# **GM GUIDE**

**GM Principles:** Begin and end with the fiction - Collaborate at all times, especially during conflict - Fill the world with life, wonder, and danger - Ask questions and incorporate the answers - Make every roll important - Play to find out what happens - Hold on gently

**GM Best Practices:** Cultivate a curious table - Gain your players' trust - Keep the story moving forward - Cut to the action - Help the players use the game - Create a meta conversation - Tell them what they would know - Ground the world in motive - Bring the game's mechanics to life - Reframe rather than reject - Work in moments and montages

## **ACTION ROLLS**

Call for an action roll when a character takes an action where the outcome is in question and the success or failure is interesting to the story.

- 1. Pick a character trait.
- 2. Decide on a Difficulty.
- 3. Establish the stakes of the roll with the player.
- 4. Assign advantage or disadvantage if applicable.
- 5. Tell the player to roll the Duality Dice.
- 6. Resolve the situation based on the result of their roll.

#### **ACTION ROLL RESULTS**

- Critical Success: They get what they wanted and a little extra. They gain a Hope and clear a Stress.
- Success with Hope: They get what they wanted and they gain a Hope.
- Success with Fear: They get what they want, but it comes with a consequence. You gain a Fear.
- Failure with Hope: They probably don't get what they want and there are consequences, but they gain a Hope.
- Failure with Fear: They don't get what they wanted and things go very badly. You gain a Fear.

## **CHARACTER TRAITS**

AGILITY

Sprint, Leap, Maneuver

STRENGTH

Lift, Smash, Grapple

• FINESSE Control, Hide, Tinker INSTINCT

Perceive, Sense, Navigate

PRESENCE

Charm, Perform, Deceive

KNOWLEDGE

Recall, Analyze, Comprehend

### DIFFICULTY



# **HOPE & FEAR**

On a roll with Hope, the player gains a Hope.

## They can spend Hope to:

- · Help an Ally
- Utilize an Experience
- Initiate a Tag Team Roll
- Activate a Hope Feature

On a roll with Fear, you gain a Fear.

#### You can spend a Fear to:

- Interrupt the players to make a move.
- · Make an additional GM move.
- Spotlight an additional adversary during a battle.
- Use an adversary's Fear feature.
- Use an environment's Fear feature.
- · Add an adversary's Experience to a roll.

#### **SPOTLIGHTING ADVERSARIES**

#### When you spotlight an adversary, you might have them:

- Move within Close range and make a weapon attack
- Move within Close range and use an adversary action
- End a temporary condition or effect
- Sprint somewhere else on the battlefield

## **GM MOVES**

#### Make a move whenever:

- They roll with Fear on an action roll.
- · They fail an action roll.
- They do something that would have consequences.
- They give you a golden opportunity.
- They look to you for what happens next.

#### **EXAMPLE GM MOVES**

- Show how the world reacts.
- "The kick shatters the door. Light spills in from the barracks as a half-dozen sleepy soldiers stumble to their feet, looking worried."
- Ask a question and build on the answer.
- "How is it that you notice the assassin lurking in the treetops?"
- Make an NPC act in accordance with their motive.
- "The Jagged Knife Bandit snips the gold purse off the merchant's hip and attempts to escape."
- Lean on the character's goals to drive them to action.
- "The relic you've been trying to recover for your people floats ominously in the center of the altar, surrounded by cultists preparing to drain its power."
- Signal an imminent offscreen threat.
- "You hear the crashing of falling trees and shattered branches as thundering steps approach. What do you do?"
- Reveal an unwelcome truth or unexpected danger.
- "He reaches into his cloak and produces the Orb of Vengeance as you realize that he was the necromancer the entire time."
- Force the group to split up.
- "The elementals are scattering—two heading for the town, three bearing down on the mill. What do you do?"
- Make a PC mark Stress as a consequence for their actions.
  - "You can pull the baron to safety if you mark a Stress. Otherwise you can only get yourself out of the way. What do you do?"

- Make a move the characters don't see.
- "You brace for the alarm... but the door clicks open and everything seems fine... for now."
- Show the collateral damage.
- "The Minotaur Wrecker barrels into the street, shattering a vegetable cart, sending cabbages flying and knocking the merchant into the wall."
- Clear a temporary condition or effect.
- "The guard cuts through the vines that are holding her legs in place. She looks around to find her next target and raises her sword."
- Shift the environment.
- "As soon as you cross, the ancient rope bridge snaps, leaving you stranded."
- Spotlight an adversary.
- "As the Skeleton Dredge shambles forward to strike you, you see the two others on their flank turn their attention toward you as well."
- Capture someone or something important.
- "The thief slides past you and jumps into the cart, grabbing the idol from the seat and stuffing it into their pouch."
- Use a PC's backstory against them.
- "Your mentor sighs, drawing their blade. 'I wish it didn't come to this, child. But you still don't understand what sacrifices are required to maintain the peace.'"
- Take away an opportunity permanently.
- "The door slams shut, cutting you off from the vault as the temple continues to collapse. You'll need to find another exit if you want to make it out alive."