

Joey Mazero

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Camera pans across an ancient mural depicting the long and heroic journey to the Glow Flower, and then to JOHRNO, sitting on the edge of the bed with his CARETAKER standing in front of him.

CARETAKER

Every time I wake you up you seem to stare at that mural.

JOHRNO

[Silent]

CARETAKER

(Turns around, looks at the mural) Do you know who crafted this, Johrno?

JOHRNO

I don't.

CARETAKER

It was the first one; The first of our kind to ever retrieve the Glow Flower. He even built this whole room, the one you sleep in every night. Your mother insisted that you would grow up in this room.

CARETAKER places Johrno's robes at his feet. On his way out the door:

CARETAKER

Come now, Johrno. It's important that you show your face on a day like this.

JOHRNO, following out of his room and into the hall:

CARETAKER

(Starts walking) You *do* know what day it is, don't you child?

JOHRNO

(Unsure) Umm.

CARETAKER

The ceremony, Johrno! The solstice is tomorrow!

JOHRNO

(Disinterested) Oh, right...

CARETAKER & JOHRNO arrive in the GRAND HALL of the underground village. Villagers scramble to add the finishing touches. The VILLAGE ELDER stands in the room, watching. The player is let loose to walk around and explore the GRAND HALL.

VILLAGE ELDER

Ah, Johrno -- I know your mother would have been thrilled to see you in that garb.

JOHRNO

(looks down at his robes, then back up)

1.) Did she have to wear this silly thing too?

2.) When does the ceremony start?

3.) Thank you, Village Elder.

VILLAGE ELDER

1.) Don't be rash, young one. Of course she did, and all the others just the same. It's important that you show respect to our traditions, Johrno.

CARETAKER

Erm, my apologies Elder. I've been trying to tell him.

2.) As soon as the preparations are ready. The capable villagers have been hard at work since the early morning.

VILLAGE ELDER

It seems as though the preparation is coming to an end. Please, you two have a seat and wait for the ceremony to begin.

As JOHRNO and CARETAKER make their way to wooden seats and tables placed in a half circle around a stage. The rest of the villagers take their seats and the VILLAGE ELDER makes his way up stage and turns to the small crowd.

VILLAGE ELDER

(Palms out, arms raised) Welcome all to the Solstice celebration!

The crowd cheers out of their seats, while JOHRNO stays seated, arms crossed. The VILLAGE ELDER sits in a stone throne, and the rest of the villagers mimic his action.

VILLAGE ELDER

For centuries, we have traveled atop the wicked surface of Jorastack during the Solstice. The holy Solstice, a time of recession from the deadly conditions of the surface, allows one to

survive in the overworld for a short amount of time. Only during this recession can we travel on the surface and retrieve the Glow Flower.

The crowd murmurs in hushed voices and whispering "glow flower" to each other.

VILLAGE ELDER

It's been 24 years since the last Solstice, and 24 years since we have replenished our village's hearth with the petals of the Glow Flower. As you all know, the Glow Flower enables us to live far underground by giving us its precious warmth. It is a durable fuel for us, but not everlasting. (VILLAGE ELDER pauses, lets it sink in) Now more than ever we need the Glow Flower, but the task of retrieving it is not an easy one.

The VILLAGE ELDER stands, motions toward JOHRNO with his hand.

VILLAGE ELDER

Johrno's mother, Claudia, made the journey for the last Solstice, and brought back the Glow Flower. Through her perseverance and strength, she was able to make the arduous voyage and provide for the coming generation.

VILLAGE ELDER puts his hands behind his back, walks to center stage and faces the crowd.

VILLAGE ELDER

The time comes for the next brave soul to fulfill the prophecy! Only the finest specimen with the purest blood can make the journey. Only you, Johrno, can save us.

Slow zoom to JOHRNO's shocked face, screen goes black.