

KINGDOM BOSS

18-DE06-W35

An unemployed, stay-at-home dad battles his neighbor for the title of "Greatest in the Kingdom" in an alpha version video game

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

JIMMY (29) a bushy-haired brunette with facial hair, in sweats and an untucked t-shirt is cleaning the coffee table and picking up toys.

His daughter GRACE (9) practices her ballet pirouettes nearby in fuzzy socks, her hair adorned with a pink ribbon.

GRACE

Look Daddy!

She pirouettes again. He does not look up. There's a knock on the sliding glass door. Neighbor PRESTON (35) a handsome hipster with model-coiffed hair waves through the glass. Jimmy opens the slider.

JIMMY

Hey Preston.

PRESTON

What's up, Jimmy. How's the job hunt going?

JIMMY

Lots of interviews. No offers yet.

PRESTON

Sorry, dude. Must be tough with your wife as the sole bread-winner.

Pause.

JIMMY

Uh. Nah. We're good. Taking care of Gracie has been real nice. She's a lot of fun.

PRESTON

Hm.

Weird silence.

PRESTON (CONT'D)

Hey, the reason I came by is because Ellen's company finished the introductory phase of this new RTS game they designed. She wants me to alpha test it. Its a 1-v-1 but all of my other friends are way too busy. I figured since you have all this extra time on your hands, you can test it with me.

JIMMY

Nah, I, uh, yeah, I can't. I gotta get dinner going, and uh-

PRESTON

C'mon, man. I'll bet Ellen'll put you on the list for beta-testers. Nothing better than getting paid to play video games all day, am I right? You can probably even work from home.

JIMMY

Really?

PRESTON

Yeah. Still take care of Grace.

JIMMY

Huh.

PRESTON

But, you gotta get through me first, dude. And, I'm not too shabby at RPGs.

JIMMY

I've played my share back in the day, too.

PRESTON

Are we on?

JIMMY

Okay. Yeah. Let's do it.

Preston hands Jimmy a disk that says "Kingdom Boss."

PRESTON

Alright then. Prepare to get pwned.

Preston exits out the sliding door. Jimmy pops the disk into his computer and hooks it up to the big screen TV.

JIMMY

I hate that guy.

GRACE

Mommy doesn't like it when I say I hate someone.

JIMMY

You know what I mean.

GRACE
Mm-hm. You want to beat him.

JIMMY
Yeah.

GRACE
Really bad.

JIMMY
Yes.

GRACE
I'll help you, Daddy.

Jimmy smiles at her and launches the game.

GAME VISUAL: Attributes Panel with many choices.

JIMMY
Okay, let's build our avatar. Our
guy has to be powerful, skilled,
and smart. What do you think of the
name, "Dragon Overlord?"

GRACE
Let's name him "Daddy!"

Jimmy starts to type Dragon, but Grace looks disappointed. He
backspaces and types "Grace" instead. (Grace Avatar: a.k.a.
"GA")

JIMMY
No. I want Preston to be defeated
by "Grace."

Jimmy and Grace giggle excitedly.

GAME VISUAL: Jimmy selects GA's Attributes - Charming
Negotiator; Brawny; Assassin; Ranger; Unmarried; Poison
Alchemy Expert; Expert Fisticuffs; and Expert Swordsman.

The phone rings.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Hello? Oh, uh, hey honey.

GRACE
(yells into phone)
HI MOMMY!

Jimmy hurries to the kitchen and takes out vegetables and
chicken from the refrigerator. View of the family room from
the kitchen: Grace grabs the controller.

Jimmy listens to his wife's day at work and puts dinner in the oven while Grace builds the avatar.

GAME VISUAL: Grace deselects the "vicious" attributes that Jimmy chose, and instead selects: Farmer; Doctor; Married; Three Children; Expert Machete; Expert Sickle.

Grace exits out of the Attributes and Inventory panel. She practices her pirouettes.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Okay, see you at 7:00. Love you, too. Bye.

Jimmy hangs up and returns to the family room.

JIMMY

Oh man, Gracie. Let's get this done before Mommy sees me playing video games. You know I'm not doing this for fun, right?

GRACE

I know. If Mommy doesn't believe you, you can sleep in my room instead of on the couch, Daddy.

JIMMY

Thank you, baby.

GAME VISUAL: The screen asks if Avatar Selection is complete.

Nervous and distracted from the phone call, Jimmy clicks "Build Avatar" without first reviewing. The game launches.

GAME VISUAL: Daddy's home village is adorable. Cute music.

Jimmy frowns in confusion at the sweetness.

GRACE

Aw look! Everything's sooo cute and pretty!

GAME VISUAL: Friendly villagers and happy children smile and wave as they walk past GA's cottage.

JIMMY

The game-makers really need to make this town look more deadly.

GAME VISUAL: The door to the cottage opens. Two teenagers and a beautiful redheaded woman carrying a baby come out to greet GA.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
 Wait. What? A wife? And children?
 No. No. No! I'm an assassin!

Jimmy frantically checks his attributes and inventory panels.
 He has a minor freak-out.

GAME VISUAL: Attributes Panel shows Grace's selections.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
 I'm a farmer? Grace! Did you change
 my character's attributes?

Grace is scared and genuinely did not think he'd be mad.

GRACE
 Yes, Daddy.

JIMMY
 WHY? Why...why would you do that?

GRACE
 (starting to cry)
 Because I wanted him to be a nice
 Daddy...and help people.

JIMMY
 Why would you want that?

GRACE
 Because it's better to be a nice
 man than a mean one.

Grace whimpers and starts to sadly leave the room.

JIMMY
 Don't cry, Grace. Come back. It's
 okay. Thank you for helping me,
 sweetheart. You're a good girl.
 It's just that, in this game, it's
 better to be an assassin! Not in
 real life, but here. It's better.

GRACE
 I'm sorry. I didn't know.

JIMMY
 We'll still do our best, okay? Did
 you leave me with any weapons at
 all? Or just farm tools?

GRACE
 Of course, Daddy. I gave you a
 sickle and a machete.

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

So you can defend yourself and
harvest grain at the same time.

Jimmy looks at his inventory. His heart drops.

GAME VISUAL: Satchel inventory shows First-Aid Healer, Water Finder, Global Feeder.

JIMMY

What am I going to do with all this
stuff if I'm dead?

GRACE

You can feed people and give them
water. And you're a doctor, so you
can heal the sick people.

Jimmy takes a deep breath and closes his eyes so that he
doesn't explode. With self-control, he exhales, then smiles.

JIMMY

Our avatar is a very...very...
nice...man. Thank you, Gracie.

GRACE

(unsure)
You're welcome.

GAME VISUAL: The redheaded computer wife points in the
distance. A menacing-looking character with a black cape, and
fierce-looking weapons approaches. Jimmy reads his stats.

JIMMY

Lord Thunder. Oh man. Professional
Assassin. Master Swordfighter.

GRACE

Ew.

GAME VISUAL: Lord Thunder (a.k.a. "LT") approaches GA. In an
intimidating baritone voice, he speaks what Preston types
into the Message box.

LORD THUNDER

A farmer. Named Grace. Excellent!
Time to meet your doom! I will
destroy you and make your wife and
children my slaves!

GAME VISUAL: Jimmy clicks on "Battle" button. Computer-
generated villagers arrive to help defend GA. Wife puts baby
into the arms of eldest daughter. Wife and son get into a
fighting stance.

JIMMY (V.O.)
Woah. That's cool!

LORD THUNDER
What is this, Farmer? You need your woman and villagers to fight your battles? Pathetic! Prepare to die.

GRACE AVATAR
(wimpy farmer voice)
Your arrogance will be your undoing, Lord Thunder!

JIMMY
Oh, man! My guy sounds like a goat.

GAME VISUAL: Battle Music. LT strikes GA with Hammer Crusher. GA gets thrown against a tree. Wife whacks LT in the face with a square-nosed shovel while son jabs LT in the thigh with a hoe. Villagers fight with long-handled metal dibbers. LT throws a grenade at GA's group. Bodies go flying. Still, LT retreats. GA raises his fist in defiance.

Jimmy types into Message box.

GRACE AVATAR
(wimpy farmer voice)
Never return, Assassin! We are a peaceful village.

Jimmy sighs with momentary relief. Jimmy and Grace giggle at each other.

JIMMY
Okay, babe, let's recoup. My wife and son need better weapons than these default farmer tools.

GRACE
You're not mad, Daddy?

JIMMY
What? No, baby. And the villagers make a great little army I wasn't expecting.

GRACE
They're not army men, Daddy. They're your friends.

GAME VISUAL: Bottom right of screen shows global food, thirst, and health barometers. The levels are red (low) with sad faces. Upper left of screen shows selection of available weapons.

Grace points to the bottom right of screen.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Daddy, look. The villagers are
hungry and weak.

JIMMY
(ignoring)
I think my wife should wield a
Scythe. What do you think?

GAME VISUAL: Grace taps furiously on the TV screen where Jimmy needs to click. The Food, Water and Heal buttons are at full capacity.

GRACE (V.O.)
Daddy! Here! Here!

JIMMY
Yes, okay. Let's restore everyone.
Want to do the honors?

Grace grins from ear to ear as she takes the controller.

GAME VISUAL: The Compassion Points gauge slowly rises from red to yellow to green (100%) as Grace feeds and heals.

GRACE (V.O.)
I bet Lord Thunder doesn't even
take care of his own villagers like
we do, Daddy.

JIMMY
As an assassin, he probably only
focuses on his own health.

GRACE
Let's plant vegetables now!

GAME VISUAL: Redheaded wife points to path. GA turns to see LT returning.

JIMMY
Woah, Thunder's back already.

Jimmy clicks on LT's info-stats. Gauges for Compassion, Friendship and Medical Healing are grayed out. His global gauge shows he borrowed strength from his villagers, leaving them with no power or resources.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
His personal gauges are intense.
That dude got crazy strong.
(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Looks like he siphoned energy from his own villagers to increase his strength capacity.

GRACE

That's not very nice.

JIMMY

Mm-hm.

GRACE

I think we should ask if he wants to be our friend.

Jimmy looks at Grace's sweet, sincere face and is moved by her innocence.

JIMMY

Okay.

GAME VISUAL: GA requests friendship from LT. Request is immediately rejected.

Grace frowns. Jimmy shrugs his shoulders like, "I tried."

GAME VISUAL: Close up of intimidating LT. He looks beefier.

LORD THUNDER

Friendship denied! Death will become you.

GAME VISUAL: LT strikes with Blade of Death. Two villagers in the first row go flying. Next three villagers attack LT with metal dibbers. GA strikes with Kansai Machete. LT responds with Hammer Crusher. GA Health: 68%; LT Health: 86%.

Jimmy checks the Battle Panel. He notices again that LT's own village has minimal power.

JIMMY

Hey. I have an idea.

GRACE

What?

JIMMY

I need to get to Lord Thunder's village.

GAME VISUAL: GA runs past LT. LT must finish off GA's villagers and family before he can chase GA.

LORD THUNDER

Coward! Stay and fight like a man!

GAME VISUAL: GA arrives at LT's dark village. The villagers look weak and demoralized. Jimmy utilizes his own Global Feeder, Water Finder, and First-Aid Healer. The aid is received. Jimmy requests friendship. They accept. A brightness suddenly fills the land.

GRACE (V.O.)

You made friends with the enemy!
That's so nice!

GAME VISUAL: Lord Thunder runs up the path.

LORD THUNDER

Pathetic coward! I left your people
to die. You are next.

GRACE AVATAR

(wimpy farmer voice)
Compassion will restore them!

GAME VISUAL: LT strikes Daddy with Blade of Death multiple times. GA Health: 26%; LT Health 65%. GA responds with Kansai Machete. Less impact but still injures LT. GA engages LT's villagers who are now his allies. They fight LT with forks, steak knives and bowls.

VILLAGERS

We don't like Lord Thunder! We love
Grace! We love Grace!

LORD THUNDER

Disloyal fools! I will destroy you
all and burn down your houses!

GAME VISUAL: LT battles GA with Hammer Crusher while LT's villagers tirelessly attack with meal utensils. Multiple strikes back and forth. LT throws a grenade. Some villagers go flying. GA Health: 5%; LT Health: 48%.

GRACE

Daddy! You're almost dead. Run!

JIMMY

I need to try something first.

GAME VISUAL: Inventory panel opens. Resurrection button allows for 100% recovery. Jimmy clicks it. An alert pops up: "Unable to comply. You must first die."

GRACE

No, Daddy! Don't die!

JIMMY

I need to die, Grace. The only way
I can be saved is if I die.

GAME VISUAL: GA resheaths his machete and stands defenseless before LT. LT swings his sword and strikes GA down. GA Health: 0%; LT Health: 30%. Sad music.

GRACE

Noooo!

GAME VISUAL: Alert - "Your Compassion Points are at full capacity. Would you like to Resurrect?" Jimmy selects "Yes." He also selects "Global Restoration" for his family and all allied villagers. GA's body dramatically rises from death. Hallelujah chorus plays.

The LT villagers, now at full health, relentlessly battle LT until his Health% reaches 0%. An alert comes up: "Lord Thunder's Health Points are depleted. He has no Compassion Points for Resurrection. Grace has defeated Lord Thunder."

New alert pops up on screen: "Congratulations, Grace, you are the Greatest in the Kingdom."

Jimmy and Grace scream and celebrate, doing pirouettes around the family room.

In a minute, Preston arrives at sliding glass door. Jimmy opens it.

PRESTON

Dude. Respect. Unconventional choices. It's like you turned logic on it's head. Nice playing.

JIMMY

Thanks, man. Hey, you want to come in for some coffee?

Preston enters.

PRESTON

Ellen watched the battle. We thought you'd die immediately. You totally surprised us. I told Ellen to hire you for beta-testing, and she's like, "Yeah, definitely. I'll call him tomorrow."

JIMMY

Oh, wow, thank you, man, I really appreciate that.

Jimmy offers his hand. Preston shakes it. Grace peeks behind her dad and waves.

GRACE
Hi, Lord Thunder.

PRESTON
Hey there, little warrior! Did you
help your Dad?

Grace nods her head.

JIMMY
Yeah, I definitely couldn't have
done it without Grace.

FADE OUT.