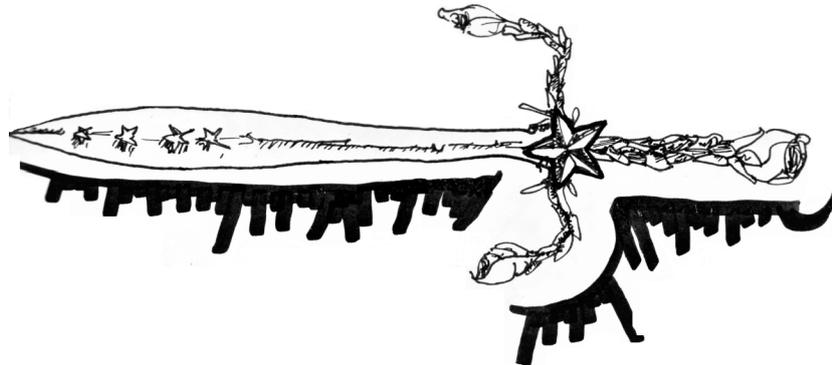


This document contains the details of Rose of the Stars, a sapient blade.



## Rose of the Stars

*On a war-torn field a rose once bloomed,  
But you'll find it there no more*

*From up above a light fell doomed  
Drawn down by the earth and it's core*

*They met in a flash, the rose and the star  
Smoke billowed and blew, men saw from a far*

*As the morning shone bright, where once there were two  
There now stood just one, a gleaming blade grew*

*Known just as Rose of the Stars*

*- traditional folk ballad*

**Description:** Rose of the Stars is a famous blade, legendary due to its wielders and also because of its mysterious origin. The most common version of the ballad tells of the story of a rose, growing on a field of battle, forever fated to be trampled down by hooves and hob-nailed boots as one petty conflict of men followed another. It pleaded the aether for assistance to its plight - and unusually, the aether answered. It is unclear which specific power is responsible for the events that followed, but it is agreed that a star descended from the night sky and after a night of strange mists, lights and mellifluous sounds, the Rose of the Stars was found standing in the middle of the forlorn battlefield.

Rose of the Stars is a two-handed blade, its pommel and guard made of living rose-vine, with a blade of the brightest, gleaming star-metal. The soul of the original plant seems to reside within, known simply as Rose, and anyone pricked by its thorns can hear her voice resonating in their mind. Rose has been a part of many great quests and adventures, and can be an astute and soulful companion to those who gain her trust.

While the blade has staunchly stood for the forces of Law, its strange skyward origins and Rose's sometimes fiery temper casts a shadow of doubt on the true nature of the sword. Some scholars even go as far as to suspect that what wielder's experience as Rose's voice and soul is a surface, hiding something much more fateful. The King of Elfland, Ildavir and Gorhan have all been theorized to be the patrons of the blade, but even Rose herself cannot shed light to the true origins of its power - or so she says.

**Abilities:** Rose of the Stars has the following abilities.

- *Weapon type:* Two-handed sword +2; damage 1d10+2.
- *Alignment:* Lawful, although it is said that the sword has been known to commit chaotic and impulsive acts, as if it had an agenda of its own.
- *Intelligence:* 14.
- *Communication:* While grasping the sword its owner can commune telepathically with Rose. Those who have heard it describe the blade's voice as that of a young woman with a somewhat thorny sense of humour. Additionally, the blade reputedly holds a special disdain towards knights and indeed only has ever had one such wielder to date.
- *Special:* Rose of the Stars has the following special abilities.
  - *A famous blade:* Most everyone has heard some version of the origin ballad of the blade. A character correctly identifies Rose of the Stars on a successful INT roll. Make a further d4 roll to determine what version of the ballad they are familiar with: (1) a bawdy drinking song; (2) an operatic song-play; (3) an epic poem; (4) a ritual choral piece.
  - *A sword to a master:* There is no universal consensus over the powers of the sword, rather it seems that the blade grants its wielder powers based on its relationship with the wielder. Refer to the table below for possible powers, and note that the sword is literally has a mind of its own and may attempt to refuse to work with a disagreeable user. Also note that multiple moods may apply at the same time, and may vary quickly, should Rose change its mind.

**Table A: Rose of the Star's powers and moods**

<b>Mood</b>	<b>Power</b>
Unwilling	Spiky thorns cause 1 point of damage to the wielder each round, and all attacks with the weapon suffer -1d. The wielder can subjugate the blade with a successful Ego check.
Subjugated/Suspicious	No additional bonuses or penalties.
Friendly	The blade gains an additional +1 bonus to both to hit and damage rolls.
Encouraging	The blade grants them +1 to all of their saves.
Supportive	Adding to the wielder's defences, the blade grants them a +1 to AC.
Worried	The blade grants it's wielder an additional +5' to their movement rate.
Amorous	The regenerative powers of the rose-vine extend to the wielder as well, healing them for 1d4 hit points each round.
Allied	When both the sword and the wielder are set on the same immediate goal, the blade grants an additional +1d on attack rolls.