

THE TROLL KING

A play by

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YOLO SWAGGINS

Let me tell you about something really important. Something every man needs to confront. It's called the Friend Zone.

ZACHARY

"The Friend Zone?"

WOMBRAIDER

Friend Zone, Brocules. The oldest trick in the book.

YOLO SWAGGINS

You like her. You're too scared to tell her. But you still want to be around her. Show her how much you care. Maybe she'll realize what she has right there in front of her. So you go the extra mile. You notice things other people don't. You give her support. And of course you never ask anything in return. Because that would be selfish right? Meanwhile, she has already banished you to the outer realm, where there is no touch or taste or feel, only the slow, endless draining of your life force as she galavants around with genetically superior mates.

ZACHARY

You don't know her, though.

WOMBRAIDER

We don't have to know her. It's evolution, dawg.

ZACHARY

Evolution?

YOLO SWAGGINS

Listen, Zachary. Every geek's gone through it, from Archimedes to Steve Jobs. It's hard, it's confusing, and it can be lonely, but don't get led astray. Nerds make it by banding together.

WOMBRAIDER

Bros before hoes as they say.

ZACHARY

I don't have any bros!

Gasp.

ZACHARY

I didn't mean it like...I'm so grateful to have you guys. But you're not at school with me every day. You don't know what it's like for me. At this point I don't even want to wake up tomorrow.

YOLO SWAGGINS

Hey, don't talk like that.

ZACHARY

I'm tired, ok? And you said it yourself. It doesn't end in high school. It's just jocks and nerds until we die! I can't do it anymore. There's no point to anything.

Yolo's and Wombraider's avatars turn to each other.

WOMBRAIDER

I think it's time.

YOLO SWAGGINS

You think he's ready?

WOMBRAIDER

You heard him. He's hit bottom, brah.

YOLO SWAGGINS

We'll never know unless we try.

ZACHARY

What are you guys talking about?

YOLO SWAGGINS

Ok, listen up Zachary. Have you heard the name "Loki" before?

ZACHARY

Loki? Yeah. Yeah, I see it come up on forums a lot. He's like some super hacker?

WOMBRAIDER

That's right. Maybe the best there ever was.

YOLO SWAGGINS

And a philosopher, too. An influential one.

ZACHARY

Philosopher?

YOLO SWAGGINS

A rational approach to an unjust world. A way for guys like us to take back control.

WOMBRAIDER

Power, bro.

A spark.

A FLASHBACK.

The black screen.

That message:

???

Do you want power?

He snaps back.

ZACHARY

Power...

YOLO SWAGGINS

Some consider his ideas dangerous. He keeps to the shadows. He only rarely grants audiences, and only if you can find him.

ZACHARY

How do we find him?

YOLO SWAGGINS

We gotta take a dip into the Dark Web.

A chill.

ZACHARY

The Dark Web?

YOLO SWAGGINS

That's right, buddy. As vast and uncharted as the deep sea, but instead of glowing fish it's filled with drug dealers, terrorists, and pedophiles.

WOMBRAIDER

Are you ready for that?

ZACHARY

Yes.

YOLO SWAGGINS

Are you sure? There's no turning back.

ZACHARY

I have nothing left to lose.

A moment.

YOLO SWAGGINS

Sounds like we got an adventure on our hands!

WOMBRAIDER

Hell yeah!

ZACHARY

So what do we do?

YOLO SWAGGINS

We got everything we need. All's left is to man our stations. Everybody beef up your firewalls. We can get hacked a million different ways and have no idea.

WOMBRAIDER

And tape over your cameras. Croosh.

YOLO SWAGGINS

Man it's been a while.

WOMBRAIDER

Getting nostalgic on me?

YOLO SWAGGINS

Listen, Zachary. We go in, we do what we gotta do—

WOMBRAIDER

And we dipset.

YOLO SWAGGINS

No sight-seeing. No detours. Got it?

ZACHARY

Got it.

YOLO SWAGGINS

We ready?

WOMBRAIDER

Ready.

ZACHARY

Ready.

YOLO SWAGGINS

Welcome to the command center.

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ZACHARY'S room transforms into a Star Trek-like spaceship. YOLO and WOMBRAIDER appear as their Blitzkreig avatars. All type furiously.

YOLO SWAGGINS

Approaching the barrier.

WOMBRAIDER

We're gonna need a bigger CPU.

YOLO SWAGGINS

Encryption sheilds up.

WOMBRAIDER

Brace for impact!

A loud crash. The room shakes. Emergency lights flash. They flail in the turbulence. Yolo holding steady.

YOLO SWAGGINS

Come on...come on...

ZACHARY

We can't take much more of this!

YOLO SWAGGINS

We're almost through!

WOMBRAIDER

If the Feds get us, I want you to know...

The shaking subsides. Lights return to normal. Exhale.

YOLO SWAGGINS

Send out the beacon.

Beacon beeps steadily. They wait. Wait. Beeping gets rapid.

YOLO SWAGGINS

We have a hit!

The energy shifts.They're plunged into darkness. YOLO and WOMBRAIDER kneel.

YOLO SWAGGINS

Reason be thy guide.

WOMBRAIDER

Reason be thy guide.

YOLO SWAGGINS

Most powerful Loki. We come to you with a friend.

WOMBRAIDER

A fresh mind with promise.

A voice booms. A computerized sound. Words inaudible.

YOLO SWAGGINS

As you wish.

WOMBRAIDER

As you wish.

They disappear.

*An OLD MAN appears. Long beard, robes. An elder martial arts master.
Wearing...sunglasses?*

LOKI

I know who you are. I've been watching you for some time. Do not be afraid. I want to help you. You feel lost. Hopeless. Like the entire world is against you. You crave love, but do not understand it. You crave freedom, but have never felt it. You are held back from your true potential. Do you want the truth? Do you want power? Declare yourself. Speak your name.

ZACHARY

Loki?

He smiles. Removes his shades.

LOKI

Darth Zed. Do you recognize these words?

ZACHARY

From a dream.

LOKI

It was no dream. I can assure you that this is very very real.

ZACHARY

You're Loki!

LOKI

Yes, I am. Well. One of his many forms. An avatar.

LOKI punches. Kicks. Channels dark purple aura in his hands. Launches a fireball. It flies. Explodes. Dissipates.

ZACHARY

Awesome.

LOKI bows. ZACHARY bows instinctively.

LOKI

I have been waiting for you.

ZACHARY

For me?

LOKI

Yes. I see something in you, Zed. The world may not see it yet. But I see it. You are special.

ZACHARY

Special?

LOKI

That's right, Zed. Men like us. We're made to feel weak. We are made to apologize for our very existence. But it is men, like you and me, who have true power...if we were only to realize it. I'm offering you an opportunity. Together, we can make a new world. A better world.

ZACHARY

A better world?

LOKI

It has been a certain way from the beginning. Men hunt. Men go to war. Men provide for their families. We have all the responsibility, while women enjoy the comfort and safety of the home. There is a woman in your life, is there not?

ZACHARY

How did you know that?

LOKI

I know all. She, too, is part of this system.

ZACHARY

Hope's my friend.

LOKI

Perhaps...in whatever way your oppressor can be. But the fundamental truth of your relationship will not change. She need not even be aware of it, but she must play her role, just as the White Knights and Chads must play theirs. We are all players in a game. A game that pits men against men, all for the benefit of women. And that system...is Feminism.

ZACHARY

Woah.

LOKI

As long as you play by their rules, you will never have what you desire. You will never be free. You must change the game completely. You must emancipate yourself.

ZACHARY

How?

LOKI

I can show you the door. You are the one that must walk through it. Accept, and you will have my wisdom, my knowledge, my power. Refuse, and you will go back to the world you know. I will not seek you out any longer. You will remain in the game. It must be your choice. But know this: there is no turning back.

Zachary thinks. But he already knows, deep down, what he will do.

ZACHARY

I accept.

Loki's hands hover around Zachary's head.

LOKI

You will have the power.

Loki's hands glow. Vivid green light. It grows. Grows. The light enters Zachary. Like electricity. His body convulses. His form softens. Disappears into the expanding light. Then darkness.

LOKI

(voice over)

You are reborn. Return to the world with new eyes. Reason by thy guide.

EXT. DARK FOREST

A SCAVENGER among felled monsters and players.

MICHIKO (RANGER) - Plumed hat, light armor under a cloak, and tall boots.

A sound in the distance.

She readies her rapier.

Ducks behind a tree.

BANDITS appear.

Fearsome monsters at their sides.

Sniffing, snorting dog-like things.

Two COMMANDERS join them.

WOMBRAIDER (WARRIOR) - Ogre. Hulking, heavily-armored, armed with a battle-axe.

YOLO SWAGGINS (SORCERER) - Dark Elf. Slender, long angular features. Light body armor with a torn cape.

MICHIKO

Not good.

YOLO SWAGGINS

The village?

BANDIT

Burned to the ground, my Lord.

YOLO SWAGGINS

There's no way they can ignore that.

WOMBRAIDER

I can't wait.

Wombraider palms his big bony knuckles.

MICHIKO

Do they mean...?

BANDIT

They're upon us!

*Yolo Swaggins readies his staff.
Wombraider his axe.*

Then, "they" arrive:

HOPE (PALADIN) -

TERI (ROGUE) -

CRAIG (CLERIC) -

Hope draws her sword.

HOPE

We ready?

Teri draws hers.

TERI

Oh yeah!

Craig limply raises his staff.

CRAIG

...Yeah.

Hope and Teri charge.

HOPE
YAHHHHHH!

TERI
YAHHHHHH!

Craig hangs back.

CRAIG

Heal...heal...heal...

Wombraider readies a big swing.

WOMBRAIDER

Come and get it. You want this di—

Teri slides under Wombraider.

Cuts him off at the knees.

He topples over.

WOMBRAIDER

What the fuck?

Hits the ground with a thud.

WOMBRAIDER

That's no fair.

*Yolo fires a destructive spell.
Hope breaks through with her shield.
Then stabs Yolo with her sword.*

YOLO SWAGGINS

No way...

Yolo drops to his knees.

HOPE

Cydonia will be liberated!

Yolo laughs.

YOLO SWAGGINS

You'll never beat him.

Hope pulls her sword back to swing.

WOMBRAIDER

Retreat!

*A black cloud bursts.
Wombraider is gone.
Yolo and the Bandits follow.*

HOPE

Got 'em.

TERI

All right!

*Hope and Teri strike triumphant poses.
Victory music swells.
Then wilts on Craig's more subdued reaction.*

TERI

You ok, Craig?

CRAIG

Yeah, I'm fine.

TERI

You seem, like, distracted.

CRAIG

Oh?

HOPE

Don't play dumb, Craig. What's your deal?

A hesitant beat.

CRAIG

Why do I have to be the Cleric?

Hope and Teri give each other a look.

HOPE

We can't all be close-range fighters. We need to be balanced.

CRAIG

Sure, but...

TERI

Yeah, like, I'm a Rogue so we got stealth, speed, and some light spells...

HOPE

I have power, health, and holy magic. Useful, you know, for all the dark elves and undead in the Empire's army.

CRAIG

Yeah, totally..

TERI

And you, you know...heal! If you didn't do that we'd all be dead.

CRAIG

Hope can heal too.

HOPE

It's a secondary skill for me. My strength is the real asset.

TERI

Yeah, she's our tank, it'll keep her from fighting. She needs it for emergencies, like if a hunter picks you off with an arrow or something.

CRAIG

I just don't know how I ended up being the one, though?

TERI

Why not you?

CRAIG

I mean, I just, don't you think I'd be naturally better at a warrior class?

HOPE

Why would that be?

CRAIG

Uh. No reason.

HOPE

Do you have a problem with the way Teri and I are managing things?

CRAIG

No, no, you're doing great. And I'm happy to do what's best for the team...I would just like to be something with more strength.

TERI

Oh no, you're big and strong, Craig. Big and strong!

CRAIG

Yo, just forget it!

TERI

Hey, hey, listen. We can't do what we do if you're not there to back us up.

CRAIG

It just seems like you guys are having way more fun.

HOPE

Fun?

CRAIG

I didn't mean it like that.

HOPE

We're trying to save the world here.

CRAIG

Yeah...yeah, I know...

HOPE

And now that we've made our move we have the Empire's eyes on us. Maybe having fun isn't the most important thing right now.

CRAIG

You're right, Hope. You're right.

HOPE

Oh, thanks for your approval, Craig!

TERI

Ok, you two!

HOPE

"You two"?

TERI

Let's just keep it out of the game, ok?

CRAIG

I keep tell you, I'm sorry, Hope!

HOPE

Stop saying that!

Hope screams and swings her sword.

Startles the rest.

Until they see the monster she just sliced.

TERI

Woah.

HOPE

I'm stressed out, ok?

CRAIG

He hacked my phone, you know. I was violated too.

Hope, exasperated, turns from him.

CRAIG

Like, in a way!