

MARJORIE LIU

SANA TAKEDA

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Those cats with the Gift* could not imagine that they would ever be targeted for extermination, but their deaths — the deaths of all their bloodlines, the destruction of their temples, the burning of their texts, the deliberate obliteration of their existence from living memory — serves as a lesson for us all.

Power will not save you. Decency will not save you.

Ah, you rescued entire worlds, performed acts of heroism celebrated in song? All pointless. Even your allies will let you perish, if it means preserving *themselves* from annihilation.

What to do, you ask? We often discuss this, but I say: Stay sly, never trust, strike first if you can.

And if you cannot, then gather your people and run — *run far away*[†] — and hand your vengeance to Ubasti, for *she* can be trusted to mete out justice.

Ubasti never forgets. Her tails are long. Her claws, even longer.

Which means the Poets should be very afraid.

*At the time of this writing, we are no longer allowed to name the Gift. Even alluding to it is a crime, but we who are initiated into the Thirty are mostly above the law, and it is our job to know the Histories that all would rather forget. We cannot fight the terrible wars to come, nor forestall the prophesied apocalypse if we are ignorant of the apocalypse that came before.

[†]Did some with the Gift survive? Of course. Do we know who their descendants are? We destroyed those records. We did not trust ourselves or those who would come after with that information. All fates we leave to Ubasti.

— an excerpt from The Claw Unsheathed: A Treatise on Secret Wars
by The Committee of the Thirty



THE PAST.





AREN'T I
FAMILY?

WHY
SHOULDN'T
SHE MEET
ME?

WHY
SHOULDN'T
I MEET
HER?



YOU WOULD BE
AN UNNECESSARY
DISTRACTION.

...UNNECESSARY...
DISTRACTION...?

MORE SO
THAN YOU AND
THE REST OF THE
BLOOD COURT?

HOW COULD
A SISTER BE
WORSE --



...
DOESN'T
SHE KNOW
ABOUT ME?



I DO NOT
BELIEVE SHE
HAS ANY IDEA
YOU EXIST.



NOR WILL
I TELL HER...
FOR NOW.



**WHY
NOT?**

I NEED
MAIKA'S
COOPERATION.

HER VALUE
IS...WITHOUT
MEASURE.

MARJORIE LIU

SANA TAKEDA

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WITCHBLADE
TEAM-UP
VARIANT

MONSTRESS

