

# Kaiju Don't Care About You

Playtest By EmmettO

I have my cards and my d6s. I need a Kaiju to play. I'm tempted to say Animal when he grew giant from the Muppet Movie (the old one) but I think that goes against the feel of the game. There's the obvious answer, but that's boring. Let's discover what this Kaiju is in play. It also means I don't have to worry about copyrights.

The game says "A kaiju has appeared in the city you are in" but I'm not in a city. The closest "city" near me has a total population of 20,000. A 200 ft kaiju would make very short work of that and might actually raise property values. The goal is to escape the city, but I could walk out of the city in a half hour. So I'm going to imagine I'm 50 miles northeast in the city of Buffalo NY visiting my Uncle who lives downtown.

I almost started to play. Pulled the first card and started scrolling through the document, the next page has questions for character creation. I thought I was playing as myself. I read this last night and I remember these questions but I still defaulted to thinking of myself as the character. I'm going to go against my rules as written instincts and forge on with my idea good or bad.

For background, I'm a white male in my mid forties. I have a bad back and my rotator cuff is acting up. I always carry a Leatherman Wave and a folding utility knife on me along with a space pen, thumb drive, mini flashlight, fire starter and a mini lock pick set in my wallet when I'm out of the house. I also have a to go bag with a lot of survival items in each of

my cars and truck. I don't like to be unprepared but let's see if I'm prepared for a kaiju.

When a situation seems too much, why do you push yourself forward?

This is most of my life. I'm autistic and social situations are often "too much" but I push on because I'm the bad guy if I don't. I've dealt with minor disasters and they're stressful but I know how to put one foot in front of the other to push through. Besides my wife and two kids need me to get through this.

Last year your character embarked on a passion project, what happened to it? Why didn't you finish it or what happened when you did finish it?

Ha! Which one? I started casting hand carved dice in metal and tried selling them. Couldn't justify the work with the price people were willing to pay. Also published my first non-fiction book.

Why does your character hate the water?

It's cold. Love me a hot shower but the lake, or any standing water is too cold to go in. I've spent years kneeling in cold water fixing plumbing and a bunch of other situations. Hate it, and everyone knows it.

## Act I: Kaiju's appearance

I draw 6 cards face down.

I flip the first card, a 10 of Spades. Popular place in the city to shop. Many expensive stores are here. Hmm, not sure if the

Kaiju has shown up yet? Let's do a slow reveal. A discovery turn would be useful. How do I learn about the kaiju? That's unclear.

Ahem, anyplace that's expensive isn't going to be popular in Buffalo NY. We're hearing loud sounds, maybe explosions in the distance. We get an EAS broadcast to stay out of the downtown area. We're next to downtown. We turn on the tv, channel 6 is not broadcasting, channel 2 is saying there's been a series of bombings. My uncle is worried and my aunt asks him to go and get food and any supplies he can from the Lexington Co-op. because it's right down the street from him. There's a few clothing stores and Das Boot. Man I haven't been in there since I was a teenager buying Doc Martins for my then girlfriend now wife. The record store is closed. That's disappointing. I guess no one buys records anymore.

We stop at the Lexington Co-op. It's mostly overpriced groceries but they've got some good lunch options. Parking sucks. People are already clearing the shelves. A lot of them are just running out the door, not bothering to pay.

I flip the second card, a **7 of Hearts**. You see some people looking through a pile of rubble, what are they looking for?

There's a thunderous sound and the building shakes. Screams. The lights go out but there's a decent amount of daylight that comes in through the front windows. There's a thick cloud of dust that billows through the store.

We look around and the drop ceiling has collapsed over by the cash registers. People are grabbing the cash from the now destroyed registers. It takes a little bit to even understand what we're looking at. A news 6 van has been dropped through the roof.

My Uncle notices a scrap of cloths and rushes over to it. Looking under the debris, a few people are pinned to the ground. There are electrical wires hanging. I've been electrocuted before and it's not so bad. I tap the armor cladding. No shock, so we grab the concrete deck and try and lift it. Someone screams. We look around and I see the problem, lifting it in the direction we were, put pressure on one of the trapped people. My uncle grabs a different part of the deck and we try again, no scream this time and two people crawl out. No thank you, no acknowledgement, they're scared and they run. One doesn't move. I get a piece of rubble and stand it up under the deck.

"Grab and arm." my uncle says.

We pull together as carefully as we can. It's a lady in her mid forties. My uncle starts giving CPR.

"You know CPR?" He asks.

"Yeah, never had to use it." I say.

"Take over I'm calling an ambulance." He says.

I start compressions singing "staying alive" in my head. He pulls out his cell phone and tries to call ECMC the main trauma hospital in the city. The line is dead. He tries again. Nothing.

"The cell towers are overloaded." he says.

He keeps trying but get's nothing.

"I'll take back over. You go outside and see if you can get help. There's always police through here." He says.

I hand off to him and climb outside.

Let's flip another card. **4 of Spades**, The moon/sun is hidden by something floating through the sky. Describe what caused this and/or what it is?

The sky grows dark suddenly. Looking up, thick smoke is blotting out the sun. I've only seen this kind of a heavy cloud before, when the old Bethlehem Steel building burned. The smoke is coming from downtown. Looking down Elmwood, I see flames in the distance.

"That's right where the police station was." I think to myself.

Next card. **Jack of Diamonds** Escaping a direct confrontation with the Kaiju. It says to roll 2d6, I get a **5**. Needed a 7 or higher. Fail. Roll 1d6 to see what kind of encounter it is. I get a **5**, an after effect of the Kaiju attack. Roll 2d6 to see if I'm injured. I roll a 6 and needed a 5, it's close.

A gas line ruptures three blocks east behind me and the explosion follows right past the co-op down the line. Hot asphalt and rock fly everywhere. I watch as three people are burned by the now 50 ft tall inferno in the middle of the intersection.

Next card. **10 of Hearts** someone is buried under a large pile of rubble. If you want to help them, roll 2d6. I kind of already set this up. Let's see if we can help save our poor lady that was trapped. I roll a **4**, needed an **8**.

My uncle climbs out of the store, staring at the pillar of flame that's shooting out of the ground.

"What a bout the woman?" I ask.

"What happened?" He asks in return.

"I don't know, the explosion came from that way." I say as I point at a building behind the co-op that's now on fire.

"What about the woman?" I ask.

My uncle shakes his head.

“She wasn’t going to make it.” he answers.

He’s a doctor, I trust his judgement.

Last card. **3 of Clubs** Describe a sound that the Kaiju makes.

There’s a weird vibration, almost like an old rusty Toyota Corolla with a back seat full of subwoofers but I don’t hear anything. Then it hits. A growl behind the burning building that builds in speed but then switches to a shriek that makes our hair stand on end.

Fin Act I

## Act 2 24 hours after appearance

The parking lot is destroyed. We run back to my uncle’s house empty handed.

Power is out and so is gas. We gather whatever supplies we can. I’ve got my bug out bag and there’s a lively conversation about getting out of the city. My uncle and aunt insist they need to get to the hospital and help. They ask me to stay and watch my five year old cousin and I reluctantly agree.

I can’t get ahold of my family. The cell phone service is down. Internet is down. They don’t have an old land line hooked up. I sit in my car listening to the radio. My path home is cut off to the South and East. They’re talking about some kind of terrorist attack or bombs being dropped. One station is talking about a monster but my car’s radio sucks. I can’t get a clear signal. That’s alright, I can get home even if I have to drive north and over to Rochester and then head South. As soon as they get back, I’m heading out.

Night falls. The light of the natural gas fire on Elmwood lights up the smoke clouds. They haven't put it out or shut off the main. That's bad. My cousin is crying that he wants his mother. I do my best to try and console him or distract him but it's not working. He knows something's really wrong.

The sun, still blotted out by smoke rises none the less. I make some food. Cereal works, the milk's a little warm.

Card flip. 10 of Diamonds. Military response.

We hear a boom low overhead but when we look outside, there's nothing there.

Then four jets fly silently a hundred feet above the houses in a blur. Then another series of booms. They're supersonic. Explosions to the south.

I put my cousin in my car and I start to drive but at the end of the one way street are parked Humvees down the road are two M-1 Abrams Tanks with their barrels pointed east.

Marines hop out of the Humvees and tell me to go back. I argue with them that it's a one way street but the Abrams start to fire their guns at something. I can feel the pressure wave in my chest. My cousin starts to scream.

I do a three point turn and start driving.

roll 1d6 2

In my rearview mirror I see something move towards the tanks, a thud and then a cloud of dust.

I look in my side view mirror and see something half covered by the dust cloud and the trees that line the street block my view. All I see is a shape that takes a moment to identify, an immense beak point up in the air, the growl and then the shriek.

The turret of one of the tanks lands in front of my car. A tread crushes the back of my hatchback and my airbags go off. The car is totaled. I pull my cousin out of the car and run with him screaming to the nearest house as tank parts rain down on us.

Roll 1d6 2

The sound of a dozen helicopters fills the air. Rockets fire overhead towards the shape. There's a violent shaking movement down the road and the whole area is rained down on by eight foot long black barbs. They punch through the roofs of houses, sticking straight into the road and driveways. Several land around us. My cousin breaks from my grip and runs.

Some of the helicopters are hit. Some go down slowly, others have their rotors catastrophically fail and plummet.

The remaining helicopters fall back as the jets from earlier make another pass.

Roll 1d6 4

As they fly in, they're intercepted by shrapnel flung over my head at them, presumably remnants from the tanks. One of the jets is struck. It's moving so fast that I don't even see it go down. It plows through seven houses, moving directly at me.

Roll 2d6 7

Somehow, as splintered timbers, siding, window glass and the remnant of the jet explode in my direction a car that was in the garage behind me deflects the debris enough that none of it hits me.

Next card 9 of Spades The longest bridge connecting two parts of the city together, most of it is now buried underneath the water. How did the Kaiju cause this?

One of the Marines runs up.

“You okay?” he yells.

I nod my head.

“Get the f— out of here! This thing pushed the F—ing Skyway into the water!” He says.

“What? How’s that possible?” I ask but he’s running toward the jet.

“The Skyway’s at least a hundred yards from the waterfront.” I think to myself.

All the same, they’ve been talking about demolishing that thing for decades anyway.

Card Flip 3 of spades A destroyed small park inside a bustling metropolitan area, you see a famous landmark in total ruin, what happened to it?

The Marine runs back, shaking his head. The remains of the jet is on fire and its fuel is burning creating an inferno. Nothing survived that.

“Come on man! I’ll get you out of here.” He says.

“I have to find my little cousin.” I say.

He looks around, the street is destroyed and a growing fire will soon burn the rubble to ash.

“Dude, that thing tunneled up from under the circle downtown Delaware. There’s nothing left of the monument. It can go anywhere it wants. Find your cousin and get out as fast as you can.” He says.

I nod and start calling for my cousin. He probably wouldn’t come if he did hear me but I hope anyway.

Next card **6 of Hearts**. You see someone waving their arms frantically in the distance. They start to yell. What message are they trying to convey?

An elderly woman is calling for help and waving to the marine at first but then to me. I run over to her.

“Please help! My husband is pinned by one of these black spears.” She says.

“Have you seen a five year old boy?” I ask.

“I’m asking you to help my husband!” she says.

“I’m looking for my cousin, I was supposed to take care of him and he got away. If you help me, I can try and help you?” I explain.

“He’s hurt, you need to come now.” She insists, grabbing my arm.

I almost go with her but it’s likely her husband will die of his wound. It’s also possible that my cousin is already dead but my responsibility is to my cousin first.

“Sorry mam’ I can’t help you if you can’t help me.” I pull my arm away.

She shrieks something at me that no old lady should say but I keep calling and looking for my cousin.

Next card. Jack of Spades The kaiju attacks the most famous building in the city.

After several hours of searching I’m ready to give up when the ground shakes. I only briefly see the top corner of the formerly known as the HSBC building (Hot Sauce Blue Cheese) through an opening in the smoke a mile or more away. It sinks out of sight as the ground rumbles again as it crumbles.

Next card 9 of Hearts You come across a deceased person clutching an item. What is this item and do you need it? Do you take it?

I start making tracking spirals, looking for my cousin. I start at one point and walk in larger and larger spirals examining everything. Most of the houses are on fire now so I can’t go in them.

Then I find him. A fallen tree. My cousin is laying under it. He's dead and clutching a Sponge Bob backpack. I really don't like Sponge Bob.

I try to pull him out from under the tree but quickly find out it's no use. I take the backpack, stained with his blood and start walking North.

Next card. **3 of Diamonds** You come across an area that's been destroyed beyond recognition. What has happened and why?

I walk toward the Richard Olmstead campus but there's nothing there. Just overturned dirt. It's like the whole area was subsumed from under the ground. There are bits and pieces of building, but nothing recognizable. The art gallery was destroyed. We didn't even hear any of this last night. Did it happen last night? I'm not sure.

Next card **8 of Diamonds**. You come across a flooded street and downed power lines. There's a row of abandoned cars that you could use to get across or decide on a different route.

The bridge over Hoyt Lake is collapsed. A jumble of cars in the lake barely make a path over them possible. Do I go around or do I climb over them? I've always been a good climber and this is the most direct path away from the destruction.

Roll 1d6 **2** (I roll 2 a lot) A tremor shakes the cars. Roll 2d6 **7**

The ground shakes and I nearly impale myself on a chunk of twisted metal but I keep my footing. It's on the move again. Is it moving north too?

Fin act 2

## Act 3 48 hours after appearance

I draw 10 cards.

I make it up to my old home town of Tonawanda before nightfall. No more tremors. Unfortunately all the people that I used to know up here have moved. I spend a few hours thinking of all the people I used to hang out with trying to remember if there are any that I can go to for the night.

I try calling some friends that I have the number for but service is still out.

Then I remember. My old neighbor is still living in the same house last I knew.

I make my way there and walk past my old house and up the next door driveway. I knock on the door and a man in his thirties answers. The last time I saw him, he was eight. He doesn't remember me but he lets me in anyway after I explain what I've been through.

The old house has certainly gotten older. My host calls his mother. An elderly woman comes into the room. She remembers and is slightly amused but is indifferent. She grudgingly offers to let me sleep on the couch.

I don't sleep well. My phone's battery has long died. I don't bother to ask to use theirs or to charge mine. It's obvious I'm imposing enough.

I get up and start traveling before dawn and head east. I know the towns and villages for hundreds of miles around. When I

was a teenager I could cover fifty miles in a day on foot. I don't know if I can do that now.

First card. 4 of Diamonds You hear many voices screaming from a very dangerous looking derelict building. If you want to try and help them roll Id6.

I'm in need of food. I don't know how much is in my bank account but it's an emergency. I get to the old Burger King on the corner of Delaware and Sheridan. My card isn't rejected. I get a breakfast and start to travel.

I get near the old Boulevard Mall and something's wrong. There are emergency vehicles, fire trucks and police everywhere. Up ahead further I see Humvees and military.

It looks like a tornado went through here and the ground is turned over. This couldn't be the same monster, could it? Are there more than one of them?

I hear screams from the Auto parts store that I'm walking by as the roof starts to cave in. I didn't feel any tremors. It might have been damaged from earlier. There are enough emergency personnel around that I don't get involved.

Next card. 5 of Hearts Someone you meet is asking for a specific item you have, they are desperate and weak.

I turn and start walking south but I get close to the cordoned off area. A woman is wrapped in a blanket smoking a cigarette. She sees my Burger King bag and asks for food. I had an extra sandwich that I was going to eat half way through the morning. I have food insecurity issues but I give it to her anyway.

She starts thanking me profusely but I just keep walking. I can't stand that kind of effusive display.

Next card. **Queen of Hearts** Looking down from a vantage point, you can see two people struggling to free themselves from a pile of rubble. As they struggle, the Kaiju is coming ever closer.

The ground to the east of me churns and buildings are sprayed everywhere to the north and south. Chunks of rock and debris fall all around me and I cover my head with my arms. Dust fills the air.

In the churned earth two people, a woman and a child are struggling to climb out of the ensuing pit. They're battered but they haven't even had the time to register their injuries.

A giant beak protrudes from the earth and quickly rises out. It is ringed by thousands of spines. Five radial clawed arms writhe from the earth. It is a full three hundred foot across.

Roll 1d6 |

The woman and child slide into the liquified earth. They barely had time to even scream.

Next card. 4 of Clubs. Describe how the kaiju moves from one place to another.

I run for shelter but realize that none of the buildings offer the slightest protection.

The monster starts to walk on it's five arms like some strange spider. It's whole body is covered in the 8 foot spines it launched earlier, if this is the same creature.

It jabs its beak into the ground again and the spines start to shake. I'm knocked off my feet as the ground heaves and buckles it's so close. I feel the low hum again and the ground liquifies to the vibrations as a nearly hundred thousand ton creature slips under the ground again. The shriek follows from its burrow.

Next Card. **6 of Clubs** Describe any noticeable scars, skin textures, horns, and/or any other physical feature of the kaiju.

(I kind of just did that but ok.)

On its way down, I see five eyes looking back up at me on its back. They are disturbingly human for such an alien creature.

Next card. **5 of Spades** A small tremor turns into violent shakes. Roll 2d6 **8** No damage.

As it moved through the ground, the shaking caused the block wall I was seeking shelter near to crumble. Several bricks glanced off me but luckily I made it out without harm.

Next Card **Queen of Spades** Kaiju attacks the international airport of the city, a plane tries to fly away, but the Kaiju destroys it.

I get up and run as fast as I can but I've never been a good runner. I can walk for a whole day and not be tired but tire immediately when running.

I see a car fleeing. I try and flag it down but it either doesn't see me or doesn't care.

Ducking into a nail supply store, I berate myself. I know this building is probably more danger being in it than being outside.

The TV is still playing the news even though the store was abandoned. On channel 2 there's a feed from a news helicopter flying over the airport. I can see the telltale signs of the monster burrowing. I see up in the corner, the video says "Live."

A plane is taxiing down the runway and it starts to take off. As it does, a monster breaks through the tarmac behind it. The plane starts to lift off but the monster starts to shake violently and impacts of it's spines can be seen landing all around.

The news helicopter is high up and doesn't seem to be in range of the spines.

That means there are more than one. No matter where I travel, there could be another monster.

Card Flip. **King of Clubs** Ultimate attack. Roll 2d6 **4** Roll 2d6 **5**

The ground shakes and I run from the store. It shakes more and I can't keep my feet on the ground. I watch as all the buildings around me crumble. A mile away I see a spire of earth rise into the air five hundred feet as I tumble. Then the spire falls and creates a tsunami of dirt, rock and buildings that fans out, flattening everything in it's path.

The roar of the destruction is terrifying from even a mile away.

Card Flip. **Ace of Clubs** Ultimate attack. Roll 2d6 **8** Roll 2d6 **6**

A second spire rises two miles away with the same results. The shaking isn't as bad this time as it gets further.

I sit on the ground, surrounded by destruction. Where do I go?

Last card 9 of Clubs You find a parasite that had lived on the kaiju, but had fallen off.

Out of the broken ground where the monster burrowed down, there was movement and a chattering sound. The moment was indistinct at first but as it fanned out and got closer I could see they were tarantula sized crab things. Once they saw me, instead of fanning out they started moving as a mass in my direction.

My nose isn't very sensitive but I could hear natural gas hissing out of the ground. For the first time in my life I ran towards a gas main leak.

The crab things weren't the fastest but I didn't feel like out running them. As they followed me past the leaking main, I pulled out my fire lighter and struck it.

The blast knocked me on my face but from what I could tell it sent the signal that I wasn't lunch or a new home to live in.

I sat down again in despair.

Fin act three

## Evacuation

Whatever they are, they must have gotten tired of Buffalo NY. As quickly as they'd come, they just disappeared.

It took me another two days to get home, hitching rides, swapping stories and walking.

What did we learn from all this? What we already knew for decades. The universe hates Buffalo NY. We hold the record for the most consecutive Superbowl losses.