

## The Mechano Terrorist

*Bush era.*

Derosier “Derry” Resnick, Masters in Foreign Relations, is one of the most powerful men on earth whose name nobody knows. He’s an analyst for the National Security Council, his job is to summarize intelligence reports his superiors will never read. He gets to decide if a rogue state is a threat to US security interests, or whether their moderate regime is ready to become a trusted ally. He tells the Joint Chiefs and the President’s advisors and they treat what he says as the truth.

Unknown to him, Derry was shot and killed by a sniper on his second tour in Iraq. His skin and several of his organs were used by a Mechanomancer to create a clockwork imitation. That imitation was supposed to go back to friendly lines and explode at the most inappropriate time, furthering the mage’s campaign of revenge against Coalition forces for killing his robot son.

Unfortunately for the wizard, he got some bad information in the training data he used for the clockwork. Without regular access to the internet, troops in the sandbox circulated discs, and later USB sticks, loaded with gore, pornography and music. The sorcerer used these to quickly teach his clockworks how to act like American soldiers, but also to set musical triggers that would cause their implanted bombs to detonate. Derry was supposed to explode when he heard *Chase the Clouds Away*, a bootleg of an unreleased demo from Tom Waits’ 1993 musical score for *The Black Rider*. The mage had no way of knowing this was a song nobody listened to when it came out, and fewer people played in the following decades.

The cyborg corpse-soldier went undetected. Went home to his family. Went to school on the GI bill. Got a job at a gray, nondescript neocon think tank, went through the revolving door into federal employment. He spent the last decade within exploding distance of the most important people in the United States, including three presidents.

**Personality:** Code switches between cheerful vulgarity and precise, machine-like focus.

**Rage:** Traffic. Take the metro everywhere and you forget how awful the Beltway is.

**Noble:** Explaining things patiently.

**Fear:** Being attacked from behind (Unnatural)

**Obsession:** Decide what the truth is.

**Wound Threshold:** 50

**Intelligence Analyst 60\*%:** Of course I can read half a dozen languages, decide if someone is a threat to US security interests, spin (Subs Knowledge, Evaluates Violence, Subs Lie)

**Iraq Veteran 60%:** Of course I can carry heavy objects, stay alert after hours doing nothing, avoid attention from superiors (Subs Notice, Protects Helplessness, Provides Firearm Attacks)

| Notches  | Helplessness | Isolation | Self | Unnatural | Violence |
|----------|--------------|-----------|------|-----------|----------|
| Hardened | 3            | 3         | 3    | 1         | 4        |
| Failed   | 3            | 3         | 3    |           | 2        |

**Appearance:** Youthful but unmistakably in his mid forties.

**Possessions:** A house in Bethesda, a SmarTrip card, a minivan. A bomb organ that deals firearms damage to everyone in the room.

## WHAT YOU HEAR

Derry doesn't know he's a corpse-cyborg. He was kind of a fuckup before he enlisted and everyone liked him better after he came back, ascribing any personality changes either to his gaining emotional maturity or traumatic brain injury from explosions. His mechanical components are made from ceramics and nonferrous metals. A powerful x ray could find them but your typical metal detector or TSA scanner won't. Parts of him age faster than others. His teeth and eyes will never break down but his skin has acquired wrinkles and spots by virtue of being real and taken from a human. His artificial skeleton causes him occasional joint pain.

Derry is the kind of guy who would have been dealt with by TNI or the Sleepers back in the glory days. Nobody wants an anti-magick pogrom after the president gets blown up by a clockwork wizard. But it's been twenty years since they had the kind of muscle necessary to protect the Oval Office from occult threats. He's one Youtube recommendation away from decapitating the Executive branch.

Derry's creator was killed by ISIS assassins in 2014, probably working off an old Ba'athist intelligence list. Or, something that looked a lot like him died when they bombed his storefront. Derry was a prototype of the mechanomancer's clockwork skin stealing tech. And Derry contains components the wizard can't replicate after giving up the relevant memories - spare parts he needs for his own cyborg body. Wrapped in his new skin (one of a handful of interpreters evacuated to the United States), the old mage needs those spare parts to survive.