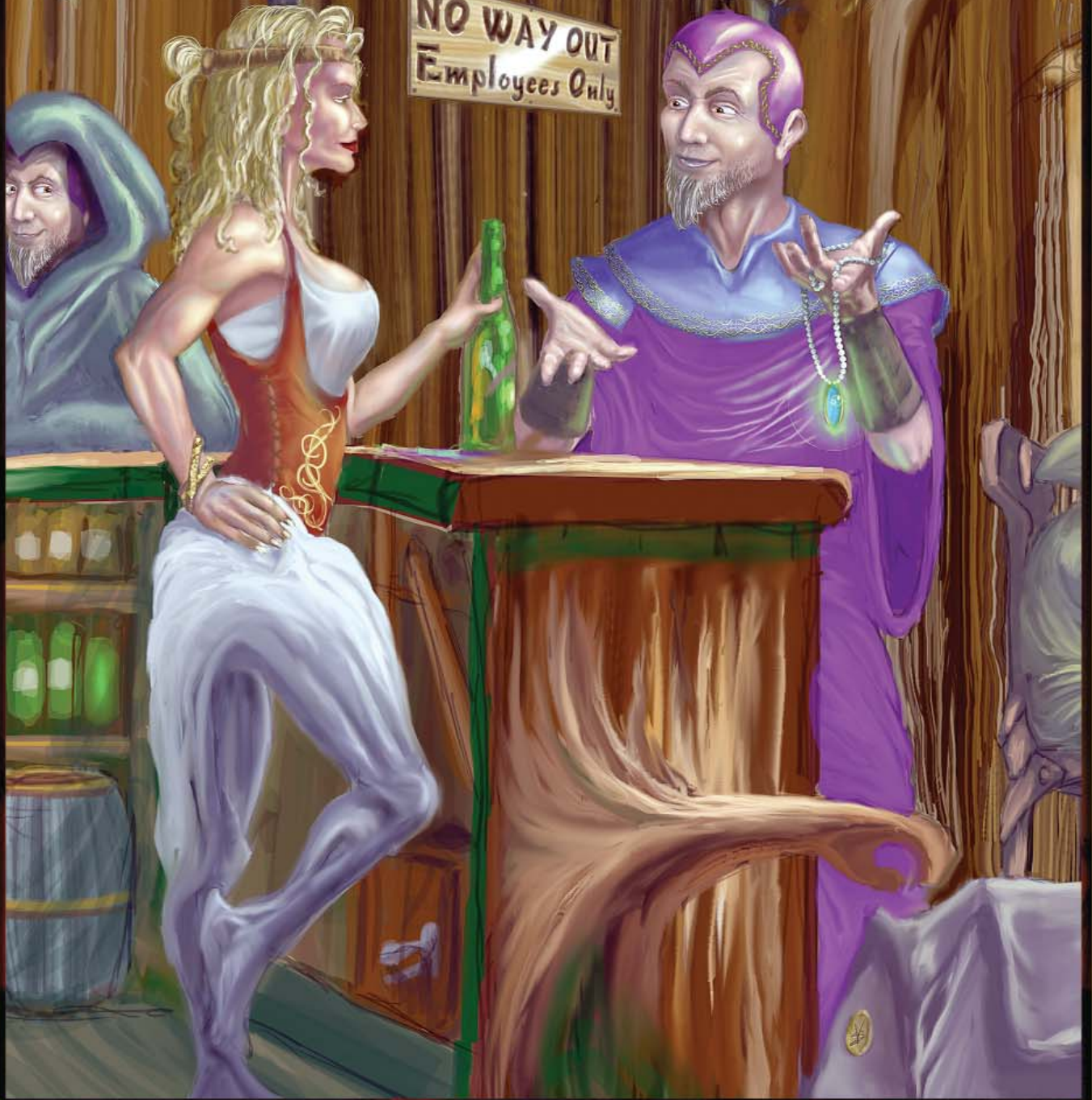


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The **Complete**  
Guide to

# Doppelgangers

NO WAY OUT  
Employees Only



# The Complete Guide to Doppelgangers

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# Introduction

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*What do you truly know?*

*Here we sit, surrounded by guards. You believe that I will tell you the mysteries of my people, and you will record them with parchment and ink. That is your first mistake — your reliance on words, your belief that you can assign a shape to the world. You have but one form, and you want all questions to have a single answer. But they don't. Life is about change — about mysteries that you cannot understand. Look at me now. Am I your lover? Look at me now. Am I your friend? No, you are thinking. I have simply stolen his appearance — I am trying to trick you. But can you be certain? Is your friend still at the inn? Or am I the one you have known for years? Am I the one who guarded your back in the battle at Balen Moor? I can tell you the words you said at the end of that battle, when we were alone in the dark drenched in sweat and blood. But was I there? Was it real? How can you know?*

*I can see your thoughts. How simple and flat they are — as two-dimensional as the words you are writing. You believe that you and your companions captured me, that you foiled a plot against the leader of this city. But what if there was no plot? What if I was the duke all along — and the man you “restored” to power was just another of my kind, standing in the shadows and waiting to take my place? Is there anyone in this city who you truly know — about whom you have no doubts whatsoever?*

*What about the city itself? Has it ever occurred to you that the city might have its own thoughts, its own ideas? What if I was simply part of the city — playing a role and waiting for the next act to begin? I see you don't believe me. Is it harder to accept this than to imagine that the guards who stand around us are also part of the city, and that in a moment they will kill you? Because both of these things are true...*

— The last entry in the journal of loremaster Kenta Barri

Doppelgangers have spawned hundreds of rumors and stories. What adventurer doesn't have a tale about the time he fought a doppelganger assassin, stopped one from impersonating the duke, or was surprised by a doppelganger disguised as his friend? But these accounts leave many questions unanswered. What do doppelgangers do when they aren't assassinating or impersonating people? Why do they work for humans — and how do prospective employers find them, anyway? Are there Doppelganger communities?

This book examines the psychology and motivations of these mysterious creatures. It looks at the lifecycle of the doppelganger, and reveals the existence of biological variations of the creature. For the fact of the matter is that there are doppelgangers all around — that they are far more common than people believe.

A point of clarification: the word “doppelganger” is used for two purposes in this book. As you will see in the next chapter, the doppelganger is a particular stage in the lifecycle — the stage at which the creature is the most active and during which it impersonates living creatures. When capitalized it is used as a general term to describe the entire species, including mimics and doppelstadte.

Complete details on the new feats, skills, and classes mentioned in this book can be found in the chapter on character creation. Statistics for the new forms of Doppelganger can be found in Appendix I.

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## Physiology

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A Doppelganger is a telepathic, asexual creature that possesses the power to change its shape. Doppelgangers are fundamentally magical creatures that have evolved through the interaction of arcane and natural forces. A Doppelganger's body is made up of undifferentiated cells that shift form to meet the needs of the moment. It forms bones, sensory organs, and anything else it requires from its general mass. A Doppelganger has nothing that a human would recognize as a brain; its consciousness is a field spread throughout its entire being. This field cannot be split; a piece removed from a Doppelganger becomes dead flesh, and will not revert to its original form.

The lifecycle of the Doppelganger is more complicated than most people realize. A Doppelganger goes through three stages of development. In addition, there are a number of distinct subspecies of Doppelganger, each

