

Planet Dearth

Pilot

by
Van Partible

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. DEMONIC CANYON - LATE AFTERNOON

With its drippy lava formations and pointy shards of rock, the canyon feels like walls of frozen fiery flames.

In the clearing, two warriors battle it out.

GUNTHARR FRONCZAK, our dashing handsome sword-wielding hero, is going toe-to-toe with DEATHWISH, an ugly and intimidating evil warrior who is twice the size of Guntharr and has an even bigger sword.

On opposite ends of the canyon, the armies of the warriors watch from atop their horses, cheering for their respective leaders from a safe distance.

GUNTHARR

I missed my pilates for this?

DEATHWISH

Remember the name: Deathwish! For it will be the one that takes you to your grave!

GUNTHARR

A bit over-the-top don't you think?

DEATHWISH

Accept defeat, and spare yourself the humiliation of--

Guntharr gets the upper hand and pins Deathwish to the ground.

GUNTHARR

Yap, yap, yap! I get it. Just--

Suddenly, Guntharr notices the time on his WATCH. It reads 5:52.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

Uh-oh.

Deathwish uses the split second to throw Guntharr off and spring back to his feet.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I have to get going. I promised my wife I'd be home for dinner.

DEATHWISH

Wai...wai...wait a second! Hold on!
Are you calling a time out?

Guntharr pulls out his ELECTRONIC DAY PLANNER and starts checking his schedule.

GUNTHARR

I can fit you in tomorrow at say,
nine, ish, after breakfast. Cause
it's about an hour's commute back here
by horse. I mean, without potty
breaks.

Deathwish is completely baffled by what he's hearing. Not to mention everybody else.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

Oh! Shoot! I forgot! The plumber is
coming over in the morning between
eight and eleven.

Deathwish STRIKES HIS WEAPON AGAINST THE GROUND.

DEATHWISH

We fight now!

GUNTHARR

How about one tomorrow? I can take an
early lunch.

INT. THE FRONCZAK DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room looks like its straight out of a Pottery Barn Catalog.

All the places are neatly set, but the seats are empty. Except for one. KOLT FRONCZAK, (Tween barbarian, small, gangly, barely fits into his animal skins) gazes at nothing in particular, elbows on the table, head propped up against his hand.

AURA, Kolt's stunningly beautiful barbarian mom, strolls in holding a TOFU LOAF.

AURA

Kids! Come get ready to give your
father a hearty welcome home!

She proudly displays her creation.

KOLT

Meat loaf?

AURA

Tofu loaf. But it tastes like meat.

KOLT

Why can't we eat meat that tastes like meat?

AURA

Kolt honey, you should focus on using your mental energy at school instead of wasting it on me. Asking questions.

KOLT

Why can't we just order a pizza when dad gets home like we usually do?

AURA

After a day of freeing the known world from tyranny, your father will be more than happy to know that I'm thinking of his nutrition.

EXT. DEMONIC CANYON - CONTINUOUS

Deathwish and Guntharr are still battling it out.

GUNTHARR

Seriously, if I'm not home, this will be the third week in a row I missed family dinner night. I promised my wife--

Deathwish manages to PUNCH Guntharr.

DEATHWISH

The only promise you're going to keep is the deathwish you made when you met me!

FULLBEARD, Guntharr's large and hairy ally, runs to his side.

FULLBEARD

Guntharr, what's wrong? This was supposed to be a quick beating. You're not the only one that needs to get home for dinner.

GUNTHARR

I think Deathwish has been studying some new offensives because he's a lot stronger than before. Like he's intuiting all my moves.

CARNAGE

Intuiting. Nice word.

GUNTHARR

You like that? I've been waiting for the right time to use it in a sentence.

CARNAGE

Want me to take over?

GUNTHARR

Well now that would be a load off of--

Deathwish stops his onslaught.

DEATHWISH

What are you doing? This isn't tag team wrestling! It's a battle of supremacy!

GUNTHARR

Fine! I can give you ten more minutes, but then I'm outta here!

Guntharr kicks it up a notch and attacks Deathwish with all his might. Deathwish ups his game as well.

INT. THE FRONCZAK DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

JAKE, the self-assured talking creature pet, jumps up to his chair and gapes at the tofu loaf.

JAKE

That's not pizza.

KOLT

It's tofu.

Jake GAGS.

JAKE

Ugh. What did real food ever do to you?

AURA

Oh c'mon. It's healthy.

JAKE

Sorry, Aura. But have you looked at us all lately? We're not exactly candidates for fat camp.

AURA

We can always be healthier.

DAGGER, Kolt's 16 year old hippy brother, drags himself to the dinner table and plops down in his chair.

JAKE

I go for happier. Healthier takes the fun out of pizza.

Dagger looks at the tofu loaf with disgust.

DAGGER

Is that what I think it is?

AURA

It's tofu loaf!

DAGGER

You know I don't eat meat.

AURA

I know. It just tastes like meat.

DAGGER

Why would I eat non-meat that tastes like meat when I hate meat?

AURA

There's veggies in it. Just pick off the meat.

JAKE

The non-meat.

DAGGER

Can I order a veggie pizza?

KOLT

With half pepperoni?

JAKE

And sausage. The meaty kind.

ALL

I could go for that./Half meat?/Sounds good to me./Do You remember the number?

Aura finally loses it.

AURA

We're not ordering pizza! I slaved for hours on this tofu loaf, so you're going to cherish every last morsel of this meal if I have to chain you to your chair and force feed you through a tube!

Everyone processes the moment. Suddenly, HAVEN, Aura's teenage daughter strolls in. She looks at everybody quizzically and breaks the silence.

HAVEN

Where's the pizza?

Aura SCREAMS and storms into the kitchen.

JAKE

(calling out to Aura)

Can we have pizza for breakfast?

EXT. DEMONIC CANYON - LATER

Guntharr and Deathwish are still going at it. Anxious, Guntharr looks at his watch every chance he gets.

Finally, Deathwish stops attacking.

DEATHWISH

Fine! If you're not going to be...
(makes quotation marks with
his fingers)
"into it" we can finish this in the morning.

GUNTHARR

How about one? Remember... the plumber...

DEATHWISH

Just go!

Guntharr signals his fellow warriors, A.K.A. THE FRAY, to hop on their HORSES while he makes his way back to his.

GUNTHARR

One o'clock! You won't be sorry! I mean... you're gonna be sorry! For real.

Fullbeard and the rest of the Fray await atop their horses as Guntharr hops onto his steed.

FULLBEARD

I hope this doesn't hurt our thug appeal.

GUNTHARR

It can't be worse than when people found out we change diapers.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

Just deal with it.

The Fray ride off into the distance.

FULLBEARD (O.C.)

Right. Deal.

INT. THE FRONCZAK DINING ROOM - LATER

The table is set as it was earlier. All the chairs are empty and the tofu loaf is untouched.

Slowly, Guntharr peeks his head into the room.

AURA (O.S.)

Well, well...

AURA startles Guntharr, stealthily appearing behind him with her arms folded.

AURA (CONT'D)

...look what the garafalump dragged in.

GUNTHARR

I can explain--!

AURA

Explain why you're late? Explain why, after slaving away in the kitchen, getting this one yapping about pizza, this one yapping about her nails, this one criticizing my culinary skills, my husband doesn't even have the decency to call to say he's going to be late!

GUNTHARR

Well its not like my day was a cake walk either. Because last I checked, this whole suburban oasis is dependent on wether or not I can protect it. So you're welcome for the home that I live to protect because if it weren't for me and the Fray, there would be no kingdom to come home to.

AURA

As you know, the family is the foundation of the kingdom, and if you don't connect with your family, there's no point in saving the kingdom.

Guntharr is frozen.

GUNTHARR

(sheepishly)

I like your hair...

Aura throws her hands in the air.

AURA

Why do I even bother?

Aura storms off. Guntharr drops to his knees and pleads.

GUNTHARR

Let me make it up to you! Just name it! I'll drop everything and do whatever you wish.

Aura slyly takes the opening.

AURA

Well... there's a honey-do list of promises you've--

GUNTHARR

Done and done!

AURA

Tomorrow?

Now he's just agreeing with everything.

GUNTHARR

Absolutely!

AURA

So you wouldn't mind if I went out shopping with Stephanie while you--

GUNTHARR

Take the credit card.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

Use it. Abuse it. You deserve it!

AURA

So I'll just come back to make dinner then!

GUNTHARR

Go! Have a great time!

AURA

Say... five.

Guntharr freezes up.

EXT. DEMONIC CANYON - FLASHBACK

Guntharr's eyes are locked on Deathwish.

GUNTHARR

One o'clock! You won't be sorry!

END FLASHBACK

GUNTHARR

Actually, I was hoping--

Aura throws her hands up in the air.

AURA

I can't believe this! You can't even--

Guntharr panics.

GUNTHARR

I was hoping... I could make dinner?

Aura SQUEALS with delight and hugs Guntharr.

AURA

You are the best husband....ever!

Guntharr forces a wide-eyed smile.

GUNTHARR

...ever...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. THE FRONCZAK'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

KOLT FRONCZAK and STUBBLE (overweight son of Fullbeard) stand in front of a big screen TV playing a video game.

KOLT

You wish!

STUBBLE

I know!

KOLT

You know you wish!

Onscreen, a large hulking HORNED MONSTER and a menacing FOUR ARMED MONSTER fight inside of an IRON CAGE.

After a dazzling exchange of attacks, the horned monster finishes his opponent with a roundhouse kick to the face. As the MUSIC SWELLS, the grandeur of the moment suddenly takes a turn as the Horned Monster unexpectedly breaks into the M.C. HAMMER DANCE. Stubble sings along with his video game counterpart.

HORNED MONSTER & STUBBLE

(singing)

U-G-L-Y! You should give a comb a
try! He-ey! Ho-oh!

A frustrated KOLT throws his controls into the air as STUBBLE mimics his character's victory dance.

STUBBLE

Monster Assault He-ey! Ho-oh!

KOLT

You just got lucky!

STUBBLE

You mean like last time?

FLASHBACK

Stubble jumps for joy at winning another video game.

STUBBLE (V.O.)

And the time before that?

ANOTHER FLASHBACK

Stubble jumps for joy at winning a game of chess.

STUBBLE (V.O.)
And the time before that?

ANOTHER FLASHBACK

As the rain pours down, LIGHTNING strikes a tree next to Stubble who is doing a SILLY DANCE.

STUBBLE (V.O.)
And the--

KOLT (V.O.)
Don't be so glib.

BACK TO SCENE

Stubble gets in Kolt's face.

STUBBLE
Dude, I think its about time you asked your dad for some fighting tips.

KOLT
Yeah, right. You know my dad. We don't really ask anything of each other. It keeps hope alive.

STUBBLE
Have you tried working the guilt angle?

KOLT
You lost me at work.

STUBBLE
Dude! Guilt your dad into playing Monster Assault with you. Heck, I'd pay good money to learn fighting moves from him.

KOLT
Yeah, but my dad hates video games. It's not "real life" enough.

STUBBLE
Just use that term your mom came up with. You know...

INT. HOME SCHOOL CLASSROOM - FLASHBACK

AURA addresses a packed room of other mother barbarians and their children. She stands in front of a chalk board with the words "FAMILY TIME" written on it.

AURA

Family time. My survey shows that fathers spend only a few minutes a day with their children.

ON THE AUDIENCE

All the women look around at each other with frustration and in agreement.

A MOM longingly turns to HER SON who is preoccupied with his IPOD LOOKING DEVICE.

AURA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Remember, if we have no time for our children when they're young...

ANOTHER MOM gazes at her DISENFRANCHISED SON.

AURA (O.S.)

...they'll most likely have no time for us when we're old.

She gives him a BEAR HUG. Much to his dismay.

FLASHBACK - STUBBLE'S LIVING ROOM

Stubble and his father, Fullbeard, are playing a video game.

STUBBLE (V.O.)

If you call it "bonding", you can discover new moves under the guise of "family time."

KOLT (V.O.)

And it works?

Fullbeard is obviously losing.

FULLBEARD

Nooooooo!

Fullbeard hurls his controls at the screen, destroying the TV.

STUBBLE (V.O.)

For the most part.

INT. THE FRONCZAK'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Stubble and Kolt go back to playing "Monster Assault."

STUBBLE (V.O.)
Seriously! If you beat him, you can
claim to have defeated...
(like a pro boxing announcer)
...the greatest warrior in all the
land. Virtually speaking.

Kolt lets the idea sink in.

EXT. DILAPIDATED HOUSE - DAY

KILLJOY, a beefed-up warrior, is standing in front of his garage staring at a REMOTE CONTROL.

KILLJOY
Let's see how this baby works.

He points it at the garage and pushes a button. Suddenly, a TROLL wearing reindeer antlers comes running up with a GIANT CLUB and hits Killjoy in the crotch and clubs him repeatedly as he's down.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

BOB ONORATO, A Tom Bergeron-type host, is standing amidst a laughing STUDIO AUDIENCE, holding a microphone.

BOB
Here now, is the star of that clip,
Killjoy!

The audience APPLAUDS as Killjoy stands up. He is covered in bandages and missing an arm.

BOB (CONT'D)
Wow. Talk about reindeer games.

KILLJOY
One is the new two, Bob!

Killjoy holds up his one good arm.

INT. DEATHWISH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Deathwish is sitting in his dingy living room watching TV. The phone RINGS next to him. He begrudgingly picks up the receiver and answers the phone.

DEATHWISH
Who dares interrupt me during
"Dearth's Funniest Home Videos!"

SPLIT SCREEN REVEALS

INT. FRONCZAK LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Guntharr is on the other line.

GUNTHARR

Yeah, Deathwish? It's me. Guntharr.

DEATHWISH

How did you get this number?

GUNTHARR

Friend of a friend. Anyway, about tomorrow...

DEATHWISH

What? Do you want to coordinate what we're wearing, too?

GUNTHARR

Actually. I was hoping to postpone our brawl until the day after.

DEATHWISH

(muttering under his
breath)
I can't believe this is
happening.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

We can begin bright and
early. I'll even bring
bagels for the crew.

DEATHWISH

Don't ever call me again.

Deathwish hangs up.

END SPLIT SCREEN

GUNTHARR

Deathwish? Hello? Is that a yes?

Guntharr looks at the phone.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

I guess it's a yes.

KOLT (O.S.)

Hey dad.

Guntharr looks down to see Kolt standing beside him. He hangs up the phone and lifts his son up in a bear hug.

GUNTHARR

Kolt! Buddy! What's going on?

KOLT

You're hurting my ribs.

Guntharr apologetically puts his son down.

GUNTHARR

Sorry buddy.

Kolt tries to stretch the pain away.

KOLT

Would you mind working on some fighting techniques with me?

Guntharr's eyes brighten.

GUNTHARR

Why, son! You don't know how long I've been waiting--

KOLT

On Monster Assault?

Guntharr's eyes turn to bewilderment.

KOLT (CONT'D)

The video game that uses flashy moves that are impractical in real life battle situations.

GUNTHARR

Look son. I don't have time to focus my energies on virtual training. Now if you have any questions about physical training, I'd be--

Suddenly, Aura interrupts the two.

AURA

Ah-ahem.

Aura gives Guntharr the "you're busted" look.

AURA (CONT'D)

Are you shucking off your father-son time to go--?

GUNTHARR

Shucking it off? No! I was just telling Kolt here that it's almost bed time and that we can do the bonding thing tomorrow. Since I'm going to be home and all.

KOLT

Yeah. Dad said he wanted to spend more "family time" with me.

Aura WHIMPERS with happiness.

GUNTHARR

That's right. I can never get enough "family time."

KOLT

So you'll teach me some new moves?

GUNTHARR

Whatever you want, buddy.

KOLT

Cool beans! I'll see you tomorrow!

Kolt runs off to his room with glee. Guntharr mimics his son with overtly forced excitement.

GUNTHARR

Yeah! Cool beans!

Aura is touched by the bonding of her two boys.

AURA

He really needs this.

GUNTHARR

What he needs is to stop playing video games and play with a real weapon.

Guntharr pulls his sword from his sheath and strikes a pose.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

That is so fresh.

AURA

Haven't you learned your lesson with Dagger?

Frustrated, Guntharr puts his sword back in his sheath.

GUNTHARR

What he needs is a good spanking!

AURA

He's seventeen.

GUNTHARR

Maybe a hunting accident...

AURA

Honey. I think you've lost touch with your kids. I think you need to spend the day being with them tomorrow. At least Kolt.

GUNTHARR

But what about the housework?

AURA

Use your time management skills. But when I get home, I want to hear a good report from your kids that you were a great dad. Because if I don't...

Aura pulls a SURPRISE WRESTLING MOVE on Guntharr and pins him to the ground in a choke hold.

AURA (CONT'D)

You remember.

GUNTHARR

(gasping)
I'm feeling you.

INT. THE FRONCZAK LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kolt and Stubble are playing Monster Assault on their video game system. Suddenly, Kolt raises his arms in victory.

KOLT

Yay-eah!

Kolt breaks into a ridiculous dance.

KOLT (CONT'D)

I meant it! I said it! I stole your mama's credit! I'm cool! I'm hot...

Guntharr proudly enters the room, CLAPPING for his son.

GUNTHARR

Wow son. Looks like you don't need my help at all. What do you say, you and I go outside and beat something with a mace?

STUBBLE

(winking at Kolt)
Kolt said you were gonna teach him some moves on Monster Assault!

GUNTHARR

Well he did, did he?

Suddenly, Guntharr's cell phone plays an OMINOUS RINGTONE. He looks at it with elation.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

Sorry kids. I have to take this.

Guntharr excuses himself from the room. As he does this, Stubble covers his mouth and starts talking like Darth Vader.

STUBBLE

You can run, but you can't hide from the monster assault!

Kolt starts running away in slow motion. He cradles his arms like he's holding a baby.

KOLT

(in a high pitched voice)

No! Not my baby!

Stubble LAUGHS OMINOUSLY as he chases after Kolt in slow motion as well.

IN THE ADJACENT ROOM

Guntharr is pretty upset talking on his videophone to Fullbeard who is reporting from Demonic Canyon.

Meanwhile, in the background, Kolt and Stubble PLAY FIGHT in slow motion.

GUNTHARR

What are you talking about?

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Fullbeard is on the other line. A CROWD is in the distance behind him and Deathwish is in the center of it all.

FULLBEARD

You gotta get down here. Deathwish is making a mockery of you and all that we stand for. Listen.

Fullbeard holds the phone up like a camera to show Deathwish pretending to talk into an imaginary phone.

DEATHWISH

(in a high pitched voice)

Oh Deathwish! Please don't hurt me. I have a wife and kids. Not to mention a mortgage.

Deathwish turns as if he is talking on the other line.

DEATHWISH (CONT'D)

Loser!

He hangs up the pretend phone and turns to the crowd.

DEATHWISH (CONT'D)

The in-famous Guntharr has cinched up his panties and decided to claim me as victor!

The vicious crowd cheers.

INT. THE FRONCZAK LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Guntharr watches on his videophone.

GUNTHARR

(under his breath)

They're called manties.

ON THE VIDEO SCREEN

Fullbeard turns the camera towards him.

FULLBEARD

Should I take him out for you?

ON GUNTHARR

Guntharr turns around and DOES A TAKE when he discovers his daughter, Haven, standing right behind him.

GUNTHARR

I have to get back to you.

FULLBEARD (O.S.)

But--

Guntharr clicks off the monitor as Kolt and Stubble continue to play fight in the background.

GUTHARR

Well, hi Haven. I was just about to come see--

HAVEN

When did you get the new XP communicator?

GUNTHARR

Did mom ask you to check on me because you can tell her that I'm just loving this family time stuff?

HAVEN

I want a new XP communicator.

GUNTHARR

In fact, I'm excited about spending some quality time with you later.

HAVEN

Can I have a new XP communicator?

GUNTHARR

Any ideas of what you want to do?

HAVEN

Buy a new XP communicator.

GUNTHARR

We can talk about it on your birthday.

HAVEN

Why can't we talk about it now?

GUNTHARR

Well, I wanted to spend some quality time with you.

Haven drifts off.

HAVEN

You can call me on my quality XP communicator.

GUNTHARR

But you don't have one.

HAVEN

Call me when I do.

Suddenly, the OMINOUS RINGTONE on Guntharr's communicator chimes in. He answers to find Fullbeard on the screen.

ON MONITOR

FULLBEARD

I took some video footage of some of the happenings going on. You might want to see this.

Fullbeard presses a button, revealing prerecorded video footage that looks as though it were covertly taped.

A LARGE CROWD GATHERING

Deathwish is addressing the person in the front of a massive line of people.

DEATHWISH

Do you solemnly vow to dedicate your life to murder, mayhem, and anything and everything evil?

CITIZEN

Do I get a sword?

Deathwish smacks him across the face. Hard.

DEATHWISH

You get what you get and you don't throw a fit!

CITIZEN

(in pain)
Sounds like a plan.

END VIDEO FOOTAGE

Guntharr's concern is apparent on his face as Fullbeard turns the camera back on him.

FULLBEARD

He's using your forfeit as a calling card to forcibly recruit the masses.

GUNTHARR

I didn't forfeit. I postponed!

FULLBEARD

Whatever. We need to take care of this, and take care of it now!

Onscreen, Fullbeard turns his attention to the Fray as Kolt runs up to his father and tugs on his battle fatigue.

KOLT

Hey dad. I forgot to show this to you.

Kolt hands his father a drawing of Guntharr in battle.

KOLT (CONT'D)

Krakov does that pose in Monster Assault before he slaughters his opponent. I just... you know... he's my favorite monster and... thanks for staying home to help me on my game.

The two have a FATHER/SON MOMENT until Stubble comes rolling into the scene.

STUBBLE
Barrel assault!

Kolt SCREAMS LIKE A GIRL and runs away as Stubble rolls after him. Fullbeard turns back to his screen to address Guntharr.

FULLBEARD (O.C.)
The men are armed and ready for battle.

GUNTHARR
There's nothing he can do that can't be undone.

Guntharr HANGS UP the communicator.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)
Kolt!

CIRCLE WIPE TO:

THE BACK YARD LAWN

Kolt and Stubble are in fighting positions. Kolt has a sword and Stubble has a quarterstaff. The two are back-to-back, on the lookout for the unexpected.

KOLT
Okay, I get it! Keep your eyes peeled! Can we go inside now and try it on TV?

A rush of panic washes over Kolt's face.

KOLT (CONT'D)
Dad?

Suddenly, from atop the roof, Guntharr leaps at the two, painted in camouflage, and brandishing a mace.

GUNTHARR
AGHHHHHHH!

Stubble folds up into a fetal position while Kolt SCREAMS and hightails it out of there. Guntharr lands in disappointment.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)
No! You guys! Remember your defense!

Guntharr looks around.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

Kolt?

Kolt wanders back to Guntharr in an embarrassed slouch.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

We need to work on your defense.

STUBBLE

That was all me with the defense.

KOLT

Yeah. If you're a turtle.

STUBBLE

It's better than the girly scream technique.

KOLT

Well, let's see how it defends this...

Kolt comes at him with a really weak punching motion.

STUBBLE

Woo-ahhhhh!

Stubble swats away Kolt's air swings, which digresses into a really pathetic slap fight. As Guntharr watches on, he gets ANOTHER OMINOUS RING on his communicator.

GUNTHARR

Why don't you guys work on...
strengthening your wrists, while I
take this call.

Guntharr answers his communicator. Fullbeard appears onscreen.

FULLBEARD

Somebody wants to talk to you.

Suddenly, the communicator camera swishes around to reveal Deathwish.

DEATHWISH

Hey there, Sippy Cup.

Guntharr's exhaustion turns to anger.

GUNTHARR

I thought I told you--

ON VIDEO SCREEN

DEATHWISH

Seriously, Nancy. I just called to say...

The communicator camera swivels to reveal THE FRAY tied up and surrounded by men with spears pointed at them. Fullbeard is in the front of the group.

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

"Loser!"

FULLBEARD

There were too many of them!

Guntharr yells into the communicator.

GUNTHARR

Deathwish!!!!

DEATHWISH

That's Mr. Deathwish to you.

GUNTHARR

Remember. What happens next, you brought upon yourself.

DEATHWISH

We're at the Cave of Permutation if you're so inclined. Goodbye.

Deathwish hangs up and the screen goes blank.

From offscreen, we hear the DOORBELL RING. Guntharr storms towards Kolt and Stubble.

KOLT

Hey dad. How do you do that one thing where--?

GUNTHARR

Change of plans.

Guntharr breezes right by them and heads straight for the house.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

We're continuing our training in the field.

Offscreen, the doorbell rings again. Kolt grabs his armor and weapons and heads for the front door.

KOLT

But mom said--

GUNTHARR

Yeah, your mom... Oh. I forgot to tell you. It's "Take your kids to work but don't tell your mom" day. So, it's all good.

STUBBLE

As long as I'm home for dinner, I'm gold.

Guntharr opens the front door and is taken aback when he discovers JEFF AND CHRIS, two eager plumbers, each holding a box of tools.

JEFF

Hi! I'm Jeff!

CHRIS

And I'm Chris! And together we...

JEFF & CHRIS

...fight the good fight against clogs and--

GUNTHARR

Do you do housework?

JEFF

Well, it's not on our mission statement...

Guntharr rifles through his wallet and pulls out a wad of cash.

GUNTHARR

Fix the pipes, dust the shelves, make the beds, vacuum the rugs, clean the windows, lock the doors...

Guntharr shoves a handful of money at them.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

...and leave the key in the mailbox when you leave.

The two take the money with greed in their eyes.

JEFF

Wow! You certainly are trusting.

Guntharr gets in their faces.

GUNTHARR

If anything is missing or broken, I'll
hunt you down, rip your fingers off,
and feed them to you raw.

Jeff and Chris stare at Guntharr with DEATHLY SILENCE.
Guntharr pushes past them with undaunted determination.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

C'mon kids. Let's go to work.

Kolt and Stubble eagerly follow after Guntharr.

Jeff looks at Chris in worried bewilderment.

JEFF

I told you we should've opened up a
restaurant.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. THE CAVE OF PERMUTATION - LATER

Guntharr stealthily makes his way to the entrance and halts in a battle stance. A winded Kolt and Stubble slowly follow.

KOLT

Why did we have to park so far away?

GUNTHARR

Shh.

Guntharr gets into attack position.

Guntharr listens as intently as he can. Suddenly, an OAFISH CREATURE walks out from the cave entrance. He stops, pulls out a scroll, and starts trying to read it.

OAF

Da-ah, Mis-ter Deeeeeeth...Wash is an...ex...kai...

Guntharr grabs the scroll away from the oaf.

GUNTHARR

Where is he?

OAF

Heh-lloo! Manners, Mister Grabby McGrabster. You should--

GUNTHARR

I just want to get this over with!

The oaf turns and leads the group into the dark cave.

OAF

Fine. I hate reading anyway.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The group proceeds cautiously down a dark tunnel.

KOLT

So are you nervous?

OAF

Oh, I'm fine. But I could use a massage, you know, with my--

GUNTHARR

He was talking to me.

OAF

Well, he didn't address you. Sheesh.

GUNTHARR

Don't worry son. I've dealt with bullies before. And that's what Deathwish is. A weak pathetic bully.

DEATHWISH (O.S.)

(over loudspeaker)

Weak, huh?

Suddenly, the lights come up. Guntharr and Co. find themselves smack dab in the middle of a CAVERN/STADIUM WITH A STEEL CAGE in the middle of it, eerily reminiscent of the "Monster Assault" video game.

STUBBLE

Dude! It's like "Monster Assault 4D!"

KOLT

That's so weird.

The place is filled with ominous creatures and tough looking humans sitting in the bleachers. With the lights up, the crowd goes WILD! Guntharr takes in the spectacle while Kolt and Stubble hide behind him.

Deathwish stands in the middle of the cage, holding a microphone that is dangling from the ceiling.

DEATHWISH

(a la Gomer Pyle)

Surprise, surprise, surprise!

The oaf jumps up and down, clapping his hands with joy.

OAF

That was so cool when the lights went CH-KOOOSH! And you were all "Whooooa!" That was classic!

GUNTHARR

Stay close guys.

Kolt and Stubble clutch Guntharr's legs.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

Or should I say close-ish.

The two let go in embarrassment.

KOLT/STUBBLE

Gotcha. Right. We're on it.

SERIES OF SHOTS

--Deathwish's mace is handed to a crony outside of the cage.

--Guntharr's sword drops to his feet.

--Guntharr's foot menacingly steps into the cage.

--One gate of the steel cage slams closed.

--Another gate slams.

--A padlock clicks shut.

--Another padlock clicks shut and a hand tugs on it to make sure it's secure.

As Kolt and Stubble stand outside the cage, Deathwish and Guntharr stare each other down. There is dead silence.

OAF

Soooo... should I introduce youuuu...
or how about a bell?

GUNTHARR

When I win, you forfeit the allegiance
of your newfound so-called followers.

DEATHWISH

When I win, you die. Deal?

GUNTHARR

Deal.

Guntharr lunges towards Deathwish. Deathwish rushes Guntharr and the two clash in a hand to hand battle. They exchange punches, throw each other around, and savagely take turns beating on each other.

Kolt looks on with confusion.

KOLT

Something looks awfully familiar about
Deathwish.

STUBBLE

He kinda has that face, huh. Like
your so-called girlfriend.

An embarrassed Kolt pushes Stubble.

KOLT

We held hands once!

Back inside the cage, Guntharr has the upperhand.

GUNTHARR

I should've finished you off
yesterday.

DEATHWISH

But you couldn't. Because I'm
awesome!

Suddenly, Deathwish pulls a reversal with a few punches and
bucks Guntharr off of him, flips him over, and throws him
into the far wall of the cage.

GUNTHARR

That was new.

Kolt looks as though he has an epiphany.

KOLT

Did you see that?

STUBBLE

Are you kidding? I felt it.

KOLT

Deathwish just did a power-back-
forward-assault-punch! That's why he
looks so familiar!

Kolt runs around the gate towards his dad as Deathwish taunts
Guntharr.

DEATHWISH

Defeat tastes kind of like... paprika,
don't you think?

Guntharr shakes it off as his son comes running around the
cage.

KOLT

Dad!

GUNTHARR

Not now son.

Guntharr rushes Deathwish.

KOLT

But dad!

Kolt and Stubble wince as we hear a series of punches and
body blows OS as Guntharr violently flies back to the spot
where he was thrown earlier.

KOLT (CONT'D)

I have to tell you--

GUNTHARR

I said, "Not now!"

Guntharr dusts himself off and leaps back into battle.

Deathwish confidently dodges Guntharr's numerous attacks, counters with a number of flashy punches, and hurls him back over by his son.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

What is going on here?

KOLT

That's what I've been trying to tell you! Deathwish is using the moves of Krakow from Monster Assault. You're playing into it with your typical offensive strategies!

Meanwhile, Deathwish dances around and plays to the crowd.

DEATHWISH

Take it to the bridge! Ow!

The two kids whisper to Guntharr.

GUNTHARR

Are you serious? That's it? No wonder!

KOLT

Oh! And also! When you're done, there's a dance!

STUBBLE starts doing the M.C. Hammer Dance.

STUBBLE

He-ey! Ho-oh!

GUNTHARR

That's showboating. I don't showboat.

KOLT

C'mon dad! That's how the game is played.

STUBBLE

It's what you do.

KOLT

It's what I'd do.

Guntharr really takes in his son's longing as Deathwish cajoles him from the other side of the cage.

DEATHWISH

C'mon Nancy! The crowd's looking for some entertainment!

Guntharr turns to him with a glint in his eye.

GUNTHARR

Well, who am I to deprive them of that?

Guntharr rushes at Deathwish, but instead of attacking, he stops in front of him and holds his ground in a defensive battle position. Deathwish is puzzled.

DEATHWISH

Well? Aren't you gonna hit me?

GUNTHARR

Soon.

Deathwish takes an aggressive swing at Guntharr, misses, and is met with a series of punches from Guntharr. The crowd goes wild! Guntharr pulls back and holds in his battle position again. Deathwish shakes it off.

DEATHWISH

Lucky shot.

GUNTHARR

Call it what you will.

Deathwish tries another type of punch, misses, and is met with a series of punches and kicks. The crowd howls with laughter as Guntharr settles back into his battle position. Deathwish gazes at Guntharr in bewilderment.

GUNTHARR (CONT'D)

Krakow.

Deathwish goes mad and insanely rushes at Guntharr.

DEATHWISH

Aaaaaaaugh!

Kolt and Stubble cheer from the other side of the cage.

KOLT AND STUBBLE

Do it!

Kolt and Stubble narrate pattern moves as Guntharr follows them and pummels Deathwish.

KOLT & STUBBLE (O.S.)
Squat! Super jump! Power punch!
Head lock! Forward roll! Elbow!
Power Punch! Back jump! Round House!
Power punch, power punch, power punch!
Knee to the groin!!!!

Deathwish collapses and the crowd goes WILD as Guntharr starts in on the M.C. Hammer dance.

GUNTHARR
He-ey! Ho-oh!

Kolt and Stubble do the dance.

KOLT AND STUBBLE
He-ey! Ho-oh!

Soon the entire audience is doing the dance.

AUDIENCE
He-ey! Ho-oh!

THE FRAY rush into the cage and perch Guntharr onto their shoulders.

The music crescendos and we see Guntharr and Kolt's eyes meet with a newfound appreciation for each other as the world seems to slow down all around them.

INT. THE FRONCZAK DINING ROOM - NIGHT

We see the table set properly. All the chairs are empty.

AURA (O.S.)
Honey! I'm home! Kids?

Aura, holding a number of shopping bags, casually strolls into the room and is shocked to find her entire family standing at the head of the table, holding TWO LARGE PIZZAS.

FAMILY
Welcome home!

JAKE
We don't have to do this for every meal do we?

AURA
Well this is a nice surprise.

Guntharr proudly approaches his wife, and with a smoldering look, lifts her up, and gently sets her down in her chair.

GUNTHARR

Dinner is served, the house is clean,
the family: bonded.

Everyone sits down at the table and digs into their dinner as
Aura gives Guntharr a kiss.

KIDS & JAKE

Finally. / I said no cheese! / Who do
I have to pacify to get a drink around
here?

AURA

I'm so glad everything worked out
today.

GUNTHARR

Well, there was one mishap. A glass
broke while the dishes were being put
away, but we can replace it.

AURA

Well, who broke it?

KIDS & JAKE

Not me. / Wasn't me. / Couldn't say. /
I don't do dishes.

AURA

Well then who broke the glass?

EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS

JEFF and CHRIS, the plumbers from earlier, run down a path
holding suitcases and duffel bags.

JEFF

It was an accident. Soap makes things
slippery!

CHRIS

Be quiet and keep moving! He's
probably tracking us as we speak!

JEFF

I told you we should have opened up a
restaurant.

And with that, we END.