

City of Rain, City of Darkness



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Author's Note: This is a work in progress. The concept came to me one day, I'm not quite sure when. Since then I've devoted a little time here and there to flesh out the concept. It is intended to be a generic setting usable with any roleplaying game. You are welcome to use it, modify, and distribute it as you please so long as you share it as I have done without a fee of any kind. Consider this licensed with a Creative Commons Non-Commercial, Attributional, Share-And-Share-Alike license.

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If you have questions or comments, please contact me at will (at) creativeanomalies (dot) com.

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- There is a city. In this city, it always rains. The citizens have learned to live with it. It makes things wash away quickly, like the blood from the sidewalk. The wealthy don't need to go out in the rain, for they have the sky tunnels and airships. But the poor, the working class. They have to fend for themselves on rain-slicked pavement.
 - The cops don't care much for the lower parts of the city. As time went on, the rich and powerful built more and more, higher and higher trying to escape the rain. Now, those Below must fend for themselves.
 - The surface is called the Gutter. Literally and figuratively.
 - Below the Gutter are the Trenches, gigantic sewers carrying the rainwater out to sea.
 - The Trenches are a haven for those less fortunate even than Gutter-dwellers. Illicit commerce and corruption are carried out in the Trenches, as well as the ordinary fight for survival.
 - Some days the rain is just a fine mist. Others, it is a torrential downpour. And it is almost always dark.
 - Men and women alike pace the silent streets, wrapped in trench coats, dusters, and fedoras. Desperate men and women add revolvers to the mix.
 - Since most cops won't help those without money, the less fortunate must do with PIs, do-gooders, and vigilantes. Sometimes, all they manage to do is get themselves and others killed.
- Airships, airplanes, and automobiles are the order of the day. Maybach, Packard, and Rolls-Royce provide luxury, while Ford and General Motors make vehicles for the plebians.
 - Airships are both luxury and bulk transport for commerce and government. They bring supplies in to the foundries and factories of the lower districts, as well as moving the wealthy in and out of the city.
 - Airplanes are faster than airships, but less maneuverable. They also cannot carry heavier payloads. Couriers, government, and those in a very great hurry use airplanes.
 - Automobiles compete with rail for ground transport. The rail lines enter the city at multiple points, providing another efficient commercial bulk transport method. The poor use the rail lines to travel, as well. Automobiles are mostly used by the wealthy, though they are a rarity inside this city of rain.
- Revolvers, black and white televisions and cameras, and fountain pens are high technology. That being said, some are pushing the envelope with primitive jet engines, robotics, and computational engines.
 - Public communications are common. Street corners have call boxes where you can use a videograph, and most people have one in their homes. Some of the wealthy Cloud-dwellers have portable videographs.
 - Telephones are more common than videographs, but just barely.
 - The constant rain has provided the city with a readily available, free

source of power – hydropower. Hydroelectricity generates current for the entire city, and most of the mechanics of industry are powered by water.

- Clean water is readily available to the upper levels of the city, but most of the working class are not so fortunate.