

FATES WORSE THAN DEATH



FIASCO

FATES WORSE THAN DEATH: A FIASCO PLAYSET

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WHAT THIS IS

Fiasco is a storytelling game of powerful ambition and poor impulse control, by Bully Pulpit Games. It's a game where people do bad things, plans go horribly wrong, and hardly anyone makes it out unscathed. Playbooks are settings for Fiasco game sessions, created by Bully Pulpit Games or by the community.

Fates Worse Than Death is a RPG about a future Manhattan suffering under urban blight. It's published by Vajra Enterprises and uses Organic Rule Components.

This playbook, by the creators of Fates Worse Than Death, allows Fiasco players to play a Fiasco session in the Fates Worse Than Death setting. You don't have to own the Fates Worse Than Death game book to use this playbook, but you do have to have the Fiasco core book.

Check out Fiasco at BullyPulpitGames.com

Check out Fates Worse Than Death at VajraEnterprises.com

THE STORY SO FAR...

In the year 2080, the island of Manhattan in New York City has seen better times. After wars, environmental disasters, and flight of the wealthy, well-adjusted and boring to gated living centers (where you can be sure your neighbors are safe and sane because they've had their brains scanned) the city has become a neglected ghetto, notorious for its dangerousness and lawlessness.

Half the buildings are abandoned. Much of the remaining population is so scared to go outside that they spend their days in VR fantasy worlds. Homeless families had multiple generations that were born and grew up on the streets. The Drug Lords, fighting for a monopoly on drug trade in the city, have grown so bold that they hold people down and force them to use their new ultra-addictive drugs. Riots, plagues, fires and industrial accidents rock the city on a regular basis. The city government is corrupt and so underfunded that it is barely functional. There's even a serial killer, Colin, who kidnaps people and copies his mind over theirs.

Yet for all that is bad about the city, hope is growing. A new generation, unwilling to be shut-ins or victims, are doing whatever it takes to gain the power to fight back: getting generic modifications, buying high-tech weapons and armor, experimenting with illegal technology and forming into gangs. This newly emboldened generation has been fighting back: against the Drug Lords, the corporations, the serial killers and, more often than not, against each other. And if they can't make the city a better place, at least they'll make it more interesting.

RELATIONSHIPS

1 FAMILY

- Cousins
- Siblings
- Parent and child or stepchild
- Aunt/uncle and niece/nephew
- Grandparent and grandchild
- Unrelated but raised in the same household

2 COMING UP

- Went to school together
- Were in the same kid gang together
- Former mentor and former student
- Grew up in the same town
- Immigrated on the same boat
- Were in the psych ward together

3 COMMUNITY

- Next-door neighbors
- Work at the same shithole together
- In the same 12-step group
- Belong to the same church
- Can see into each other's apartments through facing windows
- Volunteers at the same soup kitchen

4 GANG

- Joined the same gang at the same time
- Elder and junior gang member
- Members of two enemy gangs
- Rivals within the same gang
- One still in the gang, another who quit the gang
- Members of two gangs with an uneasy alliance

5 MONEY

- One owes a debt, the other is here to collect
- One has a habit, the other provides the fix
- One provides protection, the other pays for it
- One earns money to provide for the other
- One is a boss, the other an employee
- One provides services, the other is their best customer

6 ROMANCE

- Married, for all intents and purposes
- Exes
- Just started an affair
- Friends when sober, lovers when not
- Crush and object of crush
- One has a mental program that makes them infatuated with the other

...IN THE CITY NEEDS

1 TO GET POWER...

- ...by making others fear me
- ...by rising in the ranks of my gang
- ...by having more money than they do
- ...by making friends in high places
- ...by making someone beg for what I can give them
- ...by proving I'm the best at what I do

2 A BETTER LIFE...

- ...by getting into a gated community
- ...by getting a real job
- ...by giving up VR and living in the real world
- ...by getting papers
- ...by leaving this damned household
- ...by leaving this damned city

3 TO FULFILL MY OBLIGATIONS...

- ...to revenge the wrongs done against members of my gang
- ...to my creator, by doing good works
- ...to my family, by getting them out of trouble
- ...to repay that debt I owe
- ...to do the job I was paid to do
- ...to hurt the person who ruined my life

4 TO FEEL...

- ...that I made a difference in someone's life
- ...not afraid anymore
- ...that I am fighting for a righteous cause
- ...the adrenaline rush of coming inches from death
- ...the perfect high
- ...all eyes on me

5 TO HAVE SEX...

- ...tonight, because what else is there to do?
- ...with someone my parents would freak out about
- ...with the person I've been obsessing over
- ...so I can pull someone's strings
- ...and no longer feel so alone
- ...to get revenge

6 TO WIN A BATTLE AGAINST...

- ...the voices in my head
- ...this infection
- ...the one who has been preying on my neighborhood
- ...the wealthy and powerful who keep us down
- ...becoming my parents
- ...anyone, at least once

LOCATIONS

1 LIMINAL

- A subway car in motion
- The hallways of a run-down apartment building
- A street between the turfs of two rival gangs
- The front stoop of a brownstone
- The contraband-scanning city gates on a windswept bridge
- The Sunken City, where swift Hudson River waters rush through ruined buildings

2 HOME

- A tiny by-the-week hotel room in the Bowery with a shared bathroom down the hall
- A small apartment on the third floor of a walk-up, with barely functional central heating
- The squat of a multi-generational extended homeless family
- A thin, three story house in the Upper West Side, shared by roommates
- A homeless encampment in what used to be a pay-by-the-hour parking lot
- A rich person's secret apartment on the top floor of an abandoned skyscraper

3 CROWDED

- A dance party in an old warehouse, uptown in Hummingbird turf
- A house party in some trust fund kid's big Upper East Side apartment
- A dive bar near the docks
- The waiting room for the ER at the NYC Central Hospital
- The quarterly Festival of the Freak in Midtown, with music, sideshow acts and buskers galore
- A VR fantasy world teeming with players from around the world

4 LONELY

- A rooftop, overlooking the city
- An abandoned subway station for a line that is no longer in use
- An abandoned public school, with walls that have become a gallery for graffiti artists
- A fast food restaurant at 3am where a bored teen serves food from behind bullet-proof glass
- The apartment of a person who has installed a catheter to minimize the number of times they leave VR
- The city morgue, where unidentified bodies wait in chillers for burial at Hart Island

5 MONEYED

- A pawn shop, where rumors say you can buy just about anything if you have the dough
- The VIP room above a popular night club
- A secret black corporate lab, running illegal human experiments in an old industrial loft
- The home of a Drug Lords King with armed guards and a safe full of money and drugs
- The run-down Upper West Side townhouse of a rich eccentric who is rumored to have half a century of hoarded wealth
- A private clinic where one can go to get medical procedures that aren't available elsewhere

6 VICE

- An abandoned townhouse with drug addicts fixing and passing out on every surface
- A corner near Times Square where prostitutes wait on the sidewalks for johns
- A basement cage match with drunk crowds betting on who will win
- The penthouse apartment of a concubine of a powerful corporate executive
- A high stakes poker game in a hotel room overlooking Central park
- The Kafe, a VR meeting space for city serial killer and those who pretend to be

OBJECTS

1 PILLS

- ☐ Two pills in a baggie: one a poison that kills in 24 hours, the other its antidote
- ☐ A crew's worth of doses of Thor-o-Zine, the top war drug among gang members
- ☐ Sibosin, a drug many believe gives you psychic powers, but at the risk of developing permanent insomnia
- ☐ A dose of Slave, known to create hopeless addicts in a single dose
- ☐ A \$5,000 course of the only antibiotic that's been effective against the antibiotic-resistant infection that's going around
- ☐ A drug cocktail that sellers claim can produce actual love

2 DATA

- ☐ A slip of paper with someone's secret address
- ☐ A piece of skin with a triangle tattooed on it, the symbols on which show the three people pledged to avenge the death of the skin's owner
- ☐ A copy-proof data drive containing military-grade decryption software
- ☐ A +25 great sword from a popular VR fantasy game
- ☐ A tank containing a backup of some rich guy's brain
- ☐ A new genetic mod that hasn't yet made the rounds of black market traders

3 DEADLY

- ☐ A shiv coated with Drake Blood Poison, guaranteed to cause an agonizing death
- ☐ An old pre-war pistol
- ☐ A Freedom Army assassin knife (the paralytic works so fast your victim can't even scream)
- ☐ A homemade pipe bomb
- ☐ A high-quality replica of a samurai sword
- ☐ A death borg implant: the implantee dies and the whole block blows up

4 WET

- ☐ A dusty bottle of Honeybrew with unknown psychoactive effects
- ☐ A frozen embryo from an attempt to make a genetically engineered super-soldier
- ☐ A canister of liquid nitrogen and a mallet
- ☐ Human organs in ziploc baggies in a beer cooler
- ☐ A 150-year old bottle of wine, rescued by Water Rat divers from storage in the Brooklyn Bridge's anchorage
- ☐ A vial of the Reston virus, which could kill hundreds of thousands if released

5 HIGH TECH

- ☐ A bulky helmet that, if you put on someone's head, makes them compliant
- ☐ A powder that, if you sniff it, allow you to smell your prey from blocks away
- ☐ A drone with nightvision camera and almost silent flight
- ☐ A robotic dog that is almost smart enough to babysit a small child
- ☐ Glasses that psychologically profile a person who you can get to look you in the eyes
- ☐ Pads for your hands and feet that will let you climb virtually any surface

6 LOW TECH

- ☐ Armor made from ripped up phone books and magazines and shards of glass
- ☐ An old clunker of a gasoline-powered vehicle
- ☐ A zip-line and base-jumping parachute
- ☐ A set of scary looking torture implements in a rolled-up canvas
- ☐ A dirty wad of cash with a rubber band around it
- ☐ A plastic shopping bag full of spray paint cans
- ☐ A bus ticket to some place far away

A FATES WORSE THAN DEATH INSTA-SETUP

RELATIONSHIPS

For three players...

- * Rivals within the same gang.
- * One still in the gang, another who quit
- * Members of two gangs with an uneasy alliance

For four players, add...

- * Owes a debt, the other is here to collect

For five players, add...

- * One provides services, the other is their best customer

NEEDS

For three players...

- * To fulfill your obligations... to revenge the wrongs done against members of my gang

For four or five players, add...

- * A better life... by leaving this damed city.

LOCATIONS

For three, four or five players...

- * The hallways of a run-down apartment building.

OBJECTS

For three or four players...

- * A death borg implant: the implantee dies and the whole block blows up

For five players, add...

- * A 150-year old bottle of wine, rescued by Water Rat divers from storage in the Brooklyn Bridge's anchorage