

Briella Adrianna diShara

Race: Human

Class/Career: Paladin

Nickname(s): Called Bri by close friends and family

Alignment: Lawful Good

Main Physical Attributes:

Sex: Female

Age: 26

Height: 5'2

Weight: 120

Hair: Blonde

Eyes: Blue

Skin: Fair

Distinguishing Features: Slender build. An assortment of minor scars, as well as one very noticeable scar from a stab wound, running down her chest from her collarbone to between her breasts.



Personality:

Is driven by her honor and duty

Believes that life should be enjoyed to the fullest, believing that the enjoyment of life (responsibly, always taking into account the consequences of one's actions) IS a duty

Believes very strongly in honesty and following one's word--however, she does not feel that this prevents her from keeping secrets, nor does she feel compelled to tell people things she thinks would be harmful

Though obedient to authority, often resents authority figures who step outside what she feels to be the limit of their authority...is very stubborn and strong-willed

Even more than direct orders that go 'out of bounds,' resents any attempt to manipulate her

Follows the rules of her religion diligently, but is less interested in others' interpretations or extrapolations on those rules

In combat, becomes cold and emotionless (earning her the nickname "Ice Maiden" in the Azure Blade)

Also goes cold when she's very angry

Likes pretty clothes and jewelry...as a paladin, she isn't supposed to buy such luxuries for herself, so she usually borrows from her mother or sister when she's at court and expected to dress up. Also enjoys window shopping, especially jewelry, and buying presents for her sisters.

Is deeply loyal to her family and friends

Lacks the naivete and idealism that is common to paladins, considers herself a realist. Holds herself to a high moral code, but has few illusions that others will do likewise.

Could be described as primarily good rather than primarily lawful. Views rules and order not as an end in and of themselves, but law exists to serve the aim of good.

Clothing:

Prefers bright colors, especially golds, reds, and blues. Her "practical" clothes consist of loose-fitting linen tunics, usually in bright colors with embroidery at the sleeves and collar, linen pants, and simple brown boots. For formal occasions, Briella prefers floor-length dresses, usually silk, with long flowing skirts.

Armor:

Briella wears a set of full plate, given to her by her parents when she became a paladin.



This armor, without the opening at the waist, and with these legs, instead of the miniskirt.



Jewelry:

A silver medallion showing a sun with a face (the holy symbol of Pelor)

A white gold ring with a dragon inscribed in the face, the band is inscribed with runes that translate to "May the gods stand between you and harm, in all the dark places you must walk."

Anla-Shak brooch and ring

Weapons:

A longsword and a shield

A lance

A +3 compound shortbow

Companions/Associates:

Spirit, a white stallion with a reddish mane. As a paladin mount, he has an empathic link to Briella that allows him to obey unspoken commands and sense her emotional state.

Family:

Parents: Michael and Alandra diShara

Siblings: Adeliza diShara ("Addi"), age 16, and CorriSSa diShara ("Corri"), age 14

History:

Briella's family is minor nobility, and she grew up at the royal court in Solarin. Briella was educated as would be expected for a lady of noble birth. She is fairly well-read, knows the basic dances done at court, and can sing a little and play the harp (all "non-skill point" abilities, so none are performance quality). She's also talented at sewing, especially delicate embroidery (which she does have skill points in).

Throughout her childhood and young adulthood, Briella had always been very religious, spending a great deal of her time in the temple of Pelor. When she was sixteen, she felt called to become a paladin, so she left home and began her training.

Her family found this decision a little odd, but they didn't have a problem with it. She regularly writes letters to her family and occasionally sends gifts to her younger sisters.

She also left behind a close friend, an awkward young man named Sadi. Although she wrote to him repeatedly, she never received a reply, and eventually gave up.

When her training was complete, Briella was assigned to a unit of paladins known as the Azure Blade. This was a coveted position, as the Blade were well known for their skill. At the time, the Azure Blade was commanded by Kevin Steelheart. Though a brave, noble, and skilled commander who had earned the loyalty of the Blade, Kevin had a stubborn and arrogant streak. His second in command was Mika Trelorin, who was responsible for overseeing the continued training of the paladins of the Blade. Mika was a devout paladin and a strict taskmistress, though she pushed herself as hard or harder than those under her command. Briella found herself at odds with Mika frequently, as Mika's asceticism conflicted with Briella's desire to enjoy life. They also had religious differences, as Briella followed Pelor, while Mika--along with most of the other Azure Blade paladins--was devoted to Heironeous.

She had been with the Azure Blade for close to a year when she met Myrddin and Evantine Wledig, a prince and princess from the kingdom of Avalon. (Avalon, the source of many magical items purchased in Solarin, is commonly referred to there as "Fairylnd." As it lies on a different plane of existence, the only way to travel there is through magic.) They met while she was practicing in the courtyard, and Myrddin asked her to demonstrate her skills against a live opponent. She fought both Ashly and Evantine to a stalemate, but was completely outmatched by Myrddin. Still, he was impressed with her skills and offered her a job as a liaison in Solarin for his soldiers--the Anla-Shak. She would aid them when needed, and could in return call on them for aid if necessary.

Though she was willing to accept the assignment because the Anla-Shak's mission is to protect those who cannot protect themselves, she was unable to convince Kevin that she should be allowed to take it. He viewed her being obligated to Myrddin, who did not adhere to a paladin's code, as potentially dangerous, especially because secrecy is essential to the Anla-Shak's role. Myrddin asked Aelia to intervene on Briella's behalf, using her influence as a highly regarded paladin of Heironeous. Though she was able to secure permission for Briella to accept the position, Kevin saw this as Briella going over his head and undermining his authority. This act drove a deep wedge between the two of them and made Briella something of an outcast within the Azure Blade.

Despite that, Briella was eventually promoted to third in command of the Blade, below Kevin and Mika. (Kevin flat-out told her that it would be wrong of him to deny her a position she was qualified for just because he personally dislikes her.) As such, Briella became the commander of the Azure Blade after both Kevin and Mika were killed by a

dreadknight. The Azure Blade had him surrounded and outnumbered, but he requested single combat, in which he bested both Kevin and Mika. Briella attempted to heal Kevin, but was unable to. The dreadknight made the same challenge to Briella, but she told him that he could fight all of them or surrender. He chose to fight and was killed.

After that, Briella led the Azure Blade in her first (and only) mission as their commander. Their task was to rescue a young girl who had been kidnapped by the cult of an evil god before she could be sacrificed to that god. While the rest of the Blade wanted to charge in and kill every cultist, Briella chose to get in and get the girl out by stealth--disguising themselves in dark robes like the ones worn by the cultists. The Azure Blade rescued the girl and returned her to her parents, only to be attacked by her brother and men working for him. He had made arrangements for the girl to "disappear" so that all of his family's wealth and lands would pass to him, instead of being distributed between the two of them. All the Blade's paladins were murdered in their beds, except Briella, who awoke with a dagger at her throat and was able to fend off her attacker, the brother himself, long enough for the guards to arrive.

Using the reward money from the rescue, as well as pawning several magic items and borrowing heavily from her parents, Briella had all the members of the Azure Blade resurrected. Despite this, they decided near unanimously to disband the Azure Blade rather than serve under her. Several of them felt that the disastrous outcome of the mission was their god's way of telling them that he disapproved of her subterfuge. Others disliked her because of the rift between her and their former commander. When the Blade was disbanded, those paladins were all assigned to various other missions.

Shortly after this, Briella met up with Evantine again. Evantine had been severely injured in combat and came to Briella for help. Briella took care of her injuries, and they spent the night together. Because of her past romantic history, Briella wanted to keep their relationship from becoming too serious, but Evantine eventually fell in love with her, though she wouldn't admit it to Briella. Over the four years they were together, Briella also developed deep feelings for Evantine, but convinced herself that they were friendship (and lust), rather than love.

Briella's most recent mission was to the town of Barovia, an area plagued by all manner of evil and undead creatures. On this mission, she was reunited with her childhood friend, Sadi. They had an argument, where each accused the other of not keeping in touch, and they realized that Briella's letters to Sadi had been intercepted, probably by his father who felt that, as a fighter, she was not "ladylike" enough to be an appropriate female companion for Sadi. He also felt that her sense of morality, combined with Sadi's desire to have her think well of him, made Sadi less effective in the realm of court politics than he would be without her influence. Sadi traveled to Barovia with her in order to help her, and the two rekindled their friendship.