

LIGHTBENDERS

Lightbenders prowl deserts, plains, forests—any sunbathed wilderness where they can take advantage of the adaptations that make them skilled daylight predators. This monstrous creature's fur bends and refracts light from the surrounding environment, producing mirages that distract and confuse their prey.

Hidden Hunters

At a distance, a lightbender looks akin to a regular lion, but closer inspection reveals their glowing eyes, iridescent mane, and a pair of lashing tails spiked with refractive crystals. The lightbender's pelt magically warps light around them to disguise their movement, letting them teleport while leaving behind a past visual imprint. Unsuspecting prey rarely realize they're staring at an afterimage of the lightbender until the predator pounces.

Ghostly Echoes

Lightbenders can also bend the sounds they make, enabling them to almost completely disappear during a hunt. Many can delay their footsteps to slip into a silent prowl, while others might throw a guttural trill across a field to lure prey out of hiding. The lightbenders' illusory mastery was said to inspire several techniques taught to shadows within the College of the Harlequin Mask.

Protective Companions

Though lightbenders are typically solitary creatures, they sometimes cross into another lightbender's territory to help protect a newborn litter of kittens. A few people have succeeded in taming lightbenders as guards or hunting beasts, and if treated well, they can make loyal protectors, often viewing their smaller humanoid companions as surrogate kittens.

Lightbender Malice

Malice Features

At the start of any lightbender's turn, you can spend Malice to activate one of the following features.

★ Silent Prowl

3 Malice

Each lightbender acting this turn can teleport up to their speed as a move action and attempt to hide as a free maneuver, all until the start of their next turn.

★ Duplicate

5 Malice

Each lightbender acting this turn can create a duplicate lightbender in an unoccupied space adjacent to them. The duplicate is indistinguishable from the lightbender except by supernatural means, has 1 Stamina, and has the lightbender's speed. A duplicate acts on the lightbender's turn but can take only move actions. Once per round before or after using an ability, a lightbender can trade places with any lightbender duplicate.

● Everything the Light Touches

7 Malice

Each lightbender in the encounter shines radiantly, distorting the senses of any enemy within 5 squares of them. Each affected enemy makes a Reason test.

≤11 The target doesn't have line of effect to any lightbender (save ends).

12-16 The target doesn't have line of effect to any lightbender (EoT).

17+ No effect



Lightbender

Beast, Lightbender

Level 3 Elite Ambusher
EV 20

2 Size 10 Speed 100 Stamina 1 Stability 6 Free Strike

Immunity: —
Movement: —

Might +2 Agility +1 Reason -3 Intuition +1 Presence -1

✗ **Flash Swipe** 2d10 + 2
Melee, Strike, Weapon
Melee 2
≤11 9 damage
12-16 14 damage
17+ 18 damage

Signature Ability
Main action
One creature or object

Effect: If this ability gains an edge or has a double edge, it deals an extra 4 damage.

✗ **Piercing Tails** 2d10 + 2
Melee, Strike, Weapon
Melee 2
≤11 8 damage
12-16 12 damage; M<1 bleeding (save ends)
17+ 15 damage; M<2 bleeding (save ends)

Main action
One creature or object

Effect: While bleeding this way, the target takes a bane on tests to search for the lightbender while they are hidden.

◎ **Hypnotic Mane** 2d10 + 2
Area, Magic
3 burst
≤11 1<0 dazed (save ends)
12-16 1<1 dazed (save ends)
17+ 1<2 dazed (save ends)

5 Malice
Maneuver
Each enemy in the area

Effect: While dazed this way, a target has speed 0. If a target takes damage, or if someone else uses a main action to shake the target out of their stupor, the dazed condition ends.

■ **Stalker's Afterimage**
Magic
Self

Triggered action
Self

Trigger: The lightbender takes damage from a strike.

Effect: The lightbender halves the damage, ignores any nondamaging effects associated with it, and can teleport up to 5 squares. If they teleport into concealment or cover, the lightbender can immediately attempt to hide as a free maneuver.

★ Avoidance

Any effect on the lightbender that would be ended by a saving throw instead ends automatically at the end of their next turn.

Lightbender Pouncer

Beast, Lightbender

Level 3 Elite Harrier
EV 20

2 Size 10 Speed 100 Stamina 1 Stability 5 Free Strike

Immunity: —
Movement: —

Might +2 Agility +1 Reason -3 Intuition +1 Presence -1

✗ **Pounce** 2d10 + 2
Charge, Melee, Strike, Weapon
Melee 2
≤11 7 damage
12-16 11 damage; A<1 prone
17+ 14 damage; A<2 prone

Signature Ability
Main action
Two creatures or objects

Effect: The pouncer can make a free strike against each target they knock prone.

◎ **Sparkling Tail Whip** 2d10 + 2
Area, Magic
2 Burst
≤11 4 damage
12-16 7 damage; A<1 the target is dazzled (save ends)
17+ 10 damage; A<2 the target is dazzled (save ends)

Main action
Each enemy and object in the area

Effect: A dazzled target takes a bane on strikes and has line of effect only within 1 square.

■ **Illusory Feint** 2d10 + 2
Area, Magic, Ranged
3 cube within 10
≤11 1<0 dazed (save ends)
12-16 1<1 dazed (save ends)
17+ 1<2 dazed (save ends)

5 Malice
Maneuver
Each enemy in the area

Effect: While dazed this way, a target has speed 0. If a target takes damage, or if someone else uses a main action to shake the target out of their stupor, the dazed condition ends.

■ **Striking Afterimage**
Magic
Self

Triggered action
Self

Trigger: The pouncer takes damage from a strike.

Effect: The pouncer halves the damage, ignores any nondamaging effects associated with it, and can teleport up to 5 squares. If they teleport into concealment or cover, the pouncer can immediately attempt to hide as a free maneuver.

★ Avoidance

Any effect on the pouncer that would be ended by a saving throw instead ends automatically at the end of their next turn.