

*Hallowed Highways Presents:*

# *The Demi Demons*

*A rag-tag group of not-quite-evil-enough demons*

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# *Introduction*

The Hallowed Highways is an urban fantasy creation with a world that is similar to titles such as: American Gods and The Sandman by Neil Gaimon, The Dark Hunters by Sherilynn Kenyon, and Good Omens by Terry Prachet.

The gods, creatures, and beings of our imaginations and mythologies aren't just in our heads, they're real. The belief of humans, or perhaps something else, gave these beings life, however once alive, they have as much free will as anyone else. From the Greek gods, to the Norse pantheons, to the slavic myths to the Christian god and everything in between, these otherworldly beings exist and quarrel with each other as much as humans do.

This specific installment focuses on the Demi-Demons, a group of Under Realm beings who simply didn't get along with their brethren. They weren't devious, cruel, manipulative, or evil enough to become full demons, and as such were outcasts in their own home.

Unprompted, determined, and rebellious, these little demi-demons took it upon themselves to create a *new* life for themselves outside of their cultural norms.

It's not uncommon for otherworldly beings of any kind to walk the Mortal Realm, but it is unprecedented that they *move* to the human world to live and work side by side with mundane mortals, but this group did so. A shocking turn of events to all who cared enough to notice.

The Demi-Demons, a group of 8 fledgling demons and 1 cast-out angel, now live in Melbourne, Australia and share a house together. Each one has their own job and unique quirks, and although there is never a lack of extreme drama, rent must still be paid.

## *How this project came to be:*

The original concept of the Demi Demons came about during the first Covid lockdown in 2020, right after I had moved to New Zealand from Australia. I landed in the country just days before the borders closed, purely by chance, and had to scramble to find a place to live before the country entered its first lockdown. I succeeded, but ended up in a tiny house with no furniture, no way to work, and nothing to do for 2 months aside from playing Ark Survival and doodling in my useless 2022 planner.

It was during this time that I came up with the concept of **Daphne**. A derpy, chaotic demon that instigated the great *Toilet Paper Debacle of 2020*, who thought it would be funny to watch a pandemic blow up the world, who lived a life of chaotic pranks that never went exactly to plan but were diabolical nonetheless.

As life got back to normal and I was able to get back to work, Daphne went on the backburner, still an idea with a few scribbled notes. After a while I thought about creating holiday themed figures of her, but never got around to it and she continued to stew in the background.

As she sat in the back of my mind, however, she started making friends: Dayna, a cutthroat lawyer. Khaya, a cutthroat killer. Saphira, a lost angel. God, a lech who finds Daphne's antics amusing.

The ideas kept coming until I had a house full of not-quite-evil-enough quirky demons living in Melbourne blaring Lady Gaga loud enough to disturb the neighbors, who may or may not have ended up as food for Nemias corgi-hell-hounds.

Soon I created these 9 characters as 3D printable figures for the original campaign, and at the time didn't think that their stories would be of too much interest and assumed that they'd only be sought after as the figures themselves. I was wrong, so now I'm regretting not fleshing out the stories more in the beginning, but we all live and learn!

I hope to bring more of this world to life in the future, I hadn't planned on expanding it because I didn't think it would have the clout, but you all changed my mind.

# *The Hallowed Highways*

A universe where the deities, creatures and fables of lore and belief are real, there are three primary dimensions: the Celestial Realm, the Mortal Realm, and the Under Realm.

## **The Celestial Realm:**

The home of most of your typical gods and goddesses, angels, and other celestial beings and creatures. This realm is home to a number of 'worlds' and places of lore. Mount Olympus, Asgard, etc. Just because these beings live in the 'good' realm, does not make them all *good*. These beings bicker and fight amongst themselves as much as they do with other pantheons in the Celestial Realm, and most care little for the lives of the mortals below.

## **The Mortal Realm:**

Our world, where humans live their modern, day to day lives, with no idea that their deities of belief and obsession are standing right behind them in line at Starbucks, or lounging on the beach.

This realm serves as a playground, and battleground, for otherworldly creatures though they live in their respective homes.

Because the other realms existence came to be by the belief of humans, should the Mortal Plane ever be destroyed, so will the other planes. Or so it is believed. Despite the constant conflict between the various otherworldly beings, they share a common interest in the Mortal Plane's continued existence.

## **The Under Realm:**

Home of the more nefarious and darker creatures and gods, and the Demi-Demon's birth-place. The Under Realm shares the same qualities and structure as the Celestial Realm, with one key difference: It is the location of the Beyond Way.

## **The Beyond Way:**

A great set of doors leading to the realm of true death.

When mortals die, their spirits and energy enter the realm of their belief, whether it be Heaven, Valhalla, Elysium Fields, Hell or the Underworld in its many divisions. When a deity dies a true death, however, their spirit and energy pass through the doors of the Beyond Way. What lies beyond the doors is unknown, and for the few deities who somehow came back from true death, they have no memory from beyond the doors.

# The Demi-Demons

## Daphne

**Alignment:** Chaotic Neutral

**Occupation:** She holds no job, and exists by her whims and charity of others.

**Favorite Gaga song:** Boys Boys Boys

### **Story:**

Daphne spent her fledgling years as an outcast in the UnderRealms. She never quite managed to *demon* correctly. She didn't have murderous impulses, sadistic traits, or violent tendencies. Her ideas and behavior was never quite twisted enough to garner the approval of her peers, and most of her antics tended to be more chaotically comedic rather than demonic in nature.

Tired of being the subject of constant harassment and painful pranks, Daphne made the independent decision to move to Earth full-time, where she could carry out her devious plots on her own terms.

As no-one had ever done this before, she thought the plan to be *demonic* in a new way. There she could move about freely without worrying about which of her kin was waiting around the corner to spoil her fun, or her day.

Unfortunately, living as a human, working, and holding responsibilities, are a bit too far out of her reach - if one is to plan new demon-schemes, one cannot waste time working a *job*.

Fortunately, and unbeknownst to her kin, Daphne has developed a friendship with God, the Christian god, who goes by the name of Howard, or Howie.

Howie spends a good amount of his time on the Mortal Plane, and has found Daphne's antics over the years to be entertaining and downright hilarious at times. After she moved to Melbourne, Howie became her benefactor, so she could continue her work without having to worry about mundane things such as *rent*.

When left to her own non-chaotic devices, Daphne has a hidden talent and hobby writing song lyrics, despite being completely tone deaf. Nevertheless, she manages to persuade her dear friend Saphira into adding the musical elements and even performing her works at times.

Daphne repays Howie's kindness by working as a mediator between him and his estranged daughter, Saphira.

## Sharra

**Alignment:** Neutral

**Occupation:** Ballerina/Dancer

**Favorite Gaga song:** Applause

**Story:**

Sharra never felt quite at home in the UnderRealms. Though the ability to become a full demon was never out of her reach, nor the pathway difficult for her, the concept was never appealing. She simply did not enjoy roaming about and corrupting various humans into nefarious situations, nor causing destruction or bloodshed.

It simply did not fit her personality.

She did not face the same scrutiny as Daphne did, as she had little issues masking her true nature, but never had the courage to step out of line until Daphne herself left the UnderRealms for good.

It wasn't long until Sharra showed up on Daphne's doorstep, and though she had never shown the quirky demon a kindness, Daphne welcomed her in with open arms - probably a little too eagerly.

Daphne took her time to show Sharra this new world, and it didn't take long for her to discover the stage. She soon became entranced with the concept of performance and dance and, with a little push from Daphne and a little help from Howie, Sharra attended university for performing arts, where she found her talents and desires lay in the realm of *ballet*.

She quickly became a renowned sensation upon the stage and never fails to entice the crowd with her elegant gait.

Nevertheless, Sharra is a demon, if only a demi-demon, and isn't exactly a goodie-two-shoes. Off stage, Sharra has a bad habit of seducing the husbands of women whom she admires. She takes the time to work the couple against each other with the ultimate goal of blowing up the marriages. She does this partly because she enjoys it, but mostly so she can then date the now ex-wives legitimately.

She has little interest in men.

With a little help from Dayna, Sharra ensures that these women never leave their marriages empty handed.

Her relationships don't usually last very long, but not from lack of trying in all of the wrong ways. Courtship and companionship among demons is different from that of humans.

## Nemia

**Alignment:** Lawful Neutral

**Occupation:** Veterinarian - Owns her own animal shelter and clinic

**Favorite Gaga song:** Diamond Heart

### **Story:**

Though an outcast like the others, Nemia did not follow the natural path for a different reason.

She instead interned and studied to become a beast-handler, and though this position is not out of the ordinary, and is held in high-esteem in the UnderRealm, she differed from the others because her fondness and talent with beasts did not end at the boundaries of the UnderRealm.

Nemia has always held a love and fascination for *all* creatures, big or small, from all of the realms, something frowned upon by her peers.

When Daphne left, soon followed by others, Nemia decided to try it too, mostly so she could explore the creatures another realm had to offer. She brought with her her three HellHounds, who are seen as corgis by those of mundane, mortal eyes: Snickerdoodle, Oreo, and Shortbread.

With a push from Daphne, and help from Zevi, Nemia soon opened her own animal shelter and clinic in Melbourne where she gets to experience new creatures and animals on a daily basis.

Often, many of her customers and patients are not human, but other celestials in need of a vet for their otherworldly pet.

When not working hard at work in her clinic, however, Nemia spends her time tracking down the humans who've abused the animals that end up in her shelter.

These humans are seldom seen again, and no doubt suffered horribly before becoming food for her three HellHounds.

## Khaya

**Alignment:** Chaotic Evil

**Occupation:** Serial Killer, Cage Fighter

**Favorite Gaga song:** Animal [Unreleased]

### **Story:**

Khaya was the top of her class, and one of the most feared and vicious fledglings in the Under Realms. She enjoys battle, torture, and death. She thrives on it, even.

Her reason for journeying to the Mortal Plane was based on one thing only: Nemia.

For years Khaya found herself finding reasons to visit the other demon, but she never understood her fascination and attraction to her. For a long time she believed that she merely wanted to kill the other demon, but the few times she tried, she found the thought disturbed her.



Unfamiliar and confused by her emotions for Nemia, Khaya became more ruthless in the Under Realm, and when Nemia left for the Mortal Plane, Khaya became uncontrollable and bloodthirsty, and took her rage out on anyone who ventured too close.

She quickly became such a problem that her kin began plotting to kill her themselves, but before they could execute her she left for Melbourne, still confused by her feelings for Nemia.

The other Demi-Demons quickly learned they needed to be strict with Khaya, but as long as she was able to get her murderous fix, she'd follow the rules as best as she was able. Xana aids in this by sending her targets to eliminate in any way she likes.

This arrangement accidentally earned Khaya a reputation that has led many women to reach out via Xana to engage services to help them escape undesirable situations.

Xana and Dayna help Khaya manage this business, and ensure she's compensated and kept in check with her new job which, after a brief adjustment period, she now takes very seriously.

When not engaged in her new, growing profession, she can be found participating in illegal cage fights against meathead humans. She's always accompanied by one of the other Demi-Demons however to make sure she doesn't accidentally kill anyone in front of witnesses.

## Xana

**Alignment:** Lawful Evil

**Occupation:** Only Fans Star

**Favorite Gaga song:** Glitter and Grease [Unreleased]

### **Story:**

Xana has a great love of sex, riches, and herself. She was less of an outcast, and more disinterested in the classic pathway of demons. Even becoming a succubus wasn't enough to scratch her itch. Her desire for riches, comfort, and validation were too great. She simply doesn't care about tormenting mortals, and desired to live her own life in her own way.

When she caught wind of other demi-demons leaving for the Mortal Plane, she began to plan. If she was going to join them, she wanted the infamy and luxury she idolized from mortal television.

It was ultimately Zevi, her on-again-off-again lover, who introduced her to the concept of sex work on the internet, which led her to OnlyFans.

With a goal now solidified in her mind, she cut ties entirely with her old friends and kin, and joined her *new* friends in Melbourne. Like Lyre, she allows her demonic form to be seen by humans and plays the part of a cosplayer in her online work.

It didn't take long for her to rise to the top of the platform, a fact she keeps quiet from her new housemates so she doesn't have to pay as much rent. She is, after all, a demi-demon. Her work isn't completely cut and dry, however. She enjoys sleuthing and tormenting her online followers, but she's not completely without a heart. Trolls, incels and extremists in the making are her favorite playthings. She draws them out, drives them mad, sets them off, then, when

she's done, adds them to a special list for Khaya who makes sure they're never heard from again.

After moving, her on-and-off relationship with Zevi became mostly on. She's even convinced him to star alongside her in new content. Their fondness for one another aside, she's known for a while since the relocation that Zevi has had eyes for someone else. Despite her best efforts, she's not yet figured out *who*.

## Dayna

**Alignment:** Lawful Evil

**Occupation:** Lawyer

**Favorite Gaga song:** Angel Down

### **Story:**

Despite being a fledgling with the clout and ability to become a full demon, Dayna had little interest in it. Her fascination came from contracts, rules, laws, and twisting and navigating their nuances to achieve her goals. She long held a fascination with the concept of *lawyers* in the Mortal Plane.

Professional rule skitters.

After word reached her that a number of demi-demons had left the UnderRealm, she saw her chance to go and experience the Mortal Plane, and learn first hand what lawyers did.

After acclimating to the new world, with Zevi's financial aid, Dayna attended university, then law school. She was as ruthless a student as she is a lawyer, but never technically breaks a law in her practice. If she can't win by the letter of the law and her performance in front of a judge, then it's not a legitimate win.

Dayna handles the divorce cases that Sharra sends her way, and aids Zevi in any legal troubles that may come his way.

Before meeting Saphira, most of her efforts were entwined with corporate law, but after finding the dying angel and then developing feelings for her, she began to quietly handle domestic abuse cases, pro bono, in favor of the abused. This is not something she has shared with anyone, not even Saphira.

## Zevi

**Alignment:** Neutral Evil

**Occupation:** Mob Boss

**Favorite Gaga song:** The Cure

### **Story:**

Zevi is not like the others. He is a full demon, experienced in demonic ways and not shy about it. He has the clout and intelligence to rise up the demonic ranks to become one of the elite, but he walked away from it all when he learned that Daphne had left the UnderRealms permanently.

Zevi never faulted Daphne for her quirkiness, rather, over the years he found himself falling head over heels for the derpy fledgling.

When she left, he didn't hesitate to follow, and took the growing household under his wing whilst building his own little empire in Melbourne.

He opened a prestigious strip club called Cerulean Silks, is the top loan shark in the city, and has taken over the Mob. He uses his dangerous influence to make sure the Demi-Demons stay out of any real trouble with human authorities and ensures Daphne has the funds she needs to carry out her dastardly schemes.

He's carried on a relationship with Xana from before they left the UnderRealms, but only because he doesn't know how to express himself to Daphne.

## Lyre

**Alignment:** Neutral Evil

**Occupation:** Twitch Streamer

**Favorite Gaga song:** John Wayne

### **Story:**

Another outcast of the UnderRealms, Lyre found herself far more entranced with the human's idea of horror media than actually carrying out demonic deeds. Lyre was actually the first to leave the UnderRealms after Daphne, though didn't join the house right away. She took time to explore more of the Mortal Plane before joining the others, and soon found her love of horror video games.

Much like Xana, she quickly found the power of the internet at her disposal, and turned herself into a horror streamer sensation. Though humans can't naturally see demon's true forms, Lyre makes a point of allowing her true form to be seen 24/7, and charades herself as a full-time cosplayer in her streams and day to day life.

Lyre takes personal offense to naysayers and haters from her stream, but rather than simply doxxing them to Khaya like Xana does, she takes a far more personal approach.

Quite adept at investigation, she tracks them down and uses her demonic abilities and powers to uncover their darkest, dirtiest secrets. She then uses her powers to frighten the naysayers so badly, that they freely admit their discretions live online, of their own accord, often leading to arrests following their humiliation.

Secretly, Lyre writes erotica fan-fiction of her favorite horror games and films and publishes them under a pen name.

## Saphira

**Alignment:** Neutral Good

**Occupation:** EMT

**Favorite Gaga song:** Million Reasons

### **Story:**

Saphira spent a lot of her teenage and young adult years sneaking around on the Mortal Plane, and occasionally the UnderRealms.

Born in the Celestial City, home of the Christian God's angels and children, she is one of the youngest of them, and has never quite fit in. Partially from her young age, and partially from her inability to connect with her sibling's superiority over other otherworldly beings and humans alike.

The last time she left the Celestial City, with the intention of going to the Mortal Plane to explore, as is her way, she was stopped by one of her elder siblings who ordered her to remain. Angered by her apparent fondness for humans and refusal to stay, her sibling instigated a battle between them which she ultimately lost. Due to her age and experience, she never stood a chance.

As punishment, her sibling tore off her wing, and left her to bleed out and die on the Mortal Plane. She was found, by chance, by Dayna. For reasons that remain her own, the cutthroat demon chose to save the young angel, and convinced the other Demi-Demons to adopt her into the family and nurse her back to health.

During this time, the two formed a relationship that would make both Angels and Demons alike shit themselves, for this is a line that neither side has crossed before.

Saphira took inspiration from the time she spent healing from her injuries and began training to become an EMT, both to pay forward the kindness paid to her, but also earn her own keep within the home. Dayna not only endorsed her endeavor, but fully funded it.

Long before joining the Demi-Demons, Saphira and Daphne were friends, having met in the UnderRealms many years prior and have spent a lot of time together on the Mortal Plane since then.