Swords in 20 Words or Less

This was an exercise I did as part of 2022's Swordtember art challenge, which challenges artists to create a sword each day in September based on a prompt.

The additional challenge I gave myself is originally from a thread from Ivory (@DeathMeetAuthor) on Twitter where they described a writing exercise they developed for an intern. The challenge is to write 20 sword descriptions using only a 20-word limit, including the sword name.

I modified this a bit, creating three groups of 10 swords, each group with its own additional limitations (rarity, type, genre, etc). I wrote these descriptions a week before the start of September and once Swordtember began, I selected descriptions that best matched the given prompt. In the end, I loosely followed their 'no reusing descriptors' rule as some prewritten descriptions needed revision to better fit the art prompt.

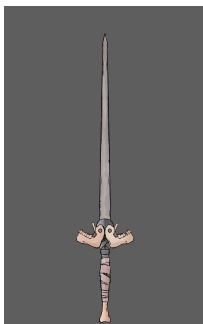This is a selection of those Swordtember entries.

Title: BRUTALITY DIAMOND

Description:
An old rapier reinforced in a high-temperature crystal cave. Fine edges engineered into a vicious weapon.
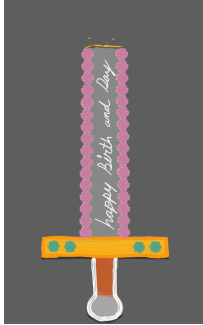
Prompt: Crystal

Title: RESTORED SKELETAL REAVER

Description:
Rough, intimidating, and deadly. Used by marauders to attack and strike fear.
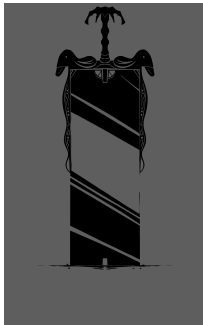
Prompt: Skeleton

Title: DISMAY

Description:
Probably the best outcome from sword shopping online after a bottle of wine. Cake reads 'Happy Birth and Day.'

Prompt: Edible

Title: DANGER MIRROR

Description:
Untouched by combat and polished to perfection, used by a vain yet powerful warrior king.

Prompt: Mirror

Title: DISCARDED SWORD

Description:
Thrown away by a nobleman after suffering cosmetic damage. Perfectly functional.

Prompt: Gaudy

Title: BOUQUET OF DEATH

Description:
When one won't do. A fine selection of cutlery wrapped in a lethal arrangement.

Prompt: Floral

Title: CONSTRUCT DESTROYER

Description:
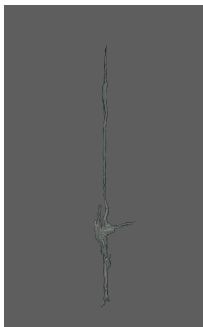Wield the power of a singularity!

Prompt: Void

Title: GIANT'S SPATULA

Description:
Originally for icing cakes, this modest tool is now a borrower's best offense.

Prompt: Dual-purpose

Title: RELIC OF A LOST WAR

Description:
Eroded beyond use or recognition.

Prompt: Rot

Title: HOLLOW VICTORY

Description:
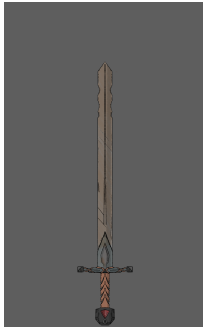Is it a real sword? No, but in a pinch it IS a weapon.

Prompt: Topiary

Title: RANGER'S ALLY

Description:
A weatherworn sword. Standard issue for the Commonwealth's Rangers.
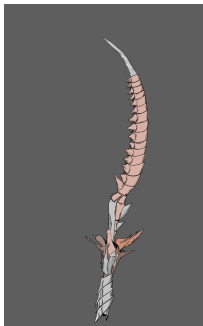
Prompt: Moss

Title: ANTIQUE DOOMBLADE

Description:
Once a force powerful enough to destroy realms. Now...only 4.95 at Tate's Antique Mall & Cafe.
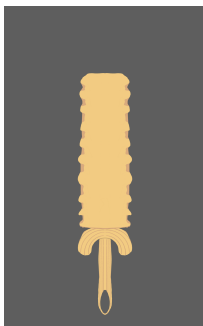
Prompt: Nordic

Title: WARSTALKER

Description:
A phantom of the battlefield, forged from the steel of fallen soldiers. It arrives to scavenge and kill survivors.

Prompt: Morbid

Title: Cutatoni

Description:
Uncooked and sharpened to perfection. Feeds up to 5 when cooled.

Prompt: Noodle

Title: SERRATED QUILL

Description:
Plucked from a flightless beast. Strong as steel, but only for a few years.

Prompt: Monster

Title: BULK BROADSWORD

Description:
Why fix a broken sword when you have 11 more!
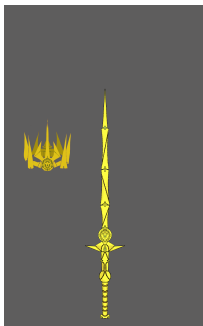
Prompt: Pattern

Title: PAIN TRASH

Description:
We need to talk about this. Visually it's a mess. But as a weapon? Yeah, it'll hurt someone.

Prompt: Asymmetrical

Title: DEFENDER

Description:
Designed by a royal mechanist, this crown unfurls to a short sword within seconds. A weak but effective option.

Prompt: Crown, Monochromatic