

Canary Diamond

This diamond's origins is tied to both the Imperial Lands of Ticinum and to the Kingdom of Tarminan. Most believe the stone was dug out of mine near the Netilene Fortress over 700 years ago and was originally sold as an uncut stone in the Town of Dubra.

The stone made its ways to the Town of Meldona in the Alinian Forest where it was cut by a renown gemcutter and jeweller named Baebio Scapula. Who the diamond was originally sold to in the town has been lost to history but the stone became known as Scapula's Little Bird due it colour, clarity, and a small inclusion that looked like a bird's head when the light hit it just so.

The diamond quickly became famous and so did Scapula. The Emperor of Ravenna, Cappadox II, learned of the gem and offered an Imperial Ransom for the gem from its original owner. That man and his family received titles and land from the Emperor in exchange for the gem and Scapula was brought to the Imperial City to become the Imperial Families Royal Jeweller.

Emperor Cappadox II wanted the diamond for his twelve-year-old daughter, Arria, who he always referred to as his 'little bird'. She was delighted by the gem and loved the gem's bird head inclusion. She was the first to say the bird looked like a canary. The name stuck. The jewel became known as the Canary Diamond (or Canaria Adamantino).

Arria wore the diamond throughout her life and it became a treasure of Ticinum. The more famous the gem became, the more it and Arria's hand became sought after. She refused all suitors much to her mother's chagrin. Her father loved her so much that he denied her nothing, not even her fierce independence.

After her father's death, Arria, not her younger brother's became Empress of Ticinum. Her brothers fumed in silence for years but eventually civil war broke out. Arria had the Canaria Adamantino set into her magical helmet and wore it into battle. The jewel was said to grant her good luck and she survived the worst of the war.

Once her brothers were defeated, however, she was betrayed by her own mother. The woman had her daughter murdered by assassins from the west and their payment was the diamond. These men were Tarmins and they pried the gem out of the helmet and fled into the night with their prize. Arria's mother did not survive the coup attempt.

The Tarmins fled southwest through Kalmonte with the Imperial Guard chasing them relentlessly. The assassins slipped away through High Morria and then up into the Kniyan Mounts. A few versions of the stories say the assassins lost their pursuers in the mysterious city known on as Anxius. However, most believe the truth is that Tarmin assassins fled into the Aarzen Valley and then northwest up through the Athwood and into Tarminan, which was still a Ticinum Province at this time.

However, what became of them and of the diamond remained a mystery until 120 years ago. The jewel resurfaced in the, now, independent Kingdom of Tarminan. It was presented to King Yezekael I during his coronation. At first, no one realized that the diamond was the famous Canaria Adamantino. It was presented to the king as a fine copy of the gem's design, but when the Royal Jeweller examined diamond he declared for all to hear, including the Ticinum ambassador, "it IS the Little Bird!"

The ambassador demanded that the jewel be returned to Ticinum but King Yezekael I refused. He had the ambassador beheaded and declared the Canaria Adamantino to be the rightful property of the Kingdom of Tarminan. He had stories written and told that the diamond was stolen from the Tarmin people by the Ticins. These stories began new conflicts and wars throughout all the lands that were once part of the Empire of Ticinum.

These wars continued into the reign of King Yezekael II who fanned the flames even more by spreading the rumour that Arria had been a child of Tarminan who was stolen from her people by Emperor Cappadox II. This enraged the Ticin people and for years the two

countries warred over the gem with all the nearby lands caught in the middle (some literally). Many of the ruins of the Kniyan Mounts are a legacy of these wars.

Then, 75 years ago, the jewel was stolen once again from the Royal Treasure Vault in Tarminan's capital city, Riggiu. The thief, who was only known by their calling card, literally an Ace of Diamonds, left behind the playing card and note written in Draconic that simply said "liar." The legend says that the thief as a dragon, but no one knows for sure who the thief was or where the diamond was taken. There has not even been a wisp of a rumour of its existence since that day.

Now, it is the hands of the Exemplars in Bluffside's Old City. Taken from the pockets of a rogue named Shylock who was member of the Brelish Thieves' Guild. Kelik was his master, and Shylock disappeared while being taken into custody. The man's pouch went from his belt to Tuck's hands. Did he steal it from Kelik? Did the thieves not know what they had? (Doubtful.) Did Kelik get it from Phelix?

The main thing for you, the PCs, to worry about is what happens if/when King Yezekael III learns that the diamond has resurfaced in Bluffside, of all places? The "Old Man of Tarminan" has wanted any reason to march on Bluffside and conquer it for decades. And, what happens when the current Emperor of Ticinum learns that jewel has been found? Will he demand that The Five return it to him? Also, will others coming hunting for it? Could that be why The Dusk are in Bluffside? Did Phelix promise them the jewel and then lost it?