

They call you the Gentleman Bandit, because no one knows your name. They call you a monster, a villain, a dealer of death. They call you all manner of Unsavory, the most feeble epithets from shriveled minds; they call you Devil.

But they don't know you.

Not your Heart, your Poet's Heart filled with rage or filth or the expansiveness of True Love; not your Grieving Heart loosed over a chasm, making a sound like the sorrow of wolves as it plummets toward wet river stones, cracked bones left to bleach; not your Tarnished Heart, barbed with jealousy; not your Heaving Heart, beating in meter, callous or kind or barren.

You're a highwayman of the old guard, possessed of a fine suit and even finer elocution, such that when you speak, you command; and when you command, people divest themselves of their valuables: the strongboxes, the sparkling baubles, the bricks of gold and other earthly goods too sublime for their irrepressible mediocrity.

And in those uncommon instances when your commands fall flat, you avail yourself of more overt means of coercion, your Remington single action, known to you and only you as Blue Bonnet, Harbinger of Poor Health. You call her this *in privitas*, your own personal joke. Blue Bonnet, Muse and Unmaker. Blue Bonnet, A Final Call to Arms.

When you discharge her in service to your cause, when you lead with hot lead into an unwilling breast, you wax eloquent, composing 13 lines of glorious verse which you leave at the scene, a last stand for art and beauty, your lasting Words to prove them wrong.

YOUR TOOLS

- ❖ Writing implements of your choice
- ❖ A well-shuffled deck of 54 playing cards, Jokers intact
- ❖ A six-sided die (optional)

THE GAME

Write a 13-line poem to be left for the dead—and the ones who discover them.

Draw a card. Use the chart in the following column to determine the **Motif** and **Matter** of your line: the Motif gives you the theme of your line; the Matter prompts a topic.

GENTLEMAN BANDIT

MOTIF



Loss Love Freedom Fear

MATTER

A

What drives you?

2

Who needs you?

3

What is missing?

4

What is your outlook?

5

What is your darkest truth?

6

What is your secret need?

7

Where are you from?

8

Where are you going?

9

Who did right by you?

10

Who wronged you? What do you wish you'd done? What brought you to this fate?

J

Wild

Q

Joker
(pick any Motif and Matter)

For example, if you draw the **Three of Spades**, craft a line framed by *Loss*, addressing the question *What is missing?*

- ❖ *When will I see my home again, that place of solace dear?*
- ❖ *This soul of mine, so pocked and lean, laid waste upon the stones.*
- ❖ *Brutes abound! They jeer and jest and drink to death upon my hard-won spoils.*

Conversely, if you draw the **Three of Hearts**, craft a line framed by *Love*, addressing the same question:

- ❖ *In truth I am a hollow shell, torn lately from my Love.*
- ❖ *Love, you Puck, you wicked imp—you mock me from your perch.*
- ❖ *The sumption of a heart so wan: how would one carry emptiness?*

Draw the next card; write the next line. Continue until you've completed all 13 lines, then commit your work to History.

MODES

If you choose, you can roll a **Mode**, which applies a poetic device to your work. Before you begin drawing cards, roll 1d6 and follow the instruction below.

- 1 Apply a **rhyme** scheme to your poem, e.g., AABBCDDDEFFG.
- 2 Compose each line using eight **syllables** or fewer.
- 3 Write in a poetic **meter**, such as iambic pentameter.
- 4 Craft six **couplets**, followed by a one-line summary.
- 5 Include a word or phrase with a **double meaning** in every other line.
- 6 For each line, roll 1d6; use one of the words from the corresponding **dictio** list (on the following page) in that line. You may prescribe your poem further, choosing the word that corresponds with the line number you are writing—for example, if you are writing Line 7 and roll a 3, use the word *home*; if you are writing Line 13 and roll a 5, use the word *blossom*.

DICTION

1	blind false wobegone terrestrial worthwhile brave depraved gauche brazen ill-fated leaden beguiling inborn	2	march expect betide stretch bind expel dally aver coddle grasp delimit brandish loathe	3	bile rage cost might desire will home bauble grace breast war merit lacuna
4	amid since away during toward adrift within throughout abound lo aloft near withal	5	cavern scrub sand blood vale hill core rime frost heart stain pool blossom	6	base hollow blessed withering beloved kind stunted alone vast unfettered small arid bemused

POKER PLAY

Each time you finish a poem, look at your final array of 13 cards. If you hold one of the hands below, approach your next poem with the suggested fictional position in mind. If you hold more than one, choose the fictional position that resonates most with you.

Royal Flush — *You're at the top of your game, untouchable.*

Straight Flush — *You've been lucky so far, but the law is a bloodhound, unfazed.*

Four of a Kind — *Your resolve has been shaken ever so slightly—by a memory, a moment of grief, a flicker of remorse flitting like a lace handkerchief on the wind.*

Full House — *There's a competitor in your vicinity, a ruffian reaching into your coffers.*

Flush — *You've been left behind by someone you once called Beloved.*

Straight — *You can't sleep, you haunt the night highway, searching for something you haven't yet named.*

Three of a Kind — *You hold hard to what was, but can't seem to keep it in range.*

Two Pair — *A past deed devours you day in and day out—you wish for reprieve, mercy, redemption.*

Pair — *The law, the mob, the ones you left behind: someone is dogging your footsteps, hell-bent for leather.*

MULTIPLAYER OPTIONS

PARLOR PLAY, 2 to 13 players, in-room: Gather a group, and provide paper and pen along with your deck of playing cards. Play as written, rolling Mode if you choose before the game begins. Each member draws a card in turn; writes a line and folds the paper to hide it; then passes it to the next player, who repeats until all 13 lines have been written. Then, read the poem aloud. **PARLOR PLAY online**: Follow the in-room format, but compose in a shared document or thread. You won't be able to hide the lines that have come before—take them in or ignore them; it's your choice.

THE CALL, a boundless quantity of players, online: Play *Gentleman Bandit* as written, solo; post your poem to social media and tag another player to create a poem based on your final poker hand. For example, if you end the game with Three of a Kind, tag a friend with the prompt to play as such: *You hold hard to what was, but can't seem to keep it in range*. Let your tagged player decide whether to roll Mode.

ARC OF A BANDIT, up to 9 players, in-room or online: Assign one poker hand (or more, depending on your player count) to each player. Roll a Mode for the entire group if desired, then play through *Gentleman Bandit* as written, solo, crafting your poem based on your assigned Poker Play prompt. When everyone has finished, share your poems in order, from Royal Flush to Pair (or Pair to Royal Flush), to play through an arc that takes your Gentleman Bandit from top of the world to the pits of despair (or vice versa).

CREDITS

DESIGN & WRITING: Allison Arth (@arthograph)

LAYOUT & GRAPHICS: John Harper (@john_harper)

IN GRATITUDE

Thank you to **Nadja Otikor**, a fierce inventive spirit. Thank you to **Andi Garrison**, for notes on grief and love; for the always-magic. Thank you to **John Harper**, more than muse, and the best creative partner. Thank you to the writers of the West who have my heart in spades: **Charles Portis**, **Cormac McCarthy**, and **Willa Cather**. And thank you to my father, **Mike Arth**, for hours of *Bonanza*, and for the greatest rendition of *Streets of Laredo* I'll ever hear. ❤

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

11 _____

12 _____

13 _____

THE TRILLIUM EVENING POST-GAZETTE

THE GENTLEMAN BANDIT STRIKES AGAIN

WILL THIS CRAVEN BALLAD EETER EVER COME TO JUSTICE?

Yet another heinous crime has befallen our fair town and its environs, committed by that foul scourge known as THE GENTLEMAN BANDIT, a murderer of the basest morals, a thief of worldly possessions, a depraved menace to whom the lives of Honest Christians means nought.

His most recent work of verse, pinned haphazard to the waistcoat of the Hon. Everwood Lightfoot, U.S. Marshal, 52, lately of Sparrow's Folly — God Rest his Soul — we publish here that we may draw out the Knave to serve his sentence in shame and repentance before Our Father.

Good Citizens of Trillium and beyond, bar your doors, keep far from the highway, cover the heads of your children — for this coward is yet abroad! If you have any information as to the identity of THE GENTLEMAN BANDIT, report it at once to Sheriff Cly Medford, that he may bring to heel this bane, this True Prince of Damnation!

THE WORDS OF THE FIEND HIMSELF

*I hail from Ungodly land, where dust will choke a steer;
where every birth is met with scorn and Mothers weep with fear.
And to this day I tread the Earth to find a peaceful home:
a lake serene, a river wide, a plot replete with loam
and fertile like my Dear Old Pap — buried now, par moi —
the beast I bled to death for love, in Righteousness, by claw
and bite so fierce; we fell upon with purest hate, like dogs in rut will do
when summer's heat does boil their brains and sets their madness to.
"For love," I said — in sum, my Ma, dear Saint, released from mortal toil
by Pap's right hand across her cheek, his fingers cocked and coiled
'round Ma's white throat, her collar wet, the tears astream; no sound
came from her mouth; my heart stopped once, I tried to stand, but
toppled to the ground.*

*If only I'd been older then; bolder then; more like him, as whet
for blood and bile.*

CALIFORNIA TIN SHOP,
203 FOURTH STREET | W. FESENFELD, Manager.
PLUMBING, TIN, COPPER,
AND

Sheet-Iron Work and Tin Roofing.

Better work and lower prices than any other shop in Tombstone. Pumps and pump work a specialty. Sole agents for Gipsy Queen Range—the best and cheapest stove in Arizona. A full assortment of everything sold in a First-Class Tin Shop always on hand or made to order.

Call before Purchasing Elsewhere—205 Fourth St.

G. F. SPANGENBERG,

PIONEER
GUNSMITH



Locksmith

Q. N. Y.

212 FOURTH STREET, NEAR BROWN'S HOTEL.

DEALER IN GUNS, PISTOLS, CARTRIDGES, CUTLERY, SEWING MA-
CHINES, ETC.
The Only Complete Gun and Locksmithing Shop in

W. B. MURRAY.

H. B. CLAPP.

CLAPP & MURRAY,

GENERAL

INSURANCE AGENCY

508 Allen Street.

COMBINED ASSETS

of Companies represented,

\$75,000,000!

FRENCH RESTAURANT,
Main Street, Contention City.

BAKED AND LODGING, BEST ACCOMMO-
DATIONS, &c. Lowest rates.

M. LARIBIE, Proprietor.

BARNETT & BLOCK

General Forwarding and Com-
mission Merchants, Wilcox
and Benson, Arizona.

We offer the Best Terms on Contracts for the
most of machinery and other freight to any
part of Arizona or Mexico. Prompt attention
given to all orders.

Accommodation DAILY Line to BENSON!
CROUCH, Proprietor.
Fare at Lowest Rate.

Gentleman Bandit v 1.0
by Allison Arth
April 2019

This game is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/us/>

This game was created through support via Patreon. This release is dedicated to Jake Bishop, Maitre Sinh, and Paul Tevis. Thank you so much for your amazing support!

Go to patreon.com/johnharper to find out more.
Patrons who made this game possible:

A.D. Hardman	Brian Minter	Duncan	J. Walton	Jonathan	Mathias Belger	Patrick Brannick	Shervyn von Hoerl
Aaron Sturgill	Brian Paul	Dylan Boaties	Jack Alexander	Jonathan Arnould	matt greenfelder	Patrick Chapman	Sigurd Galaaen Enget
Adam D Clayton	Bruce Curd	Dylan Clayton	Jack Shirai	Jonathan Korman	Matt Helms	Patrick Holzman	Simon Brunning
Adam Koebel	Bruno Bord	Dylan Green	Jack Toups	Jon Edwards	Matthew Gagan	Paul	Spenser Isdahl
Adrian Brooks	Bryant Durrell	Dylan Richter	James Mendez Hodes	Jon Harris	Matthew Gushta	Philip LaRose	Stephen Dewhurst
Adrià Prat	Bryant Stone	Ed McW	Janek	Jordan Hatchell	Matthew Johnson	philippe boutron	Stephen Ellis
Alan	Bryan Whalen	Edouard Contesse	Jared Hunt	Joshua Ansell	Matthew Klein	Philippe "Sildoenfein" D.	Stephen Hood
Alan Jackson	Bryan Woods	Eduardo Caetano	Jason Blalock	Joshua Pevner	Matthew SB	Phill Cameron	Steve Discont
Alasdair Boyd	Cabel	Emanoel Melo	Jason Lutes	João Mariano	Matthew Wilson	Phillip Webb	Steven D Warble
Al Billings	Cam Banks	Enkufka	Jason Paasch	Justin	Matt Machell	Psonide	Steven Hanlon
Alden Strock	carlos silva	Euan Smith	Jason Pitre	Justin Alexander	Matt Weber	Puskara	Stories Podcast
Alexander Gräfe	Casey Shelton	Evan!!	Jason Tocci	Justin Hamilton	Max Perman	Quinn Pollock	Stras Acimovic
Alexander Prinz	Catherine Ramen	Evil Hat Productions	Jason Wallace	Jérôme Larré	Michael Atlin	Rachel E.S. Walton	Stuart Chaplin
Alexander Probst	Charles Wotton	Falconette	Jay Frein	Kari Hoffren	Michael Esau	Rafael Rocha	Studio 101
Alex Fricke	Charlie Humphreys	Felipe Real	Jay Ward	Kathryn Hymes	Michael Fujita Wight	Ralf Northman	Svend Andersen
Alon Ferency	Charlie Vick	FelTK	J D	Kear	Michael Hill	Randy Lubin	Tatiana
Amalie McKee	Chris Cook	Filthy Monkey	Jeff Pitman	Keith Baker	Michael Pelletier	Raul	The Doubleclicks
Andrew Cain	Christopher Witt	Finbar Deane-Stott	Jeff Szusz	Keith Stetson	Michael Prescott	Rob Abrazado	The Wild Philosopher
Andrew Fox	Chris Visser	fluffybunbunkittens	Jenny Wang	Kelsa	Michael Pureka	Robert	Thierry De Gagné
Andrew Mayer	CK	flying grizzly	Jens Alfke	Kevin Nikiel	Michael Raichelson	Robert Bersch	Tim Jensen
Andrew Novak	Claire West	Francis Dickinson	Jeremy Collins	Kim	Michael Tree	Robert Carnel	Timothy Carroll
Angela Spirdione	Colin Fahrion	Frazer Porritt	Jeremy Morgan	Krill	Michelle Shepardson	Robert Ferguson	Todd Mauldin
Anthony Whitley	Colin Urbina	Fred Lott	Jeremy Tidwell	Krzysztof	Mikael Tyväri	Robert Heinsoo	Tony Dowler
Antoine Boegli	Corey	Galen Pejeau	Jeremy Zimmerman	Krügge	Mike Quintanilla	Rob Hebert	Trevor
Antoine Fournier	Corrin Elizabeth	GameMastersTable	Jesper Cockx	Lane	Mike Riverso	Ron Stanley	triplel
arakn_e	Daan Windhorst	Gavin Carey	Jesse Butler	Lars	Mike Sergio	Ryne Borrud	Tyler
Arthur	Dale Horstman	Geron Kaiping	Jesse Larimer	Lavender	Mike Hamm	RUNEHAMMER	Tyler M Oden
Artru Hanska	Damon Wilson	Giuseppe D'Aristotile	Jim Dagg	Lester Ward	misao kanzaki	Rustin Simons	Vasco Brown
Atlas Sellman	Dan Cetorelli	Grant Howitt	Jim DelRosso	Levon	Moisés Giménez	RVH	Vasiliy Shapovalov
Axel Nuotio	Daniel Fidelman	greatkithain	Jim Hart	Lewis Wakeford	Morgan Gate-Leven	Ryan	Vincent Baker
Bastian Dornauft	Daniel Hägglund	Greg Jensen	Jim Nicholson	Linda Larsson	Mátyás Horka	Ryan Burgess	Violet Henderson
Bay Chang	Daniel Ley	Guillaume Carré	Jim Ryan	Logan	Nat	Ryan Dunleavy	Walter German
Benjamin Grandis	Dave LeCompte	Hal Mangold	Joe Adkisson	Logan Shoup	Nate Marcel	Ryan Macklin	Wes Fournier
Benjamin Hinnum	David Bapst	Harald Eckmüller	Joe Campbell	Lukas Fuchs	Nathan Black	SaintErebus	Wilhelm Fitzpatrick
Benjamin Loy	David Beaudoin	Harry Lee	Joe Levey	Maciej Starzycki	Nat Lanza	Sam D	Will
Ben McKenzie	David Bowers	Herman Duyker	Joey	Mal	Niall O'Donnell	Sam Zeitlin	Will Hindmarch
Ben Woerner	David Dorward	Howard M Thompson	Johannes Bech Dalsgaard	MapForge	Nicholas Zeltzer	Sarah Mayfield	William Paulson
Ben Wray	David Gallo	Ian Hart	John Aegard	Marc Deguzis	Noah Doyle	Scott Bennett	Wright Johnson
Bill Broderick	David Murphy	Ian Swanson	John C.	Marc Majcher	Noah Schoenholtz	Scott Udall	Xander Veerhoff
Billy Bryan	David Sealy	Ian vdL	John Carter	Mark Delsing	Noam Rosen	Sean Bouchard	Yellow Chameleon
Bo Bertelsen	DealerUmbra	Isa Wills	John Powell	Mark Fenlon	Nolan Trenchik	Sean M. Dunstan	Zachary Fontes
Brady Lang	Donogh McCarthy	Ivan Vaghi	John Rogers	Mark Griffin	Oliver Scholes	Sean Nittner	승한 오
Brendan Adkins	Doug Hurst	J.B. Talassa	John Ryan	Mark Silcox	Oliver Vulliamy	Seth Hartley	
brian allred	Douglas Mota	J. Brandon Massengill	Johnstone Metzger	Marshall Miller	Omar Khashoggi	Seth Johnson	
Brian Jenkins	Dread Singles	J.M.	John Taber	Martin Eden	Parker D Hicks	Shane Liebling	