

Freak Watch

A *Masks* Campaign

Session Two

Freak Watch is a campaign using Magpie Games' [Masks](#), a game Powered by the Apocalypse and emulating teen superheroes in the vein of Young Justice or Teen Titans. Paul is our ever-suffering GM.

The campaign is set in [Hub City](#), IL, the DC Universe city home of [The Question](#) (now retired to a job as a conservative radio talk-show host). It's the most corrupt city in the US.

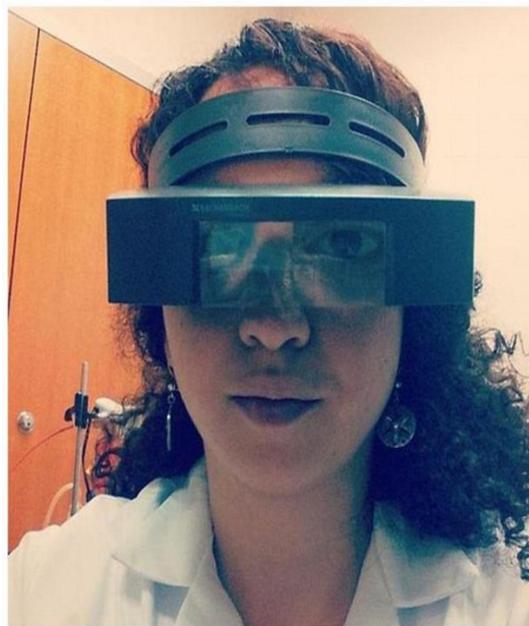
Our heroes, the self-styled Freak Watch, consist of:

- La Catrina, Maria Lorena Ramirez (The Delinquent), played by Ernest
- The Infamous Wasp, Purcell Stone (The Protégé), played by Chris
- Kid Kafka, Frank LaLone (The Transformed), played by Patrick
- Teenage Vengeance Shadowblade, Grace Lennox (The Doomed), played by Tim

Chris is our faithful session summarian, and Ernest the editor and blogger that posts these for your amusement.

The Next Day

Kid Kafka visits Mary Beth Banes at her university office, using his heightened senses to navigate past faculty and students. She's wearing lab coat and lens, studying a... bug.



Mary Beth Banes

They discuss her exciting research that might lead to a cure to his current form. And she uses

her adult influence to get him talking body issues. The scene ends with them discussing his dietary needs and restrictions now that he's a bug... mac & cheese is really tasty but doesn't agree with him. Kid Kafka is open to all of her help.

La Catrina is at home and encounters her mother hovering at a Santa Muerte shrine at the house. Conflict! Maria's mother tells her to stop hanging out with looters, lectures her further, and feeds her a home cooked meal. The lecture includes instructions to “gets hitched and pregnant” to which Maria counters with, “What do you know about normal life?” Maria ends the meal rejecting her mother's advice, but feeling insecure. Maria leaves rapidly in sulking silence. She stops to investigate a breaking glass noise in her mother's room, finds all of her mother's religious candles cracked, and turns to find her mother right behind her. They argue again.

Purcell Stone is at his internship at Vic Sage's recording studio, where Vic does his talk show, “Vic Sage is P*ssed!” The show is popular inside and outside Hub City; those outside the city are shown the Hub's hellscape. Vic also helps those outside organize charity drives for those inside the city. Vic influences Purcell to be a savior and less a freak; protect the city and its inhabitants... don't hunt and kill the guilty. Purcell agrees. Vic says he'll leverage his information gathering abilities to help locate Junior Musto.

Biker Junior College

Purcell calls the other members of the Freak Watch to gather at the library to research known hangouts and hideouts of Junior Musto. Meanwhile, Kid Kafka already at the university and the one good library in the city hears then sees the Los Muertos motorcycle gang pull in. Purcell pulls Kafka and Catrina into the same call using the Question's high-tech (encrypted, damage/water resistant) communicators that look like ordinary cell phones. She identifies the gang leader, Dayo, a big muscle bound man who carries a hand-written bible, and some specifics from the days when she rode with that gang.

Kid Kafka reports indiscriminate property damage and a heavily bandaged man with them that might be Junior Musto. He watches them from Mary Beth Banes' office as they park and enter the geology building.

La Catrina arrives via teleport to find bikers in the parking lot, some of which are harassing and being harassed by campus security. She doesn't see her brother immediately. Meanwhile, Kid Kafka exits the office and climbs to the roof. He and La Catrina see each other from different roof tops. Purcell parks his Volkswagen in the front yard of a fraternity.

La Catrina teleports near a biker asking, “Where are the hot college bitches?” She summons a graveyard hellscape to scare that one and others off. They scatter to leave the mists and awful noises behind. Kid Kafka uses this excellent distraction to enter the geology building. She calls out to her brother Lalo, “What is up? Where's Junior Musto?”

Purcell asks over the communicators, “Where are you? What's going on?” He hears La Catrina turn off her communicator and assumes the worst.

Another biker takes a swing at La Catrina while she questions her brother. She avoids the blow

via illusion and teleports into the geology building's lobby. Purcell arrives at the quad where the bikers are gathered. He activates the Question gas to transform into the Infamous Wasp, a trench coat of yellow and black with a faceless face mask. He drops onto a gang member, knocking him out, and announces, "Who wants some?" The gang rushes him; he retreats and desperately detonates his back up gas (Kid Kafka giggles in the distance) and uses the cover to escape that onslaught. He continues kung-fuing bikers unconscious and they continue dogging him, growing more and more angry.

Inside the geology building, La Catrina encounters Junior Musto waving a fancy, hi-tech pistol while ordering several bikers who dragging an unconscious man between them. He shoots at her and she counters with a thick fog; his shot goes wide.

Kid Kafka makes the geology building's roof, then climbs down the sides, peering in windows as he descends the four stories. He sees Junior Musto shooting a hi-tech ray gun into a bank of eerie fog. He sees confusion in the biker ranks from the fog and the commotion outside; several bikers rush outside to investigate. He sneaks inside and onto the bikers guarding the unconscious man. The surprised bikers hose him down with gun fire; he uses his body to shield the unconscious man.

Outside, Infamous Wasp is captured by the bikers. He stands amongst four broken men but a gun waving biker allows several more to get the jump on him.

La Catrina uses her powers to make Junior Musto see his father, causing Junior to stutter out an explanation of his plot: "He works for SKULL! I'm here to smash their plans and use him for my own plans." It gets crazier from there. She is baffled by his line of reasoning, so takes his hi-tech pistol away from him while disguised as Senior Musto. He collapses in a pile, sobbing.

Kid Kafka drags the now reviving man to a nearby office. "Who are you?" The man answers, "Lloyd. Lloyd Gage." He returns to the hallway where scared bikers confront him. The first fires a gun, then is swatted aside by Kafka's bug limbs. The second screams, "I'm not afraid!" He pulls the pin on a grenade. He and Kid Kafka struggle for the grenade, but it isn't even close. Kafka knocks him across the hall and thru a dry wall, then throws himself onto the live grenade. The denotation blows him into the ceiling and leaves a shower of shrapnel in his carapace.

La Catrina teleports outside after ordering Kid Kafka to secure the prisoners. Kid Kafka moves to deal with Junior Musto and Dayo, but hears breaking glass from the room where he left scientist guy, Lloyd Gage. He finds Lloyd smashing his way thru a exterior window. He grabs Lloyd and demands an explanation.

Outside, a biker with a gun threatens Infamous Wasp, who is held securely by several bikers. Wasp is trying to convince the bikers to fight him fairly but they're not having that. La Catrina shoots the bikers with Musto's hi-tech gun. The ray strikes the biker's pistol, melting the metal, and searing the hand. That biker declares, "They took out Junior! Run!" They flee via motorcycles.

They teleport inside to find Junior and Dayo gone. Kid Kafka has Lloyd in hand. La Catrina smashes the hi-tech gun with a heavy lamp base. Lloyd is interrogated by the trio regarding his SKULL affiliation. Lloyd denies that and explains he works for the local plastics company, leveraging seismic devices to identify and exploit oil reserves. He works for Rory Limbo, CEO of Limbo Plastics, and offers to call Rory.

A quick conference between the trio and they agree. Lloyd makes the call and identifies his rescuers. Kid Kafka listens to the call with heightened senses. The call is put on loudspeaker where

Rory offers them employment and rewards. They refuse and counter with “give it to charity”. He agrees then Catrina hangs up on him.

Lloyd leaves for his home in Newton, a rich neighborhood across the river, where the wealthy and important live in safety compared to Hub City. His head is hooded then he is shoved into the Volkswagen with the trio. They drive to the ferry, which is heavily guarded, fenced in building. La Catrina uses her illusion to make the trio appear to be ordinary college students accompanying Lloyd back to his house for extended tutoring. The ferry guard buys the story, so they drive onboard and hang out for the trip across the river.

En route, while waiting in the passenger area / concession stand, Purcell hears a familiar voice. He notes the man sitting with his back to him in a booth, talking to others. He moves closer to eavesdrop to hear:

- That fool is employing bikers to harass us.
- We'll have to employ Doctor Dawayne's solution.
- He was driven insane by his own gas. Are you sure?
- Yes. Just keep your gas mask handy and maintained.
- Their conversation turns to dog breeds and training.

Purcell identifies the voice as the Atomic Skull but later when the ferry ride is over, he watches them get up and leave. The Atomic Skull no longer has an emaciated face with pulled back lips. He just looks like someone's dad, maybe a tad older than that.

The trio drive off the ferry and take Lloyd home, with a quick trip to see Rory Limbo's mansion... well, mostly the exterior walls, fence, and gate. These features are heavy with statuary of lions, usually resting on shields. La Catrina and Kid Kafka convince Lloyd to give them alcohol for their heroism. He agrees, then gets his picture taken with La Catrina in his lap, holding a beer. She tries to get Purcell to drink, but he stomps off in a sulk. Later he and she text angry comments back and forth, leaving her feeling guilty.

Kid Kafka takes a quick look around and locates a secret safe using his heightened senses. He also notes an above average security system, which features two dozen sensor arrays. Clearly, Lloyd is not an ordinary geology professor.

Then comes the end of the session.

End of Session Moves

- Kid Kafka feels like he grew as a person, thanks to his interaction with the team and especially Mary Beth Banes.
- Infamous Wasp feels more dangerous after taking on the gang for 5 minutes solo, so he takes a rank in Freak.
- La Catrina feels like she grew apart from the team because of the argument with the “square ass Urkel wanna-be” the Infamous Wasp.