Nice Monsters

A one-page roleplaying game by Paul Abrams, 2020 Inspired by Nice Marines by Grant Howitt



YOU ARE A MONSTER: an immortal minion of darkness spawned to plague mankind. You and your fellow monsters have been made famous in legends and tales; generations of mortals fear you.

However: the mortals have short memories and again seem intent on trying to wipe you out. In fact they are at this very moment marching with pitchforks and torches on your castle!

You serve THE MASTER, who is working on an important ritual in the castle basement, which must finish at midnight. THE MASTER has given you strict orders not to allow any disturbance of the ritual, which will finish tonight.

However: **THE MASTER** has given you strict orders to keep things quiet, and avoid killing too many mortals, since that will attract monster-hunters and witch-hunters.

You have famous monster heritage. Mortals have many fearful stories and tales about you and your kin. You have many strengths but also weaknesses that mortals can exploit.

Vampire - can change to bat, destroyed by sunlight
Werewolf - moves fast, regenerates, burned by silver
Frankenstein Monster - superhuman, depressed
Mummy - can summon weather, claustrophobic
Warlock/Witch - can hex/curse, must gather souls
Fishman - can breathe water, always cold
Mad Scientist - egotistical, has a lab & henchman, wants to
improve the world

Cultist - can hear THE MASTER but misinterprets what is wanted, will destroy the world

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

You are immortal and have many gifts, but want one thing more with burning intensely. This may be something you can never have.

Destroy the World | Forgiveness | Love | Mortality | Redemption | Summon the Eldar Being

WHAT DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

You have never been able to understand one element of mortal life, and it fascinates and perplexes you. Choose one item from the list below; roll an extra 1D10 and pick the highest dice when you interact with it.

Animals | Cuisine | Love | Fashion | Food | Humor | Lying | Art | Music | Sadness

YOU AUTOMATICALLY SUCCEED AT ALL VIOLENT

ACTIONS. You are a spawn of darkness, with superhuman strength, celerity, and can kill a mortal without effort.

APPROACHES

You have six Approaches to problems. Assign 1 x D20, 1 x D12, 1 x D10, 1 x d8, 1 x d6, and 1 x D4 to your approaches to represent your confidence in using that approach.

APPROACH	CONFIDENCE
Scaring mortals away	$_{\mathrm{ID}}$
Hiding from mortals	$_{\mathrm{ID}}$
Talking with mortals	1D
Using secret passages	1D
Building and repairing things	1D
Avoiding THE MASTER	1D

When you attempt to resolve a situation without resorting to violence, roll the dice for your Approach and consult the table below:

1: Terrible failure

2-4: Mostly failure, some success

5-6: Success

7-10: Success with minor collateral

11-19: Success with dire collateral

20: Success with catastrophic collateral

The Villagers are revolting, attacking in waves, dying in droves. Various waves are armed with (roll 1 dice):

- 1: Pitchforks & Torches
- 2: Axes and spears
- 3: Crosses, Wooden Stakes, & Holy Water
- 4: Crossbows / Silver Bullets
- 5: Molotov Cocktails / Greek fire
- 6+: roll twice

THE MASTER is a powerful being from ancient times, to be feared and appeased, but who is seldom happy with your work, and counts your every mistake. You have learned to detect signs of being watched:

Brimstone Smell | Cries for Help | Elongated Shadows | Eyes on Walls | Fingernails on Chalkboard | Melodramatic Organ Music | Statues are Watching