

ROD and REPROOF



A **FIASCO** PLAYSET
BY JAMES GABRIELSEN

ROD AND REPROOF

CREDITS

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Thanks also to conservative Mormon Utah suburbia for providing the life experience necessary for me to write something like this.

BOILERPLATE

This Playset is an accessory for the *Fiasco* role-playing game by Bully Pulpit Games.

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For more information about *Fiasco* or to download other Playsets and materials, visit www.bullypulpitgames.com.

If you'd like to create your own Playset or other *Fiasco*-related content, we'd like to help. Write us at info@bullypulpitgames.com.



“When you play, play *hard*.” - Theodore Roosevelt

THE SCORE

BEAT THE STREET LIGHTS HOME...

The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

-Proverbs 29:15

1992. The Cold War formally ends. George Bush and Bill Clinton battle for the White House. Los Angeles is engulfed in riots. The Supreme Court reaffirms a woman's right to abortion.

But we're all kids, and if we know about any of this, we don't care.

While our parents worry about the state of the world, we spend the summer of 1992 roaming the suburbs of northern Utah on bicycles, sneaking into cemeteries, climbing onto the roof of the elementary school, and playing night games for hours on end. We strain against obligations levied by parents and church, but nothing will stop this from being the best summer ever.

MOVIE NIGHT & BOOK CLUB

Films: *Stand By Me*, *The Goonies*, *The Sandlot*, *It*, *My Girl*, *City of Lost Children*, *Peter Pan*.

Books: *It*, *Lord of the Flies*, *The Girl Who Owned a City*, *My Side of the Mountain*. Also, it helps to have lived my childhood. Good luck with that.

SPECIAL RULES

All of the PCs are children in grade school, 11 or 12 at the oldest. Adults and adolescent characters may feature in the game due to the needs, locations, and objects, but the players must portray kids.

Use the Soft Tilt and Aftermath tables for the intended experience, or the original Tilt and Aftermath for a harder-edged session in the vein of "Lord of the Flies" or "It."

RELATIONSHIPS...

1 FAMILY

- ◻ Identical twins
- ◻◦ Siblings with a significant age gap
- ◻◦ Step siblings
- ◻◦◦ Cousins
- ◻◦◦ Adopted sibling and biological sibling
- ◻◦◦ Half siblings

2 FRIENDS

- ◻ BFFs since preschool
- ◻◦ Local and out-of-stater spending the summer with grandparents
- ◻◦ White kid and ethnic minority
- ◻◦◦ Trendsetter and follower
- ◻◦◦ Rich kid and toadie
- ◻◦◦ Social misfits

3 SCHOOL

- ◻ Playground bully and victim
- ◻◦ Homeschooled
- ◻◦ School band members
- ◻◦◦ School summer project team members
- ◻◦◦ Owner of “teacher’s edition” textbook and failing summer school student
- ◻◦◦ Middle schooler and elementary schooler

4 CHURCH

- ☐ Sunday school bully and victim
- ☐ Bishop's kids
- ☐ Friends of different religions
- ☐ Goody two-shoes and rebel
- ☐ Church youth activity regulars
- ☐ Sunday school ditchers

5 GROUPS

- ☐ Members of the same rec sports team
- ☐ Popular kids
- ☐ Boy/Girl Scouts
- ☐ D&D nerds
- ☐ National Academic League team members
- ☐ 4H club

6 SECRET

- ☐ Crush and secret admirer
- ☐ Witnesses to a crime
- ☐ They don't know you know
- ☐ Dirty magazine supplier and customer
- ☐ "We can never tell anyone this happened."
- ☐ Fellow former "fat camp" attendees

...**AMONG SUBURBAN KIDS**

NEEDS...

1 TO GET

- ☐ ...back at the bully that made last year miserable
- ◻◻ ...some attention—any attention—from your parents
- ◻◻◻ ...ungrounded
- ◻◻◻◻ ...away with the stuff your parents warned you about doing
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...your hands on the school records
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...out of (and back into) the house undetected

2 TO FIND

- ☐ ...out what getting drunk feels like, as often as possible
- ◻◻ ...out what they're hiding
- ◻◻◻ ...who is vandalizing the cemetery
- ◻◻◻◻ ...out why your parents are acting weird lately
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...out what is in the shed
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...some dirt on that jerk

3 TO MAKE

- ☐ ...some real friends in this new neighborhood
- ◻◻ ...everyone laugh, all the time
- ◻◻◻ ...your parents believe you're attending your summer classes
- ◻◻◻◻ ...out with your crush
- ◻◻◻◻◻ ...off with the church tithing money
- ◻◻◻◻◻◻ ...up a lie that everyone will believe

4 TO EARN

- ...enough money to finally buy your own bike
- ◻ ...the other kids' respect by doing what they're all afraid to
- ◻ ...the Bishop's trust
- ◻ ...better grades so you don't have to repeat a year
- ◻ ...praise from your parents
- ◻ ...your spot on the team

5 TO PROVE

- ...your love to your crush
- ◻ ...you're the smartest
- ◻ ...you can live up to their expectations
- ◻ ...you're not kidding about running away this time
- ◻ ...you're not afraid of anything
- ◻ ...you're right by any means necessary

6 TO WIN

- ...the praise of your teachers
- ◻ ...the affection of your crush
- ◻ ...the league championship
- ◻ ...over the bully's friendship
- ◻ ...the biggest bet of your life
- ◻ ...approval from a clique you're not a part of

...AMONG SUBURBAN KIDS

LOCATIONS...

1 UNITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- ◻ Tree-lined soccer fields behind the school
- ◻ Multi-tiered roof whose access ladder is never actually locked
- ◻ Back corner of the library where no sound carries
- ◻ Principal's office
- ◻ Teacher's lounge
- ◻ Records room

2 LDS CHURCH MEETING HOUSE

- ◻ Bishop's office
- ◻ Ward clerk's office
- ◻ Communion preparation room
- ◻ Boy Scout supply closet
- ◻ Baptismal font
- ◻ Under the podium in the chapel

3 TRANQUIL GARDENS CEMETERY

- ◻ Christus statue whose hands are broken off
- ◻ Groundskeeping shed
- ◻ Head sales office
- ◻ Fenced-off "old cemetery" section
- ◻ Small, well-kept mausoleum
- ◻ Hidden compartment behind the entrance sign

4 CORNER CONVENIENCE STORE

- ◻ Main store area
- ◻ Gas pumps
- ◻ Dumpsters around back
- ◻ Office with locked file cabinet
- ◻ Loading area and storage
- ◻ Bathrooms

5 AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- ◻ Shed at the end of the street with the gate chained and padlocked
- ◻ Watkins home, the starting point of all night games
- ◻ Absolute best hide-and-seek spot in the neighborhood
- ◻ Meadowview Park
- ◻ Jansen family's swimming pool
- ◻ Central intersection

6 JUST OUTSIDE THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- ◻ Brodie's Pond, a short hike into the foothills
- ◻ Tree fort in the woods, built by some older kids a few years ago
- ◻ Huge gated mansion at the edge of the rich neighborhood
- ◻ Slugger City Batting Cages
- ◻ Glenview Mall
- ◻ Wilkshire Movie Theater

...**AMONG SUBURBAN KIDS**

STUFF...

1 PARENTS

- Apparently absent
- ◻ One away on military duty
- ◻ Publically at each other's throats
- ◻ Ostensibly perfect
- ◻ Religious fundamentalist
- ◻ Grandparents

2 ADULTS

- Principal Critchlow
- ◻ Dr. Alvinson, the neighborhood pediatrician
- ◻ Bishop Naylor
- ◻ Mr. and Mrs. Geoffries, the elderly couple who yells at passing kids
- ◻ Whoever lives in the house by the locked shed
- ◻ Mr. Hamble, the perpetually ornery school janitor

3 OBLIGATIONS

- Summer classes
- ◻ Rec sports team you never wanted to be on
- ◻ Church youth group
- ◻ Dog that is explicitly "your responsibility"
- ◻ Really big secret
- ◻ "Meet at the cemetery gates at midnight. Don't be late."

4 SNEAKY

- ◻ Night games
- ◻ School janitor's key ring
- ◻ Believable alibi for where you're staying for the night
- ◻ Last semester's actual report card
- ◻ "Why is the bishop's car at the liquor store?"
- ◻ Can of neon pink spray paint

5 DANGEROUS

- ◻ BB gun that looks just like a real handgun
- ◻ Monster stash of illegal Wyoming fireworks
- ◻ Security blanket you're much too old for
- ◻ Something floating, tangled in the bushes, at Brodie's Pond
- ◻ Rumors about who likes whom
- ◻ Attention of the neighborhood's biggest bully

6 WRONG

- ◻ Stack of grimey 1970s porn magazines
- ◻ Keys to the safe in the church clerk's office
- ◻ Six-pack of Bud Light
- ◻ Clinton/Gore bumper sticker
- ◻ One of the hands of the cemetery Christus statue
- ◻ Embarrassing photo

...**AMONG SUBURBAN KIDS**

A SUBURBAN UTAH INSTA-SETUP

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG SUBURBAN KIDS

For three players...

- * Family: Step Siblings
- * Friends: BFFs since pre-school
- * Church: Goody two-shoes and rebel

For four players, add...

- * School: Playground bully and victim

For five players, add...

- * Secret: Dirty magazine supplier and customer

NEEDS AMONG SUBURBAN KIDS

For three players...

- * To get: ...back at the bully that made last year miserable

For four or five players, add...

- * To find: ...out why your parents are acting weird lately

LOCATIONS AMONG SUBURBAN KIDS

For three or four players...

- * Around the neighborhood: Shed at the end of the street with the gate chained and padlocked

For five players, add...

- * Just outside the neighborhood: Brodie's Pond, a short hike into the foothills

STUFF AMONG SUBURBAN KIDS

For three, four or five players...

- * Dangerous: BB gun that looks just like a real handgun