

ZAUG - SLAYER OF JOY!

Written by

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Based on, a character by Matt Moen

MONTAGE

*(Note: the following is in the style of a modern parody of an 80's animated opening sequence a la He-Man)*

EXT. FOREST PATH - DAY

An open CARRIAGE carrying an overly plump aristocratic KING down a hilly mountain road. As the King shovels food down his gullet, the faint sound of a horse's WHINNY rises from beyond the hills.

ZAUG (V.O.)  
Every family has a history. Mine  
has a legacy.

SUPER: "Mordun the Evil"

INTERCUT BETWEEN CARRIAGE AND TOP OF HILL

A Sauron-looking Dark Lord, MORDUN, atop a skeleton horse, looks down at the King from the hilltop. Mordun raises his sword, the CHRONUS SWORD (demonic sword with an expressive unibrow and an EYE on the hilt) into the air.

The King's carriage STOPS and an army of SKELETON SOLDIERS emerge from the trees, decimating the carriage.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

Mordun standing on a BLOODY BATTLEFIELD filled with skulls and bones.

ZAUG  
As the story goes, after the Dark  
Lord conquered the ten realms of  
Kadarz, he settled down and had a  
family.

EXT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

An EVIL throne room, dark and full of spikes. The Throne in the center is made of BONES and IRON. Mordun, in full armor, sits on the throne as a crowd of NOBLES kneel to him.

MATCH CUT SEQUENCE: the same throne room throughout time. Each time jump, the room gets a little more EVIL, but also a little more CARTOONISH.

ZAUG (V.O.)

And so it was that Mordun the Evil  
begat Sorog, bringer of pain--

-Mordun sitting on the throne. In his lap is BABY SOROG,  
wearing a DEMONIC HELMET and waving a PITCHFORK RATTLER. The  
Baby STABS Mordun with his pitchfork and laughs.

ZAUG (V.O.)

Who begat Droondul of Hell--

-SOROG on the throne, surrounded by his family. In his lap is  
BABY DROONDUL in a SKULL HELMET. The Baby BITES Sorog, who  
recoils in pain.

ZAUG (V.O.)

Who sired Ordun, Bringer-er of More  
Pain--

-Droondul on the throne, surrounded by his family. In his lap  
is BABY ORDUN in a VIKING HELMET with TWO AXES on his back.  
Droondul tries to very very carefully put Ordun on the floor,  
but Ordun BURPS and shoots a MAGIC FLAME that burns  
Droondul's hands to a crisp.

ZAUG (V.O.)

Who had me--

-Ordun on the throne holding baby ZAUG. Ordun looks at Zaug  
expectantly. Zaug BURPS... but nothing happens. Zaug reaches  
out his arms for a hug, but his father merely glares at him  
like a defective toy.

ZAUG (V.O.)

Zaug, Slayer of Joy!

**TITLE: ZAUG SLAYER OF JOY!**

END MONTAGE

INT. BATTLE TENT - DAY - (ANIMATED)

A battle tent, complete with a strategy board, weapons and...  
a GIANT MIRROR. Standing in front of the mirror with his back  
turned to us is a hulking figure in a black linen robe: ZAUG  
(30, but could pass for 20, warlock barbarian). A sword with  
a GIANT EYEBALL and an especially EXPRESSIVE UNIBROW, the  
CHRONUS SWORD, floats behind him.

AC/DC Thunderstruck starts playing.

ZAUG

Raegar!

HENCHMAN (Long nose Igor looking soldier, every time Zaug calls his name it's different), Zaug's top lackey, ENTERS the tent.

HENCHMAN  
Is it time, Master Zaug?

Zaug turns, revealing his face.

ZAUG  
Oh yeah.

QUICK CUTS:

-Zaug puts on his Battle Boots.

-Zaug polishes his Chest Plate.

-Zaug pulls up his pants (but first we see his LUCKY UNDERWEAR that says "Bad" on one cheek and "Boy" on the other).

-Zaug in front of the mirror PLUCKING the eyebrows of the Chronus Sword and applying makeup to himself summoned by magic.

ZAUG (CONT'D)  
(observing)  
Smokey-eye. Very Scary

Zaug kneels in front of the Chronus Sword. The eyeball in the center of the hilt darts around unsettlingly.

ZAUG (CONT'D)  
Oh fathers of my father, please  
grant me the strength to win my  
first battle.

The EYEBALL on the sword freezes in place, then spins like a magic eight ball until a message appears: "Outlook Uncertain."

ZAUG (CONT'D)  
(dejected)  
Good enough.

HENCHMAN  
Master, you look devilishly  
terrifying, if I say so myself.

Zaug pouts.

ZAUG

I don't know anymore. Will I ever  
get the chance to crush my enemies  
under my boot?

HENCHMAN

You know what they say, dress for  
the massacre you want!

Zaug perks up a bit.

EXT. THE GOODLY KINGDOM - CASTLE WALLS - DAY

Zaug, dressed for battle, and his Henchman, stand in front of the gates of the GOODLY KINGDOM -- a walled off realm of good and science. The MASSIVE WALL stretches on for miles. A modern style TOWER on the other side of the wall overlooks the cyclopean FRONT GATE, more massive than a mountain. Behind Zaug is his ARMY of SKELETON SOLDIERS.

Standing guard in front of the gate is an ARMY of BIPEDAL BATTLE BEAVERS (on their heads: they wear a strange scientific mind control device).

INTERCUT BETWEEN ZAUG AND INTERIOR OF THE TOWER

Zaug takes a step forward and waves his hand to cast a spell that makes his voice BOOM like a loudspeaker.

ZAUG

Hear me, I am the Good!

From the top of the tower, a MAN hidden in shadow looks down at Zaug and his army. From the Man's vantage point, Zaug and his army are as small as ants. The Man SCOFFS.

ZAUG (CONT'D)

Sure, I have never beaten you in  
combat. And yes, your new Battle  
Beavers are impressive-- but today  
is the day that you are vanquished  
once and for all!

The Man in the tower takes out a high-tech, cartoonishly long TELESCOPE and aims it at Zaug.

THROUGH THE TELESCOPE

Zaug waves the Chronus Sword in the air.

ZAUG (CONT'D)

Soldiers, to arms!

The TELESCOPE focuses in on the CHRONUS SWORD.

ZAUG

On the ground, the skeleton warriors rush forward. Zaug holds the Chronus Sword up to his face in prayer.

ZAUG (CONT'D)  
Hear me, Chronus Sword. What is  
your prediction for this battle.  
Shall we finally be victorious?

Words appear on the Chronus Sword's eye: "Don't count on it." Zaug ignores this and JUMPS into the battle. He makes a bee-line for a Battle Beaver with a crazy look in its eyes.

ZAUG (CONT'D)  
Taste my steel, wood rat!

The Man in the tower pushes a RED BUTTON.

On the ground, as Zaug raises his sword to ATTACK -- a light on the Beaver's HELMET starts BLINKING. The Beaver's bloodlust fades and it rolls over on its back, showing its belly to Zaug. Zaug stops mid swing.

ZAUG (CONT'D)  
Aww, such cute little feet--

Zaug drops to his knees and scratches the cooing Beaver.

GRRR-- A growling noise from behind. Zaug whips around to find himself surrounded by a group of Battle Beavers.

One Beaver has a SKELETON BONE that it quickly chews down into a BONE CLUB. It THUMPS the club rhythmically against its cute little hand.

Zaug gulps.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

A wide open field. A bruised up Zaug, CHRONUS SWORD in hand, runs as fast as he can in the opposite direction of the Kingdom from a pack of Battle Beavers.

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

Sitting on the throne is Ordun, who expressionlessly listens to a heavily beaten and bruised Zaug and his Henchman as they explain their crushing defeat -- with accompanying visuals painted roughly on a TAPESTRY.

ZAUG

And then one of the beavers did a  
double back flip kick hit--

HENCHMAN

A triple back flip kick hit,  
actually, Master.

ZAUG

And, well, that's when our army was  
routed--

HENCHMAN

We ran.

ZAUG

And then the beavers started  
chewing on the bones of our fallen  
soldiers--

HENCHMAN

They were devoured alive.

ZAUG

And we lost... again.

The last panel of the TAPESTRY reads "THE END." Ordun sighs  
heavily and puts his head in his hands.

ZAUG (CONT'D)

Father I--

ORDUN

SILENCE!

Zaug and the Henchman kneel. Ordun sighs DEEPLY.

ORDUN (CONT'D)

When you were born, I knew  
something was wrong with you. I can  
no longer pretend not to see it--

Zaug lifts his head.

ORDUN (CONT'D)

There is not a single evil bone in  
your body.

Ordun reaches behind the throne, pulling out and displaying  
an immaculately crafted TAPESTRY detailing Ordun's life.

ORDUN (CONT'D)

By the time I was your age, I had  
already conquered the ten realms  
and laid waste to hundreds of  
worlds across the Multiverse. I--

Zaug perks up, he loves this story.

ZAUG

(reciting from memory)

Came back not a man, nor a god, but  
as the Dark Lord of Kadarz.

Ordun side-eyes Zaug, but keeps going.

ORDUN

When it came time to overthrow my  
father, I did not hesitate to kick  
him into the fires of Mount Pain.  
He smiled at me as I did.

Ordun beckons for Zaug to come close. Zaug approaches. Ordun  
places a hand on Zaug's shoulder.

ORDUN (CONT'D)

My Father only gave me advice once  
in my life, but it was the only  
advice I ever needed, "A fool only  
strikes with his hand, a bigger  
fool only strikes with his heart,  
but a wise man knows when to use  
both--"

(pause)

To inflict maximum damage.

ZAUG

Father, I will conquer the multi-  
versed and return victorious, I  
swear it!

Ordun sighs and puts the tapestry down.

ORDUN

(soft)

You are a failure, son. A failure I  
intend to correct.

Ordun takes a regal posture.

ORDUN (CONT'D)

Until you have conquered even a  
*single* Kingdom, you are hereby  
banished.



ZAUG  
But father--

ORDUN  
Begone! I will suffer your sight no  
longer.

A dejected Zaug and his Henchman exit the throne room without another word.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

A secluded spot in the woods.

POV - HIDDEN IN BUSHES

Zaug and his Henchman sit by a fire. They've got nothing with them but the Chronus Sword and the clothes on their backs.

ZAUG

ZAUG  
We will find the multi-versed and  
conquer it, I swear this oath on my  
father's father!  
(beat)  
Ringo!

HENCHMAN  
Yes, Master?

ZAUG  
What *is* a multi-versed exactly?

HENCHMAN  
Not *a*, *the* multiverse, sir. Think  
of it as all possibilities realized  
on a single plane of immanence.

Zaug picks his nose, half listening.

HENCHMAN (CONT'D)  
It is the sum total of all  
dimensions, worlds and uni--

ZAUG  
Booooring.

Henchmen opens his mouth, but before he can continue -- a  
RUSTLE from the bushes. Zaug takes up arms.

A beat, then... A Battle Beaver emerges from the bushes, a LETTER in its hands. It runs over to Zaug, drops the letter, then runs back into the bushes.

ZAUG (CONT'D)

What is this...

Zaug picks up the LETTER.

INSERT - LETTER: an ornate letter that reads "I think we can help each other. Let's talk. Come alone. Signed, Ian the Good."

Zaug and Henchman raise their eyebrows at one another.

INT. GOODLY KINGDOM - TOWER - NIGHT

Zaug marvels at the modern craftsmanship of the Tower as he follows a Battle Beaver down a long corridor. He comes to an opulently gilded door which opens SLOWLY on its own. On the other side of the door is a LABORATORY filled with strange devices, and in the center of the room, a swivel chair hidden in shadow. In the corner of the room is an INACTIVE MECHANICAL PORTAL -- a SWORD SHAPED RECESSED OUTLINE on the side of it.

Zaug ENTERS.

LAB

As Zaug approaches the chair, it turns, REVEALING: IAN the Good (30s, Dr. Horrible type), a scrawny looking nerd in a lab coat with a pair of safety goggles over his forehead. Ian smiles devilishly at Zaug and hops out of his chair.

IAN

Welcome, old friend!

Zaug spits on the ground and pulls the Chronus Sword out with caution.

ZAUG

Why have you summoned me, Ian? Do you wish to lay me low after I've already lost everything?

Ian feigns concern.

IAN

Why, no, quite the opposite. I want to help you.

As Ian walks over to the INACTIVE PORTAL, words appear on the eye of the Chronus Sword: "Very Doubtful." Despite this, Zaug lets his guard down a bit.

IAN (CONT'D)  
Have you ever realized? You and I  
are very similar.

ZAUG  
Quiet your foul mouth! We are  
nothing alike!

IAN  
Not so. We both try to do what we  
think is right, no matter the cost.  
We're both willing to fight for it.  
The only difference is I usually  
succeed.

Zaug GROWLS like a feral animal.

IAN (CONT'D)  
Don't take that as an insult, my  
friend. The truth is, I've failed  
in achieving my only real goal.

Ian starts pacing around the PORTAL.

IAN (CONT'D)  
I'm not from here, I was born  
somewhere else. On a humble world  
out in--

A beat, Ian slyly looks back at Zaug.

IAN (CONT'D)  
The *multiverse*.

Zaug's ears prick up.

IAN (CONT'D)  
But, of course, I've been  
unsuccessful at returning home.

ZAUG  
What does this have to do with me,  
cretin?

IAN

What I require is an artifact from this Universe with enough power to start my machine -- your Chronus Sword.

Zaug clutches his Sword.

IAN (CONT'D)

If you lend it to me for but a moment, we can part ways forever. I can send you somewhere, *anywhere*, and you can become the conqueror that your father desires.

Zaug levels a death stare at Ian, his muscles tensing for battle -- then he falters. He recalls his Father's advice.

ZAUG

What would you have me do?

IAN

I'll handle everything.

Ian reaches out a hand for the sword. Zaug approaches tepidly.

As Zaug hands the sword over to Ian, words appear on the sword's eyeball: "Outlook not so good."

IAN (CONT'D)

So predictable.

Ian SNAPS his fingers, several mechanical arms shoot from the ground and LIFT Zaug and the into the air.

ZAUG

Treachery? No fair!

IAN

I've tried everything. From force, to manipulation, even kindness, but it appeared that a fool and his sword were not easily parted.

Ian inspects the Chronus Sword.

IAN (CONT'D)

Well, until now I guess.

The eyeball on the Sword SPINS until it lands on text that reads: "We're screwed."

Ian walks up to the MACHINE and inserts the Sword. The machine WHIRS to life causing a BLUE PORTAL to appear from thin air. A moment later the portal starts pulling everything in the room into it like a black hole.

Ian braces himself to jump into the portal.

IAN (CONT'D)

I pity you. You never really  
figured out how to be good or evil.

(beat)

Later loser.

Ian snatches the Chronus Sword from its slot and ENTERS the portal.

Removing the sword causes the machine to go CRITICAL -- As Zaug struggles to free himself from the mechanical arm, the PULL of the portal increases a hundred fold.

ZAUG

Release me, serpent of steel!

The pull of the portal gets stronger and stronger until Zaug, mechanical arm and all, is pulled toward the portal and fully SUCKED in.

INT. PORTAL

A kaleidoscopic tunnel of lights. On the walls of the tunnel are PANELS like TV screens that show different dimensions in the Adimverse (EX: Mike and Cammie, The Conduit). As Zaug falls through the portal, he's is spaghettified, literally stretched to a tiny thread, by the portals gravity.

EXT. WEST HIGH - PARKING LOT - DAY - (LIVE ACTION)

KATIE (16, Sophomore) drives through her school parking lot looking for a spot while attempting to SCRUB spilled coffee off her shirt.

KATIE

Great job Katie, first day of  
school and the Universe already  
hates you. What else could go  
wrong!?

At that moment, a BLINDING LIGHT erupts in front of Katie's car. Katie COVERS her eyes.

ZAUG

From the light, Zaug (still a scruffy barbarian but with a Zack Effron playing a high-schooler in his 30s vibe, a 5'5'' flesh and blood man) is placed harmlessly on the parking lot pavement.

ZAUG

Oh, that wasn't so bad.

SUDDENLY, Zaug is HIT by Katie's car and sent FLYING.

Splayed out on the ground, Zaug tries to pick himself up, but lacks the strength.

ZAUG (CONT'D)

Curses...

Zaug BLACKS out.

**CUT TO: BLACK**