

Vivian Huang & Jian Er'Ziu

I have a theory that movies operate on the level of dreams, where you dream yourself."

-- Meryl Streep

A soft-spoken woman that already prefers to say as little as possible, Vivian has always been on the fringes, watching other people play out their roles as protagonist of their life. She was content for a long time to simply sit back and watch, but a certain encounter has lead her from Hong Kong to the Ghost Realm and now the Crossroads to find where she truly belongs.

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Backstory

Parentage unknown, but it's generally assumed that her mother was a prostitute, seeing as Vivian grew up in a brothel from a young age. She was cared for by employees of various rank and went to nearby schools, but never fit in due to her environment being vastly different from her classmates. After graduating high school, it was only natural that she worked in the place that she grew up. Whether this is out of a sense of filial duty or a lack of inspiration to do anything else with her life, no one ever asked.

In the early days she mostly assisted with housekeeping and bookkeeping, but her presence in the brothel eventually shifted her into the role of merchandise. Most of her work was as an escort, providing clients with conversation or joining them as a beautiful and intelligent side piece, with bedroom activities being part of the package deal.

Work kept her busy, but no matter how intimate she acted or how close she was to the clients, she never fully felt in the moment, simply that a scene was playing out in front of her. This sense of detachment had existed since

Vivian Huang



Aliases/Nickname(s)

The Watcher

Profile Data

Race

Human?

Pronouns/Gender/Sex

she/her

Age

22

Weight/Height/Build

65kg/172cm (145lbs/5'8")

B/W/H Size

35/30/39

Hair/Eye/Skin Colour

black/amber/pale

Distinguishing Marks

- 40% of torso is transparent

Abilities

- Spectral State

Abilities

Jian: Er'Ziu

Accompanying Vivian is a *jian*, a weapon made to break enemy blades. The "blade" part is a four-cornered steel rod with a pointed end that acts as an effective blunt weapon; if necessary, it can be flipped around to use the handle as an even heavier club. Affectionately referred to as Er'Ziu, it/he has taken Vivian as a protege, and when situations arise that violence is necessary, will take control of her body, relishing in the feeling of a fight. His own personality is a fair bit more vicious than hers, and believes that there is no such thing as overkill, but will honor an enemy's surrender. Er'Ziu is a seasoned warrior who can use even Vivian's body to wield any of eighteen traditional Chinese weapons, ranging from the dao to spear.

Vivian, being a normal person, only carries him and a hand axe on her person. She also camouflages Er'Ziu by walking with him as a cane, allowing him an element of surprise.

A cord is wrapped around the handle and Vivian's wrist to secure their connection, but control of the body is relinquished if they were to lose contact. He can also only use her body for brief periods of time, since her stamina is average at best.

Occasionally he is allowed possession to sample good alcohol and tea.

Self-Defense & Taoist Arts

Vivian has been trained in basic self-defense techniques, and has a hand axe on her person to act as a backup weapon or if the situation calls for it. She has also learned various Taoist practices for repelling ghosts and monsters, and is capable of warding areas to be unnoticed by those she does not want to see and protecting herself from a few instances of mortal harm. She is also capable of using talismans to attract ghosts, create small explosions, put mortals to sleep, and may ask for advice on new talismans from Er'Ziu.

Ghost Communication

For some reason or another, ghosts and the undead perceive Vivian as one of their own. She is able to clearly communicate with them with ease, and can even enlist their help if they are willing. However, this does mean that hungry ghosts that prey on weaker ones may try to consume her, which is when the Taoist arts come in handy. It is entirely possible for her to ask them to target a person, with effects ranging from horrible nightmares to an overwhelming sense of dread to feeling like their every movement is weighed by lead or trauma.

Spectral State

Her time in the Ghost Realm has not been kind to her. Roughly 40% of Vivian's body is intangible at any given time, but is concealed by clothing. While this would have more negative impact if she was still a sex worker, Vivian is mostly unbothered by this. If she concentrates, she can focus her condition to a single part of her body, and by controlling the location and intervals, this allows her to pass through physical obstacles. However, the concentration and focus required means that she cannot do this in combat unless she is anticipating an attack (i.e. a bullet to the head after a monologue).

This does mean that attempting to attack Vivi anywhere that doesn't have skin showing has a roughly 40% chance of hitting nothing but her clothes. She avoids controlling this attribute of hers as much as possible since her and Er'Ziu have noted that the condition spreads the more she does.

Anything that would hurt a normal person is roughly 50% less effective on her. Anything that would hurt a ghost is ineffective on her since she's Not Actually A Ghost, despite registering as one to any ghost or those that work with them. She doesn't understand why either.

Strengths

True to her being an escort, Vivian is quick to figure out a person's wants and desires and how to capitalize on them. She's very patient, and her lack of presence makes stalking to gather information easy, even without her spectral form. Even if she is taken by surprise, Er'Ziu is quick to respond, and Vivian can quickly keep her composure after that. She is also not above seeking the help of others, with no regard for pride. Once she has set her mind to something, she will see it through as far as she can.

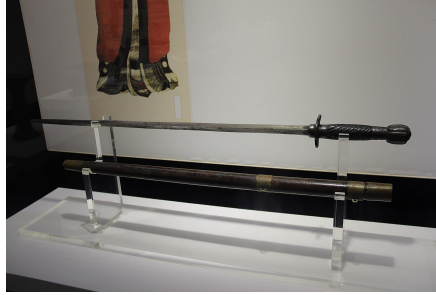
Weaknesses

As much as she has trained, most of what Vivian is used to is social situations, ghosts, and demons. Her Spectral State means that she has limited control of her ability to pass through things, and over time her body is degrading and she is becoming a ghost. Ultimately, she is not a combatant, relying on Er'Ziu to take care of such matters. Even so, her body is only so strong, meaning that she either must end things quickly or stay on the back foot, playing passive to lure her opponents into their end credits.

Gallery



ref



Jian

Author's Notes

- Er'Ziu roughly translates to "Little Pepper". Vivian calls him this since he has a "spicy personality". She speaks to him impolitely despite the age difference, but he doesn't complain about it.
- Taoist arts are also used for smaller things such as hygiene and mending her clothes.
- She is fluent in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Korean. None of these helped when trying to understand Er'Ziu's archaic manner of speaking.
- Tag manifests as a tassel and bell that she has tied to her ankle.
- A jian in use: [Michelle Yeoh in Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon](#)

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