

# Katya Verlien-Zirchevski

Student at The Great School of Magic

AC 1014

By Michael Berry

“NO! Listen to me, it is the rapid oxidation of a material in the exothermic chemical process of...”

## I. Appearance

Katya appears to be no more than what she really is, a happy, vivacious, and charismatic little girl. She stands 5 feet tall and has her father’s thick dark black hair but her mother’s (and grandmothers) distinctive nose, pale skin, and a deep voice that reminds so many of her famous grandmother, the Countess of High Sonden, Sinaria Verlien. She proudly wears her long straight black hair in a braid down to her waist. She always seems to have a broad ear to ear smile on her face except for when she is concentrated on her studies during which only a whisp of a smile can be seen playing upon her face.

She is not old enough, according to her mother, to start wearing cosmetics or jewelry but she has recently shown a growing interest in jewels, especially rubies and black opals. Though Katya is in many ways already an adult in some ways she is very much the young girl she still is, she is fond of wearing pastel wizard robes adorned with finely stitched details showing various kittens, hearts, and flowers.

## II. Personality & Quirks

Katya is, in a word, brilliant considered by her tutors and instructors to be intellectually the smartest student they have seen in many decades, at least since Harald of Haaskinz, and the greatest magical prodigy since the greatest of all child prodigies Angus McGregor. Katya possesses a deeply analytical mind and loves solving problems and being challenged intellectually. The thing that endears so many to Katya however is not her magical abilities or her intellect but her warm sweet nature. Her instructors have been pleased and impressed with the way she took other students, both younger and older, in her class under her wing and helped them understand parts of the curriculum they were struggling with. She is a bit of rarity in that she was born to privilege and into one of the most famous families in Glantri yet is not spoiled in the least.

## III. History & Background

There were many harsh words and threats of imminent destruction by spell fire in 1001 when Andora Verlien the youngest daughter of Sinaria Verlien, Countess of High Sonden, announced her plans to marry not a rich or prominent Flaem but a Boldavian adventurer. Like most family wounds though it was soon forgotten when Andora and her husband Mikhail Zirchevski had their first child in 1003, a beautiful baby girl they named Katya. It was not long before Katya started showing hints that she was not a typical

infant but indeed a special one. To the amazement of her parents, she started showing signs of magical ability before her 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday and was able to summon her toys through the air and open unlocked doors for her to crawl through. In addition to her latent magical abilities Katya exhibited a high potential for intellectual development saying her first word at 5 months and was able to form simple sentences, in both Flaemish and Traladaran, by her first birthday. Formal magical testing is not done in Glantri before the age of 5 when any potential magical abilities have fully manifested but prodded by Sinaria Mikhail and Andora had Katya tested at age 2 by the Temple of Rad and found her latent magical abilities were nearly off the chart.

The next few years of Katya's infancy were preparation for what was to come, an early enrollment at the Great School of Magic thus the voracious intellect of young Katya was filled with lessons in math, alchemy, history, introducing Thyatian as a 3<sup>rd</sup> language as well as receiving personal magical instruction by both her father and her grandmother. By the time Katya turned five and was eligible to enroll at the Great School she was already fully capable of casting spells as a 1<sup>st</sup> level spellcaster and had her own spellbook filled with several 1<sup>st</sup> level spells. Katya was accepted directly into the school on the very day of her 5<sup>th</sup> birthday without any exams as the young magical prodigy was well known to the Great School and her enrollment had been eagerly awaited. Upon registering in 1008 Katya was assigned to the Vulture Dormitory and was introduced to her new classmates; Edgar Beaumarys-Moorkroft (age 18, M9, due to take Graduation test during term), Walburg Löwenroth (age 14, M6), and Bonnie MacInnes (age 9, M4). Katya was assigned the Dean of General Spellcasting Myriam de Veyt to be her academic advisor and was taken by Senior Master of the School of Natural Sciences Francois de Boissieu to be her master of magical instruction.

Katya was far too stimulated by the intellectual challenges provided by her classes and magical studies to feel overwhelmed in this new and highly competitive environment that proved so much a challenge for so many past students. What her parents and master feared was her social development and while she immediately bonded with some, especially Edgar Beaumarys-Moorkroft, she also faced jealousy from some like Bonnie MacInnes. However, before the term was out, she showed her masters, and fellow students she was not just a prodigy of magic but was a special human being far in advance of her years in her capacity for feeling empathy and for her personal convictions. In the year 1008, Katya's first year at the Great School, a deadly plague was ravaging Glantri. Its victims were not just low born but the high born as well claiming manure scrapers and nobles alike. Her class in particular was directly affected by the plague. First in Klarmont Edgar's father, John Beaumarys-Moorkroft the Archduke of Westheath, who already was in poor and declining health was exposed and quickly died of the plague. Edgar was not close to his father, nor the heir, so he was little affected by his father's passing. However, two months later Bonnie's mother, the Baroness of Lantruen Fiona MacInnes, also died of the plague. Unfortunately, as Bonnie was not considered by Glantrian law to be an eligible heir, and since no other suitable heir existed, her mother's title was declared vacant. What that meant for young Bonnie was that she was no longer considered by Glantrian law to be a noblewoman and the class was shocked to learn that plans were made to transfer Bonnie from the Vultures to a class of lesser social status. The callousness of this decision by the school railed at young Katya and she protested to both of her masters. She was told that they were sorry, but the rules were the rules especially in regard to social stratification. Katya did not

let that answer dissuade her and attempted to protest directly to the Grand Master himself but was turned away by his staff and told the Grand Master was indisposed and unable to see anyone. While all her classmates and even students from the other noble classes showed their admiration for her stand, they advised her to just accept the decision, but Katya decided she had one card left to play and she did just that. She composed a letter to the Student Administrator, Mario di Selenici, and very respectfully detailed her objection to this heartless act and said that unless Bonnie was allowed to remain with her classmates she would have to respectfully withdraw from the school and impose herself upon her grandmother for her education. Two days later the decision was reversed and not only was Bonnie allowed to stay with her class, but the School announced the costs associated with young Bonnie's continuing education would be covered by the school. What jealousy that existed with Bonnie disappeared and the two became inseparable friends that has continued since Bonnie's graduation in 1013.

The next year saw not only the end of the plague and the war with Alphatia but a change in young Katya's status as her father became the Baron of the newly established dominion of Lipetsk and young Katya instead of being a minor noble, became the potential heir (pending her graduation) to the Barony. Her father remained in Glantri City close to his wife and daughter and continued as an instructor of Dracology at the Great School. By 1011, only 8 years old, she started undertaking her own independent studies using the laboratories and gained an additional level of experience in addition to her normal advancement due the attending classes and her magical instruction. The next year she was selected by the newly established Grand Master of the School, Prince Harald Haaskinz for to be her new magical master and receive individual one on one magical instruction with him, and was sponsored into the Secret Craft of Fire by her grandmother, who also was its High Mistress. Also, in 1011 Walburg Löwenroth graduated but the Vultures and Katya got a new classmate when Ysabel de Fedorias (age 101, E5), a distant relation of Princess Carnelia, joined the class though like many elves she did attend for a full year long term but only a quarter. Though not unfriendly the two had little in common as Ysabel was far more interested in men and the Glantrian nightlife than her magical studies.

Katya continued to rack up an impressive record of scholarship and study at the Great School said to only be rivaled in memories of the masters of the Great School by the current Grand Master himself as student over 50 years in the past and drew the attention of not just Flaemish or even Traladaran nobles and wizards. Though highly proficient and creative with fire magic she exhibited a great passion for alchemy and geology and attracted the attention of the High Mistress of Alchemy herself, Comtesse Genevieve de Sephora, who had been told by Edgar Beaumarys-Moorkroft, now a 3<sup>rd</sup> Circle Alchemist, of this brilliant prodigy at the Great School with a very strong interest for alchemy. When de Sephora announced her plans in 1012 to teach a class, Advanced Hermetic Alchemy, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter the allotted slots quickly were filled by nobles and arch-mages however to Katya's surprise she received a personal invitation by the Comtesse to attend the class. Duly impressed with young Katya's classwork as well as her obvious potential as a mage Genevieve arranged a personal meeting with Katya and extended an invitation to join the Secret Craft of Alchemy. A humbled Katya immediately accepted and immediately set herself to proving herself worthy of this almost unheard-of honor. Honor in that while they are called Secret Crafts, they were also one of the worse kept secrets in Glantri and while their

inner workings, meeting places and powers were secret, the existence of and often some of the members of the Secret Crafts were known among other wizards and members of the other Secret Crafts. No one had been a member of two secret crafts in living memory, for not only was a great honor but also gave the honoree a great magical advantage that most wizards were loath to give as the lifeblood of Glantri is the pursuit of power, both political and magical and a high-ranking member of more than one secret craft would be a most formidable rival.

Two new students to the Great School were assigned to the Vultures in 1012: William Steurt the 5-year-old nephew of the Baron of Adlerturm Julian Steurt, and the 8-year-old nephew of the Viscount of Amboise Gaston Leconte-Foch. The next year, in addition to gaining a new level due to her independent studies, also saw Katya's best friend forever Bonnie MacInnes graduate from the Great School and leave Glantri City for Glenmoorloch where she was offered a job with the Bank of Glenmoorloch. A very joyous and tearful going-away party was had for Bonnie at the Mage's Hostelry and marked a dubious first for Katya as for the first time she got absolutely plastered on Mandrake Liquor and ending up spending the rest of the night puking into Chamberlain's Canal. This year's current term has seen another new classmate join the Vultures, Chiara Fulvina the 7-year-old daughter of the heir to the Viscounty of Verazzano, Cesare Fulvina. Chiara has not adjusted well to the Great School and misses her mother and father badly and has been taken under Katya's wing to help adjust to life at the Great School. Katya herself is set to graduate the Great School next year and her future plans are a great topic of discussion and speculation among the nobility.

#### **IV. Web of Intrigue**

Katya does not believe herself to be involved in any intrigue, but this is Glantri, and the web of intrigue will catch any noble eventually. While Katya has not expressed any political views or even shown much of an interest in politics the jockeying for her favor and support when she comes of age, or politically awoke, has already started.

#### **V. Statistics & Style of Magic**

**Statistics:** 8<sup>th</sup> Level Magic User, 2<sup>nd</sup> Circle Master of Fire, 1<sup>st</sup> Circle Master of Alchemy

Str 5, Int 18, Wis 8, Dex 16, Con 9, Cha 18; AL - Lawful

**Languages:** Traladaran, Flaemish, Thyatian (common), Averoignian, Efreet, Fire Elemental

**Weapon Proficiencies:** Staff (basic), Dagger (basic)

**Skills:** Alternative Magics (18), Magical Engineering (18), Alchemy (18), Planar Navigation (18), Metallurgy (18), Traladaran History (18), Flaemish History (18), Persuasion (18)

*"She is going to be the next Etienne d'Ambreville of Glantri. A truly historical force of magical nature"*

*(Micky the Mage to Viscount Michel Leconte over a glass of wine at Au Pied de Cochon)*