

Baba Yaga/Баба Яга



She finds *Secret Agent Man*, by Johnny Rivers, to be amusing enough that she obtained a vinyl recording of it, and had the artist autograph it. Of course, it is mostly amusing because no one ever gave her a number and took away her name. Rather the reverse.

Reports of her activities began to circulate in the Russian security and intelligence communities in 2007, telling of a freelance operative who could be hired for a ridiculously cheap price considering the quality of her services. She was compared to a ghost, as not only was she never seen or caught, but nothing could be found out about her, despite all efforts. Those who hired her found out that she charged depending on what she thought of the mission, with certain acts being priced well beyond what the market could bear, and others done for the price of a cup of coffee. (A *good* cup of coffee, mind.)

And then she stole a certain secret that got the entire apparatus motivated to hunt her down and kill her stone dead ... and she not only escaped with her life, she arranged for all the people who took a shot at her to be arrested for other charges that each of them had thought no one would ever find out about, with proof positive tied up in a bow and presented to the courts. "She's not a ghost," said one of the victims of that week. "She's a witch. No, she's goddamned Baba Yaga, is what she is!" The name has stuck.

In 2012, she moved out of her haunts in Russia and Eastern Europe to pull a few jobs in Canada, specifically in Toronto. That naturally led to her crossing paths with **Paragon**, who stopped her from completing her final mission as it was a crime. She seemed unfazed by this development, and he naturally asked her why. "Because the job was actually to get in touch with you, and it looks like I've done that," she answered. And then she told him about an operation being conducted by agents of **the Emperor** in Vancouver, something that would be a bit much for **Darkwing**, but was definitely a job for -- he interrupted and asked how she knew about this, and she answered in one word.

"Argus."

When this got back to Argus, after Paragon took apart the Korean operation and Baba Yaga once more dropped out of sight, they were stunned. Not only had they *not* known anything about this plan, but they were sure that they had never recruited Baba Yaga, and that no one had ever been assigned as her handler. So, what was going on here? Who was this person and what were their sources of information? One of their top investigators, Helen Duncan, pledged to discover all this. In eight years, she has yet to produce results on this mission, but has done enough good work on other cases to keep the assignment, which she guards jealously.

Which is understandable, because it was for just this purpose that Baba Yaga created the identity of Helen Duncan and infiltrated Argus in 2007. This is how she works, with plans within plans within plans, and secrets piled on secrets. Those whom she has allowed to know as much as she lets anyone know about her believe that she operates towards understandable and even heroic ends, but none of them fully trust her, because of all the layers of secrecy she always has wrapped around herself.

The truth is that she is not from Earth ... not exactly. She came there from **the Sprawl**, once a megacity that existed somewhere on an alternate Earth in the mid-22nd century. Their world was dying, and so scientists in the Sprawl-to-be activated a device that tore them away from their world and into interdimensional space, from which they could access many worlds. But they did so only to steal the resources that they needed to keep themselves and their civilization running.

All that happened long before she was born, as one of a numbered, nameless group of clones intended to be trained as corporate security. Demonstrating her excellence, she was enhanced with cybernetics and biotechnology that turned her into a super-being and sent on mission after mission. She never failed. Finally, she was given the assignment of being sent undercover on the World Less Magical, to begin their campaign of resource theft there as well.

But what no one knew was that she had developed a mind of her own, and an increasing disgust for the way that her world did things. She intended to defect to the civilization to which she was sent. Unfortunately, that turned out to be Russia, and her attempts to alert them to the situation were ignored. Frustrated, she embraced her role as a spy, and embarked on the

adventures that led to her being given the name Baba Yaga. (She likes it, incidentally.)

She is still in contact with her superiors in the Sprawl, who only care that she produces good intelligence and will allow her to do as she likes as long as she continues to do so. So, she does that, and continues to receive access to the chemical supplements that allow her to subsist on local food, which would normally be toxic to her. Obtaining a secondary source of these is one of her goals, but she is not sure who to trust with the knowledge that she needs them. What she really wants is to make a balance that allows the Sprawl to gain enough resources to keep its population alive, while not allowing them to turn this world into a lifeless husk like all the others. And there are plenty of people, on both sides, who would kill her outright if they knew what was going on.

Well ... she knew the job was dangerous when she took it.

Baba Yaga - PL 11

Abilities:

STR 5 | STA 6 | AGL 6 | DEX 6 | FGT 10 | INT 3 | AWE 6 | PRE 1

Powers:

Impossibly Fast: Enhanced Advantages 5 (Close Attack 3, Improved Initiative 2), Quirk (Close Attack is only enhanced against targets with a lower Initiative total); Enhanced Defenses 4 (Dodge 2, Parry 2); Quickness 4; Speed 4 (30 MPH) - 16 points

Master of Disguise: Continuous Morph 2 (humans of her size), Activation (Standard Action), Check Required (Deception, DC 17), Easily Removable (-0 point) - 3 points

Otherworldly Senses: Enhanced Advantages 2 (Defensive Roll, Uncanny Dodge); Senses 5 (accurate hearing, danger sense, direction sense, time sense) - 7 points

Striking Strength: Strength-based Damage 2, Improved Critical 2 - 4 points

Advantages:

All-out Attack, Benefit 5 (Alternate Identity 3, Cipher 2), Close Attack 2/5, *Defensive Roll*, Diehard, Equipment 5, Evasion 2, *Improved Critical 2 (unarmed)*, Improved Defense, Improved Initiative 2, Power Attack, Ranged Attack 4, Redirect, Set-Up, Takedown, *Uncanny Dodge*

Equipment:

Utility Belt: Array (16 points)

- **Tear Gas Pellets:** Ranged Cloud Area Affliction 4 (Resisted by Fortitude; Dazed and Vision Impaired, Stunned and Vision Disabled, Incapacitated), Extra Condition - 16 points.
- **Bolos:** Ranged Cumulative Affliction 5 (Resisted by Dodge, Overcome by Damage; Hindered and Vulnerable, Defenseless and Immobile), Extra Condition, Limited Degree - 1 point.
- **Explosives:** Ranged Burst Area Damage 5 - 1 point.
- **Cutting Torch:** Linked Damage 5; Linked Weaken Toughness 5, Affects Objects - 1 point.

- **Flash-Bangs:** Ranged Burst Area Cumulative Affliction 4 (Resisted and Overcome by Will; Impaired, Disabled, Unaware) - 1 point
- **Pepper Spray:** Close Cumulative Affliction 4 (Resisted by Fortitude; Dazed & Vision Impaired, Stunned & Vision Disabled, Vision Unaware), Extra Condition - 1 point
- **Sleep Gas Pellets:** Ranged Cloud Area Affliction 5 (Resisted and Overcome by Fortitude; Fatigued, Exhausted, Asleep) - 1 point.
- **Smoke Pellets:** Ranged Cloud Area Visual Concealment Attack - 1 point

Skills:

Acrobatics 6 (+12), Athletics 6 (+11), Deception 12 (+13), Expertise: Military 6 (+9), Expertise: Streetwise 6 (+9), Insight 4 (+10), Intimidation 7 (+8), Perception 6 (+12), Ranged Attack: Bolo 3 (+9), Stealth 8 (+14), Technology 11 (+14), Vehicles 5 (+11).

Offense:

Initiative +14

Unarmed +15/+12 (Close Damage 7, Crit 18-20)

Bolo +13 (Ranged Affliction 5, Resisted by Dodge)

Defense:

Dodge 14/12, Parry 14/12, Fortitude 9, Toughness 8/6, Will 9.

Totals:

Abilities 86 + Powers 30 + Advantages 27 + Skills 40 + Defenses 15 = 196 points

Offensive PL: 11

Defensive PL: 11

Resistance PL: 9

Skill PL: 9

Complications:

Justice (But Whose?)--Motivation. Hunted by the Authorities. Secret Identity (several). **Weakness** (must consume chemical supplements.)

Update 2021: After leading a group of operatives back to the Sprawl to prevent it from coming under the rule of **Nephren-Ka**, Baba Yaga has met **the woman** in whose image she was created, who has pledged to end the exploitative practices of the Sprawl. She has also provided Baba Yaga with the formula for her chemical supplements, so that she no longer needs to obtain them from sources there. Baba Yaga suspects (correctly) that this is a scheme to get her out of the way, and is keeping an eye on her "mother".

Update 2022: In the aftermath of **the Anachronic Calamity** (which for her involved a journey to a place called Metropolis, far in the future) the Sprawl has been deposited on the World in the Aftermath. Baba Yaga has made a headquarters for herself in the city state, but spends most of

her time abroad. While she would like to support efforts to replace the corporate state, she believes that she is probably too compromised to offer meaningful assistance, and chooses instead to focus on ensuring the safety of the world that the revolution will hopefully inherit. (Improve her Acrobatics to 7 [+13], Athletics to 7 [+12], Deception to 14 [+15], Expertise: Streetwise to 8 [+11], Insight to 6 [+12], Intimidation to 8 [+9], Perception to 7 [+13], and Ranged Attack: Bolo to 6 [+12]), and add Expertise: Dimensional 7 [+10] to her skills.) She was also recently surprised to be offered a chance to join **the Powerhouse**, but turned it down ... though not before making a pact with Tanelornian hero **Mechano** to make sure that **the one who joined in their place** will not be able to betray the group.

*I'm the one they would break
In their greed and their pride
But deep in my heart
I feel love so alive
In the depths of my soul
I know we will survive*