

Caitlín “Kate” O’Kelly

Kate was born in County Galway, Ireland. She was a breech birth and her mother died during the childbirth. Conor O’Kelly, Kate’s father, never recovered from this tragedy. He turned to the drink and largely neglected Kate, his only child. If not for Conor’s mother (Kate’s grandmother), Aileen, Kate may not have survived her early childhood due to neglect.

When she was twelve, Kate and her family left Galway for America. On the voyage over, her nana succumbed to consumption, leaving just her father to look after her when they reached New York. Her father immediately set off for the nearest bar with not even a word to her. She followed, not knowing what else to do. Completely ignored by her father as he lost himself in the bottle, it wasn’t long before her stomach started to protest just how empty it was. She stubbornly tried to get him to stop drinking and find some work and food but he just wouldn’t listen.

Although she knew it was a sin—thanks to her nana’s insistence that she attend Church each and every Sunday—her father really left her no choice. Kate turned to thieving just to get food. She started taking money from her father but it wasn’t long before he had drunk it all away so she turned to pinching an apple here or palming a coin there just to survive. Kate was lucky for a few weeks but then her luck turned and she was caught.

After getting caught, she found that she just couldn’t lie about what she had done; she didn’t even try. She knew that what she had been doing was wrong but she hadn’t known what else to do. She was ashamed and knew that her Nana would be disappointed in her too. When the policeman took her to the last bar she had seen her father, he was gone. The bartender mentioned that her father had been speaking with some men about a job at a slaughterhouse in Chicago and they all left together. With no relatives to turn her over to, the policeman—a good Irish Catholic himself—took Kate to an orphanage run by the Church and turned her over to the nuns.

It was not long before the headstrong and stubborn Kate was butting heads with the rather stern and disciplinary nuns. Kate found many of their rules and punishments for breaking the rules to be too harsh and unfair. The orphans would often be denied a meal for the most minor infringement or even for just sneezing during their prayers. Kate often took matters into her own hands and nicked food for punished children. She became something of a hero to the other children, especially the smaller and younger children that she protected from some of the older bullies, and a thorn in the side of the nuns. Kate took more than her fair share of punishment from both the nuns and the bullies but she never backed down from what she thought was right and she never lied about any of the things she did.

After a few years in the orphanage, Kate had a life-changing experience. One of her closest friends, Ronan, had been “framed” for stealing some food by one of the older bullies. Ronan’s punishment was to be locked “punishment” closet for two days with no food or water. Kate, taking justice into her own hands, picked the lock on the closet late the first night of his imprisonment. She was going to take him to the kitchen for some food. As they headed that way, the Mother Superior spotted them. Panicked, Ronan ran and Kate followed him.

In his panic, Ronan tripped and fell down a flight of stairs. When he hit bottom, he wasn’t moving. A puddle of blood was quickly spreading out from under his head, his face was badly bruised and cut, and his arm was bent in the wrong place. Kate ran to him and collapsed next to him, hugging him.

Kate heard footsteps coming down the stairs and was waiting for the swish and smack of the Mother Superior’s cane. Never backing down in the face of bullies, she looked up to face down the nun. Instead, she saw her nana walking down the stairs. Her nana simply whispered, “Caitlín, dear, do the Lord’s will and help the boy.” Kate felt her body fill with warmth. As she cradled Ronan’s head in her hands, she could feel the warmth spread to him. A moment later, Ronan stirred and sat up...just as the Mother Superior reached them.

Seeing all the blood on the floor, the bruises on Ronan’s face quickly fading, and his arm straightening, the Mother Superior immediately accused Kate of devilry. Kate immediately shot back that it was the Lord’s grace that saved

Ronan. The Mother Superior quipped back that the Lord would never work through such a stubborn, disobedient, and thieving child. Never having held back what was on her mind before, Kate shot back that only a servant of Lucifer would deny a child food for the crimes of others!

That was the last straw for the Mother Superior; she had already had her fill of the headstrong child and now this devilry! Even though it was the middle of winter, Kate was kicked out of the orphanage into the cold night with no coat, money, or food. Sister Hester, one of the youngest and kindest of the nuns, caught up with Kate and gave her a coat, a little money, and some food. The Sister suggested that she find a safe place to stay the night, come back in the morning, and beg forgiveness from the Mother Superior. Kate thanked Sister Hester for her kindness but had already decided that she would head to Chicago to see if she could find her father.

Kate spent the next couple of years in Chicago, working odd jobs, looking for her father, and fending off various suitors...some gentlemanly and some not so gentlemanly. Those that were gentlemanly she fended off with her sharp tongue and acerbic wit. For those that were less than gentlemanly, she used her fists when needed. She also continued her practice of helping those in need as best she could. The Lord's grace passed through her a number of times to aid the injured. She hid her divine gift as best she could as those that grew fearful of her numbered just as many as those that showed gratitude and recognized the Lord's hand in their healing.

She recently had a vision of her nana again, the first since that fateful night in the orphanage. Her nana told her that she should go west to find her destiny. Although she had not yet learned the fate of her father, Kate decided to follow her nana's instruction and is heading west to seek out her role in the Lord's plan.

Rank: Seasoned **XP:** 20

Attributes: Agility d8, Smarts d6, Spirit d6, Strength d6, Vigor d6

Skills: Climbing d6, Fighting d6, Guts d6, Lockpicking d6, Notice d6, Shooting d4, Stealth d8, Streetwise d4, Taunt d6

Charisma: 0; **Pace:** 6; **Parry:** 5; **Toughness:** 6 (1); **Grit:** +2

Hindrances: Heroic (Major—always help those in need), Lyin' Eyes (Minor—you have difficulty lying), Stubborn (Minor)

Edges: Alertness (+2 to Notice checks), Knack (Breech Birth—Spend a benny to use the *greater healing* power), Luck (one extra benny each session), Thief (+2 to Climbing, Lockpicking, Stealth, and Notice/Repair for traps)

Gear: Wesson Dagger-Pistol (5/10/20, 2d6, RoF 1, Shots 2, AP 1, Str + d4 in melee), knife (Str + d4), box of bullets, duster, lockpicks

Advances

1: Bump Strength to d6

2: Thief

3: Alertness

4: Fighting to d6 and Shooting to d4