

A high-contrast, black and white graphic. The top half shows a silhouette of a city skyline with several prominent spires and towers against a white background. Below the skyline is a dark, textured area representing a cobblestone street. The text is overlaid on this street area.

MOSCOW MAYHEM
A Fiasco playset by
Mark Galeotti

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The Score

SETTING IN BRIEF

2017, and Moscow, the Third Rome, has got its second wind. After the misery and chaos of the 1990s, it is now a capital of paradoxes: swanky, high-end luxury stores, a clear, shiny metro, but also crumbling Soviet-era housing estates and miserable, grimy suburbs. The in-your-face gangsterism has receded, not least as corrupt officials in their imported suits call the shots, but in some ways that just opens up new opportunities for the desperate, the stupid, the opportunistic, and the over-optimistic. You know, people like you...

MOVIE NIGHT

Brother (Brat) and *Brother 2*, *Bumer*, *Brigada*, *Dead Man's Bluff*, *RocknRolla*, *Break Loose*

RELATIONSHIPS

1 FAMILY

1. Someone's son or daughter
2. Someone's brother or sister
3. Someone's father or mother

4. Cousins
5. It's complicated; my dad's still married to my mum, but he's now shackled up with your mum, and although I don't much like you, he says that makes us family.
6. The same clan, back in the Caucasus

2 WORK

1. iPad-carrying "new Russian" doing something in the creative industry
2. Just another shop worker
3. Central Asian construction worker
4. Petty bureaucrat
5. Truck driver
6. Security guard

3 FRIENDSHIP

1. We served in Chechnya together and saw some bad shit going down
2. We went to school together
3. We shared a cell in prison
4. You dated my sister – frankly, you were too good for her
5. You helped me get away when the cops busted the protest march
6. We came from the same housing estate

4 ROMANCE

1. Spouses
2. Love/ hate thing
3. Just kissed for the first time
4. Exes
5. Star-crossed, just never seeming to get the breaks
6. "Married" just to get an apartment/passport

5 CRIME

1. Tattooed traditionalist *vory* 'thieves'
2. Petty confidence tricksters
3. Pimp / hooker

4. Black market dealers
5. Drug dealers
6. Corrupt official / victim

6 COMMUNITY

1. We're fans – real fans, *fanaty* – of the same football team
2. We undocumented aliens need to stick together
3. We met at the Orthodox Church
4. We're civil volunteers: if we don't get things done, who will?
5. We're patriots, we want Putin to be proud of us!
6. Come join the protest march, we can make the government listen!

NEEDS

1 TO GET AHEAD

1. ...by kissing the most ass
2. ...by being the toughest so-and-so on the block
3. ...by turning up in a brand-new, pimped-out Mercedes G-Wagon
4. ...by doing good work, whatever that may be
5. ...by knowing the right people
6. ...by working for the State

2 TO GET OUT

1. ...by marrying a Westerner
2. ...of the gang
3. ...of Moscow and back to your hometown
4. ...from under your nightmare boss
5. ...of this relationship
6. ...of your skull

3 TO GET BACK

1. ...to the Good Old Days, when Russia was mighty
2. ...into the godfather's good books
3. ...at the government

4. ...at your boss
5. ...at the (wo)man who spurned you
6. ...to where you belong

4 TO GET RICH

1. ...now you've got your gambling system perfected
2. ...through someone else's corrupt scheme
3. ...by boosting the gangsters' profits
4. ...thanks to your looks
5. ...by killing for money
6. ...whatever it takes, and you mean whatever

5 TO GET LAID

1. ...quickly
2. ...with your high school sweetheart
3. ...with the girlfriend of the local *avtoritet* gangster-businessman
4. ...with your ex
5. ...isn't as important to you as everyone seems to assume
6. ...even though even in Moscow many are still pretty intolerant of "deviant behaviour" like yours

6 TO GET EVEN

1. ...with the corrupt officials who stole your business
2. ...with the gangster who stole your love
3. ...with a family member
4. ...with a rival who didn't play fair
5. ...with a co-worker, who schemed against you
6. ...with a world that fails to live up to its promises

LOCATIONS

1 AROUND RED SQUARE

1. Lenin's Tomb
2. GUM high-end shopping mall

3. Lubyanka Square, right by the old KGB headquarters
4. Children's World mall
5. Teremok fast-food bliny joint
6. Inside St. Basil's Cathedral

2 CENTRAL MOSCOW

1. Genatsvale Georgian restaurant (where the Georgian godfathers hang out)
2. A banya (baths)
3. A 30-story 1960s apartment block
4. Revolution Square metro station
5. Reading Room Number 1 in the Lenin Library
6. A quiet little *dvor* (courtyard) just off a main street

3 UPSCALE MOSCOW, Tverskaya, Novy Arbat and Kutuzovsky

1. The massive and glitzy Evropa shopping mall
2. Porsche dealership on Kutuzovsky Prospekt
3. A gated apartment block full of foreign diplomats and journalists
4. A ridiculously expensive rooftop cocktail bar
5. The Tchaikovsky Concert Hall
6. A tacky Novy Arbat night club/restaurant

4 OLD MOSCOW, Zamoskvorechiye

1. The funfair at Gorky Park
2. The Park of Fallen Monuments
3. A 5-story *khrushchevka* housing block, saved from demolition because someone with friends in the mayor's office lives there
4. Paveletsky Railway Station, where the trains from Central Asia and the Caucasus arrive
5. The mosque off Bolshaya Tatarskaya
6. A dingy little 'supermarket' that sells a bit of everything

5 POOR MOSCOW, the rundown outskirts

1. A tatty one-bedroom apartment shared with eight Tajik migrant labourers

2. The open-air market selling everything from fruit to counterfeit DVDs
3. The railway tracks
4. A 5-story *khrushchevka* housing block, slated for demolition
5. A brand-new housing development, many blocks still being built
6. A crappy little *produkty* corner shop, where most of the food is past its sell-by date

6 OUT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

1. Your family's rundown dacha (cottage)
2. A petrol station on the road to St. Petersburg
3. Deep in the birch wood
4. The electric-fenced "special military zone"
5. The construction site that will be a gated community some day
6. An oligarch's hunting reserve

OBJECTS

1 WEAPONS

1. An AK-47
2. A World War 2 vintage German Luger
3. An unlicensed double-barrelled shotgun
4. A Chechen knife
5. An OMON (riot cop) rubber truncheon
6. A silenced VSS Vintorez sniper's rifle

2 TOOLS OF THE TRADE

1. A brand-new cellphone, still in its box
2. A crowbar
3. A cello
4. A Federal Protection Service (FSO) ID card
5. A hairdryer
6. A first-aid kit

3 TRANSPORT

1. Dad's battered old Lada
2. A BMW 5-series
3. A 60-trip metro pass
4. A Soviet army motorbike with sidecar
5. A BTR-60 armoured personnel carrier
6. An ambulance

4 LOOT

1. A \$10,000 casino chip
2. Deeds to an apartment
3. A duffle bag full of rubles
4. A duffle bag full of counterfeit euros
5. A diamond ring
6. A 15th-century icon

5 INFORMATION

1. Surveillance tape of the politician in the sauna with the hookers
2. The combination to the safe
3. The name of the US mole in the Federal Security Service (FSB)
4. Where the hit is going down
5. The answers to the next high school Unified State Exam test
6. The password to get into the most exclusive club in town

6 THE UNEXPECTED

1. Lenin's personal diary
2. A cracked samovar
3. One thousand 'Crimea is Ours' buttons
4. A bag of potatoes
5. An empty vodka bottle
6. A briefcase full of...is that what weapons-grade plutonium looks like?