

Week 1

It is June 30th, 2034. The weather in I Re, king of cities and city of kings, is a balmy 103 degrees, with air quality best described as “almost breathable”. **Valerie Levesque** (Create /Weird - transmutes coupons into items) and her uncle **Benny Levesque** (Durable/Shift, burns through a week’s worth of food to be very strong for 30 seconds) arrive for a meeting with Carne (Shift, detaches body parts at will), their favorite failed NFT scam artist.

Benny 06/30/2023 12:24 PM

Benny successfully fights off the instinct to bang on the door and yell "I know you're in there, Carne you son of a bitch." which is how many people usually approach Carne's apartment.

The hopes raised by seeing the *startlingly* decent apartment building are instantly smashed when Carne opens the door, revealing a half-finished room filled with plastic sheeting, unfurnished except for two plastic lawn chairs, and entirely unlit.

Benny inspects the unpowered fridge (one room temperature beer, half a pizza [green] and one orange [green]) and Valerie does her best to avoid having to talk to Carne (who, as always, talks very quickly about nothing in particular) until **Mino “The Bit” Puglisi** (Zap/Think - eidetic memory and a psychic drill) accidentally knocks him over with the door.

Carne falls apart like a jenga tower

"Wow! What a way to greet a friend!" he laughs

The Bit 06/30/2023 12:44 PM

"i forgot you had that power and was briefly extremely alarmed." he says, having eidetic memory and not sounding alarmed

Last to arrive is **Suede Watling, “Mother Rebar”** (Ace/Shift, hears the city and it acts through her).

Mother Rebar 06/30/2023 12:52 PM

I am assuming everyone else got here very early, based on personality or at least a little early

because my character is certainly Punctual

Valerie Lévesque 06/30/2023 12:54 PM

I cannot believe we all just willingly decided to spend more time in Carne's apartment

With the PCs collected, Carne puts himself back together on the floor and starts talking - in 5 weeks, Locus International is launching the passenger rocket to their orbital habitat, Demeter-3, and for one reason or another every PC wants to disappear: Valerie and Benny have an unfortunate family relation with the supervillain who destroyed Sicily with a plague of werewolves (and are decently certain Interpol is after them), Mino's future human psychic brain

has an *exact* mental countdown to when Earth will become uninhabitable, and the city is hammering on Mother Rebar's head to go up.

A 6-person Ticket to the station costs \$100,000,000, and each one is marked with the faces, retinas, and fingerprints of the people allowed aboard. Trusted members of Locus's "External Affairs Division" get a free ticket up, but that's it.

With Carne's help, the scheming begins: every PC would rather die than act as a corporate boot, the last person who tried to stow away was Standard Bearer, who ended up spending six months in an External Affairs cell, and while Carne knows about a local philanthropist who has a ticket, editing it to have their faces seems... troublesome.

So, the money. You can make a hundred million dollars in a month, right?

Maybe not legally, but Carne has an idea - the First and the Last, a technomonarchist paramilitary, *probably* have that much money somewhere, and it should be easier to rob them than a bank. Even better, he knows the address to an apartment safehouse of theirs, which should have a lead or two. At the very least, the dozen Inchworm Couriers™ delivery drones that enter through the window every day, never to leave, should be worth a bit.

they've got all these great ideas - the "movement tax", the "agile mayor", the "cryptocurrency policing triangle"

He also offers the help of his roommate/renter, the "“renowned”" thief called, currently, until the cops catch up with him again, The Lion of Paris (or, to hear him say it, "Paireeeeeeeez"). He's a minor teleporter - shifting small objects directly into the palm of his hand. And, he's got a map of the apartment.

The PCs and Lion head out into the smog, buying the cheapest available quadcopter on the way to the safehouse, walking *carefully* on the side of the eight-lane highways. They perch on an alleged "bench" by the apartment, and then Benny takes the drone to the skies.

Archon's Court 07/06/2023 1:34 PM

fortunately, the Modern Drone has enough auto-orientation, auto-steering, and other auto-s in it that you can fly it without issue (edited)

Benny 07/06/2023 1:35 PM

I bet the planned obsolescence is also cutting edge

Archon's Court 07/06/2023 1:36 PM

it may or may not melt itself in the next week 😊

He scouts the apartments - the safehouse has a pair of people holding *butterfly nets* behind the window, waiting to catch more drones. East has someone cooking, west appears empty, the one below is throwing an Entire Party at 1 PM on a Thursday, and someone who sure has the Vibes of a First and the Last goon is knocking on the door of the apartment across the hall.

The people there open the door and happily greet the goon with guns poking out of their waistbands. The players wait for the imminent gunfight, and are deeply disappointed when it turns out they're all comrades.

Bored of scouting, the group heads into the building and up the stairs to the seemingly empty neighboring apartment, improv together a lie about HVAC inspection, and wiggle open the door with a credit card.

Benny 07/06/2023 2:21 PM

We're breaking into somebody's house. 😊

They loudly announce their lie, wake up the sleeping tenant, and then lunge across the living room to attack him, screaming a *new* lie about the "Italian-American Socialist Revolutionary Front" as they tie him up in his blankets and then steal the \$25 they find in his wallet.

With their "forward operating base secured", they throw open a window and toss their drone back out, letting it get captured by the net-goons. The drone is carried through the apartment, showing that it's *crammed* - four people in the bedroom daring each other to drink bong water, four in the living room, and someone in the bathroom with a pile of quadcopters, tangle of wires, a safe and tupperware container full of some kind of modeling clay.

The bombmaker is possibly the only sober person in the building - she shouts "The camera, dipshit!" and tosses a towel over the drone, though the PCs still hear the start of an argument and something about "Horsefly" coming soon.

Benny 07/06/2023 3:07 PM

"I don't think we should kidnap a person, while we're at it."

this is going to come up later

Now even more bored of scouting, the players make their move - Valerie hides in the hallway clutching a coupon for 15% off a car rental, the Bit focuses his psychic energies on the safehouse lock, and Benny tears the tenant's fridge off the wall, then walks effortlessly through the drywall and into the safehouse.

He then trips over a technomonarchist pamphlet and crashes through the couch, the table, and the TV before picking himself back up and catapulting one goon into the adjoining apartment with a slap from the fridge.

The Bit *immediately* decides he doesn't actually need to do anything about the safehouse lock and runs in through the hole in the wall to start drilling open the bathroom safe, heedless of the person right next to it.

The Lion of Paris follows, warping the bombmaker's gun out of her belt and firing into the ceiling.

"This is a communist robbery, or something. Everybody on the floor."

Of course, at this point everyone has noticed everything. The crowd of extra goons in the apartment across from the safehouse try to swarm the hallway, only to be blocked by Valerie tearing the car rental coupon in half and manifesting an entire car bumper and radiator assembly wedged in front of the door.

The four stoned walking failures stumble out of the bedroom, baseball bats in hand, and instantly *deck* the Lion of Paris hard enough to knock him unconscious before pummeling Benny.

uh

i don't think it was weed they were smoking 🤔

In the bathroom, the bombmaker slaps a handful of wires into the tupperware container while howling about the Damn Bureaucrats - and from outside the apartment, Valerie sees a bright teal van marked "Diamond Electrics" pull into the parking lot, and a man hop out of it dressed for a warzone. A Helmet, a rifle, even a bulletproof vest spray painted with a yellow crown.

At this point, the players are completely panicking. While Valerie searches her pockets for an Inchworm-branded Self-Driving Pod Voucher, Benny decides to simply crash through the *bathroom* wall and grab the safe, bowling over the bombmaker as he goes. He sweeps up the maimed Lion in his other hand and then everyone *jumps out the window* to get outside before Valerie tears the voucher and they are instantly "driven" a few miles down the streets of the city.

Scrambling off the street and into an alleyway, the players take a couple tries at forcing the Lion to roll his death saves before giving up and using their sole \$20 medkit to bandaid the sides of his skull back together.

Fortunately, the safe has \$2,000, a sheaf of papers, and another 10 pounds of C4 - which, at the end of the campaign, I can say was maybe a "questionable" item to hand to a group of PCs.

After a couple instantaneous coupon-powered spa treatments and chucking the safe into the nearest dumpster, the PCs stumble back to Carne's damp, plastic-covered apartment.

he opens up the door nice and quick

"Hey, it's my favorite petty criminals! You're looking pretty well for doing what I thought you were."

"Ah, and you brought my roommate back to me, alive!"

he throws an arm over the Lion's shoulder, and the Lion flinches 😏

Benny 07/06/2023 4:38 PM

"Clubbed with a baseball bat. Happens to the best of us."

Archon's Court 07/06/2023 4:39 PM

Carne wanders past you to pick his arm back up

"Well! It's a good thing you're here to chip in for his hospital bills, isn't it?" (edited)

yes, I did put this whole conversation in here just for the "throws an arm over the Lion's shoulder" joke

The PCs unanimously refuse to pay a cent of medical bills.

Downtime

Go Away ran on something *approximating* a 1:1 schedule (within a single session this had already broken down, and by the end of the campaign we had an average of 2:1), where after every adventure, the PCs go to work at their “real” “human” “jobs”, torment local NPCs, stare at the newspaper, and similar.

That week, the First and the Last use the last of their C4 in a “minor” bombing at a political rally. Stock prices clatter around, and no one is arrested.

Mother Rebar is sent on a solo mission by Carne to find Standard Bearer, who tried to sneak up onto an earlier habitat. She finds her at the head of the Hounds of Vibo Valentia, a post-Italian street racing gang, and gets a job - Len Abbatelli, a famous philanthropist, has a ticket. The Hounds want to blackmail him, and will hand over \$1000 in exchange for anything compromising.

She spends a minute watching the Hounds event (where a man apparently named “Catfish” does donuts on a pair of motorcycles welded together, at least until they both catch fire), then heads out to spy. It seems that an armored car heads back and forth from Abbatelli’s house to some kind of inflatable bubble-facility hidden in an abandoned factory, and a huge metal crate is dragged out.

The crate *screeches*, constantly, like a set of gears crushing a cat. Mother Rebar sketches up a map of the compound, and then flees.

Benny searches for a decent getaway driver - and, since the group is now endeared to the Hounds, has no trouble getting the lanky Ermes to volunteer, along with his truck.

Mino trains with his psychic drill.

Valerie looks through the sheaf of papers stolen from the First and the Last - they’re a set of instructions for a bombing (which then *happens*) with a meeting point in an empty warehouse. She stakes the place out, noting that the Diamond Electrics van comes from time to time, along with a ridiculous-looking off-road Smart car.

Week 2

Having a map, guard schedule, and decently comprehensive knowledge of the site pulls the players towards the First and the Last warehouse and the two cars that stop there. However, the warehouse *itself* looks “scary”, and “probably full of gunmen”, so those cars soon become the focus.

Even better, the off-road eggmobile has a pair of people in *suits* inside - and anybody in a suit must be a good kidnapping target! The city tells Mother Rebar one of them is “herald of kings, giver of crowns, but not yet - above, perhaps”.

Ermes, their new getaway driver, is happy to help - apparently his hoodless, rust-covered, hole-filled old pickup truck can hit 250 miles an hour, “with a bit of shoving”, and he already has a route planned out that goes through three fences, six front yards, and a hotel lobby.

Of course, only one person can fit in the passenger seat of the truck, and Valerie draws the short straw.

"Congratulations!" Ermes grins as he hands you a nearly shattered helmet

Benny 07/13/2023 3:15 PM

lmao

Safety third!

Archon's Court 07/13/2023 3:15 PM

there are no seatbelts 😊

Benny 07/13/2023 3:16 PM

(Fun and Budgeting are #1 and #2)



Valerie 07/13/2023 3:16 PM

She buys her own ducktape as well

SHe will simply ducktape herself inside

Indulging in paranoia, the PCs buy sheets of metal mesh and tarp to try and make an ersatz Faraday cage, and then they all get together and hide around the corner from an intersection the Smart car has to pass through.

Benny 07/13/2023 3:00 PM

It's bizarre to me that this is the best conclusion we've arrived at.

When the car passes, the plan begins: first, the Lion reaches out and zoops the keys into his hand. The Anti-Theft Subscription Plan™ immediately panics now that the key RFID chip isn't in sight, and shuts down the engine. The Bit starts zapping holes in the windows and the passengers' guns,

"i am pro gun control." he one liners (?)

and then Benny slams a stop sign pole through the windows and drags it back, through the car's frame to wedge both occupants inside before tying it into a nice bow behind the car.

Ermes's truck shudders into the intersection, a pair of planks are thrown down as a ramp, and then Benny shoves the car up into the truck's bed.

Valerie 07/13/2023 3:48 PM

It actually went well????????????????

Straps are set, the tarp is thrown, and then Valerie reaches out and voucher-teleports the rest of the PCs out towards their rendezvous point in the desert - or at least, 15% of the way to the rendezvous point in the desert.

Then she tapes her helmet to her head and hops into Ermes's truck.

Valerie

"Do not kill us, I beg you"

Archon's Court 07/13/2023 3:56 PM

"No promises!"

Ermes slams his foot down on the Secret Fourth Pedal of his truck

the engine whirs, the tires screech, a little bit of the roof caves in, and you're somehow doing 200 miles an hour down this road

Valerie

She starts crying just a bit

Archon's Court 07/13/2023 3:57 PM

Ermes does too

"It's so beautiful!"

Valerie

"Where can I throw up"

Archon's Court 07/13/2023 3:57 PM

he points down to the footwell in front of the passenger's seat, which has a hole in it you could fit a person through

The truck roars past the rest of the PCs as they jog to the meeting point, the exhaust pipe glowing an unnerving white. When they finally arrive, they see Ermes staring calmly at the engine, which is consumed by flames.

he waves at you as you arrive and shouts **"It's good for the bearings!"**

Interrogating the pair of prisoners starts off easy, since they were both driven nearly to tears just by the ride out here. At Valerie's prompting, they hand over their phones and ID - the driver is just some guy, but the passenger is Quinn Tenant.

Mother Rebar

OH.

FUCK.

Forerunner of the Executive.

Valerie 07/13/2023 4:24 PM

This session feels like a fever dream

Head of the First and the Last.

Benny 07/06/2023 3:07 PM

"I don't think we should kidnap a person, while we're at it."

i told you it would come up later.

The PCs all debate the merits of simply shooting Tenant in the head immediately. In the passenger seat of the eggmobile, he smirks and clicks his metal fingertips together, drawling about how it's simply so *exciting* to be kidnapped now and again, and after all he's in no danger - you want something from him, so you won't kill him, and Horsefly's probably on his way already.

His superior attitude is almost immediately flattened by the Bit drilling a hole in one of his fingers. The entire party leans in to loom over him and demand their money - \$100,000,000, and you get to live.

Archon's Court 07/20/2023 1:20 PM

"I don't *have* a hundred million dollars."

"Do you think I'd be down here if I did?"

Everyone stares at each other, and then they decide that if they can't get their money out of Tenant, they can at least start arguing with him about politics. Tenant is the author of the First and the Last's ideology, and continues to follow it - the abolition of the bureaucratic government and replacement with a ""meritocratic"", autocratic Executive, someone who can make "the right decisions". Government positions acquired by bidding and signified with blockchain tokens, as a way to measure success in business, which is a way to measure *IQ*.

Mother Rebar 07/20/2023 1:47 PM

"I vote let the driver out because he just seems sad and then crushing the car with him inside it."

Hoping to find him more practical, the PCs start to lean on the driver. Give us information and we'll let you out. How much do you really care about your boss?

The driver starts to answer questions, and Tenant leaps for his throat, electric arcs crackling between his fingertip implants until the Bit puts two drill holes into the back of his head. Valerie *then* demands for the Lion to shoot him, which he gladly does. Twice.

The lightly-electrocuted driver is dragged out of the car window and instantaneously given half a dozen spa treatments by Valerie, then starts answering questions:

- Horsefly is some kind of Martial/Durable/something - faster than a person, bulletproof, climbs up walls. Nobody's ever seen his face.
- There are two more - "Tatterdemalion", who the driver says has been gone for weeks, and "Strychnine", who's just back in town. The former always appears as the least attention-grabbing person possible in a situation, the latter dissolves into poison fog on contact with air.
- Tenant has a *tracking implant* - everybody who can see the signal cut out from the faraday tarp will be on the way to check it out.

Whirling with plans, Valerie decides to pin this on the Hounds, not realizing Ermes is standing right behind her holding a tire iron and not understanding his attachment to some street racing org.

Valerie 07/20/2023 3:01 PM

Don't tell me Ermes is a fucking Hound

Archon's Court 07/20/2023 3:04 PM

he is the *archetypal* Hound

Benny said during downtime - "i want to find a getaway driver, maybe a Hound or something"

i've called him "an obvious Hound", "a Hounds guy", and "referee at that Hounds event"

Ermes makes sad looks at the PCs and tries his best to drag the eggmobile out of the back of his truck until they decide to do something else - the First and the Last expect them to hole up somewhere and hide, right? Well, what if they *attack*, instead?

Five pounds of C4 are taped to the top of their quadcopter, and Tenant's driver is pressed into setting up the eggmobile near the intersection, in exchange for never speaking to him or seeing him ever again. The drone sees Horsefly directing a crowd of monarchists, and a brick is tossed onto the eggmobile's gas pedal.

Horsefly sees the car, shouts "Car bomb!" and gets two shots off at the onrushing eggmobile before the drone bonks him on the back of the head and goes off. The drone instantly turns into a cloud of vaguely-associated silicon, so the players have no idea if their trick worked as they flee back to Carne's.

Benny

Are we... playing well?

Carne cackles at the news of a dead Tenant, a possibly-dead Horsefly, and a terrorized First and the Last; and the group's disappointment at not making it out with the money is helped somewhat by being invited into Ermes and Mother Rebar's ongoing blackmail scheme.

Off they go to Standard Bearer's apartment, with its incredible luxuries of "air conditioning", "working lights", and "furniture". Abbatelli hasn't paid up, so the Hounds are going to get more intense - they want *physical* evidence. DNA samples, witnesses, whatever else,

about the medical facility and its screaming box. And the PCs will make some great expendable goons.

In exchange, when the Hounds get their money, the PCs get their ticket. Everyone wins.

Downtime

Over the week, the city falls into chaos. The bomb that killed Horsefly (and it *did* kill him - first responders found pieces of chitin driven into the road) was the second fatal bombing in two weeks, and it's followed up by a leaderless First and the Last lashing out at anything they can see. By the end of the week there have been simultaneous arson attacks, the assassination of a state representative, and a dozen mail bombs sent to public figures. The I Re Municipal Police Department is out in force, and soon the National Guard will be too.

Mother Rebar abandons the plan to go up. The city needs her down here, now. The rest of the PCs never see her again.

Benny builds a weapon appropriate for his strength - a 5-slot cleaving assemblage of metal poles, chains, manhole covers, and danforth anchors.

Mino wants a *jetpack*. Fortunately, the superhero Designator (Create/Think) lives in town, and the website designatormap.com shows her exact address as a "joke" about exactly which people she could blow up with artillery if she wanted.

There's a "NO TRESPASSING | ACTIVE LANDMINES" sign in her front yard, but Mino trusts his future human psychic brain to lead him through safely, and it does. He has a pleasant-ish conversation with her through her locked front door, where she talks about being surveilled, lonely, and unable to leave - especially after the last couple bombings, it's a bad time to be a walking explosives factory.

Mino volunteers to go and get her a pet fish (the automated packing algorithms have trouble understanding that they have to breathe water), and has a whimsical time crossing the eight-lane highways and crossing the new police checkpoints.

Mino 08/02/2023 10:43 AM

(does I Re have... zebra crossings? 🙄)

i am aware this is possibly wishful thinking

Archon's Court 08/02/2023 10:44 AM

yeah, in some places

the cops can't stand them since they make it harder to reach their ticket quota (if there's no crosswalk, you just sit there and wait for people to jaywalk [since they have to] and then ticket them, or whack their head into a curb a couple times if you feel like it)

In return, he is given an absolute *contraption* - a Spongebob Squarepants backpack pierced through with tubes, wires, and a magazine of six cone-shaped charges above a pusher plate. His own little Project Orion.

Valerie sends Designator an unlabeled gift basket, not knowing Mino has already met her. Designator then calls Mino, and knowing it isn't from him, shoves it off her porch with a long pole. She also collects the phone number of a First and the Last bombmaker from Carne and buys a bow before settling in to spy on yet another building - this time, the medical facility.

While flying another cheap drone around, she sees another superhero in a patchy jacket with a stocking over his face standing in thin air and staking out the same building. She uses the drone to fly a note to him, and then they talk.

He is "Lucent" - able to treat air as glass and vice versa, and as far as Valerie can tell he's entirely *altruistic*. No one is paying him to do something about this, he just saw a set of inflatable domes and a crate with a screeching monster inside and decided someone had to Do Something.

The players are all completely terrified at the idea that he is a "good" person who does things to "help" "people", and immediately plot to shoot him in the back of the head.

Week 3

To replace Mother Rebar, Carne makes the *deeply* questionable decision to bring his ex-girlfriend, of all people, into this scheme. **Praxis** (Perceive/Fly) has read exactly the right combination of Marxist texts to become able to float into the air and see “counterrevolutionary behavior” through walls.

Unfortunately, Ermes is gone to reinforce the Hounds in their new fight with the First and the Last, so the players, the Lion, and Lucent have to walk through the rain to the outskirts of the city and the ruined factory Abbatelli’s hospital is hidden in.

Benny had fallen asleep in one of Carne’s lawnchairs and missed the call to leave.

Valerie descends into the sewers and sets three pounds of C4 under the factory floor as the rest of the PCs ascend an adjacent building and send Praxis and Lucent to affix a zipline to the factory’s roof.

Archon's Court 08/03/2023 3:06 PM

Praxis sails into the air, and Lucent steps off the side of the roof and starts walking

after a second he realizes "walking, down a flight of stairs, made of smooth glass, in the rain, at night" is a bad idea, sits down, and slowly slides down a sheet of glass to the factory

Inside are more than a dozen guards standing around the inflatable domes of the hospital proper, smoking and sulking in the rain. Just as many are asleep in a tent, waiting for the day shift.

Praxis looks down with her counterrevolutionary sense while the rest of the group zipline across to the roof.

when you're able to focus past Valerie (who is doing to your sixth sense what staring directly at the sun does to your eyes) there's a real bad Vibe from the two western domes

Given that one of those domes is making the woodland-critters-thrown-in-a-woodchipper noise of the metal crate, this is not particularly necessary information.

Mino cuts a hole in the dome with his drill, and the players descend on a rope, guns at the ready to terrify the five clean-suited people inside. The researchers’ electric harpoon guns and IDs are pilfered before the PCs look up at the thing in the crate.

A “werewolf”, like the ones released on Sicily (by Valerie and Benny’s relatives, inconveniently). A once-person covered in eyelash-like hairs, with its face dragged over to the side of its head. It’s chained to a bed and covered in drills, all leeching Life Fluids into tubes and off into the complex.

The PCs take a few photos, but *really* don't feel like staying around any longer. In a panic, they hack through the plastic bubble-wall, drag the werewolf on its wheeled bed to the side of the factory, and toss two pounds of C4 at the factory wall.

Just before they voucher-teleport, they see a flickering green light and a fireworks screech punch up through one of the domes. And then they vanish, landing in the middle of a busy intersection with the screaming werewolf between them.

Archon's Court 08/03/2023 4:45 PM

somebody's *probably* going to call the cops

well, that's a bit unclear

"everybody who can see you" is "definitely" going to call the cops

Waving guns and molotov cocktails, they hijack a van (spraypainting the owner's phone number on the side and promising to bring it back) and flee down the road.

The Bit 08/03/2023 4:50 PM

"sorry pal. government business. usa government." the

Bit says, putting on an american accent

"usa molotov government." he mumbles

The Lion slams the van down a 30 mph residential street at one hundred and twenty, and after about ten minutes the flashing green fire is visible in the sky once again. Praxis takes a shot with a stolen harpoon gun, and not only does she miss, the bolt turns around and flies back towards her, thunking into the road.

Valerie is more successful, hitting with an arrow tipped with a coupon for six shots of liquor. The fire veers, stumbles, and a synthesized voice roars threats from inside. This is "Scion" (Fly/Martial/Zap), a member of the charity superhero team known as the White Lily Society.

She tears a streetlight up from the side of the highway without touching it and then, drunk off her case, completely whiffs at impaling the van with it. The PCs demand that the Lion stop the van, and he does, before missing with a harpoon of his own.

Valerie 08/10/2023 1:34 PM

Lion is given a disappointed Val look

He's being judged real hard rn

This is like that one time when he selfishly got his skull smashed in and expected medical aid

Archon's Court 08/10/2023 1:35 PM

he's a thief 😏

he'd be doing great if you wanted a bag of diamonds from
some museum

A bullet from Praxis's handgun pings off Scion's helmet, so Mino decides to try a less conventional tactic. Holding a fire extinguisher in one hand and the control lever for his "jetpack" in the other, he stumbles out of the back door of the van and hits the button.

One charge drops, and a second later it goes off, throwing Mino into the air like he'd just been punted by a giant. At the top of his screaming, uncontrolled arc, he pulls the trigger on the fire extinguisher. The flying Scion's air intakes draw in clouds of fire extinguishing dust. The green fire sputters a bright yellow and her loudspeakers howl static. Blinded, coughing, drunk, and struggling to remain airborne, she retreats straight up into the night.

Mino flails at the control lever again and hits the button to drop the descent charge. It goes off with a crackling bang and a feeling like someone's pulled his skeleton out through the bottom of his feet, but slows his descent enough that he *only* goes sprawling across the pavement when he lands.

As the PCs pile into the van and try driving at sneaky, "legal" speeds, the werewolf stops screaming. Valerie starts administering spa vouchers to it to keep it calm, and keeps doing so until ten minutes later, when the Lion points out a police helicopter in the sky, and the werewolf sits up, instantly snapping the steel cable holding it. It turns its neck a full 360 degrees to look at everyone in the van, but doesn't move.

The Lion would like to be driving a *little* faster, but Valerie would prefer to stay under the speed limit to avoid the helicopter. He jerkily accelerates, then brakes, then accelerates, until he looks into the eyes of the werewolf in the rear view mirror and just leans Right Onto the gas pedal.

I Re police procedure threw out all that "deescalation" and "talking" years ago, so when the helicopter notices them, the cops immediately start shooting. A police sniper puts a round right through the Lion's chest, out his back, and then through the floor of the van.

Praxis throws a molotov into the helicopter's side door while Mino drills holes in the windshield, and before long the pilot decides it's time to back off. Mino, with the best INT bonus, tries to make medicine checks to keep the Lion alive, and... fails.

The Bit 08/10/2023 2:50 PM

"if i dont get into space i am going to start hunting cops."

the Bit informs the car

"for sport."

Valerie 08/10/2023 2:53 PM

"Ugh. I won't join in, but I'll, I don't know, fund you a bullet or something. I suppose Lion was somewhat useful, sometimes, and all that" she almost lets emotions break through, but catches herself

"A good man, when he wasn't busy getting hit in the head"

The Bit 08/10/2023 2:53 PM

"val you gotta get some therapy."

"you got a voucher for that?"

Valerie 08/10/2023 2:53 PM

"I just visit a boardgame club in my mind whenever I feel sad"

No one else jumps out of the woodwork to menace the PCs before they arrive at the meeting point with the Hounds, who are *mildly* unnerved.

Archon's Court 08/10/2023 3:12 PM

the hounds slowly nod and then go look in the back of the van

Archon's Court 08/10/2023 3:13 PM

"Yeah. That's... the whole thing. Were you asked to get the whole thing? We didn't hear anything about the whole thing."

The guard ID badges (all labeled "Valentine Group"), pictures of the room, and the werewolf are foisted upon the Hounds while Valerie drags Lucent off to the side to maybe threaten? him.

"After this is over you can go back home knowing this poor creature is in a better place than it was a few hours ago, delete my phone number from your phone and never think about what you saw in this lot ever again, ok?"

She claps him on the shoulder a couple times in a reassuring manner

Archon's Court 08/10/2023 3:44 PM

Lucent jerks around expecting to find Praxis sneaking up behind him with a knife and when he doesn't, he just starts running away 😊

Valerie 08/10/2023 3:45 PM

"I'm glad we didn't have to kill him" she says despite the fact she was the only one who ever suggested it

As they walk away from the meeting, the Bit calls the police with a fake accent to get them to pick up Lion's body and the lightly-shot van. Valerie returns to the sewers and regains her three pounds of C4, and then everyone goes home.

Downtime

Our headlines for the week are:

- "FIRST AND THE LAST" LIEUTENANT KILLED IN ANIMAL ATTACK
- POLICE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SUSPECTS IN ATTACK ON HOSPITAL + CONFLICT WITH THE WHITE LILY SOCIETY + MURDER OF A POLICE OFFICER - this comes with nearly incomprehensible pictures: a mask with something that kind of looks like a hammer and sickle if you squint, a woman with Ronald Reagan's head firing arrows into the air, a guy in a suit who, through the rain and the dark, might just have no head at all?
- GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES - NATIONAL GUARD BROUGHT TO IRE

a still from a traffic camera video of the burning police sniper falling to his death is used as the cover for 304 AI-generated albums by the end of the night

Benny spends his downtime getting drunk and watching TV to think about something other than dead people.

Valerie gets a call from Standard Bearer - the blackmail is working. Abbatelli plans to meet at the top of the kilometer-tall YN Tower to hand over three hundred million dollars. This is the most obvious trap anyone has ever come up with. Standard Bearer wants the PCs for security detail.

Also, apparently, the penthouse of YN Tower is built to be able to fly using a zeppelin. In case that happens and she needs to shoot down a zeppelin, Valerie holds Designator's mailman at *gunpoint* to get to the front door of her house, at which point they both realize they have a mutual friend in Mino.

In exchange for \$2,000 placed into Designator's bomb-suited hand, Valerie gets another war crime in a box - some kind of magnesium flechette cluster-mortar made specifically to put a thousand burning holes in a helium envelope.

Then, she goes to bother Carne about Arbitrator (Ace/Brawn/Durable/Perceive, weapons he uses cannot cause collateral damage), another member of the White Lily Society - that collateral damage power would probably instantly disarm the mortar if he got his hands on it.

Unfortunately, Carne is asleep in a puddle of beer on the floor of his apartment. So, Valerie decides to torment him with hellish visions.

Valerie

In that case, she will instead use up a coupon that gives her a set amount of free hours off a driving course and tear them for Carne, so that he experiences the *impression* of crashing cars drunk out of his mind as a driving instructor screams at him. Hopefully that at least wakes him up

Once Carne's returned to something adjacent to consciousness, he drags out his file on Arbitrator - including both pictures of his apartment in the WLS tower, and pictures of a house he takes a helicopter to from time to time. If he still follows his schedule, he should be taking another trip in a couple days.

Armed with this information, Valerie starts her plan: she calls the First and the Last bombmaker, telling them in excessive detail exactly what happened to Tenant and Horsefly - and that Arbitrator was to blame. Then she leaves them the address of Arbitrator's house and a set of edited "proof" images.

She camps out in the desert, waiting for the helicopter trip - and she is not disappointed. When the helicopter lands, a pickup truck hurtles over a rocky hill, lands on top of it, and then explodes. A fountain of burning metal is thrown into the air, and as Valerie flees back to town a second pickup truck full of First and the Last gunmen starts spraying bullets into the front of the house.

Mino gets a phone call from Carne, and gets the unfortunate job of telling him that the Lion of Paris is dead. He also hears about the YN Tower zeppelin, and wants absolutely nothing to do with it. So, he finds where it's being stored, creeps inside, and puts a thousand holes in it with his mind-drill.

Archon's Court 08/16/2023 8:11 PM

you have successfully defeated my upcoming setpiece 😊

Mino 08/16/2023 8:16 PM

Wait damn it 🙄

I didn't consider how cool the setpiece would be!!!

Fuck!!!!!!

Praxis flies up to YN Tower and makes a map of its penthouse, preparing for what is certain to be a gunfight.

Week 4

On the way to Standard Bearer's apartment, Valerie finds \$200 and a note in her pocket from **The Dreamer** (Perceive/Weird, drives around soul-ghosts that look forgettable and generic) offering to help. Standard Bearer, the PCs, six Hounds goons (including Hermes), and a huge crate are loaded into a convoy of sputtering, hissing Hound cars, including a box truck with "i hate right angles" spraypainted on one side.

the line of cars winds through town, "obeying" the "speed limits" as the buildings around you get taller, and taller only one of them has a catastrophic breakdown, and the piston that flew out of the engine *didn't* hit any pedestrians, so it's fine

Praxis flies up to the YN Tower's roof as the cars come to a stop in front of the lobby. The doormen insist that no weapons will be allowed inside, but they all decide not to say anything when the Hounds shove past them.

One Hound whistles and the crate stands up on a pair of scabbed-over legs and stumbles into the elevator, then they ascend.

Three people sit at a table in the penthouse, surrounded by marble pillars carved into the shape of trees - Len Abbatelli, a goon holding a violin case, and *Lucent*.

The faceless Dreamer, in the arithmetic mean of Abbatelli's suit and Benny's overalls, whispers in Valerie's ear - there are two SWAT teams in the stairwells, and the surviving members of the White Lily Society (Scion, Meteor, who drops rocks on people, and Ouija, who sprays ghosts at people) in the "observation room".

The case is opened - \$300,000,000, in modern \$1,000 bills. Standard Bearer knocks on the crate and the werewolf tears through it like a curtain. When Valerie goes to pick up the money, Abbatelli looks up at her; "I know you know what's going to happen. If you leave the money, you can just walk out."

Valerie does not take that deal.

Abbatelli hits a button under his desk and then drops to the floor as Praxis takes two shots at the back of his head from outside the building - one missing, the second killing him instantly.

Valerie assumes the man next to Abbatelli *must* be Arbitrator, so she shouts all kinds of terrible personal secrets at him while completely missing with an arrow.

And then, Lucent grabs the case full of money and jumps out the window. The White Lily Society bursts through the door - Scion tosses a Hounds gunman out the window without touching him, and as Ouija points imperiously at Standard Bearer, Scion buries a chainsaw into the werewolf's chest.

There is a whispering, and a noise like high winds, and Standard Bearer falls to the floor, running her hands through the carpet and muttering - "the air, the light, the beauty..."

Benny rolls a 1, flinching as he prepares to bring the anchor down on Ouija's head.

The werewolf looks down at the chainsaw and Scion, reaches out, and pulls off both her arms. The Hounds cheer, and then kill Ouija in a hail of gunfire.

Benny 08/24/2023 4:32 PM

Superpowers are so shit

Both SWAT teams kick down the door and start shooting at random - the Bit throws his fire extinguisher in front of them and drills a hole in it to blind them, then the PCs scramble to hide behind pillars.

Outside, Praxis grabs the falling Hound in one hand and Lucent in the other, and strains to slow her descent before all three of them hit the ground.

Benny rolls a 1 again, whirling his chain-pole-anchor-manhole-cover atrocity around his head without touching a single person. Valerie follows with a... 1. They both duck behind a pillar.

The PCs are, in all honesty, the least dangerous people in this room - no one pays them any mind. The Hound gunmen and SWAT team fire wildly at each other, the werewolf pushes through its 50 bullet wounds to grab Meteor in one hand and throw her out the window, and Abbatelli's assistant (who is *absolutely not* Arbitrator) decides to just lie down on the floor and wait this out.

Lucent pulls a tiny revolver from a shoulder holster, presses it into Praxis's ribs, and fires. In return, Praxis drops him. Lucent cackles as he slides down a glassed-air tube, three hundred million dollars in hand.

Back in the penthouse, the Dreamer finally takes the chance to act. They drive their SWAT-uniformed puppet into the smoke, shoot one of the cops in the back of the knees, and then drop to the floor.

The Dreamer 08/31/2023 1:20 PM

"THEY'RE AMONG US! THEY'RE DISGUISED AS COPS!"

The cops choose their least-favorite coworkers and start shooting, except for *one* who has the presence of mind to shove his shotgun into the werewolf's eye and fire.

With a sound like a wrench thrown into a set of gears, the werewolf straightens all the way up, and then falls over backwards. Dead.

Standard Bearer continues gnawing on the carpet, repeating "tastes like tastes like tastes...". The Hounds alternate between taking more shots at the police and rooting through Abbatelli's fridge.

Benny rolls a 2.

Valerie and Standard Bearer are both Wounded by the cops, but only four are left. The Bit puts a drill hole through the forehead of another - the PCs are *so close*.

But Lucent is getting away. With the money.

Lucent is getting *away*. With *their* money! He can't get *their* money, that's *their* money!

As he slides down his glass tube, a drone with the last 3 pounds of C4 flies down towards him, and goes off.

Lucent rains down on the street as a kind of fine mist, along with rapidly-disappearing shards of his glass... and three hundred million dollars.

Archon's Court 08/31/2023 3:10 PM

i had plans for just about everything *except* "the money blows away in the wind"
good god

The cops are all dead. The maimed Valerie and Standard Bearer are frantically patched up by the rest of the Hounds. Outside, Praxis lands in front of a convenience store and goes to buy a first-aid kit.

the convenience store worker starts, of course, by saying
"Hey! You've gotta go to the hospital, lady!"

Praxis 08/31/2023 3:15 PM

"You think I have money for that?" Praxis says, surreptitiously holding several blood-smeared thousand-dollar bills.

"Got any first aid kits?"

Archon's Court 08/31/2023 3:16 PM

"Y... eah, we do."

he literally vaults over the counter and runs down an aisle

you follow him to the first-aid kits, where he's frantically writing a new price on them with a marker

"Two... *three* hundred dollars, please." 😊

Seconds later, Praxis runs out of the store, first-aid kit in hand and cashier in pursuit.

The rest of the PCs descend from the top of YN Tower, shake hands, and go home.

There's nothing else to do. The week after, the rocket to Demeter-3 sails up, past the sky.

Hidden near the launch site, Valerie pulls the cord on her mortar. A second light hurries after the rocket... and then dims, and then descends.

Maybe the rest of them look up to watch from the ground.

Or maybe they don't.