

"Warlock Games 2: Set-Up"

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EXT. FOREST

Recap of events from before. WARLOCK dies, unceremoniously. ZEPP then falls to his knees, clutching arm.

ZEPP
Oh crap. Oh crap, oh crap, oh
crap.

JEFF stands there, looking bewildered. Zepp crawls towards the warlock's body, which remains still. From inside the warlock's jacket, he removes two photographs: both of unknown boys of the same age.

ZEPP (CONT'D)
(turning)
I think I know what happened
here. My cousins told me this
story, said it happened to them a
couple of months ago, but I
wouldn't believe them...

CUT TO:

EXT. DARREN AND ERNIE'S HOUSE

It is the past. The camera pulls out to reveal an arm wrestle between the two boys from the photographs, DARREN and ERNIE.

DARREN
Ready, and - GO!

They struggle to defeat each other, but Darren eventually wins.

ERNIE
Jeez, I just about had you! Hold
on, wait there...

He gets up and goes towards the garage.

DARREN
(Laughing)
What a bastard! Ernie, you really
did not -

ERNIE
DARREN! Heads up!

A rugby ball hits Darren in the head.

DARREN
Bloody hell!

ERNIE

Come on, it's a good day, let's
take it to the forest.

DARREN

Fine.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - OPEN PLAINS

It is a bright, sunny day, and the field is mostly empty.
Rugby montage of kicking the ball.

DARREN

Ernie! We gotta get back soon,
mind if we go?

ERNIE

Sure, let's go.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - TREES

They are walking through some trees. Darren is waffling on
about something (improv.) They hear a noise.

ERNIE

Shh! What was that noise?

They climb over a small mound and see the warlock standing
there, with a teenage boy, who is kneeling before him, as
if begging him for mercy.

BOY

Please! Oh, please have mercy!
When I saw the letter, what it
said - I only thought-!

WARLOCK

Silence! You have brought me
nought but disappointment and
dismay. You are of no use to me
now.

(He turns away from him)

I have no choice but to dismiss
you from your position of -

BOY

(Crying)

NO!

Boy turns and gets up, beginning to run away. As he does so, warlock spins and casts his staff, killing the boy, who falls to the ground, blood streaming from his eyes and mouth.

The duo's eyes expand exaggeratedly. As the warlock turns away again, he catches sight of them as they jump up and flee. Fuming, he slowly trudges up the mound to see them sprinting away through the trees.

They keep running for some time, followed casually by the warlock. Eventually, they hear a loud voice that forces them to stand still where they are. They stand back to back, looking up into the trees above, moving around in a circle.

WARLOCK (V.O.)

(Booming)

FEE FI FO FUM,
 YOU'VE CAUGHT THE WARLOCK WITH
 HIS SMOKING GUN,
 YOU CAN'T HIDE, NO MATTER HOW FAR
 YOU'VE RUN,
 SO LET'S PLAY A GAME - CREATE A
 LITTLE FUN.

The warlock suddenly appears in a whirl of smoke/a flash and a bang/something inventive.

WARLOCK (CONT'D)

It appears that the two of you have seen a bit more than I'd like. A liability, it would be, for me to allow you to leave these boundaries....alive. But perhaps not - you're not actually going to tell anyone what you've seen here, are you?

They shake their heads profusely.

WARLOCK (CONT'D)

Though then again, you probably would.

They look at each other.

WARLOCK (CONT'D)

Don't worry, be honest.

They nod, meekly.

WARLOCK (CONT'D)

Very well. We'll make it fair. People WILL die, don't get me wrong - I'll hunt them down if it's the last thing I do - but I'll give you two your chances of freedom, at least. SO, there are two of you, and one of me - that makes three. Thus/therefore you have three chances. Three rounds. Round one: classic mode. Normal rules apply. You simply have to get out of the forest, using any means necessary. You may begin tomorrow morning.

ERNIE

(Struggling, as first words to warlock)
A-and....what till then?

WARLOCK

Until then, earnest Ernest....you sleep.

Warlock casts his staff, and the two boys drop to the floor, unconscious. Screen to black.

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

From Ernie's POV - he slowly wakes up, and everything is a blur. This is a dreamlike sequence and as such everything remains somewhat out of focus. He sees Darren standing with a Biggles hat on his head (goggles over his eyes), a jacket, and a scarf. He is looking enthusiastic.

DARREN

Come on, Ern, we've got to build this plane!

ERNIE

Wha-?

DARREN

It's our way out of here, Ern, a nice big plane to fly us way over the trees and across to safety!

ERNIE

What are you-?

DARREN

Look, Ern! I'm sawing some wood!

Darren has a thin branch and is using it to 'saw' a bigger branch. Big, exaggerated smile on his face as he stares, wide-eyed, at Ernie.

DARREN (CONT'D)
Come on, Ern! Come saw some wood,
Ern! Come saw some wood!

The camera cuts to Ernie's face and pushes in as he gets up and screams.

ERNIE
(Desperately)
Nooooooooo-oooooooo-oooooooo-!

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Smooth transition back to Ernie's sleeping face. He is screaming still.

ERNIE
Nooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

He jolts awake and gets up, a look of relief spreading across his face. The camera starts circling his body.

ERNIE (CONT'D)
Ahh, it was all a -

We suddenly see Darren, exactly as he was in the 'dream'. Still sawing.

DARREN
Come on, Ern, we've got to saw
this wood, or we'll never get the
plane fixed.

He points to a pile of twigs, laid out in a somewhat plane-like fashion.

ERNIE
What the hell are you doing? Have
you gone mad?

DARREN
(With both arms out in
the air)
Completely and utterly batshit
insane!

Darren suddenly stops everything, his arms still in the air, and stares, wide-eyed, at Ernie, telling him to shush. One of Darren's arms is pointing back and forth at something in the trees behind him.

The camera follows this to find a camera sitting in the trees, not at all inconspicuous.

DARREN (CONT'D)

(Whispering)

If he sees us saw, we saw, you see? If he sees us do nothing, he makes us do nothing-

ERNIE

Wha-?

DARREN

(Slightly louder)

We DIE.

(Looks worried suddenly,
turns to camera,
smiling)

Ah-ha ha ha....just sawing some
wood, saw, saw, saw.....

Ernie finally appears to have caught on.

ERNIE

I'll - er - just go and get some
better wood than this, for our
plane, so you can saw - saw, saw,
saw...

He walks off.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Ernie is collecting some better wood when he suddenly hears a loud car horn. He turns to his left, only to see a ruddy great road, the silly plonk. His face lights up, and he drops the wood.

DARREN

ESCAPE!

He begins to rush out, before coming to a complete stop. He seems to wrestle with conflicting ideas in his head, before resolutely, though somewhat reluctantly, turning round and going back through the forest at pace.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Ernie rushes back to Darren, who is on his back, now sawing with both arms in the air.

ERNIE
 (Sounding false)
 Darren, get up, I have an idea
 for the plane I must discuss with
 you...

He eyes the camera, and stands with his back to it. Then, in sign language (and subtitled), he says: 'THERE IS A ROAD. FOLLOW ME AND WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE.' He confidently ends and nods at Darren.

DARREN
 (Wide-eyed and smiling)
 What?

Ernie does it again. Darren simply stands there, blinking. Ernie's face sinks.

ERNIE
 (Whispering)
 Follow...me...

They leave. Through the camera's eyes, we watch them.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The two approach the road, and carefully begin to make their exit, when the warlock casually steps out of the trees beside them.

WARLOCK
 Congratulations. Round one
 complete.
 (In response to their
 faces)
 What, you thought that was it?
 No, to proceed through the game
 you simply had to reach the road,
 which, of course, was right here -
 you should have forgotten about
 that silly plane of yours.

Darren looks crestfallen.

WARLOCK (CONT'D)
 Let round two commence!

He casts his staff, there is a flash, and the three disappear.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - OPEN PLAINS

Flash, and the three reappear in the centre of the open plains, camera pulling out to emphasise remoteness. The warlock stands facing them, with a sly grin on his face.

WARLOCK

Welcome to the heart of my domain. Now, this is my favourite little game. I give it to all my ... acquaintances. It's a good way of knowing just how much they've trespassed upon my hallowed grounds.

He suddenly breaks from his static pose, and starts pacing before them.

WARLOCK (CONT'D)

Deep in this forest is a mysterious, round, yellow flower. Find it, and we shall proceed to the final round. Fail to find it, you die. Simple enough? You have ten minutes.

Disappears in a puff of pyrotechnics. A countdown timer appears onscreen. Ernie and Darren face each other.

ERNIE

(sitting down, head in hands)

What the hell are we meant to do?

DARREN

(Cheerily beginning to walk on)

More to the point, why can't he get his own gardener?

ERNIE

(shouting)

Oh, for God's sake, grow up!

(Gets up and follows Darren)

We've got to find this plant somewhere in the entire forest, we've barely any idea what it looks like, and we've only got ten minutes!

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST

They are still walking. The countdown timer now reads four minutes.

ERNIE

I mean, can't you at least HELP?
Last month you seemed pretty
adept at finding that little
bottle of German whisky you lost
round here...

DARREN

Yes, that's because *I* was the one
who'd left it *there* just the
afternoon before.

Flashback of Darren leaving a small bottle in a tree, he is
smiling, and drunk.

DARREN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(Dignified)

I'd left it up a tree, nice and
safe.

Cuts back to present.

ERNIE

Why did you leave it up a tree?

DARREN

I was drunk, how should I know?
Besides, it was near a pretty,
round, yellow flower, so I was
able to find it again later...

Ernie stops in his tracks.

ERNIE

You mean...the mysterious, round,
yellow flower we're meant to be
finding?

DARREN

It was pretty mysterious, yes.

ERNIE

Well, let's go!

They sprint off.

FADE TO:

EXT. FOREST

They are sprinting down the forest corridor. The countdown
reads twenty seconds. They almost get to the plant, but the
warlock appears, blocking their way.

WARLOCK

Bloody scoundrels, looks like
someone's been here before.
(MORE)

WARLOCK (CONT'D)

Well that was awfully
predictable. Let the final round
commence!

Casts staff, the three disappear in a pyrotechnical flash
and a bang.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DARK

Flash, and the three reappear in a small, dark part of the
forest. Darren is tied up and sitting on the ground, while
Ernie is tied around a nearby tree and the warlock walks
around them. Darren looks frantically around.

WARLOCK

This part is simple: Earnest
Ernest - you want to live, right?

Ernie nods.

WARLOCK (CONT'D)

How much? Enough that you'd let
your brother here lose a couple
of non-vitals, here and there?

Ernie looks blank, before beginning to look a little
anxious. The warlock goes over to Darren, and looks at him.

WARLOCK (CONT'D)

(Patronisingly)
It'll be quick, guaranteed.

Using his staff, he starts to cut off Darren's ear (hidden
from camera). Darren lets out a blood-curdling scream of
pain and terror. Ernie flinches slightly, trying to loosen
his bond, before saying:

ERNIE

Wait! What do you think will
happen if I turn up back home
without my brother, huh? They'll
come looking here for him.

His bonds break free a little more.

WARLOCK

Oh, don't worry, he won't die,
he'll go back home with you-

The warlock raises his staff, about to castrate Darren.

ERNIE

But, what about all the scars,
his ear, his balls??

The warlock stops dead in his tracks.

WARLOCK

I'm not an idiot, I'm only trying
to cause him a little pain. To
see how far you'll go.

He casts his wand at Darren, whose ear has suddenly
reappeared, and the blood mostly gone. At the same time,
Ernie escapes from his bonds.

WARLOCK (CONT'D)

So, which ball should I have fir-

Cut to black as Ernie smashes the warlock round the face.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Back to present day. Zepp is sitting there, having relayed
the story to the other two.

ZEPP

They never completed his little
game. They escaped, apparently
completely unharmed. Must've
knocked the warlock out cold -
(looking at the photos)
he must still be looking for
them, or-

As he says this, he pulls out one last photo from within
the warlock's jacket. It is of Zepp himself.

ZEPP (CONT'D)

Or me! Why the hell is he after-?

At this, the warlock's body starts to tremble, his hands
and feet shaking. Petrified, the others sprint off
immediately.

Cut to black as the warlock's eyes snap open.

Warlock's laugh is heard as titlecard reads: 'TO BE
CONTINUED. THE LAST ROUND HASN'T YET BEGUN.'

THE END.