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Gemma Pridmore's character profile

Written by Blue Kitty Tales.

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Date of birth: September 10th 1989

Name: Gemma Cindy Pridmore

Gender: Female

Species: Tiger

Weight: 68KG

Height: 6ft 1"

Colourings: Fur colour: Blue, purple, white with black stripes and light blue pads

Hair: Magenta

Eyes: Green

Favourite colour: Blue

Clothing: Light brown tube top and blue jeans

Footwear: None

Accessories: Tattoos (right calf, right shoulder, right cheek, left brow)

Marital status: Single

Ancestry: English

Occupation: Author and warehouse security guard

Residence: 10 Winston Close, Topi

Gemma is not known amongst her circle of friends for being the life of the party, but does still love to show the world around her what she can do. While she doesn't constantly crave social interaction, she still relishes each opportunity she gets to spend any time she can with her friends and can also see the value in solitude. Whilst she has a job as a security guard, she is also an accomplished author and she has harboured a strong enthusiasm for the making of stories and artwork.

Although she always had trouble drawing, her parents were both impressed upon seeing from a young age what she was crafting. Though in her cubhood her stories had been relatively simple at that early stage of her life, they were thought of as being a sign of potential waiting to escape, although, wanting to avoid the attention, she continued to put together manuscripts in secret.

Gemma has always been inquisitive and reads into the workings of the mind on a frequent basis, with her desire for writing first coming from having been exposed to literature from a very young age. Indeed, as a young cub she would insist on stories being read to her every night before her parents tucked her in. As she got older, her interest in the finest literature from past and present only intensified. While she also played video games and socialised with her friends, she quickly became known in each school she attended for the large amount of time she was spending in the libraries.

While she made several friends who had the same interests, in their high school, she and those friends also became targets for older bullies. However, she soon learned how to fight back and hold her own after one particularly humiliating incident in which she had been tripped, causing her to accidentally knock over a passing teacher. When she viciously scratched her adversary in the face, she had expected the teacher to heavily punish her for this act. However, she had been aware of what had happened between them and she had been awarded no punishment, while her adversary received a suspension for her acts.

She took up two courses on computer maintenance and English literature, passing both with flying colours and forming a wide network of friends on the way, as well as having fallen for one of her classmates, a fellow tiger named Frank who sat two chairs away from her. However, her confidence seemed to disappear around him, for whenever they were in each other's company, her mind would go blank, and she would find herself unable to form any form of conversation around him. Indeed, he seemed to have the same problem, for he appeared no more confident than she was, even though she had witnessed him fluently socialising with his friends just as well as she did hers.

In the end, she finally formed the courage to open out around him, but it proved to be too late – it was only two weeks before the end of the final term, and they finally lost touch with each other, never getting an opportunity to exchange their contact details. However, despite knowing each other's surnames, they have spotted each other online but never talked, though she has moved on from him nowadays, having discovered he has since married his high school sweetheart.

Gemma avoids talking about her life before college. This is because she was considered by some to be impulsive, which on several occasions resulted in fights with other students and her family members when arguments that started out as diplomatic quickly spiralled out of hand. Indeed, she sometimes approached scenarios without thinking about them beforehand, which on one occasion resulted in her unintentionally destroying two friendships through only her words. She finds herself hanging her head in shame whenever she remembers the incident.

Following a feud stemming from an incident when a friend of hers, Candice, had cheated on a very close friend named Shawn, she had commented that she thought she'd had it in her to cheat on him based on what he had revealed to him and the fact she had done this to her previous boyfriend, instantly resulting in an argument that finally resulted in both of her friends deserting her.

Since this day, she has made sure to think more about her words before speaking, although she will occasionally experience lapses in her judgement, resulting in her saying things that mean something different from what she actually means to say in the flow of conversation. While this is something she tries to avoid, it is still a quirk that she feels ashamed of.

Gemma is reluctant to actively hunt for love, having had two relationships in college go disastrously wrong in the space of six months. She had shown far more confidence in these relationships than she had with Frank, with her first relationship being with a Siamese cat named Percy. While their relationship progressed very quickly, it only lasted for three months before she overheard one of her friends, Sheena, talking about a night they had spent together, leading to her confronting her.

In what she remembers as one of her worst days, her friend had taunted her about Percy, telling her that she could never match up to how she satisfied him. Enraged, she had scratched her face and then punched her injured cheek, then when Percy himself arrived just a moment later, it took three of her peers to restrain her when she lunged at him, eager to rip him to shreds for his actions. She finally calmed down when their tutor arrived and demanded to know what was going on, with Gemma furiously telling Percy and Sheena that she hoped she never saw them again when she was taken to the dean's office.

Just a month later, still recovering from this devastating loss, she met and began to fall for Eustace, a muscular grey wolf who was well known around the campus. However, she quickly began to feel unnerved by his presence, for not only did he make her feel intimidated in his presence – he also started to develop a strong obsession with her, which Gemma was convinced was beyond any that would be considered healthy.

At first, she went along with it, thinking this was just her mind in overdrive following what had happened with Percy. But when her friends began to tell her that Eustace was completely obsessed with her in a variety of different ways, including following her to her classes, plotting out detailed fantasies of what he wanted to do to her and treating anyone else who interacted with her harshly, she finally realised she had to leave him before it became any worse.

Indeed, he refused to accept this and when Gemma stood firm, she became even more scared that he would begin to stalk her. Fortunately this never came to fruition, for just one week after she terminated the relationship, he found another relationship, his romance this time stretching from one side of the campus to the other. Since then, Gemma has not actively sought out love, believing that the right man is out there somewhere, but that if it is to be, then they will meet without the element of the hunt.

As a result of this, she temporarily stopped covering romance in the stories she was posting online between college, having previously featured it on a frequent basis. Additionally, during the time the relationships remained on her mind, she found she had trouble staying focused on her work, and consequently, the quality of her material began to significantly decrease, to the point that some of those who saw it questioned whether she was losing her touch or whether somebody had broken into her user account and was trying to slander her.

While this was happening, she found out that her long time friend Lucienne had, for reasons she was never able to find out, cloned her debit card and stolen thousands of Eliases from the inheritance she'd received when her grandfather died. Making it worse was the fact that she had spent it on several journeys around the world, and had admitted to seeing her as nothing more than a walking bank upon learning about it. Her bank

was only able to reimburse some of the money and the damage to her confidence was so serious, the last semblance of her trust in others was gone.

She slipped into a deep depression and dropped out of an anime convention she had previously wanted to go to, barricading herself inside her bedroom and not wanting to be disturbed. Neither of her parents were able to bring her out of this state of mind no matter how they tried, since by then, she was convinced that there was nobody she could trust, inside or outside of love. Indeed, her superiors had noticed her depression also, and she was seen to treat the workers much more harshly than she had prior to what had happened.

For several years, she was a recluse, wanting no interaction outside her home or place of work. She even shut herself away from her remaining friends, feeling that she could only trust those who she knew online, believing that if nobody knew who she was, they couldn't hurt her or try to attack her. One by one, they began to learn what had happened, and many of them backed off from her, not wanting to risk causing her further anguish.

Even her older brother Wallace, who was rarely at home due to his prestigious job at a railway network company, began to notice something was seriously wrong when he got a week off, and he did all he could to comfort her, even allowing her to pour her heart out to him. But even this was insufficient to calm her fearful mind, and she soon stopped attending anime conventions and leaving her home for anything other than her job.

It had seemed as though the black cloud over her could never be lifted. However, after watching a heavily advertised film, *Urban Assault*, that told the story of two skunks who met and fell for each other, all while their lives on opposite sides of the tracks threatened to force them apart and put them in danger, something resonated inside her. From the first few minutes, she realised what she had missed out on since she had first become reclusive. The film had her mesmerised from the beginning to the end, and from then on, she started to get back out into the world to make up for the years she'd spent hiding away.

She also began to attend conventions again, and began spending large amounts of money on cosplay outfits of some of her favourite characters, with her getting back in touch with her friends one by one as her confidence increased further. She even found it in her to forgive Percy and Sheena for their actions, realising that her romance with him was something that wasn't meant to be, although her efforts to try and make up with Shawn and Candice have failed. She has also gone on to learn club dancing, Russian folk and ballroom dancing and is also an enthusiastic singer, having gained a wide vocal range.

She started to cover romance again once more, this being central to her debut novel *Bismuth Rose Petals*, which took seven months for her to plan out but only three weeks to write. This story showcased two kitsunes, shunned by their society for the misuse of their magical abilities, falling for each other when they met in a night club, managing to remain closer together despite the night club's owner, also happening to be the mother of one of them, wanting to do all she could to prevent them from staying together. Then, the couple was plunged into shrouds of suspicion when a murder took place on the dance floor, with it being shown that there was far more to this murder than it had seemed on the surface.

Unfortunately, this novel proved to be a failure, as it received lukewarm reviews despite her friends thinking it was a very well written piece. While the romance between the kitsunes and the conflict with the night club owner were praised, nearly every review stated that she had focused too heavily on the murder mystery subplot, distracting the reader from the two central protagonists and unintentionally removing them from the foreground, giving the impression of the book changing genres halfway through.

As a result, the book sold far fewer copies than her publisher led her to believe it would. Utterly disheartened, her writing slowed down. Months later, however, her drive was rekindled once more when Sheena convinced her that she was still finding her paws and that the first project in her opinion was almost never an author's best work, therefore she had every reason to try again. Taking this advice to heart, she began work on another novel, believing her debut was not her magnum opus and wanting another chance to prove herself.

Relationships are largely out of her mind, for once she began to dedicate more and more of her time to writing her stories and her job, she soon felt that this lifestyle would not afford her the time to chase romance. Writing is the main focus of her aspirations, and she hopes that the next book she writes will be far more successful than her debut was. Despite having regained her confidence in her abilities, she feels that no matter how much she may improve, she can never match the very writers who inspired her, harbouring a lot of respect for them and actively following their blogs and releases.

Standing at 6ft 1", Gemma is a tigress whose patterns of blue, purple and white were inherited mainly from her mother, although she did gain her father's magenta head of hair and his black stripes. She has bright,

emerald green eyes that are said to reflect her emotions. To her mother's amusement, she reacts in the presence of catnip bags and becomes much more affectionate than usual, rubbing around surfaces and madly licking the catnip bag until her high wears off. She does not drink, believing that she always needs to be able to think clearly and not wanting to compromise this.

When she is in a relaxed mood, she can be heard quietly purring. Her passion for reading literature has never waned, although nowadays she shows a preference for fantasy, crime, science fiction and political literature. Outside of it, she enjoys many anime series of the same genres, and frequently combines Trance music with any literature she reads or writes, finding it brings a whole new life to the worlds conveyed within due to this genre of music not energising her, but relaxing her instead. She also enjoys various kinds of chocolate and loves strawberries and raspberries.

