

Ne Plus Ultra

Ne (as his friends and employers call him) is a freelance bodyguard and enforcer on Carnival of the Goat. Sleeved in an impressive Beowulf wolf morph, he is just the kind of imposing protector visiting glitterati like to be seen with. Among the locals he has a reputation as an honourable, too strict character. While several criminal groups have tried to recruit him he has made it clear (using violence a few times) that while he can be hired, he is not for sale.

Many underestimate the wolf morph, thinking that a morph that cannot handle projectile weapons must be an easy target. They forget that the morph is very, very fast and controlled by a seasoned fighter. Who in addition is not adverse of using remote-controlled weapons and bot jamming to monitor the environment, distract and make surprise strikes out of nowhere. Perhaps Ne's greatest skill is to use his 'animal' nature to manipulate or intimidate enemies: most transhumans and uplifts still have subconscious responses to predators they cannot control.

Like many others in the Carnival Ne's origins are hidden and Ne prefers to not discuss his background. Some mannerisms and linguistic quirks suggest a Latin background. He also seems to be very knowledgeable in anything relating to the sea, including deep ocean operations. But he is a private person, usually deflecting questions or just keeping silent.

While generally behaving professionally Ne can be spiteful. His main weak point is his pride: the one certain way of enraging him (sometimes even enough to make mistakes) is to make him look foolish. He has a long memory for people who slight him and tend to ensure that they get what they deserve – not always a ripped throat, either. On the other hand, he has shown great loyalty with his friends (his "pack") and tends to obey orders efficiently. He is quite liked among the freelancers hanging out in the Weeping Mandragora on the Scorpion Deck. One reason is that his example makes it easier for them to stay independent; another is that his somewhat unusual honour improves the reputation of the rest of the (far less incorruptible) freelancers.

Ideologically he seems to be aligned with the Ultimates, spending much time training and improving himself. However, he doesn't agree with their ascetism and disdain for the decadence of normal society – some have guessed that he might be a "fallen" ultimate who was seduced by the Carnival. Others think he is secretly their contact or agent on the barge. There are several locals around who do their best to get him to "lighten up" and indulge – it is always hard to tell whether he genuinely tries to maintain discipline and fails or whether he is deliberately playing stiff to get them to force him to enjoy himself.