

Nightshift

The Veil

The Veil is an unexplained force that masks beings of a magical nature from those who are not innately magical, altering their appearance, nature, and any other thing which might otherwise expose them as magical in nature.

The veil does not actively change details, it changes the way people process what they perceive in each given situation, causing them to overlook things that should have been obvious. What a normal person registers in their head is altered by a filter of their own experiences and biases.

Example Scenario

Here are the four people involved in this scenario and a little bit of background that shows why they will see things the way they do.



Carl Kelly, Bookstore Owner

Non-Magical

He's a gruff, middle-aged man who occasionally handles a magical tome or two, but never reads them because he thinks they're drivel. His store is on the edge of a slum near the port authority

bus terminal.



Mage-Eater, Connoisseur

Magical

Scaly, fork-tongued, yellow-eyed freak whose appetites extend well beyond fast food. He has the complications, "Distinctive Features: Reptilian" and "Aura of Evil".



Todd, College Kid

Non-Magical

He's an average college kid, looking for cheap text books. He spent summers with his uncle, an abusive man with a bad case of the skin condition *Psoriasis*.












Jenny Orchid, Novice Wizard

Magical

Jenny discovered a heritage of wizardry in her family and has been searching for spells in old books. She has a necklace that supplies energy from which to cast spells (END battery).

Setting

Carl, Todd, and Jenny are all in the bookstore, *PAPYRUS*, a bookstore in a bad area, away from the normal college bookstores and thus more likely to stock literary oddities, and entertain odd guests.

VIEWER	EFFECTS OF THE VEIL	OUTCOME
	<p>Carl looked up toward the new patron but almost immediately back to his books because there was something unnerving about looking at him directly. The cloak gave him the impression of a hoodie, and while the man is not black, Carl's innate bigotry caused him to take the feeling of evil he gets off the aura and replicate that with more "mundane" features he'd view as evil. When the man speaks his forked tongue alters his speech which Carl interprets as being an accent. Carl's Conclusion: "Lousy thug foreigner!"</p>	
	<p>Todd also glances up but looks away when he gets the creeps. He made a better perception roll than Carl did and gets a glimpse of scaly skin. The negative aura coupled with the skin dredged up old feelings about the uncle who had psoriasis and that used to smack him around all summer. Thus any description of the Mage-Eater would be distinctly different. Todd's Conclusion: "Mean Old Bastard!"</p>	 <p>Note that His uncle had a beard though Mage-Eater doesn't. His desire to block out the features of the Mage Eater caused him to fill in the blanks with features of someone he hates.</p>
	<p>Jenny sees him for what he is. She takes a moment when he is busy looking at the others to make a perception roll and does well enough to get most details, though she misses a couple things (She didn't see the forked tongue when he spoke).</p>	 <p>Like in all games she's still subject to a perception roll to see some things, she's just likley to realize what she <i>really</i> sees.</p>
	<p>Mage-Eater sees them all as normal, unfettered by the veil. Though Jenny is magical she doesn't outwardly show any signs of being magical. However, her eyes did go wide when she saw him so he suspects she might be piercing the veil.</p> <p>As a result, he kicks in his magical senses and sees that she radiates magic. His particular magic sense allows him to pinpoint the pendant around her neck and realize that it radiates more power than she does.</p>	 

Piercing the Veil

The veil can be ignored by mortals in a number of ways under various circumstances.

- **Children.** As kids are more apt to believe what they see without any sort of filter, they can sometimes pierce the veil, which is why a larger reported sighting of boogeymen, monsters in the closet, and ghosts in the neighborhood's creepiest house are made by kids: They sometimes DO see them.
- **Coaching by someone who can see through the veil.** This is temporary, and has to occur pretty much point by point. From the above scenario, Jenny might say to Todd...
"Did you notice his flesh actually looks like scales? I mean REAL lizard scales?" Oh yeh!
"That's more of a cloak than a hoodie, right?" Now that you mention it...
"His eyes are slit, like a serpents' eyes. Right?" Freaky, but she's right!
Note that this does not automatically make him able to recognize others like this. But next Todd came across the Mage-Eater he would recognize him as the man he saw earlier AND there's a chance he'll freak out from actually seeing what he is.
- **The same phenomenon can occur retroactively.** If the PC showed up at the shop looking for a book in a race to beat others to it, they might question Carl, who says someone else bought it. Some smelly, dirty foreigner with an accent and bad skin.
"Bad skin. Did it look like snake skin?" Ok. Yeh.
"Were his eyes slit?" Um... yeh, I think they were.
"Did he have a forked tongue?" I didn't see any forked tongue. What are you some sort of weirdo?
- **Magic.** Someone who has been entrusted with a magic item or put under a magical protection might begin to see through the veil. Unless they make use of magic a going concern, it's assured they will slip back into ignorance shortly after the protections/objects are taken away. The more powerful the spell or object, the more quickly they are able to adjust to piercing the veil and the longer it takes to revert to veil blindness.

A non-magical (mundane) person will know they were attacked in an alley. If they see those guys again they may recognize them (assuming they got a look the first time). They won't realize they were a band of trolls, nor would the police if they picked them up somehow, unless someone who sees they are trolls proceeds to delineate for them the trollish features of the subjects. Now they may recognize these guys as trolls next time they are seen, but another gang of trolls would still be just a gang. If someone pointed out the similarities between the two gangs they might suspect there's a correlation, but they can't confirm it with their own senses; they'd need convincing, or they may just jump to the conclusion that the new gang are trolls and shoot them.

Which is all fine and good unless they really are just a gang. Then you've got human bodies hitting the alley and an entirely different set of problems.