

BYLINE



PEOPLE SEE THE NAME PERCY GAINER AT THE TOP OF THE BROADCAST, THEY KNOW THE TRUTH'S ABOUT TO HIT THEM AT 100 MILES AN HOUR.

This world's drowning in Noise, and I'm the man with the oxygen tank—and a pretty trendy pair of flippers.

But a lot of powerful people have got a big stake in unreality, and the last thing they want is someone like me sniffing around their dirty laundry. So sure, I need a bit of an edge to stay in the game. Quests flashing in my eyes to get me up and out onto the streets, tactical displays so I spot that little tremor in your trigger finger, and a bit of ancient divine power for spice. You don't need to know where I got the headset—all you need to know is, one way or another, I will get the message out.

:OTHERSCAPE

THE MYTHIC CYBERPUNK RPG

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BYLINE



NOISE: 2
SELF: 1
MYTHOS: 1



HOW TO PLAY

ESTABLISH The MC describes the scene, announces **Threats**, and asks "What do you do?"

ACTION Describe the action you want to take with your character. The MC can say you need to **make a roll**, either **quick** or **tracked**.

QUICK Count up your action's **POWER** by invoking all the tags that affect it:

EACH POSITIVE TAG +1 POWER
EACH NEGATIVE TAG -1 POWER

MOST HELPFUL STATUS ADD TIER TO POWER
MOST DETRIMENTAL STATUS SUBTRACT TIER FROM POWER

Roll two six-sided dice and add your Power. If the total is:

6 OR LESS ▶ MISS
CONSEQUENCES

7-9 ▶ MIXED HIT
SUCCESS WITH CONSEQUENCES

10 OR MORE ▶ STRONG HIT
SUCCESS!

TRACKED Roll as above and, if successful, spend your Power on Effects:

GIVE OR REMOVE A STATUS
1 Power per tier

ADD OR REMOVE A TAG
2 Power per tag

DISCOVER A DETAIL
1 Power

PERFORM AN EXTRA FEAT
1 Power

CONSEQUENCES If your action had Consequences or if you didn't address a Threat, the MC delivers Consequences by **describing negative story developments and/or Effects**.

Mitigate: The MC may ask you to take a reaction (same rules as taking an action) to mitigate negative Effects. If the total is:

6 OR LESS ▶ MISS
YOU TAKE THE FULL EFFECTS

7-9 ▶ MIXED HIT
SPEND POWER TO BUY DOWN EFFECTS (SAME COST).

10 OR MORE ▶ STRONG HIT
SAME AS MIXED, BUT WITH +1 POWER.

UPGRADES Whenever your weakness tag is invoked, mark one upgrade box on that theme. When you mark three upgrade boxes, reset the track and choose one upgrade for that theme:

☒ CHOOSE A NEW POWER TAG OR ☒ UNLOCK THE THEME SPECIAL

TAG COMBOS

TRACK DOWN INFORMATION

Desperate for the truth +
See what others don't +
Hermes' Winged Helmet +
Cut through the Noise +
POWER 4 (Discover)

WORK ALL NIGHT

Desperate for the truth +
Dogged determination +
Gamified reality overlay +
Dopamine rewards +
POWER 4
Create or Discover

HACK A BROADCAST

VR Herald +
Hijack transmissions +
Hermes' Winged Helmet +
Cut through the noise +
POWER 4
Disrupt

INCAPACITATE AN ENEMY

Gamified reality overlay +
Weakspot highlighter +
POWER 2
Attack or Disrupt

LOADOUT

ENCRYPTED LAPTOP

HOLDOUT PISTOL

RESEARCH DATABASE

EMP AMMO

STUN STAFF

HOVER SNEAKERS

RECORDING DRONE

HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR

Character concept by Robin Valentine at PC Gamer. Art by Isago Fukuda - ISA Artworks.

ARTIFACT



TAGS POWER NEW OPTION WEAKNESS

HERMES' WINGED HELMET

GET WHERE I'M NEEDED

CUT THROUGH THE NOISE

I SAW THAT COMING

SPEED OF A GOD

PSYCHOPOMP

MALFUNCTIONS WHEN I LIE

RITUAL

"I MUST DELIVER THE TRUTH TO ANYONE WHO NEEDS TO HEAR IT"

The discovery of a strange headset—VR device, AR visor, and divine helmet in one—gifted Percy Gainer the power he needed to seek truth in a city that's forgotten what it looks like. He's fast, he gets past security he shouldn't be able to, and he slices through the junk data right to what's important. So far he's been too nervous to activate the 'Secrets of the Dead' app.

THEME SPECIAL

☐ SIGNATURE MOVE

Once per session, when you invoke *cut through the Noise* and roll a hit, you may remove two tiers of *hidden* in addition to the normal outcome.

HORIZON



TAGS POWER NEW OPTION WEAKNESS

DESPERATE FOR THE TRUTH

SEE WHAT OTHERS DON'T

DOGGED DETERMINATION

I HAVE MY SOURCES

TRUST IN HARD COPY

EVERYBODY LIES

OBSESSIVE

IDENTITY

"I NEED TO FIND SOMETHING REAL"

Byline looks at his city of simulated worlds and rising Mythoi and sees a civilization about to become completely unmoored from reality—and it scares the living hell out of him. Part journalist, part activist, part data addict, he hunts down hard evidence like a man possessed, and holds onto it for dear life.

THEME SPECIAL

☐ INDOMITABLE

Once per scene, when you take Consequences with Effects that would make you despair or tire on the way to your Horizon, you may avoid these Consequences completely.

CUTTING EDGE



TAGS POWER NEW OPTION WEAKNESS

GAMIFIED REALITY OVERLAY

WEAKSPOT HIGHLIGHTER

DOPAMINE REWARDS

ENHANCED TACTICAL DISPLAY

HARDWARE OVERCLOCK

SENSORY AMPLIFIERS

OVERWHELMING READOUTS

ITCH

"KEEP THE NUMBERS CLIMBING"

Turns out the helmet is compatible with all sorts of cool apps, and surely even a crusader for the truth can't be expected to suck up reality completely unfiltered? Every step towards Byline's goals is an explosion of points and digital rewards, keeping him going no matter how tedious or lengthy the task, and a custom UI full of tooltips and readouts keeps him on top of any situation.

THEME SPECIAL

☐ AMP UP

Once per session, if you can ready yourself for an action involving your Cutting Edge tech, you may gain *amped-up-2* or a similar tier-2 status.

CYBERSPACE



TAGS POWER NEW OPTION WEAKNESS

VR HERALD

HIJACK TRANSMISSIONS

ADVANCED HAPTIC FEEDBACK

DECRYPTION SOFTWARE

CYBERSPACE BEACON

ALWAYS RECORDING

ATTENTION SEEKER

ITCH

"BUILD AN AUDIENCE"

If the people won't come to the truth, then the truth must come to them. In Cyberspace, Byline is a messenger to the world, taking control of the broadcast wherever there are viewers to see it. Security measures are tackled head-on with the help of repurposed VR gaming hardware that makes the virtual feel realer than real.

THEME SPECIAL

☐ COUNTER-HACKING

Whenever you *Mitigate* a cyberspace attack with tags from this theme, you may also receive one free valuable detail (as in *Discover*) about the source of the Consequence.