

RUTHLESS

You're circling the room, french perfume on your hair and skin, white silk - or is it a red suit? Luring your target to that spot you planned in your head. You'll take them to the balcony three storeys up, the bed where you hid a poisoned needle, or maybe down to the pier where you'll hold his head down until his last breath is gone.

RUTHLESS is a game about vengeance, love and tragedy. Your beloved and paramour has wronged you in some dastardly way and now you are here to exact great, terrible, beautiful revenge.

To play RUTHLESS, you will need:

- A selection of your favourite songs, preferably ones that remind you of your beloved - imaginary or not. You will need as many tracks to fill up 30 minutes.
- Two six-sided die (2d6)
- A set of clothes that make you feel like a total fucking badass ready to exact great vengeance upon those who wronged you. It could be a sleek, dark suit, a colourful dress, your favourite shorts, etc.
- A list of victims you intend to murder and dispose of. Think of collaborators, conspirers, and that one friend you trusted.
- A murder weapon, or two. Write down or procure them for real and place them in front of you during the game.

To play, set the aforementioned items in front of you neatly on a table or flat surface where everything is within your reach.

To start the game, shuffle your playlist of selected songs and play the first track. Using lyrics and the beats of the song, visualise the following:

- The crime which your beloved laid upon you to inspire a murder.
- Whoever helped them make this come to pass. They are at fault too.
- How you plan to kill them. You do not need a solid plan at the moment - it's okay to improvise. You are smart.
- Where you will meet them to make it happen.

Once you have the above details finalised, memorised or written down, you can move on to initiate the murder according (or not) to your plan.

Following the beat of your song (or if the first track has already ended, follow the second), narrate how you will approach your lover and lead them into their unfateful end. RUTHLESS encourages freeform descriptions and roleplay, but if

you are oblivious on what to do next, you can feel free to choose from the following list of recommended actions:

- Mention offhand how your beloved has wronged you, or how their conspirers have slighted you to make them feel awkward and uncomfortable.
- Make an obvious, foreboding comment about their soon-to-come deaths to which they will remain oblivious to.
- Show off how badass and powerful you are now that you realised the truth and have a plan to complete. Revolve the world around you, receive compliments and laugh them off with confidence.
- Lure your lover to their death. Make them drunk, lead them to the one balcony, get them alone where you want them.
- Kill your lover. Narrate their gruesome deaths - savour the moment. Flames lighting your face as you peer at a distant car explosion with a wine in your hand.
- Explain the intricacies of your plan - the little steps that made it happen. A snapped brake line, a drop of poison in their bathwater, a bomb in their bunker, a knife in the heart, etc. Get creative and explore.

Whenever you make a move, and feel doubt in whether you can do it, roll 2d6. On a 1-5, you fail to make your plan happen and must retreat. On a 6-10, you succeed but at the cost of more complications - you poison the wrong drink, someone tries to chat you up while you're walking away etc. On a 11-12, your plan goes perfectly.

If you make a move and feel no doubts - confident as hell, your plan works with zero hitches. No one can stop you.

Play until your list is cleared or when you are satisfied.

Nothing can stop you.

EXTRA NOTES FOR THE RUTHLESS

If you do not feel like you are capable enough - not violent enough - not strong enough, use the items laid before you to do so. Wear your best clothes, wield a weapon (safely), scream and shout a battlecry through the music.

If you wish to remember your misdeeds and sweet vengeance, write it down while you play. Make a journal, create lyrics or cryptic diary notes. If you don't want to get caught, burn it.

Explore and amp up the drama in your wondrous, vengeful world. Are you the heiress of a fortunate dynasty betrayed by a rival family? The rising star who has

their pride and reputation marked by public humiliation? Or an alien queen whose planet-faring lover failed to follow your orders? A beautiful vengeance deserves a beautiful backdrop.