

SCION

VENGEFUL DAUGHTERS: THE FURIES



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Compatible with Scion Second Edition



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VENGEFUL DAUGHTERS THE FURIES

“It is a man’s own dishonesty, his crimes,
his wickedness, and boldness that takes away from
him soundness of mind; these are the Furies,
these the flames and firebrands, of the wicked.”

— Marcus Tullius Cicero

When Cronos betrayed his father Uranus, severing his phallus and throwing it into the sea, it would be the start of something much greater and more far-reaching than he could have imagined. As blood poured from the primordial’s wound, it fell onto the fertile soil of Gaea, mixing with her tears at the betrayal of her son against his father. From blood and soil sprung Alecto, Megaera, and Tisiphone — the vengeful daughters of Gaea — known as the Furies. Gaea’s daughters seek vengeance and retribution against those who commit crimes against the natural order, such as a son castrating his father whom he envied and hoped to unseat. For his deeds, the Furies called down upon Cronos a prophetic curse: as he sought to take power from his father, so too would one of his own children render unto him the same fate. The rest, of course, is history.

There is nothing that the Furies despise more than betrayal, whether it comes in the form of liars, blasphemy against the gods, unfilial conduct, or homicide. Victims of any such crimes could call upon the sisters to render justice against those who committed the offense. Servants of Hades and Persephone, the Furies call the realm of Erebus home and

oversee the torture of the criminals consigned to the Dungeons of the Damned, greatly relishing the opportunity to scourge the guilty of their sins. Serpent-haired and winged, draped in black robes, wielding barbed whips, and with boots like the huntress Artemis, the daughters of Gaea are a fearsome sight to behold and even more fearsome to face in their righteous fury.

While times have changed significantly, with justice decidedly becoming more restorative rather than punitive, the sisters maintain their work as arbiters of the wronged: judge and jury in most cases, and executioner in only the most grievous instances. Humanity hasn’t much changed their ways, so why should they? There is always someone committing a sin that requires immediate rectifying, and while other Theoi may have changed their approach to combating ancient problems with modern solutions, the Furies remain content to plague wrong-doers with ill-luck until they acknowledge their wrong-doing. They don’t do it to be evil, far from it — they do it because they believe humanity can and should do better. After all, how else can you achieve a greater destiny than you ever conceived of?



ALECTO, PUNISHER OF THE IMMORAL

Firstborn among the Furies and sometimes referred to as their Queen, Alecto is the Punisher of the Immoral, relentless in her pursuit of hunting down and punishing those guilty of indulging in vices most unbecoming — gluttony, fornication, avarice, envy, anger, boastfulness, and cruelty. These evil thoughts, that which prevents one from living a life of moral rectitude, are considered especially heinous if they are committed against another person. It is unacceptable to behave badly against one's self and a whole other world of pain when it is aimed at someone else with the intent of causing grave harm, and Alecto is not going to stand around being idle.

Implacable, it is difficult to dissuade Alecto from action once she has set her mind to it — if someone requires behavioral correction, there is little that anyone can do to stop her. Her convictions are incontrovertible, and woe be to the one who attempts to sway her from performing that sacred duty. Her preferred method of correcting improper behavior used to be inciting madness in the guilty party, but in more recent times Alecto has evolved her methodology. Social interventions, changing a person's fortune to teach the lesson of vices bringing downfall, and the like are how she moves to bring about a moment of singular self-awareness when the victim realizes what their actions have wrought.

Those chosen by Alecto act as her agents when she is busy doling out punishment to the Damned in the Underworld, usually in fields which focus on helping others help themselves out of bad situations that they have — sometimes unwittingly — put themselves into, and giving them the power and abilities to pull themselves out of the mess. Twelve-step programs, half-way houses, and community service are just some of the methods employed by Alecto's chosen, not to punish the still-living, but to shepherd them (sometimes forcefully) towards better choices for their own benefit. It doesn't always work, but the option to give it a try again is there.

Callings: Hunter, Judge, Trickster

Purviews: Beasts (Bats), Chaos, Darkness, Earth, Epic Stamina, Fortune, Order



MEGAERA, PUNISHER OF OATHBREAKERS

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, and there is no Fury quite like Megaera, the Punisher of Oathbreakers. As the origin of all jealousy and envy in the world, she is the most called-upon of the Furies, answering prayers from spurned lovers and abandoned spouses to bring down vengeance upon philanderers and liars. That her birth came from Cronos' betrayal has given Megaera a bit of a complex, and so she has no patience for betrayal of any sort — including gods who have broken their own oaths or marital vows, and Zeus has been on the receiving end of her anger for his infidelities on more than one occasion. It certainly keeps her busy, even if it has given her a reputation of being incredibly spiteful.

When it comes to dealing with those who have earned her ire, Megaera is overt and ruthless — subtlety simply isn't in her modus operandi. She wants the guilty to know that she knows what they did wrong when they were flirting with that secretary instead of answering their phone, and to put the culprit on edge until the weight and pressure of their actions finally weighs so heavily upon their conscience that they ruin their own lives. It works great for the most part, but there are sometimes those who require special attention, and that attention involves a lot of screaming, whipping, and hungry wolves in the woods.

There is a special place in Megaera's heart for the children born of illicit affairs whose parents abandon them, hoping that in doing so it somehow erases the result of their infidelity. Of all the Furies, her Scions are the most numerous because, despite her wrathful nature, she knows what it's like to be an unwelcome and painful reminder of things others would rather forget. It is her hope to somehow end this painful cycle of abandonment by taking them under her wing, and many of her Scions become social workers, foster parents, and adoption advocates all around the world.

Callings: Hunter, Judge, Sage

Purviews: Beasts (Wolves), Chaos, Darkness, Earth, Epic Dexterity, Fortune, Order



TISIPHONE, PUNISHER OF MURDERERS

Drenched in the blood of the guilty, Tisiphone is the most aggressive and feared among the Furies. The Punisher of Murderers and Guardian of the Gate of Tartarus, she is a one-woman judge, jury, and executioner for those who have committed the foulest of all crimes and who require the severest of punishments. Patricide, fratricide, homicide — it matters not the victim nor the reasoning behind it, for all are equally abhorrent. If it weren't for the fact that she was mere minutes old after it happened, Tisiphone would've chased Cronos to the ends of the earth for what he did to Uranus. But in the end, he got his comeuppance, and that's all that matters to her.

Where Alecto and Megaera make some allowances in the pursuit of their queries, there are no gray areas with Tisiphone. If you have mortally harmed another being, she will look for you, she will find you, and she will deal with you accordingly. There is no clemency, no chance for redemption, and absolutely no mercy. After millennia of dealing with the most heinous of crimes, Tisiphone has acquired the skills that have turned the act of execution into an art. Like Megaera, she enjoys the hunt — riddling the murderer with paranoia and fear of being found out, chasing them down like a dog, and cutting them down as they beg with the spectres of their victims dragging them away to Erebus.

Non-stop wars for the past few centuries have kept Tisiphone more than busy, with soldiers and politicians alike taking life and death into their own hands for less than noble aims. In fact, it's become nearly impossible to keep it up all on her own. Thankfully, her chosen Scions are among some of the most fervent believers in the idea that meaningless slaughter is a morally destitute path and must be stopped at all costs. Judge Advocate Generals who try trigger happy soldiers that shoot civilians in warzones, private investigators who pick up the torch when a murder case goes cold, and bounty hunters who seek those who continue to elude the long arm of the law all find themselves under Tisiphone's aegis and do her work with dire resolve.

Callings: Hunter, Judge, Warrior

Purviews: Beasts (Serpents), Chaos, Darkness, Earth, Epic Strength, Fortune, War



Additional Birthrights

Creatures

Horses of Ares: Considered to be four of the most terrifying steeds in creation, the Horses of Ares — Aithon, Phlogios, Konabos, Phobos — are often seen leading the God of War's chariot. Immortal, they never tire and so are desired greatly by those who require swift travel across great distances or realms.

Followers

Harpies: Half-human and half-bird allies of the Furies, harpies are the spirits of strong, gale-force storm winds that snatch evil-doers in their talons and carry them off to be dropped at the mercy of the vengeful sisters. Sometimes beautiful, but always terrible, they are harbingers of displeasure and coming reprimand.

Horkos: Godson of the Furies, Horkos is the daimon of oaths who oversees promises both made and kept, maintaining the tally of those who have abided by those promises and who have not. He keeps track of who still requires the gentle corrections of his godmothers, and aids their Scions as in their tasks.

Guides

Orestes: Guilty of matricide against his mother Clytemnestra for her betrayal against his father Agamemnon, Orestes is one of the few who have escaped the wrath of the Furies through a ritual of appeasement created by Athena. More merciful Scions sometimes seek him to find an alternative point of view in cases where the details are muddy and the legitimacy of punishment is questionable.

Relics

Dragon's Teeth: Taken from the corpse of the Dragon of Ismenus after it was slayed by Cadmus, these teeth — when planted into fertile soil — form into a fully armored Spartoi, ready to take on anything put before its path.

Furies Scourge: To the average eye it appears to be your basic leather whip you might pick up at a flea market, but in reality it is a weapon blessed by the Furies that erupts into flames when in the presence of the guilty.

