

# Isabelle the Beautiful

by Matt Ryan

**Characteristics:** Int +1, Per +2, Pre +4, Com +3, Str -1, Sta -1, Dex -1, Qik -4

**Size:** 0

**Age:** 23 (Apparent Age 23)

**Decrepitude:** 0

**Warping Score:** 0 (0)

**Confidence Score:** 1 (3 points)

**True Faith:** 1

**Virtues and Flaws:** Gentlewoman; True Faith; Educated, Great Presence, Inspirational, Student of Faerie; Curse of Venus, Optimistic; Noncombatant, Poor Quickness

**Personality Traits:** Accepting +3, Hopeful +3, Serene +2

**Reputations:** None

**Combat:** *Fist:* Init -4, Attack -1, Defense -4, Damage -1

**Soak:** -1

**Fatigue levels:** OK, 0, -1, -3, -5, Unconscious

**Wound Penalties:** -1 (1-5), -3 (6-10), -5 (11-15), Incapacitated (16-20)

**Abilities:** Animal Handling 2 (lap dogs), Artes Liberales 2 (grammar), Awareness 3 (rescuers), Champagne Lore 2 (noble landlords), Charm 3 (rescuers), Craft: Weaving 2 (spinning), Etiquette 3 (formal dancing), Faerie Lore 4 (satyrs), Folk Ken 3 (women), Latin 4 (reading missals), Profession: Scribe 1 (strong penmanship), Speak English 3 (criminals), Speak French 5 (upper class jargon), Speak German 3 (common folk), Teach 1 (children), Swim 2 (bathing),

**Equipment:** Gentlewoman's clothes and distaff.

**Encumbrance:** 0

**Appearance:** Isabelle is a beautiful woman, as described in the text, but she is much more than just that. Her appearance reflects her inner peace, her poise and self-assurance. She is tall, standing straight and true, with her head tipped slightly back. She dresses in simple clothing appropriate with her station, made from good material and cleaner than others of her class but not ostentatious or lavish in any way.

Isabelle is the most beautiful woman in the world. Her hair is as blonde as a copper basin. Her eyes are blue-gray, like a falcon's, and the space between them is wide. Her face is well proportioned and her nose is well-made and straight. Her mouth is small and a little dimple dots her chin. Her neck is straight and long, without pimples or sores; it is well proportioned, soft and smooth to the touch. Her bosom is as white as new-fallen snow upon a birch branch. Her body is well-made and svelte. From here to Jerusalem no woman is more beautiful than Dame Isabelle.

Isabelle is the living embodiment of beauty. Her physical attractiveness, poise, and elegance reflect her true nature of inner peace, tranquility, and personal religious devotion. She is gracious without a fault, virtuous without a blemish, and as pious as a monk. Conservatively dressed in a modest gown and whimple, Isabelle is charming and pleasant. While her beauty is certainly distracting, it is never overbearing or pervasive.

She is the archetypal damsel in distress, a ubiquitous role in many legends of the Middle Ages. Through the idle whims of fate and the dire machinations of fell powers, Isabelle has been unwillingly thrust into this role since young adulthood. She has weathered it surprisingly well, somehow never fearing that any of her abductors' wicked desires will manifest. Her faith in God is paramount, and past abductions have increased her personal devotion and belief in the loving and

protective powers of God. Despite the outward appearance of any situation, she faithfully believes that everything will turn out exactly right.

## Background

Isabelle is the youngest daughter of a landed knight, a lesser noble and vassal to the barons of Champagne, cousins to the king of France. Her father's kingdom is situated nearby the city of Troyes, whose annual fairs bring wealth and culture to the city. Isabelle enjoyed the fairs, strolling the twisting streets and crowded merchant stalls with her elder sisters. As she grew older, her natural beauty bloomed beyond compare.

So thought Sir Florent, her first abductor, who snatched her from her father's castle with a clatter of iron-shod hooves and a rattle of shining chain-mail. Poor Isabelle, only eighteen years-of-age, was forced by this despicable knight to marry him. Luckily, the marriage ceremony was interrupted when the priest tripped on his vestments and fell against the altar, breaking his arm. Florent assigned the girl to his highest tower, locked behind an iron door, to await a new priest. While she was waiting, her second abductor appeared on the scene.

Dafydd was a faerie prince. He had spotted Isabelle as she was led to the altar and immediately desired her. Using his faerie glamour to become invisible, Dafydd tripped the priest and interrupt the wedding. That night he mounted a large crow and flew to the top of Sir Florent's tower where he snatched the girl up in the thorny claws of the bird. Laughing, Dafydd flew away as Sir Florent futilely shook his mailed fists from far below.

Dafydd's lascivious dreams were dashed upon the rocks of love unrequited when, as he flew his

cacophonous mount over the realm of the knight Sir Dorigen, that bold and intrepid knight shot down the crow. Dropping his crossbow in time to catch the falling girl, Dorigen fell instantly in love with the damsel he had inadvertently saved. Dangling from a tree branch, Dafydd cursed the knight, who rode back to his feasting hall with the semi-conscious girl.

Dorigen planned an elaborate wedding, but it was not to be, and through circumstance and the whims of Lady Fortune, Isabelle was taken from him. So went the next several years of the lady's life, stolen from one ill-willed abductor by the next, until finally, through no choice of her own, she was brought to Semita Errabunda. The companions and magi had destroyed her last abductor, a lusting demon. Now, with no where else to go - and resigned to the fact that she is most likely just waiting for her next abductor - Isabelle makes her home at the covenant.

## Role-Playing Isabelle

Isabelle is much more than she seems, and she will contribute more to the covenant than just a pretty face. She is a stoic resource of calm, especially during the most turbulent times. God has created Isabelle for a purpose, and while Isabelle doesn't know what that purpose is, she resolutely accepts her part in God's ineffable plan. It is her faith that allows her to remain unflustered.

Her heavenly trust makes her more receptive to the lessons available in her past experiences. For example, she has been abducted by faeries so many times that she is well-versed in faerie lore, even though she never had a proper teacher. Her peacefulness is so inspiring that it can affect others, helping to calm them in tense situations. During times of strife Isabelle will provide a serene locus for frightened covenant folk.