

Freak Watch

A *Masks* Campaign

Session Five

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.

Los Muertos to Centipede to Junior Musto

The group decided last night to tackle their list of known problems by starting with Junior Musto... to hunt him as the most dangerous element in the criminal gene pool. Their plan is to hit the hangouts of his known associates the Los Muertos, a motorcycle gang, and then find leads on Centipede, which will lead to Musto.

Los Muertos are known criminal associates of the Zeta Cartel... and for more recently for Junior Musto. But it is not clear if Junior Musto is working for the Zeta Cartel or himself.



They visit a number of places before arriving at El Ojo Hambrientos (The Hungry Eye) bar, a moderate sized brick building with boarded up windows. Outside are several Los Muertos gang members with bats. Infamous Wasp scouts the exterior and reports back. Kid Kafka extends his super senses to search for Centipede inside the building, which works until someone inside blasts Tejano music. Kid Kafka collapses; his team mates find him in fetal ball with a cocoon slowly growing out of him and around him.

Infamous Wasp keeps an eye on Kid Kafka, while La Catrina dons an illusion disguise to penetrate the building... the gang knows her and considers her an enemy, so she goes blonde. She demands entry thru the front door, but the guards demand a bribe. She summons an illusory cop car

rounding the corner. The guards are unimpressed as the local cops are “on the payroll”, so she doubles down... the “cop” gets out and points his gun at the gang members. La Catrina uses the distraction to punch a guard; he sees it coming and catches the punch. She tries one more time and summons the “ripper roach”; the guard runs for it and the cop drives off... both in complete panic.

She enters the bar disguised as the guard, looks around the bar past the many gang members, and spots the Centipede whose drinking six shots one for each hand. La Catrina sits down besides Centipede who says, “I’m pretty sure I said not interested twice already. Hard of learning?” La Catrina whispers revealing her true identity... the pair go to a back room. The other gang members start clapping at La Catrina/guard's luck with Centipede then fall silent at Centipede's glare.

La Catrina uses her influence over Centipede (she had previously let her go rather than turn her over to police) to get a lead on Junior Musto, who’s clearly dangerous to Centipede, the Zetas, and the Los Muertos. Centipede agrees but wants a payoff, because a girl has to eat. Catrina offers, “if we take out Junior, then you get to lead.”

Centipede reveals, “Junior was going to use that hover car you stole to bomb Newton across the river. And Los Muertos gets to loot the rumble. Lots of rich people and scientists with illegal projects over there. The Zetas like this plan because SKULL and Limbo take a major hit. And that hurts Santa Prisca's drug trade, direct competition with the Zetas, because they're running drugs thru here with help from SKULL and Limbo.”

She continues, “And the Zetas want Arbie Twain's mind control gas, which SKULL is planning on manufacturing and weaponizing here in Hub City. The Zetas want to alter the formula and sell it to their customers... solely for recreational purposes.”

La Catrina convinces Centipede that Junior Musto's failure (and capture) means she becomes boss... but then it’s back to business between the two. Centipede will send info on Junior Musto when she has it.

Outside Kid Kafka's cocoon is completed and hardens, so Infamous Wasp straps it to his Volkswagen bug. La Catrina returns and they drive off to see Mary Beth Banes at her university office, because she's a bug scientist and friend's with Kid Kafka. She agrees to see them after understanding that something is wrong with her friend, Ralph LaLone. Soon enough they are at the university's “bug” building and Dr Banes is examining the cocoon.

Later still, they are in Dr Banes’ lab looking at x-rays of the cocoon's interior. Not knowing how long he'll be in the cocoon, they decide to leave him in peace. Infamous Wasp writes out on large butcher paper the message, “Kid Kafka, you are safe. Call Infamous Wasp and La Catrina when you wake up! Don't panic. Left snack for you.” They leave a bag of Arby’s nearby.

La Catrina goes home to her mother's apartment. She enters to the smell of bad milk, groceries strewn in the kitchen and a her mother with alien black eyes, talking in an otherworldly voice, “The black blade... Give it back to Smorgas Corspe.”

La Catrina asks some questions and gets no answers. She teleports herself and her mother into the Haunted Mansion. The building shakes and the ghost of Meriwether Lewis appears, “What have you brought inside!” Mother is chanting in Latin. The pair teleports to the mother's Catholic church and the mother seems normal... no more alien voice and black eyes.

Infamous Wasp returns home and goes to bed. A few minutes later his dad wakes him for a “talk”, then he gets some alarming texts from La Catrina, and then Dr Banes calls that the cocoon is opening. Centipede calls La Catrina and tells her, “Newton is erecting a statue to Rhodes the founder of Hub City. Junior Musto is going to plant bombs in it and destroy the unveiling. They're going to hijack the transport and replace the staff/guards.”

New and Improved

The Kid uses powerful claws to cut his way out of the cocoon. Hunger pangs drive him to the cold mound of Arby's food, candy bars, and sodas. He eats them all then is attacking the snack machine when La Catrina teleports in and tracks him down. A bit later Infamous Wasp arrives and tracks them down to the Student Center kitchen. Kid Kafka is larger and more powerful in build.... and eating everything in the kitchen.

Everyone listens to La Catrina talk about her mother's possession by Satan... and Junior Musto's plan to blow up the Rhodes statue.

La Catrina teleports them to the park where the Rhodes statue is currently located. A crew is loading the statue onto a large truck flat bed. They wait for the loading to finish then stowaway behind the cab. A Humvee from the load site follows the loaded truck toward the new site. Kid Kafka's senses tells him that Major Disaster is in the Humvee.

Soon enough the rumble of motorcycles announces the Los Muertos' arrival. They rotate around the truck and attack it with hand weapons to encourage the driver to stop. That truck and the trailing truck stop. The Humvee too; Major Disaster emerges and walks forward to investigate. He glances at a non-descript section of the last truck covered by La Catrina's illusion, then continues forward.

Our heroes peek out from their hiding place. Major Disaster is arguing with Dayo. Further back behind Dayo is a military grade Humvee; Junior Musto is manning a heavy machine gun mounted atop that vehicle. Behind him is Centipede.

The trio talk quickly and move forward. Infamous Wasp rolls out from under a truck and stands up next to Major Disaster, “Let us handle these guys. You can deliver the statue and take the credit.” Major Disaster nods, “Ah, SKULL got to you guys too. <to the motorcycle gang> Stand down or die – I have friends... more friends than you can handle.”

La Catrina teleports and uses her illusion powers to put a 'gas attack' inside the military Humvee. Its occupants quickly exit yelling about “mind control” gas! She takes over the driver's position and takes off.

Kid Kafka use climbing and stealth powers to run along the truck tops and jump into the motorcycle gang's midst. He viciously punches a motorcycle into pieces; shrapnel hits La Catrina's brother Lalo, who's a member of the Los Muertos gang. Alarmed, the truck driver puts it in reverse and rams the Major's Humvee.

Infamous Wasp takes credit for it all, “See there, Major Disaster! We deliver.” He dodges

Junior's machine gun fire. La Catrina drives the military Humvee away from the hijack place at high speed. A robot, crackling with electricity, rises from the back seat. All this while screaming at Kid Kafka, "Don't hurt my brother!" The robot emits an expanding nimbus of electricity that bursts from the vehicle knocking passengers and bystanders off and down. The robot emerges from the wrecked vehicle.

Kid Kafka runs at the robot screaming, "Bomb! It's the bomb!" The robot catches him with a blast, paralyzing him. La Catrina teleports her brother, Lalo, and several others to the hospital. Infamous Wasp witnesses this, boards the truck and orders the trucker, "Run that robot down!" The driver complies! The truck hits the robot as it is reaching for Kid Kafka with electricity arcing between its hands. It flies across the battle field.

Junior Musto is firing a laser pistol into Major Disaster's force field who replies back with a force wave that hits the apartment building further back... it shakes violently.

La Catrina teleports back. She uses illusions so that Junior flees the field after his dead father yells at him. Kid Kafka attacks the robot with a fire hydrant. Infamous Wasp tries to run down the robot fails and orders La Catrina to teleport Major Disaster away. She does so after a brief argument. Wasp flips the truck over onto the robot, pinning it.

Wasp emerges from the wrecked truck and heads to the fire hydrant to spray the robot. Instead, one gang member, then another, then three, and so on distract the angry martial artist.

La Catrina teleports back after leaving Major Disaster in Limbo's ruined warehouse. The apartment building collapses on one side. She screams at Wasp to help the people. Wasp shuts off his communicator. She summons illusions of The Warriors style gang members to fight the Wasp... and let the real gang members flee. They do so. She rescues apartment denizens.

Wasp's rage is penetrated by line of sight of the robot's ever increasing electrical energy. He tries to use water to short circuit the robot, but fails. He decides he is not the Question... he doesn't have to do it alone. He uses Lady Shiva's teaching of pressure points and Dragon Style kung fu to revive Kid Kafka. He points out the robot to Kid, who dons a pair of tires for insulating shoes, leaps upon the truck, and uses the Rhodes statue to crush the robot... and control its explosion into his own invulnerable body. Wasp rushes off to help La Catrina; Kid Kafka helps out a bit later.

The three work together and rescue the people from the collapsing apartment.

The End Of The Session

The trio arrive at the haunted mansion via the Wasp's Volkswagen bug. They are exhausted from their day. Wasp asks Catrina, "Ok, one more time. How did you let Satan into the mansion?" She sighs and tells it again. The mansion glows ominously as they eyeball it.

The end of session check list is run through.

Missions:

- Smorgus Corpse is after the shadowblade.

- Atomic Skull as an old scientist looking guy – plot to use Dr Tawayne's gas to fight Junior Musto.
- Lloyd Gage, university geologist and criminal, why did his safe contain tremor gauntlets?
- Junior Musto and his plot to poison the city's water.
- Dean, the band member, who always wears gloves.