

THE VIRGIN

Rite of initiation

You are the daughter of the Chief of the long hill, but you have been claimed by an even greater power: Ever since your birth, the god Fire has demanded your utmost devotion. And your purity. None on the long hill dare touch you, and in time your calling became a source of pride.

Your fierceness was burned away by a new, unexpected flame when you discovered that more than anything else you longed to take the Offering for yourself. Your gift became a prison, and even when you tried to draw him to you, he kept his distance. Until midsummer's eve came and the Seer declared the Offering was to be the next sacrifice, and it was the god Fire that demanded him to be so.

Still upset, you asked the Herder for help to lure the Offering into his beasts' barn, and there you confessed your love for him. You were ready to elope with him, and you expected your determination to rouse something within his heart... But he kissed you on the forehead, and told you that you were relieved of your vows to the god Fire. You felt belittled and cursed him, with no mind to the consequences.

In the Circle, you will need to leave behind your grief over losing the Chief and the Offering, to prove none can force you to act against your own will.

Rite of passage

■ The Herder has a simple soul, but unlike the others he knows how to stay by your side without making you feel like an object of worship. He waited for you after your meeting with the Offering, and when he saw you upset, he tried to ask you what had passed. Without his help you would have never cornered the Offering, but you fear you have told him too much. The Herder is incapable of malice, but perhaps he was acting on the Tiller's behalf, to sate his cunning twin's curiosity.

■ The Youth has always hovered around your father, and now he wants to succeed him, but he does not have what it takes. He proved it on midsummer's eve, when he confessed his love to you. Love? He wants you to claim your father's station as heir, wants you because men always want what they cannot have. So you reacted with anger, but now you wonder whether he came up with the plan on his own, or someone in the Circle convinced him he could have his way with you.

Rite of propitiation

In the eyes of the gods, people must prove themselves capable of deciding their own fate. To immolate your love was a way to be rid of what made you weak. Life is only valuable when lived with purpose. The god Fire has freed you of desire, claiming you again, and you will allow no one else to have you.