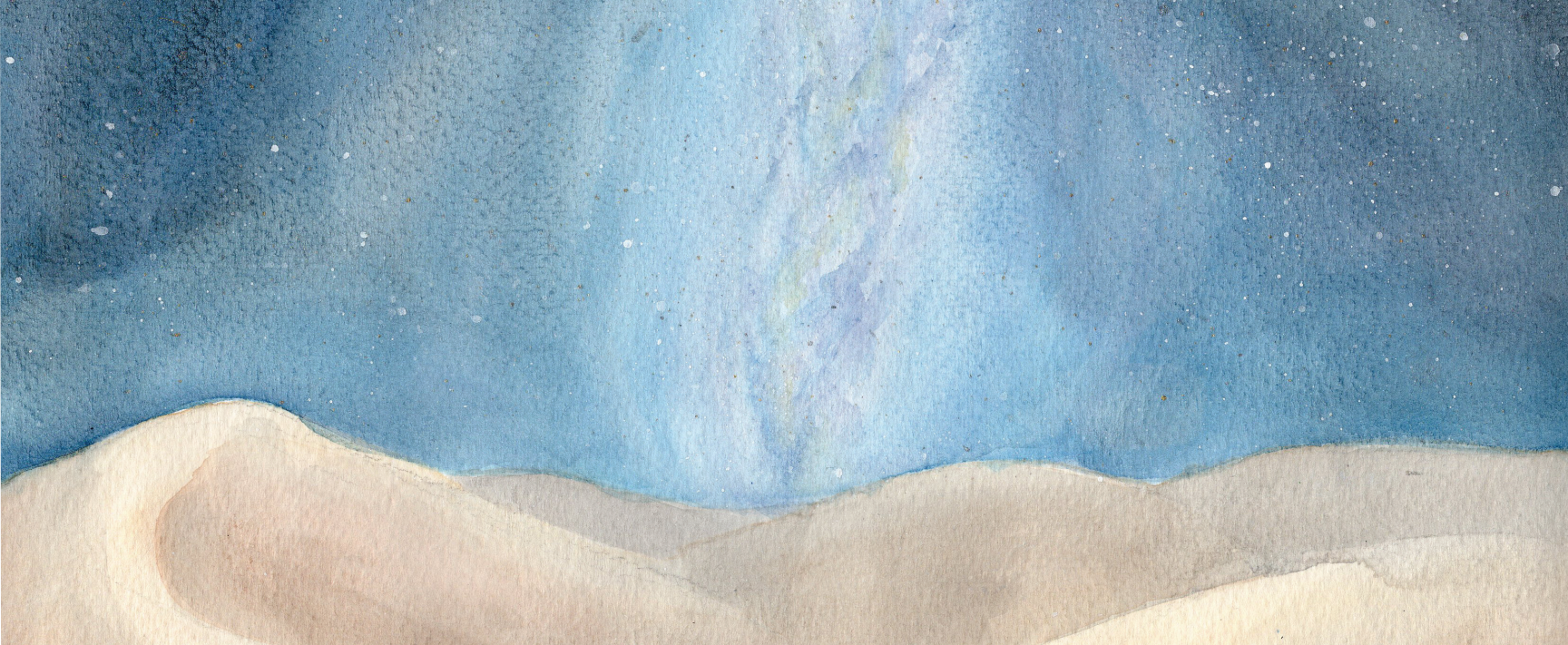


# Grimm's Guide

*to the Mythical and Cryptid*





# Grimm's Guide

*to the Mythical and Cryptid*

by Tiffany Collier



# Land Creatures

Discover the unique creatures that thrive across the continents, roaming through open plains or hiding in deep caverns. Each beast is perfectly tailored to their natural habitat with distinctive traits and behaviors. Journey through diverse habitats and discover the animals living in every corner of the Earth. Whether admired or feared, these creatures inspire awe and showcase the beauty and complexity of nature.

## Basilisk

*Vipera rex*

Said to be the king of snakes, the basilisk wields a petrifying gaze and a lethal poison. Death and decay follow in their wake. Their breath is so pungent it withers the surrounding plant life, marking the entrance to their dens with a foul odor and dead foliage. Extremely territorial to others of their species, basilisks live alone in caves and crevices across Southern Europe. They tolerate many smaller snakes of varying species who gather in their den to feed off their leftovers. However, should the basilisks’ hunting grounds grow scarce, their guests become their next meal. Despite their noxious presence, the snakes are striking creatures, boasting an iridescent green pattern crowning their head and translucent green neck flaps that extend when the animal is excited or agitated. While encountering a basilisk is rare, it is fatal.



### Quick Guide

Size:	12-15 in.
Weight:	1.5-2 lbs.
Lifespan:	50-60 yrs.
Danger:	Extreme



## Quick Guide

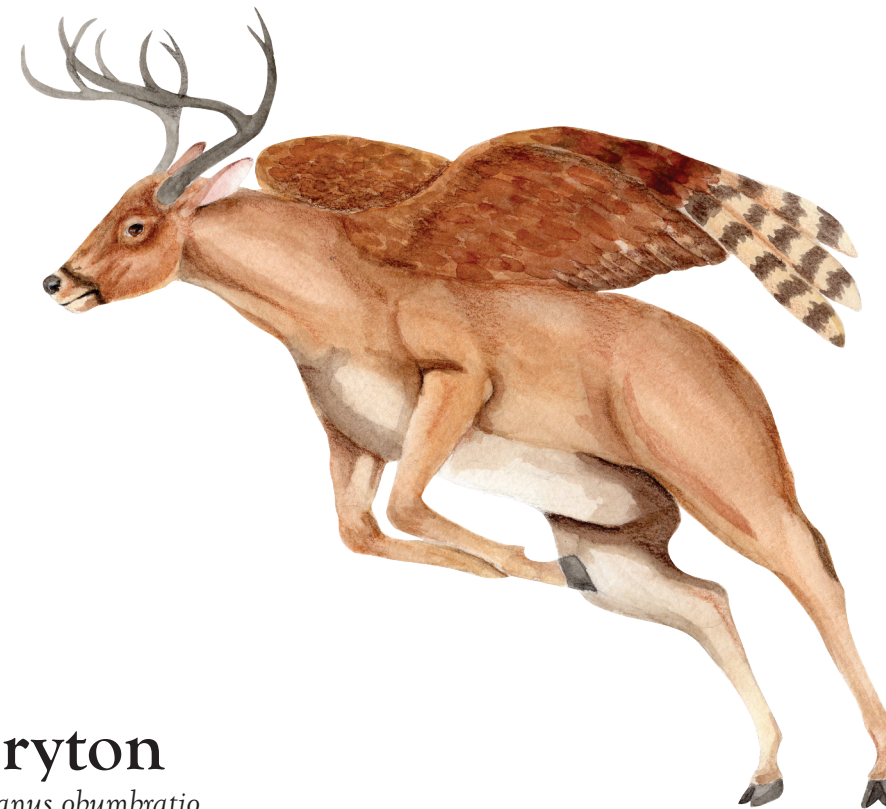
Size: 8-12 in.  
Weight: 6-7 lbs.  
Lifespan: 3-5 yrs.  
Danger: Minimal

# Jackalope

*Lepus Antilocapra*

A rare and elusive rabbit, the jackalope was first spotted in Wyoming in 1932. Despite their unassuming appearance, they are vivacious creatures and can run up to 60 mph. Strong hind legs and pronged antlers offer any defense the animal might need. They also possess an uncanny ability to mimic and throw sounds; pursuers may find their own voice coming from the opposite direction, drawing them away from the jackalope.

The animals seem to take delight in the confusion and find any opportunity to sow chaos, seeking out hunters to befuddle or finding hikers to shock. Some even join in the campfire songs, leaping away to the sounds of frightened and confused campers.



# Peryton

*Cervianus obumbratio*

First discovered in Italy by Jorge Luis Borges, Perytons are thought to have originated in Atlantis. After escaping the destruction, they settled along the Italian peninsula. They graze in large herds and can be seen soaring high above the coast as if searching for their lost home. The speckled pattern on their wings indicates they originally came from tall grasslands. While the majority are gentle creatures, some perytons are incredibly violent. Those casting the shadow of a human instead of their own form seek out humans to kill. It is recommended to avoid any member of the species. All perytons are opportunistic carnivores and scavenge any leftover carcasses they find.

## Quick Guide

Size: 3.5-5 ft.  
Weight: 100-150 lbs.  
Lifespan: 10-13 yrs.  
Danger: High





## Qilin

*Manidae cornutus*

Regarded as highly auspicious creatures, qilins are said to appear at the births or deaths of great rulers or sages. When not serving as an omen, they can be found in the high plateaus across China. Qilins are highly benevolent creatures, floating across the ground rather than damaging a single blade of grass. When threatened, they disappear in a flash of light instead of defending themselves. Qilins utilize photosynthesis for energy and are often seen resting in the sunlight. Chlorophyll dense cells give their thick body scales a deep blue or green color. Upwards flowing red fur along their neck, tails, and legs gives the appearance of a constant, shifting fire. Both male and female qilins carry a single curved horn that sheds and regrows each spring.

### Quick Guide

Size: 6-7 ft.  
Weight: 1200-1400 lbs.  
Lifespan: 55-85 yrs.  
Danger: None



## Unicorn

*Equus unicornis*

Thought to have originated in modern-day Iraq, the unicorn population has migrated across most of Eurasia. These plains roving creatures come in countless shades of white and gold with a coordinating horn color. Extremely durable and surprisingly lightweight, the horns grow continuously and indicate the age of a unicorn. They also have a unique ability to purify any poison, making the animal a prime target for poaching. The large herds that once covered the plains have dwindled, and sightings are growing increasingly rare. Despite this, the animals remain extremely friendly, especially towards women. However, the ordinarily docile unicorn will not hesitate to protect their herds. Their sharp horns and hooves make formidable weapons.

### Quick Guide

Size: 5-5.5 ft.  
Weight: 930-1100 lbs.  
Lifespan: 95-120 yrs.  
Danger: Minimal





# Wampus Cat

*Lynx tenebris*

The elusive and nocturnal wampus cat stalks the dense Appalachian forests. Their thick black fur allows them to blend into the shadows, with only glowing green eyes marking their presence. The long, sinuous tail and six legs help them keep their balance traversing the steep mountains and lofty tree tops of their habitat. One might expect the extra legs to add noise, but the thick fur between their paw pads and graceful care with each step dampens even the slightest sounds. Wampus cats are sometimes mistaken for women lost in the forest due to the chilling, high-pitched screams they produce. The shrieks are usually used to warn off interlopers within the cat’s established hunting grounds or to search for a mate. Wampus cats rarely leave their territory or overlap with another cat’s domain.

## Quick Guide

Size: 21-26 in.  
Weight: 95-110 lbs.  
Lifespan: 7-10 yrs.  
Danger: High



# Yale

*Tragelaphus punctata*

The yale, or centicore as some call it, boasts a thick goat like stature, cloven hooves, and protruding tusks. The spiral horns swivel separately in any direction, allowing for a multitude of configurations to suit any situation. The tawny color and dappled spots across their back blend into the sub-saharan plains that they travel across in small herds. Each herd spreads out across the plains but clusters together for the night. The distance kept between herd members during the day makes them appear as solitary creatures until a threat consolidates the group. Indigenous to Africa, yales became a popular commodity in ancient trading cultures and appeared in British culture as a symbol of heraldry. Many Yales were imported to the British Isles, but as they are ill-suited for the English climate, none survived unless kept in captivity.

## Quick Guide

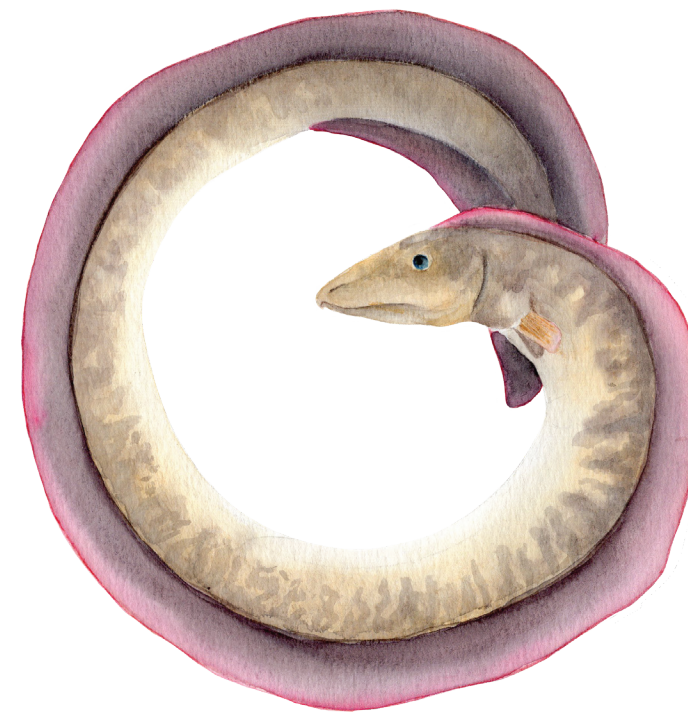
Size: 4.5-5 ft.  
Weight: 500-550 lbs.  
Lifespan: 17-20 yrs.  
Danger: Moderate





# Water Creatures

From the vast oceans to serene lakes, water creatures thrive in diverse aquatic environments. This collection highlights the remarkable design and behaviors of various species. Whether they dwell in the deep abyss or skim the surface, each creature showcases the incredible resilience and beauty of aquatic life. Explore the rich biodiversity under the waves and discover the mysteries of its many inhabitants.



## Abaia

*Anguilla praegrandis*

Often as big as the lake they inhabit, abaias are fierce protectors of their territory and everything in it. Many of their lakes are brimming with fish but remain untouched for fear of disturbing the enormous eel. The large tail is capable of whipping up large waves to capsize boats and drown fishers. Some even say abeia can summon rainstorms to flood the surrounding area when displeased; however, these claims have yet to be proven. They spend most of their time lurking in the lake beds, the striped pattern along their spine allowing them to disappear into the mud. The crimson-edged dorsal fin lays flat so as not to disrupt the camouflage until flared by the enraged abeia.

### Quick Guide

Size:	35-40 ft.
Weight:	3000-3750 lbs.
Lifespan:	100-120 yrs.
Danger:	Moderate



## Quick Guide

Size: 7-8 ft.  
Weight: 400-500 lbs.  
Lifespan: 10-14 yrs.  
Danger: Extreme

# Akhlut

*Orcanis interitio*

A hybrid shapeshifter between a wolf and an orca, ahkluts are extremely dangerous animals. When in the water, they take a form similar to an orca, shedding their fur and shrinking their long legs to a size more manageable for swimming. When emerging from the water, their legs and fur return but they keep the thick, finned tail and muscular head of an orca. The presence of an akhlut is identified by dense clumps of reddish brown fur and wolf tracks leading to and from the ocean. They usually keep to the sea, only coming ashore to hunt. However, they are formidable predators and will kill anything they can find, often stalking humans along the coastline.



# Aspidochelone

*Plesioapras conlis*

Thick fat reservoirs and a slight buoyancy from their shells allow aspidochelones to float along the surface of the Atlantic Ocean with minimal effort. They often sleep with the top of the textured shell protruding from the ocean. The thick spines and coarse exterior are easily mistaken for a small rocky island. Many unwitting sailors dock their ships and start fires on the presumed land mass. The activity and heat wake the sea monster and it dives deep into the water, dragging both vessels and sailors to a watery grave. Due to their immense size, aspidochelones eat constantly, emitting a sweet odor through their mouth to attract large schools of fish.



## Quick Guide

Size: 2000-3000 ft.  
Weight: 8000-9000 t.  
Lifespan: 900-1000 yrs.  
Danger: High



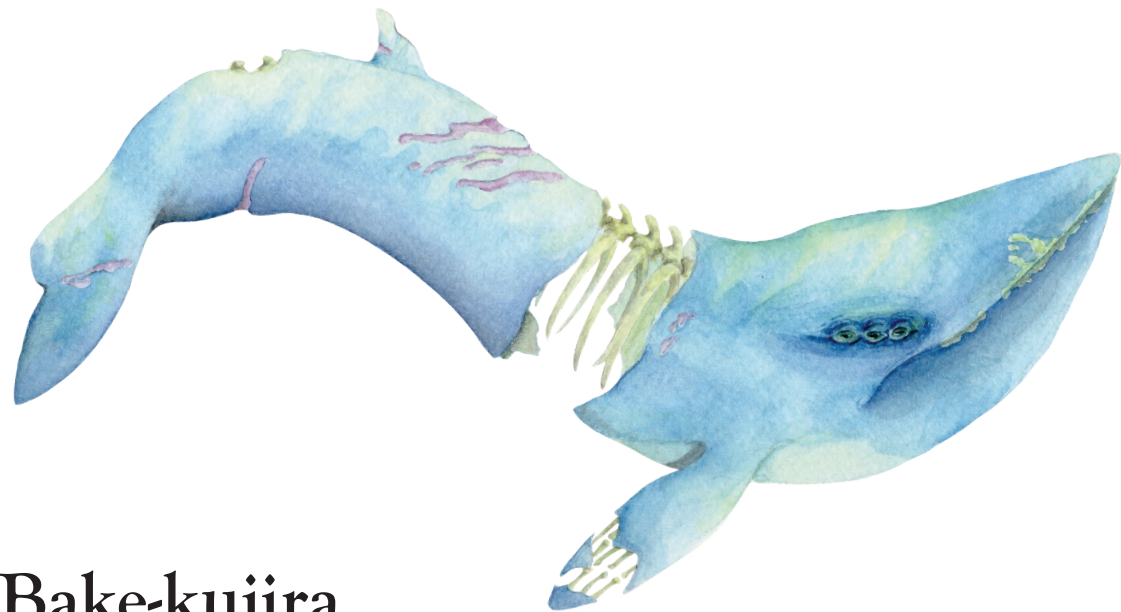
## Quick Guide

Size:	40-55 ft.
Weight:	85-90 t.
Lifespan:	Unknown
Danger:	High

# Bake-kujira

*Balaenoptera larua*

Thought to be the corpses of whales killed for their meat and resurrected by the vengeance of their fallen brethren, bake-kujira's bodies exist in various stages of decay. Some may appear almost intact, while others are entirely bones. The three eyes on each side distinguish them from other whales. Some say the extra eyes look into the minds and hearts of sailors to seek out their victims. They search the seas for those who hunt and eat whale meat, cursing them for their crimes. Bake-kujira are predominantly found along Japan's coast, with a few sightings reported deeper in the Pacific Ocean. Each sighting reports strange fish and birds filling the seas and skies that appear and disappear with the reanimated whale.



# Kelpie

*Equus inmergo*

Found along the Scottish coastline, kelpies live in the underwater kelp forests, only emerging to hunt. Outside of the water, their green coat color fades, and the tall coral-like mane and tail fall flat, collecting seafoam to mimic long flowing hair. When disguised, kelpies are nearly indistinguishable from an ordinary horse. Vertical pupils and faint gills along their throats are the only indications to set them apart. Glands along their spine secrete a sticky substance that traps any who dare to ride the animal; with prey entrapped, the kelpie returns to the ocean to drown its victim. Kelpies rely on water for their transformation but some have been seen living deeper inland, stuck in their disguised form and relying on small game to survive.



## Quick Guide

Size:	5.5-6 ft.
Weight:	1200-1400 lbs.
Lifespan:	25-30 yrs.
Danger:	Extreme





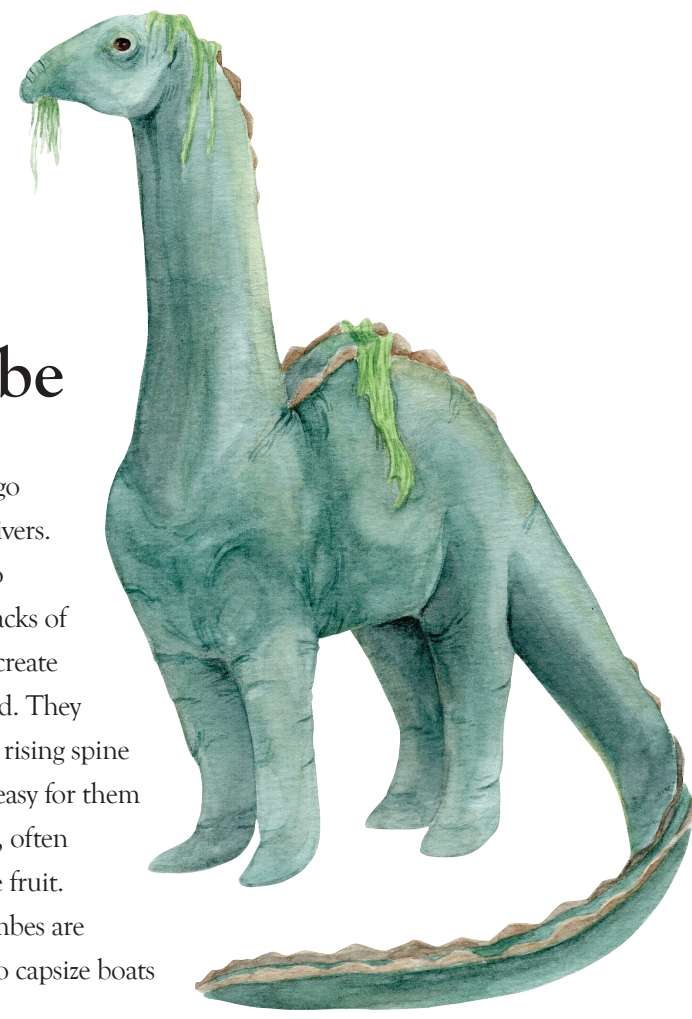
### Quick Guide

Size: 20-23 ft.  
Weight: 26-28 t.  
Lifespan: 15-18 yrs.  
Danger: Moderate

## Mokele-mbembe

*Lacertaque malumcome*

Mokele-mbembes live deep in the Congo basin, inhabiting remote swamps and rivers. The name loosely translates to one who stops rivers, an apt description as the backs of mokele-mbembe rising from the water create an illusion of the river flowing backward. They remain underwater until sunset, always rising spine first to graze. Their long necks make it easy for them to reach vegetation high in the treetops, often preferring a type of liana with apple-like fruit. Despite being herbivores, mokele-mbembes are violent animals, using their thick tails to capsize boats that invade their territories.



## Kraken

*Sepia belua*

Considered to be one of the largest ocean creatures, krakens live in the depths of the Norwegian Sea. They rise to the surface, preying on unsuspecting whales and ships. The long sucker-covered tentacles latch onto the victim, crushing bones or boards under the weight. The two longest tentacles are feeder arms, grabbing bits of food and bringing it to the hard beak. A thick bone shell protects the head and organs of the creature, making it nearly impossible to kill. The immense eye is the only weak point. Despite its large size, the Kraken is a fast swimmer, sometimes reaching speeds of 35 mph. However, after feeding, it prefers to use its weight to sink back into the ocean depths.



### Quick Guide

Size: 150-200 ft.  
Weight: 400-500 t.  
Lifespan: 85-90 yrs.  
Danger: Extreme



# Sky Creatures

Discover the wondrous beings that soar through the skies and dominate the air. Some navigate deep caves with silent grace, while others pilot the wind and storms on mighty wings. Unveil the lore, habits, and powers of these aerial marvels, offering a glimpse into the diverse realms they reign. These airborne creatures inspire the freedom found in flight as they journey through the skies.



## Crimson Loong

*Coccinea divitiae*

Sometimes referred to as Chinese dragons, the crimson loong is a subspecies thought to bring good luck and happiness to any who see it. They prefer to spend their days near water, frequently inhabiting the skies above lakes, rivers, or oceans. Their bright red bodies can be seen snaking through the waves off the Chinese coast as they catch fish and dive through ocean sprays. As they can influence the weather, locals frequently leave fish out to keep them satiated and avoid ocean storms. The chimu organ in their head enables the crimson loong to fly without wings; dragons born without the organ are bound on land. Loongs are not territorial creatures and can be friendly with other dragons they encounter, but most prefer to live solitary lives.

### Quick Guide

Size:	20-25 ft.
Weight:	350-400 lbs.
Lifespan:	950+ yrs.
Danger:	Minimal





## Griffin

*Panthedion regillus*

Inheriting regal aspects of both their ancestor, the lion and the eagle, griffins are called the king of all creatures. They are a highly protective species, whether over their eggs or treasure in their domain. During nesting season, they move to the mountain tops, finding sheltered craigs to build their nests and raise their young. Parents take turns watching over the nest until the cubs learn to fly. Griffins mate for life and form strong bonds with their partner. The death of one mate often results in the death of the other. Despite their protective nature, griffins are not vicious creatures and make loyal companions when tamed.

### Quick Guide

Size: 4.5-5 ft.  
Weight: 380-420 lbs.  
Lifespan: 20-25 yrs.  
Danger: Moderate

## Lesser Ausland Ampithere

*Draconis cucumis*

The Lesser Ausland Ampithere travels across the Australian bush in large groups called pyres, often containing 100 or more ampitheres. Primarily yellow, blue, or green, the brightly colored amphitheres flock together, creating a swirling cloud that makes it difficult for predators to pick out a victim. A migratory dragon, amphitheres can travel over 100 miles per day with top speeds of 50-60 mph. A full traveling pyre's wingbeats can be heard up to eight miles away. They feed on insects and various plant life, using their hardened beak-like mouths to crack even the toughest bark and nuts. Due to their flocking behavior, the lesser ausland ampithere is easily domesticated, forming an especially strong bond when established as a hatchling. Full grown amphitheres can be ridden; however, it is not recommended as the added weight stresses their hollow bones and increases the risk of injury.



### Quick Guide

Size: 12-14 ft.  
Weight: 180-220 lbs.  
Lifespan: 10-13 yrs.  
Danger: Minimal





## Quick Guide

Size: 4.5-5.5 ft.  
Weight: 900-1100 lbs.  
Lifespan: 15-20 yrs.  
Danger: Moderate

# Pegasus

*Equus caelum*

The first pegasus was said to have sprung from a beheaded woman. After intermingling with nearby horses, his descendants multiplied and pegasi became a common sight across the Grecian mountains. Their hardy hooves and agile flying allow them to easily navigate the rocky terrain. Due to the extensive crossbreeding, pegasi come in size and color found in horses. They form large groups, often conjoining with wild horse herds. They move constantly, avoiding predators and searching for food and water. While grazing, herds usually have a sentry pegasus circling the area to look for danger. Pegasi are easily spooked and will take to the skies at the first sign of danger. Foals can fly within 6 hours of being born. While generally genial and skittish creatures, pegasi are defensive of their herds and will protect their families.



# Phoenix

*Pavissum itedesco*

Phoenixes are often seen as symbols of immortality despite their quincennial death. Each phoenix lives for around 500 years before returning to its birthplace and being consumed by flames. The ashes reanimate into a new phoenix and the cycle is repeated. The ashes are thought to have medicinal properties, but incomplete ashes lead to birth defects in the new phoenix. Missing eyes or legs are the most common abnormalities. They fly continuously throughout their life, migrating across the Arabian peninsula, sometimes going as far as Southern Europe. Phoenixes are insectivores and are often seen soaring through clouds of locusts and gnats.



## Quick Guide

Size: 2.5-3 ft.  
Weight: 6-8 lbs.  
Lifespan: 500 yrs.  
Danger: Minimal





# Ruhk

*Spizaetus aepyornis*

The ruhk is a massive raptor native to the Arabian peninsula. Its strength and size are so enormous that it is known to carry off elephants and block out the sun with its silhouette. Shafts from its quills are used as water reservoirs. While they have razor-sharp talons, ruhks prefer to drag their prey high into the sky and drop it on the rocks below. After picking the bones clean, they crack them open with their beaks to retrieve the marrow inside. As they mate for life, ruhks are often found hunting in pairs. During the hatching process, the female never leaves the nest and is fed by her mate. Once the chicks have emerged, the parents take turns watching the nest, never leaving it alone until the hatchlings learn to fly.

## Quick Guide

Size: 14-16 ft.  
Weight: 100-120 lbs.  
Lifespan: 8-10 yrs.  
Danger: High



# Speckled Lantyrn

*Lux Lacertae*

Small in stature, the nocturnal lantyrns inhabit deep caverns across midwestern North America. Generations of living below ground have rendered their eyes completely blind; they rely on sensitive antennae that pick up vibrations from wingbeats and echos to avoid hitting walls and each other. Two layers of ball-jointed wings allow them to change direction at a moment's notice. The top wings feature a speckled bioluminescent pattern that mimics glowworms when perched on the cave walls. Sticky pads on their feet allow them to cling and move across the rocky ceilings. The bottom wings are fully bioluminescent to attract insects while flying. Some have been seen hovering over the water to catch small minnows. A cave with a well-established colony appears to be fully lit from the sheer number of lantyrns covering the walls. When startled, the entire colony takes off, creating a blinding swirl of lights to disorient predators.

## Quick Guide

Size: 6-7 in.  
Weight: 0.5-0.75 lbs.  
Lifespan: 5-8 yrs.  
Danger: Minimal



# Empyrean Creatures

Watch the boundaries of Earth fade away as the cosmos becomes home to extraordinary creatures. From darting ethereal sprites to bizarre cosmic wanderers, explore the diverse lifeforms that defy the constraints of gravity and atmosphere. Some thrive in the harsh vacuum of space, while others traverse to alien environments light-years away. Each entry reveals the wonders and mysteries of life beyond the planets, shedding light on the creatures that call the vastness of space home.

## Ethiril

*Aesdeidae finxit*

Found in dense molecular clouds, ethrils manipulate raw elements to create new stars. They live deep within the core once the star is born and die with their home. The gullet along their neck stores heavy metals that they use to form a stable and long-lasting star. Their claws and heads are made of an extremely heavy material, immune to the intense heat of a forming star. The rest of their body maintains a cloud-like state that drifts with the solar winds. Most ethril take on various shades of blue, but their body color can change based on the chemicals around them. Little is known about their habits after the creation of their home star.

### Quick Guide

Size:	10-12 ft.
Weight:	5-6 t.
Lifespan:	10-12 myr.
Danger:	None





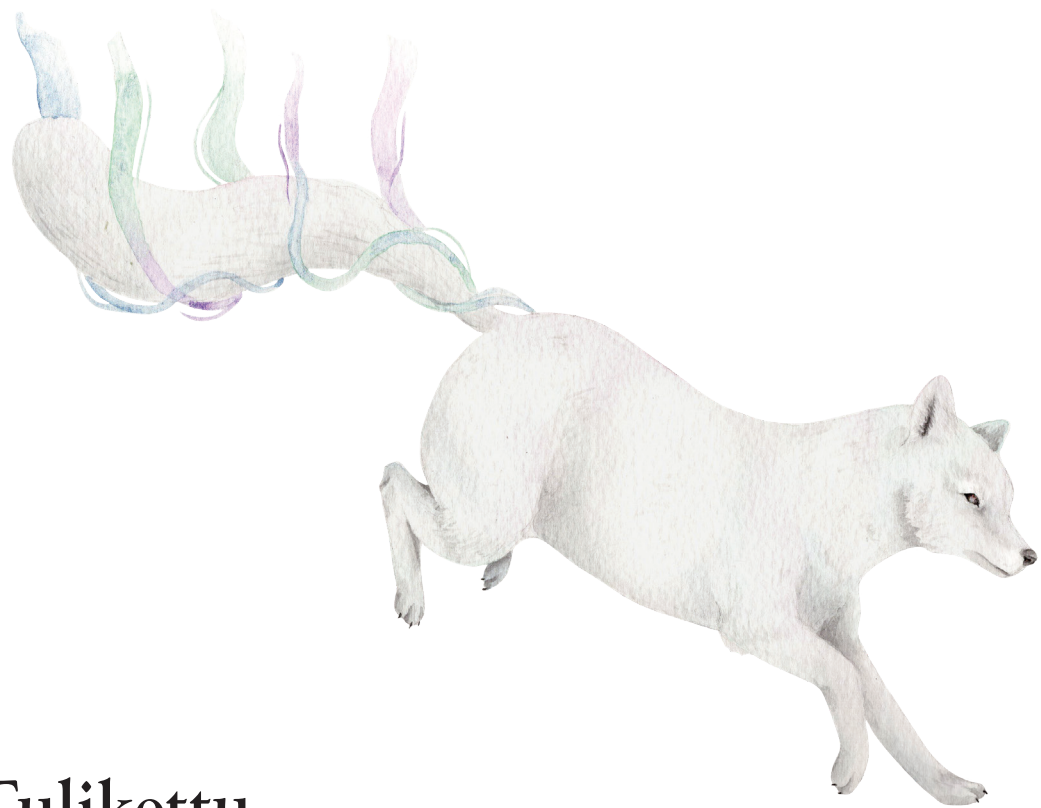
### Quick Guide

Size:	10-11 in.
Weight:	7-19 lbs.
Lifespan:	4-5 yrs.
Danger:	Low

## Tulikettu

*Vulpes inardesco*

Tulikettu is responsible for the revontulet, or the fox fires, that light up the northern skies. During the day, they appear as black foxes with extraordinarily long, fluffy tails and a twinkling fire in their eyes. Only after the sun sets does their fur turn pure glowing white. When running, their thick tail flows behind them, churning up snowflakes and sparking in contact with hanging branches. The light catches on the swirling snowflakes, producing a shimmering collage of colors that floods the sky. They are the fastest of arctic creatures, leaving only a trail of light to mark their path.



## Moon Rabbit

*Oryctolagus argenteus*

Many cultures pin the existence of moon rabbits on an earthly rabbit sent to the moon as a reward for sacrificing its life. Whatever the origin, the moon is home to large colonies of pale silver bunnies. They burrow across the surface, digging up minerals and creating burrows. The exposed ground obstructs the moon's reflective properties and casts a shadow bearing the image of a rabbit. Moon rabbits have no natural predators, but their dappled silver fur allows them to blend seamlessly into their rocky habitat. They are playful creatures and often use their camouflage to startle other rabbits, laying over their dark feet to surprise passing members of their colony.



### Quick Guide

Size:	10-12 in.
Weight:	0.5-0.75 lbs.
Lifespan:	10-12 yrs.
Danger:	None



## Quick Guide

Size: 50-60 ft.  
Weight: 80-90 t.  
Lifespan: 700-800 yrs.  
Danger: None

# Staellatan

*Stella natator*

These star-faring creatures navigate through the Milky Way galaxy, usually frequenting the central bulge filled with stars. They feed on light gases found near forming stars.

The tendrils along their body are used not only to propel them through the galaxy but also to create small vortexes of trapped gas as they trek the long distance between stars. While they move about their pods slowly, staellatan have a habit of appearing several light-years away from their previous location in the blink of an eye. The largest member of the pod carries an abundance of gas that it shares with fellow pod-mates; smaller staellatans carry almost no gas but travel further from the group, searching for the next star. The receptors above their eyes are sensitive to heavy metals and can detect star cores from several lightyears away.



# Will'o'wisp

*Spirignus adlecto*

Found in bogs and marshes around Scotland and most of Northern Europe, will'o'wisps are bright flames dancing in the darkness. Lost travelers often mistake them for lantern lights and follow the mischievous creatures deeper into the marsh, frequently meeting their doom. It is unknown if these deaths are intentional as the tiny spirits appear curious and friendly. They will approach travelers of their own volition but dance away when followed. The more one tries to reach them, the faster they retreat, disappearing should someone come too close. Will'o'wisps are social creatures, gathering in groups of ten to twenty and roving the bogs until sunrise. Small scorch marks in the grass are the daytime indication of their nocturnal capers.



## Quick Guide

Size: 5-6 in.  
Weight: Unknown  
Lifespan: Unknown  
Danger: Moderate





### Quick Guide

Size: 6-7 ft.  
Weight: 720-740 lbs.  
Lifespan: 50-60 yrs.  
Danger: Low

## Xeglun

*Cervus caelestia*

Siberian culture believes that the pursuit of Xegluns led to the creation of the Milky Way that the celestial elks now inhabit. In the cold depths of space, xegluns exude massive amounts of heat. Gas trapped in their thick undercoats ignites in small bursts due to the excess energy and their fur appears to glow. Xeglun are generally solitary creatures but form large herds when migrating across the galaxy. As sound cannot travel in space, they send out magnetic waves, calling for companions to join their journey. The brilliance from a herd's glowing horns and fur creates a spectacular display of streaking lights as the herd runs across the night sky.



## Yacana

*Lama constellatio*

Yacanas live in the Milky Way Galaxy, coming down to drink from Earth's rivers during the night. They take the same form as a llama with an exceedingly long neck and soft multi-colored wool. As a yacana grows older and travels further, its wool becomes increasingly darker. The oldest yacana's wool is so dark that it is invisible to the eye except for the bright gold eyes, evident even in the sky. Yacanas are very kind but solitary creatures. They dislike seeing distress when coming down for their nightly drink. As they ascend back to the heavens each morning, they leave behind clumps of colorful wool that are thought to bring luck to the landowner and nearby llamas.



### Quick Guide

Size: 5.5-6 ft.  
Weight: 300-450 lbs.  
Lifespan: 20-30 yrs.  
Danger: None





*To my family for supporting me, my friends for holding me accountable,  
and my birds for keeping me company.*



Step into a world of wonder, where creatures of myth and legend come to life. From tiny darting will-o-wisps to massive lumbering river monsters, Grimm's Guide explores the fantastical beings that have captivated imaginations for centuries. Each page offers a glimpse into the ancient stories, folklore, and mysteries tangled within our world. Unravel each tale and discover the imagination behind creatures that have inspired awe and fear across cultures.