

# SCHOLAR

## **Light - The Rebel**

Escapes from the system and fights it

## **Dark - Dark - The Wrecker**

Cannot be constructive, destroys everything



Life is short!

Often the studies that I'm working on  
Make me anxious, in my head and heart.  
How hard it is to command the means  
By which a man attains the very source!  
Before a man has travelled half his course,  
The wretched devil has to die it seems.

- Goethe (1829)

## **GENESIS**

Scholar grew up in a nice and peaceful environment, as the only child of two well-off parents.

Scholar's family was caring, but somewhat slow-minded, somewhat annoyingly mundane. Growing up, for Scholar, meant growing apart. Even very young, it became almost unbearable to have to sit and share a family meal and becoming independent couldn't have happened early enough.

Scholar graduated from a top University and had a lightning career, establishing themselves as an eminent figure of the scientific scene within a few years.

With their research on local magnetism being regarded as one of the most significant contributions of the decade, Scholar naturally became one of the favourites in contention to get the next Nobel Prize.

A Nobel Prize meant a gilded life forever, a close link to the Authority, an influence on education and a green light to start and direct new centres of excellence.

There couldn't possibly be a more enthralling prospect for scientists eager to make an impact, such as Scholar. Yet, soon after their nomination, they started neglecting their research.

Despite their ability to navigate smoothly in society; Scholar never could close their eyes on the opacity and rigidity of the High Spheres. Who gets funded? Why? Why do people, or

projects disappear? No one around them seemed to have any hope or drive to understand the system as decision-making seemed so distant and so complex.

## **GROWTH**

Consequently, when during their research Scholar came across some archives reporting impossible data, they didn't look away.

The research was dedicated to a protected zone, referred to as "the Woods". Stripping layers and layers of information and obscure archives, Scholar finally concluded that this place was a mutated ecosystem, ruins of a terrible human-initiated experiment.

Aside from the politically scandalous aspect of Scholar's discovery, the unforeseen magnetic patterns described in the files were absolutely

fascinating; a treasure trove that could catapult modern physics forwards.

It is when Scholar was at the peak of their excitement that they met Trainee, a fresh graduate - absolutely brilliant - who had just joined their University.

Despite their difference of status, they immediately recognized each other as kindred beings; a rarity for such intricate people.

Scholar created a position in their team for Trainee, and soon, they were calling each other Friend.

Scholar wanted to share everything with Friend; all the beauty, all the oddity, all the riddles of existence, and they let Friend into the secret of the side research.

Friend remained reluctant to the thought of doing field work, arguing there were potential health risks in navigating that ecosystem, and pressured Scholar to bury the data and move on.

But, when Scholar finished to shape their theory, they understood that they had no choice but to take action.

Scholar's theory was that the Woods were an attempt to play God and to mold reality according to the desires of a handful of privileged, powerful people; an unfinished "wish-machine" that seemed however to be somewhat functional.

If that were the case, then, there was only one way to make sure that the world's fate would never be at the mercy of a few fanatics: to destroy it.

It was decided: Scholar would go to the Woods and defuse the dangers of the wish-machine.

As they went to the lab to tell Friend about it and urge them to join their expedition, Scholar's access to the building got denied.

They spent hours wandering the university, asking around; asking their colleagues, their students: no one would answer their questions and some even pretended not to recognize them.

## **VERTIGO**

It is Friend, who now is called Scientist, who was responsible for double-crossing Scholar and for sharing their findings with the High Spheres. In exchange *for the Nobel Prize* (it burns Scholars mouth to repeat this sentence) Friend agreed to remain silent about Scholar's

scandalous discovery. Worse, to discredit their work entirely.

Getting downgraded and being betrayed by Friend, with whom they had foreseen a lifetime of projects and discussions, turned Scholar's blood into some bitter poison.

For a long time, they hardly talked at all.

Little by little, Scholar entirely severed all contact with their family.

Little by little, Scholar turned into a taciturn, wild animal, until everybody they knew, eventually gave up on them.

## **FALL**

In their solitude, a feverish obsession started to grow: the Nobel Prize.

Only that could restore their life. Only that could enable Scholar to pursue all their old projects: education, progress, justice.

What if, in those Woods, with that wish-machine all desires could truly get fulfilled?

Scholar's desires would make the world a better, fairer place; a breathable place.

Scientist's treason made it a certainty; nobody will ever try to reach something higher, to fight for elevation; there are nothing but petty drives in this world...

Unless, someone tries to shuffle the deck. Someone with power.

## **CRAWL**

And so, after all this time ruminating, Scholar finally left for the Woods. They found a bar

nearby and stopped there for a last drink before diving into the unknown.

It is by listening to other clients' discussion that they first heard about the Guides.

In this remote area, the Woods seemed to be well known; considered to be some sacred land to some, and a complete fraud to others.

Asking for more information, Scholar learned that the Guides were some sort of chosen, mystical souls, believed to know their way into the Woods.

Scholar left the bar and sneaked into the Woods. After walking for hours, they couldn't manage to find the wish-machine. Instead, they got attacked by a wandering dog and fell in a pond, short-circuiting their instruments.

As Scholar was leaving the Woods, enraged and disoriented, they met Guide. Guide helped them walk back to the bar, offered them some liquor, as well as explanations.

Guide said they will show you, next time they will go; that they will lead you to “the Chamber”, as they call the wish- machine.

And you agreed to let them escort you.

Perhaps is this your last chance, but there is Hope

**you may ask yourself**

Under which circumstances could Scholar ever forgite Friend?

What would they do if they were to randomly bump into Friend?

What did Scholar think their relation to Friend would be like in the future?

Was Friend’s treason the first time Scholar got disappointed?

Were they in love, have they ever been in love?  
What would be the first thing Scholar would do with the Nobel Prize?

Why did they decide to pursue sciences?

What do they think about humans' ability to make smart decisions?

Do they believe that education can solve stupidity?

### **potential things to do**

feel free to ignore and interpret Artist very differently

- ❖ Find out the other's motivations to get to the Chamber, and mock them
- ❖ Ignore another character
- ❖ Get annoyed at any clue of sentimentalism

- ❖ Change your mind and destroy the Chamber
- ❖ Kill someone/yourself