

## Nare

Nare is one of three sisters who have come to be known as the Crane Women, daughters of the now-deceased Queen Elme of the Sidhe who fell in love with a mortal human male some 9000 years ago. Nare's sisters are Spart and Coom, and they live in a large hut on top of a mound on the outskirts of Halftown.

Owing to their vast knowledge and skills accumulated through the ages, the Crane Women are sought out by full blood Sidhe for training of their young male novices (like Biri) to enter the Sidhe priesthood. It is unheard-of for humans to receive training in the ways of the Sidhe, and therefore it comes as a surprise when Lamia orders that Michael be trained by the Crane Women for survival in Sidhedark.

It is Nare who takes on the challenge of Michael's *inward* training. She tests his acuity with games of strategy, and she teaches him mental techniques to protect his inner self and his knowledge and even to tap into his inner flame to stay warm in the bitter cold of Sidhedark's winter.

*Voiced by an OBOE in the sound files.*

"Breeds" as they are known, are a mixed race, having both Sidhe and human blood. Like the Sidhe, Breeds do not have a soul. Both Sidhe and Breeds are immortal, but they can be killed in battle. Breeds are not treated as equals by the Sidhe, and so they are kept isolated along with humans in the area known as the Pact Lands. Like the Sidhe, many Breeds are able to perform magic.