

Northend / Wolfsmark

Character Roster

An island in a vast ocean where leviathans lurk unseen, where the roads to other worlds wind between grasping branches, and where streetlights shine on lives brief but bright.

What is this world?

The fantastical world where the Wolfsmark and Northend can be found is a vast ocean planet, the only significant world orbiting its gentle yellow star. It has three moons: the Mother, the Wanderer, and the Child. The Seer is the largest and is frequently visible at night. The Wanderer is smaller and has a faster orbit, passing overhead multiple times a day. The Child is tidally locked on the far side of the Mother and only makes shy appearances around the edges of the bigger moon every century.

The oceans of the world are vast, six to seven times larger than Earth's, and are virtually uncrossable. In addition to the distance, supermassive leviathans dwell in the oceans and bring ruin to any far-ranging voyages months before they can find safe harbor. Thus, the few and far-between continents remain almost entirely isolated from one another.

What is the Wolfsmark?

The Wolfsmark is a country on a small, temperate/sub-arctic continent, only a quarter the size of the Old Kingdom and with much of its landmass dominated by the massive, impenetrable woodlands called the Sylvan Reach. It was founded seven hundred years prior to the present day by an expedition led by a “mad” wolf prince, one of the only of its kind to ever find success. *Nearly* all of the continent's inhabitants trace their lineage to the survivors of the expedition, and are therefore almost all mammals, like the Old Kingdom. The capital city is Prince's Landing on the southern coast. The country is run by an elected council from each province and a ceremonial Prince Regent.

What is the Old Kingdom?

The Old Kingdom is the name given by the Wolfsmarkers to the continent they left behind. It is a violent land, torn apart by feuding lords and ladies in an endless game of power and intrigue, where armies march and spears splinter against shields and bloodsoaked battlegrounds grow crimson flowers. The constant struggles for dominance have stagnated the countries that make up the continent, and they remain no more advanced now than when a fed-up prince led an expedition across the sea in a mad attempt to find a new land. As far as the countries of the Old Kingdom know, the expedition failed as completely as every other attempt.

What is Northend?

Northend is a small town on the outskirts of the Sylvan Reach in the northeastern corner of the Wolfsmark. It is so-named because it is the very edge of the known world; Northend, Wolfsmark effectively means “the northern end of the wolf's march.” Founded originally as a logging settlement, it didn't take long before the lumberjacks realized their efforts were pointless. Any trees felled from the Reach vanished when no one was keeping an eye on them, and seemingly “replanted” themselves where they had originally been cut down. The town was left mostly abandoned, but has become a home to people who want to live away from the world.

Are there more continents beside the Wolfsmark and the Old Kingdom?

There are; each is host to its own strange wonders. But no one knows where or what they are.

--- Characters living in Northend ---
A little town sleeping on the edge of the world.

Cerine Hero

The Alchemist of Northend. Cerine is a “winter” red fox with pale pink fur, traditional markings, and an elongated tail. Regarded by most who know her to be cold and distracted to the point of being aloof. She works in her basement laboratory most of the day, and frequently needs to be coaxed out by others. However, to those who know her better, the outer shell of ice hides a warm and caring interior. And to those who know her best, they know that warmth is yet another front, and a second shell of ice lies deep inside.

Has adopted an attitude of responsibility and almost maternal instinct since accidentally creating Erin. Estranged from her biological family, she cares deeply for her “sisters,” even if she butts heads frequently with one of them. Has a long-standing feud with the traditional medical services (for what they're worth) in Northend. Runs a business selling alchemical gizmos and transformatives, as well as medicines on a pay-what-you-can basis.

Ventures into the Sylvan Reach on a regular basis to find alchemical reagents. Is favored by the forest, and has incidentally found herself in other worlds more than once, if she even realizes it.

Highly nearsighted and needs glasses to see anything more than a few feet from her face. She is a dairy fox, a rare genetic mutation that caused her breasts to grow to a ridiculous size and continuously produce milk. Her golden cowbell ornament and the black choker are permanently fixed on her neck, and when intentionally rung, it causes her already very large breasts to expand even bigger – and brings her a lot of enjoyment, which she won't easily admit. The expansion lasts for a few hours and stacks. Possibly infinitely.

Lives with Erin in a suburban home on the edge of Northend. In a developing and highly romantic relationship with Megan Elbrook.

Erin

Cerine's accidental clone. Despite being an alchemical homonculus, she is a complete person and has her own soul. Whether she is technically a fox is arguable, but everyone calls her one. Genetically, she is more plant than animal since she was formed from chocolate, and retains a natural chocolate scent. Unless Erin specifically brings it up, Cerine firmly shuts down any debates about Erin's personhood. Her physical appearance is almost identical to Cerine's, save for her brown fur and typically heavier build. Erin is sweet but naive, and yet intuitively understands other people. She lives with open emotions and is far more outgoing than her “older sister.”

Runs an online cooking stream called *Erin Epicurean*, which is her main income. Spends the rest of her time on household chores, gardening, and visiting with Rienne, who she considers her best friend.

Because of her unusual biology, she can gain or lose up to thirty pounds a day. She frequently hovers around one hundred pounds overweight because it feels the most comfortable to her, but sometimes decides to balloon or shrink on a whim or throughout the seasons. Finds being very skinny physically confusing and awkward.

Lives in Cerine's house on the edge of Northend. Has a romantic but mostly long-distance relationship with Gray Etsin.

Rienne Ahlmir

Cerine's synchron from a distant timeline. Has both red and swift fox heritage. Shares the same entangled soul as the pink fox, making them effectively the same person despite their differences. Genetically distinct but visually identical save for fur color. Was brought into Cerine and Erin's world

by the machinations of distant entities. Her original timeline was set geographically in the same place as Northend's province, near Stonecoast, but the world had taken a dark and oppressive path.

More direct and playful than her sisters. Typically wears masculine clothing and keeps a knife on her person at almost all times as a comfort item, frequently found on a belt over her tail. She's the most likely to get into trouble, and is tempered mostly by influence from Erin, who she considers her best friend and another person trying to figure out her place in this world. Because they are both too similar and too different all at once, she and Cerine frequently argue, but they actually care deeply about each other. Her experiences growing up in a dystopia and deeply alone has left her scarred, and occasionally has nightmares.

Compared to her sisters, she has no fantastical properties. However, exposure to real food has given her a tendency to overeat and treat herself to unhealthy foods, causing her to frequently gain weight if her bodybuilding doesn't keep it in check. Her eyesight is almost as bad as Cerine's but she refuses to wear glasses. Fortunately, she does not own a car.

Lives by herself in a townhouse in the inner town district of Northend and works as a programmer for a startup company. Single.

Zaress of the Earth Clan

Well-muscled female drake. Unclear how a draconid came to be on the mammal-dominated continent of Wolfsmark or why she lives so far north when her clan is better adapted to heat and deserts. Frequently taciturn and grumpy and only gets along with other people who have similarly reserved dispositions. Formerly romantic with Cerine but has steadily drifted apart in recent times. Still keeps the alchemist stocked with dragon milk, however.

Lives in a home on the outskirts of Northend and hibernates through the winter. Works at a phone repair shop downtown. Single and unsure what she wants.

Lykos

Demonic dream entity whose only physical form is a wolf skull mask. Takes the image of a masculine but sexless black-and-rust colored wolf wearing the mask within dreams. Found within the Sylvan Reach and likely originating from a world beyond this one, Lykos is bound to Cerine, who is unaware of the connection. The latter's cowbell choker is the physical manifestation of their bond and its power stems from Lykos. Neither benevolent nor malevolent, Lykos enters mortals' dreams if they breathe near his mask and draws out their personal desires. Also protects Cerine from hostile spirits.

“Lives” in Cerine's house, in a permanent spot on her bedroom dresser. Despite it being an oddity in her décor, she never puts away the weird skull mask.

Megan Elbrook

Affectionate and playful but insecure gray wolfess. A Northend native who moved south after high school to be with her then-partner. As the relationship soured, she gained more than sixty pounds before breaking up and moving back home. She has since worked off most of the weight, but remains stubbornly chubby. Her weight gain and emotional harm from her ex-partner has led to intense body image issues for her. She handles compliments poorly and redirects the attention onto others instead with enthusiasm.

She is an “infuser,” and her biology adapts to permanently integrate any alchemy she is exposed to. This was discovered after Cerine created her a “werewolf” potion to make her tall, muscular, and have the hallmarks of a werewolf, like longer fangs, thick fur, and glowing eyes. Megan can fortunately shut off the werewolf effect at will, switching between a 5'5” chubby woman and an 8' muscular beast. However, she is not allowed any further alchemical goods in order to prevent side effects, and her ability to become a huge, powerful “were”-wolf has not helped her self-image, resulting in a giant

monster who blushes and shrinks under even slight praise.

Is in a heartfelt and understanding relationship with her childhood friend Cerine.

Ava Lumisu

Heavily obese winter wolfess. Has solid white fur except for black at the tips of her ears and glowing, solid blue eyes. Her breath ranges from chilly to blizzard-like, depending on how strong she wants to make it, and her tongue is always cold to the touch. Has low tolerance for heat and revels in sub-zero temperatures. Her parents were from another world, potentially the same one Lykos is from, and escaped into the woodlands to escape persecution. The spirit of the woods transported them to the Sylvan Reach and they found their way to Northend. They have since passed away, leaving Ava the only of her kind. To her mind, she's just a wolf, albeit a strange one.

For unknown reasons, she is incapable of losing weight and has increased in size throughout her life. In order to keep from getting any bigger, she exercises extensively and maintains a healthy diet. While it won't make her slimmer, she is very fit for her size. She boxes, swims, jogs, and weightlifts. Ava is extremely self-confident and has a positive self-image, and reciprocates easily when complimented and respected. Brushes off negative comments about her weight or size, but finds attempts to diplomatically downplay her weight annoying and would rather people simply call her fat.

Lives in a townhouse in the Northend center, a street over from Rienne. Is friends with Megan, and finds the less secure wolfess adorably attractive.

Axis [last name pending]

Extremely tall and skinny transmasculine dire wolf. Somewhat apprehensive about his height, since despite being 6'7" he is fairly short for a male dire wolf. High school friend of Cerine, Megan, Rachel, and Gray. Frequently shy and self-conscious, even after Cerine made him a potion to transform him fully male, but is also quietly protective of the girls in his life.

Lives in a house near central Northend. Single, but holds a candle for Gray even if he knows it'll never be reciprocated.

Mito

[Pending a rework]

--- Characters living in Stonecoast ---

A city facing an endless sea.

Gray Etsin

Rachel's younger half-brother. A coyote and tiger hybrid and a heavily-muscled bodybuilder. Works as a nurse at the hospital in Stonecoast, and as a result is always calm and sleepy. Quiet, sensitive, and deliberate, his demeanor is uncannily attractive and he is well-liked by almost everyone he meets. Is used to leaving the gym with a pocket full of phone numbers.

Lives in an apartment near the beach in Stonecoast. Is in a mild long-distance relationship with Erin.

Rachel Etsin

Gray's older half-sister. Blonde coyote tomboy with an athletic build – usually. Her biological father died shortly before her mother learned she was pregnant. At six months pregnant her mother met Hunter Etsin, and the kind and loving tiger devoted himself to her. They were married within two months and have remained so since, eventually miraculously producing her hybrid younger sibling.

Works as an office clerk and plays baseball as a hobby. Has an insatiable sweet tooth for

chocolate.

Lives in a high rise apartment in downtown Stonecoast with Sienna, her longtime girlfriend.

Sienna [last name pending]

Rachel's partner. A coyote and tiger hybrid, completely unrelated to Gray, although people frequently mistake them for siblings whenever they are out together. Trendy and pretty but modest. Frequently colors her hair. Works as a model for an advertising firm. Is likely to be recognized on the street by people because of her distinctive appearance as a hybrid and mild fame.

Lives with Rachel in their downtown apartment in Stonecoast.

--- Characters existing beyond the stars ---

Stranger things yet observe the world from afar.

The Stranger

Enigmatic extra-dimensional being from a group dedicated to studying the flow of time and its branching paths. When projecting into the world, he takes the physical appearance of a male fox but the exact features of his form are constantly fluid and changing whenever the viewer adjusts their vision or blinks. Rarely interferes directly with mortals, but occasionally takes the opportunity to move pieces and twist the threads of fate to further his understanding of timelines. Worked to move Rienne from her original timeline to join with Cerine as a curiosity. Is capable of creating “false” timelines with rules unlike those that exist in reality.

[Author's Note: His name is not actually “the Stranger,” it's just a helpful moniker for me when talking about him.]