

# Scrum Noir: Mad Dog Mary, the Femme Fatale of Scrum Teams

In the gritty underbelly of software development, where the stakes are high and the deadlines loom, there exists a dangerous breed of anti-hero: Mad Dog Mary. This enigmatic femme fatale has a knack for infiltrating Scrum teams and wreaking havoc from within. Like a venomous serpent, she slithers into the shadows, her presence often undetected until it's too late.

Mary is a master manipulator, adept at playing on the weaknesses of her victims. She seduces team members with false promises of quick wins and effortless sprints, luring them into a trap of complacency. Once she has gained their trust, she strikes, exploiting their vulnerabilities to derail their progress.

One of Mary's signature tactics is the "divide and conquer" strategy. She sows discord among team members, pitting them against each other and creating an atmosphere of mistrust. By fracturing the team's unity, she weakens their ability to collaborate effectively, making them more susceptible to her machinations.



## SCRUM NOIR: Mad Dog Mary episode 1 by Lancer Kind

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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Another weapon in Mary's arsenal is the "scope creep virus." She surreptitiously introduces new features and requirements into the sprint backlog, stealthily expanding its scope without the team's knowledge. As the sprint progresses, the workload becomes unmanageable, leading to missed deadlines and a sense of failure among the team.

Mary is also a master of deception. She disguises her true intentions behind a veil of charm and charisma. She may appear to be supportive and helpful, but her actions tell a different story. By blurring the lines between friend and foe, she keeps the team off balance and vulnerable to her attacks.

But fear not, for there are ways to outwit Mad Dog Mary and protect your Scrum team from her nefarious influence. Here are a few strategies to consider:

- **Build a strong team culture based on trust and collaboration.** A cohesive team is less likely to fall prey to Mary's divide-and-conquer tactics.
- **Be vigilant in monitoring the sprint backlog.** Regularly review the scope of the sprint to ensure that Mary hasn't surreptitiously introduced any new requirements.
- **Foster open communication and transparency within the team.** Encourage team members to share their concerns and suspicions. Mary thrives in secrecy, so shedding light on her machinations can help to neutralize her threat.

- **Document everything.** Keep a record of all decisions, agreements, and changes to the sprint backlog. This will provide evidence to support your claims if Mary tries to gaslight the team or deny her involvement.
- **Don't be afraid to confront Mary directly.** If you suspect that Mary is infiltrating your team, don't hesitate to confront her. Be assertive and direct, but also maintain a professional demeanor.

Mad Dog Mary is a formidable adversary, but she is not invincible. By understanding her tactics and implementing these strategies, you can minimize her impact on your Scrum team and keep your sprints on track.

In the shadowy world of Scrum Noir, it is essential to be prepared for the worst. Mad Dog Mary is a constant threat, but with the right knowledge and vigilance, you can outsmart her and protect your team from her sinister schemes. Remember, the battle against Mad Dog Mary is a marathon, not a sprint. Stay vigilant, stay united, and never give up the fight.



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