Dragos d’Deneith

It started with an arranged marriage, one that took an unfortunately ironic turn. Christina d’Deneith and Mihai d’Artanis had never been particularly fond of each other in their days together in the Defender’s guild, but they shared a trait that would force them together; while neither was in possession of a dragonmark, both had a parent that did. The guild paired the distant cousins together in the hopes that the dragonmark would emerge once more in their children.

However ambivalent their feelings for each other, they soon had two children, both healthy, but neither displaying any sign of the mark the House was so desperate to see. It was on the third child that the folly of inbreeding was revealed, for the child was born sightless, his eyes unblemished white spheres. The couple refused to make further attempts at bearing a dragonmarked child and instead devoted their efforts to ensuring that their son, Dragos, would not suffer for this mistake.

To his credit, the child rarely complained about having to train instead of socializing with others his age. The house paid for tutors who could work with the blind, and Dragos got an education no less comprehensive than that of his peers. Constant physical training gave him the confidence and ability to move through the house unaided, and experience gave rise to echolocation techniques that afforded him a reasonably good sense of his surroundings. Interacting primarily with adults gave him a poise unusual for so young a child. This combination of maturity, sightless eyes, and echolocation, along with the black wardrobe picked by his parents, led to his being nicknamed “Vampire” by his classmates, during such times as they saw him.

His years in the defender’s guild were the final anvil upon which Dragos was formed. Taunted by his classmates for making what were to them basic mistakes, Dragos set out not merely to become adequate, but to be the best. He trained in swordsmanship until none of his peers could best him, studied the art of war and conquest until he could best his teachers in games of tactics, and grew accustomed to the deadly game of politics played by the house. Despite having no friends, no retinue, and no servants, by the time his final year in the guild rolled around, all feared the wrath of the Vampire, and no one crossed him without good reason.

When he applied to become a field agent for the house, he was informed of the small snag in his strategy; all field agents were required to have a partner, preferably one who complemented their skill set. Having had no friends since more or less the start of his life, this requirement infuriated Dragos. So when he heard that the House was trying an urchin for almost getting away with stealing from the house kitchens, he attended the trial, and claimed the young girl as his partner once the verdict was announced. After much debate amongst the heads of the House, it was decided that there was little to be lost by allowing the partnership to form. (The urchin is Merritt’s character, whose name I don’t remember at this point in time)