

Bodycount

Session/Game: Savage Worlds

Session: #8 - Bodycount

Date: 04/09/2017

Campaign Date: April 9th-10th, 1934

Characters:

Raymond St. Giles (aka Dr. Rhombus) - Dave Nelson

Two Chains - Bob LaForge

Tony Farms (aka The Puma Man) - Jason Liebert

Stefan Malju (aka Evil Eye) - Marlon Kirton

Judge: Andrew Smith

Briefing:

THE PROBLEM: Rufus Merriweather has been kidnapped while making his delivery, and his captors have asked for a ransom.

THE TASK:

GOAL 1: Save Rufus from his kidnappers

GOAL 2: Discover how the kidnappers were able to identify Rufus

GOAL 3: Stop the kidnappers from putting an end to the Gotham City Restoration Project

GOAL 4: Foil any plots that may be set in motion following revelations about Gotham City Restoration Project operations

THE NEWS:

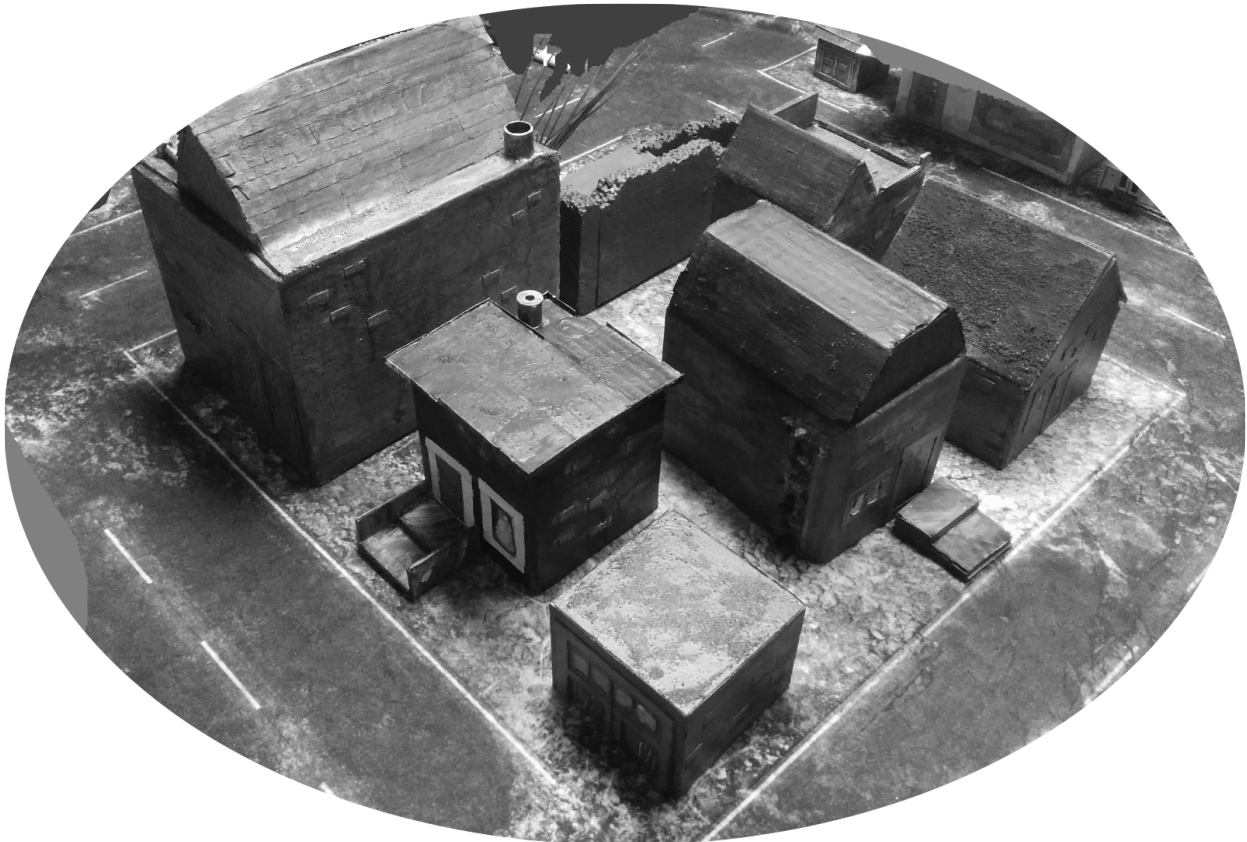
- In another brazen incident reminiscent of the recent sacking of the Allerton family vault, grave robbers have defaced the gravesite of the recently deceased Building Commissioner Brick Moates.
- Construction of Gotham's new passenger rail terminal is nearing completion, linking Gotham Proper with the rest of the United States by rail for the first time since the great fire of 1911.
- Following the odd and tragic death of acting Building Commissioner Frank Sampson when his head was caught in a file drawer causing him to fall from an open window, Brad LaPen has been specially appointed by mayor Buckhouse this week. This marks the fourth building commissioner in the last 18 months. Let's hope that LaPen has better luck than his predecessors.
- April showers bring May flowers! Heavy rain is in the forecast for later on this week.

Log

Monday April 9th, 1934

Just after midnight Mr Cheavers assembles Team C for an emergency meeting. He explains that he has learned that Rufus has been kidnapped the morning before. The heroes are introduced to Elizabeth Merriwhether, Rufus' overly worried (and much younger and attractive) bride. She is afraid that Rufus has been kidnapped since he hadn't returned from his pickup to prepare for the most recent delivery. The heroes are to pay a ransom to get Rufus back at any costs, regardless of the money.

Dr. Valiant berates the PCs telling them that obviously they are torturing Rufus for information about Team C's HQ. "You realize that they are torturing Rufus right now to learn who you are and where you are based. Don't you have an alternate location? I've had my deliveries sent there immediately to keep my headquarters location a secret!" he accosts the group. Dr. Rhombus points out that this is his first day, which immediately endears him to the belligerent doctor. "Good for you! I would say that you should be in charge of this outfit!"



The heroes are to arrive at an burnt out building in a tenement in Old Gotham with \$50,000 dollars. A kid dressed in All American gang finery does the talking. He reference their action in the Roach-Man attack in the first adventure, mentioning that it was his father Mike Snow who was killed in the action. The kid sprays their bare skin with a sweet-smelling misty liquid and they are quickly overcome by a feeling of compliance and euphoria. The heroes ordered to hand over their weapons and they are tied to chairs in a nearby auto garage.

Three hours later, Kid Snow appears in the garage with the Borgias leader "Friend Rob" in tow. Kid Snow, the son of Mike Snow taunts the heroes.

"You cheeseballs really fell into it this time. You'll bleed for what you did to my father," he jeers.

Friend Rob says "The fire's started. You know they can't talk under the elixir, right? Should we torture them once they come back around?"

Kid Snow japes, "Nah. We've got the courier. He's already getting grilled by my uncle. He'll lead us to their headquarters. Let these cheeseballs pay for what they did to my father!"

Friend Rob replies "We gotta wait a bit longer. If they die with the elixir in their systems someone might be able to come up with an antidote."

"Fair enough. Give them another ten minutes, then shoot 'em. You know where to find me!" the kid stammers. "Jus' make sure you know who it was me dat killed ya's. Kid Snow! You know it! Kid Snow means bidness! We're outta here, guys. Let's go do some crimes!"

As the elixir wears off, Team C begins to feel like themselves again. Just as the gangsters raise their weapons to shoot, Scraps the invulnerable dog breaks in to distract the shooters while Eugene and Gorak untie all the heroes. Apparently, Pierre had something better to do.

A fight breaks out, and the All Americans are overcome by Puma Man's fists, the soldiers' grappling and strangling, and tommyguns wrenched out of the hands of the gangsters. They realize that this was not where Rufus is held at all. Instead, a locked house full of locals who live on this city block is on fire. Puma Man lets a sharpshooting gangster with two pistols flee the scene and flies to liberate the trapped folk.

Puma Man misses the handmade gas trap on the door which instantly turns him and the civilians freed from the burning building into savage killing machines. Puma Man knocks all the hostages flat and then proceeds to start punching up his comrades until Dr. Rhombus directs everyone to "hit him in the head" until unconscious. The Puma Man goes down with a black eye and a mouth full of blood.

Team C ties up the Puma Man and waits for the effect to wear off, and Two Chains and Evil Eye begin snooping around town eavesdropping on what's going on. Two Chains learns about

where one of the Borgias' headquarters are (a mortuary in Old Gotham). Evil Eye learns that Rufus was ambushed by some well-organized trash trucks and doused with the elixir himself. Dr. Rhombus breaks into Friend Rob's mind, but only finds cobwebs. Only by working on one of the lesser henchmen does he learn that Kid Snow is probably holed up in a hotel randomly throughout town.

That morning Puma Man is refreshed and healed (except for a black eye) and he travels to the Gotham Botanical Gardens in the Central Park. He learns that some gangsters have taken over the main greenhouse for their own purposes following the events of February.

Dr. Rhombus has a theory that Dr. Valiant might be behind the kidnapping, but his hunch is proven wrong. However, he did get the chance to meet mistress of disguise, Lacy Watson.

Evil Eye invisibly infiltrates the greenhouse. He finds the entire place cleaned out, save for some new purple tulip plantings and a few squat thick-barked trees. The heroes send in the "Shit Kickers," a group of Free Men who owe them one and they bust up the joint and take a whole mess of the flowers and a few limbs off the trees.

The heroes take the flora to Dr. Marcel Mattieu, and learn that the purple tulip flowers are unique to the Netherlands. They are a rare variety that are host to a powerful psychotic fungus known as Plotwisticum. The psychotic may be combined and powered in a process with Radioactive Libyan Gravedust Isotope to create the elixir of fury, compliance, or even love. The tree bark of the McGuffin tree holds a similar fungus that may be used for an antidote. Dr. Mattieu makes eight doses of antidote using the RLGI the team had on hand. This antidote is good for a lifetime of prevention against the elixir. The attendant members of this case take four doses, and the remaining doses are left for other members of Team C.

The team learns that the Building Commissioner has called an emergency demolition for the block that is their headquarters. That indicates to them that Rufus broke under questioning from his captor.

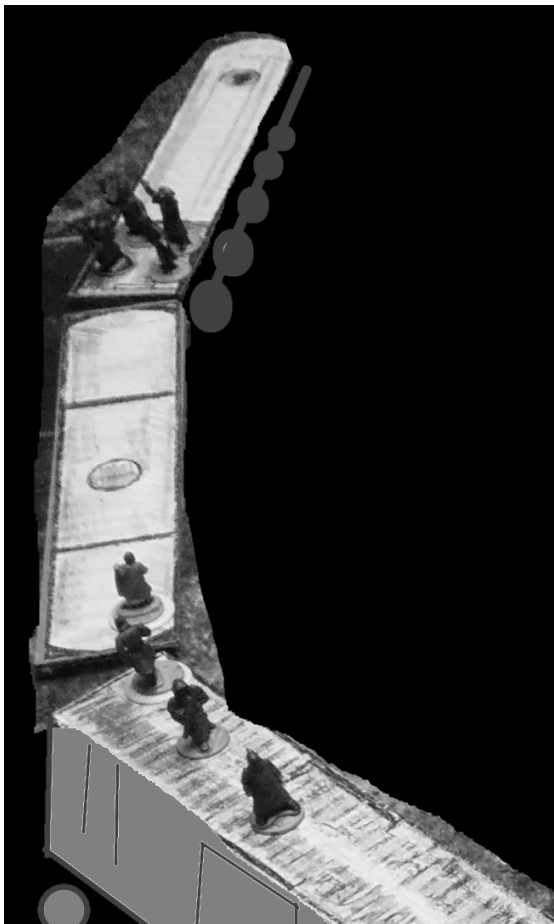
Evil Eye learns about the chop shop that Rufus' van was taken to. The team goes to the darkened gas station, and the Puma Man rams through the plate glass window to knock the two guards out cold. The heroes retrieve Rufus' armored van. A reporter is called in from the Herald to report on the chop shop and the heroes who stopped the thefts.

The heroes question Rufus' wife Elizabeth, and she explains how Rufus' younger brother LaMont is such a dummy and told his supervisor at the Sanitation Commissioner Stan Fullerton about Rufus. Sure enough, they find LaMont spending time with a few All Americans from the Antoinettes crew and take him for questioning.

Monday April 10th, 1934

The entire team takes some time to disable all the demolition and earthmoving equipment queued up to demolish the Team C headquarters. That gives them time to continue their search for Rufus.

The heroes nab Kid Snow outside a movie theatre and learn about his safehouse. They plan an attack on the house, and easily find their way inside. However, there is no sign of Nathan Snow. Instead, they find a secret passageway to an abandoned maze of subway tunnels leading all the way to St. George's Episcopal Cathedral where they meet Gwendolyne Cobblepot and find the tortured Rufus as well as all their equipment. Rufus is distraught that he gave up the secret location of Team C's base, and warns the team of another emergent threat. A freight train carrying a load of weaponized elixir is barreling toward Gotham and will crash into the newly opened terminal in Gotham Proper right at morning rush hour unless the team races to stop it.



Team C grabs their fastest vehicles and races to catch the train. They all manage to vault onto the caboose, but are opposed by a score of purple-hooded cultists with machetes and shotguns.. The Puma Man makes a beeline for the engine, leaving many of the cultists guarding the freight train flat footed. Evil Eye takes advantage of the chaotic atmosphere of the top of a hurtling train to shoot many of the cultists point-blank in the head. Dr. Rhombus manages to freeze enough of the cultists with his mind powers to give Two-Chains some room to murder them, but gets in trouble when more cultists vault onto the train themselves. He's shot, and just barely makes it into one of the clattering freight cars as a low-hanging telegraph wire cuts a cultist in half.

Puma Man makes it to the coupling just behind the engine and manages to unhook the rest of the train with a single quick action. He's set upon by a monster who may have once been Brick Moates the former Building Commissioner, and another fellow who he recognizes as the guy who escaped the original hostage situation with two

pistols. Puma Man takes a beating, but manages to knock a cultist into the accelerator, putting the engine into a rendezvous with death while flying to trigger a lever to force the remaining cars roll to a stop on an abandoned rail line, saving the city.

Coda

After confirming that the elixir in the railcar is of the “rage” variety, Team C destroys the contents of the tank car except for eight doses “just in case.” The heroes visit the building commission and confront commissioner Brad Lapen. He is a smug bastard, and puts up no fight. Instead he explains that he immediately recognized the threat that Team C posed, and has set up an “insurance” plan of sorts. If he goes missing for any reason, each and every gangster in Gotham will learn where Team C is headquartered. For the time being, he barter a truce with the GCRP. “I’ll call off the demolition, but don’t forget that I know where you live.”

There were in total eighteen All Americans killed and another nine captured between all the fighting including Friend Rob. The Cult of the Bound Devil took the brunt of the killing with thirty-one dead including the monster that was once Brick Moates and the two-pistoled Sniper Stan. Only two operatives from the City Hall Machine were killed, but there was a bit of overlap with some of the cultists. Over fifty enemies of Gotham were dealt with, most with deadly force.

There remains a few loose ends to this adventure that weren’t covered in play, including:

- What was Sanitation Commissioner Stan Fullerton’s role in all this?
- What happens to Gwendolyne Cobblepot and Lamonte Merriweather?
- What should be done about Snow’s hidden rooms in St. George's Episcopal Cathedral?
- Where is Nathan Snow now?

