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violence is far off, the Song of

When violence is far off, the Song of War Bird appears timid and reluctant to sing. But when war approaches, it tilts its purple throat to the sky and sings a song that flickers up the scale until it can barely be heard by any animal ear.

The breeze is fresh

in my hair, and it

feels good after my

sisters Genevieve and

Marie locked me in the

-Scarlett W., age 10, MT

attic for the fifth time

"Mhen you're in, you are the Wall. When you're out, you are whoever you want to be." -motto of Kor Salbattan, Sentry. **Eastern Wall (Homo sapiens)**

> "So," Kasumi began, "got any plans to completely destroy BIG?" I smiled. "Actually, I do." Fwit, fwit! Something imbedded itself into my fur, and then

everything went dark. —Chinchilla

I arrive back at BIG Labs by dawn and immediately inform Monitor Cloi about the congregation of demons. As I describe them, her chiseled, dark features fall flat, and I sense a smile coming on. Am I promoted?

-Kor S.,

age 15, Tumbling Pike, Western Kyngdom

Ayne went through her father's knapsack, and though she found no further clues, she did find a very useful map of Kyngdom, with the route Ulyssys had been traveling marked on it.

this month.

-Esthelle, The New World

"If you listen, the forest will speak to vou." -motto of Adele Greenwood, Human. **Makengray Forest**

Dawn found me exiting the Bog and Burrow, still crunching caterpillars. I slept soundly until twilight, then decided to take a short flight. The exhibarating winds of night sweep me onto their twilight currents. My thoughts are blown from my head by the rushing, roaring, all powerful wind. I feel it in my feathers; an encircling curtain. Let go of your lingering anger, it whispers, disperse your hidden fears.

—Cyl T.

"A book is a page keeper. A heart is a treasure trobe. Which sounds better?"

> -motto of Cedric Andrew Baron, human

"If you're nice I'll play with you, if you're not nice I'll eat you!" -motto of Raja, Panthera Tigris

Morfordia, devoted to the collection of knowledge, has a large network of spies in all places. You probably have at least one among you already.

-Wenceslaus, age 14, Kentucky

"Life is tough, my darling, but so are you." —motto of Serenity Vale, hired spy

We need a secure headquarters. Maybe somewhere in Eastern Kyngdom? That's where the dragons live, and we could always politely ask for a ride someplace. Also the elves. My father is the king. That might help out a bit.

-Aurora of the Elves, age Classified, Eastern Palace, Kyngdom His Tasmanian devil screams are particularly blood chilling—and that's his favorite way to settle arguments.

> -Sarco Harrisii, Exterminator for FAFA. Somewhere near BIG



Suddenly, the winds turned ferocious and started tearing at Trill. She raised her arms with unnatural calmness as she felt herself being swept into the air. She was flying! Sort of.

—Trill W., age 12, FAFA Meeting!

"Stand together and don't give up!" -motto of Kyrana, Gray Wolf, **Alpha of Creek Pack**

I fly until I touch down safely in my hollow. Tucking my head under my wing, I try to sleep, but I keep thinking of my failed mission—the reason why Capense refuses to raise me to the First Order of Stealth.

-Rose bud

She got a master's degree in journalism. After she applied to a newspaper and was rejected on the grounds of her uncle's involvement in the criminal prosecution of BIG, she began researching their movements.

- Chrissie R. (Mirax T), age 11, The Pulsar Skate

"Neber turn vour back on a fox." -motto of Eva Dalgaard, Protector

I perch precariously on the branch of a large sycamore tree right outside BIG. The wind tugs at my loose pink blouse as I swing my bare feet from my high perch. I'm waiting for a report from a spotted owl at the Bog and Burrow Inn.

-Queen Elizabeth, age 11, The galaxy

Dinner Next Week

I might go for a few fresh voles (really fresh, please!) with maybe a dessert of minced mouse pie, with a side of sautéed snake flesh and a refreshing drink of stream water (not river water).

-owl queen, age 9, TN

Can you make a dish that has mealworms? Like, replace Alfredo sauce in the human pasta recipe with mealworms. You might attract other visitors besides owls! Another idea with the mealworms is in a burrito.

-Storm Windwhisperer

Make sure there's meat, but not Pegasus meat.

-Moon Rider

"Meaning of life: potatoes, randomness, and white socks." —motto of Audrey (also known as Random)

