

## BRUNO ROTH

<b>Appearance:</b>	American Tourist
<b>True Nature:</b>	Academic Fraud
<b>Job:</b>	Professor, famous author
<b>Motivation:</b>	Fame & glory
<b>Secret:</b>	Has cheated on every single publication in his career
<b>Hit Points:</b>	5

Bruno is a successful author whose book "The Perpendicular Grimm" brought him fame and modest fortune a few years ago. It was a reworking of the traditional fairy tales into a modern setting with disturbing twists of character, reflecting the dark side to fairy tales that were often suppressed in translation. For example his favorite story, was a modern cautionary tale about Little Red Riding Hood, portrayed her as a decadent femme fatale with no heart. However Bruno's seeming brilliance is only a facade, as he has never used an original idea in his life - even his fairy tale book idea was stolen from an obscure comic book. His first book was "The ID and I" a book which attacked modern psychology in a fictional setting. Being about peoples psychosis it was an immediate hit - Bruno had stolen the idea from the author Donald Baughman, whom he got drunk one night and they spent the night drunkenly discussing what was to become the plot of the book consisting mainly of Donald's innovative observations. The book set Bruno on the road to success and he can generally call the shots at publishing houses nowadays. His (some might say indulgent) use of long words in his books means only academics usually manage to finish his books giving them intellectual snobbery value - thus many have them in their bookshelf, but don't want to admit they only read them half way through.

He has recently been boasting of a book on the "Theory of Everything," a discourse on semiotic Grand Unifying Theory, which is already being anticipated as a critical success within literary circles. Unfortunately for Bruno he knows it is not his own idea, but once again Donald Baughman's. He has tracked Baughman who is on holiday in the country of Al Amarja - this country has a rather exotic if seedy reputation and Bruno has decided that if he is to steal Donald's latest idea that it would be the ideal remote locale.

Bruno is still on speaking terms with Donald Baughman, who does not really remember how much his contributions helped Bruno's career. However Bruno only feigns friendship with the man as he abhors the way Baughman treats his wife, Eleanor. He constantly belittles her achievements and never misses an opportunity to humiliate her in public. Although Bruno thought she must have a "victim" complex to stay with the man so long, to his surprise he saw her just the other night meeting with a stranger with a crooked nose - they appeared to be on intimate terms. However when Bruno met with Donald, Eleanor was by his side as usual. Baughman seemed less abrasive than normal and almost seemed at a loss when Bruno strode up to greet him. Eleanor apologized that they were extremely busy but they have agreed to meet with Bruno at the local bar, Sad Marys. Bruno is going to try to attempt to loosen Donald's tongue and make at start at his intellectual thievery.

Al Amarja so far hasn't been exactly hospitable - earlier this week his room was robbed - the thief only got a few valuables but for some reason they also stole his copy of "The Perpendicular Grimm" which Bruno carries for good luck. He has also been harassed by loonies who have been leaving threatening notes - he suspects some Christian fundamentalist group who don't like his books

which often deal with exploding theological beliefs. Yesterday, was miserable and rainy and he kept getting the feeling he was being followed, which got him so worked up that he attempted to run. He literally bowled over a shabby old man in his attempt to flee, who he found out was Elias the Toymaker. When he helped Elias up he couldn't help but smell the strong unpleasant odor of wet dog that hung around the man

The country seems full of loonies - and the bar doesn't seem to have any policy in keeping them out. They let a shabby old bag lady in wearing a Daniel Boone hat who sneaked off to the men's toilets earlier this evening. As soon as she left Elias Bettelheim sneaked away after her. Perhaps there is some kinky sex thing going on. Bruno just doesn't want to know.

## OBJECTIVES

- Locate "Theory of Everything"
- Find out who is after you and stop them
- Bruno has a contract for a new fiction book which he has already been paid handsome advances on. He has got writer's block and is desperately looking for a story to write. Perhaps something on Al Amarja will inspire him.

## ABILITIES

**Bullshitter:** Anytime a character using a Charm ability on you, you may choose to simply resist the ability. To do this you must answer any Charm question the person asks using postmodernist gobbledegook and long words like 'deconstruction', 'paradigm', 'poststructuralism', 'knowledge/power relationship' and 'semiotic induction'. This answer may be complete bullshit. (General Ability)

**Lady's Man:** You are a charming bloke. After you engage any character attracted to your gender in a conversation lasting at least two minutes, you may ask them a yes/no question they must answer truthfully. You must have mentioned the topic of the question in the earlier conversation. Usable 5 times. (Charm)

**Hack Writer:** Bruno is a talented fiction author, particularly when reinterpreting fairy tales in a modern milieu. Show anything you write down in your notebook to the GM when convenient. (General Ability)

## EQUIPMENT

- Notebook and Pen
- Wallet with \$500