

Grab Life by the Balls

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Grab Life by the Balls (GLbtB) is a live-action role-playing game for one or more players.

In GLbtB, players portray themselves in a tactical simulation of our reality (on a scale of 1:1).

The player is also the Game Master, and judges the completion of the games goals after the deadline has expired. The player writes down the goals of the character i a concrete fashion:

- * The goals have to be quantifiable.
- * The descriptions of the goals has to be followed by a description of how the goals are to be reached.
- * The goals must be written down, otherwise they do not count.
- * The goals can be anything, as long as they are described concretely and assessment of their success is possible in retrospect.
- * The goals must have a deadline.
- * The goals must be realistic. They have to be possible to fulfil with the resources the character has available (time, money, contacts, mental capacity etc.).
- * The goals should present a challenge to the character. Banal goals ("I have to buy a comic book this Tuesday") do not count.

Example: "Within X I will have achieved Y. I will achieve Y by doing Z." Even goals like "I will be a good father" or "I will fill my life with love" have to be described in such a way that the GM can assess their success in retrospect: "I will be a good father for my daughter all my life, and to achieve this I will..."

The only way to loose is to quit playing. Should you fail to achieve your goals, you must rephrase them, changing Y and Z.

Victory requires two things:

- A) Achieving of goals (partial victories)
- B) Change of mentality (full victory)

Once the deadline has been reached, the player returns to the original record of his/her goals, and describes the process from start to completion. If they failed to achieve their goals, they should assess what went wrong, and figure out why. Reassess the goal, to find out whether to try again or rephrase the goal. Try again until the character dies.

Actual play

If you want, you can start a thread for Actual Play on one of the forums you frequent. Here, the players will describe their goals and progress. Some examples from such a thread (<http://www.n4f.no/forum/showthread.php?t=3633>):

Bolla Pinnsvin (25/02/06): * Within a year I will have quit my job and moved out of the country, either for work, studies or travel. I'll achieve this by saving money this year and

using the internet actively to find out where to go and what to do there. This goal will be formulated more concretely when I know more.

* Within two years I will speak Spanish fluently (I already know some from high school). I will achieve this by reading Spanish literature, contacting Spanish speakers via Skype, rehearsing with Spanish speaking friends and by moving to a Spanish speaking country for a period (see first goal)."

Matthijs (2/03/06): "* Before the end of 2010, I want be able to make a living by writing. I'll do this by seizing every chance I see to publish what I write and create. This way I will build experience, connections and joy for writing. The goal will emerge by itself from my work."

Even Tømte (29/05/2006): "From now and until my birthday I will not eat meat. When this is achieved, I will consider expanding the experiment."

Even Tømte (21/08/2006): "Achieved, with a few exceptions (mainly when served food at other people's homes). This has led to more healthy eating-habits. Not because meat is unhealthy in and of itself, but because I have avoided many mixed products. Now it seems natural to me not to eat meat during weekdays, and it doesn't seem demanding to continue the experiment. I will, however, allow myself to eat meat now and then. It's good, and sometimes it's impractical not to.

Matthijs (21/08/06): "Since the last time, I've sent an article to a Norwegian Magazine, several ideas for games to a Norwegian Game Company and an article-idea to the next Knutepunkt-book. I have also started writing a novel. I have many other things planned, but they are mainly ideas."

Bolla Pinnsvin (25/10/06): "Last week, I quit my job. Few minutes ago I paid for the plane ticket. February 8, at 09:25 local time, I'll land in Buenos Aires. The goal was formulated on the 25th of February, so I'm within the one year deadline. I'll bring 15 000 dollars with me as a travel fund, and will try to sell articles and pictures from the journey. The plan is to stay out as long as possible, but I have a flexible return ticket from Mexico City in the middle of September. If my Spanish isn't fluent upon my return, I guess it'll be a lot better."

Matthijs (25/10/06): "In January I'll reduce my time at work to a 50 % position, to be able to use my art grant and write role playing games. The grant was an unexpected leap in the right direction, but most of all works as a good start: it lasts two years, after that I'm on my own. Besides this I'll continue doing other projects. I have just been in discussion with a publishing house about a book series for youth, which could be fun and lucrative. In addition to this I will contact a television station about a book idea."

As of this being written, on the 19th of August 2007, Bolla Pinnsvin has visited Argentina, Chile, The Falklands, Brazil, French Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela and Colombia. He has sold 22 articles from his journey and significantly improved his Spanish. He will return to a new journalism job in Norway in the beginning of September. Matthijs and a friend have published a fantasy book aimed at young people. Matthijs is still working on his role playing project with the government grant.

And Even is still a vegetarian.

Go on!

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