're in—have magic.

Kitty: Good answers! Okay, if you could set up one character from your series on a date with someone, who would you want to set up?

Hazel: The Paragon. I love the guy, but he needs some more hobbies.

Kitty: Really? I thought for certain you'd say Rupert.

Hazel: Nah, Rupert is too busy with all the House Medeis wizards. He doesn't have time for dating.

Leila: I think I'll say...King Fell of the Autumn Court.

Hazel: Really? King Sourpuss the Joy Stealer?

Leila: Yes, because the key is I'd get to choose who I set him up on dates with, and I would purposely pick strong women who wouldn't be afraid to express their emotions...with their fists, if Fell got uppity and deserved it.

Hazel: Nice!

Kit: I think I would say...Riko?

Kitty: Why Riko?

Kit: Well, if she had a romance of her own, she might focus a little less on my fake relationship with Solus.

Kitty: Spoiler, no, she totally wouldn't. Solus is too famous and rich for her to give up putting her oar in on your "relationship."

Kit: I guess that's true.

Angelique: Aren't you going to ask who I would want to set up?

Kitty: I wasn't, actually.

Angelique: Fine, I will give you my answer anyway. I would set up: *no one!* Do you know why? Because war is looming over us. There are going to be so many battles—*and yet!* The vast majority of all the royals I have met in the past six years have all fallen in love—some of them in *battle* no less. The last thing my continent needs is more swoony romances when we have much more important things to be discussing.

Kit: You know, I feel *sorry* for Evariste.

Kitty: Me too. He's got an uphill battle ahead of him. Now, for the final question. What is your favorite room in your home?

Kit: The what now?

Hazel: Our favorite room? So we can't say a building?

Kitty: Nope.

Leila: That means I can't say the stables, so in that case it's gotta be my bathroom. I have a bathtub so big you can almost swim in it. It's glorious. I adore it!

Kit: Do you mean like, my apartment, or my Retha home?

Kitty: For you why don't we say your favorite part of your guild zone?

Kit: Oh, I'd say Fame and Fortune. I know they're not a room, but they are my favorite feature. They're useful, and sweet, but they also remind me of all the past memories and fun times I had with Milk Crown.

Hazel: I think for me, I'll say the weapon ranges on the front lawn of House Medeis.

Leila: Really? You have a magic house, and you choose the weapon ranges?

Hazel: Yeah, because that to me is the biggest proof I have that the House stands with me, and it believes in my vision of training wizards to be battle worthy, so we can be a defense to the defenseless and save those who need saving.

Leila: Geez. I'm starting to feel kind of shallow for liking my bathroom so much.

Kitty: Don't be—I love baths, so I get it. Angelique, what about you?

Angelique: The workshop—that's assuming I can use Evariste's house for my answer?

Kitty: It's been your home for as long as readers have known you, so yeah.

Angelique: Then yes, the workshop in Evariste's house. The time I spent there in my years as an apprentice were some of the best memories in my life. Especially now that I recognize what Evariste was trying to do for me and the way I looked at my magic.

Kitty: That's perfect! And with that, I'm drawing this interview to a close. Again, thank you to all of you Champions for filling out the reader survey. The team and I appreciate it so much. Until next time, thanks for reading!

Hazel: You know, you sound kind of like a news anchor signing off when you say that.

Kitty: It's just the thing I say when I'm closing stuff out.

Angelique: You need a more aggressive closing.

Kitty: What? Why?

Angelique: Everything in life should be aggressive.

Kitty: I thought you'd calm down after Trial of Magic. It seems you haven't.

Angelique: Not yet. Once the next disaster happens and *if* I don't get called out to handle it, then I shall begin to relax.

Leila: I thought we were saying goodbye? Are we sticking around? Because then I'll text Rigel and tell him to have the night mares pick us up some coffee.

Kitty: No, no. We're done.

Hazel: Are you sure? I feel like there's all kinds of topics we could explore. For instance, when are Kit and Solus gonna stop faking it and become official?

Kit: I can answer that one: we aren't.

Kitty: Guys, the interview is over! We're done!

Leila: Fine, fine. Be a King Fell.

Hazel: Goodbye, Champions!

Kit: See you!

Angelique: Be aggressive in life, Champions! And avoid romance if possible!

Kitty: Ignore her. Thanks again, Champions! And thanks for reading!

THE END