

Gloria Eveninglight

Gloria Eveninglight is a legendary outlaw biodesigner.

She was born in the turbulent social environment of the floating climate refugee camps illegally anchored in south England bays. She showed an early talent for hacking and creative technology use. The first official mention of her occurs in the records of an arrest: the authorities seized a floating lab on the River Teign estuary for ecological crimes, and she was present as an apparent dependent. Being a 9 year old, she was released and put in a foster home from which she immediately escaped. Only later did the Department for Environment, Food and Biosafety realize that she had been a vital part of the lab team and responsible for the sabotage bindweed that triggered the action.

Her adolescence was spent in similar circumstances: moving between various refugee, traveller and scum groups, becoming involved in illegal biotechnology projects and repeatedly escaping from the authorities. She was an elusive figure, globally networked and always ready to bail out when her opponents moved in to crush her. She did not have a shortage of opponents either: beside biosafety authorities, hypercorps protecting their intellectual property, and drug gangs protecting their markets, she also had a great ability to anger former friends, lovers and autonomist networks. She was simply too cocky, too willing rock the boat to fit in anywhere for long.

Eventually her luck ran out and she was captured and imprisoned by the Japanese authorities. She was sent to Taketori Rehabilitation Program Center on Luna, a prison company with strong ties to the Tsuki-no-Miyako Consortium. Over the next decade she repeatedly failed to escape or cause trouble beyond its walls.

She got free thanks to Suzume McGonigal, a daughter of the TMC CEO. Suzume was deeply interested in "folk bio-art" and wanted her new habitat dome in Kaguya to be furnished by people like Miss Eveninglight. She had her transferred to her project, where she did diligent work, apparently reformed. Delighted, Miss McGonigal began to use her for other projects, introducing her to her circle of friends. The glitterati were fascinated by her roughness and obvious brilliance. What went on in the McGonigal circle has become the stuff of legends. The combination of wealth, decadence, the anarchic sensibilities of the leading couple, and a steady stream of hired brilliant assistants (not to mention being beyond the local law) allowed them to transgress all boundaries – pain, sex, death, worship, fear, purity and pollution. A few of the "graduates" of the circle ended up on Carnival of the Goat, where they have tried to recreate some of this freedom.

A year before the Fall the circle split up. The reasons have been speculated about endlessly, ranging from McGonigal and Eveninglight breaking up with each other, to their realization that the Fall was approaching and that they were not safe, to an ultimatum from the local authorities that they had gone too far. The main characters are not talking (these days McGonigal is living a cultivated life on Mars, loosely married to a Go-nin executive). Miss Eveninglight disappeared into the Lunar underground, where she apparently weathered the Fall.

She clearly reappeared in 3 AF, working for the Sun Yee On Triad on the Mare Vaporum Circumlunar People's Republic. Since then she has been working for a series of criminal employers, often jumping ship just ahead of terrible retribution. She is believed to be living on Legba these days, the center of Eagle Claw, an exclusive collective of criminal and decadent biodesigners doing consultancy work for criminal syndicates, terrorists and unscrupulous polities.

On Legba she is living in grand style in the Buruma neighbourhood, surrounded by her tengu guardians (bioengineered human-dog-horse like creatures, likely housing slave-egos). Some recent creations have been social disruption pathogens (psychoactive bioweapons intended to subtly sabotage the social fabric of a habitat), living armours for triad enforcers and the nawashi wine, a living smart rope intended for immobilizing and interrogating people using advanced biochemical links established through-skin piercing thorns. She appears to be nurturing an interest in collecting and understanding alien life and psi, perhaps for incorporation into her projects. There are persistent rumours that she is working on a truly grand project for unnamed but powerful employers, sending and receiving parcels from various gatecrashing groups.

By all accounts she is a difficult person: volatile, passionate and caustic. She can be vengeful, but also show astonishing kindness. She can plan devious long-range plots, yet throw away much of what she has won so far on an impulse. Often her brilliance and considerably enhanced social skills manage to keep the situation just barely under control, but as the long line of burned ex-employers know, she is mad, bad and dangerous to know – remote contract work is probably the safest approach. At the same time her difficulty makes her an object of idolisation: she is the superstar, bad-girl face of out of control biotech. Fans across the solar system view and debate her past and present antics, collecting her less lethal creations.

Adventure ideas

Firewall really doesn't like the social disruption pathogens, and want them stamped out. Someone needs to get in to her lair, find out who bought and paid for them, and then preferably make a very clear example of her. Of course, the queue for revenge is long and she is well prepared: can the Firewall agents find sufficiently trustworthy allies and pierce her security, or will she execute yet another dramatic escape? Or could they engineer her downfall in a more subtle manner?

The legacy of the McGonigal Circle remains a great story, and plenty of people are attempting unauthorized biographies and investigations of its legacy. Their old habitat dome in Kaguya was abandoned during the Fall and placed on the list of containment zones, presumably because of a nearby TITAN missile hit. But that might just have been a cover-up by an embarrassed father and other lunar authorities. Some investigators would love to get to the famed nest of depravity and see what is left... or has evolved quietly over the last decade.

The Tsuki-no-Miyako Consortium is long gone, absorbed by the Go-nin Group. Recently Miss Eveninglight has begun to suspect that the hypercorp possesses a copy of her, presumably made during her prison sentence. Some of their agritech products seem to carry her style of design. The idea of a neutered version of herself working for a megacorp truly irks her. She is willing to spend significant resources on investigating and castigating the corporation, and now is looking for catspaws to do her dirty work. The investigations might not just find nasty evidence of

simspace sweatshops inhabited by enslaved egos, but stranger things – evidence that the other Eveninglight is actually in charge of secret projects dealing with the ultimates, the use of skillssofts derived from her mind to produce groups of slightly erratic but brilliant designers, or the discovery that it was all a set-up: the real villain is Mrs McGonigal-Hotaka, who wants to have her pet genius back.

Miss Eveninglight has been incredibly lucky. In fact, so lucky that some Firewall crows are starting to wonder **what** she is. A few brushes with death, escapes from the authorities and lucky breaks across the life of an extraordinary person are to be expected (after all, there were billions of people around – some were bound to have a few lucky breaks). But probability models suggest that she has been surviving a bit too many things to be plausible. Has she been an async all this time? Or is she some kind of long-range infiltrator of alien or TITAN origin? They want to find out.