

FAITH SEMELAIGNE

Appearance:	Prostitute
True Nature:	Semiotic Construct in Search of a Standpoint
Job:	Fairy tale character gone bad
Motivation:	To earn enough money to retire comfortably
Secret:	Not a real person
Hit Points:	8

A year ago Bruno Roth finished his novel, "The Perpendicular Grimm." On that day Faith Semalaigne was born. The book was a best-selling success, a semiotic reconstruction of Grimm's Fairy Tales in a modern milieu. One of the best stories involved the modern Little Red Riding Hood, a decadent tramp with no heart who lived above a sweet shop. On the day that Roth finished the book, a prostitute moved into the premises above the sweet shop on the Plaza of Flowers, a woman who wore a red dress. If all prostitutes have hearts of gold then she has pawned hers for she has no emotions at all. Her name she took from the insipid heroine of the trashy novel the previous tenants had left behind - Faith Semalaigne.

This is all that Faith knows about her authentic origins. Of her erstwhile father she knows a little more. Roth is an American professor of semiotics. His first work of fiction sits (largely unread) on every fashionable coffee table in the western world. The man is a complete fraud, who stole every idea, plagiarized every piece of writing and yet has the power to create something out of nothing, perhaps without even realizing it.

Faith has made a comfortable living as a prostitute and is known about the Plaza of Flowers as "the woman in red" due to her vivid apparel; she wears no other color. Her beauty is acclaimed, her sexual prowess renowned and her will without scruple or shame. Faith is totally devoid of emotion. She practices expressions in front of her mirror and mimics them quite well but this is never more than pretense.

Among her clients is the American tourist Eleanor Baughman. Eleanor's husband Donald is a real bastard and Faith realized that Eleanor was more interested in having someone to care for her than for sexual gratification. Whatever she wants and is willing to pay for, Faith is quite happy to oblige, giving an ostensibly sympathetic ear and apparently loving embrace.

Not everyone appreciates Faith's talents. There is a pirate radio station which broadcasts the sermons of an MC Hamish to the Edge. He claims to be a 'cool youth deacon' but is in fact a right-wing extremist with a bee in his bonnet about morality. He encourages fundamentalists to strike back at those who offend their moral niceties and incites attacks particularly on sex workers. Faith has had to run from attackers several times and once had her apartment broken into by extremists who killed a cat and scrawled 'whore' in its blood around her room in eight different languages. She has had new locks installed but the streets are alive with seething hatred and intolerance.

Eleanor came to Faith about a week ago quite frantic and gave her a jewel box for safe keeping. Realizing her flat was not safe, Faith gave the box to Joe the barman at Sad Mary's. Joe is as reliable as any bank safety deposit box on Al Amarja, if not more so. A few days later Eleanor came again and asked Faith how expensive plastic surgery was on the Edge. Knowing some juicy rumors about the D'Aubainne Hospital Faith thought it more prudent to recommend a new drug called "Fugue" which

makes the flesh malleable and changeable. Generally it is used for its freak-out value but it can be used subtly. Over time it can become permanent. Faith directed Eleanor to Mathurin Turgot who deals in the stuff. Perhaps Eleanor wants to leave her husband and change her appearance so he cannot track her down.

Faith does not only work in the sex industry. Recently she has branched into other, more profitable areas. She has discovered a knack for following people in cities. Faith supplements her income by shadowing and tracking those who would rather remain hidden within the throngs of the Edge. Of the more unusual jobs she has had, tracking a black dog for Mathurin Turgot the drug dealer has been the most difficult. The beast was like smoke, disappearing every time she chanced upon it. Only twice did she manage to keep up with the dog. Once it entered Montgomery Knapp's apartment through the rear door and another time it vanished in the alley behind Elias Bettelheim's toy shop.

Faith broke into Knapp's apartment to see what she could find. The man is a member of Fable's Creed, a satanist and an asshole through and through. His apartment was filled with ritual implements, lurid pornography and tacky ornaments. The only curiosity she discovered was a crystal sphere filled with tiny metal fragments. When shook, it made strange tinkling music. Faith pocketed this thing and sold it to Mathurin Turgot.

Faith did not follow up on Bettelheim. The senile old man is pretty harmless. He has never been a client but Faith is pretty sure there is something sexual going on between him and the derelict Hippensteel. They both vanished into the mens' toilets earlier this evening for about fifteen minutes. Oh well, competition is supposed to increase efficiency, especially when the competition is as poor as that old bag lady.

The last time Faith saw the dog she followed it out of the city and into the woods of the Critica Range. She realized that it was stupid to leave the city but she was torn by curiosity. The wolf vanished outside a small shack in the woods - a shack covered with radio transmission aerials. She crept closer to see if this was the lair of the infamous MC Hamish but someone started the engine of an old land rover and drove it directly toward the spot where Faith was standing. A chill ran down her spine. She fled into the woods, not knowing if the driver had seen her or not. She ran and ran until her feet bled and she was safely in the city again. She decided not to tell Turgot about the incident. If that was the pirate radio station then she could be in trouble of the worst possible kind and Turgot is hardly the trustworthy sort.

The dog she followed appeared to be big and shaggy like a wolf. This has concerned Faith as she knows enough of her Grimm stories to know about the Big Bad Wolf. She dropped the case and has been thinking through her options if her nemesis has come for her. In the Roth story the girl above the sweet shop was killed by her wolf (the German pimp who gave her contaminated heroin) as she had no grandma nor woodsman to help her. Does this fate stalk Faith on padded paws?

From time to time Faith works for a rich Egyptian man, Johnny Ammut. Unlike many others he does not underestimate Faith's abilities. He once paid her a sizable sum of money to kill the blind pencil seller who used to hang around the plaza and make it look like the work of the Aries Gang. Faith slit the man's throat with a straight edge razor and started the rumor that the biker gang was responsible by daubing astrological symbols in his blood.

Recently Ammut has asked her to look for a missing man by the name of Rainer King. Ammut runs a drug rehabilitation center and King somehow got loose and is wandering the streets. Faith has been shown a sketch of the man, his most distinctive feature being his crooked nose and the mark of a hieroglyph on one side of his chest. King is under a course of medication. If he does not get a dosage soon he will become slower and stupider until he slips into a catatonic state. Ammut is concerned

about his charge and has offered \$20,000 for his safe return.

Bruno Roth is in Al Amarja at the moment. He has been frequenting Sad Mary's so Faith has been keeping an eye on him. She is wary about the man and his strange power. Could he change what she is, perhaps take away her beauty? If he dies, does she cease to exist or does she continue as before, only now safe from the power of her creator?

Ammut has also told her that there is a group known as the 'Semiotic Assassins' about who are planning something big in the Plaza of Flowers involving semiotic magic. It involves a country with no name, Atlantean Sorcerers known as 'Matagots' and a group of assassins known as the Fickle Trust. Ammut did not know any more. Perhaps these 'semiotic assassins' would understand how she came to be and help her with her dilemma.

OBJECTIVES

- Recover the missing man, Rainer King.
- Find a Semiotic Assassin or someone who knows about Semiotic Magic to ask about Roth.
- Locate the Big Bad Wolf and get to him before he gets to her

ABILITIES

Sultry Seductress: You are well-practiced at the art of seduction. After you engage any character attracted to your gender in a conversation lasting at least two minutes, you may ask them a yes/no question they must answer truthfully. You must have mentioned the topic of the question in the earlier conversation. Usable 5 times. (Charm)

Quick Hands: When searching a body thoroughly you would normally have to declare openly that you are doing so. You're unusually quick at this, however, and may do so without the loud public declaration. Usable 5 times. (General Ability)

Handy With a Straight-Blade: When wielding a straight-blade razor as a weapon you do an extra +1 damage on a hit. (General Ability)

Heartless: If anyone uses a charm ability on you, despite your best attempts to play along, something of your lack of emotion slips through. You must show the character who used the charm ability this card. Underneath all the pretending you lack emotion and are utterly heartless. The effect of charm ability still works. (Flaw)

EQUIPMENT

- Red Dress
- Straight-Blade Razor
- \$500 in cash