

FARQUEST

Written by

Rayce Vaughan

Rayce45@gmail.com
306-830-2861

FADE IN

EXT. SHOPBUY - MIDNIGHT

CHRIS (12), AMELIA (16), and LUCAS (12) are waiting in line outside of a store, signage for the new game FARQUEST in the window.

The group finally shuffles to the front of the line.

AMY

We're next. Chris, have the money ready.

CHRIS

Pshh I've got this, Amy.

Chris turns to Lucas, who has his nose in a magazine.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Lucas, this game is going to be AMAZING!

LUCAS

It says in the review that the NPCs have life-like personalities and "sass action", what do you think that means?

AMY

It means you guys are a bunch of nerds. I can't believe you guys saved up \$500 for a stupid game, you already have a million of them.

LUCAS

This one's different Amy, it has so many cool new features.

AMY

Oh yeah? Like what.

LUCAS

The game map is going to be as big as an entire continent with thousands of quests and people to meet-

CHRIS

There's going to be dragons and monsters and goblins and elves and dungeons and-

BRAD (17), KALEY (11), and ALANA (11) step out of the store, a large box in brad's hands.

Amy steps on Chris's toes and elbows Lucas in the stomach.

ALANA

Hey L-Lucas.

Both bury their face in their magazines.

BRAD

Well I'll see you later Amy, it's late and these two are eager to get going.

AMY

Yeah like, no problem Brad
hahahahahaha (nervous laughter)

The other group leaves.

CHRIS

You act like such a loser around Brad.

AMY

Oh as if you don't have a thing for Kaley.

Amy makes a kissy face. Chris goes red as a cherry

The doors open and the store associate waves them in.

CHRIS

This is it!

AMY

Now remember no looking around,
just get the game and we're
leaving, I'll text mom to come pick
us up-

Chris and Lucas bolt into the store as fast as they can. Amy rolls her eyes and follows.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Car pulls into driveway, we see 4 people get out, 2 run into the house.

INT. FRONT FOYER - NIGHT

Chris and Lucas burst in, hauling in a huge box together.

CHRIS
Mom, can we stay up a bit later and
set it up?

DEBRA walks through the door.

DEBRA
Chris, it's a school night!

CHRIS
But Moooooom.

DEBRA
Alright, alright, but only an hour
more. I'll make you a little snack
but then straight to bed!

CHRIS
Thanks, Mom!

LUCAS
Thanks, Mrs. Mayfield!

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chris and Lucas are running around plugging in cords and turning things on. Amy is sitting on the couch watching them scramble.

Chris starts drilling holes into the wall.

AMY
What are you doing? Mom isn't going
to be very happy!

CHRIS
It's the only way the game works,
stupid.

LUCAS
The cameras need to be drilled into
each corner of the walls so it can
track us in a virtual space, so
when you move in real life you move
in the game.

AMY
Just another reason for you two to
never leave the house.

Everything is set up, Lucas pops the disk into the console, and sits down beside Chris on the couch.

AMY (CONT'D)
Don't you need the controller to play?

CHRIS
Nope, it's all motion controlled. Whatever you do in real life it does in the game.

AMY
So if I hurt you in real life I can hurt you in the game? I think I could get into this.

CHRIS
It's not as easy as that-

Amy punches Chris in the arm.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Ow! We're not even in the game yet!

The console logo pops up on the screen, it fades to black with just a blinking "ARE YOU READY?" Message.

LUCAS
See, this part is voice activated, as soon as we say "ready" the game will start. Are you sure you are ready to experience the magical world of FarQuest, Amy?

AMY
Fine, Can't be worse than only watching you two play.

CHRIS
Okay, let's do this.

LUCAS
Ready!

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Ready!

AMY
Yeah "Ready".

The screen shows a countdown from 10, the boys are squirming in their seats. Amy rolls her eyes.

5...4...3...2... The door to the living room opens, Debra has a plate of cookies in her hand

DEBRA
The cookies are **ready**-

1! Everything warps and all 4 of them are sucked into the TV.

EXT. TUTORIA - DAY

The gang are teleported to a grassy area with fantasy buildings and huge trees all around them.

DEBRA

-come and.... Uh where am I?

CHRIS

Mom! What are you doing here?

LUCAS

You're in Grandalon, land of myth and magic.

Everyone is in awe, this was not what they were expecting.

AMY

This isn't what I was expecting.

LUCAS

Me neither, I thought this would be just like virtual-reality, but this feels like....

CHRIS

Reality-reality?

LUCAS

For the lack of a better term, yes.

CHRIS

This is so.... AWESOME!!!

DEBRA

I'm sorry for intruding on your game honey, I'll just go.

CHRIS

It's alright mom, we'll just log out and log back in with just the three of us.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I got this, "Pause!"

A menu pops up in front of Chris' face, the LOGOUT option is greyed out.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Hmm, maybe we have to complete the tutorial before we can logout for the first time, are you fine with going through a bit of it with us mom?

DEBRA

Of course dear, oh and I have snacks!

A hulking, mustached man in brilliantly shining silver armor grabs the cookie tray off Debra's plate from behind her, this is the TUTORIAL MASTER (45)

TUTORIAL MASTER

Don't mind if I do.

Everyone jumps in surprise. T.M slides the entire tray of cookies down his throat.

CHRIS

Who are you?

TUTORIAL MASTER

One second.

T.M continues to savor the cookies, he finishes.

TUTORIAL MASTER (CONT'D)

Ahhh, delicious. Hello, I am the Tutorial Master-

T.M twirls around, fluttering his long cape behind him, wiping the screen, and revealing the town of Tutoria. Quaint little cobblestone buildings litter the area, smoke rising from their chimneys. Workers are laboring in fields in the background with sprawling blue mountains.

TUTORIAL MASTER (CONT'D)

-And welcome to Tutoria! The first stop on your adventure through Grandalon.

Debra is beaming, eyes super wide.

DEBRA

It's so quaint! Oh I would just LOVE to vacation here.

CHRIS

So when do we get to fight the dragons?

TUTORIAL MASTER

Soon, my eager adventurer, you haven't even chosen your classes yet! Come with me, I'll explain your choices along the way.

Everyone follows T.M as they stroll through town.

TUTORIAL MASTER (CONT'D)

Each one of you will be able to choose what skills and abilities you will possess throughout your quests. There are 4 classes to choose from. The first option is the warrior, his responsibilities include leading the party into the heat of battle, and making sure his teammates don't get hurt.

CHRIS

That would be me!

TUTORIAL MASTER

I suspected as much, you will be equipped with the hardest hitting weapons and the most fortified armor.

CHRIS

I'm ready, you guys can trust me.

TUTORIAL MASTER

Next is the mage, the user of magic. The forces of nature will be at your command, with a swirl of your arm you can conjure mythical storms big enough to level entire cities. You'll learn the well-kept secret of Alchemy, and will be responsible to heal your warrior as he slices and dices his way through crowds of monsters. You and your warrior will form a special bond, predicting each others next move, and becoming an unstoppable duo.

CHRIS

Sounds perfect for you, Lucas. We already have an unbreakable bond.

LUCAS

I don't know...

TUTORIAL MASTER

Only the most dedicated of mages will become full fledged wizards, which will allow you to study the arcane arts. Wielders of unspeakable powers very few are able to control.

Lucas perks up.

LUCAS

...Studying you say?

TUTORIAL MASTER

Yes, and lots of it. You will have to devote the rest of your life to your studies if you want to become like the Wizards of yore.

LUCAS

I guess I could give it a try.

Lucas tries to act nonchalant, clearly failing.

AMY

All these sound boring, and totally off-brand for me.

TUTORIAL MASTER

And for those who prefer to keep to the shadows...

This catches Amy's attention. T.M notices, and has a self-satisfied smirk on his face.

TUTORIAL MASTER (CONT'D)

There is the Rogue class. Rogues are lone wolves who deal massive amounts of damage, and then slip out unnoticed.

AMY

Sounds like my Friday nights hehehe.

Amy elbows Lucas, mom stares daggers at her.

TUTORIAL MASTER

Users of knives and stealth, with enough training, Rogues can bring even the strongest of enemies to their knees in seconds.

(MORE)

TUTORIAL MASTER (CONT'D)

As you train you will learn powerful abilities such as Shadow Walk, which will let you enter the shadow world for a few seconds and sneak up on your enemies.

AMY

I'm sold.

TUTORIAL MASTER

Perfect, and finally last but certainly not least, the Beast Master. As a Beast Master you will train creatures to follow you. It takes a deft touch, and a gentle heart. With total control and a bit of patience, you can eventually tame even the wildest of creatures.

DEBRA

Are there any super cute and cuddly creatures to be tamed?

TUTORIAL MASTER

Of course, hundreds and hundreds, that you can summon at any time to fit any occasion. You will also learn survival skills, being able to tell the difference between any type of plant or fruit. You will need to provide for your party, all the while being a resourceful navigator.

DEBRA

Count me in!

EXT. HALL OF HEROES - DAY

The gang has reached their destination. A massive stone building looms ahead of them.

TUTORIAL MASTER

Come inside, this is where your story truly begins.

INT. HALL OF HEROES - DAY

The gang enters, they head down carved out granite steps, leading far underground. The room opens up to reveal a torch lit area with four arches, huge statues looming over each.

TUTORIAL MASTER

Ahh, and here we are!

DEBRA

Not too shabby, who's the designer?
I think I'll have him redo the
kitchen.

TUTORIAL MASTER

This is the Hall of Heroes, it has
been around since the Age of
Heroes, when strong adventurers
like yourself defeated the forces
of evil, led by a powerful corrupt
king.

CHRIS

Who are the people on the wall?

T.M pauses for a couple beats.

TUTORIAL MASTER

These are the four adventurers of
legend, although no one remembers
their names, they represent the
sacrifice that was made to protect
Grandalon from total destruction.

From left to right, a huge warrior in the midst of a battle
cry raises her battleaxe in the air victoriously. A robed
wizard with a long flowing beard holds an open book and an
outstretched hand, casting a spell. A hooded rogue in bonded
leather holds two knives, shadow swirling around her feet. A
beast master, bow in hand and astride a powerful tiger.

TUTORIAL MASTER (CONT'D)

Once you choose your path, there is
no turning back.

A beat. Chris steps forward.

CHRIS

I guess I'll go first.

Chris approaches the warrior door, a blue portal opens up.
Chris steps in.

The other three follow suit, approaching their respective
doors, 3 portals open up.

A few moments pass.

Chris steps out of the portal, wearing chain armor and brandishing a sword and shield, while not as polished or grand as T.M's Or the Warrior Statue, Chris loves it.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

This is awesome! It fits perfectly!

The other three step out of the portal, checking out their new outfits and weapons. Lucas has a blue robe with stars swirling around the fabric. He carries a staff and a small book. Debra steps out with a hood and a druidic robe, she wears a crown of branches interwoven in her hair.

Amy is wearing a fairly revealing armor set, and Debra has noticed. Debra glares at Amy.

DEBRA

You are NOT wearing that out of here young lady.

AMY

It said it had high defense!

DEBRA

Change. Now.

AMY

Fine.

Amy turns around and the portal re-opens, she enters.

CHRIS

Lucas look at this sword!

Lucas goes over to watch Chris swing his sword around wildly, trying to look cool.

DEBRA

You gave my son a sword?! He's only twelve!

CHRIS

Wow, a warrior at 12, video games are the best.

TUTORIAL MASTER

Do not worry, the sword cannot physically harm your son, although I would keep his friend there from getting too close.

DEBRA

(Sarcastic)

Thanks, you're so reassuring.

Amy steps out again, this time wearing a stylish pair of leather pants with straps and buckles running up her legs, knives strapped to her hips. A black shirt with a bonded leather jacket and hood for a top.

DEBRA (CONT'D)

Much better.

AMY

Whatever.

Amy clearly likes the outfit, checking herself out.

TUTORIAL MASTER

Now that you guys are all equipped for the journey ahead, one last test is required before you are free to roam the kingdom.

LUCAS

And what would that be?

T.M Swooshes his cape.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAINING ARENA - DAY

The cape reveals a huge colosseum, there are straw dummies lined up with assorted weapons on racks along the tall walls of the arena. In the middle is a long corridor with swinging blades and fire traps lining the walls.

TUTORIAL MASTER

The Training Arena!

AMY

How did we even get here?

TUTORIAL MASTER

Save your questions until the end of the tour please.

Amy nudges Lucas.

AMY

There's that lifelike sass action you were talking about.

TUTORIAL MASTER

Before you can receive your first quest, every adventurer must be able to sufficiently show off their skills, and also complete the famed Gauntlet.

Ominous horns play. Zoom in on T.M.'s face.

TUTORIAL MASTER (CONT'D)

Once you have proven your worth, and completed the gauntlet-

Ominous horns play, again. Zoom in on T.M.

TUTORIAL MASTER (CONT'D)

- You will finally be ready to conquer the world of Grandalon!

CHRIS

There's no time to waste!

AMY

...Gauntlet

Ominous horns play, again, again. Zoom in on Amy's face.

MONTAGE:

The gang are running on medieval treadmills. T.M is standing by a control with the dial on 3 out of 10.

Chris is facing off against a straw dummy with a wooden sword and shield, he attacks the shield and his sword bounces off and hits himself on the helmet.

Lucas reads from his tome, a small puff of smoke appears in his hand.

A stage made to look like a forest with bushes and trees. T.M shoots a suction cup arrow and knocks out Amy hiding in a tree.

A target range. Mom is testing out her bow, she pulls back a knocked arrow with a shaky arm. The arrow flies about 2 feet then drops dead.

The control is turned up to 6, the gang start jogging faster, getting sweaty.

Chris is getting the hang of his sword, landing hits on the dummy.

