



TROLL

a revenge fantasy
for 2 players + a chorus
20-60 minutes

by Jack Graham
2017 Golden Cobra entry

THE SITUATION

A victim of online harassment has located her troll, has him tied up in a chair, and is live streaming the ensuing dialogue. Twitter is responding to the video stream as it unfolds.

MATERIALS

- a chair
- duct tape or rope & a bag that fits over the troll's head (optional)
- a tripod or other marker to represent where the webcam is (optional)
- sheets of paper to represent tweets—enough for the entire chorus
- markers
- tape for sticking tweets on the wall

CHARACTERS

There are three characters in Troll: a person who has been the target of on-line harassment, the troll responsible for targeting them and inciting harassment, and Twitter.

Cast a woman as the harassee.

The harassee is female. Have her pick a username. The harassee has been pushed to the point where she no longer cares about the consequences of her actions to her personally, although she does still care about other people, e.g., the troll's other victims.

Cast a woman as the troll.

The troll is cis male. Have him pick a username. Having made rape and death threats to the harassee, the troll is now frightened of what might be done to him. Two of the following are true about the troll, secretly chosen by the troll's player:

- He is unrepentant, claiming that he's defending men/culture/freedom of expression/some other shit.
- He will be evasive/dishonest, possibly claiming that some or all of the harassee's experience is fabricated.
- He thinks he was playing a game and/or claims he did it for the lulz.
- He cares only about saving his own skin.
- He wants to "win" by gaslighting the harassee, claiming that she's racist/ableist/slutty/a liar/mentally ill/etc.

Cast everyone else as Twitter.

Men, non-binary folks, etc. play Twitter. Divide Twitter users randomly between troll and harassee supporters. Everyone picks a username.

SETUP

- 1 The harassee positions the webcam marker and the chair. It's up to her whether the video stream is being shot with the troll facing the camera, her facing the camera, or both of them in profile.
- 2 The troll defines the single trigger that will Make Him Stop Talking. Suggesting what this is is up to the troll's player, but the harassee needs to agree to it before play begins. Examples:
 - Silent stare down
 - Physical threats
 - Inflicting pain
 - Asking if he was bullied
 - Expressing sympathy
 - Promising to leave if he answers one more question
- 3 (Optional) Attach the troll to the chair, and put the bag over their head.

PLAY

- 1 The troll cannot escape the chair. Physically, he is completely in the harassee's power.
- 2 The harassee has five things to say to the troll. She gets to say them, and then the troll and the harassee enter a freeform dialogue that ends when she performs the trigger that Makes Him Stop Talking. Let details about who the characters are emerge during the dialogue.
- 3 The game begins when the harassee pulls the bag off the troll's head. The first thing she has to say is what he harassed her about and how he mobilized other people to harass her.
- 4 The other four things are freeform, but here are some suggestions:
 - This is what you did to my life.
 - I don't think you're sorry.
 - I think you'd do it again.
 - I don't understand why anyone would do what you did.
 - I don't think anything would have made you stop.
 - I think you're sick, but that's your problem, not mine.
 - I don't care what happens to me as long as people see who you are.
- 5 While the dialogue is going on, everyone on Twitter gets to reply in real time by writing tweets about what they're seeing in the video feed and sticking them to the wall.
- 6 The harassee can look at Twitter whenever she wants. Whether she tells the troll about it is up to her.
- 7 When the harassee has said her fifth thing, there is a quick epilogue, which follows the following form:
 - The troll asks what she's going to do with him.
 - The harassee tells him. And does it.
 - Each Twitter user gets one last post.
 - The game ends.



AFTERCARE

- 1 Let the troll free from the chair.
- 2 The troll and the harassee player each get a minute to talk about how it felt. The harassee goes first.
- 3 Open the floor to the Twitter audience and give them a few minutes to talk about how it felt. The harassee player moderates discussion. She can designate someone else to moderate discussion if she needs to cool down.

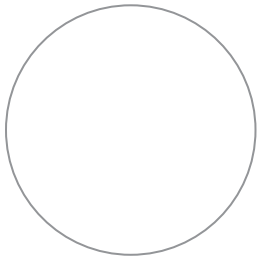
SAFETY

Troll is intended to be played without x-cards or similar safeguards. What will emerge in these conditions? The possibilities give pause, but it seems important to limit filters for this type of exercise. If your group prefers the safety net provided by x-cards, by all means, use them. If not, consider using a looser safeword mechanic like the Nordic kutt and brems.

Do not use real-world Twitter to play unless everyone is ready to deal with the consequences of real-world wankjobs possibly stumbling upon your tweets and harassing the participants. Do use real-world Twitter if no one gives a fuck.

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NAME

USERNAME



Three horizontal lines for text input

from

TIMESTAMP

LOCATION

Retweets

15 empty circles for retweet count

Likes

15 empty circles for like count